



THE SPIRIT OF ALPHA CHI

“ONCE A BETA, ALWAYS A BETA, EVERYWHERE A BETA”

334 E University Parkway, Baltimore MD 21218

Winter 2009/2010

FOCUSING ON PHILANTHROPY

by Maxamillian Hunt, *Philanthropy Chairman*

From the first day of pledging, we learn of Beta's commitment to community and are taught to exemplify this ideal in our own lives. On campus and in our neighborhood, our chapter prides itself on our level of involvement, and our efforts were recognized with the 2008-2009 Greek Philanthropy Award. So far this semester, the Alpha Chi chapter has already taken part in multiple philanthropic events on and around campus. To start the year off, the chapter led approximately eighty freshmen in an effort to revamp the nearby Wyman Park Dell. This event was a component of the President's Day of Service, which was held as a part of the inauguration weekend for our new University President, Ronald Daniels. Over the course of an afternoon the volunteers trimmed overgrowth, spread mulch, cleared paths, planted new vegetation, collected trash, and did many other things to make the park more suitable for the use of Homewood students and those in the surrounding community. Betas at the site simultaneously directed volunteers and lead by example, making the day very successful. The community organization that oversees the park was both gracious and exuberant in their thanks. We will be participating in monthly park clean-ups throughout the year to continue to maintain and improve Wyman Park Dell.

In the month of October alone, we participated in three weekend events to benefit our community. We provided sandwiches to locals in need through the Hopkins Inter-Faith Center, participated in a Halloween food drive, and took part in another Wyman Park cleanup. We also took our semi-annual trip to a local Boy Scout camp, where we helped repair tents and repaint a building.

One of my goals as the new Philanthropy Chairman has been to establish an ongoing relationship with one of the student-led charitable organizations on campus. Multiple student groups on campus have requested that we host events for them, and we are entertaining using social fundraisers to create new philanthropy partners and collect money for good causes. Additionally, I have been working towards a partnership with the

Red Cross here at Hopkins. Already we have worked at the local blood drive and at an event making care packages for US troops overseas. I now sit in on the Red Cross executive meetings, and so far our pooling of resources has been very successful. Ultimately, we hope to cohost a large gala style fundraiser, which would bring in donors from both the Homewood and medical school campuses, similar to other successful joint ventures, which have raised tens of thousands of dollars.

The current focus of the Johns Hopkins chapter of the Red Cross is to raise money for the Measles Initiative, which is an effort to eradicate measles in the same way smallpox was wiped out in 1979. A partnership between Alpha Chi and the JHU Red Cross can help us work towards annual events that solidify our reputation as a fraternity that benefits its community and opens doors to opportunities we could not take advantage of alone. ■



Brothers Clarke, Tao, Paulzak, Tharakan, and Culbert repairing a roof at the local Boy Scout camp in Spring 2009.

SIAVASH RAIGANI WINS GREEK SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR

by Christopher Capuano, *Treasurer*



The Johns Hopkins chapter is proud to announce that Brother Siavash Raigani, Vice President of the Alpha Chi, was honored as Outstanding Greek Sophomore of the Year by the Office of Greek Life. Brother Raigani was selected for the honor based on his academic and extracurricular achievements, his dedication to the Alpha Chi chapter, and his appreciation and embodi-

ment of the ideals of the Greek system. Despite double-majoring in Biophysics and Mathematics, Brother Raigani has maintained his position on the Dean's List for the last three semesters. Outside of his studies, he conducts research under the supervision of a Professor of Biophysics. He also spends many hours each week volunteering as a tutor for inner-city youth and as (cont. p3)

A LETTER FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Distinguished Alumni,

I hope that this letter finds you all safe and well. Every semester it is important to evaluate the chapter and our focus to the objects of Beta Theta Pi. I am pleased to inform you the Alpha Chi chapter continues to live in accordance with the objects set forth by the Founders. Academically, the chapter worked diligently to improve our scholarship and the results were apparent; the chapter achieved a 3.31 semester GPA average. Our Recruitment Through Scholarship program is

well underway, and we have already received applications and have interviewed all the prospective freshmen applicants.

As a growing chapter with nearly 50 members on our composite, maintaining tight bonds of brotherhood has been a large focus this semester. A brotherhood budget was created to fund programs such as our recent philanthropy event at Broadcreek Scout Camp. Our goal is to provide an environment that fosters bonds of brotherhood on a weekly basis.

I have also placed an increased focus on alumni relations this year. Our Alumni Chairman, Dean Clark '11, organized a very successful young alumni weekend, and it was great seeing recent graduates and hearing about their newest adventures. I am excited by the chapter's initiative to reach out to alumni. If you have not seen us recently, I invite you to come visit for Homecoming next semester. Please know that you are always welcome to visit our chapter at any time.

