

# Pi Kappa Phi

## BETA ALPHA PARTICLES

America's Leading Fraternity—Since 1904

Fall 2011

### Archon Report

By Javier Vasques BA 760

Brothers, welcome back to Beta Alpha's 2011 Founders Day celebration! My name is Brother Archon Javier Vasques and it is my great pleasure to be the new President of this historic chapter. Let me begin by informing you that we have 782 members and currently have 3 new associate members well on their way to add to that number!

This semester we - the undergraduate chapter - continue to be grateful for the service that Brother Dave White BA432 has been providing us by always pointing us to the True North as our Chapter Advisor. This semester we also welcomed our new Leadership Consultant Brother Matt Osorio, who also happens to be a member of the National Expansion Committee.

More than ever, the chapter's main objective for this semester and next continues to be in our recruitment efforts. Our main goal is still to bring the chapter's associate member class back to at least the double digits. In order to do this, we have had to take a hard look at our recruitment methods and analyze every little detail to see what we've done wrong, and what we've done right. We have come to realize that our previous recruitment methods have been too static in nature (such as relying primarily on our quickly aging house) and have begun adopting more dynamic approaches like creating a Pi Kapp marketing team, retaking a permanent hang-out spot on campus, joining clubs & organizations, and for the first time in at least 8 years, holding a position on IFSC E-board. These simple things are a few of many plans we have for increasing our on campus presence. We admit we are not the largest fraternity on campus, yet this semester we have shown our pride in our letters more than most and people are starting to notice. On top of our recruitment plans, our LC Matt has also promised to try and return early next semester and dedicate his full attention to helping us recruit. With his experience and resources, and our dedication to this fraternity, next semester is going to be a great time to be a Pi Kapp.

In other news, Beta Alpha chapter has continued to increase its average PUSH America donations. So far we have managed to raise over \$700 through various on campus events such as Tour de Tech, Highlander Showdown, our semi-annual Bike-a-Thon, our annual Halloween Pumpkin

Sale, and information/donation tables. One new tool we implemented this semester that helped us reach this number was setting up a Square Up account which allows us to accept any credit card donations via a device attached to our Smartphone. Now passerby's and Alumni can no longer say "Oh sorry, I don't have any cash on me. Do you take credit?" Yes we do! For more information, grab an undergrad and ask him to show you how it works as he processes your donation.

As a reminder to all, Pi Kappa Phi will be hosting Supreme Chapter this year in Washington, D.C., from August 2 - 5, 2012. In addition to being at our Nation's capital, we will also be celebrating the 35th anniversary of Push America at this Supreme Chapter! To mark this happy occasion there will be several Push America events throughout the convention including; a Push America luncheon, a Pi Alpha Ride-Along and the arrival of the Build America and Journey of Hope teams. Brothers, this is the event of a lifetime, put it in your calendar books and I will see you there

A brother once said; "The future starts with today and it is crucial that the brotherhood has the proper guidance and focus to flourish and thrive." Thanks to the guidance of our outstanding alumni, both young and old, this chapter has that focus it needs to flourish and thrive.

In the short time that I have been this chapter's Archon, I have seen the brothers make grand strides towards becoming an ideal chapter. Despite the financial hardships we are all facing these days, the brothers here have managed to stick together and show their true colors of Blue, White, and Gold. There are a lot of challenges for us in the coming semesters but we are confident that we have what it takes to overcome whatever comes our way. Brotherhood is alive and well at Beta Alpha and it will continue to do so as we continue to live out the RITUAL of fraternity.

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## Phired Up & Rush

By Bryan Horvath BA 767

Last semester the Greek community pitched in money for a recruitment team to come to campus. On Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm, the dynamic recruitment team called Phired Up Productions came to campus for a seminar which a majority of us attended. The seminar was great and extremely informative on the proper way to effectively recruit new members. It taught us how to go digital with our recruitment that way we can penetrate a large part of the campus not just a small specific group of friends. We have now incorporated the use of a large data bank that we are calling The Brain which houses all information The Brain helps us to organize all information we have on potential new members, and allows us to rank each person from most likely to receive a bid to least likely to receive a bid.

We are currently trying to make our presence on campus more profound by not only being on campus in person, but also through the use of the star shield as our on campus symbol. What I mean by this exactly is using the star shield to our own benefit by strategically placing it all over campus for all to see. On November 17<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm we will be hosting a rush table promoting our \$100 dollar scholarship raffle for books. We will also be promoting at the recruitment table the

dollar scholarship raffle for books. We will also be promoting at the recruitment table the time of our Pi Kappa Phi info session on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. Since recruitment is right now the most important thing, we have formed a PR committee that is responsible for making fliers, promoting events, and setting up new recruitment events. Our president Javier has come up with a great promotion tool which is kind of a spinoff of Snapple facts called Pi Kapp facts. Each flier will be the size of an index card with a Star shield on it, and will have an interesting national or historical Pi Kappa Phi fact on the bottom.

