

Fall Semester 2005 Newsletter (October 2005)

Published by the Beta-Pi Chapter of TKE Fraternity, 159 5th Street, NW, Atlanta, GA 30313-2511.

To send news, e-mail the Histor, histor@betapitke.org or visit <http://www.betapitke.org>.



Undergrads Complete New Deck

The undergrads placed two tons of concrete foundation for a new deck this summer and hammered away during work week nearing it to completion. At nearly 1000 square feet of Trex composite, the deck has two roofed sections thirty and twenty five feet long, one with a 25-foot long horse shoe shaped bar and the other with a small drink station, respectively. Each roofed section has lighting and will have ceiling fans installed when the roofing is finished. There are also five tables built into the deck: two small tables, two medium sized tables, and an eleven foot recreational table. The current undergraduates designed and constructed the new deck in total, with a \$2000 donation from the BOT. We invite all our alumni to come enjoy this new \$14,000 addition to the property.

*For more information, contact
pylo@betapitke.org*

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**Homecoming Alumni Reception
at the Park Tavern**

The homecoming alumni reception will be held at Park Tavern at Piedmont and Monroe on Friday October 28th from 8:30 p.m. until 12:20 a.m. This year we'll be gathering on the patio instead of in the ballroom. The event is organized by the alumni but is open to all initiates, candidates, and their guests. The cost is between \$15 and \$25 for undergrads, alumnus, and their dates to come enjoy a fine evening of food and beverages. A selection of domestic and import beers will be available including Sam Adams Oktoberfest and the Tavern's own brews. Mixed drinks may be purchased individually. Security will be present.

Thanks to Keith Reynolds and Cameron Moore for setting this up.

*For more information, contact
gtg260q@mail.gatech.edu.*

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Alumni Fall Golf Tournament 2005

This fall's tournament will be held at Stone Mountain Golf Club starting at noon on the Sunday of Homecoming weekend. The cost for alumni is \$95. Included in the package will be park entrance fee, driving range balls, greens fees, yardage book, bag tag, and gratuity. Stone Mountain will be preparing scorecards, a group information sheet, starting groups, making tournament announcements, running the scoreboard, and facilitating special events such as Longest

Drive, Closest to Pin, Longest Putt, and Straightest Drive.

Dress code: no jeans, short-shorts, cut-offs, tank tops, T-shirts, gym shorts, jogging suits, halter or bikini tops. Men must wear collared shirts with slacks or mid-length shorts at all times. Closed toe shoes are required and soft spikes are recommended. Address of the course is 1 Stonewall Jackson Dr, Stone Mountain Ga., 30086 in case you want to use mapquest for directions.

If you want you could even plan an outing and get reservations at a room inside the park and stay for soon attractions. The website is <http://www.stonemountainpark.com/>.

Contact Steve McMillan
(stephon24@aol.com) for more information

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Homecoming Dates to Remember

Oct 25: 7:00 pm - Mock Rock
Oct 27: 6:00 pm - Tech Alumni Reception
Oct 28: 8:30 pm – TKE Alumni Reception
Oct 29: 8:00 am - Reck Parade
Oct 29: Football versus Climpson (sic)

For more information about Homecoming, contact the Homecoming Chair at gtg209i@mail.gatech.edu

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New Candidate Class and New Candidate Program

Twenty five new candidates rang the bell during fall rush: Nate Raines (Augusta, GA), Jameson Dickman (Dawsonville, GA), Nick Jennings (West Chester, PA), Chris Tan (Augusta, GA), Bart Perkins (Cumming, GA), Greg Gallagher (Franklin, MA), Andy Love (Stockbridge, GA), Jacob McHenry (Woodstock, GA), Spencer McLeod (Marietta, GA), John Iannelli (Andover, MA), Brian Kobler (Columbia, MD), Kevin

Savage (Tampa, FL), Lance Paul (Tampa, FL), Mike Lawson (Crystal Lake, IL), Pearce Matthews (Snellville, GA), Jake Hinton (Locust Grove, GA), Brendan O'Leary (Essex Junction, VT), Manuel Jimenez (Escazu, Costa Rica), Steve Iarocci (Londonderry, NH), Tyler Anderson (Roswell, GA), Ben Elliott (Augusta, GA), Jeremy Ku (Marietta, GA), CJ Colross (Gaithersburg, MD), Jack Gardner (Gainesville, GA), Kevin Grebb (Arlington, VA).

