

At nine o'clock in the evening of the eighth day of the eighth month of the year 1839, eight earnest young men, all students at Miami University, held the first regular meeting of Beta Theta Pi in the Hall of the Union Literary Society, an upper room in the old college building known as "Old Main."

The

SIGMA SLANT



Beta Theta Pi at Stevens Institute of Technology

<http://sigmabetathetapi.org>

Fall 2010

Greetings! From the Sigma Chapter of Beta Theta Pi

Greetings Sigma Chapter Alumni! My name is Jeffrey Lichtenfeld and I am the 2010 president for our chapter of Beta Theta Pi. Over the past year, the chapter has made significant strides towards increasing community outreach. We have made tremendous progress in several house renovations, including a basement overhaul, boiler replacement, and window and flashing repairs.

In this newsletter, we have compiled articles about the many events and accomplishments of individual brothers and the chapter over the past year. We have included information about several of the General Fraternity events that our brothers have attended. These events provide inspiration and ideas for the brothers that attend and help to shape the future of our chapter.

Yours in _kai_
Jeffrey Lichtenfeld
Σ 1116



Alumni Report

This summer our chapter held our first annual softball game between alumni and actives. We had a good showing from our alumni but at the end of the day the actives came out victorious.

Another recent alumni event was Homecoming Weekend. Again we had a great showing from our alumni, as well as brothers from other chapters that are located close by. The highlight of the event was meeting Brother Ronald Webb (Σ427) from the graduating class of 1947.

In a current effort to increase the alumni involvement in our chapter we have decided to reach out to alumni from other chapters who live in the Metro/Tri-State Area. We will also host events monthly in order to maximize chances to attend an alumni event.

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If you have any ideas for an event or if there is anything you feel needs to be done for you as an alumni feel free to contact me at grodriugu@stevens.edu, or send me a letter at 812 Castle Point Terrace Hoboken, NJ 07030.

Lastly, if you would like to join our alumni group email list and stay connected with the current events of the Sigma chapter, email: SigmaAlumni-subscribe@yahoo.com to be added to the list.

Geraldo Rodriguez
Σ 1127

Beta Leadership

The Chapter President's Leadership Academy once again took place at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Each year we send our chapter president to attend the three day workshop, where he gains knowledge necessary to run a successful chapter. The weekend is filled with useful workshops and focus groups, such as The Price of Leadership, Building your Support Network, and The True Meaning of Self-Governance. These all include hypothetical situations that chapter presidents often face to help prepare us for when we are in similar situations in our own chapters. Although the weekend was mostly workshops, we were also given some time to get to know the other chapter presidents and freely explore Miami University, the city of Oxford, and the Administrative Office. Everyone was given an opportunity for a one on one consultation with leadership consultants to address any specific issues a chapter may be facing. I even had breakfast with the General Fraternity President of Beta Theta Pi, Tom Purinton. The academy provided me with a once in a lifetime experience and the knowledge necessary to continue to improve our chapter.

Jeffrey Lichtenfeld
Σ 1116



(L to R) James Burkle (Alumni), Geraldo Rodriguez (Alumni Chair), Kelly Bancroft, Ronald Webb (Alumni), Vince Termini (Treasurer), Kyle Brisson, Jason Benensky.



The Keystone Leadership Conference has been held every year since 2005 to provide each chapter's executive board with education in officer development, principled leadership, and volunteer training. During Keystone, chapter officers and advisors attend individual officer tracks to learn how to lead their chapters and set goals as an executive board. Unfortunately, this year's Keystone Conference for the Northeast region was cancelled due to a snow storm. An effort was made to reschedule, but the hotel was unable to accommodate the fraternity on such short notice. Instead, each affected chapter received a full refund of Keystone costs to apply to other leadership opportunities. The Sigma chapter used the funds to sponsor some of our newer brothers to attend the Peter F. Greiner Leadership College at this year's 171st General Convention in Washington, DC.

Jeffrey Lichtenfeld
Σ 1116

Sports

The Sigma chapter of Beta Theta Pi enjoyed an exceptional year of athletics during the 2009-2010 season in both the Greek and Varsity setting. On the varsity scene, Brothers Tom Phillips, TJ Griffin, TJ Alcorn, Vin Vinci, Chris Coutros, Chris Tucci and Rudy Morin helped the baseball team to a 21-19 record, and a trip to the 2010 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Metro Tournament semifinals in Madison, N.J.

