

BETA ETA DATA

FALL 2004

THE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF THE BETA ETA CHAPTER OF
PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY AT FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY



Beta Eta Alumni Celebrate Pi Kappa Phi's 100th

Last August several Beta Eta alumni made the trip to Charleston—the birthplace of Pi Kappa Phi—to celebrate one hundred years of brotherhood at the 49th Supreme Chapter and Centennial Celebration.

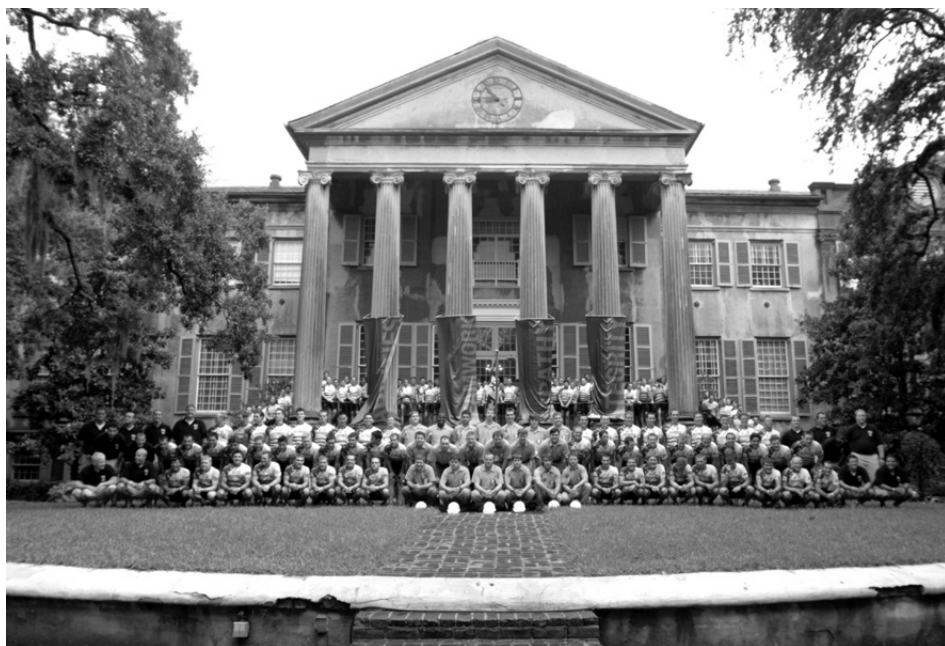
The fraternity's actual 100th anniversary will be remembered on the coming December 10; however, official ceremonies coincided with Pi Kappa Phi's biennial legislative convention where nearly 1300 students, alumni, spouses and guests convened in the "Holy City" to reconnect with their fraternity and each other.

In attendance at the convention from Beta Eta Chapter were **Jeff Niedenthal, Jeff Wahlen, Mike Loy, Tom Atwood, Jeff Pujals, Lee Nichols, Brian Baber, Greg Sieman, Chris Downs** and **John Pierce**. With 10 attendees, Beta Eta ranked as one of the best-represented chapters in the fraternity.

There were many highlights from the convention, including the opportunity to mix and mingle with some of Pi Kappa Phi's more famous alumni. The convention opened in grand style on Friday evening, August 13, as alumni members of the Centennial Commission (see inset) convened in the beautiful Charleston Place Hotel for the opening reception. As members rounded the corner in hotel banquet facilities, they were met with an impressive display of Pi Kappa Phi memorabilia dating back to the early days of fraternity. An 11-foot ice sculpture of the fraternity's bell tower also greeted visitors upon entering the reception hall.

Pi Kappa Phi alumnus **Greg Stone**, Alpha Delta (Washington), was the entertainment that evening. Stone, a Broadway star in his own right, performed some of his more famous numbers from *Miss Saigon*, *Oklahoma* and *Les Misérables* for a crowd of nearly 350.

With Hurricane Charlie coming through the area early the next morning, Saturday's bell tower dedication was postponed until Monday



Beta Eta Centennial Commission Members

**Tom Atwood
Lee Nichols
Jeff Niedenthal**

when weather would allow. That evening, however, the fraternity seated 800 students, alumni and guests in the Charleston Place Ballroom for the Supreme Banquet Awards Dinner. Brother **Randy Owen**, Delta Epsilon (Jacksonville State), from the Grammy Award-winning band, Alabama, opened the banquet by leading the room in the National Anthem.

Other highlights from the evening came when **Joe Forehand**, Alpha Iota (Auburn), the current CEO of Accenture, was inducted into the Pi Kappa Phi Hall of Fame. Also joining Forehand in the Hall of Fame was Psi (Cornell) chapter initiate **Dr. Ed Lu**, an astrophysicist who is the only American to have launched and returned to Earth aboard a Russian Soyuz capsule.