The Chapter is currently in the middle of implementing a new candidate education program, for the first time designed to address the reasons for which we lose candidates: grades, money, and behavior. An outline of the program is on the Chapter website. Much has changed that needed to change, but this has been a major departure from tradition, and has not been without problems. For example, administration interpretation of the hazing definition is so hazy and potentially broad that members are not sure where the line is when it comes to dealing with candidates. And we have not yet found ways to reintroduce that intensity that made the old program so fun and such a unifying experience. Refusing to be bogged down by this, however, prytanis-elect Ian Stewart and his exec are working hard to create a program that, in the end, will create a superior program that meets the Chapter's needs in today's tense Tech environment.

To learn about our revised new member training program, contact Carlos Tan, Hegemon, at gtg472g@betapitke.org

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TKE Helps Raise \$2,000 for Children's Miracle Network

On September 24, the Beta-Pi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon International Fraternity teamed with Alpha Xi Delta Sorority at Georgia Tech to host the chapter's second

annual charity volleyball tournament to benefit the Atlanta chapter of Children's Miracle Network. The tournament raised \$2,000 for charity through raffle sales and registration fees. Children's Miracle Network - Atlanta raises money for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA), one of the nation's leading not-for-profit pediatric healthcare organizations. CHOA is recognized for excellence in cardiology, cancer treatment, transplant services, and many other pediatric specialties.

The tournament was organized by Ian Stewart (TKE) and Sarah Myers (AZD). Play began at 10:00 a.m. Saturday at the TKE Chapter House at 159 5th Street, NW, in Atlanta and lasted the entire day with the championship game beginning at 8:00 p.m. Local radio stations 99X and 95.5 "The Beat" entertained guests throughout the day by giving away prizes such as concert tickets, t-shirts, and movie passes. Sysco, Papa John's, and Giorgio's Pizzeria provided lunch and dinner for the contestants, who also received a complimentary t-shirt for signing up. Kelly's Auto Care made a \$150 donation directly to the cause.

TKE introduced several new features to the tournament this year, beginning with the joint organization with Alpha Xi Delta. Also new this year was the raffling of prizes between each game. Sold for \$1 apiece, raffle tickets helped generate almost \$400 for the Children's Miracle Network. Prizes include gift certificates provided by local enterprises including Nikimoto's, Little Azio's, Jake's Ice Cream, Helmet Hairworks, Acapulco, Engineer's Book Store, Atlanta Rocks, Blu Door, Bobby and June's Kountry Kitchen, El Amigo, and Ribs 'n' Blues. At day's end, three Cingular cell phones and two Apple iPod nanos were raffled off as grand prizes.

As well as raising money for a great cause, the tournament also provided a means for fourteen Greek organizations at Georgia Tech to come together to have a good time and to further a worthy cause.

For additional information, e-mail Ian Stewart, TKE Beta-Pi Chapter philanthropy coordinator, at gtg209i@mail.gatech.edu.

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BOT Creates New Scholarship Policy

The Trustees of the Beta-Pi chapter presented, discussed, and endorsed a scholarship policy for the undergraduate chapter last fall 2004. The policy is an attempt to address the Chapter's "dismal" academic performance in recent years and chronic underachievement relative to the undergraduate male population at Georgia Tech.

A "carrot and stick" approach was taken. Members and candidates have been assigned to grade teams; the members of the team with the highest quality point total will win free rent the following term they are enrolled. The first free rent was awarded in spring 2005.

The "stick" will be phased in gradually beginning at the end of spring 2005. Housing privileges of members whose cumulative GPA is below 2.000 will be revoked. The GPA requirement will rise gradually until it reaches 2.200 in spring 2007. This represents the first objective and substantial linking of scholastic performance with a privilege of membership in the Chapter's history.