Alpha Chi has once again shown strong support of our community and

earned the Greek Philanthropy Award last semester. Our commitment to community service has been a source of pride for our chapter, as well as a way to differentiate us from other organizations.

Realizing that athletics and healthy habits are just as important as scholarship, the chapter competed in multiple interfraternal sports leagues. In football, we lost one regular season game which we later avenged in the playoffs. We fell short in the finals, but the experiences I shared with my brothers were memorable to say the least.

As this semester comes to a close, I realize how much I care for Alpha Chi. Like many of you, Beta has created eternal relationships and unforgettable memories for me. I am grateful that the chapter allowed me to lead them this past year. It is comforting to know that our chapter has capable young men that will provide leadership for the future.

Yours in _kai_,
Charles Han, AX 1066 ■

ADDING TO OUR RANKS

by Josh Bundy, *Spring 2009 Pledge Educator*

With the end of another semester at Johns Hopkins comes the end of another pledge program. As the last initiated class's Pledge Educator, I had the most fortunate position of overseeing their education and development into the nine new brothers they are. As many of you may remember, the Beta pledge process is not an easy endeavor.

Unlike some other fraternities, which seem to view fraternity life merely as a social outlet, our program stresses making good men better and preparing pledges to become men of character that we would be proud to call brothers. It entails many hours

of meetings, study and philanthropy, requiring great discipline and unfaltering character to succeed. These nine young men rose to the occasion just as countless pledge classes before them and proved their worthiness to bear the letters Beta Theta Pi.

Bolstered by their willingness and desire to become brothers, the pledges endured eight weeks of intensive immersion in Beta, seeing their fair share of hardships but also a great number of successes. Of these achievements, a few are rather noteworthy: they successfully completed the Boy Scout retreat and its COPE teambuilding course;

learned the ways and customs of another Beta Chapter (George Washington University); and organized a Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser to garner money and support for their Relay for Life philanthropy project. The program then culminated in their final written test and interview on April 25th, 2009, to which they passed with flying colors of delicate pink and blue. And on April 28th, 2009, they were initiated into our brotherhood. Join me in giving a round of snaps for our newest brothers in _kai_. ■

A NEW ERA IN BETA FOOTBALL

by Dean Clark, *Alumni Relations Chairman*

Last spring there was much speculation over the outcome of the annual alumni vs. actives football game. The brothers touted a rebuilding year while the alumni pointed to their near perfect record in recent history. Despite the high expectations on both sides, only one could emerge victorious. The gridiron battle was arduous,

and alumni Elliot Kwong, James Tang, Dave Pollicino, Adam Gentry, and Jenson Dunn all incurred self-sustained injuries. In the end, it was a grueling shootout that came down to wire, ending in a 35-28 win for the actives.

The victory proved to be a catalyst for us actives, and using the momentum

from the game, we moved head-on into our intramural season, shutting out the majority of our opponents, and coming just short of first place in the playoffs. Though it was a slightly disappointing end, it was a terrific season, and all the actives look forward to another well fought game against the alumni in the spring. ■

ALUMNUS JAMES CHU'S CALL TO PHILANTHROPY

As brothers of Beta Theta Pi, there are many concepts that are introduced and reinforced from our time as pledges and as actives. One such concept that we heavily emphasize is that of mutual assistance. During our days as active brothers, we often spent a Saturday afternoon or a free period supporting our community through organized cleanups, blood drives and doughnut sales in the Breezeway. When we supported our fellow man, we did it as a chapter, as a team of like minded individuals, as a family. Most importantly, through our giving, we affirmed our commitment to Beta, it's principles and it felt good.

As alumni, we have seen our priorities change over time due to the fluctuations

of life events. Working an 8 to 5 with a long commute, raising children, and even a healthy social life can put a damper on our desire to make the effort to help others. Personally, I found that motivating myself towards actions of mutual assistance often felt fruitless or impractical, especially given the fact that there was no ready and willing team of like minded individuals a phone call away. Likely, many of you may have felt the same way.

As such, in the spirit of the coming holiday season, I challenge each and every alumni to reaffirm their commitment to Beta by supporting an aid organization or charity in whatever manner possible. Some ideas to accomplish this would be to orga-

nize a food or clothing drive, help a soup kitchen, or even run a fundraising Happy Hour at a local watering hole. Individually, we may make a huge difference, but as a group, this season, we can help make this world a better place.

