Homecoming

Actives
Homecoming 2004 at Eta Chapter was nothing short of a success. We had a huge turn from alumni spanning several decades. All the actives put in a lot of time and effort to make sure that the house was in its best form. We would like to give special thanks to Clem Mesavage and all the other alumni for sponsoring the hog roast and the other activities. The poker tournament between the brothers was a lot of fun with huge participation by both alumni and actives. It was a great experience which allowed everyone was able to meet each other. We were also able to honor the new Grand Sage of Sigma Pi International, John Kitch. A plaque was presented in his honor. Also a new tradition was started; Eta chapter will be announcing an alumnus of the year annually at homecoming. We would like to congratulate Dan Lavengood for being its first winner. Next year we hope to have even a bigger turn out not just from alumnus, but their families too.

Joe Montell
Homecoming for Eta Chapter demonstrated that the men of Eta Chapter are well able to conduct both their personal affairs and the affairs of Chapter House management at a level not seen in recent years. The Chapter House was immaculate. The undergraduates presented themselves in suits and ties, and various friends of the Chapter assisted with the children. I refer to “friends of the Chapter” because the little sister program has been disbanded. So, while the children enjoyed time in the jumper, the Alumni and their spouses enjoyed an excellent lunch in the dining room.

During the meeting of the Board of Directors for the Housing Corporation, many important items were presented and discussed. Slightly more than one year ago, the Chapter House was refinanced and the furnaces replaced. Twice during the past year the Actives and Pledges were able to attend a cook-out at my residence to voice their comments and concerns. Eta Chapter is doing well. Of course, capital investments and maintenance expenditures continue to be required, and those funds are available primarily from Alumni contributions. Please, come to Purdue next Homecoming and witness the progress.

John Kitch
I cannot tell you how excited and pleased I was to attend Homecoming at 130 Russell this year. It was a wonderful experience and I wanted to share with you how Eta Chapter of Sigma Pi is on the march. Those of you who didn’t make it back this year really missed a tremendous event, and I encourage you not to miss again.

For those of you who might ever have been disappointed with the Chapter or the Chapter House in the past, I can confirm that those days are gone. I wish all of you could have seen the dramatic improvement, especially those of you who raised legitimate issues in the past. The Chapter House was immaculate both Friday evening and Saturday. The undergraduate Brothers were welcoming and well-mannered, and it was readily apparent that they were very happy to meet and greet the alumni. They have restored the spirit of excellence at Eta, and we alumni can be proud of them.

Now it is time to do our part. As clean and orderly as the Chapter House was, there is a great deal we alumni need to do to make it a great place for our Brothers to live. Remember, the old part of the House dates from 1912 and the new part is now 15 years old. While much has been done, such as work on the outside stucco and wood trim, furnace work, window repair, painting, and the like, much remains to be done. You will be contacted in the near future to make contributions to the Chapter House, and I hope you can give generously. The undergraduate Brothers want the same quality fraternal experience you and I had, and I ask you to help. Your contribution will help the tradition at Eta Chapter continue at Purdue for another 90 years, and more. The Chapter deserves your support.
Convocation was held in Chicago this year. Due to the numerous Eta alumni, we received an award for most members in attendance. John Kitch was elected Grand Sage which was a momentous moment for all the members of Eta chapter. Eric Herman was the delegate for the house and Matt Taylor was the delegate for the Cletus A. Broecker alumni club. While at Convocation brother Chris Hahn was initiated which was very interesting because Brother Hahn was an active in the mid-ninties. Convocation was topped off Saturday night with a formal banquet in which Kitch gave a speech on what Sigma Pi has meant to him. The next convocation is going to be held in New Orleans so plan ahead so once again Eta chapter can receive an award for most members in attendance.

**Restore Eta Day**

The first annual “Restore Eta Day” took place the third week of this fall semester. The purpose of the day was for the actives to be able to network with the alumnus, hear their stories from when they were in the house, and for the alumnus to see how hard the actives are willing to work for the improvement of the house.

