

THETA IOTA NEWS

The Official Alumni Newsletter of the Theta Iota Chapter
of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Penn State Altoona

Issue 1

July 2005

Website Launched!

With the launching of our website, the Theta Iota chapter has finally entered the 21st century.

Included is everything you ever need to know about our chapter, as well as an entire alumni page.

Visit us at:
clubs.psu.edu/sigmapi

New E-Board Is Elected

Sage

John Blackburn
Junior-Bedford, PA

Second Councilor

Mark DiDonato
Sophomore-Landsdale, PA

Third Councilor

Brandon Serralta
Junior-Long Island, NY

Fourth Councilor

Jesse Koch
Senior-Pittsburgh, PA

First Councilor

Pat Quinn
Sophomore-Pittsburgh, PA

Herald

Ryan Brown
Sophomore-York, PA

Alumni Program Designed For Success

As a young, developing chapter, Theta Iota has been working to establish the foundations of a successful chapter. One of the very last programs that our chapter is working to establish is perhaps the most important. Strong alumni support is essential for a successful chapter.

Not only are we attempting to get alumni of the Theta Iota chapter involved, we are also attempting to branch out to all of the Sigma Pi alumni within traveling distance of Penn State Altoona. Our chapter is in need of experienced men who are willing to provide guidance for our young chapter in order for us to become a strong, efficient, and progressive body. We are meeting this challenge in several ways.

The first is our alumni newsletter, which you are currently reading. This newsletter is currently scheduled to be distributed twice a year. The newsletter is meant to inform our alumni of the major news and progress of our chapter, as well as give a more personal, and in-depth view of our chapter.

The next major alumni program that we have

introduced is our website dedicated solely to the alumni. Here you can read announcements and updates from our alumni, as well as submit your own news to be posted. We also will be posting any upcoming alumni events, provide ways for lost members and new alumni to contact us, as well as posting a digital version of the alumni newsletter for quick download. Lastly, we provide in-depth information on the many ways for alumni to get involved with our chapter.

The long term goal of the website is to eventually turn it over to our alumni, who can take what we have already established, elaborate upon it, and eventually establish a website run solely by our alumni.

Our last alumni program is our electronic newsletter. This secondary newsletter will be sent out much more frequently than our alumni newsletter, and will provide current information about upcoming and recently passed events, as well as chapter news and announcements. Sign up for our electronic newsletter on the alumni website, or send an e-mail to our webmaster at jck202@psu.edu.

We hope that the implementation of these programs will dramatically improve our alumni relations, something that we feel is so essential to the chapter. For more information about our chapter, and our alumni program please visit both our chapter, and alumni websites.

Why are you receiving this newsletter?

This initial publication of the Theta Iota Alumni Newsletter is being sent to all Theta Iota Alumni, as well as all Sigma Pi alumni within 50 miles of Altoona.

If you do not wish to receive this publication in the future, e-mail, or write us with your intentions.

E-mail: jck202@psu.edu

Mail: Sigma Pi Fraternity
205 Slep Student Center
3000 Ivyside Park
Altoona, PA 16601

A Year Marked By Success

The 2004-2005 academic year proved to be another strong year for the Theta Iota Chapter. It has always been, and will continue to be our goal to be the strongest, most active and influential fraternity on campus. Our hard work and dedication was acknowledged at the annual Greek Awards Banquet held on April 28, 2005.

The first honor given to us was the Greek Week trophy that was won several weeks earlier. Pairing up with Kappa Phi Delta sorority, our team trounced the opposition in almost every competition during the week-long event. In one of the most important events, Sage John Blackburn won the title of Greek God by raising the most amount of money to be given to our charity, Easter Seals of Central Pennsylvania.

Our chapter was also given the "Excellence in Community Service" award for our ongoing work in support of philanthropic endeavors in our community. During the past academic year, our chapter performed a variety of different service projects. These projects include; our creek cleanup, which is part



Brothers celebrate another Greek Week victory with the sisters of Kappa Phi Delta after this years volleyball tournament.

of the national ACE (Altruistic Campus Experience) Project, a Safe Trick or Treat Night for the children of our surrounding community, and monthly fireman's breakfasts in support of the Loretto Volunteer Fire Department.

