



PAST & PRESENT



THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE GAMMA TAU CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA AT RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE - SPRING 2012

“Pikes Presents” Keeps Kids Smiling: Over \$5,000 Raised to Buy 400 Gifts

For the sixth consecutive year, Gamma Tau did their part to bring Christmas cheer to the children at Troy’s Public School #2. Fraternity members collected over \$5,000 to purchase toys that included remote-controlled cars, dolls, basketballs, footballs, race cars, bracelet-making kits, board games, arts and crafts kits, and action figures.

More than 50 members of the fraternity helped 400 Troy elementary school students get a head start on the holidays. “It’s one of the best things we do as a fraternity,” stated chapter president **Matt Elchison ‘10**. “When it first started, the chapter bought gifts for the younger students. Now, we are able to buy gifts for every student in the building.”

The chapter collects money throughout the fall by soliciting donations from family members, classmates and each other. “The hardest part is buying all the gifts,” said event coordinator **Mark Toppel ‘09**. “I go with my mother on Black Friday to buy as many toys as possible. It is the best day to shop, financially, for the over 400 students.”

Fraternity members say



Brothers gather with the children to show off their gifts.

the goal of the initiative is to cultivate role models for the young children and also to give back to the community. Gamma Tau also has a mentoring program at Public School #2, and works with students enrolled in programs at the Unity Sunshine School and the Troy Boys and Girls Club.

The event receives strong support from the Public School faculty and administration. It has also been highlighted many times in the *Times Union* and *Troy Record*.



Santa Claus hands out presents to students at Troy’s Public School #2.

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RPI Modifies Recruitment Rules, Gamma Tau Stays at Top

Gamma Tau signed and initiated twelve men to join the Fall 2011 pledge class. Compared to most years, twelve men might not seem that significant, but Pike ranked first in recruitment once again for RPI's Fall Rush. This semester, Spring 2012, the chapter has six men pledging the fraternity, bringing Gamma Tau's total size to 75.

With RPI and the IFC modifying the formal recruitment policies for 2011-2012, all of Greek Life had to adjust their extensive month long recruitment plans into a short two and a half weeks. All fraternities had ample time to plan for the new rules and the men of PiKA were resourceful in their planning.

"Even though we've run a pretty standard recruitment program for many years, we had to make some necessary changes," said recruitment chair **Kevin Dai '10**. "With the consolidated calendar, we had to omit some events that have been very popular in the past."

The chapter knew that in order to find the best men on campus, they needed to host events that would bring a lot of people to the chapter house. The annual ClamFest, often the most attended rush event on campus, continued to serve as the flagship recruitment event. With over 3,000 clams steamed or shucked throughout the day, the uniqueness of the event continues to impress all newcomers.

Over 35 Alumni Gather for Homecoming Reunion Weekend

Handshakes & Applause

5 STAR Chapter Award

(RPI) - ranking above 90% in all categories of recruitment, operations, community service, finances, academics and campus involvement

Scholarship Plate

(National) - chapter GPA above 3.0

Communiversities Award

(RPI) - outstanding relationship with both the university and the surrounding community



Alumni and brothers take time for a photo at the 2011 Homecoming Reunion.

Pi Kappa Alpha had over 35 alumni return to campus on October 21-23 for the 2011 Homecoming Reunion Weekend. Alumni attended a large selection of activities hosted by RPI, including the Greek Chowder Fest. They also participated in several events hosted by the active Gamma Tau Chapter including a reception at the chapter house Friday night, a Saturday morning football tailgate and an alumni vs. active basketball game. Plans are underway for the 2012 Homecoming Reunion Weekend being held October 5-7, so stay tuned!

DeFeo Steps Down from House Corporation

The House Corporation was saddened when **Mike De Feo '79** opted not to serve again as a House Corporation director for the 2011-12 academic year. De Feo served two terms with the House Corporation - his first term spanned nine years from 1984 to 1992 when he served as director, vice president and president, and his second term was spent serving as a director.

"Mike was a great resource when it came time to develop the drawings needed for the life-safety system," stated vice

president **Pat Boccio '82**. "He worked with me and **Bob Saidi '74** to get the proper equipment installed, not only to meet the standards RPI is mandating now but also to cover any future mandates. His forward thinking will surely save us money in the long run."

De Feo resides in Mohnton, PA, with his wife, Ana. He currently works for Worley Parsons as an engineer and serves his community as vice president of the Mohnton Borough Council.

Alumni Donations Fund Bathroom Renovations

Thanks to 50 contributors, Gamma Tau has raised almost \$9,000 for the *2011-2012 Annual Fund*. Donations to the campaign provide funds for the House Corporation to renovate the second floor bathroom. The bathroom work is slated to begin this summer after the current chapter moves out. Alumni who have not yet supported the campaign are encouraged to do so today by visiting www.gammataupikes.com and clicking the 'Support this Campaign' button.

House Corporation Financial Overview: 2010-2011

Opening Balance	\$138,235.75
<u>Income</u>	
House rent	\$60,000.00
Fundraising	\$9,822.03*
<u>Expenses</u>	
Roof Repair	\$16,185.00
Hardwire Fire Alarm System	\$44,326.23
Plumbing	\$347.28
Boiler Inspection	\$150.00
General Repairs	\$2,456.00
Property Tax	\$6,848.18
School Tax	\$7,318.65
Insurance	\$20,849.00
Alumni Communications	\$2,418.47
Fire Alarm Monitoring	\$0.00 (1 st year free)
Fire Alarm Phone Line	\$73.16
Bank Fee	\$20.00
Office Expenses	\$276.95
Ending Balance	\$106,788.86

*All fundraising income goes toward the second floor bathroom renovations.

HOUSE CORPORATION OFFICERS

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Newsletter Correction:

Unfortunately, in the last edition, we missed two Gamma Tau brothers who also served as Grand Marshal: **James Morgan '55** and **William Murdoch '57**. We apologize for this oversight.

Help Improve Our Outreach

With over 1,200 living alumni, the House Corporation wants to make sure that we are able to communicate with everyone about events and happenings with the chapter and on campus. Right now, we have **329 alumni with bad mailing addresses** and **799 alumni with no email address on file**.

If you are willing to help track down alumni, please contact **Sean Burns '03** at seantburns@gmail.com. The goal is to get our lost brothers list down to 200 men by the end of the calendar year.

Save the Date!

RPI Homecoming & Reunion, October 5-7, 2012

Please mark your calendar for RPI's Homecoming and Reunion weekend in October. The chapter will be hosting an event and all are welcome to attend. Details coming soon!

Visit the Pi Kappa Alpha Website

Visit www.gammataupikes.com, the official Gamma Tau alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number and e-mail address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support the *2011 -2012 Annual Fund for Gamma Tau*

www.gammataupikes.com



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Address Correction Requested

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Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile online at www.gammataupikes.com or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to: Pi Kappa Alpha, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute #1046, PO Box 2187, Columbus, GA 31902.

Name _____

Initiate Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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E-mail _____