We hosted a No-Limit Texas Holdem’ tournament to get to know the alumni that were able to make it to the house a night early. Some of the alumnus that were able to make it to the house for the day were Grand Sage John Kitch, Paul Ke, John Westrick, and Jason Hatch. Saturday morning all of the actives were awake at 7:30 in the morning preparing the house for the projects that lied ahead in the day. The actives worked alongside the alumnus to accomplish all of the following: drywall repair in the dining room, first deck hall and third deck walls; repainting the foyer, the stairways all the way up, the second and third decks, the dining room, the kitchen and the stairway down to the basement; tearing out the stage on the dance floor; and completely eliminating the trash downstairs (Paul Ke thought he saw an old rug that was around while he was in the house!). Paul Ke donated all new Executive Council Medallions. Thanks again Pookie. The day had a lot of great memories. This is an event we intend to continue for years to come.

**Parents Weekend**

Parent’s weekend this year was held on September 11, 2004. It was a huge success with many parents attending due to the invitations that they received via the chapter house. Eta Chapter believes the next step involves more parent participation hopefully leading their desire and encouragement for the brothers in the house. To achieve this, the chapter created the Sigma Pi Parents Association. This was well received, and Eta hopes that is something that can develop into something very positive for the chapter.
CAB Report

The Cleutus A. Broecker Alumni Club would like to extend our congratulations to Ben (‘03) and Stephanie Miller as well as Mark (‘00) and Haley Turner for their recent nuptials during the month of October. God willing, Eta will have ready made pledge material in, oh, 18-20 years or so.

Both weddings were heavily attended by Eta alumni and served as impromptu CAB social events (congratulations to Mike Neely (‘00) for successfully parlaying the Penn State game). Of course, the big event of October (Miller and Turner families aside) was Homecoming ’04, an excellently attended and well executed spat of frivolity held the weekend of the 16th. Beginning with a poker tournament held Friday evening hosted by Kevin ‘Rounder’ Kegarise (‘00) in which ~$260 was raised for CAB, through the Sunday morning departures, the weekend was generally a fine time had by all. CAB also sponsored the beverage center (as usual) and is proud to claim a profit of $450, all of which is being donated to the chapter house. The money raised during the poker tournament will be put towards offsetting costs of Convocation for the chapter in 2006.

Also of note was my appointment as President of the CAB Club, a role in which I’m looking forward to expanding our (meaning all alumni) interactions on a regular basis. While Homecoming is always an easy mark for gathering, it is the CAB goal to include Founder’s Day as a new spring semester must attend event. So keep the weekend of Feb. 26th free in 2005 and plan on returning to Lafayette. Also on the horizon is New Years in New Orleans. CAB will be traveling to New Orleans for New Years Celebrations this year, and we whole heartedly invite you to join. Punch and pie will be served.

Herald Report

Initiation

This year, we welcomed seven new neophytes to our brotherhood:


Brother and House Accomplishments

This year’s most notable accomplishments by the house could be seen in the terrific scholastic performance by the brothers; not to say that coming in 2nd place and receiving 1st in Spirit at the Wiffle Ball Tournament philanthropy wasn’t impressive. This year, Honors was received by Thomas Adam Bertagnolli, Joel Nathan Darnell, Michael Mario Esposito, Andrew William Nymeyer, Joshua Ames Pickett, Matthew R. Rosecrans, Peter James Ryan, and Joseph Ryan Trager. Also, Honors and Dean’s List was received by Kyle James Totten, and Ryan Christopher Vargo. Congratulations on your accomplishments brothers.

