

# 100 YEARS THE IOTAN

Iota Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity | Georgia Tech | Summer 2013

Alumni Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI PRESIDENT

As we prepare to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of our chapter, I am excited about the opportunity to catch up with all of you as well as create new memories around this event. The Iota Chapter is the longest continuous charter



in the Fraternity and this event is a milestone for Pi Kapps everywhere.

I started at Georgia Tech twenty years ago this fall and had been an associate for just a few weeks when we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Iota Chapter. Some of the fondest memories of my pledge quarter revolve around that event and the relationships I built that fall. As we began planning a centennial event last year, it was with these memories in mind.

We have put together a memorable event with great food and entertainment and time with your brothers. Additional details are available inside this issue of the Iotan and more will follow. I want to take this opportunity to personally request your presence as we celebrate this anniversary at the Fox Theater on the Friday night before Homecoming.

As always, if there is anything your chapter can do for you, do not hesitate to ask.

  
Rob Schulten

## Alumni Spotlight: Lt. Thomas “Mike” Lyman ’07

*Editor’s note: For this edition of The Iotan, we’re shining the Spotlight on **Lieutenant Thomas “Mike” Lyman ’07**. A native of Stone Mountain, GA, Mike is currently working as the Material Officer at Naval Nuclear Power Unit in Charleston, SC. Having completed his degree in Electrical Engineering before serving in the Navy for the past seven years, he is in the process of wrapping up his term to return to GA Tech to pursue his MBA. Hard at work, our past chapter Historian, VP, & Archon manages the scheduling and execution of maintenance for the nuclear reactor plant and its supporting systems. Mike also works to train and qualify new Navy personnel for operating nuclear reactor plants before they are sent to a nuclear powered warship (submarine or air craft carrier). He previously served as a Division Officer onboard the guided missile submarine, USS Florida. During his time onboard his crew completed 4 deployments. Read on to find out more about LT. Mike, the experience that has shaped him today, and why he is coming back home to pursue business, operations, and entrepreneurship.*

Michael Lyman as the Officer of the Deck on the Bridge of the USS Florida.



### When did you make the decision to join the Navy?

I had strongly considered joining the military prior to attending college due to my family’s military history, but decided to attend Georgia Tech instead. During my junior year at Tech I finally decided I wanted to join the Navy and applied for a position as a nuclear-trained submarine warfare officer. After an extensive screening and interview process, I was accepted and joined at the beginning of my senior year of school. The program I entered allowed me to stay at Tech and complete my degree before commencing the required training with the Navy.

### What was the transition process between graduation and your first assignment?

There’s a long training process between

graduation and assignment to a boat. After graduation, I attended Officer Candidate School for basic military indoctrination and leadership courses. Following completion of OCS, officers are officially commissioned in the Navy. After OCS, I attended Nuclear Power School and Prototype for about 13 months. This included about 6 months of advanced coursework on nuclear reactor design, theory and operation, and then another 6 months of actually operating a nuclear reactor. The last stop on the training pipeline was Submarine Officer Basic Course for 3 months. There we studied the fundamentals of submarine operations, tactics, navigation, weapons systems. Finally, after nearly 2 years, you’re ready to go to your first boat.

*Spotlight, continued on page 4*

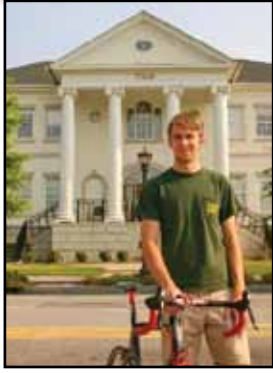
# Iota Centennial Celebration!

## November 1, 2013 - See Page 3 for Details!

# Chapter News

Spring 2013 was another great semester for the Iota chapter. Three new brothers were initiated this spring: **Matthew Sheahan**, **Billy Davidow**, and **Daniel Varela**. Our chapter brothers have gained footholds in several important campus groups, including the prestigious Denning Technology & Management Program, two IFC committee head positions, and the freshman orientation program FASET.

