



BETA THETA DATA

Fall 2017 Volume 66 Number 1

SMC Report

The fall semester marked the Beta Theta Chapter's Centennial and has truly shown the resilience and character of our brotherhood. Recently, Beta Theta has initiated three new members as well as completed our elections for the incoming Executive Board.

Harrison Johnson
hjohnsonpike@gmail.com

This semester the actives had to face the struggle of not being able to utilize the chapter house at 17 South Avenue due to lacking a Certificate of Compliance. Most of those living in the house are sophomores from our most recent new member class. Almost immediately upon being initiated, these members were given the unfortunate news that Beta Theta was being placed on suspension. Between these two setbacks, they have effectively not had the ability to experience the social perks of fraternity life. I cannot express how impressed I am with their continued drive and desire to better themselves even though they have yet to see the full benefit of Beta Theta's unparalleled property. Nonetheless, they have kept a great outlook and kept true to their commitments of philanthropy, community service, and athletics.

Beta Theta's athletics have been impressive as always. Pike currently holds first place for the Intramural All-Sports league. There are also multiple philanthropy events being hosted by Beta Theta this semester in which the proceeds will be donated to the Mental Health Association of Tompkins County. Many brothers have also been participating in a multitude of philanthropy events on campus and sacrificed their time to community service events as well. For example, many brothers recently participated in *Greeks Give Back* and *Into the Streets*, where the brothers went to places in need of assistance within the greater Ithaca community.

Beta Theta has also had to respond to hardships on Cornell's campus. It's extremely unfortunate that this semester contained two unforgivable incidents of bias by other chapters in the IFC community. Resulting from these, Beta Theta has had productive dialogues regarding these issues and firmly defends its focus on diversity and inclusion. As a response, Beta Theta has created a Diversity and Inclusion chair, who will be in charge of our already existing Diversity Committee. This chair position will dedicate their efforts to addressing this very relevant topic within Beta Theta.

Finally, I could not be more proud or grateful that I have had the opportunity to represent and lead this chapter of great men during these trying times. The quote "adversity does not build character, it reveals it" has been the true takeaway of the last year. Beta Theta's brothers have consistently and relentlessly proven to both myself and Cornell University that they are men of impressive character who constantly embody the components of SLAG.

Alpha Theta Community Improvement Campaign

The Alpha Theta Corporation created the Alpha Theta Community Improvement Campaign (ATCIC), an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit, in 2015.

Elliot Dee '84
elliotdeellc@gmail.com

The purpose of the nonprofit is to support charitable and educational activities of the Alpha Theta Corporation and the Beta Theta Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha at Cornell University. The fund can be used for capital campaigns to refurbish the Pike house and for philanthropic initiatives pursued by the active chapter of the fraternity. The ATCIC is managed by three directors: Elliot Dee, Tom Sporney and Bill Page. Chuck Smith, Ken Hull and Logan Cheek serve as an Advisory Committee to the ATCIC.

Thanks to the generous support of many alumni the ATCIC was able to allocate \$6,300 in October towards the repair of the front porch railings and the fire escapes. These repairs were required by the City of Ithaca in a recent property inspection. In order to receive a Certificate of Compliance (CoC) and for the active chapter to be able to hold social functions at the house and participate in rush next spring, it will be necessary for the ATCIC to raise an additional \$20,000 by December 31 to pay for the cost of two fire escape ladders, front patio railing & landscaping, rear entry step railings, and remediation for 34 other line items. A special end of the year giving campaign will be pursued in December to take care of these necessary capital improvements.

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Centennial 2017

When Centennial was in the preliminary stages last year, not many people expected an event of this magnitude. The unprecedented alumni turnout for our chapter's historic occasion was nothing short of incredible. From a jam-packed

John Sulich, '18
jsulichpike@gmail.com

17 South, full of brothers and their loved ones, to a memorable formal banquet at the Country Club of Ithaca, this weekend had all the bases covered. The 150+ brothers that made the trek back to campus is a true testament of our brotherhood. Beta Theta's 100-year history on the hill could not have been celebrated in a better way.

