



BETA THETA DATA

Spring 2013 Volume 61 Number 2

President's Message

It is with tremendous pride that I am writing this article for Beta Theta Data as the new President of Pi Kappa Alpha at Cornell.

John Paton '16 johnpaton@gmail.com

In just three months, we have already accomplished so much. Having recruited 76 men, we are now the second largest fraternity on campus. I am tremendously proud to call these men my brothers-and they certainly exhibit the PIKE ideal of scholars, leaders, athletes, and gentlemen.

Let me give you some concrete examples. In addition to our numerous club

athletes, we also have three varsity athletes at the moment. One of these athletes, Carl St. John '16, will be swimming in the US Open this summer, competing with the best swimmers from across the country for a spot on the US team. In terms of scholarship, we are represented in each of Cornell's undergraduate colleges, and have an average GPA of 3.45-ranking us 6th of all the fraternities on campus. Included in this group is a Rawling's scholar, Nick DiPreta '16, as well as a number of individuals with GPA's above 4.0 - Chris Larmore, AEM, '15 and Eric Grohn, Applied Engineering Physics, '15.

From my perspective the initial colonization has been a complete success, exceeding all expectations. In terms of our chartering tasks, we have now met or exceeded 50% of the tasks set for us, putting us on track for chartering in December. Our aim is no less that to recolonize faster than any colony in PIKE's history. The number of events this semester has been staggering- 5 mixers, founder's day date night, formal, habitat for humanity community service, golf tournament, dodge ball tournament, intramural soccer and softball. This new colony is extremely active on campus, and our goal is to keep on expanding, doing even more to make a positive impact on the Cornell community.

All of this, of course, could not have been accomplished without the tremendous support from the nationals, and you guys, our much loved alumni. I always appreciate the opportunity to learn from alumni, and I'd like to invite you to connect with me personally should you make it back to campus in the near future.

Thank you for your continued support to Pi Kappa Alpha.



Alpha Theta President's Message

That old hackneyed phrase, "It's always darkest before the dawn" seems like it was designed to cheer up the hopeless. But when, and if, you finally get to the dawn, it all of a sudden becomes an indisputable law of the universe. And let me tell you, we've all been working hard to get to the dawn for these past few years.

Ed Catto '85 edcatto@hotmail.com

The good news is it's finally here. Yes, it's the dawn of a new age for Cornell's Beta Theta chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha. Through the efforts of so many dedicated alumni, committed personnel from National, and even the Cornell Administration, we're on the cusp of starting something new. Oh, and let's not forget our outstanding new class. I have no doubt these guys are going to knock it outta the ballpark.

As alumni, I'd encourage you all to get as involved as you can through volunteerism, attending events like Reunion or Homecoming, fundraising or even simply keeping the conversation going on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/groups/33898651164].

Of course, it's not going to be the same as the good old days. But I'll let you in on a secret; even the old days weren't as good as the good old days. Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, we'll be a new Pike chapter, founded on the leadership values of brotherhood, scholarship, sportsmanship, a sense of fair play and a focused responsibility to others.

It's all new, but in so many ways, it's all the same. Heck, anyone could have just talked to Gibber for 20 minutes and learned all that.

Fasten your seat belts, it's going to be an awesome ride!

Reunion & Homecoming 2013

For Cornell Pike alumni, new members, families and friends, 17 South Avenue is rolling out the welcome mat on Saturday of Reunion Weekend. Join us on June 8th from noon to 2pm at the House. Show your support for our new colony, meet a few of our new brothers, tell a few war stories (embellished by imagination and the fog of time), and enjoy the fruit, veggies, cheese & drinks that will be served. As always, we welcome your families to join in on the fun!

Arrangements for Homecoming, September 20-22, are in the works as this issue goes to print. Mark the date, and keep an eye open for further details on the 17south list and the Cornell Pike alumni Facebook page.

Board of Directors, 2012-2013

term		
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

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
November, 2013	Pike University, New Brunswick NJ
May 1, 2014	Spring 2014 BΘData deadline
July 31- Aug 4, 2014	PiKA Nat'l Convention, Baltimore MD
March 26, 2017	Centennial of chapter chartering

Advisor Update

Stage 2 is complete and we have a colony! To refresh, our first step was to get the University to agree to allow Pikes back on the hill. The second was to recruit new members and to form a colony.

Well, Mike Monnette and Josh Murphy did a splendid job with the recruitment and we now have 76 members of the Pi Kappa Alpha Colony at Cornell! A number of alumni have met members at Pike University and at their colony meetings. All the feedback has been positive. In addition, they just completed the first visit from John Mickles, a consultant from National. He completed additional training for the officers and identified areas for continued focus.

The new members have a lot to do as they complete their bylaws and, and strengthen the bonds the various activities around campus. The alumni advisory group will continue to support them in their journey.

Meet the Pikes

On Thursday March 7th, the new Beta Theta was rolled out to anxiously-waiting alumni and the Cornell community at Duffield Hall. Consultants Mike Monnette and Josh Murphy culminated

six weeks of intensive recruiting and education with a program that made PiKA official on campus.

