

# alpha alumni newsletter

Summer 2010



## Restore, Revive, Reach for 100

*A letter from the president*

**Homecoming  
vs.  
Indiana  
October 22 - 23,  
2010**

### Inside this Issue:

**Pg 1-3**.....Fundraising  
                  Campaign  
**Pg 3**.....Recruitment  
**Pg 4**.....Humor  
                  .....Going Green  
**Pg 5**.....Keeping in Touch  
**Pg 6**.....Distinguished  
                  Alumnus  
                  .....Homecoming  
**Pg 7**.....Homecoming  
**Pg 8**..... Officers

### Fall Business Meeting

**September 11, 2010  
10am  
@ the Chapter House**

One of the first things every BetaSig is taught are the 3 S's. Now, I would like to introduce you to the 3 R's: Restore, Revive, Reach for 100. I was told by an alumnus that the 3 R's have been used already. With my mind still on the fraternity, I assumed he was referring to something we were all taught while pledging that I could not remember, but he quickly responded, "...Reading, wRiting, aRithmetic". The joke was on me. The 3 R's will never be as important to the fraternity as the 3 S's, but I would like you to realize the meaning behind our fundraising campaign. By the end of this letter, I hope to accomplish that task. I believe the 3 R's accurately describe what the Alpha Alumni Board and fundraising volunteers are trying to accomplish during this fundraising campaign: restore the house, revive brotherhood and reach for 100 years and \$100,000.

As a brotherhood, we have a unique bond with each other. Sometimes the relationships remain close over time, other relations feel the stress of time and distance but all relationships are still there. If you have been active with the fraternity I want to thank you; if we have not heard from you within the past few years or longer, I invite you to reconnect with your Brothers. Either way, I ask that you take your time reading this newsletter because many items are discussed. There are a lot of changes happening and it is the board's goal to keep you abreast. It is vital that we not only make needed changes and updates to the house but that we revitalize and grow our connections with each other as we look ahead to the years to come and remember the years that have passed.

### Restore

We know the condition of the house varies year to year. The board has taken some big steps to improve the living conditions for the actives. Frankly, the actives expect more when it comes to their lifestyle than many of us ever did. The fraternity house will still provide the sound fundamentals of what our fraternity house has always offered while granting modern comfort and style. Major projects that have been completed over the past year include a complete restoration of the second floor bathroom and shower area, moving the laundry facilities outside the furnace room into the ice/weight room, and installing a new roof. We have all contributed to the restoration of the house in some part during our stay on campus or through donations. You will all be asked again to help contribute so the restoration of the house can get underway.

The replacement of the old tile roof on the house with a new shingle roof is the largest renovation the house has undergone in over a decade. The proposal to replace the roof came from the active chapter when they informed us about the health and safety issues. These issues primarily revolved around an increased numbers of bats living in the attic that were causing wood damage and roof leaks. We opted to install a new shingle roof due to its reduced price compared to other materials and its ease of maintenance. The roof was installed in April for a total cost of \$25,000 and it looks amazing (see pictures on website). In addition to the new roof, the house was also sealed up to prevent more animals from entering. The old tiles have been saved and are currently in storage awaiting resale and reuse on the moat. I want to again thank the multiple alumni that contributed their time and money toward the project.

As many of you already know, per a mandate from the City of Urbana, all community housing has to have a fire suppression system installed by March of 2012. We have talked about the sprinkler system that needs to be installed in the fraternity house for the past 5 years and we now have 20 months to complete the project. Without this addition we will no longer be certified as residential housing on campus, which means no more freshmen living in the house. We have received preliminary bids on the project and we estimate the cost to end up around \$100,000. This cost includes overages, last minute additions and unexpected expenses. The price varies greatly depending on how the finished product looks inside the house. Whether the piping is fully enclosed or fully exposed creates a drastic variance in the price. The decision has been made that the common areas (lounge & foyer) will have concealed piping while the bedrooms and hallways will be exposed. Over the next few months we will be choosing a contractor and setting a date for installation.

