

Spring Semester 2006 Newsletter (May 2006)

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

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TKE Returns to Greek Week Dominance

TKE Beta-Pi returned this spring to dominance in Greek Week at Georgia Tech.

The week began with TKE's 10th victory in Tug. In four matches taking place during five hours beginning at noon on Sunday, TKE explained to Tech's Greek Community what a feckless pie-eating contest Greek Week would be without TKE. This year's men on the line included: Andy Love, Carlos Tan, Chad Patterson, Griffin Fulmer, Ian Stewart, Mark Ladish, Michael McLeod, Mike Morello, Nick Rossi, John Nickerson, Kevin Savage, Scott Griffin, Todd Brock, and Rob Sanford (Anchor). Tuggers who were not on the line included: Phillip Deutschler (Anchor/Coach in the Pit), Chris Dryja, Chris

Garrigues, Helmut Drews, Justin Norvell, Manuel Jimenez, Pearce Matthews (Anchor), Pete Creighton, Tyler Gales. Thanks to Brian Kessler, Pat Bartlett, Michael Smith and, especially, Marc Manning, for helping Griffin out with tug-related expenses.

Other events TKE placed first in included Sweatshirt Relay, Chariot Race, 3 on 3 Basketball tournament, and Greek God and Goddess.

TKE's narrow margin of victory came down to Greek Sing, where a humorous and talent-laden performance put TKE in first place overall and the final point total was not decided until after TKE won points during the last protest meeting of the week. The

margin of victory was less than 2 points over Theta Chi, who had spent the previous night celebrating, albeit *before* the fat lady sang. The last act belonged to TKE, by damn.

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From the Prytanis

The Beta-pi chapter carried its positive momentum from last fall into the new semester. Before closing out the fall semester, however, several notable events occurred:

Brett Cupta was elected as IFC Administrative Vice President, along with Mark Ladisch and Pete Creighton being elected as IFC Social and Public Relations committee chairs respectively. Shortly thereafter, ten other TKE brothers were elected to committee chair positions making this our largest involvement in IFC in recent history. The Beta Pi chapter then proceeded to wrap up the fall semester with a 3.1 active member GPA.

The spring semester also held its share of exciting events for the chapter. Under the coaching of Griffin Fulmer, TKE once again reclaimed the tug pit – dominating each of its four opponents in less than two minutes. Scotty Griffin, acting as Greek Week chair, then proceeded to lead the chapter to our first Greek Week victory in three years.

Ian Stewart was awarded the J. Erskine Love philanthropy award at this year's "Up with the White and Gold" ceremony, where TKE also received 2nd place in Educational Programming for the year.

Oliver Barrett was reelected to the office of epi-prytanis and will be taking over the duties of the prytanis while Ian studies abroad this summer in Europe. Alex Hoffman, John Nickerson, Cody Parham, John Callaghan, Mark Ladisch, and Nick Rossi will also be participating on the Oxford summer study abroad program.

Spring was an exciting semester for the Beta-pi chapter. We look forward to continuing our recent successes through the summer and into the upcoming fall semester.

YITB,
Ian Stewart, TKE Beta-Pi Prytanis

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Chapter Scholarship Remains High

During their fall 2005 semester, the Beta-Pi chapter of TKE experienced one of its largest GPA improvements in recent times. After corrections to the roster, the Chapter GPA was 3.1, placing TKE 6th among Georgia Tech fraternities.

In accord with its scholarship policy, the Board of Trustees awarded rent scholarships of \$766 to members of the winning grade team and the Chapter making several hundred dollars in other awards. On the other hand, four members lost housing privileges at the end of fall due to chronic low academic performance. This represented the first full implementation of the BOT's comprehensive incentive approach adopted in summer 2004.

The TKE Educational Foundation's Awards and Scholarship Committee named Francis "Pete" Creighton, #1259, a member of the 2006 TKE All-Academic Team. Each member of the team receives a \$300 scholarship funded from alumni donations. Pete is studying Biomedical Engineering and expects to graduate in 2008.

The Chapter average for 2006 spring remained high at 2.98. BOT and Chapter awards will be made during summer and fall. However, three members lost housing privileges due to chronic low academic performance and another member was dismissed from Tech. That member had previously lost housing privileges.

Although it is distressing to the Chapter and to individuals when a member must leave the House, the BOT intends to hold this course in scholarship, keeping in place the incentives to encourage members to take measures that ensure their and their friends' academic success at Tech.

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Ian Stewart Wins Walgreen Scholarship

Ian Stewart, #1243, current prytanis, is the recipient of the 2006 Charles R. Walgreen, Jr. Scholarship from the TKE Educational Foundation.



The Walgreen Award, worth \$2,500, is given to only one member of TKE each year in recognition of outstanding leadership as demonstrated by an individual's activities and accomplishments within the chapter; on campus and in the community, while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Ian has provided outstanding leadership for the chapter since his election in November 2005.