The Chapter possesses considerable scholarship resources and routinely places an extraordinarily large number of members on the Dean's List. Nevertheless, the Chapter average is low because of the number of members with averages at 1.700 and below. As one trustee commented, "It's not the guys

with the 2.3's and 2.4's that are the problem but the guys with the 1.3's and the 1.4's."

Modifications to the policy were made in the spring to enable members who do not meet the cumulative GPA requirement for the term to remain in TKE Housing if their term GPA indicates sufficient improvement. That is, .400 above the cumulative requirement. For spring 2005, the cumulative requirement was 2.000 and the term requirement is therefore 2.400.

The Board does not have a particular goal for the Chapter in terms of GPA or rank. Nevertheless, the Board intends to create a set of incentives in the House that will lead members to change their individual behaviors to be supportive of scholarship adequate to graduate from Georgia Tech. "*Graduate all we initiate*" is the idea.

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Chapter Incorporates Separately from the Board of Trustees

On August 3, the undergraduate TKE chapter at Georgia Tech incorporated separately from its Board of Trustees. The BOT corporation had served as both chapter and housing entity for decades. The separate incorporations reflect the dual nature of alumni involvement with the Chapter. This action had been contemplated for over two years.

The BOT, long known as "TKE of Georgia", received responsibility for the property and facilities, including long range planning for both. The BOT will remain the ultimate authority in matters that affect the long-term viability of the housing or chapter organizations. John Reagan remains the chairman of the BOT.

The chapter corporation, "TKE Beta-Pi Chapter", will be directed by a Board of Advisors (BOA). Its responsibility is to

deliver membership development services to the undergraduate chapter and to work with the Chapter's executive committee to define and maintain membership quality through standards. The new BOA includes the chapter, faculty, and resident advisors, a representative of the BOT, the current undergraduate prytanis and other members as needed. Any BOA member can become chairman. Michael Smith will hold the office until elections to be held in spring 2006.

Both entities are Georgia not-for-profit corporations under section 501(c)(7) and contributions to them are not tax deductible. Such contributions can be made to either under certain conditions through the TKE Educational Foundation (TEF).

For additional information, e-mail Michael Smith, BOA chairman, at chapadv@betapitke.org

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Chapter Seeks New Chapter Advisor

Chapter Advisor Michael Smith (beta-pi 783) will step down as soon as a suitable replacement is elected. Smith has served as Chapter Advisor since 1990. He will remain active with the BOT and will continue as chairman of the BOA.

The Chapter is seeking a local person, at least four years out of school, who can attend some meetings at the House regularly and who can be on site otherwise when needed. The Chapter Advisor is an ex officio member of the BOA and is expected to provide the board with a good sense of the attitudes, expectations, difficulties, and opportunities facing the undergraduates. All suggested candidates will be vetted by the BOA.

Interested parties should contact the prytanis-elect and, if possible, arrange to be at the House during Homecoming or otherwise to

make themselves known to the Exec, to meet the undergraduates, and talk about the position.

For additional information, e-mail the prytanis-elect, Ian Stewart at contact@betapitke.org

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Tekes Abroad in Spring 2005

During spring 2005, Brian Giles, Chad Patterson, Brett Cupta, Ian Stewart, and Tyler Gales participated in the Pacific Study Abroad Program through Georgia Tech's Office of International Education. Under a partnership with Queensland University, Sydney University, Melbourne University, and Victoria University they were able to take four courses while enjoying the culture and cuisine of New Zealand and Australia. All but Tyler enjoyed whitewater rafting, bungee jumping, and other activities that were supplemented by the beauty of the Pacific Rim. Foreign beer and women were also indulged in.

