



BETA THETA DATA

Fall 2012 Volume 61 Number 1

Alpha Theta President's Message

You know, some guys just don't get it. You may have read that New York Times page 1 story a couple of months ago about the difficult

Ed Catto '85 edcatto@hotmail.com

times Binghamton is having with their fraternity system. Or, earlier this month you may have read how three Cornell fraternities (Acacia, Pi Kappa Phi and Tau Epsilon Phi) were placed on interim suspension after the university had received reports about hazing and high-risk drinking. Closer to home, my daughter Tess is a sophomore at Gettysburg, and she almost didn't pledge her sorority because of hazing fears.

I'm proud to confidently say that's not what the Beta Theta chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha is all about. That's never been what we're all about. I don't know if it was our rich history, dumb luck or the guidance of one amazing gent named Hugh. Or maybe a combination of all of that. Or, probably, something I'm not smart enough to understand.

On our best days, we're about so much more than these fraternities in the news. Our focus was never about the hazing or high risk drinking. If that was at our core, I know you guys wouldn't be wasting your time reading this, or volunteering to bring back the house or eagerly awaiting our triumphant return to the hill.

In this edition of Beta Theta Data, you'll read about some of the very exciting developments underway. We're going full speed ahead in our Pike 2.0 efforts. And like you, I just can't wait.

We're going to show these guys how it's done.

And we're going to do it together as a brotherhood.

φφκα,
Ed Catto
mobile 201.314.4558; business 917.595.4107

Ramping Up for Colonization

Unlike rushing where you have a robust, active undergraduate chapter present, Pike's pending colonization effort faces some unique challenges. In a nutshell, we face a need to present a grand, hundred year tradition in the absence of any undergraduate presence on the Hill for the last three years to tell and sell the story.

Logan Cheek '60
loganmckeecheek@gmail.com

So what do we do about this on Monday morning? At the recent fall homecoming meeting, I made two proposals to brand and burnish our image in the Cornell community:

1. That we commission and install an official New York State historic marker [www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/marker/srvmarker.html] in front of the house honoring Elbert P. Tuttle '18.
2. That we name and appropriately mark the 17 South Avenue property as the *Elbert P. Tuttle Memorial Chapter House*.

Both proposals involve minimal costs, and require no official town or University approvals, but provide us with several immediate and long term advantages:

- It showcases to the entire Cornell community the qualities of scholarship, leadership, athleticism and gentlemanly standards embodied by Brother Tuttle. For a fellow who was one of only a half dozen or so Cornell alums to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, that recognition is sorely lacking. We Pikes should be prime movers in correcting this.
- Closer to home, it won't hurt to appear "cool" to our two immediate sorority neighbors, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Phi Sigma Sigma.
- It gives us a competitive rushing edge - at least until the other fraternities catch on - as possibly the only Greek house on the Hill so marked. (At one point, the Delta Phi house at Llenroc had a marker as Ezra Cornell's home, but I'm not sure its there anymore.)
- For those nattering nabobs of negativism within Cornell community who would rather abolish the Greek system altogether, it will create and burnish an image of the role we play in developing world class leaders and public servants in Renaissance men such as "Tut".
- For the very near term, it provides us with a positive selling point to secure quality tenants for the 2013-2014 rental season.
- If all fails and we are unsuccessful in colonizing, we leave a permanent memorial to the memory of Judge Tuttle.

The historic marker has received interest by those attending the September homecoming meeting, and well as everyone with whom I have spoken about it since. I have also received the enthusiastic endorsement and support of the Tuttle heirs. If you care to donate to this special project, please send your checks - so marked - to Steve Amador.

The naming of the chapter house was also discussed. However, the directors suggested that this issue be opened for discussion among all alumni members. Accordingly, please provide us with your thoughts, by indicating support for these issues at these links

1. Tuttle NYS historic marker
groups.yahoo.com/group/17southavenue/surveys?id=3122853
2. renaming/markings 17 South Ave as *Tuttle Memorial Chapter House*
groups.yahoo.com/group/17southavenue/surveys?id=3122840
and post your comments at the 17southavenue list [groups.yahoo.com/group/17southavenue/post], or just address an email to 17southavenue@yahoo.com, or respond to the appropriate email thread [groups.yahoo.com/group/17southavenue/message/890]. The poll and comments will give the Directors a sense of the body as to how to proceed.