### **Revive**

Revive has meaning no matter what stage you are in as a Beta Sig: associate, active or alumnus. It refers to increasing the number of actives and associates living in the house and making the Alpha Alumni a stronger and more involved group. The actives are doing a great job with filling the house. The Fall 2010 associate member class is the biggest the house has seen in the past 10 years. This means that EVERY room in the house will be filled during the fall semester. The alumni reading this letter that were in the house in the 70's & 80's may not think that is a big accomplishment but if you look at the trend for the past decade (10-15 living in the house), it is a great step forward. The three active rush chairmen have done a great job filling the house with passionate Lutheran men. (See the Recruitment article below for details.)

Homecoming is the biggest area where the board would like to see an alumni revival take place. Every year in October, 60+ actives, alumni and spouses gather in Urbana to reminisce, reconnect and catch up with lifelong friends. We would like to see these numbers increase. To help increase attendance, an exciting change has been added to Saturday night's banquet. (See Homecoming article below for more details). Homecoming is a great opportunity to unite the past with the present. We encourage you to join us this year for all of the festivities.

### **Reach for 100**

85 years have gone by since Alpha Chapter was founded. This is a big milestone but in 5 years we will be talking about 90...then 95...then 100. Reach for 100! Every day Alpha Chapter is growing. New members are experiencing life at 706 W. Ohio Street as most of us had. Sure things have changed over time but the same sound fundamentals are still there. But they need our support. They need to see us at homecoming. They need to know that we care. It is the Board's vision to strengthen the ties between young and old. I invite you to share this vision with us and make it a success.

The board is set on raising \$125,000 by Homecoming 2011. We have currently raised \$25,000 leaving us to Reach for \$100,000. The board is reaching out to all alumni to accomplish the task. Raising \$100k is an easy task when we all come together to contribute what we can. We have about 400 living alumni

which translate to only \$250/alumnus. Many of us spend more than that in one trip to the grocery store or hardware store. I ask that you think about it; talk about it with your family. Every contribution helps keep the legacy going. I don't have kids yet, but I want them to be BetaSigs just as I was and as my father was. I want them to be taught the same fundamentals as we all have been.

### **What Happens Next?**

Shortly after you receive this newsletter, you will be contacted by a Diakonia Charismaton (Loose Greek translation, Ministry of Gift; abbrev, DC) in late August or September. He will be able to answer any questions you have about the active chapter, the sprinkler installation and about donating. Donations can be made during the 2010 and 2011 calendar year. The DC will be happy to set up a payment plan and follow those up with reminders. It is important that all donations are sent to Treasurer Greg Treichler by October 2011 so the sprinklers can be installed on time.

Please keep in mind a few items before sending the donation. The board is pursuing an option that will allow your donation to be tax deductible. When considering this option, please realize that a small percentage of the donation will be kept by that organization before we receive it. If it is important for you to have a tax deductible donation, please wait for further instructions from the DC. Along the same lines, ask your company if they will match charitable donations. It's a great way to double the money you plan to donate. If the preceding is not important to you, the fraternity always accepts donations made directly to Beta Sigma Psi.

Brothers, during our time at the U of I and at the BetaSig house most of us spent *SOME* time working on the *original* 3 R's. Enough of us made it to graduation over the past 85 years that Alpha chapter has grown to over 600 Brothers since Beta Sigma Psi started on April 17, 1925. I encourage you to think about what your time with the fraternity means and Restore, Revive, Reach for 100 with me! Please contact me with any questions or concerns you have. I look forward to working with you as we move our brotherhood into the future.

I hope this article has clearly articulated what we are trying to do and the importance of the task. It is an easy task if everyone contributes what he can; either through volunteering or monetary gifts. Please pray about his matter so that the Lord will continue to guide us along the correct path.

per Aspera, ad Astra  
Brent C. Gieseke

### **Recruitment Update**

Recruitment for Fall 2010 is off to a record pace. Currently, ten new associates will be joining in the fall, which is the largest class in about a decade. Seven of the new associates will be moving into the house. With 19 men committed to living in house this fall, all but one room will be occupied. Our recruitment chairs—Jake Payne, Kevin Volkema and Brad Bolliger—and the actives, are still extremely busy seeking out future brothers.

