



THE IOTAN

100 YEARS

Iota Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity | Georgia Tech | Fall 2014

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

A Message From the Alumni President



Alumni,

It has been a big year for the Iota Chapter. We have had several brothers graduate and become part of our group, and

the undergraduate chapter continues to attract more members each and every year. Seeing a successful Rush like the chapter had this fall speaks words of encouragement to me just knowing that not only will our chapter continue to flourish on campus, but we will continue to add to our group of alumni who can be leaders beyond the undergraduate life.

Coming off a successful Homecoming game, we were thrilled to end the season with a big win over UGA! We had a fair turnout for Homecoming from the alumni, but it was recent alumni within the last 10-15 years of graduating who came by. I know that we had a large turnout for the 100th last year which brought many more alumni out which is why the number may have been down this year. However, we would like for more alumni from all generations to attend each year, especially those in the Atlanta area. One of the big pushes for 2015 is to work with newly elected Historian, **Greg Riley**, on improving not only alumni relations, but alumni turnout. We are looking to hold a key event in the spring for our own **Pete Petit '62**, to recognize him for receiving the award of Mr. Pi Kappa Phi. Terry Dewberry will help coordinate this effort as well.

We are planning on doing house renovations over Winter Break as we will be building a new deck next to the basketball court which will replace what is there now. We are also going to be renovating our kitchen extensively. Over the last decade, we have continued to

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Alumni Spotlight:

Parker H. "Pete" Petit '62



Editor's Note: For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on 2014's "Mr. Pi Kappa Phi," **Pete Petit '62**. From the hometown of Atlanta, GA, Pete earned his B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering and Master of Science degree in Engineering Mechanics '64. His education was continued at Georgia State University where he received his MBA degree in Finance. Pete is currently working as Chairman and CEO of MiMedx Group, Inc. located in Marietta, GA. An Entrepreneur, Pete founded Healthdyne in 1970. Healthdyne grew to become four different publically traded companies, Healthdyne Technologies, Matria Healthcare, Healthdyne Information Enterprises, and Home Nutritional Services. Those organizations were all sold to become part of larger organizations. Today he is heavily involved in philanthropic activities including the funding of a professorial chair for "Engineering in Medicine" and the endowment of the Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia. Pete is in the Georgia State Business School Hall of Fame and was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering. Petit served on the Board of Directors of Atlantic Southeast Airlines for 16 years until it was acquired by Delta Airlines, and Norrell Corporation, which was acquired by Spherion Corporation. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of the

National Health Museum and is a member of the Board of Directors of Intelligent Systems Corporation and also serves as President of The Petit Group, an investment management organization. A member of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Research Alliance, which is chartered by the state of Georgia to promote high technology and scientific development in the state, he is a 1994 inductee into the Technology Hall of Fame of Georgia. Read on to find out more!

Why did you decide to join a fraternity?

At the age of 18, I did not have much perspective on anything. However, I did feel that I wanted to be involved with a fraternity. One of my family's friends was a Pi Kapp at Georgia Tech, and I gravitated to the Iota chapter because of that relationship. In addition, because the fraternity was founded in Charleston, South Carolina, which was my hometown, I felt drawn by that fact.

What did you enjoy most as an active?

I enjoyed the fellowship and comradery of the brothers. We all came from modest means, and it was gratifying to watch how we helped each other with academics and finances. Also, I began my focus on leadership opportunities in the chapter as I accepted the responsibility of Chaplain, Historian and Archon.

How did you get through school financially?

I had very limited funds. I had to co-op which meant I worked every other quarter in order to fund my college expenses. In those days, I made \$1.42 an hour on my co-op job, which was at Warner Robbins Air Force Base. I could save about \$550.00 which is the amount it took to get through a quarter at Georgia Tech.

After graduation, where did the Army take you?

I had a ROTC commission. I ended up on a Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, Texas. The Army had taken over the Navy's aviation overhaul facilities, and

they were busy building up their ability to overhaul all the Army aircraft at that facility as the Viet Nam war escalated. I was very fortunate to be involved in this rapid growth activity. This was a "get the job done" type of environment in flight test operations.

How did you get in the healthcare business?

I had been a project manager at Lockheed in Atlanta. However, I was beginning to have an "itch" relative to doing something else in the world



A photo of Pete taken after an intramural football game across the street from the current chapter house, November, 1958.

Petit (Continued on Page 4)





CHAPTER NEWS

The Archon Report



The Iota Chapter had a great fall 2014 semester. Twenty-three new brothers were initiated into the brotherhood

and our Associate Members had the highest retention rate of a fall member class in several years.

