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June 2008

The Iotan



Georgia Tech

Iota Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity • Georgia Tech • Atlanta, Ga.

ALUMNI BOARD REPORT

Renewing the Chapter House Will Require Alumni Devotion and Donations *Are You Planning to Help?*

By Angelo Panousis (I-1096), Secretary, Alumni Board of Directors

Like any commercial property, the monetary value of the chapter house is dependent almost entirely upon the income that it can generate. This is true even with not-for-profit organizations. If we cannot keep the house full of willing renters, its value will suffer.

To combat this, building owners almost always reach a point where “deferred maintenance” must be addressed, usually in the form of a renovation project to bring a property back to its market value in terms of occupancy, rental rates and physical appearance. Brothers, we have reached that point with the Iota Chapter House of Pi Kappa Phi. Recognizing this, the Alumni Board of Directors has secured refinancing of the current debt at very favorable terms, which has allowed us to raise funds in order to make needed repairs and physical improvements to our chapter house.

The effort will address a comprehensive list of immediately needed repairs, replacement of wear and tear items, and significant enhancements to the facility. We will be looking at the house systems, such as mechanical,

electrical and plumbing, to make long-term repairs and correct issues that have lingered for some time. We also will be making some changes to accommodate the active

brotherhood’s plans to revamp the dining system, with upgrades to the main kitchen and a new, common, “break room-style” kitchen.

We will be able to make many significant improvements with the refinancing funds that are now available. However, it only will represent about half the total value of improvements that have been identified by the Alumni Board of Directors and the current chapter leadership. We will, of course, tackle the most pressing issues first, but we also will need to aggressively pursue further funding from alumni and other sources to continue the effort.

Much of the work to the chapter house is planned to be completed by the fall semester. We do hope many Iota alumni will drop by the house this fall to visit with the active brotherhood and to see the improvements.

“Much of the work to the chapter house is planned to be completed by the fall semester.”

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

2008 Yellow Jacket Football

Aug. 28: Jacksonville State

Sept. 6: at Boston College

Sept. 13: at Virginia Tech

Sept. 20: Mississippi State

Oct. 4: Duke

Oct. 11: Gardner-Webb

Oct. 18: at Clemson

Oct. 25: UVA (Homecoming)

Nov. 1: Florida State

Nov. 8: at North Carolina

Nov. 20: Miami

Nov. 29: at Georgia

Home games in bold.

Active Chapter Officers & Members

Chapter Officers:

Archon **Michael Roche**
Vice Archon **Carlos Alvarez**
Treasurer **Matt Jolissaint**
Secretary **Daniel Brown**
Warden **Todd Heffner**
Historian **Andrew Talerico**
Chaplain **Ryan Nealey**

New Members:

Will Abernathy
Tom Bond
Saa Camanor
Bryan Garland
Mark Maloney
William Mehserle
Chris Parks
Michael Shuty
Ross Taylor
Chris Voelker
Shuonan Wang
Eric Williams
Sunil Yalamanchili
Chris Zajac



Pi Kappa Phi Brothers Are HEROs

Local Organization Helping Children With AIDS Receives Special Iota Chapter Attention

by Michael E. Roche, I-1400

Pi Kappa Phi has been making a positive impact on the Atlanta, GA community. One of their biggest recent contributions has been working with an organization called GT HEROs (Hearts Everywhere Reaching Out). This organization helps children infected and affected by AIDS and HIV through quality-of-life programs.

Nine members of the active chapter are involved in the philanthropy, and three hold leadership positions on the executive board. **Mike Roche**, Greek Affairs executive member and Pi Kappa Phi chapter president says, "We see this as the beginning of a partnership that Pi Kappa Phi will develop through the years, and it is a great start after one semester."

Pi Kappa Phi teamed with GT HEROs this past fall when Roche was looking for ways for the fraternity to get more involved on campus, as well as to give back to the community. When he learned of GT HEROs, it seemed to be a perfect fit. GT HEROs was excited for the chance to team with Pi Kappa Phi to make their events bigger and better.

The Fall Festival is a chance for HERO children to visit Georgia Tech for a day of fun with a rock climbing wall, an obstacle course, face painting, and more. The spring event "Hanging With HEROs" invites children to play sports and hang out with the Georgia Tech basketball team. The children get to grill out, tour football and basketball locker rooms, and get autographs from basketball players. There also is a semi-annual benefit party to raise awareness for HIV and AIDS, and a year-long effort to raise money and awareness for HERO.

A "Road Rules" event helps to raise money for GT HEROs by taking members to the streets to raise money for the organization, and the "Paint the Town Red" event fundraises at Midtown Tavern. GT HEROs also looked to Greek Organizations to participate in a Date Auction event at the end of the year, where campus leaders and athletes were auctioned off.