As Sunday morning approached, the darkened skies returned over Charleston, but that would not dampen the spirits of those attending Push America's Journey of Hope, Build America, and Centennial Ride-Along arrival at the famous College of Charleston Cistern. There, below the picturesque live-oak trees, hundreds of brothers, parents and friends gathered to see the cyclists and crew members return from their journey.

Monday morning, the rescheduled bell tower dedication took place. Amid a crowd of brothers, College of Charleston faculty and staff, and local news media, the fraternity officially commemorated its founding 100 years prior by presenting the College of Charleston a 46-foot bell tower, built from the generosity of alumni who contributed to the cause. The fourth gift to the College in the last century, the bell tower stands as an impressive symbol of what can happen when brothers come together in a common cause. Complete with a 600-pound bronze bell, the ringing from this tower is a reminder of Pi Kappa Phi's unique contribution.

Members of the Journey of Hope Team, Build America Team and Centennial Ride-a-long Team are pictured together at the College of Charleston's Cistern during their arrival on Sunday morning during the Centennial Celebration.

Closing ceremonies for the convention were held aboard the USS Yorktown. There, Pi Kappa Phi's from all over the country celebrated their brothers in uniform. Emceeding the evening's program was **General Tom Carter**, Gamma Delta (Memphis). On behalf of the greater fraternity, Gen. Carter thanked those members of Pi Kappa Phi serving in the War on Terror and accepted a Pi Kappa Phi flag from **Ryan Swensen**, Eta Upsilon (Miami, OH), who had flown it on his Humvee while providing convoy security in Iraq.

The Supreme Chapter is Pi Kappa Phi's biennial legislative convention where Supreme Laws are amended, future policy is set, and members—both students and alumni—have a voice in the direction of Pi Kappa Phi. The next convention will be held August 4-8, 2006, in Charlotte. Make plans to join us in 2006!

BETA ETA ALUMNI UPDATES



Wahlen Elected to National Council

Beta Eta brother **Jeff Wahlen** was elected as National Treasurer by the Supreme Chapter last August.

In this role, Brother Wahlen, who has previously served as Chapter Advisor and Housing Corporation President, continues his service to the fraternity at the national level. Previously, he has served as National Chaplain, Chancellor and Secretary prior to being elected to this new role. As the National Treasurer, Wahlen will oversee the National Fraternity's annual budget and advise staff in financial and accounting issues.

Arden ANDERSON (BH 38)
Is a geologist and 1951 initiate of the chapter. He can be reached at ardensonge@aol.com

Dick LUKAS (BH 59)
His eighth book, *Forgotten Survivors*, was recently released by the University of Kansas Press. Retired, Dick and his wife reside in Ocala, FL, and can be contacted at marich@webtv.net

John GARRETT (BH 73)
John currently lives in Ellijay, Ga. In a recent e-mail from John, he adds, "I'm still trying to recover from the realization that it has been 50 years this month since I pledged Pi Kappa Phi!" John can be reached at theolt@aol.com

Don BOWLIN (BH 97)
Living in Houston, TX, John wishes his Beta Eta brothers the very best. He is a wildlife artist and writer. His latest novel, *Danville's Rainbow*, will be published by AuthorHouse in January or February 2005. At the writing of this newsletter, Don had only 50 pages to go before submitting his work. He can be e-mailed at bowlinalley@aol.com

Fred DiULUS (BH 134)
Fred is the Director and Founder of the Center for Ethics in Free Enterprise. He is offering any Beta Eta alumnus a complementary registration to the first World Organization Ethics Symposium at the Peabody in Orlando, FL, in March 2005. Visit www.organizationethics.com for complete information. When registering, put "BH" and year initiated to ensure your special status. There will be a special event planned for all Pi Kapps attending. Fred can be reached directly at fdiulus@cefe.org

Richard SCHODITSCH (BH 163)
Living in Niceville, FL, Dick is the Assistant State Attorney for the 1st Judicial Circuit. He can be e-mailed at dick-s@cox.net

Don STEWART (BH 309)
Currently serving as a Sociology Professor at UNLV, Don adds that, "teaching sociology at UNLV is a great job; I enjoy interacting with a really diverse student population in a fascinating city." Don mentions that he and Julianne would love to connect with any Beta Eta brothers from the 1960's who might be traveling to Las Vegas. He can be reached at stew0906@yahoo.com

Bryan CARUTHERS (BH 543)
Bryan currently serves as the Magic Kingdom Art Director for Walt Disney Imagineering. He can be e-mailed at alexvoice@aol.com

Steve LOUCHHEIM (BH 594)
Is the Executive Director of the Tallahassee Board of REALTORS. He can be contacted at steven@tbrnet.org

