

BETA ALPHA PARTICLES

Exceptional Leaders. Uncommon Opportunities.

ARCHON REPORT

Hello Brothers, my name is Brother James Leinberger BA 892 and I am the current archon here at Pi Kappa Phi – Beta Alpha. I hope everyone had a wonderful 2020 Founder’s Day. Thank you to everyone who showed up to our unconventional celebration. Times are tough for each and every one of us, but seeing all of us together enforced just how great Beta Alpha is! This year has been trying for the undergraduates, but I think we’ve done a great job of making the best out of a terrible situation. Allow me to explain what the undergraduates and I have accomplished this Fall 2020 semester.

Pi Kappa Phi 5K

First off, earlier this semester, myself and 11 other brothers participated in Pi Kappa Phi’s virtual 5K. As a chapter, we were able to raise over one thousand dollars and also placed 3rd nationally for the most money donated. As a group, we decided the most appropriate place to run the 5K would be Central Park, so on the day of the 5K, we took a brotherhood trip to New York City to show our support for the Ability Experience. I think I can speak for the group when I say it was an amazing experience to be able to run side-by-side with each other for charity.

Can Drive

Next, every year NJIT holds a Can Drive for the Food Pantry. All organizations are urged to donate, especially Greek Life. Subsequently, it becomes a competition between everyone to see who can donate the most cans. Last year we were able to donate 550 cans and achieve first place. That is an outstanding goal, but in my head, I knew we could donate more. All of us here know how amazing Beta Alpha is, but I wanted to show everyone that nothing can stop us from achieving greatness, not even COVID. The new goal I set for this semester was 1000 cans; this was an unprecedented amount, but I knew we could do it. Through the help of family, friends, and our amazing alumni, we were able to raise over \$700 and purchase twelve hundred cans. With this incredible donation, we not only achieved first place, but also beat the record for the most cans donated by a single organization. On behalf of the undergraduates and myself, I want to thank everyone who donated because without you guys, we wouldn’t have been able to make such an amazing impact.

Even though it has been quite the challenge, I’ve seen incredible drive and willingness from the brothers to keep traditions alive within Beta Alpha. It has been an honor and privilege to see brotherhood thrive during COVID-19. One of my biggest pet peeves as archon is whenever Beta Alpha receives an award, I’m the one who gets thanks. However, all of the achievements we’ve received this semester have been through the hard work and dedication of all the active brothers. It’s not through the individual, but through the collective that we find success.

FALL 2020



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Continuing Beta Alpha's Commitment to Excellence

By Michael Galanaugh BA 910

Beta Alpha has continued our history of excellence even in the most difficult recruiting semester in recent memory. While the past two semesters have forced our brotherhood to adapt to some very uncertain and unprecedented circumstances, we managed to transition to an online Associate Member process midway through the Spring semester due to the pandemic. Despite this, we were able to successfully welcome 6 fantastic men to our brotherhood. The Spring '20 class features a brother, Richard (Ricky) Brown BA 923, whose father (Richard Brown BA 565) is a Beta Alpha alum, only solidifying the legacy we aim to uphold within this fraternity. We are so proud to welcome all of Spring '20 to our brotherhood, and we are excited to watch them grow into the next leaders of Beta Alpha.

Similarly, we are very excited for the current Associate Member class for Fall '20. With many thanks to our Vice Archon, Matt Varghese BA 916 for setting up great virtual recruitment events, and the rest of our brothers for attending these events to ensure their success, we were able to recruit a new member class of 12. With this Fall '20 class, we will surpass 50 current active undergraduate brothers by the end of the calendar year. With our eyes now on Spring 2021, we will be continuing our online recruitment and aim to achieve a new member class of over 15. As a current brother of Beta Alpha, seeing the ways that we have been able to overcome various obstacles in regards to the pandemic, while recruiting one of the largest Fall classes in recent years, I am extremely optimistic about what will come next for our chapter.

Over the past few months, the strength of our brotherhood has never wavered. In spite of adversity, we have continued to persist and hold each other to the highest possible standards of scholarship and brotherhood. It is for all of these reasons that I am so proud of this brotherhood and know that the best is yet to come.



Brothers Richard Brown (BA 565) & Richard "Ricky" Brown (BA 923)

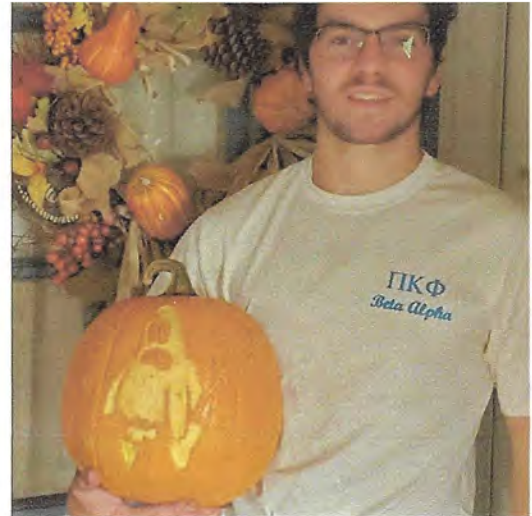


Virtual Greek Week

By Michael Galanaugh BA 910

Since NJIT could not hold Greek Week in the spring, which is the yearly competition among Greek organizations to test our skills in a variety of games and challenges, a virtual Greek Week was held during the current Fall 2020 semester. The virtual events consisted of various challenges, and the winner of each event was decided by tallying up the number of Instagram likes on NJIT Greek Life's Instagram page. As a brotherhood, we participated in the Halloween costume contest, a door decorating contest, a pumpkin carving contest, and several other competitions. Out of all NJIT fraternities, we placed first in the competitions listed above, and we placed 2nd overall out of fraternities in the Virtual Greek Week. Although we had hoped to win the Virtual Greek Week and came extremely close to doing so, we know that once events are in person for Greek Week, we will be defending our legacy of winning the competition.