We can't thank everyone enough for their contributions towards making this event the success that it was. The memories, laughter, and good times from this weekend will not be forgotten. To fill in those who could not attend (or can't remember), pictures of the event can be seen at the link here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B_ZT0SvmeeeMVNsMDVMbGVZR2c

Thank you again for a memorable weekend. Time to get started on our next 100 years!

Board of Directors, 2017-2018

<u>term</u>		
2018	Tim Cole, Treasurer	508-982-5266
2019	Jeff Reinders, President	630-639-8999
2020	Andrew Salamida, Vice President	607-245-6428
2021	Tom Sporney, alumni relations	410-863-5854
2022	Duncan McKeen	757-589-1717

Advisor's Corner

Centennial. 100 years. What an excellent weekend for celebrating with brothers, family and friends. If you were

Bob Forness '87

bob.forness@gmail.com

unable to join us, you were missed. Our thanks to Sam Markiewitz, Andy

Salamida, John Sulich, Matt Chen, Tom Beirne and Tyler Sherman and to the entire active chapter for hosting such an excellent event. Our thanks also to the many alumni who also helped prepare for and plan the weekend. We were also able to honor Tim Cole for his decades of service to the chapter. Our thanks continue for all that Tim has done and will continue to contribute in the future.

Andy Glasner received our collective thanks at Centennial for his role both as Chapter Advisor and our alumni leader in restoring the chapter. Thanks again Roscoe for all that you have done for Beta Theta! As an active brother, I followed you as House Manager. I now do the same as Chapter Advisor. Seems to be a pattern. However, while I may follow, no one can fill your shoes.

In my remarks at Centennial, I described how proud I was of the character and resilience of our active chapter. This semester the chapter and its leadership executed on its plan for Centennial, operated under probationary status, endured the loss of the chapter house for social events, navigated noise-based crackdowns in Collegetown, faced challenging campus climate issues, managed the occasional incidents that normally arise, all while being up to the demands of Cornell's standard insane academic workload. On behalf of the Alumni Advisory Group, well done to the chapter for all that you have and continue to accomplish.

While elections were contested for key positions, the chapter demonstrated its strength as a brotherhood throughout the process. Three new brothers were initiated during fall rush. Next up is planning for rush later this fall and in January.

For those interested in volunteering as a member of the Alumni Advisory Group, please drop me an email at bob.forness@gmail.com.

Calendar

March 1, 2018	ΠKA 150 th anniversary
May 1, 2018	Spring 2018 ΒΘData deadline
June 7-10, 2018	Reunion Weekend
July 25-29, 2018	ΠKA Int'l Convention, Richmond
Sept 21-22, 2018	Homecoming
November 1, 2018	Fall 2018 ΒΘData deadline
November, 2018	Pike University, Philadelphia

ATCIC Report (continued)

To recognize and honor Gibber in perpetuity, the ATCIC has been renamed the Hugh S. Gibbs Community Improvement Campaign. Donations to the Hugh S. Gibbs Community Improvement Campaign are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Future communications about the ATCIC will use the name Hugh S. Gibbs Community Improvement Campaign. They are one and the same organization.

Alumni and actives are encouraged to make donations to the fund to make it possible for the active chapter to receive a Certificate of Compliance. Donations can be made by mail or through an electronic payment system that will be created in November. You will receive an email with detailed information about how you can make an online donation on December 1. You may also send checks payable to Hugh S. Gibbs Community Improvement Campaign to: Bill Page, Treasurer, 1201 Meadow Sweet Lane, Victor NY 14564. If you make a contribution at the same time that you pay your Alpha Theta dues, please send a separate check made payable to the Hugh S. Gibbs Community Improvement Campaign.

Please feel free to contact Elliot Dee [ElliotDeeLLC@gmail.com] with any questions about the Hugh S. Gibbs Community Improvement Campaign.

