

# BETA ALPHA PARTICLES

Exceptional Leaders. Uncommon Opportunities.

## ARCHON REPORT

### Archon report

Happy Founder's Day to all the Brothers of Pi Kappa Phi - Beta Alpha. My name is Brother Archon Justin Andersen BA 90, and I am the current archon for Fall 2021 to Spring 2022. Thank you to everyone who showed up today to continue to support our ever-growing brotherhood. Very similar to last year, this year has been one like no other, with us facing a new set of challenges. However, with each challenge comes triumph. These triumphs allow me to detail what the current undergraduates have already accomplished during the first two months of this Fall 2021 semester.

### Academic Standing

Currently, the undergraduate chapter boasts an average GPA of 3.37. This is the highest cumulative GPA in fraternity history by 0.01 and is the third time our undergraduate chapter has had a cumulative GPA over a 3.00. Additionally, if we compare this academic standing to other Greek organizations on campus you would be pleased to know that Pi Kappa Phi - Beta Alpha is currently ranked #1 in cumulative GPA among NJIT's Interfraternity Council (IFC).

### Pie a Pi Kapp & 48 hour Bike-a-Thon

Continuing on, the undergraduate chapter has been very actively working with Pi Kappa Phi's philanthropy, The Ability Experience. This semester, Beta Alpha has hosted our annual philanthropy events, Pie-a-Pi Kapp & the 48 hour Bike-a-Thon. For Pie-a-Pi Kapp, brothers utilized social media and tabling to leverage our personal networks to raise money and awareness for Abex. A brother would be hit with a pie for every \$10 donated. Additionally, we also continued Pi Kappa Phi's annual tradition of the Bike-a-Thon, where brothers biked outside of NJIT's Campus Center for 48 hours continuously. Both of these events were absolutely amazing experiences to be a part of, and were very effective in contributing to the Ability Experience. Cumulatively, between these two events, we have raised \$1,515 for The Ability Experience.

### Newark Food Pantry Can Drive

Contrary to previous years, the undergraduates made a decision not to participate in the NJIT Can Drive, but rather, to give back to our local community directly. There were a variety of reasons and factors that played into this decision, but ultimately we wanted to directly affect those around us. As a chapter we noticed that every day as we drive through this beautiful city, especially after COVID, we look around and see people struggling and we wanted to do our part to help change that. We decided to take initiative and challenge ourselves to raise cans for the Newark Food Pantry, instead of the NJIT Food Pantry. Overall, we raised six hundred and fifteen pounds of food that we know is going directly to those who need it the most. I want to personally thank all the undergraduates and alumni for donating; without your help, we would not have been able to make such an impact on the city of Newark.

Ultimately, with NJIT and all college campuses slowly returning to "in person" activities, I knew we would be faced with challenges never before seen. However, challenges have never stopped this brotherhood in the past and will never in the future. All the brothers of Beta Alpha continue to show an unbelievably strong passion and drive to keep our traditions alive and it has been an honor and privilege to represent an amazing group of mature men. Finally, I want to thank all of our alumni for continuously giving the chapter your full utmost support. Beta Alpha continues to define what a lifelong brotherhood really means. ODH.



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# Transitioning Back to in Person

By John Kulpanowski BA 934

After roughly a year and half of being online due to the pandemic, we were finally able to go back in person this Fall semester. Throughout the pandemic, it was proven that life was difficult for the brotherhood as a whole and in everyone's personal life. However, we stood strong together through the best and worst times. Although we were able to get back to pre-pandemic life, the challenge of keeping our values that we hold as a fraternity up to its highest standard of excellence remains.

The classes of Spring '20, Fall '20, and Spring '21 were able to experience their first in person process. In order to maintain the traditions of the fraternity, the older brothers who have seen it from both sides had to take a step forward as leaders and guide the new brothers. Not only has it been older brothers who have been helping through this hardship, but alumni have given their advice to younger brothers along the way as well. This semester has brought 7 associate members and the previous Spring semester brought on 9 new brothers.

