



Alpha Sigma Phi, AT  
903 Castle Point Terrace  
Hoboken, NJ 07030

# THE CROSSED SWORDS

The official publication of the Alpha Tau Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity

## THANKSGIVING 2008 EDITION

Brothers,

Welcome to the Thanksgiving 2008 edition of the Crossed Swords, the beloved publication of the Alpha Tau chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi! Enclosed you will find articles and photographs from the brotherhood, as well as short introductions to the recently initiated brothers of the house. I hope you have as much fun reading this edition as we did making the memories contained within it to share with you.

Happy Thanksgiving,  
S. Raza Husain  
HC, HR Fall 2008

### FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

BY: DENNIS DONATELLI  
HSP, FALL 2008

Brothers,

There are many words used to describe a brother in Alpha Sigma Phi, including such terms as “gentleman” and “scholar.” We are said to have hearts beneath our vests, and before I break everyone into synchronized clapping and harmonious singing, I’ll end my description there, knowing that all of you will keep our values, actions, and lyrics to our well known songs in your heads and hearts. This semester marks the beginning for many things. The beginning of a new semester of brotherhood for some and the beginning of finding new people with the same morals and values of those that will be leaving us in a matter of months, in order to bring new life to our fraternity like our legendary phoenix rises up new from its ashes. Also, this semester marks the beginning of some goals that we would like to fulfill as a brotherhood that can be even better than we ever have been before.

Earlier I had mentioned being gentlemen and scholars with hearts beneath our vests. Some of these goals we are setting are going to prove that this is what we are. Goals to improve our GPA for the semester, goals to raise money for our new national philanthropy among other fundraisers, and also goals to get our faces out into the crowds and stand out among everyone else. These goals will prove what we shout every time we recite our songs.

This semester is going very well, with two successful blood drives complete and other service hours done, study hours in the library three nights a week, five new brothers, increased attendance at sports games, and many other plans for the future. Out of all the things that could be said about brothers in a fraternity, a few that come to mind are passionate, ambitious, and determined. Some brothers have ideas and suggestions that need some support to get going. Every brother I’ve talked to at the beginning of the semester was so fired up about everything we had planned....

(Continued on page 2)



**FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

BY: TIMOTHY STANOCH  
HJP, FALL 2008

As HJP, I am happy with our expansive semester so far. The number one priority for my term was increasing the amount of communication between and participation of the brotherhood, undergraduate and alumni alike. One of the main reasons why a certain level of apathy existed within the brotherhood was because of a lack of communication. For example, events planned in advance would have poor attendance because they were not publicized within the brotherhood. To combat this, compiling an easily accessible calendar for the brotherhood would enable all members to have greater awareness and participation



Another goal for this semester was to have better relations with the parents of our undergraduate brothers and potential pledges. Fall Parents Day was planned for this semester, but had to be cancelled because of a small projected attendance and time constraints. A second, fall parents day would allow the parents of potential pledges to ask the brotherhood any questions or voice any concerns, as well as fostering better relations with parents of current brothers.

The last goal for this semester was to eliminate all of the past debts owed to the house by 2011. I have been working closely with the HE, Gary Brown, on developing Promissory Notes to legally enforce brothers to pay back past dues and past rent.

All in all, I expected great things this semester, and so far, we are mostly on track. We have 40 awesome brothers backed by an ever growing alumni body. Together, we can accomplish anything.

**MANAGING THE BOOKS**

BY: GARY BROWN  
HE, FALL 2008

Though the economy may be in a state of turmoil, the Alpha Tau chapter is staying afloat. With 35 active undergraduate brothers, dues have been raised \$50 to provide superb programming for all. The house is full, giving the chapter a healthy surplus, despite Hoboken's significant increase in property taxes. A



portion of the extra funds will be saved for the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering in 2011. Collection of past semesters' debts has been secured by promissory notes; the revenue will be set aside for maintenance and repointing in the coming years. In addition to these savings, we have received some instant gratification in the form of a plasma television for the chapter room to promote brotherhood development.

**FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT**

... (Continued from page 1)

...Let's keep that fire burning brightly like the fire from the phoenix, and continue pushing forward and making everything we do memorable and noteworthy, so that every semester afterwards looks back and has that fire burning to top what we have accomplished this semester.