Yours in __kai__,
James Chu
AX 1000 ■

James is supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society by running in the PF Chang's Rock and Roll Half Marathon. For more information, please visit: <http://pages.teamintraining.org/nca/pfchang10/chucifer>

CULTIVATING THE INTELLECT

by Matthew Wasserman, AX 1070

Through the pledge process, we learn that our education should consist of more than just our coursework, and the brothers in our chapter continue to grow from our experiences outside the classroom. As globalization makes international business and politics more common and the spread of information more fluid, countless students across the country find themselves studying abroad and taking internships in nations that were once a dream destination for even the most affluent travelers.

This summer I was lucky enough to participate in an internship program located in Shanghai, China working for a French-owned pharmaceutical company. During my time there, I worked as a project management and business development assistant helping to streamline the drug pipeline while also doing market research on implementing new drugs in China and southeast Asia. Shanghai is an unbelievable city that has grown and developed by leaps and bounds over the past century, and is a now a major hub of global trade and finance.



Brothers Wasserman, Taylor, and Choi atop Yellow Mountain in Huangshan, China.

Amazingly, I was not alone on this journey as fellow Beta, Jung Hwan Choi, AX 1063, also participated in a summer internship at a multinational steel company in a nearby suburb of Shanghai, and Ezra Taylor, AX 1060, also happened to be traveling in the area. Living, working, and traveling in

China taught valuable lessons about how to conduct ourselves in business and everyday situations in an international setting. We all hope that our future academic, professional, and personal lives bring us back to China in the future! ■

SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR

(continued from front page)

a surgery clinic volunteer. In his spare time, he writes the fashion column for the campus newspaper – keeping brothers well-groomed and stylish.

Brother Raigani has played a profound role in shaping and leading the Alpha Chi chapter in his time as a brother. He first served as Philanthropy Chairman, dou-

bling the chapter's philanthropy hours in a single semester. Presiding over the Kai Committee, Siavash has done an excellent job ensuring that the ideals of Beta Theta Pi are upheld by our chapter. He also plans and organizes "Brotherhood events" to maintain the tight-knit brotherhood we cherish.

The Johns Hopkins chapter is proud of Siavash for receiving this reward, and values him as a member of the brotherhood. We look forward to future semesters with Brother Raigani as an integral part of our chapter, as well as to his promising future as an alumnus. ■



BETA THETA PI ALPHA CHI CHAPTER

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ALUMNI UPDATES

Once a Beta, Always a Beta, Everywhere a Beta. In keeping with this credo, each alumni newsletter will set aside a section to keep you up-to-date with your fellow alumni. If you would like something to be included in the next edition of the newsletter, simply send an email to: alumni@hopkinsbeta.org ■

HOMECOMING 2010

Friday, April 9

- Presentation of the Silver Seals and Fraternal Fifties, 4:30-6:30pm
Clipper Room, 2nd Floor, Shriver Hall

Saturday, April 10

- Pre-game tailgate, 12-2pm
Beta House, 334 E. University Pkwy
- Post-game BBQ, 5-10pm
Beta House, 334 E. University Pkwy

Sunday, April 11

- Alumni vs. actives football, 12-2pm
BIA Field, 3740 Tudor Arms Ave

- Andrew Isaac married Kate Szarama on November 14th; they held their reception in the George Peabody Library.
- Brian Wendelburg got married, and Jeff Hanson destroyed his iPhone whilst jumping into the pool at the reception.
- Farrokh Farrokhi is now the proud father of two daughters; Sophie Fatemeh Farrokhi was born on 9/10/2009.
- Howard and Hanna Turner welcomed Anna Berit Cope Turner to the family on 9/18/2009. Howie is leading the contracting team for Virginia Trane who has just been awarded a substantial photovoltaic project for Virginia.
- Ben Freeman is enjoying the weather of upstate New York while working on an MBA at Cornell.
- Chris Langein has moved to Chicago and is working as a restructuring associate at the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis.
- James "Jason" Siegler is throwing a party in New Orleans for Mardis Gras. Anyone sober enough to drive down, or rich enough to fly is invited to visit.
- Adam and Chhaya Gentry are now the proud parents of Aaron Deven Gentry.
- Dan D'Orlando is now an electrical engineer for Northrop Grumman Electronic System in Baltimore, and living in Federal Hill.
- Kevin McCable is a postdoc in Environmental Engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder and has recently married.
- Scott Miserendino is engaged and getting married next fall.
- Scott Shen got married in 2006 and is now the proud father of Alexa, born in 2009; he and his family live in the Boston area.
- Rob Fan, living in San Francisco, is chasing the Silicon Valley dream - founding and running his company, Sharethrough, specializing in social media marketing tools.