

## Gamma Tau Wins Community Service Awards

The Gamma Tau Chapter was nominated by Mrs. Marcia Hartnett (mother of Jeff Hartnett '02) for the Rensselaer Alumni Association Community Service Award. On February 9th, the Pikes were awarded with a plaque and a check for \$1,000 to be donated to the American Cancer Society as their first donation to the Relay for Life. The award was chosen by a committee of RAA members and RPI campus staff. This donation is just the start of many thousands of dollars that Pikes and the Hartnett family plan to raise for the Relay for Life. Thanks again to the Hartnett family for nominating us for this award.



The Brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha joined with Dr. Eddie Knowles (Vice President of Student Relations) and Terri Kersch (Director of Health Education) at the lighting of the Tree of Life in December.

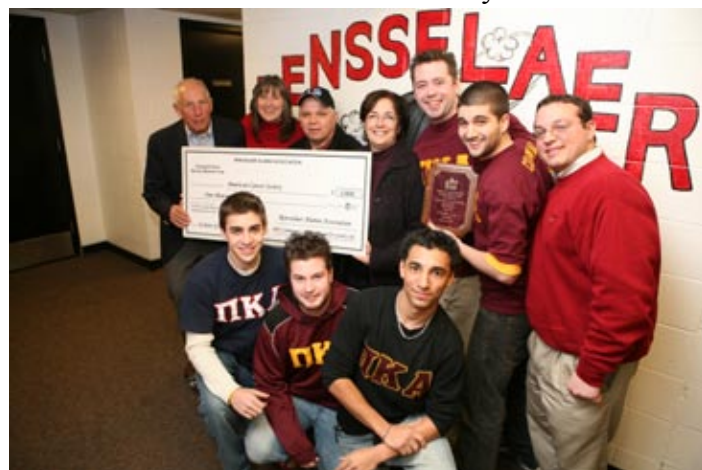
Gamma Tau also won the InterFraternity Council Community Involvement/Service Award. Community service events over the past two semesters have included a renovation of the Frear Park ice skating rink and the promotion and participation in World AIDS Awareness Day in conjunction with the Student Health Center. We also raised over \$3,000 for Relay for Life last April, ran in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and in December, held the inaugural Pikes Presents, which raised over \$1,400 to buy gifts for Public School 2 in downtown Troy.



## Help Support the Relay for Life!

On April 27, Pikes are participating in the Relay for Life, hosted by the American Cancer Society. It is a 24-hour event that begins on Friday and goes until Saturday. It reflects upon those that have cancer, have survived cancer or have lost their battle to cancer. It also pays tribute to those people that give countless hours to loved ones as caregivers and family members. This year we have joined up with the family of Jeff Hartnett '02, who is currently battling against Hodgkin's Lymphoma for a second time. There are many ways you can help us as we strive to meet our goal of \$10,000-joining a team, volunteering to help with the event or making a donation.

To view our money raised to date or to make a donation, please visit [www.pikes-rpi.com](http://www.pikes-rpi.com) to find links to the Relay for Life homepage.



Top Row (l-r): Bob Forman '61, Carrie Eckart '85, Fred Lee, Theresa Kersch, John Whalen '08, John Capogna '09, Cosmo Marfione '00  
Bottom Row (l-r): Joe Cermola '07, Jeff Patrick '10, Dan Rodrigo '08  
Photo Credit: Blake Huovie '08/The Polytechnic



## Founder's Day

March 17, 2007



## Come celebrate 72 years of Gamma Tau at the Franklin Plaza Ballroom

Founder's Day Weekend will be taking place in downtown Troy at the elegant Franklin Plaza Ballroom. Hotel reservations and discounted rates can be made at the Franklin Square Inn & Suites. This year, \$5 for every person in attendance will go towards the Relay for Life.

