



# PAST & PRESENT



THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE GAMMA TAU CHAPTER OF PI KAPPA ALPHA AT RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE - FALL 2010

## Gamma Tau 75th Anniversary Celebration, October 15-17, 2010

It all began in 1922, when two Juniors at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute decided to form a fraternity. They called themselves Beta Psi, drafted a constitution, bought a house and designed a pin. In 1924, the IFC accepted Beta Psi, and in 1926, the fraternity won their first Barker Trophy.

The next several years proved to be quite eventful for Beta Psi. They purchased another house, which burned down and was rebuilt, and then merged with the Pi Kappa Pi fraternity on campus. On April 1, 1934, Beta Psi petitioned Pi Kappa Alpha for membership, and on May 2, 1935, the National Fraternity accepted and chartered the Gamma Tau Chapter. All 29 brothers celebrated at the Chapter's Installation Dinner on May 11, 1935.

Fast forward 75 years, and Gamma Tau is still going strong with over 1,400 men initiated since the founding. The chapter has experienced bursts of growth since its humble beginnings, and occupied several homes. Over the decades, Gamma Tau has elected great leaders, which have led to great successes. The Chapter was awarded the Smythe Award in 1999, 2000 and 2007, and it has cultivated eleven Grand Marshals for RPI.



Gamma Tau's Installation Dinner held May 11, 1935

To commemorate the past 75 years, alumni are invited back to campus during the weekend of October 15-17, 2010, to celebrate the **75th Anniversary of Gamma Tau**. This celebration will coincide with RPI's Homecoming Weekend and is sure to be an event the brotherhood doesn't want to miss.

For additional information, contact **Tim Donnelly '85** at [timothy.e.donnelly@gmail.com](mailto:timothy.e.donnelly@gmail.com). The Reunion Weekend will also be a Class Reunion for all Classes ending in '0 or '5.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Gamma Tau's 75th Anniversary**

**OCTOBER 15-17, 2010**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Campus – Homecoming Weekend  
Class Reunion for Classes ending  
in '0 or '5

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### President

Gary Keen '09  
[gkeen5@gmail.com](mailto:gkeen5@gmail.com)

### Interval Vice President

Matt Elchison '10  
[elchim.pikes@gmail.com](mailto:elchim.pikes@gmail.com)

### External Vice President

Ian Helmar '09  
[helmai.pikes@gmail.com](mailto:helmai.pikes@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Phil Sarid '09  
[saridp.pikes@gmail.com](mailto:saridp.pikes@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Mark Toppel '09  
[toppem.pikes@gmail.com](mailto:toppem.pikes@gmail.com)

Communication support and  
assistance provided by:

OmegaFi  
800.276.6342  
[omegafi.com](http://omegafi.com)

## Pi Kappa Alpha Grand Marshals

1934-1935

John R. Schwarting '37  
(deceased)

1940-1941

Frank Sherry '39  
(deceased)

1949-1950

Gerald Ellsworth '47  
(deceased)

1953-1954

Glenn O. Brown '51

1959-1960

William Murdoch, Jr. '57

1966-1967

Kenneth Ullman '64

1985-1986

John Cerveny '83

1999-2000

Eric Schmidt '98

2000-2001

Joseph Greco '98

2002-2003

Christopher Mather '00

2010-2011

Benjamin Hunt '07

## Ben Hunt '07 Elected 144th Grand Marshal of RPI



Ben Hunt '07 proudly wears the infamous 'Top Hat' of the Grand Marshal

**Benjamin Hunt '07** became the 144th Grand Marshal of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute by winning the general election during GM Week in April 2010. Hunt's campaign focused on what he referred to as 'The Four Pillars': Communication and Collaboration, Student Rights and Voice, Greek Life and Sustainability. In a post-election interview, Hunt stated, "I want the campus to know that I truly want to represent the students. I've noticed that students are losing their voice on campus, and my goal is to bring it back."