Mike and Josh gave a brief history of the process and progress, and Tom Sporney and Bob Forness both spoke their thoughts in having Pike return. Tom presented Ricky Chachra with an Alpha Theta Recognition Award for his stewardship of 17 South Avenue over the past three years and his initiation into the brotherhood. Each new member was introduced individually to the audience. Alumni in attendance were Logan Cheek '60, Tom Helfrich '64, and Nate Rudgers '82, Warren Kurtzman '87; Kara Miller represented the Cornell Greek office.



Both Josh and Tom challenged the new colony with its next goal: chartering in spring 2014.

Call to History

Historian Matt Harkins '16 is looking to compile the legacy that is Beta Theta. He's already spoken to some alumni, but needs to speak to many more to fill in the gaps. He's looking for anything, no matter how seemingly inconsequential it may be. If you would like to contribute any stories or history, please contact Matt [mpharks@gmail.com]

In addition, several new members will be involved in a project this summer to contact alumni to update contact information and discuss plans to connect with new members in the future. So, give these guys a few minutes of your time to tell them about your Pike experience.

5 Questions with... Warren Kurtzman '87

Warren was Parliamentarian for the Beta Theta chapter, and is presently President/Chief Operating Officer at Coleman Insights [www.colemaninsights.com/about], in the Raleigh-Durham, NC area.

- Warren, how did you get to your current position at Coleman Insights?*

[WK] I went to Cornell thinking I'd go on to law school, but Greg Weidner '87 and I stumbled upon the training program at WVBR when we were freshmen. Greg didn't stick with it (although he did many memorable radio shows that fall!), but I did, and I eventually became the station's general manager for two years and set my sights on a career in the radio industry. After taking a job at a radio station in the Utica-Rome market for a few months after graduation, I moved to the research side of the business when a friend referred me for an opening at Arbitron, the company that produces the ratings for radio. Every move I made from there was through someone I knew and I was eventually referred to Jon Coleman, who is a legend in my business. I moved to North Carolina in 1995 to work for Jon who became my mentor and friend, and in 2008 he named me president/COO and turned over the day-to-day operations of our company to me.</blockquote>
- You have an eclectic collection of sports teams that you follow: Minnesota Vikings, Tottenham Hotspur, Carolina Hurricanes, NC Tarheels, NY Mets. We understand the local & hometown interests, but explain your connection to the Vikings & Spurs.*

[WK] The Vikings are an easy one—I was a big fan of Fran Tarkenton when I was a kid. Unfortunately, I never got to see him play in-person. As far as Spurs are concerned, my favorite sport by far is hockey and I was in major withdrawal during the 2005 NHL lockout when I was in London on business. One night, jet lag prevented me from sleeping and I sat up all night watching English football and became really engrossed in it. I returned home a few days later to find that my cable system carried the Fox Soccer Channel, which broadcasts at least a half dozen EPL matches every week. I chose Spurs because they had a few players at the time that I really liked—especially a striker named Fredi Kanoute, who is no longer with Tottenham—and I didn't want to root for a “Big Four” club (Manchester United, Chelsea, Arsenal or Liverpool). That would have been like rooting for the Yankees, which as a Mets fan, goes against the core of my being.
- You run & play ice hockey. Give us your recipe for staying healthy.*

[WK] I wish I could answer this question and claim that I have consistently been in good shape. Up until last year, I wasn't, but then decided I needed to get in shape before I turned 50. My thinking was that if I didn't do it be then, I'd never do so, and that could lead to more health issues when I got older.

The recipe is pretty simple. I follow the basic tenets of The Zone diet, which is all about balancing your protein, carbs and fat intake appropriately. It's not a diet that you go on to lose weight and then get off of it. It's a way of eating that I've found when I stick with on a consistent basis, I keep the weight off.

The other part of the recipe is exercising regularly. I run four days a week, I play a few softball games most weeks in the spring and fall and I play in a regular Sunday night hockey game.

None of this is rocket science—just eat well and exercise and staying in shape is pretty easy to accomplish.
- We've seen old photos of your classmates. Aside from the social media contact, Who have you managed to visit personally? Who have you lost touch with and would be interested in seeing?*

