

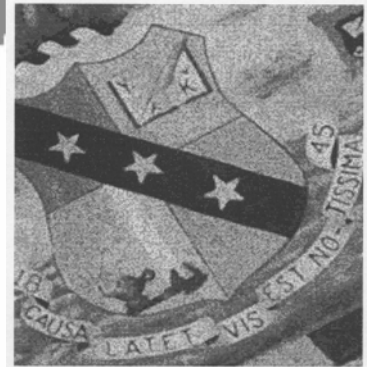
The Crossed Swords

Spring 2005

Alpha Sigma Phi / Alpha Tau

A Word From the Editor

The Crossed Swords is the chapter newsletter of Alpha Tau. Alpha Sigma Phi was founded as a literary society and the Crossed Swords honors that longstanding tradition. It is dedicated to recognizing events and changes within the lives of our Brothers. With eight newly initiated Brothers, the message of Alpha Sigma Phi will continue to thrive in our community, both locally and nationally. This semester's Crossed Swords will feature a tribute to the Old Gal, a Parents' Day, as well as other local happenings.



The Perfect Girl

By William "Starfish Trooper" Merunka
Treasurer

Often times in life people struggle to find the perfect girl. They think to themselves 'who is the perfect girl, and why can't I find her'. Although men may have different motives in their head, there is only one perfect girl. The perfect girl has over 60 different personalities with thousands of sub-personalities and is continually getting more personalities. Some of these personalities are good and stay around for a while, while some are bad and forced to go away. The personalities often interact with one another and learn from each other to try to be one personality but each one still has their own distinctiveness. The perfect girl may not have the perfect body on the inside or outside, but the bones and muscles that make her up are very strong. Her muscles are continuously improving and making her a girl who is better than the rest. She is very outgoing and there are no limits to what she can accomplish, especially once she is Phired Up. Now you may be asking, who is this Perfect girl and has anybody ever found her. The truth is that she is real and I have met her and she is awesome, she is the one and only Old Gal.

BBQ's – Alpha Tau style

By: Phil Jou
Steward

Starting after Spring Break, we have held a barbeque every Wednesday. The barbeques are primarily used as a rush tool to get new faces to the house and seek potential brothers for Alpha Sigma Phi. On April 6th, we decided to turn the barbeque into a primary Greek event for one time. We invited all the Greek houses to come to the barbeque. The turnout was amazing. There were representatives from all the Greek houses at the barbeque. This event tightened our bound of friendship with all the other houses. All the Fraternities and Sororities of Stevens Institutes of Technology were gathered in one place and had a great time. To those who have never been to our house before, we gave them a tour and showed them the most impressive feature of our house, the view from the roof. On one side there is the beautiful New York City Manhattan Skyline, and on the other side Hoboken city. The event was a huge success as the Alpha Tau Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi extended their hand of friendship to the rest of the Stevens community.

Parent's Day

By: Hieu "Dewey" Trinh
Vice President

On Saturday, March 12, 2005, the Brothers of Alpha Tau chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi held its 2nd Parent's Day at the chapter house. We had about 30 parents and family members attending with participation from 15 undergraduate members and our GCA, Erik Mooney. The day started with a short discussion of our parents' worries that are typically associated with a "Fraternity". Topics included hazing, the wellness of its members, scheduled cleanup and others were well

mentioned. Conversations ensued with much participation from visiting parents, and their confidence in the house and its membership grew greatly.

Lunch was served and the parents were given the chance to speak with each other. Right after lunch, we presented the Alpha Sigma Phi pledging ceremony for the parents to experience the fraternity's traditions and ritual. Overall, our parents were very impressed with the presentation of the brotherhood and are interested in coming back for another Parent's Day in the near future. I would like to thank all of the parents and family members for attending as well as the brothers and new brothers who participated. Special thanks go to Brothers Kim, Jou, and Merunka for cooking such an excellent meal.

The Ralph F. Burns Experience

By: Jason Travis

From January 14 to January 16, I had the honor of attending the Ralph F. Burns Leadership conference held in Medford, NJ. George Grzyb and Will Merunka attended as well as society facilitators. Myself, and Lawrence Lapitan attended as newly initiated members. If you had the opportunity to attend the conference but did not go, you missed out on a lifetime of experiences. The entire weekend is spent in log cabins with no television or phone, with a group of men whom you have never met before. There is an instant connection between all of you. You immediately feel comfortable with complete strangers. You talk with them as if you have known them your entire life. You all share this special bond called Brotherhood. One of the best ways they force you to get to know one another is through ice breakers. These are the kinds of events where you are forced to work in groups whether you like it or not. The

entire weekend consisted of group activities. Every activity could be related to life in the Fraternity. Not every member of the group was good at the same things. You had to be able to distinguish between a person's strengths and weaknesses. Possibly the most intensive activity, both mentally and group-wise, was the ropes course. In this activity you are put through a number of obstacles as a group and have certain goals that have to be achieved. The ropes course ends with a wall climb. The objective of the wall climb is getting a group of about 20 people over a wall that is about 12 feet tall. This event forces all members to realize any weakness they have and how those can fit into the dynamic of the group. No matter who you are, you can still contribute to the overall success of the group. This idea was not shown better in any activity than the wall climb. Lawrence and I came back from the weekend ready to go and do lots of great things with the Alpha Tau chapter. We both are looking forward to the future of this chapter. We are very capable of doing great, excellent things and hope to continue the tradition of being a strong group. Pictures of the weekend can be found on www.tobettertheman.org.

