

# THE BETA ETA NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE BETA ETA CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS - SUMMER 2010

## Alumni Advisory Board Completes First Year



Back row, L-R, Undergrads: Tim Mueller '08, Gavin Farley '09, Alex Hepp '08, Tyler Weston '08, Chris Barbaro '08, Mike Kriegermeier '06, Jack Creed '08, Curt Mastio '08, JD Langefeld '07, Sean Fancher '10 and Doug Houser '08. Seated, L-R, Alumni Advisory Board: Kevin McDonnell '76, Ken DiFrancesca '78, Michael Parks '80, Steve Calk '83, Chris Moore '78 and Michael Cashman '05.

The Alumni Advisory Board, created last summer after the passing of long-time Chapter Advisor **Rich Western '65**, completed its first year with great success. The AAB model employs an alumni team to advise, counsel and assist in the development of leadership and management skills for undergraduate Executive Council officers.

The AAB model is based on principles which extend from our Fraternity's Preamble that states the most effective advisors are part of a team that's loyal to the Fraternity for life. The creation and

maintenance of an AAB is beneficial for both the Chapter and alumni volunteers. For the Chapter, it offers more perspectives and expertise; and for the Alumni, it makes advising a more manageable and fulfilling experience. A successful Alumni Advisory Board consists of members who can offer:

- Professional expertise and support to the undergraduates
- A commitment to help the Chapter improve and strive for excellence
- Counsel and advice to Chapter leadership

- Assistance in the areas of academics, leadership, undergraduate recruitment, strategic planning, risk and financial management
- Emphasis on the intangible aspects of fraternalism – ritual, brotherhood, motivation, unity and caring for one another

The AAB met regularly throughout 2009 and 2010 - its inaugural school year at Illinois. Members attended several Chapter meetings and initiation ceremonies.

### Beta Eta Alumni Advisory Board

Advisory Board Chairman  
Michael Parks '80  
[mparks@reveregroup.com](mailto:mparks@reveregroup.com)

Alumni Relations  
Steve Calk '83  
[steve@chicagobancorp.com](mailto:steve@chicagobancorp.com)

Educational  
Ken DiFrancesca '78  
[kendifrancesca@hotmail.com](mailto:kendifrancesca@hotmail.com)

Financial  
Kevin McDonnell '76  
[k.mcdonnell@comcast.net](mailto:k.mcdonnell@comcast.net)

Recruitment  
Michael Cashman '05  
[mwcashman@gmail.com](mailto:mwcashman@gmail.com)

Risk Awareness  
Kevin Cody '79  
[kevincody@firstlightinc.net](mailto:kevincody@firstlightinc.net)

BH Housing Corp Rep  
Chris Moore '78  
[cmoore1@ameritech.net](mailto:cmoore1@ameritech.net)

## Chapter Officers

### President

Tyler Weston '08  
Washington, IL

### Internal Vice President

Chris Barbaro '08  
Cary Grove, IL

### External Vice President

Tim Mueller '08  
Smithton, IL

### Treasurer

Alex Hepp '08  
Tinley Park, IL

### Recording Secretary

Doug Houser '08  
Libertyville, IL

### Sergeant at Arms

Curt Mastio '08  
St. Charles, IL

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## Pike is Largest Fraternity - Again

Pi Kappa Alpha continues to be one of the largest fraternities on the U of I campus. Thirty-five initiates were recruited during the fall Rush and fourteen in the spring. These Brothers have quickly become involved in the Chapter by participating in philanthropy events and even holding leadership positions.

The strength of Beta Eta Chapter comes from its ability to recruit men of character who are dedicated to academics, community and fraternity. Do you know someone who demonstrates these qualities that you can recommend for membership during fall Rush? Please send your recommendations to **Tyler Weston '08** at [weston2@uiuc.edu](mailto:weston2@uiuc.edu).

## Pike Efforts Raise Funds to Help Others



**Pike Brothers deliver presents and cash to 389 students at Garden Hills Elementary School in Champaign, IL.**

In 2003, the active members of Beta Eta started a philanthropy event called *Pike Presents* that has now been replicated by other Pike Chapters throughout the country. This event started as a local toy drive to benefit students of Garden Hills Elementary School in Champaign, where 75% of its student population lives below the poverty level. This past winter, the Beta Eta Brothers collected money, toys, books

and school supplies (worth an estimated value of \$35,000) for all 389 students.

