

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 2011

Welcome to the New PIKE Mansion!

The newly constructed Pike mansion is open for business. With a sleeping capacity of 75 brothers and a state-of-the-art fire safety system in place, Pi Kappa Alpha has a mansion that will last for decades. The newly renovated house is designed in a suite style layout with designated common areas that allow brothers to congregate and study together.

“The previous house slept about 55-60 men. It was past its useful life and its life safety systems were out of date,” stated House Corporation President **Mike Nelsen ‘80**. “The layout was antiquated and not what today’s college student was looking for in housing.” Nelsen supervised the renovation process, but engaged **Larry Debb ‘74** in the process. Debb is a building developer based out of Chicago and worked with Nelsen and the House Corporation with the development of the house layout and construction. After three years of deliberating, the Beta Eta House Corporation was finally able to settle on this final design. The successful rebuilding of our chapter house would not have been possible without the significant help of alumni who raised over one million dollars for the construction. Alumni also formed a single purpose L.L.C., which raised enough capital for a construction loan.

The house was designed to keep many upperclassmen in the mansion to mentor the younger brothers. The fourth floor suites are designed for the upperclassmen with 16 foot cathedral ceilings. The plan to keep upperclassmen in the mansion seems to be working.



According to **Ramin Zacharia ‘10**, Public Relations chair, Beta Eta has five to seven seniors living in the house. Zacharia continued, “This is very important to us because they provide us with advice whenever we need it. It also keeps the upperclassmen engaged in the day-to-day activities of Beta Eta.”

Ultimately, the newly renovated Pike house was designed to provide the best possible education and leadership possibilities for the brothers of Beta Eta.

Save the Date!

Official House Dedication Weekend:
September 17 - 18, 2011!

See page 3 for more details.

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Beta Eta Breaks a Sweat on Sports Fields: Dominates 2010-11 seasons

Pike dominated U of I Club Sports again in 2010-11. Beta Eta's prowess on the sports fields is a continuation of their overall effort to be the best men on campus.

Dan Cohen '08 and **Mike McBride '10** led Club Hockey to a 22-11 record. With 31 and 21 point respectively, they were the top point scorers on the team. The team also credited their success to **Nick Stuercke '10** and pledge **John Scully** who were integral to the team's success.

In May, Beta Eta took on some of the best competition U of I had to offer at the Compete for the Cure 3-on-3 Basketball tournament. The team of **Gus Bloink '09**, **Josh Trees '09**, **Spenser Wagner '09** and **Alex Hepp '09** won the tournament that raised money for lung cancer research. Their biggest thrill was beat-

ing a team that had University of Illinois basketball player, Tyler Griffey.

On the Illini Club Lacrosse Team, **Dan Dickson '08** and **Matt Walker '09** led the team to another successful season. The team lost to Lindenwood in double overtime in the Great Rivers Lacrosse Conference Championship and missed an opportunity to play in the National MCLA Tournament. Dickson led the conference in goals and was elected captain for the third consecutive year. He also was awarded with the Offensive Player of the Year award, Coach's Award, 1st Team All Conference and Honorable Mention All-American. To add to the team's success, **Matt Walker '09** saw a lot of playing time this year and played behind one of the top goalies in the conference.

Other PIKE Sports Notes

- Brother **Brian Mulvihill '09** played on the Illinois Club Volleyball (Orange) Team. The team won their 8th consecutive Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Division II Championship and advanced to the National Collegiate Volleyball Federation Championship in Houston, TX.
- Brother **Tyler Muncy '10** is a member of the Illini Club Baseball Team. Illini Club Baseball finished with a 14-4 record and fell just short of a conference title, costing them a chance to play at Regionals.
- Pikes finished in second place in the intramural basketball league, narrowly missing out on back-to-back intramural basketball championships.