Next, we took the award for "Event of the Year" for our on-campus Super Bowl Party. At the event, the game was shown on a 10 foot projection screen, and pizza and hoagies were served for around 300 students, all at no cost to them. Though this is only our second year hosting the Super Bowl Party, it is quickly becoming one of Sigma Pi's trademark events.

Lastly, past Sage Jesse Koch was given the

individual honor of "Greek Man of the Year". He was recognized for his efforts with improving chapter efficiency and communications, as well as his efforts at improving the overall quality of the Penn State Altoona experience. It should be noted that this is the second year in a row that a Sigma Pi has been named "Greek Man of the Year."

We are very proud of our accomplishments in every area of the chapter this year. The year was highlighted with rethinking old ideas, and implementing new ones, all for the betterment of the chapter. Accordingly, it is gratifying to be recognized by the Greek Community for these efforts.

A Message From The Sage

Dear Alumni,

Hello, I am John R. Blackburn IV, the newly appointed sage of Sigma Pi International, Theta Iota Chapter. I am currently a Junior, and am studying Premed at the Penn State Altoona Campus. I plan to spend the rest of my college career at Penn State Altoona and stay involved with our fraternity, campus, and community as much as possible. Enough about me, lets talk about what I want to do with Sigma Pi in the upcoming school year.

First off and most importantly, we need to increase our numbers. Rush must be a success, I would like to bring in at least 10-15 new pledges, but we have set a lofty goal for ourselves of 25.

Next, we need to improve how our weekly meetings are structured. I plan to have more formal meetings than the previous year and I plan on running these meetings with more authority and professionalism so we can actually get business done.

As you can see by this newsletter, I would also love to improve our alumni relations because we are currently in great need of alumni support.

If I can accomplish these goals which I have set for myself, I feel that the next year will be a very prosperous one for the Theta Iota chapter.

Don't forget to visit our website.
www.clubs.psu.edu/sigmapi

Gearing Up For Successful Recruitment

In order to maintain our chapter's success, it is crucial for us to have a strong and successful recruitment program. As Penn State Altoona is mostly a two year campus, we must recruit hard every semester in order to keep our numbers at the level that both our chapter and the Executive Office desire.

The upcoming fall rush period is no exception. Brothers Phil Stoops and Jesse Koch have scheduled our most intense recruitment program to date. Seven events have already been planned, and will take place during the two weeks of rush.

We have scheduled a dodgeball tournament on August 31, which will be the first on-campus rush event held by any fraternity. Other events include a movie night in the Slep TV Lounge, in which we will be showing "Sorority Boys", a sand volleyball tournament, and an all Greek 'Water Pong' Tournament.

Staples of the past will also be included. Our wildly successful poker night, which always draws at least forty men, will be held once again. Our invitation only spaghetti dinner will also take place as the recruitment period draws to a conclusion.

In addition to these events, and socials, our chapter is also implementing new strategies to improve our

recruitment. These methods should not only improve our recruitment, but also our campus image.

Our first major change was to have a majority of our returning members sign up to be Orientation Leaders during Freshman Orientation Week. Orientation Leaders are responsible for planning, and carrying out programs aimed at educating new students and getting them acclimated to our college. As Orientation Leaders, our members will get personal contact with freshman and form close bonds with them even before rush week starts. Orientation Leaders are viewed as leaders on campus, which is the exact image that our fraternity tries to portray.

Another change being made to our recruitment program was the revamping of our program used for rush tables. In the past several brothers have sat

behind our rush table and waited for potential rushes to come to them. However, we have implemented an active recruitment method to ensure success. No more than 2 brothers will be at the rush table at one time, as to not intimidate rushes. Meanwhile, we will send brothers to high traffic areas on and off campus in order to meet new people, and let them know about our events, and our rush table.

We hope that these new methods, when blended with our older, most successful methods will ensure us with the strongest rush program, as well as the best recruitment class in our chapters history. Our goal for the upcoming semester is to have a recruitment class of more than twenty-five members.

All of our recruitment events are open to any Sigma Pi alumni who wishes to attend.



With faces like this, how can you say no to Sigma Pi?
Brandon Serralta, Pat Quinn, and John Blackburn mug for the camera

Sigma Pi Alumni in Your Community

Did you know that this many alumni lived in your area?