We were also challenged with maintaining the highest standard of scholarship, which we have been able to maintain. This semester, the brotherhood has a cumulative gpa of 3.37, which is high among other fraternities and clubs on campus. Not only is our gpa high, but many of the brothers are also part of the Albert Dorman Honors College.



# Beta Alpha's Impact

By John Kulpanowski BA 934

During our previous academic year, we had an outstanding executive council that was able to excel at NJIT. Through the IFC (Interfraternity Council), our previous archon, Brother Alumnus James Leinberger BA 892, was awarded the "Best President Award" for the 2020/2021 school year. While James accomplished this extraordinary individual achievement, the chapter as a whole was also awarded the best fraternity on campus!



Our local accomplishments shined a light on our chapter, but we as well have made an impact nationally. Two of our undergraduate students, Brother Spencer McLane Ba 909 and Brother Vishaal Anand BA 919, were inducted into the Ad Astra Society on November 11, 2021. This society is very exclusive, as only 1% of Pi Kappa Phi's undergraduate students may be inducted into Ad Astra each year. Ad Astra means "Into the Stars", and it recognizes undergraduates who step above and beyond their role as a student. Hundreds of undergraduates from Pi Kappa Phi apply to this society, but this year, only 88 were accepted. Congrats men!



This was not the only accomplishment we were able to achieve nationally, as we were inducted into the Silver Society for the Ability Experience for our fundraising last Spring. To achieve this, each brother in the calendar year must fundraise between \$100.00 to \$149.99. Our fundraising was also brought into the light by nationals in another way as we were awarded by The Ability Experience for our social media initiatives and our fundraising. We were also awarded for Outstanding Governance by nationals for our outstanding fundraising efforts.



# The Ability Experience

By John Kulpanowski BA 934



The 48-hour bike-a-thon was a great success this year, both in the Spring and the Fall. We raised over \$300 in the Spring and over \$250 in the Fall for the Ability Experience. Although NJIT did not have many students roaming around during the Spring, we were still able to receive donations through fundraising online and from people who stopped at the table to learn about the event and the philanthropy as a whole. However, this Fall, our campus was as busy as ever.

Our 5k in the Spring was a great time as well. Twelve brothers ran around Liberty State Park, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. Although COVID was still very present at the time, they made sure to get tested prior to the event to ensure a safe, but fun time together in order to raise awareness for the Ability Experience.

Our most successful philanthropy event every semester is Pie-a-Pi Kapp. We fundraise through Instagram and Snapchat, where we post a "bingo" board onto these social media platforms. Each brother fills a board, which is \$10. Once the board is filled, that brother gets a pie with whipped cream to the face! Once one board is filled, another board is posted for it to be filled again! Some brothers raised enough money for over 50 pies on their own over the past year!

During the Spring, we could not set up a table on campus due to COVID restrictions, so we all heavily promoted these boards on social media. After a collective effort of the brotherhood, we were able to raise around \$1,400 through these boards, which was a huge success!

This Fall, we set up a table at the campus center for two hours. During that time we promoted the boards on social media and were able to raise over \$1,200! Not only did we raise over a thousand dollars again, but we were able to spread the word on our national philanthropy to students and faculty around campus.

As our world slowly comes back to how things used to be, the focus for Ability Experience work has shifted to bring more awareness for the organization as a whole, in addition to the fundraising. Unfortunately, the impact COVID has left over the past couple of years has caused there to be less of an understanding of our fraternity's philanthropy efforts on campus. The push to educate the community of NJIT on our work nationally and locally is important for the future of Beta Alpha and its effectiveness to support The Ability Experience.