Marrying into Alpha Sig

By: Joe "House Ninja" Haydu III

I am getting married to Mackenzie White on June 13, 2005. I would like to extend an invitation to the entire brotherhood to join me for the wedding. There is only enough space for each brother. However, special considerations can be arranged with me prior to May 15, 2005. The service will be held in Woodstock, V.A. at 2 p.m. followed by a garden reception. No jacket and tie are required. Please R.S.V.P. by e-mail to joeandtilly@yahoo.com to get directions and information about hotels. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.

Graduating Class of 2005

By: Hieu "Dewey" Trinh
Vice President

The Undergraduate brotherhood wants to congratulate the graduating class of 2005. These brothers have committed a lot of their time to making Alpha Tau one of the best chapters of Alpha Sigma Phi. These brothers are Ryan Bender, Ellis Farmer, Philip Gengler, Daniel Heneghan, Thomas Lutz, Jin Kim, Jeremy Mikola, Brian Quinn, Nick Ruffilo, Richard Schweizer, Wei Alan Tsang, and Alexander Wan. We hope the best for all of you as you start a new chapter in your life. And remember, Alpha Sigma Phi is for life.

Work Day at Alpha Sigma Phi

By: Phil Jou
Steward
February 12, 2005

Each semester the Manager of the House plans at least one workday or weekend for the Brotherhood. The purpose of the workday is to improve the condition of the Chapter House. The primary focus is typically the public areas of the Chapter House. Not only do the brothers help but the pledges also voluntarily help out. This past workday, the primary focus was the basement of the Chapter House. There were also small projects on other floors of the Chapter House that were also taken care of. In the basement, the greatest and longest project was the dance floor. We rented a floor sander from Home Depot to sand the dance floor, and then we stained and varnished the dance floor. This improvement got rid of a lot of scratches that were on the floor and made the dance floor look better than it has in years. Other projects in the basement included, clearing unnecessary wood from the wood closet, general cleaning of the basement, and organization of the Manager of the House Closet where all the house tools

are kept. On all floors of the house, general cleaning was done in the public areas of the house. In addition to general cleaning, the public hallways were all patched up. There were holes left in the hallways of each floor due to the placement of the sprinkler system throughout the house. All holes were patched up and then each hallway was painted. The workday was a great time for the brothers to come together and improve an area which we all share together.

ZN Pledge Class

We commend the Zeta Nu pledge class on a successful initiation. The following 8 men were initiated on April 9, 2005. Spencer Burke, Dennis Donatelli, Bruce Jordan, Matt Keyser, Michael Lutkenhouse, Frank Magnotti, Andrew Scagnelli and Michael Yassa.

Upcoming Alumni Event

By: Thomas Lutz
Alumni Relations

On May 14th, the undergraduate members of Alpha Tau will be hosting the annual Alumni Softball game. The game will take place on the DeBaun Field, running from 12pm to 3pm. As soon as the game is over, there will be a BBQ at the chapter house.

Alumni News

Congratulations to Omar and Yasmin Delgado as they welcomed a new addition to their family. Alexandra Maria Delgado was born on February 13, 2005. She weighed in at 7 pounds 6 ounces and measured 20 inches.

Good luck to Tim Rashkin who is spending 8 months in Ohio as part of a leadership program with his employer, Johnson and Johnson.

Congratulations to Mike Krupnick on accepting a job offer with Taratec. Taratec is a leading consulting firm that deals with FDA compliance in the medicinal fields such as pharmaceuticals and bio-technology.

Michael Krause, Michael Komitee, and Pranay Khurana, all from the graduating class of 2004 is once more united as the three are now working for Vonage, the Broadband Phone Company.

Congratulations to Nirav Patel on his marriage.

The undergraduate members would like to thank the recent graduating class for taking the initiative to create a housing corporation and an alumni fundraising committee. The housing corporation will be lead by Michael Krupnick with the help of Craig Polk and Deep Balendra. The alumni fundraising committee will be lead by Michael Krause and Timothy Rashkin. The alumni council is the process of selecting members to fill these committees.

Special thanks go out to the following brothers for their contributions to this issue of the Crossed Swords:
Joe Haydu III, Phil Jou, Thomas Lutz, Will Merunka,
Hieu Trinh

Editor: Jason Travis