Of course, any of the brethren who would care to write a substantial six figure check to restore the chapter house would certainly be entitled to naming rights.

Board of Directors, 2011-2012

<u>term</u>		
2013	Steve Amador, Treasurer	703-269-7096
2014	Josh Tauber	516-448-5803
2015	Ed Catto, President	201-314-4558
2016	Bob Forness, Vice President	973-701-7323
2017	Tim Cole, Alumni Relations	508-982-5266

Calendar

Feb 22-24, 2013	Pike University, New Brunswick NJ
May 1, 2013	Spring 2013 BΘData deadline
June 6-9, 2013	Reunion Weekend
June 8, 2013	Alpha Theta Reception, 17 South Ave.
September 21, 2013	Homecoming
November 1, 2013	Fall 2013 BΘData deadline
July 31- Aug 4, 2014	PiKA Nat'l Convention, Baltimore MD
March 26, 2017	Centennial of chapter chartering

Colonization - Preparation Continues...

Brothers, I just want to let you all know that we are working closely with representatives from National and the University. Joe Wegelin was in Ithaca the week of October 25th and he met with representatives from Cornell to discuss our recruiting plans. He

also conducted a training session for members of our Alumni Advisory Group. National has a strong approach to colonization that has proven successful on other campuses, and we look forward to capitalizing on their experience. Joe met with the team on October 25th and went through both the training materials prepared by National and the expectations of the Alumni Advisors. We are also coordinating our efforts with the AIFC, the Alumni Interfraternity Council, as they adjust to the changing expectations of the rush and new member education processes.

During the discussions with Joe Wegelin, he shared the processes and procedures for both the colonization process and for the roles of the advisory group.

- AAG Meeting Agenda 25Oct12
www.betathetadate.net/AAB/AAGAgenda_Cornell.121025.doc
- Alumni Advising
www.pikes.org/media/documents/AAResources/Alumni_Advising.pdf
- Chapter Leadership Model
www.pikes.org/media/documents/AAResources/Chapter-Leadership-Model.pdf

The six-week colonization plan and checklist for the petition to charter are available from the AAG members.

More details on the timing and activities will be available in the coming months. As always, volunteers are invited to participate. We have a good core team but a few more brothers will be a big help in this critical time. If there are any potential rush referrals that alums wish to pass along, please direct them to National [www.pikes.org/RecommendAMember.aspx]. You can contact me [arg42@cornell.edu] if you want more information.

Homecoming 2012

Beta Theta Pikes gathered for both Homecoming and ZuluFest on the same weekend. Not bad for a chapter that is silent.

Bob Forness '87 bob.forness@gmail.com

At Homecoming, news of our 2013 return to campus created an energy that was understandably lacking in recent years. Volunteers stepped forward and ideas were shared. Good food and wine emboldened discussions of how to restore the chapter. The event was a success again, thanks to our excellent host and newest brother Ricky Chachra, with the support of Steve Amador, in both spirit and fact, from afar. 17 South Ave, and that other Chapter House on Stewart Ave, enjoyed the presence and custom of Pikes once again. Even the Cornell football team caught the fever with an incredible trouncing of Yale!

Make plans to join us next year when our colony welcomes us back to the Hill!

The Pike Oar Project

Logan Cheek '60
loganmckeecheek@gmail.com

Sometime in the last fifty or so years, someone donated a crew oar, which, in spite of its dusty and disrepaired condition, hangs in the downstairs bar.

To promote Beta Theta's tradition of A's in SLAG for the colonization rush, I'd like to get this oar cleaned up and restored, while adding to it one or two others. The blades of each would be marked up with the names and class years of any brothers who were involved in any way with Cornell crew.

From my own recollections, I recall Harry Miller '58, various members of the Krech family, Chris Barbieri '62, and Bob Forness as A's in Cornell's BMA ("Best Men Afloat") tradition.

If you were involved in crew, or recall any of your PiKA contemporaries who were involved, could you please send me their names?