Homecoming Minutes

The Annual Meeting of the Alpha Theta Fraternity was held at 17 South Avenue, Ithaca, New York, on October 21, 2017, being the 99th Annual Meeting of the Corporation.

The Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by President Tim Cole.

56 members were in attendance in person, and 12 by proxy.

Minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved with the correction that "pledges" in the fourth line of the first paragraph of the SMC's report be changed to "new members".

The following reports were given by officers of the Active Chapter:

Harrison Johnson, SMC of the Active Chapter, gave a report, pointing out that they had won the All Sports trophy last year, and have an excellent Grade Point Average. He also raised the follow discussion points on issues that remain to be resolved between the Active Chapter and Alpha Theta:

1. The relationship between Alpha Theta and the active chapter has been subpar since re-chartering and needs to be improved upon.
2. The house has still not received the certificate of compliance and has not been able to utilize the chapter house for the entirety of the semester. This runs the risk of inhibiting a successful spring recruitment to acquire a new member class
3. Lack of financial clarity based on the structuring of Alpha Theta bylaws:
 - a. The vast majority of the responsibility of Alpha Theta falls on the treasurer
 - b. Only the treasurer has access to financials and the current bank account.
 - c. The actives are owed \$18,600 by Alpha Theta. This was supposed to be paid in an installment last semester, then was pushed of to this semester and was supposed to come out of rent but did not.
 - d. The 5% escalation rate in the eyes of the actives warrants a discussion to see if this is the optimal rate strategy to optimize financial stability and success on both the chapter side and Alpha Theta side.
4. Having a discussion about the relationship between the general contractor, Ray Canzler, and the active chapter resulting from a history of concerns raised by the active executive boards.

After discussion, the following action was taken:

A motion was made, seconded and passed directing the President to proceed as expeditiously as possible with a contract for fabrication of the fire escape ladders required for the Certificate of Compliance.

Discussion was held concerning the creation of new officer positions, specifically the creation of the office of Vice-treasure, who could act on behalf of the Corporation in the event the treasurer was unable to. A motion was made, seconded and passed directing the Board of Directors to create the position of Vice-treasurer at the directors' meeting, and appoint a suitable member to fill that position. Bill Page was recommended for that position.

The current lease with the active chapter, which provides for an automatic annual rent increase of 5%, was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and passed that Logan Cheek assemble an informal committee comprising graduate and undergraduate members to study the financial competitiveness of the rent charged by the active chapter compared with that of other living arrangements, to be completed within 90 days.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the portion of the rent payment attributable to last escalation be suspended as to the next-due rent payment, the spring of 2018.

The current general contractor was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the Board of Directors review the relationship between Alpha Theta and the active chapter, and the current general contractor, and recommendations be provided by January 1, 2018, provided that no action shall be taken until the current Certificate of Compliance is obtained from the City of Ithaca. The Board of Directors is to seek input from the current and immediate past SMCs and house managers of the active chapter.

C.B. Smith reported on the efforts to obtain a Certificate of Compliance from the City of Ithaca. There were originally four major items, of which only ladders for the fire escapes is outstanding.

A letter from Treasurer Steve Amador was read, regretting his inability to attend, and enclosing his report. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the report be approved. A motion was also passed expressing the regret of those present that he could not attend, and wishing him the best.

The current mortgage with Pi Kappa Alpha national, bearing an interest rate of 9.75%, was discussed. The Board of Directors is directed to investigate the feasibility of refinancing this mortgage with another lender, and is to proceed with the refinance if a mortgage can be obtained on more favorable terms.

A report was given by Bill Page, treasurer of ATCIC. The fund can legally reimburse the Active Chapter for qualifying capital improvements. He will send an email with instructions for making contributions to the fund.

Tom Sporney, Alumni Relations, gave a summary of dues-paying members and donations during the past year, and a comparison with earlier years. His report was approved.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that the annual dues for members who graduated more than 5 years ago be raised to \$75.00, and that the Corporation provide electronic payment capability.

