



Gradlink

Beta Pi Chapter
Phi Gamma Delta

Issue 5

Summer 2012

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From the Desk of the President

Greetings Brothers,

Over the past semester at Beta Pi, cabinet policy has been focused primary on two things:

At this years Fiji Academy in St. Louis, cabinet learned a lot about encouraging proper organization and leadership in the chapter; and we've worked hard to apply what we learned to our chapter. Key among these was switching to a goal-oriented style of management, using the WWW.COM planning worksheet as a guide. The system asks brothers to evaluate What, Why & When an event is planned, and then evaluates the oversights are Conected, goals are Obtainable and Measureable. Using this template, every committee head should have an exact idea of what they need to accomplish, how it can be done, and how it will be evaluated by their oversight. This strategy is geared toward focusing the chapter's attention on results more than anything else.

The second focus has been on increasing the chapter's presence on campus. For this goal, the Corresponding Secretary Eric Gottschalk has worked tirelessly above and beyond his usual duties to improve Beta Pi's public relations. Among the results of this new emphasis have been two exchanges, and a regular philanthropy event with Whittier Elementary School. In line with this goal, I have personally sought to improve our relationship with IFC by being the first president to attend the IFC president's retreat, regularly sit in at gavel, and meet with the Bradley Greek Advisor in recent history.

As we look forward to the challenges of next semester, I am confident that Beta Pi is better prepared than ever before.

Jack Daleske '13

Recruitment

Kyle Schemer '15

I have organized events such as a NERF war inside the house, Ultimate Frisbee day, and Video Game Night. The majority of what I planned were sort of large, planned out events and barely any casual ones like a group going out to dinner or something. However, those big events were planned far apart of each other and I wasn't trying to constantly recruit. I think that kind of attitude needs to change for next semester with some big events, lots of casual smaller events, and to make sure I am constantly active when organizing plans. Other brothers did show up to my events, but not as much as I hoped. So my other plan for next semester is to make sure everyone else in this house is as active about recruitment as I am, and if they fail to do so then I will find out why and encourage them to attend more events.



Fall 2012 Recruitment Dates:

One Round of Formal Events - Saturday August 25 & Sunday August 26
 Informal events run evenings August 27 to September 8
 Anadexis - Sunday September 9

Pledge Education

Steven Kuchler '12

The Spring 2012 pledge class began with six men. Over the course of the semester one dropped but I still consider it a very successful semester for pledge education. During the semester I ran a successful pledge Ed in which the pledges learned many things about the fraternity. I made sure they knew their information as well as developed strong unity amongst themselves. I did this by assigning homework that required cooperation among all the pledges as well as by stressing cooperation and friendship within the pledge class. I also gauged their hopes and aspirations for the future of the chapter and their overall character and relayed this information to the brothers. I made sure the pledges learned the information but also stressed scholastic achievement as well. I made sure the pledges had plenty of time to work on their school work so their grades could be improved. Overall I feel like I achieved my goal because all the pledges successfully passed Pledge Ed and their grades are fairly solid. I also successfully motivated the pledges to get things done for themselves so well that by the end of the semester I didn't have to harp at them at all. It was one of my goals to not babysit them along the whole way and I think I successfully accomplished that. I also learned many new things about the pledges. I learned about their aspirations for committee and cabinet positions, how they see the house in the future and their overall leadership style. I have high hopes for these new men and can not wait to see them take on the greater leadership roles in the fraternity.



Brotherhood

This semester we had a couple brotherhood events including bonfires and hookah circles. On Sunday after Finals we had a small pizza night where a few brothers enjoyed a relaxing meal. We had scheduled more brotherhood events but they fell through due to finals and the end of the semester. Brotherhood for next semester will hopefully involve more of the houses passions like food and recreational activities like video games and Nerf.

Greg Savel '14

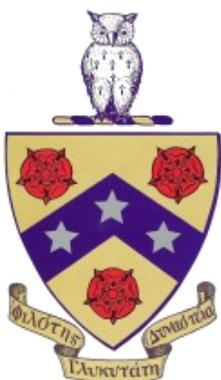


Philanthropy

This semester FIJI has decided to set a new goal for semesters to come. We plan on having the most philanthropy hours for the coming academic year. We are looking into volunteering at Peoria Family House along with returning to volunteer to Whittier Elementary School. This semester we had several trips to Whittier to volunteer time and money to providing the school with abacuses and books. We helped some of the first graders in Mrs. Summers first grade class learn how to read along with having a math lesson with them.



Congratulations Spring 2012 Graduates



Dave Broughton, Interactive Media
Mike Dionesotes, Math
Ben Knize, Studio Art & Graphic Design
Michael Koeber, Computer Science
Steve Kuchler, Computer Science
Cam Scofield, Interactive Media
Rich Villarreal, Chemistry Pre-Professional
Curt Zorn, Computer Science

Social

Exchanges



We have had two exchanges this spring semester. The first was with Sigma Delta Tau. This was a surprise event for the guys in the house. Our president informed the chapter of an emergency meeting for all members. At this time our social chair and corresponding secretary picked up the girls from their house while the president handcuffed our guys to their chairs. Still not knowing what was going the chapter sat there as the girls walked in with keys to the handcuffs. Once our guys figured out what was going on we took the girls bowling and treated them to an after party later that night.