We also have a chance to add to our oar collection with the purchase of another used shovel-blade oar from the Cornell crew. The tax-deductible price is \$300. If you're looking for an excellent year end assist to your 2012 income tax return, please send a check to Alpha Theta (Steve Amador or Tom Sporney) made to the "Whitney Sanford Cornell Rowing Fund" with a notation "Pike Oar". This will give us three oars for the bar – the one we have, the vintage one that I'll be donating, and a contemporary shovel blade.

Which will give us plenty of room for lots of names. Assuming we've had an oarsman in the fraternity every other year or so, that means there must be fifty of us out there somewhere.

Homecoming Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the Alpha Theta Fraternity was held at 17 South Avenue, Ithaca, New York, on September 21, 2012, being the 93rd Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by President Ed Catto.

16 members were in attendance in person, and 47 by proxy.

Minutes of the last annual meeting were read. Ralph Olivier pointed out that he is not the chairman of the Capital Improvement Fund as stated in the minutes, and the Fund in fact has no chairman. The minutes were approved as corrected.

A report by Treasurer Steve Amador was read and approved.

Thanks was given to Steve Amador for managing the finances of the Corporation so that the house survived without the active chapter.

Thanks was also given to Ricky Chachra for managing the running of the house during the suspension of the active chapter.

Joe Wegelin, National Director of Expansion, gave a report, and a question and answer period, concerning the colonization and the recruitment process.

President Ed Catto reported on future fundraising activities. As a part of his report, President Catto also gave thanks to Ricky Chachra for his work in managing the house.

Tom Sporney gave a report on Alumni Relations. He reported that dues and contributions to the Capital Improvement Fund have increased over the previous two years. Tom and wife Jerri were given a round of applause in thanks for their work in handling the dues, the newsletter, and the alumni database.

A report on the Hugh Gibbs Capitol Improvement Fund was given by Ralph Olivier. The report included presentation and discussion of a long term capital improvement and maintenance plan.

A motion was made and passed that all official acts of the Officers, Directors, and Trustees of the Corporation during the previous year be ratified and approved.

The meeting was opened to nominations for Director to succeed Evan Fried, whose term expired today. Tim Cole was nominated. A motion was made and passed that nominations be closed. Tim Cole was elected by acclamation.

The meeting was opened to nominations for Trustee of the Hugh S. Gibbs Capital Improvement Fund to succeed Ralph Olivier, whose term expired today. Ralph Olivier was nominated. A motion was made, seconded and passed that nominations be closed. Ralph Olivier was elected by acclamation.

The meeting was opened to nominations for Trustee of the Hugh S. Gibbs Capital Improvement Fund to succeed Tim Cole, who resigned upon his election to the Board of Directors. Ed Conti was nominated. A motion was made, seconded and passed that nominations be closed. Ed Conti was elected by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. A motion by Steve Amador was seconded and passed that:
 - a. the annual rent for the 2014-2015 academic year be set at \$130,000.00, but subject to adjustment by agreement of Chuck Whitehead and Steve Amador in the event that the size of the colony warrants adjustment;
 - b. that the rent automatically increase by 5% each subsequent academic year; and
 - c. that the active chapter contribution to the Hugh S. Gibbs Capital Improvement Fund be set at \$200.00 per member per semester, beginning in the fall of 2014.
2. Motions were made by Logan Cheek that:
 - a. we commission and place a NY State historic marker in front of the house honoring Elbert Parr Tuttle AB '18, LLB '23 as a member of Beta Theta Chapter and National President of Pi Kappa Alpha, and commemorating his accomplishments as chief judge of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; and
 - b. we name the chapter house the "Elbert P. Tuttle Memorial Chapter House".

A motion was made, seconded and passed that these matters be referred to the Capital Improvement Fund for drafting of exact language and obtaining approval of Brother Tuttle's family and, as to the first motion, investigation as to compliance with local regulations. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the latter motion be tabled until the next meeting.
3. Tom Helfrich raised a question concerning overlap of positions on the Alumni Advisory Group and Alpha Theta board of directors. No motion was made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
David S. Miles, Secretary

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of Alpha Theta Fraternity was held at 17 South Avenue, Ithaca, New York, on September 21, 2012.

The Meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by President Ed Catto.

The following Directors were present: Catto, Amador, Cole and Forness.

Also present: Miles, Secretary.

Minutes of the last directors' meeting were read and approved.