Fall Pledge Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gary Odenwald</td>
<td>Homewood, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Timothy Phelan</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas William Flessner</td>
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<td>Ryan Matthew Gifford</td>
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<td>Pre Med</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Alan Gutgsell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre Med</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacob Anderson Kelley</td>
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<td>Bio Chemistry</td>
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<td>Joshua Dale Monroe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aviation</td>
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<td>Ryan Patrick O’Neil</td>
<td>Schererville, IN</td>
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<td>Undecided</td>
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<td>Hong Young Kim</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
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<td>Joseph Raymond Doyle</td>
<td>New Lenox, IL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Joseph Manzo</td>
<td>Woodridge, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athletic Training</td>
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**Social**

Our social functions are going great this year; we have already had a huge function with ZTA that went very well. The theme for our function was Hawaiian Luau. We moved the kitchen tables out to the front Lawn for dinner, where we served Shish kabobs and rice for dinner. To add more style to the theme, we had the tables decorated nicely, we had tiki torches set up around the yard, we had pledges passing out leis, and of course we had beach volleyball.

As for other functions, we are in the process of setting up a function with Phi Mu, and we are also planning a Valentine dance for when we come back in January. This is going to be a fun year socially for all of us.

**Philanthropy**

Sigma Pi philanthropies this semester have been more successful than in recent years for several reasons. First, Eta Chapter participated in a nation wide Sigma Pi philanthropy sponsored by Beta Chapter selling shorts to raise money for the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. We were successful in raising $280, which we’ve since donated to aid breast cancer research. Second, Eta Chapter started what we hope to be a long tradition here at Purdue by planting a tree on campus as part of our ACE Project. Finally, Eta chapter has been active with on-campus philanthropies this semester by competing in Alpha Xi Delta’s annual Flag Football Tournament and Delta Zeta’s Turtle Tug. At Turtle Tug, our team managed to make it to the Semi-final round before being knocked out by Farmhouse. Currently, Eta Chapter is planning an ACE Project for the spring, as well as another philanthropy to raise money for one of several worthy organizations. We’ve had some success this semester, and are looking forward to keeping the ball rolling next semester.

**Grand Prix**

For the first time in several years we will be having a kart to race in the Purdue Grand Prix. Thanks to the generous donations of several alumni and parents our dream of racing again will be realized. As of right now the process is in full swing with the with the purchase of a basic kart and when the rest of the donations are received as scheduled we can finish the kart and hopefully have a successful racing season. All alumni are encouraged to attend the grand prix which is Saturday April 23rd. Also anybody else interested in helping donate money, time, or advice please contact Dave Mahaffa at dmahaffa@purdue.edu.

**Formal ‘04**

Eta Chapter held the Orchid Formal in Windsor, Canada once again this year. This was another great opportunity for the brothers and dates to all go together somewhere and have an amazing weekend of fun. Plans for the next Orchid are underway. It looks like Chicago is going to be the location this year, and the actives would love to see some more Alumni attend Orchid this year.

**Founder’s Day**

Founders Day 2004 was celebrated on February 28th. On this 107th birthday of our fraternity, Eta Chapter celebrated by holding its first Annual Founder’s Day Poker Tournament. The tournament was a success with over 50 alumni and actives participating. We would like to thank David Tate for providing the food and Kevin Kegarise for running the tournament and providing the cards and chips needed for the event. The winner ended up being current active brother Mathew C. Mohan after what those who attended would call a come from behind victory. He received a plaque and a cash prize for his achievement. We are hoping for an even greater turnout next Founder’s Day.

**Founders Day ‘05**

Plan Ahead!

Feb. 26th

Poker Tournament at Noon
John Kitch Q&A

1. What was the first position you ever held in the house?
   The first position was president of my pledge class, and looking back on it I don't think I did a very good job of it. At that time I didn't know anything about leadership and I'm afraid I didn't work with my pledge brothers very well to make us a team.

2. What and when was the first EC position that you held in the house?
   I was first elected as chapter sage.

3. What was your most enjoyable experience/memory that you have while serving on EC at the house?
   By this time I had a better understanding of what it meant to be elected to a significant position, and I believe that I was more effective at working to make the Chapter come together for the benefit of everyone. My best memory is that the members of the Chapter seemed to take real pride in the Chapter House and in being Sigma Pi Brothers.

