Eta Strives Towards Philathropy

To Give is to Receive: Committing to the ACE Project

Are we a SOCIAL fraternity or a social FRATERNITY? Do we want to develop character or be a character? Should we strive to promote service or seek being served?

If you take the time to read the Mission of Sigma Pi then read the Obligations you’ll see that the Founders had a great deal of foresight in setting goals for members to meet. One essential aspect of the series of Obligations is service to others and the community through participation in the ACE Project. For the last two years our beloved Eta Chapter has committed to serving both the fraternity and our university community by donating both resources and time in some philanthropic endeavor. In the spring of 2004 the Brothers planned and carried out a planting of a tree between Hovde Hall and Schleman Hall. Granted, the actual planting was made easy by the involvement of the Purdue Grounds department, but the issue here is that the entire fraternity was present. Standing back and observing the occasion what was apparent was the pride the members showed on their faces from participating in something that was unique on the campus. “Participate in Worthy College Activities” is exactly what the ACE Project endeavors to do and Eta has taken on this task with vigor and enthusiasm.

Just last weekend the entire house showed up to paint an entire hallway in Lilly Hall of Life Sciences. Now I’m sure you alumni and parents are asking yourselves did they really show up at 8 a.m. and paint……on a Saturday? Not only did they show up and paint, they arranged with Physical Plant to work with the university painting crew and organized it in shifts so everyone could participate. I can personally attest to the fact they were there, in good spirits, organized, and representing Sigma Pi “…with a spirit of sincerity and respect.”

Why do this? Why participate? Because the entire concept of a fraternity is built on respect, responsibility, growth of character, honesty, service, and duty. Will this effort show up on a transcript or even on a resume? No. Yet, by joining Sigma Pi you committed to a higher level of expectation, of a higher sense of obligation and service. Not everyone can commit to this endeavor and by providing our members the opportunity to serve others we actually serve ourselves. What I saw and heard were young men laughing and enjoying themselves on a Saturday morning while others slept. They lost sleep but gained respect for themselves and the knowledge that as a fraternity they had just participated in something very special. This sense of service will carry on to their careers and their families.

How do I know this you ask? Because in over 20 years I’ve seen many of you, our alumni, do the same thing. Eta Chapter would like to thank Kevin Kegarise for providing the chips and orchestrating the tournament, and Matt Taylor for providing the food and custom-made cards. The winner of the event this year was Ryan Swager who won over $200 dollars and a plaque. 2nd and 3rd place went to Justin Stillson and Aaron Clark respectively. Everyone had lots of fun, and we all look forward to more poker next year. If you have any questions or suggestions for next year’s Founder’s Day please contact Matt Taylor.

Founder’s Day

Eta chapter once again celebrated the day by hosting the second annual Founder’s Day Poker Tournament. This year we had over 30 actives and alumni participate in the event. It was wonderful to see some of the alumni come back and have some fun with the current brothers. Eta Chapter would like to thank Kevin Kegarise for providing the chips and orchestrating the tournament, and Matt Taylor for providing the food and custom-made cards. The winner of the event this year was Ryan Swager who won over $200 dollars and a plaque. 2nd and 3rd place went to Justin Stillson and Aaron Clark respectively. Everyone had lots of fun, and we all look forward to more poker next year. If you have any questions or suggestions for next year’s Founder’s Day please contact Matt Taylor.

Homecoming ‘05

Plan Ahead!
Oct. 15th
Purdue vs. Northwestern

Please Contact
purdueetaalumni@yahoo.com if you wish to help set up or donate to Homecoming.
Help the Eta Data Survive

We are trying to raise money to print and mail out the Eta Data like it has been done in the past. The house just does not have financial means to do this. The problem with only putting the Eta Data on the website is we are only reaching about 1/3 of the alumni base. We have around 200 e-mail addresses and around 600 home addresses. If you would be interested in donating money or helping up a fundraiser to collect money for the Eta Data please contact us at purdueetaalumni@yahoo.edu

Also, here at Eta we are continually working on receiving any alumni updates for the Eta Data. If interested in sending something in for the next Eta Data please e-mail us at purdueetaalumni@yahoo.com or send a letter to the house attn: alumni relations chair.

