

Beta Data



Executive Board:

- Master —
Dan Isaac
- Lt. Master —
Aaron Feinberg
- Scribe —
Joseph Vulih
- Exchequer —
Will Blashka
- Rush Chair —
Josh Nason
- Pledge Master —
Aaron Leibowitz
- Sentinel —
Andrew Chessen

The Official Newsletter of the Beta Colony of Alpha Epsilon Pi

A Pledge Class of One

Alex Callen and Adam Schneider —

On February 9, 2006, the re-founding fathers of Alpha Epsilon Pi's Beta Colony inducted its Alpha pledge class, a group of intrepid young men eager to leap into the unknown, joining a fraternity without a house, without the recognition of the Interfraternity Council (IFC), and without substantial connections on campus. We, Alex Callen and Adam Schneider, were among those inducted. We had met in Libe Café by chance only three days before the ceremony, and met most of our other fellow pledges at the induction itself.

other people riding with you, especially if you make the trip twice in 24 hours. After that weekend, we were no longer only fellow pledges; we were friends.

With this newfound verve, we began taking the initiative, building a lacquered, hardwood, multipurpose table, performing community service around the Ithaca area, participating in intramural sporting events, and planning a date night (the refounded chapter's first social event). By the time of our initiation on April 4, 2006, we had truly become brothers already.

The eleven Alphas are:

(Left to Right)

(Back Row) Adam Schneider, Dan Kaufman, Steve Gordon, Max Lobovsky, Matt Windt

(Front Row) Alex Callen, Alex Gates, Dave Schindelheim, Mike Laskin, Scott Frankel, Zac Peebles

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It was difficult to meet without a house, so we simply ate together in various dining halls and held study hours after dinner. This setting, unfortunately, was not conducive to fraternal camaraderie, and few of us spent time together outside of these pledge events. When our Pledge Master, Aaron Leibowitz, asked, "How many pledges are there?" we answered, "eleven." "No, you're a pledge class of one," he told us, but we didn't feel unified. It wasn't until our pledge trip to Boston that we really started to bond. On a six-hour-long car ride, you can't help but get to know the



Master's Corner

Dan Isaac —

As the leader of an organization, one tends to look back on his tenure and ask the question “What have I helped to accomplish.” When I took the helm back in October, it became readily apparent that I would face an uphill battle. The group of men of whom I took the reins was young, raw, and untried. Throughout the months that followed my election, I was never disappointed for a minute.

I look back on what we have had to deal with throughout this

school year: a once-loose camaraderie, seemingly impossible restrictions placed upon our rush process, and weeks of prostration before the University. I remember how amazed I was and continue to be that Beta has pushed on through it all. Today, we stand 24 men strong, a member of the IFC in good standing with the University, poised to move back into our house next semester and ready to prove to everyone that we’ve finally arrived. And as hard as it all was, belief in the cause made it seem almost easy. This has been an experience that I will never forget.

We have successfully laid the ground work—I can look back and confidently say that “This is good.” But despite it all, we still have a very long way to go. But with the help of you, the alumni, we can return Beta to its former glory—we can once again make it great.



Spring Rush a Success

Josh Nason —

Despite a precarious relationship with Cornell, not having our house yet, and only the 13 Founding Fathers making up the colony, the Beta Colony had a very successful rush. Our 11 man Alpha pledge class was larger than many of the established fraternities on campus, and we feel confident that the quality of our pledge class is greater than we ever could have hoped for.

Given Cornell’s stance on our status in the expansion process, Alpha Epsilon Pi was not permitted to participate in the formal IFC re-

cruitment process in January. Despite this, we did our best to make our presence known during that week through contacts with freshmen and some relatively informal night events as a chance to have some fun.

Immediately following the IFC recruitment period, Cornell granted us the provisional status necessary for us to fill our pledge class. The next several days were filled with dorm-storming, a Facebook ad campaign, and a culminating informational meeting in Robert Purcell Community Center. After the

informational meeting, rush was conducted in a manner similar to the founding father search process. Rushees were interviewed by various members of the founding father class, and with help from AEPi National Leadership Consultant Colin Sutker.

Bids were handed out over the next couple of days, as rushees continued to meet the brothers through dinners and poker games. The Pledge Class Inductions were held February 9, 2006 as the Alphas began their pledge period.