Senior Doug Bellingeri returned to 812 Castle Point Terrace after a successful trip to Dallas, Texas, where he helped the Stevens Men's Club Volleyball Team finish 5th at the 2010 AE NCCS National Volleyball Championships.

Senior Efe Kuyumcu is representing the Sigma Chapter abroad as he trains for the 2012 Olympics. He has embarked on a quest to qualify and represent Turkey to sail in the mens single handed heavy weight dinghy, the Finn class. Efe finished 54th in the 2010 World Championship in San Francisco, and finished the overall world cup ranking in 61st place.

Juniors Ben Watkins and Mark Bagniewski led the varsity Men's Swimming Team to a first place finish in the Empire 8 conference, and an eventual 17th place finish in the nation.

For Men's Track and Field, Juniors Andrew Ballinger and Rich Fox helped the team to a 3rd place finish in the conference. Ballinger put himself in the history books by setting school records in the 600-meter and 800-meter.

Senior James Roarty ended his wrestling career with a 3rd place finish at heavyweight at the Centennial Conference tournament, which was hosted at Stevens. Ernie Guaimano (197 lbs) and Kyle Brisson (133) finished in 4th place, while Vince Termini took home the bronze with a 3rd place finish at 184 lbs. Bobby Bishop took first at 174 lbs and earned a bid to the NCAA tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Bishop and Termini earned Academic All-American honors on the year. Brian Schmalz, Ryan Neugebauer, and Ryan Owens all saw varsity action during the year, and helped the team to a 3rd place finish at the conference tournament. After leaving the house, James Roarty continues his wrestling success, recently winning the Irish National Tournament. We congratulate James for his victory and wish him luck in his upcoming tournaments.

This year, the Sigma chapter kicked off its Greek League season with an impregnable 6-1 flag football record. After dropping their last game of the regular season to Sigma Phi Epsilon, the brothers of the Sigma house rallied to win the coveted Greek League Lombardi Trophy in the Greek League championship double-header. In the first playoff game, the boys of 812 castle point terrace dominated rivals Delta Tau Delta 26-7. Shortly after the win, the Beta boys took on the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon and looked to avenge their regular season loss. The game proved to be a tight one, but the Bates were able to come out on top due to a solid defense and imperious execution of the Wild Frat and Sigma Spread Offense. "It was an all-around great effort," said Coach Bishop, "I'm really proud of the way we played, and now we have to make some room on our trophy stand."

In other news, the Alumni Football game is scheduled for December 11th. The Actives hope their current intramural dominance does not deter the Alumni from the challenge, as bragging rights are on the line for the upcoming year. In any event, the festivities will prove to be filled with good food, good football, and some good reminiscence of the good times of Beta past.



Mark Bagniewski



Bobby Bishop



#11 Tom Phillips

Convention 2010

The 171st General Convention of Beta Theta Pi was held at the Crystal Gateway Marriot in Arlington, Virginia. The theme for this year's convention was *Firmam Consensus Facit*, Latin for "cooperation makes strength", the motto of the Union Literary Society which founder John Reily Knox, Miami 1839 was president. How fitting a motto, considering the converging of such great Beta spirits and minds to represent our chapters and grow as leaders. As the late Coach John Wooden, Purdue '32 impressed on us, "Each of us must make the effort to contribute to the best of our ability according to our own individual talents. And then we put all the individual talents together for the highest good of the group."

The Sigma Chapter sent an impressive five Brothers to the 171st Convention, Patrick Hunt (Σ 1131), Jason Benensky (Σ 1141), Callahan Perry (Σ 1151), Christopher Selvosky (Σ 1158), and Michael Consoli (Σ 1126). In Arlington, the brothers built pride in our chapter and General Fraternity as a whole for our achievement and spirit, developed leadership techniques and ideas to advance our chapter, bonded with Bates from across the country, and conduct the business of the Fraternity. The brothers were kept busy all weekend learning, socializing, and delegating. However, they were given free time Friday afternoon to explore Washington, D.C. and experience what the city had to offer. Michael Consoli served as the Sigma Chapter delegate, representing the chapter with legislative authority, while the remainder of the brothers participated in the Peter F. Greiner Leadership College, providing leadership and personal development training. The brothers in Leadership College spent the majority of their weekend with their newly formed group performing workshops in which the brothers shared ideas and thoughts about improving individual chapters and the overall image of the fraternity member throughout America.