Even during a semester with so much going on in the world around us, we came together to win several events during Virtual Greek Week. I know that our dedication to Beta Alpha is what keeps us going and propels us forward even during an unconventional semester.



Canned Food Drive & Off-Campus Volunteering

By Michael Galanaugh BA 910

For the 3rd year in a row, Beta Alpha has won the NJIT Canned Food Drive! This time, we set the school record for the most cans ever donated by one organization with 1,200 cans. We are extremely thankful to all who donated to the cause and helped us reach our goal of surpassing 1,000 cans. However, more so than winning, we are most proud of our fraternity's ability to help those in need. The canned food drive is one of the most important events on campus because it helps us know that we have made a lasting impact in our community. Along with various other Greek organizations that donated, we have ensured that the food banks that receive our donations will be able to support those who cannot afford to purchase their own food on a daily basis. Knowing that our fraternity prioritizes the well-being of others and our community is what makes me proud to be a Beta Alpha.

In addition to participating in the can drive, our brothers have been involved in various philanthropic initiatives both on and off campus throughout the semester. For example, we organized a clean-up of Branchbrook Park in Newark where Pi Kappas and members of NJIT's chapter of the Delta Phi Epsilon sorority volunteered to upkeep the park and help improve our local environment in Newark. Experiences like these not only allow our brotherhood to give back to our local communities, but they also allow us to continue to build relationships with sororities and maintain our presence as the most-involved fraternity on campus.



The Ability Experience

By Michael Galanaugh BA 910

Each year, Beta Alpha holds a 48 hour Bike-A-Thon to raise money for The Ability Experience. Each hour for 2 days, we have brothers alternate riding a stationary bike to raise funds for our philanthropy. Due to the pandemic, this year's Bike-A-Thon was slightly different than a typical year. Rather than riding the bike in the center of campus with a tent next to the bike to collect and advertise donations, we conducted the event outside of the house while upholding all of NJIT's pandemic precautions. We posted images and updates on social media to incentivize people to donate to the Ability Experience. This event is truly one of the most important things we do for our community and the Ability Experience to raise awareness and donations for people with disabilities. Even in an unconventional semester, we managed to hold such an important event. Once again, this is a testament to our entire chapter as a whole. Even in unprecedented times, we continue to give back to our community and work to better our chapter.

Starting May 13th and ending May 30th, 3 Beta Alpha Brothers will be cycling across Florida for 830 miles from Miami to Tallahassee in Gear Up Florida. This is the opportunity of a lifetime for these brothers. They will spread a message of empathy and acceptance across the Sunshine State as they meet with organizations that support people with disabilities along the way. Experiences like these help build the men of Pi Kappa Phi into servant leaders while serving people with disabilities. Along the way, they will participate in 21 friendship visits at facilities for people with disabilities. At these facilities they will be treated like rock stars as young kids line up to get them to autograph their books. Alumni Dave White (BA 432) and David Whitehouse (BA 851), along with active brother Steven Munoz (BA 908), will be participating.

Congrats Brothers Dave, David and Steven; we're so excited to watch you on your journeys this summer!

Moreover, our active brothers continued their commitment to raising money to support those with disabilities by participating in a 5K run earlier this semester in Central Park. Our brothers formed teams to raise donations for the Ability Experience, and we are so proud to say that as a chapter, we were able to raise \$1400 dollars for the Ability Experience. In addition to the 5K, various brothers are also participating in Beardsgiving, which is an Ability Experience event lasting the month of November to see who can grow the longest beard in order to raise awareness for The Ability Experience. Overall, we are extremely proud of our chapter for the great initiatives we are participating in this semester! In total, we have raised about \$2000 dollars for philanthropy this semester. Shoutout to Brother Philanthropy Chairman Spencer McLane BA 909 for his awesome job this semester!



Peter Jensen Scholarship

Over the past year, many Beta Alphas and one mother of a Beta Alpha donated to the Peter Jensen Scholarship. Several Beta Alpha undergraduates benefit from this scholarship every year. We want to thank Joe Manfredi for matching the donations for this past year. To the right is the list of those who contributed during this campaign. Even during a semester with so much going on in the world around us, we came together to win several events during Virtual Greek Week. I know that our dedication to Beta Alpha is what keeps us going and propels us forward even during an unconventional semester.

Since we did not have an in-person Founders Day this year, we are extending our campaign to fund the scholarship through 2021. We know many of you would still want to contribute to this great cause to remember our brother Peter Jensen who was killed on Campus 50 years ago. If you would like to donate, you may send your check directly the attention of Ken Alexo, Eberhardt Hall -- NJIT Alumni Center, Suite 224, 323 Dr. MLK, Jr. Boulevard, Newark, NJ 07102. Please be sure to make the check out to "The Foundation at NJIT"; Please note "Peter Jensen Scholarship" in the memo line. The undergraduate chapter would also like to thank Joe Manfredi and Ron Szkodny for their continued work on the scholarship committee.

Adams	Nick
Bamburak	Paul
Chomiak	Russ
Ferns	Cathleen
Karnas	Henry
Kciuk	Joe
Kopans	Karlis
Krucher	Jim
Krumins	Aivars
Manfredi	Joe
Miceli	Louis
Miller	Craig
Morgan	Robert
Mullooly	John
Nass	Richard
Pedersen	Rick
Petrula	Matt
Pugliesi	John & Phyllis
Russo	Bob
Siciliano	Rob
Stephan	Rick
Szkodny	Ronald
Torres	Derek
Van Houten	Don





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