AEPi at Jews Into the Streets: Mitzvah Day

Adam Schneider —

On Sunday, April 9, 2006, Beta took part in the first annual Jews Into the Streets: Mitzvah Day, sponsored by Tzedek, the Jewish social justice group on Cornell's campus. After enjoying a bagel brunch in Robert Purcell Community Center, we went to a picturesque local Girl Scout reservation, located right on the shore of Cayuga Lake. After being given a brief tour of the facility, we then went to

work. Some of us worked on de-rusting and painting the foundations of the log cabins, while others performed trail maintenance, raking up branches, twigs, leaves, and other debris that had cluttered the ground from the winter season. After a very productive day of performing community service, establishing a potentially long-term relationship with an organization in the Ithaca community, and bonding as a

newly-expanded brotherhood, we enjoyed a pizza party at the Nines sponsored by Tzedek. As the Chapter's first philanthropy event with the newly-initiated Alpha Class, it was a tremendous success.



Matt Windt loading a dead branch into a trailer

The Wonderful World of Philanthropy

Lee Leviter —

Greetings from the fantastic fiefdom that is philanthropy!

Our community service blitz commenced the week before spring break when Beta volunteered to call potential donors for a Temple Beth-El blood drive. In previous years, the three or four blood drive organizers had to contact up to eighty individuals. However, when each brother was allotted eight potentials, the grunt work for Temple Beth-El was significantly reduced.

The partnership with Beth-El continued into April, when brothers Lee Leviter, Aaron Feinberg, and Joe Vulih participated in a Temple-run program to volunteer at the Ithaca Salvation Army. There, from 2:30 to 5:30, the brothers helped prepare 40 lunches for the homeless. Feinberg commented, "When I saw how appreciative the din-

ers were, and when I realized how much some truly needed these lunches just so they wouldn't starve, I felt honored to participate in this program." Indeed, the entire chapter was proud that Beta was represented. We look forward to future projects with the synagogue.

Speaking of food, Beta recently signed up for a program with the Red Cross wherein, twice a month, it helps provide lunches for 50 needy Ithacans. Since the start of our involvement, we have donated \$100 worth of sandwiches, drinks, fruit, and snacks.

Brother Josh Nason, who is on the Alpha Epsilon Pi International Philanthropy committee, encouraged the chapter to participate in a program known as Century Club: 100 Chapters, 100 Dollars, 100 Hours. Since it was currently March Madness, we each put \$10 into a NCAA tournament pool. Half

of the money went to the Century Club, and half went to the pool winners.

Our final brotherhood philanthropy project was also our Alpha pledge class philanthropy project. On Sunday, April 9, we participated in a Hillel-wide day of Tzedek called "Jews into the Streets." Participants signed up in teams, and each team was assigned a project site to work on for the day. Brother Adam Schneider was the team's project leader when we helped clean the nearby Girl Scout Camp.

As one of the only significant ways that we were able to interact with the Cornell and Ithaca community, philanthropy was a very important component of our refounding process. It allowed us to garner a positive reputation for ourselves, sets a high standard and an important precedent for local involvement and, most importantly, unites us as a brotherhood.

Moving into the House

Alex Gates —

Driving down Thurston, one can't help but notice the amazing houses lining the road. Each of those old buildings has their own distinct character and beauty, crowned by the impressive 3 million dollar Delta Chi house. Humbling before its fellow road-mates, the Alpha Epsilon Pi house makes a bleak appearance of brick, steel and glass. Its hallow, empty halls bearing a stark resemblance to the elementary school I was in ten years ago. School is Back in Session! Come the fall of 2006 AEPi will

be moving back into the burgundy brick bungalow to fill the dark corridors with its bright brothers. However, when we move into the barren chateau, all we will have are the clothes on our backs and the brotherly bond unique to AEPi. To fill this material void, the Beta Colony has begun a series of projects that involve constructing furnishings and other essentials. Our alpha pledge class made a magnificent table that encapsulates both the class and charisma of the Beta Colony. In addition, plans have already been drawn for book shelves with which to

re-establish the Schwerner library. These projects will continue into the summer and next semester as many of the brothers will be spending whatever weekends they can rebuilding, repainting and all around de-shiterizing the stagnant structure. Because of these efforts and a communal enthusiasm for restoration, when asked about the status and livability of our house, I simply reply: "Remember the moral of the three little pigs: Bricks Are the Best!"