Pi Kappa Phi plans to continue its contributions to the organization, making them bigger and better. We will host a block party at the chapter house during the first week of school this fall, and the whole campus will be invited. The chapter will focus on inviting freshmen to get them interested in the event. "It will be great

publicity for the chapter and a great time as well," says Mike Roche.

Nicholas O'Connell says that one of the best parts of being involved in GT HEROs as a member of Pi Kappa Phi is being able to promote the Greek community as a whole. "Many of the leadership positions are filled by Greek leaders on campus and we are doing our best to help lift the stigma that has been placed on us," he says.

The brothers also agree that one of the most rewarding aspects of the involvement for Pi Kappa Phi brothers has been interacting with the HERO children. "I had a ton of fun at 'Hangin' With HEROs.' It was a great experience hanging out with the kids. You learn a lot about how these kids are just trying to live their lives, but they have been affected with such a terrible thing. It is a joy to help them," explains

"As the partnership with Pi Kappa Phi and GT HEROs continues, the brothers will have fun while growing awareness for the organization and the cause throughout the community."

Dan Agius. He adds, "It is amazing how great of an impact you can have by playing basketball or catch with a little kid. You are there to show them a good time, and you can't help but have fun."

Roche's favorite memory of GT HEROs also was at "Hangin With Heros," where he was able to interact with the children for the first time: "It was a lot of fun because I was able to hang out and play sports with them on a Sunday afternoon."

Involvement in the philanthropy has been rewarding to the brothers in more way than one. "We see it as a way to keep our philanthropy involvement going year round and gain valuable leadership experience," says Roche.

The impact that the Pi Kappa Phi brothers and HERO has made is deeper than simply showing the children a good time. "The best part of being involved in HERO is knowing that everything I do is making a difference for these children. They are bright and hopeful about their future. That is what HERO wants to preserve and reinforce. We do our best to see that these children succeed in life," says **Nicholas O'Connell**.

The organization is designed to help children whose families have fallen through the cracks of society in the past. "When I meet with some of the parents of the children, there is this unmistakable glint of hope in their eyes. Many of the parents live well below the poverty line, and to see that look in their eyes, when their children get to experience all these things that they had never thought possible, is very motivating," says O'Connell.

As the partnership with Pi Kappa Phi and GT HEROs continues, the brothers will have fun while growing awareness for the organization and the cause throughout the community. "We are looking forward to the fall, where most of the fundraising and other events take place, so the rest of the brotherhood can join in the fun," says Mike Roche.

For more information please you can visit the HERO websites: www.heroforchildren.org; www.gtheros.org; www.ugaheros.org.



SCHOLARSHIP

Spring 2008 Boasts Numerous Awards for Iota Chapter and Five Graduating Seniors *Chapter Won IFC Most Improved Scholarship Program Award*

By Todd M. Heffner, I-1417

After applying for the IFC's Most Improved Scholarship Program award last fall and interviewing with Dean John Stein, the Iota chapter has won the award and the associated \$1,000 scholarship. This recognition of the efforts of **Dr. John Andrews** (Bowling Green) and the most recent scholarship chairs is well deserved and will encourage us to continue to improve the program.

Recently, at the annual Steak and Beans Dinner, the year's Most Improved

Scholar award went to former Archon, **Brian Antkowiak**. His ability to bring his grades up while serving the chapter in such a demanding capacity was the deciding factor in the award. The Scholar of the Year award went to **Doug Morgan**, a former scholarship chair who was able to have a 3.7 GPA while being one of our most involved brothers on campus.

New members continue to go through the academic success program with encouraging results. This stronger emphasis

on the importance of grades will continue in the fall. This semester marks the completion of the first full year of the program.

Congratulations to our five graduating members: **Matthew Miller** (Economics), **Mark Neill** (Building Construction), **Brian Schenck** (Building Construction), and **Will Reed** (Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering). Also, **Perrin Quarshie** (Civil and Environmental Engineering) will be graduating at the end of the summer.

PHILANTHROPY

All Their Hard-Earned Efforts in Advancing Philanthropy Recognized With Dean Dull Philanthropy Award *Plans Already Underway for Upcoming Year's Events*

by Michael E. Roche, I-1400

During the past year, the brotherhood renewed their commitment to Push America, which led to some very memorable moments. This year's events included a Give-A-Push Weekend at Camp Sunshine in nearby Rutledge, a Push Camp in the Midwest, and a fund-raising total of \$7000.

Summer event participation is increasing as well. **Todd Heffner** was a cyclist on the

Journey of Hope South Team. Five brothers participated in Build America, including **Brian Schenck**, who served as the project manager.