House visits were a major priority in the spring. Rod Gieseke, Alex Johnson (twice), Steve Meyer, Tim Norsen and Dale Wachtel all accompanied the actives on house visits. The actives have two summer rush events scheduled: boating near St. Louis and a barbeque near DeKalb on July 31

# THE LIGHTER SIDE OF LUTHERANS

## *YOU KNOW YOU ARE A LUTHERAN WHEN.....*

10. The only meal time prayer you know is “Come Lord Jesus”.
9. All of your casserole dishes have your name on the bottom.
8. They have to rope off the last few pews in church so the front isn't empty
7. A midlife crisis means switching from the old hymnbook to the new one.
6. You can't imagine a celebration without food.
5. While watching Star Wars you hear “May the force be with you” and you reply “And also with you”.
4. At potlucks all the men have tableware and napkins in their shirt pockets so their full plates are easier to carry.
3. You are at a funeral of a family member who is Catholic, and you are the only one who says “for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.” after everyone else is done.
2. You sing “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” while sitting down.
1. You arrive in church and start having a panic attack because someone else is sitting in your pew.

www.nelsontoons.com



The feeding of the Mc5000.



## Going Green



In order to maintain quality in an organization such as the Alpha Alumni Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi, timely and relevant information needs to be relayed to the general members in an efficient fashion. While I am certain that each of you enjoy reading the hardcopy newsletter as much as I do, the increasing use of technology has presented an opportunity for us to have more frequent communication.

For those of you not familiar, the Alpha Alumni Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi has an email distribution list that can be used to deliver Chapter news and also deliver the very newsletter that you are reading. General information is distributed in an email format, but the newsletter is sent as an Adobe Acrobat attachment, and can either be read digitally, or printed and enjoyed in the same manner as you are reading now. The BENEFIT of electronic delivery is the cost savings; the Alumni Chapter SAVES \$1 per person per newsletter. When you consider that we attempt to send three newsletters per year to more than 400 members, this represents a considerable savings.

How can you be part of this revolution? First, I urge you to send Mike Nolte an email ([noltemw@yahoo.com](mailto:noltemw@yahoo.com)) and request to be added to the email distribution list. After your email address has been added to the distribution list, you will receive a confirmation message in your inbox. You simply need to reply to the confirmation email and you will be included in receiving the most up-to-date material from the Alumni Chapter. We are currently approaching 100 members on the email distribution list, and hope to double that number before the next newsletter.

## Keeping In Touch

Our current fundraising effort has brought to light the fact that our contact information for many members is significantly outdated. Not only does this fact prevent us from contacting you, but also you may not receive news from the Alumni Chapter.

As mentioned in the article by the President, Restore, Revive, Reach for 100, a DC will be contacting you to update this information in late August or September. We ask that you fill it out now, making the DC's efforts easier.

A number of years have passed since an address list effort was undertaken, so in an attempt to maintain more accurate records for the Alumni Chapter database, we are asking each of you to complete the form below. You can simply return the form by email ([noltemw@yahoo.com](mailto:noltemw@yahoo.com)) or cut out and mail to (Michael Nolte, 3600 Tesla Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47906).

While you are completing the form, please share any good and welfare news that you would like your Brothers to hear about. This good news will be shared in the next newsletter.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Badge Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Life Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Family Information:  
Wife: \_\_\_\_\_  
Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Good & Welfare:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Distinguished Alumnus

Do you know an Alumnus who deserves recognition for their support of the fraternity? If so, please follow the link to our website: <http://alpha.alumni.betasigmapsi.org/alumni.html> where you can find the application online. Completed applications can be mailed/emailed to Brent Gieseke (contact information located on last page). Applications will be accepted up until the September Executive Board Meeting to be awarded at Homecoming 2010. As of press time, the Board of Directors has not received any nominations for the 2010 award. We know that there are many deserving Alumni out there; we just need you to nominate them to us.



## 2010 Homecoming

2010 Homecoming will celebrate 85 years of Beta Sigma Psi. It all started on April 17, 1925 at the University of Illinois. Through the years, Beta Sigma Psi has grown to include many other chapters and colonies. Those years included many challenges, highs and lows. Our own Alpha Chapter experienced them with de-activation and then re-activation in 1955.

In celebration of Beta Sigma Psi's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, plan to join your fellow Brothers at the 2010 Homecoming celebration. Starting the weekend, a Friday evening social is planned at the Chapter House to allow Brothers an opportunity to visit and reconnect with old friends.