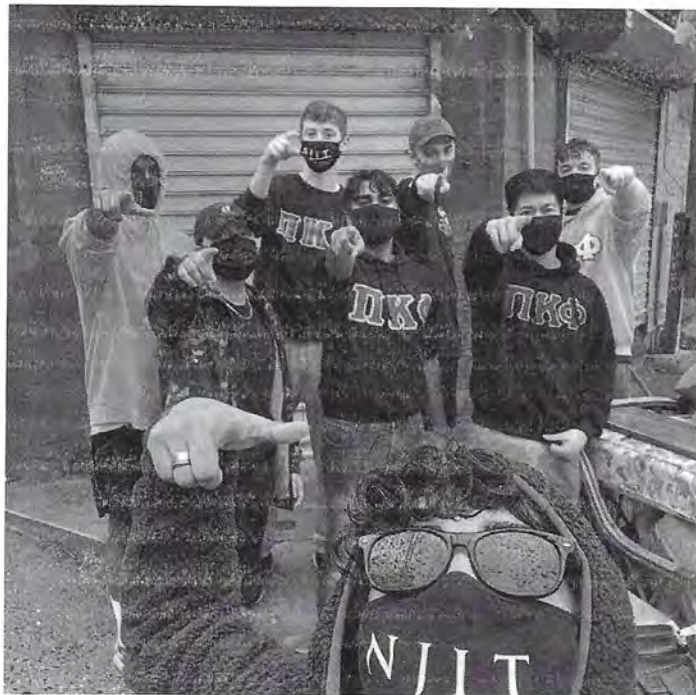
# Food Drive and Off Campus Volunteering

By John Kulpanowski BA 934

This semester, we decided as a chapter to not participate with the school for the yearly food drive. There were issues in the way they were handling the food drive, so we instead drove down to a local food drive and donated ourselves! As a brotherhood, we all collectively put in an effort to buy many cans, specifically over 615 lbs!

The issue that arose before was we did not know if the food we donated to the school would actually go towards those who are less fortunate around Newark. However, going directly to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ), we knew that our donation would have a direct impact on those in need. With the help of our Brother Archon Justin Anderen, Brother Richard Brown, and Brother Michael Schober, we were able to hand deliver the canned goods to the food bank!

As for volunteering off-campus, many of the brothers and associate members (at the time) went to the main street of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard to clean up that area during the past Spring semester. Over the course of a few hours, and in the rain, they picked up pieces of plastic, non-disposable waste, and even old, abandoned furniture, in order to make our community a cleaner place.



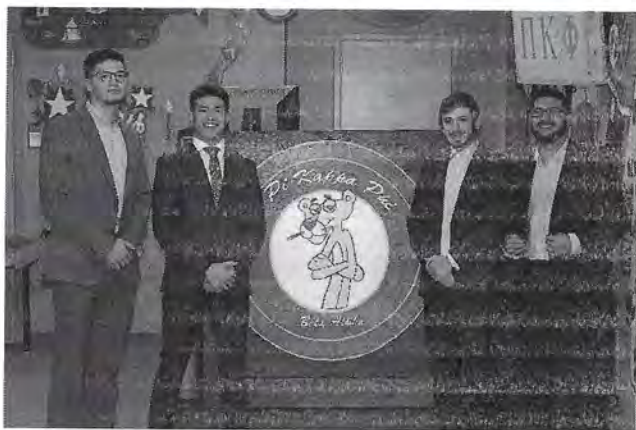
# Pi Kappa Phi Moving Forward

By John Kulpanowski 934



Later this November, we plan on teaming up with several other Greek organizations around campus to help clean up Dr. MLK Boulevard yet again! With the help of the IFC, we were able to get into contact with other Greek organizations in an organized manner and plan out a day for the cleanup. We plan on having several brothers and associate members participate in this clean up, as it is very important to help the community around us.

The plan for the upcoming Founder's Day 5k is to get as many brothers and alumni as possible to participate. The tentative date is for Saturday, December 11. The run will take place in Central Park. If you are interested, please reach out to Brother Philanthropy Chairman David Schiettino BA 922 at (732-788-0580).



David also plans on working with more local communities around Newark, specifically the Habitat for Humanity (HFH). HFH is a local organization in Essex county, which builds houses for people who need it, but are not fortunate enough to do it themselves. We believe that giving back to the community and helping those who are less fortunate than us is very important.

As we continue to grow as men of class, we plan on continuing our traditions thoroughly. It is important that these traditions do not die out, or else our history dies too. We plan on aiming for goals that exceed the previous year, such as getting into the Gold Society for the Ability Experience.





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