



PAST & PRESENT



The Newsletter for Alumni And Friends of the Gamma Tau Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Fall 2009

Gamma Tau Alum Recognized as Civic Leader

City of Bedford, VA, acknowledges the success of Peter Viemeister '47

On February 15, 2009, Bedford city Mayor W.D. "Skip" Tharp delivered Peter Viemeister '47 a very special present for his eightieth birthday. Mayor Tharp and the City of Bedford issued a proclamation of the success Viemeister has had throughout his career.

The City of Bedford, Virginia issued this proclamation 15 February 2009:

WHEREAS, for eight decades Peter Viemeister has traveled this world from his humble beginning in Mineola, New York to Europe, Russia, Mexico, New Zealand, Czechoslovakia, Korea, Cuba, Australia and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, Peter Viemeister has labored as a mechanic, patent-holding engineer, academician, corporate bigwig, author of ten books and small town shop keeper; and

WHEREAS, Peter Viemeister for the last three decades has been an out spoken advocate and leading force in the City of Bedford, including, but not limited to coining the term "Centertown" to designate the heart of the community; and

WHEREAS, Peter Viemeister has generously given his time and considerable talents (served) as Chairman of the Bedford Community Health Foundation, the Bedford



Peter
Viemeister '47

Museum and the National D-Day Memorial; and

WHEREAS, Peter Viemeister has been recognized for his contributions by being named Bedford Citizen of the Year, as well as, by his inclusion in Who's Who in the World; and

WHEREAS, Peter Viemeister lives in Bedford with his wife Cyndi, has sired three sons and two daughters and is grandfather to date of two boys.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City of Bedford recognizes Peter Viemeister for his significant and continuing efforts on behalf of the Bedford community; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the City of Bedford wishes Peter Viemeister a most wonderful eightieth birthday celebration and many more.

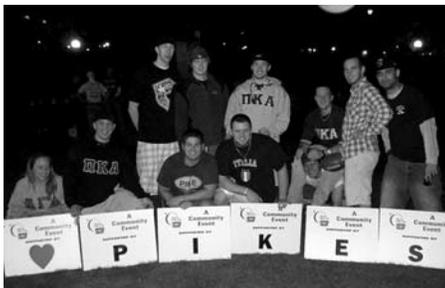
Delivered and presented by W.D. "Skip" Tharp, Mayor, City of Bedford

In addition to this public decree, Viemeister serves as a trustee for Lynchburg College and as a Regent at Liberty University.

The *Shield & Diamond*, the official magazine of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, spotlighted Viemeister for his success as an author in the "Pikes in Print" section in the Spring of 2007.

Chapter Raises \$6,000 For Charity

The chapter continued their focus on philanthropy and giving back to the community for the 2008-09 year raising over \$6,000 for various charities. The chapter raised money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Cancer Society and the



Chapter brothers pose with their sponsored signs at the 24-hour Relay for Life event.

students of Troy Public School #2.

After winning the Rensselaer Alumni Association Community Service award in its first two years of existence, Gamma Tau was runner-up for 2009. "We are disappointed we did not win," said chapter president **Kevin Rodrigo '07**, "but we still know that we accomplished a lot for the community of Troy and RPI."

The chapter raised over \$3,000 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Cancer Society. The annual dodge ball tournament during GM Week and the Relay for Life event were the main events that raised the money.



The Annual GM Week Dodgeball tournament commences.

continued on page 2

Chapter Officers

President

Ian Lonsdale '08

External Vice President

Eric Fritz '08

Interval Vice President

Jesse State '08

Treasurer

Matt Furtado '08

Secretary

Gary Keen '09

Communication support and assistance provided by Omega Financial, Inc.
(800) 955-ALUM (2586)
www.OmegaAlumniServices.com

Chapter Reaches Out to Daycare During Easter

The brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha partnered with the daycare center at St. Paul the Apostle Church to welcome the Spring season and celebrate Easter.