A motion was made, seconded 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 Tim Cole, whose term expired today. Tim Cole and Duncan McKeen were nominated. A motion was made and passed that nominations be closed. Voting was by show of hands. Duncan McKeen was elected.

Bob Forness reported on the Alumni Advisory Group.

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5 Questions with...

Aldo Morell, BS '77

Aldo [<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aldo-morell-87321120/>] started at Cornell in the fall of 1973, and was initiated in spring 1975. He served as House Manager and SMC. He graduated with a BS in Chemical Engineering in 1977.

- Aldo, I guess you might call this a continuation of our interview from about seventeen years ago [<http://betathetaddata.net/btd00s.htm#spotlight>]. Since then, you moved from Mississippi back to Delaware with DuPont, and retired in 2014. Looking back on having been with one company for 37 years, what changed within DuPont over that period, and what stayed the same?

[AM] DuPont changed a lot! In the mid-seventies, when I started working as a co-op student, E.I. duPont de Nemours was the largest chemical company in the U.S. It was the second oldest, still existing company in the country (I think Revere Copper is older). DuPont started out making gun powder in 1802 and had a culture of putting safety first. That safety culture permeated the company and served it well. On a personal level it meant leadership was committed to the wellbeing of people. And on a business level, avoiding mishaps is also a good thing. It was a culture of taking the high road.

Until the '70's, DuPont did not need to borrow money due to innovative new materials like Nylon, Freon, Teflon, Lycra, and Kevlar. But after inventing Kevlar and the high oil prices brought on by the OPEC cartel in the late '70's, the innovations dried up and DuPont became a 'me-too' corporate entity. In addition, chemicals got a bad name. As the largest chemical producer, DuPont became a favorite target for environmental activists such as Green Peace. It felt like DuPont was embarrassed to be a chemical company. Although the focus on safety and taking the high road continued, without innovative new products, growth slowed.

The company responded by steering away from chemicals and diversifying into Bio sciences. The famous marketing slogan "Better living through chemistry" was dropped in favor of "The Miracles of Science". In the early 2000's DuPont bought the giant seed company, Pioneer, with a focus on genetically engineered corn seeds. Under pressure from activist investors, the company began to be broken up. A year after I retired, the old-line chemical businesses, including one I worked for most, White Pigments, was spun off as Chemours (and has done very well). Last year, DuPont and Dow merged. So the 215 year old, second oldest company in the country, is no more. Hopefully the pension will be alright.

- We caught up at the chapter rechartering in 2014, while you were in the middle of your move to Florida. Tell us about building the house, the move, and surviving Hurricane Irma.

[AM] We bought a lot in a marina community in 2007. We started to build the house in 2010 and it was completed in 2012. I was going to keep working for several years and planned to use the house as a vacation home until later retirement. I was working from home in Florida and traveling from home in Pennsylvania, while away, Carol was using the house. That was not much fun, so I decided to retire early in 2014. We bought a boat before I retired.

We chose to build a home in northeast Florida because we prefer warm weather and hurricanes are not very frequent in the area. Ironically, last year we were slammed by hurricane Matthew and this year Irma payed us a visit. The storms left a lot of debris from Spanish moss, limbs and trees, but no flood or wind damage. The boat suffered ~\$7,500 damage in Matthew, but I put it in a more secure marina for Irma and suffered no damage.

- What is SRO Consultants? Have you become bored with retirement?

[AM] SRO Consultants was set up after DuPont approached me to do safety consulting for some Mexican clients who wanted a Spanish-speaking consultant. However, the gig didn't work out, so I haven't actually done any SRO consulting. Nevertheless, I have not been bored.

Physically I'm more active than ever. I'm playing tennis four days a week and am now also playing golf. Maintaining the boat can be a full-time job.

I also picked up a hobby of building radio controlled scale model boats. I have built two so far. The first was from a kit and the second was built from scratch. Rather than buying a second radio controller, I made one from scratch using Arduinos. I also bought a 3D printer that I use to make parts for the models. The geek itch is getting a good scratch.