The following were elected officers of the corporation:

President - Ed Catto
Vice President - Bob Forness
Treasurer - Steve Amador
Secretary - David Miles
Alumni Relations - Tim Cole

A motion was made, seconded and passed that Bob Forness proceed with creating a secure on-line repository of Corporation-related documents.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
David S. Miles, Secretary

Dik's Ravings

Brian Pickerall, Tom Berg, me, and our respective spouses attended a bunch of Washington Nationals baseball games this past season.

Dik Saalfeld '80 rfs25@cornell.edu
Washington correspondent

The Nats took the NL East, but sputtered in the first round of the playoffs. This has

nothing to do with our fraternity, other than the fact that it gives me the opportunity to point out that Brian is vastly overpaid, given that his season seats are posh. I am also vastly overpaid, but being a profligate wastrel, I can only afford seats that are just below the holding pattern for Andrews Air Force Base.

After more than 30 years, I finally saw my fraternal big brother, Brad Garrigues, again. His son Jonathan was celebrating a Marine Corps promotion, so I drove down to Quantico and helped the two of them celebrate by smoking a cigar and getting my butt kicked shooting pool. Jonathan and his brother, Bradford, fought in Fallujah. Jonathan keeps in peak physical condition by taping up all but one or two of the holes on a gas mask, putting it on, then running. The first couple of times he tried this he passed out cold walking across the room, but now his body is conditioned to using less oxygen, and he can run a few miles. In uniform, with a full pack. This also has nothing to do with our fraternity, other than to warn you that if you visit Brad and meet Jonathan, Do Not Mess With Him. He seems like a fine young man, but you don't want to take any chances. A Marine who likes to run without breathing would think nothing of removing your spleen through your nostril. Brad is hale, and pretty much looks the same, except he shaved off his beard. He's a preacher at Badin Shores Chapel, on Badin Lake in North Carolina. Brad was a Mummies devotee back in the day, and could chug beer faster than any human being I ever met. His Mummies mug, which I inherited, is still hanging in the C-house. Life is strange, isn't it?

Donzo Wierbilis retired from Hewlett Packard this past summer. He doesn't even have to get used to sitting around the house in his underpants, because the last few years he mostly worked from home. He lives in Colorado, and in addition to his suburban home, he has some country property where he occasionally goes to drink and fire large caliber handguns.

Bob Montione doesn't have a television set. He has a radio, but after the hurricane the reception was poor, so on election night he fired up his antique dial-up modem to check on the electoral votes. He called me in a complete panic. I calmed him down, wondering why the election was so aggravating for him. "Election, hell!" he yelled. "The sun is going Supernova!" Monti, not knowing any better, had chosen "The Onion" as his news source. I told him to stock up on ice cubes and sunglasses.

Erik Andersen raises chickens. Not for a living, mind you, just for fun. He swipes their eggs, but in return gives them a nice life, which he allows them to live out to whatever the chicken equivalent of three score and ten is. His father-in-law, Joseph Farris, was recently on tour promoting his latest book, "A Soldier's Sketchbook: From the Front Lines of World War Two." Mr. Farris, a WWII combat vet who has contributed hundreds of cartoons to "The New Yorker" since the late fifties, was in DC at a book signing at the National Geographic. I met him and asked why he allowed his smoking hot daughter to marry the likes of Erik. I was just about to tell some EA stories when the vaunted NatGeo

security team arrived to escort me to the alley. I held onto my copy of the book, which is a corker, so go buy it.

John Cosulich died last May. John and I rushed the house together. He was an honest, generous, upbeat, fun, intelligent man with absolutely no guile whatsoever. I wept when I realized we would never again perform the "mine's longer" routine we perfected over about a hundred beers during our undergraduate years, not because it was worth a damn, but because we would laugh until our faces hurt, which is contagious, and everybody needs to laugh.



Alumni Notes

Derek Kaye '07 was married to his lovely wife Debbie Jones Kaye in Cancun in May on Memorial Day. Mike O'Neill, Mitch Reiman, and Zack Warren were in attendance and part of the wedding party. It was a great re-living of college fun, if only for the weekend.

Chapter Eternal

The brothers of Beta Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha extend their sympathy to the families and friends of the following brothers:

Robert T. Brunton '38

John P. Cosulich '80
May, 2012

Harris R. Morrison '42

Alan Nordwall '52
March 3, 2012