CAB Report

The Cleutus A. Broecker Alumni Club (C.A.B.) have two things of note to report. First is the success of the Founder’s Day Poker Tournament, an email about which went out in early March. If you did not receive this note, here are the salient points:

1) Ryan “Early ’80’s Porn Star” Swager took home top prize of $200, narrowly edging out Justin “Confused, yet Unaware” Stillson.
2) For all those who have always wondered, it is impossible to consume 2 lbs of Rice Krispie Treats in less than 35 minutes.
3) If you were wondering about that, here is a phone number to call: 212-352-8651
4) Alumni Dave Prudhomme and Dave Sommers kept the starving masses fed well throughout the day, making them honorary “Most Awesome People Ever”.
5) A total of $503 was raised, which will be disbursed to the chapter for convocation fees.

Also of note is that this summer the C.A.B. would like to host a golf outing for all alumni and actives in Lafayette, IN. Money raised will go towards a scholarship for an active living in the Lafayette, IN. Money raised will go towards a scholarship for an active living in the house to be used for school expenses (just like, you know, a scholarship). However, before we can start pulling together the what-fors and how-do-yous, we need to know an approximate number of people who would be interested. Tentative date is August 13th and will be an 18 hole, 4 man scramble. Rules for participants: Need to be either a) an alumnus b) an active c) a family member of a or b or d) potential future member. This means you CAN bring your 12 year old son, 85 year old mother or 18 year old smoking hot niece with a penchant for guys with beer breath to be on your team. It does NOT mean you can bring your local golf pro in as a ringer (unless, of course, you are related to said golf pro--and no second cousins). Cash prizes are likely, as well as various taunts, jibes and generally off color remarks. Actually, those are a given. Cost will be price of a round (still need to land on a course in the Lafayette area, so I can’t say for certain how much) plus $40 a team.

Potential courses are: Purdue South Course, Purdue North Course, Lafayette Muni or The Ravines. Let me know if you have a choice. PLEASE respond to me via email at taylor@lilly.com if you are interested.

Herald Report

This semester has overall been an extremely successful one in terms of brotherhood. For the Spring initiation we had a special guest Sage leading the ceremonies; John Kitch! John went over the meaning behind all of the rituals of initiation, and the proper way to perform the rituals. All of the brothers felt his presentation was very informative and it helped correct a few errors in our carrying out of initiation. Needless to say John did an excellent job and we thank him very much for his presence during the ceremony. We initiated four new members from the fall pledge class, Ryan Gifford, Ryan O’Neill, Ryan Gutsgell, and Hong-Young Kim. Eta Chapter will also be getting a new set of ritual equipment for initiation donated by John Kitch. Thanks Again John!

This semester we also started a new tradition in the terms of a brotherhood event. Eta Chapter had over twenty-five brothers and alumni travel to Chicago to see a Chicago Wolves game. The game was great and ended up going into overtime, but sadly it would end up being one of the Wolves few losses of the season. Even with a Wolves loss everyone still had a great time. I hope we can keep it going and do it again next year.
Sage Report

At the beginning of my term in January, it seemed to all of the brothers of Eta Chapter this semester would be different. This Spring would hold to be a fond and eventful time where the brothers would come together and reignite their desire of Fraternalism. Our chapter has been fighting to rekindle its place at Purdue and let the Greek system know we are here and we are for real. Now to a certain degree, this has occurred without flaw. We have outdone ourselves in philanthropy, scholarship, and social outings more than we had in the past five years. The attitude has improved and brotherhood events help with this.

Unfortunately, we have faced tremendous let downs. The foremost being Grand Prix. After homecoming, our house was promised a large sum of money to buy a Grand Prix kart for the 2005 race. We all had high hopes and aspirations for the race. Brothers began inviting friends and relatives up to watch the spectacle. I myself invited many alumni to come and cheer us on while in St. Louis for the mid-year leadership conference. Yet much to our dismay, one of the donators withdrew his money. Our Grand Prix chairman was in debt over $1200 for purchasing the kart and had no way to recover his money. Thankfully, Joe Montel and Dan Lavengood helped out with donations to at least get us on track, but we still fell short in funding. We had to cancel the race this year. I had to cancel a $500 sponsorship from Purina which would have been really nice to have. We have a kart, but still need more money to get it up to date with Purdue regulations. Hopefully, we can achieve this goal by next spring. As a final message to our Alumni, we really appreciate all of you who do donate to your house. For those who don’t, we cannot make up for the issues that have plagued this house for too many years without your support.

