

THE CROSSED SWORDS

Spring Semester 2008

President's Report

Philip Shih-Jong Jou, Stevens Tech., '04
HSP-President

A few weeks have gone by since the semester has started and much has happened at Alpha Tau. The three weeks before pledge night were focused on rush events targeted towards individuals whom we knew were "on the fence" towards pledging. In the end our efforts paid off as on pledge night we had ten individuals show up. The next week the brotherhood made a decision to hold a second pledge night for one individual. This brought the Zeta Tau pledge class to eleven people, the biggest pledge class since I joined the brotherhood. Now that pledge night has passed, each pledge is in the hands of our new member educator, Gary Brown. Our focus is now primarily on Alumni Relations.

The undergraduates would like to build upon the current foundation and improve our communication with the alumni of our chapter. Alpha Tau's annual Black and White, The Talisman Ball, is a wonderful way to catch up with Alumni. This year the event has been planned for April 12th, 2008. Our Alumni Chair has many other ideas he plans to integrate in order to improve our relations.

In these passing weeks, I have proposed many constitutional changes and many have gone into effect. After the reactions from last semesters elections a change between the IFC Representative

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Service Report

Timothy Stanoch, Stevens Tech., '07
Service Chair

Alpha Tau has continued to show its philanthropic side again this year as we have participated in many service events. One of the best ways Stevens campus knows us is through our blood drives, which always turn out to be a huge success. This year, we went above and beyond our goal of 60 pints with the American Red Cross in our February Blood Drive, despite the apparent plague on

campus that was infecting most the students. The American Red Cross looks forward to hosting many more blood drives with Alpha Sigma Phi. Many thanks to all of those that helped make the blood drive a success!

In addition, the yearly Polar Bear Plunge saw more Alpha Tau sup-

port than ever. The Polar Bear Plunge is a fundraiser for the Special Olympics in which participants either fundraise or donate \$100 in order to dive into the Atlantic Ocean during the brutally cold February weather. This year, Alpha Tau represented Alpha Sigma Phi by donating \$400 and having four very brave brothers dive into the ocean.

We are also trying to revive our relationship with the Hoboken Homeless Shelter in the hopes of volunteering there on a regular basis

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Joe Arena, Mike Yassa, Ted Reed, Steve Iseals, and Gary Brown pose after the Polar Bear Swim in February. Photo Courtesy Mike Yassa.

The Science of Sociology

Javier Kienzle, Stevens Tech., '08

President, ZT Pledge Class

Golden Pussy Syndrome

The science of sociology is constantly developing, especially in our contemporary world. With advances in technology, communication has vastly improved and has shed light on an interesting field: Group Psychology. Group Psychology refers to the phenomenon and study of how organizations and groups behave. The process of group psychology can be identified in many instances, such as mobs and underground terrorist groups. For our present discussion we will shift the focus to the community at Stevens Institute of Technology, or, more specifically, to the community of undergraduate women enrolled.

Stevens is a technical school, and the type of education it offers tends to attract more men than women. As a result, Stevens has a rather uneven ratio of women to men, a fact well known by the student body. Unfortunately, this imbalance of the sexes has a significant effect on the undergraduate women: Golden Pussy Syndrome, otherwise known as GPS. As can be guessed by the name, GPS is the distortion of a woman's perception of their sex appeal. This is due mainly because of the lack of competition they have within a predominantly male community. Generally unattractive to begin with, these women redefine their idea of what is attractive and slowly bury themselves in a shroud of ignorant flatulence. They progressively develop the ideology that self-beautification is no longer necessary, believing that first impressions have no more significance. They stop shaving their legs, quit wearing make-up and don't shower as often; their glamour decays, yet they manage to believe their sex appeal improves exponentially. A consequence of this is that they lose their game completely and become dependent on alcohol as a tool to lure unfortunate prey.

GPS has no immediate cure, and it is deadliest when found among women who spread the plague as a group. Your best bet is to just completely avoid a victim when you see them. If you find yourself succumbing to their disgusting

HJP Report

Derek Ives, Stevens Tech., '06

HJP-Vice President

The semester thus far has been an interesting one to say the least. While there have been some ups and some downs for all of us, there is a recent up that I would like to make mention. Recently, the brotherhood had a story telling type of session. Many of the brothers took the opportunity to talk about events that had occurred in their lives in the past month or so. Some of the talking led into amusing stories about going out to the city, and things like that. Some brothers talked about the good things that have happened to them this past month. One brother just got engaged. Another brother's aunt had a child. I'll leave out who these things have happened to, so they can share the great news personally with you. Though I hope I didn't remove the excitement behind the news for these brothers. And while there were good stories, there were some sad ones as well, or things that had been bothering brothers at the time. Throughout this entire event, it made me feel glad that everyone was able to be open about many things, whether they were good, bad, or indifferent. I was happy to see that the brothers had trust in the brotherhood to talk about the events, the issues, the problems, the joys, and everything else. It was a good change of pace. Everyone respected everyone else's time, and the end result seemed positive. Perhaps we will have more story-telling sessions such as these in the future.

One last thing before I'm out. Always proud to be an Alpha Sig!

mentalities, proceed to get incredibly drunk so that you will not remember any of the events that ensue. If you happen to remember anything that happened, refrain from speaking of it at any time.

For those who stay strong and steer clear of this deadly disease and its effects, my hat is off to you. You can join me in laughter and pity towards the victims of GPS.