A new philanthropy event called *Pike Wells* was created in September 2009 to raise money for the *Marion Medical Mission*, a not-for-profit organization that builds wells in African Villages that do not have proper access to clean drinking water. A spaghetti dinner hosted the night before the 'capture-the-flag tournament' event raised about \$2,000 - enough to build five wells in five different villages.

This spring, Beta Eta hosted the annual *Fireman's Challenge*, a four-day event held at Pike Chapters throughout the country where teams participate in various activities (flag football, tug-of-war, skits and dodge ball to name a few). This profitable event raised \$3,500 for the *Firefighter's Charitable Foundation*.

## Beta Eta Adds a Renewed Service Program

As in previous years, the Beta Eta Brothers donated time to the community by hosting a spring and fall blood drive at the Pike house. Almost 50 units of blood for the American Red Cross were collected. In February, the Brothers accompanied Delta Delta Delta sorority Sisters and attended the annual Valentine's Day dance at a retirement center.

The *Pike Tutors*, active four years ago, was resurrected this year as a community service project. As many as twenty actives committed their time and talents to tutor children at Garden Hills Elementary School in Champaign. The program will be conducted again in the fall.



**Brothers surround a Champaign fire truck after the successful 2010 Fireman's Challenge event.**

## U of I Campus Leadership include Pikes

As leaders on campus, Pikes are very active in student organizations, as well as the *Interfraternity Council* (IFC). Beta Eta **Matt Reschke '06** served as student trustee this past year. Pikes also have members on the IFC executive board and the Judicial Board. Two of the eight executive board members include VP of Service, **JD Langefeld '07** and VP of Communications, **Tim Mueller '08**; two of the seven judicial board members are **Chris Barbaro '08** and **Dylan Herman '08**; and two director positions are Director of Risk Awareness, held by **Matt Saccomanno '07** and Director of Recruitment, held by **Curt Mastio '08**.

# Construction Underway on the New Chapter House



**Chapter House Construction Started**

Thanks to capital campaign donors and *Pike House LLC* (a group of 'friendly' Beta Eta alumni investors who have a 'lease-back to own' agreement with the Housing Corporation), construction of the new Pike House at the University of Illinois is underway. The former house was razed last fall to make way for the brand new 27,000 square foot facility.

Once complete, the new Beta Eta living and learning residence will provide Brothers with an excellent opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and critical leadership skills that are not available elsewhere on campus.

"We already have an "over-sold" situation for when the facility is complete," explained Beta Eta Housing Corporation President **Mike Nelsen '80**. "Our students are very excited to live in the new house."

Nelsen continued, "To our donors, I say thank you! Without the support of our generous donors we could NEVER have made it this far. The funds we collect will pay for owner costs, fundraising, design features, furnishings, past and future publications and communications. We must collect the full amount of pledges to ensure the Chapter's success."

The House Corporation's lease-back deal includes the cost of kitchen fixtures, sleeping room furniture and landscaping. However, the Fraternity needs to furnish the living room, library and chapter rooms with a décor befitting of Beta Eta.



"In light of the change in financial structure, we will adjust our campaign goal to \$1.5 million and close the campaign at our "soft" grand opening planned for Homecoming 2010," said Nelsen. "Exclusive naming opportunities are available for all donors!"

Alumni can continue to support the capital campaign and new house by:

- Logging onto [www.illinipikes.com](http://www.illinipikes.com) to up-date their contact information including email address.
- Contacting at least five (5) other Brothers and up-dating their contact information.
- Completing any outstanding capital campaign pledges, or setting up a new five-year financial commitment to the new house by making a pledge at [www.illinipikes.com](http://www.illinipikes.com).
- Visiting the campus at Homecoming 2010 for a preview of the new Pike mansion at 102 E. Chalmers.