The brothers had an invaluable experience at the 171st General Convention. It was truly a remarkable undertaking, leaving each attendee bustling with ideas to change and lead our chapter into tomorrow. Further, Convention confirmed the fact that Beta Theta Pi is the foremost fraternity in the Greek community. Of course, none of this would be possible without the Sigma Chapter Alumni Association choosing to fund and send this great group of young men. General Convention is a great experience that the Sigma Chapter should continue to have strong participation in.

Michael Consoli
 Σ 1126



All brothers in attendance enjoyed the formal dinners, guest speakers, and bonding events.

Fall Rush 2010

Last year's Rush of Beta Theta Pi was very successful for the Sigma Chapter. Within the past year we picked up eleven new brothers, all of which are more than capable to contribute a lot to the chapter, as well as the fraternity as a whole. Throughout the years we have continuously grown, and still are one of the most diverse fraternities on the campus. The brothers of Beta are in various groups, such as Student Council, Order of Omega, Honor board, just to name a few; As well as being one of the most athletic fraternities on campus, with brothers participating in sports at a collegiate level in Wrestling, Baseball, Swimming and Track & Field.

This year in rushing new brothers for the Sigma Chapter we are still looking to attract a diverse group of individuals who are really looking forward in making a difference while in school, and after they leave it. Some events this year that we are organizing to help get the new Stevens students interested into learning more about Beta Theta Pi, include Cigars & Croquet, a Movie night at the Hoboken Movie Theater, and a New Jersey Devils game at the Prudential Center. I'm confident that come this time next year that we will have grown, and the new brothers will be those that all Beta's could be proud to call brother.

Rich Fox
Σ 1132



The new pledge class of Spring 2010. (Individual bios on next page)

Pledge Report

April 9th, 2010 marked an exciting time in the Sigma Chapter, the initiation of eleven new brothers. These eleven brothers are an outstanding group of young men and a great addition to this fraternity; moreover, I have high hopes for their role in the future of our brotherhood. Through their pledge process, they learned the songs and lore of this great fraternity, but most of all, they were taught how to join together as brothers. We have and hope to continue to set up a number of alumni events for the alumni and newly initiated brothers to get to know each other. Furthermore, this semester, my main focus is for a successful rush of high caliber men based on the depths of their character and preparing for the upcoming semesters pledge program. Preparations for the next pledge process include altering the study plan and updating outdated quizzes to meet today's standards as well as incorporating Sigma Chapter lore. With over 130 years of history, it is imperative to have both the brothers and pledges focus on our rich history. By continuing our traditions and high standards, we will keep making great pledges into outstanding brothers of the Sigma Chapter of Beta Theta Pi.

Michael Consoli
Σ 1126

Meet the new initiates of the Sigma Chapter

Σ 1151



Cal Perry is from Branchville, New Jersey, and is an Applied Physics major at Stevens. At school, he is a member of the Varsity Wrestling team. Outside of school, he is interested in music, movies, and hanging out with friends.

Σ 1152



Ben Watkins is from the small town of Michigantown, IN. At Stevens he is a member of the Men's Varsity Swimming team, Student Athletic Advisory Council, and Biomedical Engineering Society. In his spare time, he likes to play sports, hang out with friends, and go to the beach.

Σ 1153



Mark Bagniewski is from Cranford NJ. He is a junior Civil Engineering major and is also a member of the Stevens Varsity swim team, and a voting member in the Student Athletic advisory committee. In his spare time he likes to play sports listen to music and hang out with friends

Σ 1154



Dave Leon is from New Jersey and is an Electrical Engineering Major at Stevens. He is involved in the Stevens Club Soccer team, and IEEE. In his free time he enjoys soccer, DJing, and racquetball.

Σ 1155



Andrew Ballinger is from Castle Rock, Colorado. He is a junior Mechanical engineering major and involved in the Student Athletic Advisory Committee and Captain of Cross Country and Track & Field, In his spare time he also enjoys skiing, playing Frisbee, and helping out around the community.

Σ 1156



Will Sharkey is from Westminster Maryland, and is a Mechanical Engineering major at Stevens. At Stevens he is involved in the Varsity Wrestling team. He is also interested in jet skiing, fishing, and crabbing.

Σ 1157



Kel Bancroft is from Staten Island, New York. At Stevens, he is an Engineering Management major. Around campus, he is a Senator in the SGA as well as Business Manager of The Stute.

