



Pi Kappa Alpha  
University of Tennessee (506)  
PO Box 2187  
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

October 30, 2012

Dear Brother:

By now I am sure you have heard about the difficult few weeks Zeta Chapter has endured. A police investigation, national news stories, a trip to the hospital, calls from parents and emotional young men and alumni – it's been difficult to say the least.

As an alumnus, you deserve an explanation about what happened along with an overview about what happens next. This letter is my attempt to provide you with the information you deserve.

Sadly, Zeta Chapter agreed to surrender its charter at the University of Tennessee. This action stems from a series of events beginning in August and continuing through September resulting from violations of University policy regarding alcohol consumption and use. Several members of the fraternity were charged with underage drinking. One member of the fraternity was transported to UT Medical Center for treatment.

While I believe there may have been some sensational elements reported related to these incidents, it became clear to many of us during the ensuing investigation that there was a general environment of irresponsibility regarding alcohol consumption at the chapter house.

As bad as the situation looks, I do not believe these events reflect the full scope and character of the 100-plus men who were active at the time. Yet, there were problems nonetheless.

Based on the evidence uncovered during the University's investigation, the undergraduates voluntarily surrendered the fraternity's charter to the International Fraternity. The International Fraternity - which has been very supportive and helpful throughout this process - was in full support of this action as were members of the Alumni Advisory Board and members of the Housing Corporation Board.

It is most unfortunate that a relatively small group of students has tarnished our reputation. Zeta Chapter has historically produced scores of respected alumni and men of integrity. Zeta Chapter has a reputation on campus of doing many things right. In fact, since these issues have come to light, I've heard from dozens of alumni and members of the Greek community who have all voiced their concern yet support the decision to suspend the chapter and regroup.

**Our suspension does not mean the end of Zeta Chapter.** It just begins a two-year period where there won't be young men wearing PiKA letters on campus.

One condition of the surrender of our chapter is that our students had to vacate the chapter house. Thankfully, everyone has found other living accommodations for the remainder of the semester.

So, where do we go from here?

As you might imagine, this is a complex problem with a lot of variables. We don't have all of the answers, yet, but here are some of the steps being taken:

- **Member Status:** As a result of the suspension, all current actives have been placed into "early alumni status" - pending full settlement of their financial matters with the chapter - by the International Fraternity. They remain members of Pi Kappa Alpha. However, they are not permitted to meet, recruit new members or hold events of any kind at the University of Tennessee.
- **Chapter Finances:** We are in the process of establishing a Custodial Committee. They are working to close out the chapter's financial affairs by paying any outstanding bills that may be coming, close various accounts and wind down their various banking and vendor relationships.
- **Fraternity Property:** The House Corporation has secured the chapter house and the regalia and memorabilia within it. Many of these items will be moved to storage. Interestingly, we moved the Pike Bibles to the Campus House of Prayer so members can continue the Monday night bible study that has been a fixture in the Pike House for years. Rick Kuhlman '69 will continue his weekly bible study with our new alumni as well as others from the Greek community on Monday evenings at the Campus House of Prayer.
- **Protecting the House:** The House Corporation has also begun discussions with another campus organization about the possibility of renting our house. We currently owe approximately \$750,000 to UT for the money we borrowed to renovate the Pike house several years ago. Despite our suspension, the University expects us to continue to make our bond payments. We are current now, but next year will present some challenges if we are not able to find another organization to lease the house. Our debt was always manageable thanks to the student rental income we received and the alumni donors who contributed to our capital campaign. Thankfully, our house is in superb shape. Our students took great care of it, and the House Corporation has and continues to vigorously protect it. We remain optimistic that the alumni donors who made pledges to our capital campaign will continue to honor their commitment so we can preserve our organization's largest investment and ensure that it is ready when we return to campus. Collecting the nearly \$200,000 still outstanding that was pledged by our alumni will go a long way to protecting and preserving the house.
- **Recolonization Efforts:** Despite how early we are into our suspension, in the near future, we need to start discussing our eventual return. We need more conversations with the University and International Fraternity. However, I remain very optimistic. The International Fraternity has an excellent model and proven track record of successfully returning to campuses a few years after dealing with a situation like the one we've been experiencing. They typically recolonize five to eight chapters each year. They will be a great resource for us. Staff from the International Fraternity usually spend 6 - 8 weeks on campus identifying prospects and recruiting an initial Colony of 50 - 75 men. They then work with that Colony to achieve certain targets with a goal of re-chartering 12 - 18 months later. The recolonization effort will require the help of alumni willing to serve on an alumni advisory board. We will also be looking for alumni recommendations about potential new members when the time comes. The fact that we have a house should make the recolonization effort even easier.

- **Founder's Day:** Although we might not have any student members, we have more than 1,800 living alumni, and Founders Day will take place as planned on March 9, 2013. Chris Alfonso '96 will be our speaker. We're still working out the specific details, but we hope you will be able to join us for what will surely be an emotional and lively event. By then, we'll have a lot more questions answered, and we'll be able to use part of our time together to further define our plan for moving forward.
- **Connecting with Alumni:** Connecting with alumni may be more important now and in the coming years than ever before. In order to obtain the latest information about Founders Day, other events and our plans moving forward, **please take five minutes and visit [www.zetadata.org](http://www.zetadata.org)**. Visit the Brother Search tab to update your contact information. Give us your e-mail address so we can communicate with you quickly. Then, check out the Lost Brothers tab and help us track down some of the 589 alumni without good contact information on file. Encourage your Pike friends to do the same thing so we can remain connected and in touch.

I hope the information I've shared with you eases some of the concerns you may have about our suspension and recent notoriety. There's no question that this is a difficult time for Pi Kappa Alpha at the University of Tennessee and for so many of us personally. However, this is merely a bump in the road - a big one - in our 136-year history. With your prayers and support and the prayers and support from the rest of our alumni, we will navigate through this storm and set our sights on a successful return and renaissance of our chapter beginning in 2015.

Yours in phi phi k a,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Buddy Heins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Buddy Heins '79  
Zeta Inc. President