[WK] I was just in New York on business a few weeks ago and had dinner with Dave Fagan '87, Michael Schiff '87, Jeff Schwartz '87, Adam Ratner '87, Brian Golden '87, Al Tantleff '87, Brett Nussbaum '87, Howie Ross '88 and Jon Kaiden '88. Those guys—along with Greg Weidner '87—remain close friends to this day and I see them pretty regularly, although not often enough. Other Pikes from my era who I've been fortunate to see in person in recent years include Bob Forness '87, Steve Gal '88 and Andy Glasner '86. I also felt really fortunate to visit with Jeff “Zulu” Rosenberg '86 three times in the last few years of his life. Those visits included once with my son—who still talks vividly about how inspiring Zulu was in his fight against cancer—and once about a week before his passing, when I also got to see Joe Kane '86 and Steve Rosenberg '89. There are so many other guys I unfortunately haven't seen in person in a long time or with whom my contact is limited to e-mail and social media who I'd love to be able to hang out with. Distance has prevented me from seeing Keith Roberts '87 and Steve Erdman '87 in far too long; I lived with both of them junior and senior years and wish we could see each other more often. Alfredo Martel '87 was one of my roommates when I lived in the house and even though I've been to the Twin Cities on business numerous times, our schedules have not allowed us to get together, which is unfortunate. I wish I could have more contact with Barry “Thrax” Lawrence '84 than just on Facebook and through his annual March Madness pool. The trio of guys in Room 1 who were instrumental in recruiting me to the house—Dave Zodikoff '86, Jeff Horowitz '86 and my big brother Charlie Snider '86—are people I haven't seen in 20 years, which I would really like to change. As I'm typing this, so many other people come to mind—Chris McCann '87, Karl Townsend '87, Ed Catto '85, Joe Kane '86, Jeff Lowe '86...the list is too long.
- What's your fondest memory of 17 South Avenue?*

[WK] One that stands out was in October 1986. We had a Date Night at the house on the night that happened to coincide with the legendary Game Six of the Mets-Sox World Series. I have vivid memories of everyone dressed up and with our dates crammed into the tube room and New Englander Ken Parsons '88 talking trash when his Sox went up by two runs, proclaiming “If the Sox lose this game, I'll eat my hat!” Needless to say, me and my fellow Mets fans tried to make that happen...at least until our alcohol-infused celebration took over. Ken, if you're reading this, I have a few words for you: “A little roller up along first...” All of that said, while memories like that one stand out, my fondest memories are more of the everyday variety—getting toughed, riding the house, Gibber, Box and his industrial cleaning products, ersatz grilled cheese, drinking Roscoes, singing “On The Lawn,” “The Rat” trick play in intramural football, the “stars” on the Room 7 ceiling.

Dik's Ravings

Greetings, fellow Imperialists! Join me in welcoming our new colony. I hope we can exploit many natural resources before the winds of revolution blow thr... Wait.

Dik Saalfeld '80 rfs25@cornell.edu
Washington correspondent

Foreign Service
Officer Tom "Yaz"
Yazdgerdi informs

me that this is not what is meant by "colony" in the situation at hand, namely, the re-colonization of the Pike chapter. This changes everything, as I had planned to survey our realm, riding crop in hand, and determine how best to further expand our empire, even if we just expand it to include that parking lot behind Young Israel that we used for decades until the University figured out that we didn't actually own it. Apparently "dibs" is not an acceptable canon of property law.

Tom Berg, Brian Pickerall, me, and our respective spouses attended a concert in northern Virginia performed by the Cornell University Chorus, an all-female choral ensemble. They all looked to be about 12, but Tom and Pick, parents of young adult women, although fortunately not the same ones, inform me that the ladies were all college age. The concert was in Falls Church, an early 18th century sanctuary replete with ancient burying ground, that is now incongruously nestled amongst modern roads, garages, tattoo parlors, and chain restaurants, sort of like spats on sneakers.

Paul Wessel was in town a few weeks ago. Despite being a wealthy New York lawyer, Paul prefaced his attempts to cadge free food and lodging by asking, in a text message, "do you have bacon?" Positive responses prompted follow-up questions involving the state of guest rooms, as well as beer supplies. He has two kids at Cornell, with another on deck. Maybe he's not as rich as I thought.

Andy Bjork recruited me to provide copy for a book he's writing on pub crawls. I'm supposed to write about pubs in my neighborhood, Georgetown, but the sad truth is that I haven't been to pubs in years. I'm weeks late with my material, mostly because I hit the sack at 10, which, apparently, is prime pub crawling time, so research will have to wait until I get permission to change my bedtime. This from the man who knew all the after-hours places in Ithaca and surroundings, and could party all night with the best of them, back in those halcyon days of yore.

My wife and I went to Antarctica recently. We saw about 43 squillion penguins. They're like squirrels down there. Penguins feed their chicks through regurgitation, and they poop lustily. You can sail down the coast of the Antarctic peninsula and find the rookeries by smell from miles away. In other travel news, Nate Rudgers and his wife just got back from the Galapagos. But don't feel inadequate! I hear Elmira is pretty this time of year. Also, going to Wegmans can be adventurous, especially if you're still taking those pills that require you to know where the whizzer is at all times. Yes, you are an



International Man of Mystery! That's why we bid you. Also, you were good for dues and a hefty beer tab.

At dinner with some Cornellians recently, I pointed out that I have met people from both classes of '07. The meetings, of course, were decades apart, but it still gives one an interesting perspective, from horse buggies to Priuses, from inkwells to iPads.

Chapter Eternal

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

Douglas Bryand Blackburn '39

Joseph H. Pokorak '74

I am sorry to tell you that Joseph Pokorak is deceased. He always loved his Fraternity! Thank you for the years he had with his brothers. - Bonnie Bolster Pokorak

Rt. Rev. John H. Smith '61

June 2, 2012