Beta Eta Gives Back with Spring Service Projects and Philanthropy: Fireman's Challenge Week raised over \$3,000

Pike's annual spring philanthropy continues to be a success. The Fireman's Challenge, a weeklong series of competitions between 12 sororities, raised over \$3,000 for the Firefighters' Charitable Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit organization in New York City that assists victims of fires, supports volunteer firefighters and provides fire safety programs.

The week started with a chapter sponsored pasta dinner. The rest of the week pitted sororities against each other in dodgeball, flag football, muddy tug-of-war and a talent show. **Ben Jacober '08** and **Max Sachs '09** were the coordinators of the Fireman's Challenge and were extremely pleased with the week. "We both worked hard to make sure this went off without a hitch," said Jacober. "It's just nice to know that we are doing something that will benefit someone who is in need of help."

Just a few weeks after the Fireman's Challenge, Beta Eta partnered with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive. Surpassing their goal of 21 units, the brothers were able to donate 28 good units of blood. According to calculations the Red Cross uses, the chapter will potentially save over 84 lives!

Brother **Dan Czyz '10** helped coordinate the first ever Pi Kappa Alpha/ Kappa Alpha Theta Book Drive in April. The brothers collected and donated over 200 hundred books to Stratton Elementary School, a Champaign school where the average student lives at or below the poverty line. On April 1, the chapter joined the ladies of Kappa Alpha Theta and traveled to Stratton Elementary to read to the children.

Along with the book drive, the men of Beta Eta served soup to the homeless at the



Brother Dan Czyz '10 plays guitar as pledge Adam Green sings "If Tomorrow Never Comes" for the crowd at Alpha Phi's King of Hearts philanthropy event.

TIMES Soup Kitchen in Champaign. The chapter accumulated well over 300 hours of community service this semester and hopes to continue to improve in the fall.

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Beta Eta Gives Back with Spring Service Projects and Philanthropy: Fireman's Challenge Week raised over \$3,000

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In February, Beta Eta competed in Alpha Phi's annual King of Hearts philanthropy event. By excelling in the group dance, swimsuit contest, pickup line and talent portion, the chapter managed to bring home a third place finish. **Dan Czyz '10** and Pledge **Adam Green** performed the Garth Brooks song "If Tomorrow Never Comes" for the crowd. The women in the audience thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and the brothers received top marks from all the judges, including IFC President and Pike brother, **Tim Mueller '08**.

Spring 2011 Rush: All Bids Accepted!

Beta Eta experienced a successful Spring Rush. Rush Chairman **Derek Athy '09** did a fantastic job, as all 19 bids extended were accepted. "Although it seemed everyone wanted to be a Pike this semester, the chapter felt it was vital to the success of the fraternity to maintain a reasonably-sized spring class," stated Athy.

"This semester, the brothers were more selective than in the past, due in part to the large number of young men rushing."

The Pikes are confident that these young men will further the future of the fraternity and help maintain the strong reputation Pi Kappa Alpha has established on the U of I campus.

PIKE House Dedication Weekend Set for September 17 - 18, 2011

A very special celebration is being organized to officially dedicate the Pike house and publicly recognize every generous brother who helped make the new house a beautiful reality. All alumni are invited, along with a spouse or guest, to join the active brothers for this historic and long-awaited occasion. Seating is limited at the official Dedication Luncheon on Sunday and preference will be offered based on support. Details for the event are as follows:

Saturday, September 17, 2011

1:00 p.m. House Tours Available
3:30 p.m. Tailgate Party at the House
6:00 p.m. University of Illinois vs. Arizona State (Block Tickets Available)

Sunday, September 18, 2011

9:00 a.m. House Tours Available
11:30 a.m. Official Dedication at the House
12:30 p.m. Dedication Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn

For more information or to RSVP, contact **Jack Bowsher '50** at (858) 451-2446 or cjbowsher@yahoo.com before **June 28, 2011**.

Honoring the Past: The Housing History of Beta Eta

Beta Eta owes many thanks to the key leaders who purchased the "Four Columns" house at 305 East John Street in the early 1920s and built the beautiful house at Third and Armory that housed 70 of our members.