This award recognizes the lifelong commitment of Charles Walgreen as a TKE volunteer and supporter. The retired President and Chairman of Walgreen Drug Company was initiated in 1925 at Upsilon Chapter, University of Michigan. He is a Past Grand Officer of TKE, provided start-up funding for the TKE Leadership Academy, and was

Honorary Chairman of the Foundation's Centennial Endowment Campaign.

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Tekes Enjoy Parties

TKE's party schedule is at full speed. Holding the annual Polar Beach Party, TKE entertained the masses with two bands and a DJ night. Numerous other band parties and off campus socials were held including Monster Trucks at the Georgia Dome, and mixers with Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Chi Omega.

The weekend of February 24th, the chapter packed their bags and headed up to Nashville, Tennessee for their Red Carnation Ball. Hosted in the beautiful Opryland Hotel, brothers and their dates enjoyed a festive night of music and fun.

Rachel Randman, a 3rd year Industrial Design major and sister of Zeta Tau Alpha, was announced as the new sweetheart.



Girlfriend of Pete Creighton, Rachel has promised to cook many baked goods and to cheer for TKE in all its endeavors over the next school year.

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Chapter Raises Money for Good Causes

On the week of the annual Georgia Game in 2005, the Chapter began a campus food drive to raise food for *Atlanta Community Food Bank*. Members posted flyers to make everyone on campus aware of the food drive that would be held on Saturday, the 26th of

November during the Big Game. Unfortunately bad weather soaked the notices and kept people indoors, so few learned of the drive. Not to be stopped, members chipped in from their own pockets and, with help from alumni Brian L Burns, Michael Smith, Cameron R Moore, and Todd Weiser, the chapter donated 240 lbs. of food to the Food Bank.

This spring, the Chapter organized its first inter-collegiate paintball tournament to benefit the *Alzheimer's Association*. Attracting nearly 80 people from various campuses, the event raised approximately \$400 for the charity.

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Initiates and Graduates Leave Chapter 87 Strong

The Chapter initiated nineteen candidates on November 13th, 2005. Prytanis Ian Stewart presided. Board of Advisors member David Adcock supervised and helped with ritual review. The new members are:

Nate Raines, (Beta-Pi 1301, Augusta, GA)
Nick Jennings (Beta-Pi 1302, West Chester, PA)
Chris Tan (Beta-Pi 1303, Augusta, GA)
Bart Perkins (Beta-Pi 1304, Cumming, GA)
Greg Gallagher (Beta-Pi 1305, Franklin, MA)
Andy Love (Beta-Pi 1306, Stockbridge, GA)
Spencer McLeod (Beta-Pi 1307, Marietta, GA)
John Ianelli (Beta-Pi 1308, Andover, MA)
Brian Kobler (Beta-Pi 1309, Columbia, MD)
Kevin Savage (Beta-Pi 1310, Tampa, FL)
Pearce Matthews (Beta-Pi 1311, Snellville, GA)
Jake Hinton (Beta-Pi 1312, Locust Grove, GA)
Brendan O'Leary (Beta-Pi 1313, Essex Junction, VT)
Manuel Jiminez (Beta-Pi 1314, Costa Rica)
Steve Iarocci (Beta-Pi 1315, Londonderry, NH)
Tyler Anderson (Beta-Pi 1316, Roswell, GA)
Jeremy Ku (Beta-Pi 1317, Marietta, GA)
Chris Colross (Beta-Pi 1318, Gaithersburg, MD)
Jack Gardner (Beta-Pi 1319, Gainesville, GA)

The Chapter initiated four candidates on April 9th, 2006:

Zach Zegar (Columbia, MD - BPi 1320)
Jeremy Martz (Clarksville, MD - BPi 1321)

Kevin Cannella (Ellicott City, MD - BPi 1322)
Stuart Godlasky (Fayetteville, PA - BPi 1323).

Also, during the last academic year, some true old-timers have finally "gotten out".

Jared Dent, who graduated in the fall, currently lives in Atlanta and works for the Atlanta Hawks, Thrashers, and Philips Arena.

Jay Gardner, a former prytanis, graduated in Management with a Certificate in Accounting. He has moved into Home Park. Jay will be a staff accountant for Arby's Restaurant Group in their South Regional office just outside the perimeter on Peachtree Industrial. After training and a few months on the job, he will be in charge of the financial reporting for up to 25 Arby's restaurants in the Southeast.

Griffin Fulmer, another former prytanis, graduated in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Griffin has accepted a position with Capgemini, LLC where he will be a business strategy consultant.

Mark Cupta, still another former prytanis, defended his thesis and graduated with the MSChE in spring. Mark has moved to Houston, TX to work as a product development specialist with Celanese.

Chad Patterson received the BEE in spring 2006. This summer, he will intern at the Army Research Lab in Maryland. Chad will return to Tech for the MSEE in the fall. He will also be taking on the role of RA in the Teke House.

Chris Kantus received the BME.

Michael Ulasewicz will graduate this summer and is the latest of many Tekes to accept a position with Manhattan Associates.