AEPi's First Date Night

Alex Callen —

The first social event since the Beta Chapter's refounding was held on March 9, 2006. The evening, planned by Alex Callen and Aaron Feinberg, was a huge success. It began with an unforgettable four-course meal at ZaZa's Cucina, a swanky, Italian-style restaurant in downtown Ithaca known for its enticing fare and elegant atmosphere. After dinner, Adam Schneider evaluated the evening's cuisine, saying, "Well, for a vegetarian and a kosher kid, the evening's two organizers

picked some pretty damn good food." According to Brother Feinberg, "The polenta was clearly exquisite. It was the shining star of the evening. It dazzled us." As dinner came to an end, drivers shuttled guests to the nearby Bowl-O-Drome. Bowling in fancy clothing was a gamble that paid off. As Scott Frankel put it, "I originally thought that bowling would stink as a date night activity. However it turned out to be a blast and a half!" The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all those in attendance.



Alumni Announcements

Joe Vulih —

Seth Isenberg '92—I am now working for SAP America Running the consulting business in the pacific northwest. I live in Portland, OR with my wife (Dr. Amber Keyser) and my two children, S. Fisher Isenberg (4) and Beryl Fife Isenberg (20 months). I keep in regular touch with Eric Wagner '92 and James Lapushner '95. I can be reached at 503-293-3290 and sbisenberg@comcast.net

Marv Silverman '57— I would like to hear from any '57 classmates who plan to attend our 50th re-

union in June, 2007.
marvs@redshift.com.

Les Glick '67— Is VP of Class of '67 and would like to hear from Alum brothers '67 in 2007 40th reunion. Contact trevy2@aol.com. Les is a partner at Pouter, Wright, Morris & Arthur in Washington, DC. Specializing in international trade law.

Congratulations

To Al Ripans '55 on his daughter Holly's Wedding.

Reunion Week Information:

- Friday, June 9th from 4-6pm there will be an alumni event at the AEPi house at 140 Thurston.
- Saturday, June 10th from 4-6pm there will be a reception at Dino's Bar and Grill, owned by Andrew Sachs '01, on College Ave.

Be on the lookout for more information at Reunion Check-In. For questions regarding reunion weekend, contact Master Dan Isaac at dsi3@cornell.edu

To get an announcement in the next newsletter either mail your announcement to the house Attn: Scribe.

War Escalates As “Operation Fresh Start” Deemed Successful

“AEPi already looks to settling into the region for the long-haul, what with their reacquisition of a base of operations on Thurston Avenue...”

Zachary Peebles —

With tensions mounting in the north [campus], war seems to be a foregone conclusion. The rivaling camps of Alpha Epsilon Pi, who proudly refer to themselves as the “Lions”, and Sigma Alpha Mu, who have adopted the appropriately less-terrifying “Sammy”, remain strained with enmity as rush season becomes a mere scar in the decoration of battle-wounds displayed by two fraternities. As the academic year draws to a conclusion, the two fac-

tions anticipate a fresh invasion next year, when armies will battle over which force can negotiate an alliance with the coveted ladies of Delta Gamma and Kappa Kappa Gamma. The athletic divisions of AEPi and Sammy have already begun basic training for their inevitable encounters on the fields. AEPi already looks to be settling into the region for the long-haul, what with their reacquisition of a base of operations on Thurston Avenue, a key strategic stronghold for the fraternity. They have recruited a fresh crop

of new brothers, who have just completed their tour as the Alpha Pledge Class. In addition, their recent diplomatic standing has increased immeasurably, as they have secured a position in the coalition of the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC). With the help of Beta alumni, as well as the promising outlook for the drafting of a Beta Pledge Class, it appears that AEPi is making a strong offensive on all fronts political, social, and otherwise for the 2006-07 initiative.



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Alpha Epsilon Pi Beta Colony
Joseph Vulih, Scribe
140 Thurston Avenue
Ithaca, NY 14853

Phone: 908-313-4628
Email: jpv23@cornell.edu
Website: www.aepibeta.org

Commitment for a Lifetime.



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Fill out this form and return to:

Joseph Vulih, Scribe
140 Thurston Ave.
Ithaca, NY 14853

Do you need to update your information? _____

Do you have an announcement you would like to place in the next issue? _____

Would you like to be put on an alumni email list to receive announcements from the chapter via email or to connect with other brothers? _____

Name _____

Year _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Please accept my enclosed donation of _____ to be used for _____

Announcement _____