Please visit [www.pikes-rpi.com](http://www.pikes-rpi.com) to:

- RSVP
- View and select dinner choices
- Pay through Omega Financial
- Make Hotel Reservations
- Update your contact information

### Dinner Choices

- Rolled Filet of Sole stuffed with Crab
- Filet Mignon
- Saltimbocca Chicken (2 wine marinated chicken breasts topped with prosciutto, melted sharp provolone and sage)
- Vegetarian selection chosen by Franklin Plaza

### Founder's Day costs

- \$110 for a single ticket
- \$200 for a couple

### Franklin Square Inn & Suites reduced rates:

- \$114 for standard room
- \$254 for a suite

### Founder's Day Tentative Agenda

#### Friday Evening

9:00 PM- Cocktails at the Gamma Tau Chapter House (Shirt & Tie)

#### Saturday

10:00 AM- Brunch & Coffee  
10:30 AM- Housing Corporation Meeting  
1:00 PM- Lunch  
2:00 PM- Goals Retreat Open Forum  
-Alumni Advisory Board  
-Refocusing Communications  
-Smythe Standard  
-Relay for Life  
5:00 PM- Appetizers & Cocktails  
6:00 PM- Depart for Franklin Plaza Ballroom  
12:00 AM- Finish the evening in downtown Troy or Albany

#### Sunday Morning

10:00 AM- Brunch & Closing Presentations at Mothers in RPI Union

## PIKES PRESENTS Is a Success

Brother John Capogna '09 spearheaded an event called PIKES PRESENTS which raised money to purchase Christmas gifts for students in grades Pre-K through First Grade at Public School #2 in Troy. We were able to raise over \$1,400, buying gifts for over 120 students. P.S. #2 was chosen after talking with the Student Health Center Coordinator Terri Kersch, who told us that P.S. #2 consists of students from lower income families that often do not get gifts during the holiday season and that many of the students lack positive male role models. We wanted to help them as much as possible. Pikes joined up with the RPI Sororities to help wrap the gifts and delivered them during RPI Reading Days. Santa made a visit to each of the classrooms to help hand out gifts, sing songs and chat with the students about what they have been learning in school.

Bringing a smile to so many young faces was an inspiring event for the entire Brotherhood. Next year our goal is to purchase gifts for all classes of Public School #2. We also plan on getting in contact with children's toy companies to see if they can assist us in our goals. We had an amazing time with the kids and can't wait to do it again next year!



Brother Anthony Marciano '08 helps Santa Claus with his belt.

## GT Initiates 22 & Pledges Spring Class of 4!

We are pleased to announce that Gamma Tau has recently initiated 22 men into the bonds of Brotherhood on January 21, 2007. Each of these individuals are prime examples of our Chapters values and the qualities sought after during recruitment. We hope to help them strengthen their role as a scholar, leader, athlete and gentleman as they pass through the gates of Gamma Tau. In addition we have signed four men to join the Fraternity as a Spring pledge class- the first Spring pledge for Gamma Tau since 2000.

## Alumni Resources

As we are trying to expand our databases and networking resources to keep you better informed as alumni of Gamma Tau, we want to provide you with the most recent resources and technology that National HQ and Gamma Tau Chapter have been working on. We also ask that you please utilize these resources to stay in contact with your fellow pledge brothers and Chapter.

**Pikes InCircle-** Pi Kappa Alpha International HQ has teamed up with Affinity Circles, Inc. to develop a social networking website for Brothers of the Fraternity. Please visit [www.incircle.pikes.org](http://www.incircle.pikes.org) to register today and begin networking with Brothers from all over the world.

**Gamma Tau Website ([www.pikes-rpi.com](http://www.pikes-rpi.com))-** Recently, Tom Cocca '07 has been working on an online alumni database. The project is in its very early stages but alumni are encouraged to visit the site at [www.pikes-rpi.com/alumni\\_database](http://www.pikes-rpi.com/alumni_database) to log into the system. Features of the system include updating personal information, searching for a member by last name and viewing information for your entire pledge class in one click. Please be patient with the site as many more updates and new features will be coming soon. Tom can be contacted at [coccat@pikes-rpi.com](mailto:coccat@pikes-rpi.com) if there are any questions or concerns.

**RPI Alumni Weekend-** Class Reunions for years ending in 2 and 7 are taking place at RPI on June 7-10. Please feel free to stop by the Gamma Tau Chapter House as active brothers will be around to show off the house!!

**Alumni Input-** Send us any news or announcements so we can publish them next newsletter.