I thank all of you for letting me represent this fraternity by giving me the highest position a brother can hold. I hope I am leading you and continue to lead you to more improvements, more achievements, and ultimately the goal of winning the GSP award in 2010. Continue to aim high and strive for excellence in not only our scholars, but in every action we take so we leave the memory of us imprinted into the hearts of every person we meet.

In Phi,

Dennis Donatelli HSP, Fall 2008

## MEET THE NEW GUYS!

Our chapter continued to grow during the fall 2008 Semester. The brotherhood was proud to welcome to the Zeta Upsilon pledge class, with five new brothers being initiated on November 22, 2008.

### Justin Richman

#### **Pledge Class President**

**Hometown:** Allendale, NJ

**Big Brother:** Spencer Burke

**Roster Number:** 753

My name is Justin Richman, and I am a sophomore at Stevens Institute of Technology. I switched majors from undecided engineering to mechanical engineering with a minor in green engineering, which the school has recently begun to offer to students. I live in Allendale, NJ and at school I participate mainly in the schools cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field teams. I also enjoy playing music, mainly alto saxophone and am learning bass, and also enjoy drawing and art.

The reason I pledged Alpha Sigma Phi is because during my freshman year, I didn't feel any sort of connection with other fraternities. I would show up to parties but never got to know the brothers at their houses. Along with being part of cross country and track, it was difficult to be around for rush events. I started coming to rush events at the beginning of the spring semester with some friends and got to know the brothers a little bit. My friends ended up



receiving bids and pledged, and from hanging out with them, I got to see how much fun they were having with the overall process.

I also started to come by the house a lot more and got to know the brothers even better, and was hoping to receive a bid in the fall. I moved in as a tenant, due to financial problems and after seeing the good deal the house had to offer with housing and meal plan. It was a great not only for that, but because I was able to really connect with everyone here. I feel that I get along with everyone in the house and they remind me of how I am with my friends from home. I feel like I am getting to become a part of almost another family with everyone and its really cool to have the friendships and connections here. I didn't feel this with other

houses, and here I just felt I fit in really well and am happy to have been given the chance to become a brother of Alpha Sigma Phi.

### Aaron Dennis

**Hometown:** Bangor, ME

**Big Brother:** Evan Stalter

**Roster Number:** 754

My name is Aaron Dennis, and I am a 20 year old sophomore here at Stevens. I was born and raised in Bangor, ME, coming to Hoboken in search of a better education. I am currently a Computer Engineer hoping to minor in Green Engineering. I am very active on and off the Stevens campus, play for our Varsity Golf Team, intramural 3 on 3 basketball league, representing the Student Athletic Academic Committee, and a number of clubs and organizations. I currently work at the Information Technology helpdesk at Stevens, and I really enjoy tinkering with computers. My hobbies include



playing guitar, any athletic activity, computer programming, charity work, and cooking.

I pledged Alpha Sig because I strongly believe that being involved in a brotherhood will help to better me as a man. I feel gaining the experiences of helping to lead a house, becoming further involved in the Hoboken community, and gaining strong ties to a group of driven individuals will help me grow and evolve as a man. I also feel that I have a lot to bring to the house in terms of work ethic, spirit and energy.

MEET THE NEW GUYS!

**Mark Villavicencio**

**Hometown:** Bayville, NJ

**Big Brother:** Javier Kienzle

**Roster Number:** 755

My name is Mark Andrew Villavicencio and I am now a proud member of Alpha Sigma Phi. Although I was born in Bayonne, NJ I have a strong pride in my “home” country, Ecuador. My father was in the navy for 22 years therefore I moved all over the country. My hometown I guess you could say is Bayville, NJ which is where I went to high school, Central Regional. When I came to Stevens I was captured by the scene of the New York Skyline, and then and there I decided I wanted to come here. The funny thing is that when I came here I never saw myself joining a fraternity. I thought that fraternities were for people who couldn't make



friends and had to buy them. Yet when my friend, Simon Sidhom, invited me to the house I started to see the contraire. I realized that at Alpha Sig the brotherhood was legitimate and just the diversity of the brotherhood caught my attention. When I received a bid I was honored to be a candidate and although I told the brothers I wasn't sure at the time, I knew my answer would be yes. Through the process, I honestly believe that I have bettered myself as a man but most importantly I have made brothers for life.