Altoona: 9
Boiling Springs: 10
Camp Hill: 33
Carlisle: 23
Elizabethtown: 8
Harrisburg: 59
Hershey: 13
Hollidaysburg: 9
Hummelstown: 21
Johnstown: 20
Mechanicsburg: 35

*No matter where you go,
you will find a Sigma Pi.*

Fall Recruitment Calendar

*Aug. 29 - Houses on Campus, BBQ, & Movie
5p-12a, IM Fields

Aug. 31 - Dodgeball
Tournament
10p-12a, Adler Gym

Sep. 7 - Poker Night
10p-12a, Slep TV Lounge

*Sep. 8 - Water Pong
Tournament
8p-11p, Adler Gym

Sep. 9 - Movie Night
"Sorority Boys"
10p-12a, Slep TV Lounge

Sep. 10 - Sand Volleyball
12p-2p, Outdoor Courts

Sep. 12 - Spaghetti Dinner
9p-?, Chapter House

*Denotes an all Greek, IFC sponsored event
For a complete calendar, including event descriptions, visit our website:
clubs.psu.edu/sigmapi

News From Penn State Altoona

Bechtel Appointed as Chancellor of Penn State Altoona

Lori J. Bechtel, currently the interim campus executive officer and dean at Penn State Altoona, has been appointed chancellor of the University's third-largest enrollment campus, effective July 1.

Bechtel has served as Penn State Altoona's chief administrator since Jan. 15. Her predecessor, William G. Cale Jr., resigned after more than four years as Penn State Altoona's CEO to assume the presidency of the University of North Alabama.

"We are delighted that Lori Bechtel has agreed to serve as Penn State Altoona's chancellor," said Rodney A. Erickson, executive vice president and provost of the University. "During her 21-year career at Penn State, she has distinguished herself as an outstanding scholar, teacher, administrator, and campus leader."

Bechtel has moved through the academic ranks during her service to the University. Arriving on the Penn State Altoona campus in 1985 as an instructor of health education after spending a year as a teaching assistant at University Park, she rose to the rank of professor of biobehavioral health in 1997. She went on to serve as head of the division of education, human development and social sciences from 1997 until 2003, and was named associate dean for academic affairs in July 2004 — a position she held for six months before assuming her current post. Bechtel's experience at Penn State Altoona also includes a two-year stint as the campus athletic director, from 1987-88.

Bechtel earned a baccalaureate degree in health, physical education, recreation and dance, and athletic training from Lock Haven University, a master's degree in health education from the University of Illinois and a doctorate in health education, with a minor in counseling, from Penn State. Her academic background has focused on primary prevention and health promotion, primarily for school-age children.

In accepting this appointment, Bechtel will become the first chancellor of Penn State Altoona. As part of a University-wide reorganization going into effect July 1, the campus executive officers at the 19 predominantly undergraduate locations will assume the title of chancellor and will have increased responsibilities.

-excerpt from Penn State Altoona News on the Web, a publication from the Office of University Relations.

Penn State Altoona's Newest Building Opened

Penn State Altoona officially unveiled its new classroom building on February 24, 2005, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening celebration.

The new Hawthorn building houses 56 faculty offices and 24 classrooms, including a music rehearsal room and three computer classrooms.

The building consists of approximately 58,800 square feet. Of that total square footage, 10,000 square feet is dedicated to a computer center with offices and classrooms to provide support to the computer center. The College's current computer labs and computer staff offices that are located in the Computer Learning and Resource Center will be relocated to the Hawthorn Building in March.

The Hawthorn Building contains general classrooms, seminar rooms, a lecture hall, The Pechter Family Music Room (named in honor of the Pechter family, longtime supporters of Penn State Altoona and music and arts in the community), computer laboratory, computer classrooms, staff offices for computer services, a food service area, and full-time and part-time faculty offices.

-excerpt from Penn State Altoona News on the Web, a publication from the Office of University Relations.

Greek News

Omega Delta Goes National

Omega Delta has been a local sorority on our campus since 1988. Colonized by Alpha Sigma Tau Sorority in 2004, the sorority has performed all of the requirements necessary to become a chartered member of Alpha Sigma Tau.

Minority Organizations Look To Make an Impact

During the upcoming academic year, two historically minority organizations will be joining our Greek system. Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, and Sigma Gamma Rho sorority are both expected to be colonized next year.

Did somebody say alumni website?
clubs.psu.edu/aa/sigmapi/alumni.htm

We need your help. Visit our alumni website to learn all the ways in which you can assist our chapter.