Javier Kienzle
Mechanical Engineer 09'

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and Brotherhood Development occurred. The IFC Representative is now an appointed position and the Brotherhood Development Chair is now an elected position. Additionally I have made changes to the functionality of the Awards Committee. Instead of the Awards Committee voting on the awards, the committee now creates a ballot and the brotherhood votes on that ballot for the awards. This is in response to reactions after last years awards were given out. This is a big change that has been embraced by the undergraduates. There are other changes that I plan to propose in the future but need to do further evaluation until I propose them.

On the weekend of February 8th, Thomas Ritter (Grand Chapter Advisor) and I attended the Presidents' Academy of Leadership. Both of us learned a great deal to aid in our respective positions. Speaking with members of other chapters gave great insight to many aspects of Alpha Sigma Phi. There are many similarities between each chapter and at the same time differences. The most prominent aspect is that our chapter has minimal problems in comparison to many other chapters. Those of us that have very few problems and stable chapters were giving much more advice then receiving it. The two items that all the Presidents' agreed on are to hold individuals accountable for their actions and to embrace our five values that are now open. The values of Silence, Charity, Purity, Honor, and Patriotism should be better used to define who we are and to aid in our manner "To Better The Man".

There are many more items I hope to accomplish before my term as both President and an undergraduate come to an end. With aid from my fellow brothers, the Alumni, the administration at the Stevens Institute of Technology, our National, and our brother's to be I hope to leave the Alpha Tau Chapter on a forward path towards great success. Our chapter has arisen such as the Phoenix to great heights and the continuation of this path will lead the chapter to be the best in the nation.

Philip Shih-Jong Jou, Stevens Tech., '04
HSP-President
Alpha Tau Chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi
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Pledge Educator Report

Gary Brown, Stevens Tech., '07

Pledge Educator

Wayne Stankiewicz, Stevens Tech., '06

Assistant Pledge Educator

The Alpha Tau chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi is proud to have eleven pledges this semester. The backgrounds of the group may be varied but their devotion to becoming brothers unites them as one single entity. The Zeta Tau pledge class has spent the past few weeks studying and reviewing the history of Alpha Sigma Phi as well as enacting the five values of the Old Gal. Their tasks have been quite varied, with fun activities such as getting women's phone numbers, to more meaningful and educational trips to the Beta Theta and Alpha Rho chapters of Alpha Sigma Phi at Rutgers and NJIT. Also included in this semester's agenda is a trip to Yale to visit the site of the Alpha chapter.

Each week during the pledge meeting different areas of Alpha Sigma Phi history are discussed as well as one of the five values: Honor, Purity, Patriotism, Charity and Silence. The pledges are each asked to share their feelings and interpretations on each value as well as discuss instances where they have referred to the values to determine their actions. As always, interviews are an integral part of the pledge process and with a requirement of 30 this semester, the pledge class will have to keep busy so they don't fall behind.

With the semester progressing so quickly pledge night seems like it was just yesterday, however the pledge process is more than half finished. If all goes well the pledges will be initiated the weekend of April 5th: just in time for them to attend Talisman as brothers of the fraternity.

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during Fall 2008. Of course these are but a few examples of Alpha Sigma Phi giving back to the community; it is not unlike us to help an elderly neighbor buy groceries or shovel snow for our entire block. We are always striving to look for other outlets to truly "better the man."

Thoughts on Pledging and Brotherhood

Steven Dante DeLuca, Stevens Tech., '07
HS-Secretary

During these last few weeks of the pledge process, I have come to know my fellow pledge brother Chris Swartz quite well. Because



The Zeta Sigma pledge class. Clockwise from left: Steve DeLuca, Timothy Stanoch, Lenny Tsatskin, Joe Arena, Justin Eusebio, Dave Arvelo, Stephan Mahabir. Christopher Swartz is inset. Photo courtesy Mike Yassa.

of how well we know work together, explaining how well we work together would need a full novel.

I have found him to be, without a doubt, one of the most resourceful, handy, and genuinely nice person I have met in a long time. When dealing with something, it may seem at times that he, at least initially to me, is “all over the place”. But when everything is said and done, the task that he initially set out to accomplish is not only completed, but completed with an air of confidence in knowing what he was doing all along.

The most defining thing he has done, the thing that really set in stone, to me, his attitude towards life, was during his preparation for a Yacht Club event. It was approximately 30 minutes until the start of the event, and Chris has just returned to the house with about 100 pounds of chicken, fresh from the store and completely

frozen solid. Obviously, it ALL had to be defrosted and cut into cookable portions before arriving at the event. So, to speed up a normally lengthy defrosting process, Chris had the idea to employ the services a very sharp knife and a hammer to literally hammer the pieces of chicken out of their initially frozen-together block state, into smaller pieces, which he then threw onto a plate and put into a microwave, so that they would “warm up”. Needless to say, the kitchen was an absolute disaster afterwards, but the results speak for themselves. Amazingly, he made it to the yacht club event with edible chicken.

This approach, coupled with his always upbeat attitude, really makes Chris Swartz an asset to not only the Zeta Sigma pledge class,

but also to the whole brotherhood.

Parents Day

Derek Ives, Stevens Tech., '06
HJP-Vice President

Recently, Alpha Tau held its annual Parent's Day event. A number of this semester's new member's parents showed up to the event. The parents were given tours of the house throughout the day, with some even viewing the spectacular city view from the balcony of Room 8. The question and answer portion help parents understand some of what we do, how the house and housing works, as well as other various questions that were on their minds. Afterwards, the parents were given an opportunity to view the public portion of the formal pledging ceremony, giving them a little bit of a glimpse of our core values and what we look for. Finally, the remainder of the event was spent showing various videos and Castle Point King talents that the brothers have created and participated in. The event was an overall success, and had a positive impact on the parents that attended.