4. What were some of your reasons to become involved with Sigma Pi on the international level?
   Like many, after graduation from Purdue I drifted away from Sigma Pi. I went to law school, set up a practice, and got married. However, I started coming back for Homecoming and saw the great work John Proctor and others were doing on remodeling and expanding the Chapter House, which was rededicated in 1989. In 1991 I was elected to the Housing Corporation Board. I learned of the great help the Grand Chapter -- “Nationals” -- had given us in guaranteeing the loan for the renovation and really realized for the first time that Eta Chapter was part of a bigger brotherhood. I also learned that the Grand Chapter had paid a great deal on our mortgage when we couldn't. I felt that since no one from Eta was involved with the Grand Chapter we were at risk of foreclosure unless someone was there to speak for us. I decided to consider being that person.

5. How were you involved with Sigma Pi on the international level and when did you begin this involvement?
   In 1992 I went to the Biennial Convocation to see what it was like and to meet some of the people who might be dealing with the Eta Chapter loan. As it turned out, I liked meeting brothers from all over North America and saw the great value of the Grand Chapter. I was appointed to a committee on real estate and found I enjoyed working on Sigma Pi matters beyond just those at Eta Chapter. I have been a Province Archon, a Colony Director, Committee Chair, and Grand Fourth, Grand Third, and Grand Second Counselors.

6. What are some of the goals that you are most proud of that you have accomplished on Grand Council?
   First, you must understand that the Grand Council is a team (I've now learned about teamwork!) working with our paid staff, and any credit belongs to the entire group. Having said that, the greatest accomplishments are increased services to chapters (such as free rush materials), vastly improved financial stability, creation of strong new chapters of the Fraternity, employment of a larger staff to serve the chapters and alumni, and moving the International headquarters to a major metropolitan area.

Congratulations to Clem Mesavage and his horse Bob on becoming 2004 National Grand Champion.
The men of Eta Chapter are striving to continually better the House as a whole. We have set aside our selfish desires and are now putting the good of the House above our wants. We have shown this by putting over $10,000 in donations directly into capital improvements for the house instead of throwing large parties. Some of the things the donations helped to improve are new formal room furniture, remodeling the second deck bathroom, and concrete put in by the sign. Also during the summer with the help of a few other brothers and the donations from Mark Fitzpatrick and Richard Dochterman, we connected the two outside porches together with concrete and had all new landscaping put in. One of the brothers got us matching dining room chairs from a restaurant that was remodeling. The formal room furniture was all bought for under $3000 donated by active Andrew Fisher’s parents. This entailed two leather sofas, two leather chairs, and a matching loveseat and sofa combination. Without the connections for this furniture it would have cost over $8500. These are just two examples of how we are using every dime wisely and always taking advantage of any opportunity that arises. The last two pledge class projects have been the renovation of the old stairwell leading into the basement and the new scholarship room which was the old TV room. With the gracious donation once again from the Fishers the main stairwell was recarpeted. The second floor bathroom was refinished by Todd Watson and Zach Finney.

In the recruitment area we have 11 quality pledges that we are looking forward to getting initiated so that they can begin doing great things for the house. However, we are always looking for more help from alumni in letting us know if they know incoming freshman that would be good for the house. We are not looking for one particular type of guy when we are rushing like some houses; rather we are looking for the best in every category. If the guy is an athlete then he needs to be the best, or socially, or having the highest grades.

Overall the House is currently on a huge upswing. We are no longer going to accept mediocrity; rather we are striving in every aspect to become the best on campus. This cannot be done solely by the actives. We need the help and donations of alumni to become that top house. We also need your help in giving names for recruitment. Come and help become part of the solution that makes our house the best on campus.