On campus presence and organization are two of the most important essentials to successful recruiting. It took the chapter a while to realize the proper work that was necessary to recruit the right group of guys for the future of the fraternity. Since attending the Phired Up seminar I believe we all have grasped the idea of proper recruitment and now all that needs to be done is putting the techniques into practice. We have a designated spot on campus right outside the campus center between the dorms and the green where we hangout majority of the time.

## Bike-A-Thon

By Ahmed Abdelsayed BA 781

On October 18<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm, we, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi, held our annual 24 hour Bike-A-Thon to raise awareness for people with disabilities, and money for PUSH America. The idea behind the 24 hour Bike-A-Thon started last year when our chapter advisor Dave White BA 432 proposed this idea. The brothers loved the idea and it didn't take us much time to get ready and hold the event. The weather during this year's event wasn't the best, it was raining and it was cold, but that didn't stop the brothers from peddling continuously for a straight day. It was awesome and rewarding to see the reactions of the passing students, especially after midnight. This year we managed to beat the expectations even with the doubt of the weather and raised a good amount of money after midnight. The event was successful this year, and we are planning on keeping this event as a semi-annual Beta Alpha event. Please get in touch with me or any of the active undergraduates if you are interested in donating or helping out with our future events.



From left: Chris Maring, Javier Vasques, Lee Ping Zhou

## Breast Cancer Walk

By Lee Ping Zhou BA 782

Each year, IFSC has all the Greek organizations participate in helping out the American Cancer Society in raising money for breast cancer. IFSC required each Greek organization go to one of the two events, the breast cancer dinner, and the breast cancer walk. However, the breast cancer walk was recommended.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> at even 7 pm was the breast cancer dinner and we had the most people show up for the dinner. We, with some of our alumni that we asked to help the cause, raised a total of two hundred dollars in one night. We had the most people show up for the dinner. The other Greek organizations were low in attendance, but more of them showed up for the dinner. We made sure that our presence was not to be taken lightly.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6 am the American Cancer Society held their annual breast cancer walk. It was a cold, sunny day but some of the brothers got up to volunteer for the walk. The brothers donated seven hours of service for the walk to serve five to six thousand people. For the last five years, Pi Kappa Phi has volunteered to move water, set up the water stations and trash bins for the walkers, survivors, people walking for loved ones and the local officers helping out for this event to stay hydrated. We are the only organization that volunteers to move water to stations each year.

William Greb BA 759 and his father, Peter Greb, who

has been volunteering for ten years, greatly appreciated that the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi volunteered for the walk. Peter Greb is an officer who is also a leader of the Boy Scout Troop 305. Even the Boy Scouts helped out and loved that college students in a fraternity were helping out for the breast cancer walk.

By eleven-thirty am, all the water was gone and we collected the trash from the water stations. At the end of the day, we had fun and were feeling great for giving our time to service, donating the most amount of money and supporting the American Cancer Society's breast cancer walk.



From left: Christian Beckmann, Lee Ping Zhou, Sam Guerra

## Tour de Tech

By Chris Maring BA 766

This year, NJIT's annual bike race was held on October 2. Tour de Tech is a 50-lap race around campus. Teams were allowed a total of 4 riders and 2 bikes. There was a small fortune on the line, especially for Greeks. The prizes for the top three teams were \$300, \$200 and \$100. Additionally the first Greek team got \$200. The prospect of winning potentially \$500 for Push was promising with just 6 teams in total, only 2 of them competing with us for the Greek prize. This was enough motivation for us to put together a team, and give it our best.

At first glance, the race looked easy enough, but given the competition and the laps, it was much tougher than expected. Riders started on Summit Street with 5 designated pit areas in front of CKB. The course wrapped around campus, including several features that served as the obstacles, making the race far from easy. For example after a quick ride down the hill near the NJIT clock tower and making a u-turn, riders had to pedal back up, putting their gear shifting skills to the test. The combination of turns, hills, and straight-aways (with bumps, cracks, and patches of rough pavement) required riders

to balance speed, maneuverability, and over all endurance.

The competition was fierce and all the participants were pushed to the limit of their abilities. The brothers and I rotated taking a couple laps each, and catching our breath in between turns. We had a good position near the front. After several laps, we began to see who was going to be our real opposition. We spent the majority of the race battling Alpha Sigma Phi.

With each lap, I tuned my strategy of gear-shifting patterns to keep my speed up through the harsh road conditions. I could see that the other members of our team wanted to win just as bad as I did. Sadly all of our efforts focused on winning the race, along with the support of our brothers, friends, and associate members at the sidelines were not enough to win. But we definitely put up a good fight, and made the other Greek organizations earn their prize money. When all was said and done we walked away with \$50 for PUSH America, a t-shirt, and a stomach full of pizza. Perhaps we didn't finish first, but it still felt like a victory to us.

# PI KAPPA PHI

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Tour de Tech

From left : Chris Maring, Samuel Guerra, Christian Beckmann, Bryan Horvath, Javier Vasques, Lee Ping Zhou