In addition to his campaign platform, Hunt has taken on a 'green' initiative and is bringing more sustainable programming to campus. Hunt has created compost piles at the Chapter House to reduce waste. On campus, he is leading the effort to design and build a green roof at the Student Union. The project's goal is to save energy, increase student interest and awareness and provide a viable option for future buildings. The green roof will serve as the 2010 Class Gift.

According to Hunt, "We are at a school that prides itself by being cutting edge, and this is just another example we can set for other institutions to follow."

Hunt is the 11th Pike to serve as the RPI Grand Marshal.

## Founders Day 2010 a Huge Success



Brothers celebrate Founders Day 2010

This year, Gamma Tau celebrated Pi Kappa Alpha's founding at Franklin Plaza in Troy, NY, with an evening of dinner, dancing, awards and fun on March 27, 2010. The event was well attended by actives and alumni, as well as their dates. Guests enjoyed a great meal while learning about the accomplishments of the chapter.

Founder's Day is also the occasion to recognize individual accomplishments of the members of Gamma Tau. The Chapter

presented six awards, including Gamma Tau Pike of the Year to **Richard DeAlmeida '07**. The complete list of award winners included:

Scholar of the Year: **Charles Russo '07**

Leader of the Year: **Jesse State '08**

Athlete of the Year: **Bryant Johnson '07**

Gentleman of the Year: **Michael Notley '07**

Pike of the Year: **Richard DeAlmeida '07**

Glenn O. Brown Distinguished Service Award:  
**Kevin Rodrigo '07**

# 2010 Life Safety Campaign for Gamma Tau



Thanks to 70 early contributors, PIKE has already raised more than \$18,000 for the

2010 Life Safety Campaign for Gamma Tau. Donations to the campaign will provide funds for the House Corporation to complete required repairs to the Pike house in order to comply with RPI's higher housing standards

Construction plans are being finalized by House Corporation members **Pat Boccio '84, Bob Saidi '74 and Mike DeFeo '79.** Once completed, PIKE can begin accepting bids. Renovations include installing carbon monoxide and smoke detectors throughout the house and in bedrooms. The system will be hardwired to the Troy Police Department

in case an alarm sounds. These repairs are required and will make the fraternity compliant with NYS Code and RPI's new requirement for sophomores to live on-campus.

According to House Corporation President **Sean Burns '03**, "It allows us to continue to stay competitive with the other fraternities and with the campus. We can continue to recruit aggressively and let them know they have a place to live after freshman year."

This project is still in need of financial support. Alumni who have not yet supported the 2010 Life Safety Campaign for Gamma Tau are encouraged to do so today. Giving is easy and pledges may be spread and paid over the next year. To contribute, visit [www.gammataupikes.com](http://www.gammataupikes.com) and click the 'Support this Campaign' button.

## HOUSE CORPORATION OFFICERS

**President**  
Sean Burns '03

**Vice President**  
Pat Boccio '82

**Treasurer**  
Robert Rapp '06

**Secretary**  
Samuel Williams '03

**Director**  
Bob Saidi '74

**Director**  
Mike De Feo '79

**Director**  
Tim Donnelly '85

**Director**  
Casey Crossley '03

**Director**  
John Whalen '05

**Director**  
Daniel Rodrigo '05

**Director/  
Chapter Advisor**  
Jon Warman '99

### PIKE Donor: \$1,000 - \$5,000

Loring A. Brown, II '87  
David Burnham Irwin '82  
Cosmo Damien Marfione '97  
John Keyser McFarland '89  
William Birch Neuberger '52  
Richard Nickles Schantz '62  
Walter John Schob, Jr. '53  
Wendell Grant VanAuken, III '63