Mike Backer
mbacker@purdue.edu

Social

The social scene around the Eta house is really beginning to shape up. Over the course of the semester all of the actives made a dramatic improvement in greek social relations. The house has hosted Sigma Kappa, Alpha Gamma Delta, and Sigma Delta Tau sororities for toga, country club, and casino functions. In addition to sorority relations, Eta chapter has taken part in some multiple fraternity functions with Acacia, Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Psi, and most recently Kappa Delta Rho, in efforts to improve campus relations.

The actives worked feverously on buttering up sororities for Grand Prix 2005, and secured Sigma Kappa as a partner for the event. Some of the activities held during Grand Prix week were jello wrestling and a cookout. We continue to work on butter ups for the fall 2005 football season. Also the annual football game with Kappa Delta Rho has also been re-established, in continuation of the tradition between the houses.

The actives of Eta chapter look forward to an eventful Grand Prix week, and a good end to a great semester.

Rush

For the first time in 15 years, Eta chapter successfully conducted a winter rush in addition to our spring rush. It was a new challenge for us, but we were very pleased with the outcome. The main reason for doing this was to have pledges join before signing dorm contracts. We end our winter rush with 3 pledges and our spring rush with 5 pledges. All 8 members are quality guys and have many great attributes to contribute to the house. We are already working on fall rush and plan to setup an event where alumni come and talk to perspective rushees. If you have any ideas for rush or know of a perspective rushee please contact Rich Toner at rtoner@purdue.edu

Winter Pledge Class

Chris Brockman
Management
Rochester Hills, MI

Shen Liang
Pre-Pharmacy
Carmel, IN

Anthony Yeh
Management
Shanghai, China

Spring Pledge Class

Michael Ortiz Cruz
Political Science
Carmel, IN

Adam Decker
Mechanical Engineering
Carmel, IN

David Fireman
Hospitality Tourism Management
Shererville, IN

Evan Steiner
Social Studies Education
Chesterton, IN

Marc Willerth
Chemistry
Lee’s Summit, MO

Scholarship

We are very interested in setting up a scholarship program for this fall. We would like to put something together to be able to help others who may want to become apart of our brotherhood. We believe that this will not only help our recruitment, but will also be regarded very highly by the rest of the Greek community. We hope we will be able to accomplish this in order to improve ourselves at Eta. Any alumni or group of alumni interested in helping with a scholarship program for perspective members please contact Rich Toner at rtoner@purdue.edu
Ken Coan is Eta Chapters’ oldest living alumnus at 93 years old. He has been a part of Eta since he was initiated in 1931. His two brothers were also a part of Eta Chapter with older brother G.A. Coan graduating in 1930 and younger brother Chet graduating from pharmacy in 1940. Ken graduated in 1935 from Purdue in Mechanical Engineering. While at Purdue Ken was part of the ROTC and after school he remained active in the army reserve until he was called for active duty during WWII. Ken served 5 years as an Army artillery man in Europe including France, England, Ireland, and Luxemburg until December 1945 when we was released as a Lt. Col. After the war Ken worked for a company now know as Rexnord for 37 years.

Ken was very active during his college years. He was a member of: The Gimlet Club, The Purdue Exponent as an associated sports editor, and The Skull and Crescent Club. He was elected Sage of Eta House in 1934-35 which was very interesting since he was not even in school in 1934 due to The Great Depression. In 1934 only 15 brothers made it back to school and only 3 being seniors. Ken, Herb Crabtree, and Norm Atwood.

During Ken’s time in the house, pledges were required to have a fire going by 5:30 and everyone was to gather in the formal room for conversation. The dress during the 1930 in the house was jacket and tie with no exception. The house even had a cook which lived in the house in a little apartment on the second floor until 1933 when it was decided the house needed more room. During dinners and other social events no girls were allowed in the house without a proper chaperon.

One of the most important things the brothers did during the week were study session ran by seniors. The annual social function event in the 1930’s was barn dance. Brothers bailed hay and corn stalks for seats and served doughnuts and apple cider for refreshments. Brothers slept in cold air and pulled wake on each other. Laundry bags were sent home for parents to wash since it was cheaper. Pledges were also required to take the bags to the post office. Since Ken’s dad was a grocer his bag always came back with some candy for all the brothers. Ken favorite times in the house were when he would sit in the alcove of the formal room and chat with brothers and alumni.

Ken last visited the house in 1995 for his 60th anniversary of graduating from Purdue. Ken now lives in New Mexico with his wife Frances and will turn 94 on May 17th.

From everybody at Eta Chapter, Thanks Ken.