We have once again had one of the highest number of Associate Members on campus, helping to grow the chapter and maintaining its spot as one of the largest chapters at Georgia Tech. Pi Kappa Phi placed well in Homecoming, coming in a close

second in the Scavenger Hunt, and winning third in both Pomp Display and the Mini 500, with two years in a row bringing home a Mini 500 trophy.

Pi Kapp's Flag Football and Outdoor Soccer teams both have done exceptionally well in intramurals this year, and the chapter is enjoying being one of the only fraternities to have front section seats to cheer on the Yellow Jackets at every football game!

We had a great turnout for Homecoming despite the frigid weather, and the chapter is excited to begin work on a completely new deck over Winter Break. In



Fall Break is so much more relaxing out in the mountains with friends.

terms of philanthropy, the chapter raised over \$500 for the Ability Experience. Stay tuned to our Facebook page "Pi Kappa Phi Iota Chapter at Georgia Tech" and our website www.pikapp.net for the

latest chapter updates.

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Chapter Spotlight:

Aditya Raghupathy ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Editor's Note: Representing the chapter as Spotlight is **Aditya Raghupathy** - a third year Industrial Engineering major with a minor in Business. From the hometown of Alpharetta, GA, Aditya has served the chapter as Rush and Athletic Chair and is the current chapter Vice Archon. He is also on his second rotation as a co-op for Delta Airlines Cargo Operations, and is beginning the Denning Technology and Management program this semester. A UPS Casey Scholarship winner, Aditya was recently able to experience his studies aboard in Oxford. Outside of school he is working with his cousin in India with a start-up retail company. Read on to find out more!

Where has your co-op with Delta taken you?

The Delta co-op opportunity has provided me with a unique opportunity to travel around the world. The implementation of a new platform has enabled me to travel to Tokyo, Boston, and Seattle. Traveling has always been a passion of mine and the ability to travel for free has permitted me to travel to Munich, Costa Rica, Hawaii, New York, and countless other places.

Any plans for after graduation?

Working with KPMG was an eye opening experience for me and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. After graduation I look to join a consulting firm and get the wide breadth of experience that it offers. Afterwards, I intend to pursue my Masters in Business Administration at a top program and maybe get into a start up or smaller company further down the line.



What led you to join Iota?

As a freshman I wanted to join a fraternity and coming from a local high school I knew a couple active brothers in the fraternity. This paired with the atmosphere the brothers established during fall rush sold me on becoming a brother of the Iota Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi.

Why did you become involved with a start-up company in India?

I was always interested in the emerging market that is India. My cousin had come up with the idea of a retail company that targeted the growing population of photographers that migrate through India's national parks. I thought it was a brilliant idea because trinkets and gifts that represent your experience at a national park have not

been established. I felt like any input I could provide would do wonders and would give me an advantage in regards to the start up culture.

What did you enjoy most about your time in Oxford?

The opportunity to experience the atmosphere and vast culture Europe has to offer. I was able to visit countless museums and appreciate the fine art whose meaning resonated more with the explanation the professors provided. The experience opened my eyes and created a new interest. In regards to music I was able to watch two operas and appreciate their grandeur. Finally I enjoyed feeling the passion each country exuded when their teams performed in this year's World Cup.





Gregory Hajos '84 - I am still a retired NASA aerospace Engineer. I mentored five students this year working on a NASA Exploration Design Challenge. They won! Their experiment will fly on the Orion test flight in December. Liz graduated from High School. She will attend Tidewater Community College studying Veterinary Technician toward pursuing a degree in Veterinary Medicine. I am waiting for Ingrid to retire from NASA next year. I am now a Master Gardener.



Have Alumni News?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our Account Manager Kasey Breedlove at kbreedlove@thelaurusgroup.net, or simply fill out the tear-away form at the bottom of your cover letter and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of *The Iotan*!

President (Continued from Page 1)

do extensive house renovations, which help improve the quality of the house and is an added bonus to help us continue to attract new members.

I wanted to congratulate our two newest members of the Alumni Board as well: **Andrew Jones '09** (Treasurer), and **Mark Smith '09** (Secretary). Both are eager to begin helping the Board. **Jerry Stamey '94** is now a Member at Large. We would like to encourage more alumni to join the board next year when elections are at Homecoming. We will be following up on this.

Please let me know if there is anything that you would like to bring up to the Board or speak with me about personally. My email address is: matthew.william.cannon@gmail.com. My phone number is: 770-329-7806. I hope you and your family have a happy holiday season and a blessed new year!

Yours in Brotherhood,

Matthew W. Cannon

Matthew W. Cannon '11

Chapter Eternal

We are saddened to learn of the passing of the following Pi Kappa Phi brother.