### Garnet Level: \$500 - \$999

James Elliott Alden '55  
Charles Angel Arredondo '56  
Michael Jude De Feo '79  
Timothy Edward Donnelly '85  
Michael David Fishkin '91  
John Charles Fox '88  
Marc Lee Lamson '89  
Brian Edward McManus '58  
David Baker Wood, III '84

### Gold Level: \$250 - \$499

Matthew Chapin Curtis '03  
Timothy B. Derrick '95  
Harry James Garrett, Jr. '62  
Bradley David Mohr '86

Robert Eugene Schulz '56  
Robert Russell Spratt '59

### Proud Pike Level: \$100 - \$249

Rocco Anthony Asselta, Jr. '61  
Jason Raymond Boutin '90  
Vincent James Bresnaider '85  
Harry Franklin Church, III '68  
Alden Lewis Clark, Jr. '51  
Paul Martin Degitz '79  
Thomas G. Fredeman '03  
Shawn Robert Freitas '03  
George C. Gatje '49  
John Harold Gertsen '80  
Herbert Quimby Horne, Jr. '50  
Kenneth Elisha Keeler '56  
Michael James Kozak '66  
David Miller Layton '50  
Keith Douglas Leonard '90  
Alan C. Macy '43  
William Earl Maurer '58  
Alan Michael McLiverty '81  
John Salvatore Pocerobba '84  
Alan Scott Ross '69  
Stephen J. Rossi '97  
Jay M. Siegel '86  
Adam Thomas Spreccace '89  
Irving C. Stiles '40  
Frank R. Tomlinson '47

Domenic Anthony Tripodi '00  
Benjamin A. Van Wagner '03  
Richard Angus Van Wootten '50  
John Verrone '99  
John A. Watson '47

### Gamma Tau Supporter: \$50 - \$99

Michael Ryan Augello '01  
Sean T. Burns '03  
Timothy Scott Campbell '82  
Ryan Christopher Denner '99  
Dennis Joseph Fitzgerald, Jr. '58  
Eric David Hoover '02  
James Robert Kelly '53  
Thomas Markworth '61  
Clarence R. Peters '47  
James Wendell Pollack '60  
David Carl Telesco '74  
Charles H. Thibault '47  
Samuel Levi Williams '03  
Robert Edward Ziemba, Jr. '83

### Donor: \$1 - \$49

Jonathan James Chizick '91  
Ryan Robert Frisch '02  
Jason John Windsor '89



## Visit the Pi Kappa Alpha Website

Visit [www.gammataupikes.com](http://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 fraternity's annual campaign

# Gamma Tau Brings Home Another Barker Trophy

After a year long program of events, Pi Kappa Alpha has done it again. For the fifth time in ten years, Pi Kappa Alpha won the top intramural prize, the Barker Trophy. They accomplished this feat by winning football, basketball, racquetball and ping pong.

## Alumni Updates

**Glenn Brown '51** is retired and splits his time between Kiawah Island, SC and Ludlow, VT.

**Mark Coluzzi '86** recently relocated to Northern Virginia.

**Pat Boccio '82** has posted several fraternity photos at [www.flickr.com/photos/30055375@N06/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/30055375@N06/)

## Be Your Brother's Keeper: Help Improve Our Database

The Gamma Tau House Corporation and Alumni Association are working hard to improve communications with alumni, but we need your help. The official Gamma Tau Alumni website, [www.gammataupikes.com](http://www.gammataupikes.com), includes a list of 'Lost Brothers' we need help locating. Please take a moment to review the

list of over 300 brothers with incorrect mailing addresses. If you have accurate information for any of those listed, please update their profile. If you do not feel comfortable completing the information online, please contact **Sean Burns '03** at [seantburns@gmail.com](mailto:seantburns@gmail.com).

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



Pi Kappa Alpha  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute #1046  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

*Address Correction Requested*

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
GREENVILLE SC  
PERMIT # 1234

Help us keep our alumni records up-to-date! Edit your member profile online at [www.gammataupikes.com](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(W) \_\_\_\_\_

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