Our second exchange was with Sigma Kappa. This time we brought the entire chapter to their house and sung to the girls before picking them up. We brought the girls back to our house and played nerf with them. The ladies of Sigma Kappa enjoyed this so much they asked to be invited back for the same event. Like the last exchange we treated the girls to an after party.

Parties and the Bonfire

Before hosting any parties we bought all new party equipment. This includes a new amplifier and soundboard for the speakers, black lights, and a professional DJ laser. Our new set up for parties is simply amazing.

The first party of the spring was our dubstep party. This party was so successful it did not end until 6 in the morning. Next we hosted a party for the humans vs. zombies organization. This party was similar to dubstep with a different musical atmosphere. Both parties featured one of us DJing and many of us taking turns bartending for our guests



Finally we had a huge bonfire for the chapter and friends. The bonfire kept strong for over four hours. During this time we had S'mores and hotdogs. Even though this took place outside we still had the opportunity to use our new equipment.

Future Plans

For the time being our plans for the future include all of the goals that could not be fit into the Spring calendar. We also hope to get a live band on the awning of the chapter house. There are also plans to obtain more DJ lights not only next semester but every reoccurring semester until a strong collection is accumulated. I have high hopes for the social events of next semester.

The 31st Annual Norris Pig Dinner was held March 31, 2012 in Peoria.
 There were 19 Graduates in attendance.
 Congratulations to Andre DeLoach, Ronald Petrich, Jeff Rehg, Jeremy Styninger, Robert Temple, Peter Yoon & Ronald Zalben on 25 years of membership.



Scholarship

A new scholarship plan was drafted in early January with emphasis on improving pledge grades. As scholarship chair I placed an emphasis on pledge study habits, as teaching somebody to start off college strong is far easier than to teach somebody to finish strong who started off weak. The pledges had suggestions on the scholarship plan, mainly the logging of their study hours on a week to week basis. The arrangement wasn't of the benefit of the majority of the pledge class and they felt it wasn't conducive to their learning. With that, we removed the logging of study hours and instead focused on providing them with an environment which could foster academic growth. For example, I spent many an hour helping a pledge who struggled through calculus get his

David Brennan '12

bearings straight while I know of other actives have helped the rest of the pledge class. The pledge class midterms were an improvement over their fall semester final grades and I expect their final grades to be an improvement of their midterms. Many actives who had minimal academic success have found a change of major or study habits conducive to their learning, so I would expect tentatively bearing no disaster that the Beta Pi average GPA surpasses last semester. It was pleasure to serve as your scholarship chair this past semester, and I hope everyone graduating finds success in their career path.

Formal

This year we brought back the tradition of the Black Diamond Formal. Jacob Winslow '14 worked tirelessly to get us part of the ballroom at Embassy Suites in East Peoria to host the dinner and dance. On April 21st, Brothers and their dates enjoyed a lovely steak dinner, full bar, and dance floor. Graduate brothers Bob Schaich '06, Andrew Becker '09, Jeremy Yee '09 were also in attendance who helped keep traditions alive such as the boxer dance and seniors American Pie dance. We plan on holding more formals in the future so keep a look out on emails and on the website in case you would like to participate.

Eric Gottshalk '14



Phi Gamm Weddings

Dan '05 &
Kim Pelphrey
May 27, 2012

Matt '05 &
Molly Rafferty
June 30, 2012

Jason '01 &
Alina Flagg
July 19, 2012

Board of Chapter Advisors

Our board and the chapter have gone through a lot of changes over the past year. We've restructured ourselves to better serve the chapter and build relationships with their members.

This year we are looking to bring on two new active graduate members. Being a member of BCA doesn't require a lot of time, but is a real asset to the chapter. On average we do a conference call with them every 3 weeks (on Sunday nights). This is to touch base and keep a pulse on how things are going. In addition, we try to reach out to cabinet members to mentor and advise them on our particular areas of knowledge.

This is a great opportunity to exemplify "Not for College Days Alone" and be part of the chapter's growth to excellence.

If you have any ideas or have an interest in joining BCA, please contact the board as a whole at bca@bufiji.com.

Fraternally,

Andrew M. Becker '09
Chairman, Beta Pi Board of Chapter Advisors

PHI GAMMA DELTA BETA PI CHAPTER

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Historian: Joseph Baumgartner '13

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If you have recently changed addresses, phone numbers, or have otherwise altered your contact information, please send us an email at contact@bufiji.com so that we can update your information and ensure that you continue to receive news and updates from the Beta Pi Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta.

If you have any news you would like to share with the rest of your brothers, feel free to email us at the above address and we will ensure that it is included in the next issue of the Gradlink. Pictures are also welcome.