Our TUG team managed to hold their line while looking sharp in this year's Greek Week. In terms of philanthropy, our chapter held a War of the Roses competition between the seven sororities on campus. A total of \$650 was raised as the sororities competed to win their letters on our Journey of Hope (JOH) rider's bikes for the summer. Our three riders, **Alex Eplan**, **Travis Turner**, and myself, have been placed on the North Route and we started our



journey in San Francisco on June 5th and will arrive in Washington D.C. on August 10th. You can follow our teams progress at [www.pushamerica.org/journeyofhope.aspx](http://www.pushamerica.org/journeyofhope.aspx)

Plans are underway for our 100th anniversary. On Friday November 1st, 2013, we will be having a banquet at the Fox Theater. On Saturday we encourage

everyone to walk by Fowler St. to see our entries in the Wreck Parade and stop by the house for BBQ before the Homecoming game against Pittsburgh. Stay tuned to our Facebook page "Pi Kappa Phi Iota Chapter at Georgia Tech" and our website [www.pikapp.net](http://www.pikapp.net) for upcoming details and registration.

*Christopher*

Christopher Stubel I-1520  
Archon

## Congrats 2013 Graduates!

William Abernathy  
Brendan Byrne  
Miles Gantt  
Aakash Gihwala  
Bobby Golas

Adam Kolojechick-Kotch  
David Murray  
Jake Panfel  
Nick Peters  
Sumeet Shah



## Undergraduate Spotlight: Bradley Oesch



**What are some of the opportunities you have coming up with Denning Tech & Mgmt?**

The Denning T&M program allows students to learn more about subjects outside of their major (for me it'll be Business Administration) and take special courses for T&M students only that go over the growing role of technology in the present culture and working world. Additionally I'll have the opportunity to network with employees and executives from our corporate sponsors such as Boeing, Siemens, and Caterpillar, and at the end of the program our Senior Project will be solving a real world issue that these companies need fixed.

**What do you have in mind for your Senior Project?**

I have a couple years until then, but the Senior Projects in the T&M program are quite different than normal capstone projects in that we get to work with students of many different majors and each group is assigned to one of the above mentioned companies. We then have

the opportunity to work with that company to solve a current problem they're facing. Past projects have saved the company millions in revenue each year.

**Where do you think the next exciting technological development will occur?**

I think web development will become much more powerful in the next coming years. With HTML5 and CSS3 adding such diverse functionality and more applications moving to the cloud, it seems inevitable that utilizing the speed and global spread of the internet will result in better, longer lasting products. The internet allows for easy sharing of information and provides immediate universal access for new products. As web development becomes more integrated with the more powerful programming languages, applications will move from local to cloud computing.

**What are you guys planning for fall semester at the chapter house?**

This fall marks the 100th anniversary of the Iota chapter's existence here on Georgia Tech's campus. We will be the first and only Pi Kappa Phi chapter with 100 consecutive



*Bradley with his pledge brothers at Rose Ball 2013 in New Orleans.*

years on campus. I am excited to be a part of this chapter at such an important time. We will be hosting an event at the Fox Theatre in downtown Atlanta where current members and alumni can come celebrate everything that Pi Kapp and the Iota chapter have accomplished in the last 100 years.

**Any exciting plans for summer?**

I will be studying in Barcelona, Spain this summer on a Georgia Tech study abroad program where I will be taking computer science classes as well as an architecture and technology communication course. I have never been to Europe so I am excited to be in such a new, different environment, and I am eager to travel around and see some of what Europe has to offer!



# Celebrating 100 years at

## November 1, 2013

Are you excited to celebrate Iota's 100th anniversary? Are you ready to see what your chapter has accomplished in the last 100 years and where they plan to go for the next 100?

We want to invite you and a significant other to our Centennial Celebration on Friday, November 1, 2013 from 7 PM – 11 PM. You will be receiving an invitation over the next month to celebrate your chapter's 100th anniversary.

We will be having dinner, an awards ceremony, as well as a dance. We look forward to seeing you at the event and at Homecoming the following day. Please reach out to **Matt Cannon** directly at [matthew.william.cannon@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.william.cannon@gmail.com) if you have any questions once the invitations are sent out.

**To register and for more information, please visit: [www.pikapp.org/anniversary/iota100](http://www.pikapp.org/anniversary/iota100)**



### Chapter Eternal

We are saddened to have learned of the passing of the following Iota brothers since the last issue of the *Iotan*. We extend our sympathies to their friends and families.