Σ 1158



Chris Selvoski is from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He is a Chemical Engineering major at Stevens, and is on the Varsity Wrestling team.

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Σ 1159



Brian Schmalz is from Colts Neck, New Jersey and is a Business Technology major. At Stevens, he is a member of saac and the heavyweight for the Varsity Wrestling team. Outside of school, he is interested in football, golf, and hanging out with friends.

Σ 1160



Ryan Neugebauer is from Baldwin, New Jersey and is a Chemical Biology major at Stevens. At school, he is a member of the Varsity Wrestling Team.

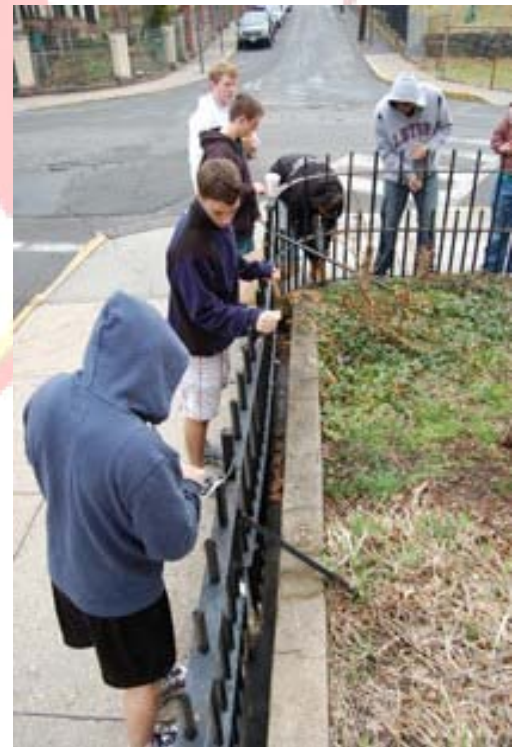
Σ 1161



Ryan Owens is from Fallston, Maryland and is a Business Technology major at Stevens. He is a member of the Honor Board as well as on the Varsity Wrestling Team. In his spare time, he enjoys lifeguarding and the beach.

Philanthropy

With the holiday season ending, homeless shelters and soup kitchens see a large decline in food donations; however, the numbers of homeless guests stay the same. As a fraternity, the Sigma Chapter of Beta Theta Pi completed our second annual “Post-Holiday” food drive during the spring semester throughout both the school and community. Through the efforts of the brothers and generosity of the Stevens community, our chapter collected almost 300 canned goods supporting the Hoboken Shelter. Continuing, our efforts did not stop there. Several brothers volunteered at Lunch Time Ministries, a local food pantry and numerous brothers helped to do projects around the pantry. This included a clean-up of the front yard of the church and painting of the fence around it. Moreover, the Sigma Chapter teamed up with Phi Sigma Sigma in a “peanut butter and jelly relay” to make 200 sandwiches for the local homeless. With the dedication of the brothers of the Sigma Chapter and the help of our community, we were able to make a substantial contribution to fighting homelessness in Hoboken. This past spring, donations were collected and a tie-dye t-shirt event was held with all the money going towards our brother Jim Bertucci (Σ1147), who lost his home to a fire. This money helped him return to Stevens in the fall. This semester, the brothers have teamed up with Curesearch, the world’s largest childhood cancer research association. The chapter hopes to raise 2000 dollars, with every penny collected going to this foundation.



Some of the brothers repainting a Church fence in Hoboken.

Cal Perry
Σ 1151

Beta Ball

This past spring the Sigma chapter of Beta Theta Pi was proud to host this year's Beta Ball at the Bissinger Ball Room at the Howe Center in Hoboken. The event hosted 86 brothers and guests along with many active alumni including Ward Sandler, Diego Mugurusa, Ryan Bennick, and Drew Cottrell among others. The night began at the Beta house where appetizers and drinks were served and photo opportunities (at the "request" of the dates) were taken. After the mandatory photo shoot, the guests made their short walk to the Bissinger Ballroom. There, full assortments of foods were offered by the catering facility, which, brothers ate more than their fair share. Chicken penne a la vodka, roast beef au jus, and stuffed mushrooms filled every plate. Per usual, the main attraction had to be the top shelf open bar that was provided by the undergrads. Guests of age had many options for their drink of choice, ranging from gin and tonics to Sam Adams, all the way to martinis and sake bombs.