Our community includes a 'Yacht Club' that is like a seniors' fraternity. We call ourselves 'seenagers' -- like teenagers, but older and with money. We have little responsibilities and time to play.

- What Pikes have you managed to stay in touch with personally? Who have you lost touch with and would be interested in seeing?

[AM] Unfortunately, I really have not really kept up with anyone. My bad.

Sadly, we recently lost some of my closest brothers -- Ralph Olivier and Dennis Arnsdorf.

I'd love to get together with you, Doug Sacha, Brad Smith, Justus, Chip, Chris Klein, CB Smith, Andy Henderson, Rich Goeggel and many others.

[continued on page 5]

5 Questions with... (continued)

- *What's your fondest memory of 17 South Avenue?*

[AM] Oh, there are so many. . . Here are a few:

Running into Gibber in the kitchen on a Sunday morning after a party. A strong cup of coffee with Gibber stories are priceless.

Coming down for breakfast after cramming for an engineering final and running into a hotelie who was also cramming for an engineering final. A hotelie taking an engineering course? The conversation went something like this:

Me: I didn't know hotelies had engineering courses.

Hotelie: Oh yes. We have to manage construction projects, so we have to make sure contractors don't overcharge. For example we have to know that a brick is 3" x 9" x 4".

Me: Really?

A date night dinner when we served up the full experience of both *everything down* and *troughing*.

The night during my summer co-op session when I was awakened by Ithaca police. I went to the police station to get Hans Hahne. After graduating, he was visiting, had a few adult beverages and had been observed peeping into empty dorm room windows in North Campus. He said he was looking for his girlfriend. When the police asked him if he liked little girls. Hans was appalled at the implication and replied "no more than you, you pervert!"

I also have fond memories of the community service we provided to the city of Ithaca. We volunteered 40 hours of service, in lieu of a harsher penalty for having toppled tourist canoes in Beebe Lake one Sunday morning. The lake visit followed initiating a new pledge class and an all-night celebration. Unfortunately some of the canoes we toppled were occupied with visiting prospective students and their families. They were not as amused as we were.

If you'd like to participate in Five Questions, or have a suggestion for someone you like to hear from, finger him to Tom Sporney [tsporney@betathetadate.net].

Homecoming Minutes (continued)

A motion was made, seconded and passed that a committee be established to investigate having the house designated as a historic property.

Andy Glasner was recognized for his work on the Alumni Advisory Group.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.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 October 21, 2017.

The Meeting was called to order at 12:51 p.m. by Vice President Andrew Salamida.

The following Directors were present: McKeen, Salamida, Sporney and Reinders.

Also present: Miles, Secretary.

Reading of the Minutes of the last directors' meeting was waived.

The creation of a new office of Vice-Treasurer was discussed. Bill Page declined to act, and no other person with the necessary skills was known. The creation of the new office and the filling of that office will be done by special meeting when a suitable person is found.

The following were elected officers of the corporation:

President – Jeff Reinders

Vice President – Andrew Salamida

Secretary – David Miles

Treasurer – Steve Amador

Alumni Relations – Tom Sporney

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Miles, Secretary

Dik's Ravings

Brother Hugh Gibbs would have been a hundred years old this past July 30, so we had a party last month. The active chapter sponsored the party, held at the Ithaca Country Club, and cleverly disguised it as a centennial celebration of Beta Theta at Cornell, to keep out Gibber's spurned suitors

Dik Saalfeld '80 rfs25@cornell.edu
Florida correspondent

and other such rifferaff.

Jerri Sporney used the occasion of the party to reveal her latest tattoos: 1) a heart with "Tom and Jerri" in it, and b) Gibber yelling "Give me a C!" When Jerri moves, Gibber bobs his head. His big, bald head. It was difficult to avert my eyes from such a spectacle, but Tom Sporney colluded with my wife to do just that, and the doctors say my ribs will heal in a matter of weeks.