**Jonathan Grana**

**Hometown:** Scotch Plains, NJ

**Big Brother:** Simon Sidhom

**Roster Number:** 756

Jonathan Grana is a Computer Science major originally from Scotch Plains, NJ. This is his second year at Stevens after spending a year in the cold barrens of Rochester Institute of



Technology. He is currently working at Morgan Stanley part-time, while attending classes. John brings a new bartending standard to the house with a certification from Mix 'em Up Bartending School, graduating top of his class. Besides adding to the social aspect of Alpha Sigma Phi, he also plans on adding to the service and volunteer side of the fraternity

**Feeroz Maqsudi**

**Hometown:** Montville, NJ

**Big Brother:** Simon Sidhom

**Roster Number:** 757

Feeroz Ahmad Maqsudi is currently a sophomore at Stevens and is enrolled in the Business and Technology program. He was born in Weehawken, NJ, but currently resides in Montville, NJ. Feeroz enjoys partaking in physical activity such as working out, running,



organized sports, and leisurely walking. Feeroz Maqsudi is Afghan-American and both of his parents were born in Kabul, Afghanistan. In his spare time Feeroz enjoys listening to music, watching movies and television, and lounging at restaurants.

**ASSISTANT STEWARD CLEAN-UP**

BY: NICK ESPOSITO

ASSISTANT STEWARD, FALL 2008

As a new brother, I decided that I didn't want to live in chaos and filth when I moved into the house. After some serious deliberation and a good number of fruitless attempts to get a cleaning service to come by, I finally got Dilla Maids to come once a week for cleanup. The quality of the cleaning is slowly



declining, but my floor's bathroom stays immaculate because I'm a lunatic. I've been told by bilingual brothers that they hate our guts and that they curse at us in Spanish every single time. Look for another update in a month or two, when they steal their first LCD TV from us!

-Nick Esposito

**SERVICE**

BY: S. RAZA HUSAIN

Not even the cold weather or a hectic semester can stop the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi. We continue to roll on this semester, with our many service events and great participation in the campus community. In September and November, we held two blood drives for the American Red Cross. In total, we collected an astounding 145 pints of blood, enough to save 435 lives or satisfy one of Tim's ginger vampire cravings!

Recently, a group of brothers volunteered at a hydration station for the NYC Marathon, braving cold weather, stampeding, or in my case, advances, by over 50,000 marathoners for 7 hours!

Our brothers are selflessly dedicated to the campus and community, and continue to be model students and citizens.

**WHY I HATE MY ROOMMATE.**

BY: ANONYMOUS

Hey guys, I hate my roommate! I will use a pseudonym to protect his identity, to keep people from improperly judging him. Gary Thomas Brown sleeps about 20 feet from my bed. He goes to work all day every weekday and leaves me all alone. I originally wanted to live with Gary Thomas Brown because he is a Computer Science major like me. I thought we could talk about computers all day! Unfortunately we can't because he has to go to work. But that's not the entire reason why I hate my roommate.

Gary Thomas Brown has black hair. He picks it every day (after he comes home from work) subconsciously, even when I ask him to stop. He told me that he was shell shocked from working at Movado. Truthfully, he is just trying to brag about his high stress jobs while I am stuck working for the campus help desk. He is very mean. Gary Thomas Brown shops at Express.

I may have given away too much personal information which may lead you to identify my roommate, that that is not my intention. I must use these attributes to adequately describe my unfortunate situation. Anyway, he tells me that he likes the clothes from Express. However I know that the real reason he shops at Express; it's because he knows I cannot afford to. He

says it's easy to tell which clothes are his if they are all from the same place. This translates to, I can tell my clothes from yours because mine are high class and yours suck.

Gary Thomas Brown has a 42" TV. Now this may seem like a good thing, but it's not! He constantly makes me turn off the TV when I'm done using it. Since the remote is always lost in the couch I have to get up and walk all the way over to the TV to press the off button. This is very hard since I like to place my rock band drum controller in front of the switch. He also makes me turn down the sound from MY SOUND SYSTEM when he wants to go to bed. It's my sound system, I don't ask him to turn down his TV when I'm going to sleep. He is very unfair.