In the 1930s, Beta Eta initiated less than 100 members over a ten-year period, thus the chapter struggled to exist. A bank foreclosed on the beautiful new fraternity house but allowed the chapter to live in the building by paying a small amount of rent. **Virgil McBroom '25**, who would later become the National President of Pi Kappa Alpha, was one of those men who was active in Beta Eta in the '30s.

After World War II, when the chapter

owned nothing more than four dining room tables, a small group of returning military veterans under the leadership of **Bill Mumford '41** and **Harold Callahan '43** re-established the chapter and rented a temporary house at 4th and Daniel Street (this house no longer exists). Fortunately, the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity that built the beautiful house at 102 E. Chalmers Street merged with another fraternity and Pi Kappa Alpha was able to purchase the property for \$65,000. **Bill Schroeder '19**, who lived in both the original white frame house and later in the Four Columns building, was in the real estate business and wrote a \$65,000 check based on the research that **Harold Storer '24**

had done. These two alumni were significant leaders from 1948 to the mid-1960s of the Beta Eta House Corporation.

In 1963, **Jack Bowsher '50** and **Charlie Bowsher '50** borrowed \$65,000 and remodeled the house by converting the two dormitories into rooms, creating a fine casual room in the basement, and upgrading the entire house. They could not have done this renovation without **Carl Rauchenberger '52**, who was the architect of the entire project. In the late 1960s, the property was purchased at 106 1/2 East Chalmers and the building next door. Beta Eta now had two annex buildings.

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Beta Eta Housing Corporation

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Treasurer

Kevin Cowell '03
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Brother to Brother

Kevin McDonnell '76 was recently appointed Chief Administrative Officer of WRScompass, a Tampa, Florida based national environmental services remediation, water management services and construction firm. Kevin and his wife, Susan, have three children and live in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

Mike Cashman '04 recently joined Chicago based Maven's Consulting as a CRM Application Architect. Cashman will provide consulting services to companies in the life sciences arena (Pharma, BioTech). Cashman currently resides in Chicago's Wrigleyville neighborhood.

Dave Johnson '04 recently returned from a mission trip to Haiti. Before his trip, the brothers of Beta Eta raised \$267 and sent clothes to help clothe and feed the impoverished people of Haiti.

Alex Tauchen '04 recently married Lauren Roth, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta. Alex will be starting his residency at Loyola and recently bought a house with his wife in Villa Park.

Trey Ward '07 was recently the recipient of Environmental Protection Agency's P3 (People, Prosperity, and the Planet) Award.

Honoring the Past

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During the 1960s, the leader of the House Corporation and Alumni Advisor was **Bob Bishop**. Bishop's work with the House Corporation is critical to where Beta Eta is today. Without his forward thinking to purchase the additional two lots, Beta Eta would not have the property to build our beautiful new house.

Bishop was followed by **Bob Zettler '35**, who was the House Corporation Treasurer for 20 years in the 1970s and 1980s. During this time, the mortgage was finally paid off and the chapter did well under his leadership.

Of course, for decades, **Rich Western '65** was the Chapter Advisor and he certainly deserves a lot of credit for all his service to the chapter. During his service, the chapter evolved from being considered a good chapter to a great one.

Unfortunately, the chapter had some officers and members who used poor judgment during the 1990s. The

University threatened to close our house due to this situation, but **Tom Abraham '58** saved the chapter with superior leadership.

During the 2000s, a significant effort was put forth by many of our dedicated alumni. **Dick Blatt '59** led an effort to rebuild at Illinois, but unfortunately fell short of adequate support to get the project completed. In the later half of the decade, a small group of committed alumni created the effort to finally complete the new house that you can now see standing at 102 E. Chalmers today. Come and see what will be home to Beta Eta Pikes for the next 100 years!



www.illinipikes.com



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