Chris Ashley made a rare appearance in the company of his lovely wife, Tina. Back in the day, Crashley memorably did a drop-sit on his Ford Pinto in the Fraternity parking lot, frustrated by the fact that it would only exceed 50 mph if you pushed it into the gorge. Somebody then smashed a mirror, and like Rottweilers loose on a playground, the rest of the Beta Theta wrecking crew went to work. Empty kegs were tossed on it from the roof of the house, vans were crashed into it, and it was rolled repeatedly to show the brute strength of many virile, albeit drunk, young men. Soon it was a ruin, the once-proud Pinto no longer a symbol of the untamed west, but now a metaphorical pot of glue. His other car, a growling Mustang, was left untouched, out of respect for its studyness. Fid recounted this story as he presented Crashley with the horn and a couple of the "Ford" letters from said Pinto, which he – Fid – had saved for four decades. For some reason.

Chip Baines, Mark Doing, Chris Klyne, Chuck Smith, John Bickerman, Doug Haller, and Andy Henderson represented the storied class of 1978. Chip and Chuck look pretty good, and Mark Doing has a pact with Satan, but the rest were showing their age, which appears to be about a hundred and thirty. Klyne was accompanied by his wife, the smoking hot Jill, and I was going to flirt with her after the banquet, but I fell asleep during dessert and she was repulsed by the chocolate-flecked drool on my tie.

Beta Theta Director Tim Cole granted us a boon to sing "The Itsy Bitsy Spider," which had been on the banned list because of its negative portrayal of arachno-Americans, and we lustily complied without drawing censure from University officials, representatives of the national fraternity, or, most importantly, the waiter pouring wine. If you have access to a teenager, get them to show you the video of us singing the song – it's posted on the Interwebs, under "Facebook." I haven't seen it because I'm not allowed to use electricity, but I'm told it's a corker.

Neal "Scoop" Droste showed up with Bill Webster and Ann Ruhman – he told me they were staying at Taz and Mary Ochs's house in Trumansburg. I said I hadn't seen Taz or Mary at the party, and Scoop said he thought maybe they were out of town, but that they still don't lock their doors, despite being old enough to know better, and their house is way better than a hotel since it's free and there's plenty of booze and food.

Before the party a few folks met at the Nines, in Collegetown. Chow Catto drew large elaborate cartoons in the bathrooms with a magic marker, since he thought that the saloon was being bulldozed soon to make way for another soulless apartment block. Paul Barresi knew that the deal had fallen through, and that the Nines would thus continue to delight drunkards for generations to come, but refrained from telling Chow out of a sense of perversity. It's a good thing there's no way for the Nines management to find out who drew those pictures!

Pageberg brought Paul "Wheaties" Wheaton to the party from Casa Wheaton, in Ogdensburg. Wheaties told me he thinks he's the only Pike amputee, but I told him to wait awhile, since plenty of people around him have a screw loose and something's bound to fall off.

As ever, if I forgot to mention your comical antics at the soiree, you're the only one who cares. But pay your dues anyway.



Alumni Notes

When you receive this newsletter, please review the contact information on the bottom of the cover letter. We would be grateful for you to fill in any blanks, and correct any contact info, especially phone numbers and email. Thanks.

tsporney@betathetadatanet

Chapter Eternal

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

Stephen B. Amador, '84

October 30, 2017

<http://betathetadatanet/Amador.pdf>

Donald A. Barrow, '51

September 24, 2016

Joseph M. Battaglia, '70

May 9, 2017

<http://obits.nj.com/obituaries/starledger/obituary.aspx?n=joseph-battaglia&pid=185386164>

Alfred P. Bender, '37

May 1, 2016

Gunnar Hurtig, '62

November 29, 2016

<http://obituaries.desertsun.com/obituaries/thedesertsun/obituary.aspx?pid=183235988>

Charles A. Lundgren, '63

June 24, 2016