However, the big event of the night was the Loving Cup. As per tradition the brothers gathered in circle, grasped hand to hand, sang and gave praise in one of the oldest traditions in the fraternity, proudly the drinking their "Beta Brew" and singing "Loving Cup." The brothers' merriment and joy was surely felt by all in attendance. After the Loving Cup, the date's favorite portion quickly ensued. The brothers and the dates hit the dance while DJ Armando Bellengeri blasted the guests' favorite tunes using the chapter's brand new dj equipment and music system. The night was filled with fun for all, though none wanted it to end. The night surely placed lasting memories for all in attendance from crazy dancing to witnessing some spectacular views of the city.

The next Beta Ball will be held spring 2011, at a date and location to be posted in the near future. As always the current undergrads encourage a strong alumni support and attendance, because "Once a Beta Always a Beta." For more information please contact Beta Ball Chair, Jon Monahan (jmonahan@stevens.edu)

Jon Monahan

Σ 1121



From left to right: Ed Hofmann, Matt Sinatra, Mike Consoli, Geraldo Rodriguez, and Frank Maselli



Some of the new members singing loving cup at Beta Ball 2010.



President Jeff Lichtenfeld, finishing the Loving Cup.

Past, Present, and Future House Plans

The Sigma Chapter of Beta Theta Pi has occupied 812 Castle Point Terrace for over 70 years. Over the past 10 years, our chapter house has undergone a major transformation made possible through the support of alumni donations, undergraduate dues, and the Sigma Chapter House Association savings. These improvements are just the beginning of sustaining the house for future generations of Betas.

The focus of the past 10 years has been on the core infrastructure of the house. We have repointed the exterior bricks, made substantial repairs to the copper flashing, performed minor roof repairs, replaced the oil tank, and cut down a tree that was impacting the retaining wall. We have also replaced some windows, the water supply systems for the kitchen and bathrooms, the boiler and hot water heater, and the front door. Additionally, we have installed a sprinkler system throughout the house and a centrally-monitored and controlled fire alarm system. We have also remodeled the Baird room and basement, and replaced the chimney when it was hit by lightning.

Our efforts these past 10 years is a phenomenal accomplishment, but there is still much work to be done. Our vision is to continue to improve the house's infrastructure, remodel the rooms, and take on any unforeseen projects that inevitably occur. We are currently planning to replace the kitchen ventilation hood and install a liquid agent fire suppression system above the stove. It is also anticipated that over the next few years the roof will need to be replaced, electrical wiring in the house upgraded, bathrooms remodeled, and our staircases replaced. As we begin to plan our next efforts, we must also invest in the necessary maintenance on the entire house to extend the useful life of the repairs made.

To make this all possible the undergraduates and alumni must work together with the undergraduates taking care of the house's daily needs and the chapter's alumni planning and supporting the Sigma Chapter House's future. We must utilize our newsletter, website, and mailing lists to inform the alumni of house projects and chapter events. By improving communication, we hope to increase alumni participation in the chapter. The undergraduates take care of the house's daily needs, however the chapter's alumni must take care of the Sigma Chapter House's future.

Yours in _kai_
Bob Giarratano, Σ 1044
President, Sigma Chapter House Association



The basement in the middle of construction.

The final product of all the hard work put in by many brothers.



Help Us Make this *YOUR Slant!*

This News letter is an ongoing effort to keep alumni informed of Sigma news and current events and to help us keep in touch with you. To make *The Sigma Slant* the best it can be, we need **YOUR** help! We are looking for information from alumni on the following:

- **Beta Memories – essays recalling Beta adventures**
- **Personal news for Alumni Update section**
- **“Where are they now?” updates**
- **Spotlights on Sigma alumni of note**
- **Alumni News**
- **Comments and suggestions**

Name: _____ Year or Roll Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please write your update info / suggestions here (or attach sheet):

Please complete this sheet and help us to update our records by joining the alumni mailing list at:
SigmaAlumni-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Thanks!



We need your help to save our house from falling into disrepair from the conditions described in the last article.

Donation Amount: \$50 \$100 \$200 Other: _____

You can now visit the website at sigmabetathetapi.org and donate online or please make checks payable to *Sigma Chapter House Association*:

MAIL TO: Sigma Chapter House Association
c/o Emile Hill
591 Campbell Rd.
York, PA, 17402

Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!