Children from the daycare center join the brothers in decorating Easter eggs.

Over twenty children from the St. Paul's daycare program participated in a series of activities the week before Easter.

"We just thought it would be fun to help the daycare center have something fun to do," said former chapter treasurer **Robert Rapp '06**. "I have been active with the parish, and I thought it would be a great opportunity."

The students joined the Pikes to paint and decorate the eggs one day and then came back later on in the week to find them around the properties of both the Church and Fraternity.

St. Paul's Church Closes Doors

Albany Roman Catholic Diocese consolidates parishes

On May 31, St. Paul the Apostle Church hosted its final Mass service. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany has been consolidating many parishes in its diocese over the past year. Director of Real Property, Noel Olsen, has been in charge of managing all properties that will no longer serve as neighborhood parishes. "We are weighing our options with all the churches and their additional structures," explained Olsen. "Some buildings will be used internally by the Diocese, and some will be put up for sale."

St. Paul the Apostle Church is one that will be going on the market. The Diocese has hired Coldwell Banker Real Estate to put the church, rectory and school on the market for a price of \$799,000.

As Gamma Tau waits to see who their new neighbors will be, continue to check www.gammataupikes.com for updates.



Welcome to the Pike 2008-09 Initiates

Patrick Baire
Baltimore, MD
Undeclared Engineer

David Condon
Braintree, MA
Undeclared Engineer

Michael De Boer
Ridgewood, NJ
Chemical Engineer

Augusto Gautier
Hartford, CT
Undeclared Engineer

Brian Hans
Albany, NY
Mechanical Engineer

Ian Helmar
Boston, MA
Electrical Engineer

Tyler Hutchinson
Utica, NY
Industrial Management Engineer

William Jones
Milford, MA
Mechanical Engineer

Aditya Kasi
Northboro, MA
Computer & Systems Engineer

Gary Keen
Barrington, NJ
Materials Science & Engineer

Kyle LaVigne
Ashland, MA
Computer & Systems Engineer

Joseph Lyons
Northport, NY
Electrical Engineer

Daniel McKelvey
Newbury, VT
Biomedical Engineer

Andrew Miller
New Hartford, NY
Undeclared Engineer

Lachlan Murphy
Seattle, WA
Undeclared Engineer

Phil Sarid
Baltimore, MD
Management

Carl Saunders
Hillsboro, OR
Mechanical Engineer

Scott Stolzenberg
East Brunswick, NJ
Management

John Storella-Mullin
Quincy, MA
Management

Mark Toppel
Long Valley, NJ
Chemical Engineer

Joseph Young
Cupertino, CA
Management

Chapter Raises \$6,000 for Charity continued from page 1

The chapter also continued the tradition of doing Pike's Presents by providing gifts for all 350 students of Troy Public School #2. "This is one of my favorite events of the year. It is absolutely awesome seeing the excitement on their faces," said Pike's Presents chair **Ethan Rudolph '07**.

Gamma Tau Pikes Now Ironmen

An article by **Ryan Denner '99**

This is a story about **Jeff Hartnett '99**, who was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in January 2006, shortly after his second semester at UC-Berkeley got underway. He went through six months of chemotherapy while maintaining a full course load, and was declared to be in remission after all the treatments. Not four months later, the cancer had come back, and a more aggressive treatment was required to save his life.

Jeff moved from Berkeley to Sloan-Kettering Medical Center in Manhattan in early January 2007 where he went for additional chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and ended with a stem cell transplant in April 2007. After a few months of getting back on his feet at his parents' house just north of Albany, New York, he finally was cleared to move back to Berkeley and get back to living his life.

At some point, Jeff decided that he wanted to compete in Ironman Lake Placid (New York) in 2008, and with his brother already planning on doing it, he recruited three of his co-workers, **Dan Altobello '99** and me.

The distance of an Ironman Triathlon is a 2.4-mile open water swim, a 112-mile bike ride, and a 26.2-mile marathon run. These are all done in succession, on the same day, and the athlete is required to finish everything within the seventeen hour cut off. Start at 7:00 a.m., be done by midnight. Simple enough, right?