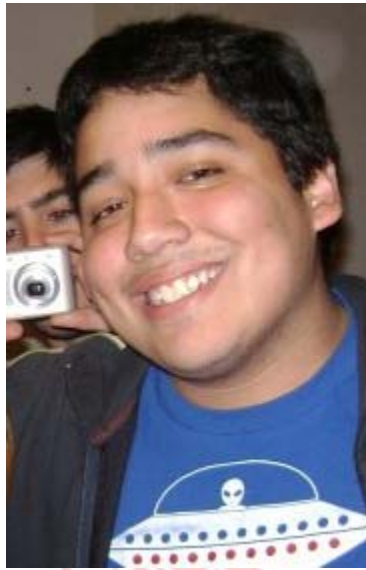
Despite Gary Thomas Brown's positive attributes I believe the negative ones are unbearable. Even though he may have a very cute bunny rabbit and a beautiful looking parrot, they do not make up for his crimes against humanity. Gary Thomas Brown is also kind enough to pad the floor with his expensive clothing. This allows me to jump off the couch and from my bed to the floor safely. But this also is not enough to calm my aggravation. I hope my roommate is able to read this anonymous report and identify his unwanted features.



## REFLECTIONS

BY: ERIC ERAZO  
HP, FALL 2008

What an enlightening semester it has been. This was my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester as a brother, and in the past three semesters I've seen 3 pledge classes cross, held a position for 2 semesters in the house, and had experienced the awesome feelings that came with working together as a house, having a little, and having my voice heard at house meetings. Many of the brothers that composed the backbone of the fraternity when I was pledging have become alumni. The house, most noticeably this semester, is truly fresh. The majority of the house now is made up of brothers who were initiated no more than a year ago. As is to be expected of a fresh set of brotherhood bonds in Alpha Sig, the house experienced change. I could see it in the littlest of observations, feel it in the aura of presence at the house meetings. And one thing I knew for sure is that everyone else, if they hadn't already, would feel it, too. This semester almost was interpreted as a threatening one. Since the brothers that held



together house that 3 pledge classes joined, there were moments that felt as if we were at a standstill as a house. A combination of new and different lifestyles present in the house as well as a loss of the brothers that had once set the mood in the house had already created a feeling of something that the house was not used to, almost like when you replace the breaks on a car. You're not exactly sure when you'll definitely have to push down to break in time; you just know you'll definitely have to. Followed by this feeling similar to a new pair of shoes came feelings of apparent apathy, tension that resulted from polar perspectives, and ambiguity towards the next step. This is a situation that I think this house needed to experience. I say this semester has been enlightening because the realizations of these feelings that exist have made the brothers come out of what would be defined as self-centered apathy. The feeling that comes from knowing the brotherhood we joined has hit a point where we need young brothers to step up to the plate has pushed those young brothers to do so. I believe this is an exciting time for our brotherhood, and only God knows what will happen. We may see dark days, we may see sparks fly, but that is the purpose of having a family away from home that is Alpha Sigma Phi. We take the good and bad together, and just like phoenix, like it does every evening, burns to ashes, only so it can rise again.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Brothers,  
During the holiday season, we tend to get so wrapped up in the commotion of the commercial aspect of the time that we sometimes lose sight of who we are and what makes us the unique individuals we all are. While wrapping up this issue, I asked several brothers what they were thankful for this thanksgiving, and here is what they shared with me:

**Evan Stalter-** "I am thankful for my brothers, friends, and good health."

**Mark Villavincesio-** "I am grateful for life and the opportunity to live it."

**Michael Yassa-** "I am thankful for my beautiful girlfriend Lauren, mama, and the opportunity to

spend another amazing year with all of my brothers."

**Tim Stanoch-** "I am thankful for the unconditional support of my family and friends."

**Eric Erazo-** "I am thankful for my family away from home in Alpha Sig."

I wish you all the very best this holiday season, may it be filled with family, fortune, and happiness. I hope you enjoyed this edition of the crossed swords, and may you keep your brotherhood and this house in your heart and prayers.

In Phi,  
S. Raza Husain  
HC HR, Fall 2008