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New Resident Advisor Starting 2006 Fall

Chad Patterson, #1233, will move into the RA's apartment in the Chapter House in August, becoming the eighth beta-pi RA. Chad replaces Mark Cupta, #1177, who graduated in the spring. Chad will remain in the House while he works on the MSEE. Among other things, the RA has specific duties related to maintenance and safety.

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Tekes Abroad in Summer 2006

Ian Stewart, John Nickerson, Alex Hoffman, Cody Parham, John Callaghan, Nick Rossi, and Mark Ladisch are leaving at the end of May to spend a summer at Oxford University in the UK as part of Tech's Study Abroad.



Justin Norvell will be journeying to the far side of the world to participate in Tech's Pacific Program.

Tekes abroad habitually take full advantage of the travel opportunities afforded by the Study Abroad program and we look forward to receiving an entertaining series of e-mail updates and photographs.

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From the Boards

The Chapter Boards met in late April with the executive committee and interested undergrads.

Finances Solid

Michael Smith, #783, presented the BOT's financial report for 2005, which showed a healthy checking balance and rapid progress paying off the 1993 loan taken out to build the "new" social quarters. Undergrad receivables are negligible, a welcome change from the situation of two years ago, and only a handful of deadbeat alumni and dropouts remain with the collection agent. Undergrad budgets for summer and fall have been

reviewed and will allow for much maintenance and improvement of the facilities during the summer. There is a waiting list for housing in the fall. Financially, both BOT and Chapter are solid. The BOT remains on track to pay off the debt in 2008.

Facilities Renovations in the Thought Stage

BOT Chairman John Reagan solicited undergraduate involvement in the design process for the next round of facilities renovations. A pitched roof, exterior cladding, and new windows are given but, currently, the intent is also to completely gut and rework the dormitory building. More specific plans will emerge in the coming months. Smith will create a new long term model and plan for BOT finances before the end of May.

Membership Development under Review

BOA Chairman Michael Smith outlined a plan to greatly increase alumni involvement with the Chapter while formalizing the member development process at the Beta-Pi. The process currently ends, for all intents and purposes, at initiation, which represents a wasted opportunity for both undergraduates and alumni.

The Chapter's program will not be revolutionary. Instead it will fulfill the intent of earlier efforts within TKE to address the different needs of students at different stages of their undergrad lives. Similar programs have been introduced by other national fraternities and TKE is currently revisiting this issue. Possibly the best-known such effort is SigEp's "Balanced Man" program. Although the Chapter's program will resemble SigEp's in the way it is documented, it will differ in some important aspects.

First, the program at the Beta-Pi will be based only on positive incentives. There is a threat of strong punishment to provide the incentive

to advance in SigEp. As in the military, it's "up or out". In TKE, we will allow that we are possibly "not our best" at nineteen or twenty and allow each member to progress at his own pace.

Second, our program will emphasize "pragmatic" results rather than "idealistic" ones, that is, the goal will be help Tekes prepare to succeed on their own terms in school and after graduation rather than to turn out any particular model of young man. In designing our program, we must resist the temptation to address any regrets we might have regarding "wasted youth" (See quote at bottom of page 1.) or to satisfy a desire to succeed vicariously through molding others.

Housing privileges, rent concessions, and other honors and privileges will serve as positive incentives for members to progress through the requirements of more meaningful levels of membership.

Features will include the usual philanthropy and evidence of support for the Chapter but will also include substantial requirements for interacting with alumni or campus personnel to acquire life skills in ways that are gratifying for the alumni as well as for the undergrads. In short, the design objectives of our MDP are:

- Flexibility to address different developmental needs and interests
- Measurable outcomes with quality control
- Pragmatic life-skills orientation
- Encourage alumni involvement
- Ease of administration

Updated program materials and incentives will be introduced this fall with the new candidate class. Transitioning existing members at the appropriate level into the reward system will take place over the following year.

It is also likely that the shape of the Chapter Corporation and the Board of Advisors will be changed significantly as part of this program, creating a path from undergraduate to continuing alumni involvement with the Chapter. Those plans should be settled before the end of the summer.

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

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Using Technology to Keep Alumni Informed

In spring 2006, we began creating alumni mailing lists through Google™



Groups. The Alumni General List is for official announcements from the Chapter, Board, or Alumni Association only and is not available for personal posts from members. To subscribe to the Alumni General List, visit <http://www.betapitke.org>, click on the link "Alumni and Friends" and look for the Google logo. You can also query the database and update your record from this page.

On the other hand, the Alumni Forums, created for five year increments beginning in 1948, are truly open forums—a member can belong to as many lists as he wants and any member can post. Currently, lists have been created for all increments but 1958, 1963, and 1968 (coming soon.) Go to <http://www.betapitke.org/groups/> to get more information or to subscribe.

Finally, old copies of newsletters are available on-line but not through a link from the website. To see them, go directly to <http://www.betapitke.org/alumni/newsletters.htm>.

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