Damon KARRAS (BH 777)
Working with fellow Beta Eta alumnus Marshall Atkinson at T-Formation, Damon can be reached at Dkarras@tformation.com

Walker JACKSON (BH 901)
Walker and Rebecca Jackson currently reside in Boston, MA, where Walker is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. He recently finished his Ph.D. in 2003 in Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. Dr. Jackson can be reached at wjackson@wi.mit.edu

Brian FAIRCLOTH (BH 904)
Lt. F. Brian Faircloth with the Special Operations Bureau of the Taylor County Sheriff's Office will be leaving his post effective December 31, 2004. After eight years of service to Taylor County, Brian will rejoin the family business – Suwannee Lumber Companies. He is excited about this new opportunity and will continue to reside in Perry, FL. Brian can be reached at rudy@gtcom.net

Jason KLEIN (BH 927)
Jason and Rebecca Klein will celebrate 10 years of marriage this coming year. They have two children together – Shelby (5 yrs) and Danton (2 yrs). Jason is in the music industry and helped to create a music artist called, Don Manual. His song "Figaro" [which Jason co-authored] is charting all over the country. It was recently written up by Billboard Magazine. Check out www.monstertaxi.com for more information. Jason can be contacted directly at bh927@aol.com



Alumni members of Beta Eta chapter, along with Pi Kappa Phi members from other chapters who work at the National Fraternity Headquarters, pose with the new Mr. and Mrs. Tom Atwood.

(continued on page 4)

Ask Not What Your Fraternity Can Do For You

President John F. Kennedy's oft-used quote "...Ask not what your country can do for you..." has become cliché, but for some, the concepts of leadership and volunteerism contained therein took hold. Brother William ("Jeff") Niedenthal (BH 357) has served his country, and his fraternity, throughout his life.

Brother Niedenthal, a retired U.S. Navy Captain, is currently working as a Program Manager for Northrop Grumman, responsible for designing the next class of naval warships. Niedenthal works with defense contractors; his work focuses on software development and systems engineering.

Niedenthal's military career began after graduating from Florida State University, although it was not his intended career path when he first matriculated.

"When I was in high school I thought I wanted to be an oceanographer. But at FSU I found out I was not a natural scientist, failing physics and organic chemistry."

"With the Vietnam War on, and most of us caught up in that adventure, I joined the Navy, thinking it was almost being an oceanographer. My eyes were popped open quickly. My first ship deployed to the Mediterranean for seven months. Afterwards, we went to Southeast Asia, providing gunfire support. I was hooked. It was very satisfying to do what we were trained for and the ship was designed to do," said Niedenthal.

Niedenthal served in the Navy for 26 years. After retiring, he parlayed his naval experience into designing naval warships.

He jokes, "If you can't go to sea, then designing the next generation of ships is almost as good." He has worked for LOGICON, which was later acquired by Northrop, and Lockheed Martin.

Niedenthal joined Pi Kappa Phi in 1967. He pledged Beta Eta with his roommate, **Lester Kaney**, and the two stay in touch to this day.

Looking back at his days in the chapter, Niedenthal recalls, "The chapter was my first opportunity to work with a large group (we averaged 120 for those 3 years), and try to get things accomplished. You had to learn to compromise and adjust your expectations, and most importantly, to cooperate as a team to achieve goals."

These lessons served him well, both "in the close confines of a ship on extended deployment, and today in the corporate world."

While reminiscing about his undergraduate days in Pi Kappa Phi, Niedenthal has two favorite memories. The first involves shooting water balloons off the roof of the old house. At that time, Beta Eta was located at the top of College Avenue, just across the street from the Westcott Building and the main entrance to campus.



Jeff Niedenthal (left) is shown with fellow Pi Kappa Phi alumnus **Skip Fink, Alpha Epsilon (Florida)**. Both Jeff and Skip taught at the Command and Staff College. You can contact Jeff at niedenthaljeff@netscape.net

He recalls reaching the front door of the Westcott Building with the water balloons. His best shot: a direct hit on a campus police cruiser with an open window.

His second favorite memory involves returning to the chapter house after women's curfew. "We had the best laughs and camaraderie then. Bawdy songs and cheap beer."

Despite his naval career and demanding work with warship design, Niedenthal continues to stay involved with Pi Kappa Phi.

While living in northern Virginia, Niedenthal served as Chapter Advisor to the Zeta Epsilon Chapter at George Mason University for five years. "It was very satisfying to watch the chapter grow and develop." In fact, Niedenthal was instrumental in that chapter's success; he was recognized as Pi Kappa Phi's Chapter Advisor of the Year in 1996.