After many months, hours, and miles of swimming, biking and running, all 2,500+ athletes toed the line at 7:00 a.m. on July 20, 2008, at Mirror Lake in Lake Placid, New York. For anyone to be able to train for such an event is superhuman, but for Jeff to do this was amazing. Honestly, it didn't matter to me when or IF he finished-just to be able to start the race was awe inspiring. On a personal note, it definitely helped me get out the door some days when the last thing I wanted to do was a ninety-mile bike ride followed by a five mile workout



(L to R) Dan Altobello '99, Ryan Denner '99, Jeff Hartnett '99, and Mike Hartnett (Jeff's brother) celebrate after completing the Lake Placid Ironman.

that took up almost an entire Saturday.

Apparently, Mother Nature thought 140.6 miles of triathlon wasn't enough of a challenge, so she blessed all of us with downpours that lasted nearly all day. It is safe to say that it rained non-stop from 7:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., followed by thunderstorms for the rest of the night.

Around 11:15 p.m., all of us had finished except Jeff, and we were all a little worried about him. We had heard something about him being four miles out. We began to come to terms with the thought that Jeff may not finish.

With about five minutes left to go in the race, I walked out of the transition/athlete area, and started walking to see if I could find Jeff. Shortly after I started walking, I saw a group of five people running down the hill toward the finish area, and my eyes grew big. I looked just to their left, and sure enough, Jeff was running down the hill with his ear-to-ear grin visible in the dark. His friends who were running with him were screaming at the top of their lungs. Everyone was going absolutely crazy!

Jeff ended up crossing the finish line with a time of 16:56:32. As if this entire story was not crazy enough, Jeff was officially the last person to cross the finish line. I don't think Hollywood

could have scripted an ending where Ironman Jeff Hartnett, fifteen months removed from his second bout with cancer and a stem cell transplant, closes the books on the 10th anniversary of Ironman Lake Placid, on one of the most inclement days in Ironman history. We all deserved the title of Ironman that day, but no one more than Jeff himself. This day belonged to him.

In addition to Jeff, Dan Altobello and myself completing the race, Gamma Tau alum **Ryan Greenblatt '01** also completed the Ironman. A special thanks to **Ben Knight '98** and **Matthew Moog '00**

for coming and showing support to everyone completing the race.

This article first appeared in the Winter 2008 Shield & Diamond of Pi Kappa Alpha. Reprinted by permission.

House Corporation Officers

President
Sean Burns '03

Vice President
Pat Boccio '82

Treasurer
Michael DeBlasio '02

Secretary
Samuel Williams '03

Director
Bob Saidi '74

Director
Mike De Feo '79

Director
Tim Donnelly '85

Director
Cosmo Marfione '97

Director/Chapter Advisor
Jon Warman '99

Director
Casey Crossley '03





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

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 _____

Initiation Year _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Rensselaer

Brother to Brother

The brothers from the early 1980's hosted a reunion in the Rochester area August 1-2. Many thanks to **Al McLiverty '81** and **David George '81** for coordinating the weekend's activities. Updates are hopeful for the next newsletter.

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.)

The alumni of the late 1950's are planning a reunion Labor Day weekend in Seattle, WA. We wish them all safe travels and nice weather as they get together fifty years after graduating from the Institute!

Michael Stalker '07 just started working in the Bronx at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center doing Human Resources for the next year. This is a co-op part of his MBA through RPI.

Do you have news you'd like to share with your brothers? Post interesting information about yourself online at www.gammataupikes.com. Did you recently get married? Have a baby? Change jobs? Retire? Let us know. Post your news today.

Save The Date: Homecoming Weekend October 2-4, 2009

Make plans now to visit the house, reconnect with other alumni, meet current brothers and share stories. Additional details, as they become available, will be posted to www.gammataupikes.com.