Ralph W. Brooks Jr. '49

Ervin M. Combs '58



Pomp display designed by brother Stephen Hatzikoutelis that took 3rd place this year.



HOMEcoming 2014



Pi Kapp Mini 500 racers and pit crew enjoying their 3rd place finish.



Buzz poses for the camera before the Mini 500, the Pi Kapp team would go on to finish 3rd.



The associate members serenaded the sorority new members at Run of the Roses in front of the house.





of business. About that time, we lost our second son to a crib death in 1970. That motivated me to design the first home monitoring device for infants. I designed and built a prototype unit by sneaking in to the electrical engineering labs after hours with

some help from a Tech friend who worked in the Georgia Tech Research Center. With that prototype device in hand, I quit my excellent position at Lockheed and became an entrepreneur. I raised a small amount of funding from friends and from some physicians that I had met including my son's pediatrician. Over the next several years, we took substantial financial risks, but I managed to finally get our product endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1975. From that point on, the company grew rapidly. My first company was called Healthdyne, and it grew to become three different publicly traded companies with combined revenues of approximately \$1 billion.

What is a typical day like for you?

At 75, I am very blessed to still have excellent health and most of my mental faculties. I am back involved as the CEO in another fast growth medical enterprise by the name of MiMedx. I am probably still working 60 plus hours a week, but that is what I enjoy doing.

What do you do outside of work for fun?

I have been flying for over 50 years, and I still enjoy flying when I have the time for it. However, I thoroughly enjoy my work as a medical entrepreneur. I have flunked retirement twice, so I know that I will be doing what I am doing as long as I am physically and mentally able. I do have some charitable activities and philanthropy activities where I devote some time. I am still active with the

Georgia Tech Foundation and at Georgia State University where I obtained my MBA degree at night after I founded Healthdyne. Also, I keep in touch with as many of my Pi Kapp brothers as possible. In addition, I have been on the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation Board, and as such, I have a number of Pi Kapp friends from other chapters around the country. I spend time with them as much as possible.

Why do you feel it is important to continue to give back to the community?

I believe that we are on this earth to serve each other. It is as simple as that. Each of us have gifts which we can use to serve, and we need to find ways to do just that. My case has been through philanthropy. I have made significant gifts to Georgia Tech and Georgia State University and a number of church and related religious institutions. I believe human beings are happiest when they are serving and giving. Some of the unhappiest people I have ever met are those that are "grabbers" not "givers."

How do you stay in touch with your Iota brothers today?

I have always tried to stay in touch with as many of them as I can. However, I have a group that were pledge brothers or joined about the same time as I did, and I keep in close touch with them. Terry Dewberry, who joined the chapter when I was a senior and the Archon, has been a member of the executive team for all of our businesses over the years. Terry went on to become an accountant, and he joined Healthdyne and became our Chief Financial Officer and later on Chief Operating Officer. We are certainly very close and keep up with each other.

What advice can you give the alumni about managing a business?

Successful businesses always have effective management. Effective management consists of two components, the leadership component and



The "Mr. Pi Kappa Phi" award is the fraternity's highest and most prestigious honor to be bestowed upon a member. Pictured left to right: Durward Owen, Executive Director Emeritus; Pete Petit '62, Mr. Pi Kappa Phi - 2014; and Mark Timmes, Chief Executive Officer.

the administrative component. Most individuals have a propensity for one or the other. Seldom do you find excellent leadership skills and excellent administrative skills in the same person. Therefore, a business must have a management team that is well balanced with both sets of skills. If they are not embedded in one individual, that individual must have support for the skills that they are lacking. An effective leader makes good things happen. An effective administrator keeps bad things from happening. Both are very important aspects of an effectively run business enterprise or any organization for that matter.

The next most important issue is that all individuals exhibit honesty and integrity. I am afraid that our country has lost a great deal of our focus on honesty and integrity. I see it in politics, and I see it in the business world. I remember posters in my grammar school extolling the virtues of "I cannot tell a lie." The poster featured George Washington who cut down a cherry tree and claimed he could not lie to his father and admitted that he cut down the tree. Today, I do not see that same commitment to honesty and integrity. When our elected officials blatantly lie, then it permeates the whole society. I have seen a lack of integrity develop in the business community over the last twenty years because I believe everyone was reflecting to a lack of integrity in Washington and questioned why should they be held to a different standard. We have become a very selfish society figuring that lying is acceptable if we get what we want from the misinformation. This is a sad outcome stemming from the lack of honest leadership with integrity in this country.

Save the Dates!



**Founders Day
2015**



Details TBA



**Homecoming
2015**