Pi Kappa Phi's National Headquarters also tapped his leadership skills by hiring him as Assistant Executive Director ("AED") in 1997. "Serving as AED was my most satisfying job. I really learned how the national organization works, and I was enthralled with the high quality of the staff and national volunteers." Reflecting on his Pi Kappa Phi experiences, he believes that "being a chapter advisor is the most difficult job in the national organization of professional staff or volunteers, but also by FAR the most rewarding."

After serving as AED for nearly two years, Niedenthal returned to warship design and accepted his current position as Program Manager with Northrop Grumman. Today, he resides in Chesapeake, Virginia, with his wife, Susan. They have four daughters and three grandsons, with more to follow, he hopes.

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Thank you to the Beta Eta alumni who supported the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation. Your generosity is recognized and appreciated. (Based on gifts made through October 2004.)

Do you have an update or a story idea? Do you have a photo you would like to share in the next edition?

Please contact **Tom Atwood** at tatwood@pikapp.org

ALUMNI UPDATES

Chris SEGUIN (BH 930)

Is a Senior Business Analyst for Office Depot. He and his wife recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary and have three beautiful daughters: Emily (3 yrs), Gabbie (2 yrs), and Meghan (8 mos.). In a recent e-mail, Chris writes, "I've lost weight, gained weight, then lost weight, so about the same. Less hair, except for spots where I need hair!" You can contact Chris via e-mail at cseguin@officedepot.com

Tom ATWOOD (BH 939)

In May 2004, Tom married his girlfriend, Faith Crosby in Bradenton, FL. Tom and Faith reside in Charlotte, NC, where he was recently named the new Executive Director of the Pi Kappa Phi Foundation – the charitable arm of the Fraternity. Many Pi Kapps were able to attend the wedding (see photo on page 2). Tom can be reached at tatwood@pikapp.org

Jason COOPRIDER (BH 967)

Jason and Stacey have two children, Katelyn (2 yrs) and Connor (7 mos.). He is currently a Financial Consultant with AXA Financial Advisors. His e-mail is coopjmu@yahoo.com

Michael CASEY (BH 1021)

Employed now by the Staubach Company, Mike is a Project Manager - Design and Construction Consulting in Atlanta, GA. Mike can be contacted at mike.casey@staubach.com

Beau LOMBARDI (BH 1033)

Beau lives in Orlando, FL, and is the Florida State Sales Representative for A.V. Imports, a wine supplier handling mostly Italian wines. He can be contacted at beaulombardi@yahoo.com

Steven WARREN (BH 1047)

Steve and his wife, Danna, currently live in Winter Haven, FL. Steve currently has two children, Catie-Charlotte (2 yrs) and Dain (6 mos.). He is currently writing a computer book titled, *The VMware Workstation 5.0 Handbook*, to be published 2nd quarter by Charles River Media. His work is carried by Amazon.com and major booksellers like Barnes & Noble. Steven can be reached at ssw22@tampabay.rr.com

Brad COTTRILL (BH 1069)

Brad currently lives in Atlanta, GA, and is a Private Banking Relationship Manager for Wachovia Bank. He can be contacted at brad.cottrill1@wachovia.com

Michael HOLLEY (BH 1138)

Is the Executive Vice President & Co-Founder of U.S. Sports Scene – an online sports, news, and travel information network. He is also the EVP for Sales & Marketing / Co-Founder of Rhodium Entertainment – a new theatrical release company that was created by the founders of Rhodium Records, On Tap Films and U.S. Sport Scene.

Their first project, "BachelorMan" premiered in Chicago in late September. This independent film has won over 15 awards and is touted as this year's "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" by Variety Magazine. Info on Mike's companies can be found at: www.ussportsscene.com and www.bachelorman.com. He can be contacted directly at mholley@ussportsscene.com

Andrew KIERNAN (BH 1157)

Andrew lives and works as a Client Executive for the Willis Group Holdings, Ltd. He can be reached at af_kiernan@yahoo.com

Mike MEITIN (BH 1167)

Is serving as a Sales Consultant for the Indiana Pacers & Entertainment division. He can be contacted at mmeitin@pacers.com

Clayton BELL (BH 1193).

Is serving as Campus Pastor for Victory Campus Ministries. He is working at FSU and loves living in Tallahassee. You can reach Clayton at clayton.bell@vcm.com

Mack HOUSTON (BH 1254)

Mack is a Systems Analyst for Space Gateway Support. He can be e-mailed at mhouston9@cfl.rr.com

REMEMBER 20 YEARS AGO

In the fall of 1984, former Florida Governor Bob Graham and other cabinet officials are shown presenting a resolution to Archon Steve Louchheim and Push Chairman Greg Winter (both pictured to the right). This photo is from the National Fraternity archives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