David Boy '38

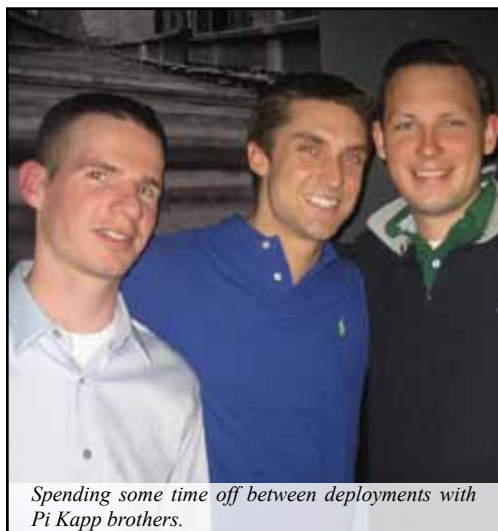
Louis Williams '44

Walter Gentry '54

Carl Frick '57

### *Save the dates*

- ◆ August 10, 2013 - Journey of Hope Arrival in Washington, DC - Be sure to follow and support our very own Christopher Stubel, Alex Eplan, and Travis Turner as they participate in the 2013 Journey of Hope for PUSH America!
- ◆ November 1, 2013 - Centennial Celebration
- ◆ November 2, 2013 - Homecoming



**Was your experience affected by the economy crash?**

No. Fortunately, job security in the military is high since we're under contract. However, the economy has increased military retention rates. This will make promotions in the future harder for some members and will ultimately lead to some members being involuntarily separated from the military due to not progressing in rank within the required time.

**Did your Electrical Engineering degree help place you faster than others in your group?**

My electrical engineering degree definitely helped during Nuclear Power School because a significant portion of the class work was electrical engineering. Since I was already familiar with the electrical engineering material, I was able to focus my studying on other areas. My background was also useful one time while out on deployment. We had a critical piece of equipment fail and it was going to require us to stop our mission and return to port to have it fixed since the electrical schematics for this component weren't released from the equipment manufacturer. I was able to troubleshoot and correct the problem and we were able to stay out and complete our mission.

**What are a few of most memorable experiences while on/off duty?**

My most memorable experiences off duty are the port calls that we made. My favorite port was Souda Bay, Crete (Greece). We ended up pulling in there a few times and I got to spend about 3 weeks total in port. The food there was awesome and I've been a big fan of Mediterranean and Greek food ever since. While on duty, we had the chance to do some filming for the movie "Act of Valor" while I was onboard USS Florida. The director, film

crew and actors were on the ship for a few days and I was able to talk with them while they were there. I helped with some of the filming that was done topside, but unfortunately didn't make any of the scenes.

**Do you think your fraternity experience and leadership made it easier for you to adjust?**

Definitely. My time as a leader with the fraternity allowed me to develop my leadership style and to determine some methods that worked for me and others that did not. Having some leadership experience and knowing my leadership style was certainly useful after showing up to a boat and being expected to lead a division of men.

**How long is a Naval shower on the boat these days?**

The available water onboard the sub is always a concern because we have to distill our own water from seawater and storage space is at a premium. Average time is about 5-10 minutes, but you're not supposed to use more than about 3 minutes of running water. The other problem is temperature. Most of the time the water is cold because you can't run the water long enough for it to warm up.

**When you get back to GA Tech, what plans do you have for your MBA once completed?**

I'm really interested in working within the defense industry. During my time with the Navy, I had a chance to use some amazing equipment. I think that I would enjoy being able to create and develop products for future service members to be able to use. Also, since I've had some hands-on experience with some equipment, I've got some ideas for both product improvement and new products.

**What advice can you give your fellow alumni about pursuing their dreams through continued education?**

I think that continued education is important because it can open up opportunities in your current area of expertise or a new one. I would recommend that all professionals, particularly those transferring fields, research their available continued education options and determine if an additional degree, certification, or other type of education could provide them a benefit.

**For our young actives, what is the best thing about having Iota in your life?**

As an alumnus, I think the best thing about Pi Kappa Phi is the lasting relationship that I built with my brothers while I was in school. A majority of the people that I have stayed in touch with from college are brothers. Even though I've moved all around the country and spent years deployed, I've always been able to count on my brothers as both friends and mentors.