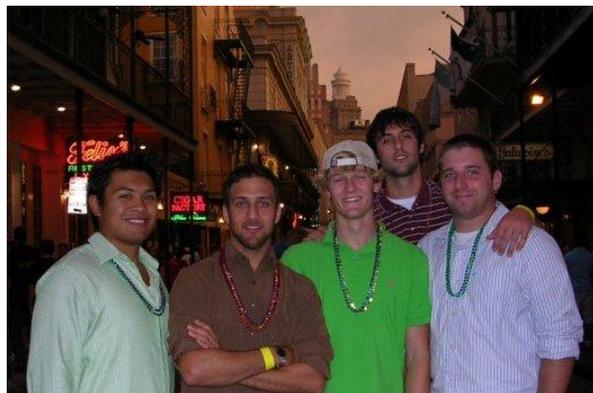
This past summer, two more undergrads departed for Europe participating in the Oxford Summer Program. Chris Garrigues spent June under the LCC Italian Film Studies program at the University of Udine in Gorizia, Italy. Meanwhile, Kevin Leung was on a bus tour of six countries in Western Europe. In July, both took residency at Worcester College in Oxford, England.

Helmut Drews organized his own study abroad, travelling in Europe for a few weeks before settling down to study German in Germany.

Also in Germany, Philip Deutschler at the end of the summer will end a year long stint studying and working abroad.

These Tekes are all taking full advantage of a Beta Pi tradition. Memories and stories of studying abroad often fill hours of conversation and gavel talks. Out-of-state students have the additional advantage of receiving in-state tuition when abroad.

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Beta-Pi at the TKE Conclave

TKE Beta-Pi sent five men to the 53rd biannual Conclave held July 28-31 in New Orleans. The Conclave met at the Fairmont Hotel, one block north of Bourbon Street on the west side of Canal. Brett Cupta, Rob Sanford, Carlos Tan, Pete Creighton, and Mike Plachta drove seven hours in a van from Atlanta. Chapter Advisor Michael Smith flew from Charlotte. BOA member David Adcock flew from Atlanta. The Conclave elected Mark Fite of the Delta-Xi Chapter at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio as the new Grand Prytanis.

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New Resident Advisor

Mark Cupta, #1177, moved into the RA's apartment in the Chapter House in early July,

becoming the seventh beta-pi RA. The duties of the advisor were codified by the Board of Trustees during the term of his predecessor, Todd Weiser, #1192, who left in May for military training in Arizona. Among other things, the RA has specific duties related to maintenance and safety. He also acts as the agent of the Board of Trustees of the Chapter and is fully empowered to intervene to prevent any act that poses unacceptable risks or that may cause legal problems for members or for the Chapter or that represents abuse of the facilities or of Chapter property in his opinion. All residents and guests, including alumni of the Chapter, are expected to cooperate with the Resident Advisor.

Armed with a grant from the Board of Trustees, this summer completed a complete renovation of the old resident advisor's apartment. Mark began by repainting all the walls and then moved on to replacing all the carpet and putting some linoleum down in the kitchen and in the bathroom. Mark also replaced the stove and the refrigerator and the blinds, updated some of the fixtures and, along with his parents, furnished the place with a sectional couch (from the Salvation Army, of course, but clean), plates and silverware, a table, and a desk. Cabling was updated and made neater and he fixed the bedroom doors. The next advisor will have to show up with little more than a bed.

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Brief BOA Note

The chapter continues to improve all areas of operations. Finances are in good shape, we expect to see grades start to improve as the Chapter reacts to new Board policies, and we are now addressing the need to give the Exec some means to deal with inappropriate behaviors of members short of “hauling out the nukes” and kicking them out. The last is a major change for our Chapter and the challenge is to put an end to the “entitlement

mentality” and freedom from accountability based solely on having been initiated. This attitude has proven to be a persistent drag on our progress. On a lighter note, we are still on track to pay off the \$600,000 house loan in 2008, only 15 years after we signed the papers to build the “new” social quarters!



New Face on Fifth Street

Fifth street widening finished in time for rush. With the addition of a new wall somewhat enclosing the downhill side of the property. All trees were preserved in the process. We are also hopeful that the new wall will help us control access to the property. The path leading from the sidewalk to our front door now has an additional step in it and, unfortunately, the last of the group of elms that once stood there was felled. However, this does remove from our concerns that little planter that was trampled during every event at the Chapter House. All of the block-work done a few years ago by the undergrads has been preserved as have the elm and the ginkgo planted during the early 1980s.

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Update Your Records?

The URL of the Chapter website is <http://www.betapitke.org>. To update your record or to query the member database, click on the menu item “Alumni and Friends” and view a page of interesting things.