"Last fall's events included Give-A-Push Weekend at Camp Sunshine in nearby Rutledge, which raised more than \$7000 for Push America this year."

This spring, the chapter made strides to become a Master Chapter in their commitment to service, thereby becoming a model to

follow for all Pi Kappa Phi chapters. This recognition is the result of fundraising, participation in National Push America Events, and brotherhood participation in volunteer relationships with BlazeSports and GT HEROs, which are organizations that serve people with disabilities. Seven brothers attended a Push Camp in southern Illinois during their spring break for a week of service devoted to construction projects. This marked the first time in many years that brothers have pursued this great spring break alternative.

The culmination of our year of service was rewarded at the Up With the White and Gold Banquet, where the chapter received the Dean Dull Philanthropy Award. For the upcoming year, **Doug Stine** will be on the 2008 Build America Crew. The chapter is looking to organize a successful fundraiser in the fall, as well as an Accessibility Project.



RUSH

Large Changes Made in Rush Program Offset School-Wide Decrease of Greek Men

***Upcoming Rush Tools Include
Addition to Website, a Rush
Video and New Leadership***

by Carlos J. Alvarez, I-1438

The Iota Chapter battled through a school-wide overall decrease of incoming male Greeks by initiating nine new brothers in Fall 2007 and five in Spring 2008. During the course of the fall rush, many brothers were active and positive in order to bring in as many quality associate members as possible. Though some may believe our numbers were low, the quality of men brought into the chapter was kept high.

***"Through collective increase
in passion for rush, the upcoming
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The spring rush brothers tried to reel people to the house, yet snow storms kept the potential rushees inside their dormitories. The low spring numbers ignited change in the rush system and its chair. The new rush chair and current Vice Archon are bringing a new attitude and approach to this coming fall. They currently are working to complete the rush part of the Pi Kapp website, a rush video, and summer rush. Through collective increase in passion for rush, the upcoming fall only can mean good things for the Iota Chapter.

CHAPTER REPORT

Iota Chapter Devotes Much Time and Energy to Increasing Scholarship, Philanthropy, and Recruitment

Active Involvement in Push America Fundraising Results in \$7,000 Donation

by Michael E. Roche, I-1400

This spring is an exciting time at the Iota chapter as the brotherhood is enjoying the success of a strong commitment to Recruitment, Brotherhood, and Leadership. We have three main goals that we are trying to meet during the spring semester: improve the house grade point average (GPA) by 0.3 points, improve recruitment numbers to 30 new associate members in the fall, and increase campus involvement by 100%.

After initiating nine brothers from the fall rush, the chapter welcomes five new members from spring recruitment. Our goals for next year's recruitment are the same as every year: We strive to find new members who will be leaders on campus and proficient in the classroom. Page 3 details more about our rush program.

The associates are making the adjustment to life at GA Tech very well with the help of the brotherhood and their new academic advisor, Brother **Dr. John Andrews** (Bowling Green). Andrews implemented the Academic Success Program for all new members, and the brotherhood and associates are very thankful for his efforts. Our new focus on scholarship was rewarded with

the Most Improved Scholarship Program on campus, which included a \$1,000 gift to new improvements (see details on page 3). A new rush scholarship is being implemented this fall and is open to all incoming freshmen.

"The chapter currently is preparing for Greek Week and is looking forward to the success that surely will come."

The chapter currently is preparing for Greek Week and is looking forward to the success that surely will come. Hoping to build on a fourth-place finish in Homecoming last fall, 70 strong-minded members are currently working hard to return the overall award back to the Iota Chapter.

During the past year, the brotherhood renewed their commitment to Push America and were able to raise more than \$7,000. Summer event participation is increasing as well. **Todd Heffner**

participated in the Journey of Hope, and five brothers participated in Build America. The chapter made such strides as to become a Master Chapter in their commitment to service. You can read about more of the chapter's philanthropic achievements on page 3.

The motto of Pi Kappa Phi is "Leaders by Choice," which is most evident outside of the classroom. Currently, the chapter is nearing a goal of 100% improvement in campus involvement since the fall semester. This includes 25 different campus organizations, including interfraternity council, freshman orientation and GT HEROs.

What makes Pi Kappa Phi different from the other fraternities has to be our national philanthropy, Push America. But what sets Pi Kappa Phi apart from all of the fraternities on Georgia Tech campus is our brotherhood. It can be seen in the day-to-day life of the chapter, where anyone can find support or advice from any brother. Brotherhood also is evident in the many different events that we put on, where a weekend never fails to pass by without the entire brotherhood getting together.



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Iota Chapter makes good on campus: see inside!

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