## Legends of Beta Eta Campaign

Goal: \$1,500,000

Donors	176
Pledged	\$1,140,350
Billed	\$928,131
Collected	\$802,128
Balance due to be pledged to make new goal	\$360,000

## Beta Eta Housing Corporation

### President

Mike Nelsen '80  
[mike.nelsen@comcast.net](mailto:mike.nelsen@comcast.net)

### Vice President

Chris Moore '78  
[cmoore1@ameritech.net](mailto:cmoore1@ameritech.net)

### Treasurer

Troy Pawelko '86  
[troy@fcadvisorsllc.com](mailto:troy@fcadvisorsllc.com)

### Secretary

Steve Lohman '87  
[slohman@nalco.com](mailto:slohman@nalco.com)

### Director

Al Palma '74  
[al.palma@eby-brown.com](mailto:al.palma@eby-brown.com)

## Beta Eta Alumni Association

### President

Mark Doerr '03  
[doerr.mark@gmail.com](mailto:doerr.mark@gmail.com)

### Vice President

Gregory Roth '03  
[roth.gg@gmail.com](mailto:roth.gg@gmail.com)

### Secretary

A.J. McCree '03  
[aj\\_mccree@yahoo.com](mailto:aj_mccree@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Kevin Cowell '03  
[klcowell@gmail.com](mailto:klcowell@gmail.com)

## Bricks Available for Sale

Brother **A.J. McCree '03** secured several bricks from the former Chapter house at 102 E. Chalmers. As a fundraiser for the undergraduates and the alumni association, the bricks are available for sale. If interested in purchasing one as a donation, please contact A.J. at [aj\\_mccree@yahoo.com](mailto:aj_mccree@yahoo.com).

# Brother to Brother

**George Roller '67** serves as Executive Director for The D. James Kennedy Center for Christian Statesmanship in Washington, DC. He and his wife, Linda, have been married for 37 years and have five children.

**Steven Kyle '70** is a volunteer for the Los Angeles Conservancy - Modern Committee. He serves as Membership Chairman and works to nationally landmark 20th Century architecture.

**Kevin Johnson '77** relocated to Madison, WI in 2008, and is still doing public relations work. He and his wife, Melissa, adopted their son, Nathan, from Ethiopia in January 2010. Kevin is looking forward to bringing his family to Champaign to view the new Pike house.

**Douglas VanVooren '78** is a District Sales Manager with Dow AgroSciences. He and his wife will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this year with their two daughters, Emily, a senior at San Diego State University and a member of

Pi Beta Phi, and Meredith, a freshman at Santa Barbara City College.

**Curt Henninger '79** has been named head of the California Division for Comcast. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the U of I, and has attended executive development programs at Harvard University, UCLA's Anderson School and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Michael Hopkins '88** is a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and was selected to be a member of NASA's 2009 Astronaut Class. More information can be found at [www.nasa.gov/astronauts/2009\\_hopkins.html](http://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/2009_hopkins.html).

**T. Marcus Funk '88** has published "Victims' Rights and Advocacy at the International Criminal Court". A book release event was held at the Northwestern University School of Law on April 9, 2010. For more information, go to [www.illinipikes.com](http://www.illinipikes.com).

# Is Anyone Interested?

In conjunction with Northwestern's Gamma Rho Chapter, interest is currently being gauged for those who would like to attend the November 20, 2010, *Illinois vs. Northwestern* football game at Wrigley Field. Plans to reserve one of the rooftops at Wrigley are being considered and the expected ticket prices will range from \$150 - \$200 per person. If you are interested and would like to be included on the 'contact' list, please email **Mark Doerr '03** at [doerr.mark@gmail.com](mailto:doerr.mark@gmail.com).

## Join the Alumni Association

If you like to become a member of the alumni association (no membership fee), please email **Mark Doerr '03** at [doerr.mark@gmail.com](mailto:doerr.mark@gmail.com).

Do you have news you'd like to share with your brothers? Post interesting information about yourself online at [www.illinipikes.com](http://www.illinipikes.com).

Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Change jobs? Retire? Let us know. Post your news today.

[www.illinipikes.com](http://www.illinipikes.com)



Pi Kappa Alpha  
University of Illinois #674  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

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\_\_\_\_\_

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_