Saturday will begin with the traditional Alpha Alumni Chapter Fall Business Meeting at the Chapter House. A tailgate, graciously hosted again by Brian and Pam Bunte, will be available near Memorial Stadium for alumni to gather and celebrate. We hope that you take time to enjoy the tailgate festivities before or after the game. Inside Memorial Stadium, you will get a chance to witness a hopefully much improved Illinois football team, as the Fighting Illini battle the Indiana Hoosiers\*\*.

Saturday will conclude with the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet. Join us for a hospitality hour to again visit with fellow Brothers. Dave Johnson has graciously agreed to once again act as Master of Ceremonies. Dave's quick wit and University knowledge always includes information combined with laughter. We are blessed to have him within our ranks. Following dinner, this year's keynote speaker will be Reverend Todd Wilken. Pastor Wilken is the host of the radio program *Issues, Etc.*, and assistant pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Millstadt, IL. Pastor Wilken is a native of Dallas Texas, and earned the Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary in 1990. In addition to serving as radio host and congregation Pastor, he has also written articles for publications including: *Issues, Etc. Journal*, *Modern Reformation*, and *Higher Things*.

This year, in honor of our fraternity's 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are making a concerted effort to have as many alumni return as possible to share this anniversary, reacquaint with friends, and just enjoy a weekend at our favorite college town. Please earmark October 22-24, 2010 on your calendar and plan on coming back.

**\*\* Football Tickets purchased from the Alumni Chapter will be available to be picked up at the Friday evening social event, Saturday morning Business Meeting, or the Pre-game Tailgate. Exact location for the Pre-game and Post-game Tailgate will be announced during Homecoming Weekend.**

### 2010 Homecoming Update

The dinner/dance location is changed to the Holiday Inn off of Lincoln Avenue in Urbana to provide a larger banquet facility, and there are now 2 choices of hotel accommodations: the Eastland Suites (same as the last 2 years) and the Holiday Inn Express (across the parking lot from the Holiday Inn for those wishing to walk rather than drive to the dinner). Below is the weekend agenda:

#### Friday, October 22, 2010

8:00 p.m. to midnight – Chapter House Hospitality event

#### Saturday, October 23, 2010

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. – Business Meeting at Chapter House

10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – Pre-game Tailgate west of Memorial Stadium

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – Fighting Illini vs. Indiana

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Post-game Tailgate west of Memorial Stadium

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Cocktails at Holiday Inn

7:00 p.m. to midnight - Dinner/Dance at Holiday Inn

Children of Alumni under 16 years of age that wish to attend only the Tailgate will be admitted at no charge with the purchase of a football ticket from the Alumni.

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### ORDER FORM

*The Alpha Alumni Board of Directors, at their Spring 2010 meeting discussed the low number of dues paying members. In an effort to return to the structure of a 'dues paying organization', we are making an effort to ensure that members pay required membership dues. Regular Homecoming attendees may realize that this policy has not been strictly enforced in the past, but this year, we are attempting to have all non Life Members contribute the required annual membership dues.*

Dues must be paid (either by Life Membership or Annual) to order to make Homecoming reservations, vote, and hold office. Regular Homecoming attendees may

#### **HOTEL RESERVATIONS:**

Holiday Inn Express: (Deadline is 8/23/10) – 2 Night Minimum

\$179.00/night – specify 1 King room (8 available) or 2 Queens room (7 available)

Call 217-328-7900 and specify “Beta Sigma Psi Group”

Or use email hyperlink: [Holiday Inn Express Reservation link for Beta Sigma Psi](#)

Eastland Suites: (Deadline is 9/24/10) – 2 Night Minimum

\$125.00/night – 2 double beds/room (15 available)

Call 217-367-8331 and specify “Beta Sigma Psi Group”

**DUES:** Existing Life Member or \$-0-  
New Life Member (\$300) or \$\_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Dues (\$30) \$\_\_\_\_\_

#### **TICKETS** (Deadline is 10/8/10)

Full Homecoming Package \_\_\_\_\_ x \$108 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

OR

Fighting Illini vs. Indiana Football Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$38 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Social \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Dinner/Dance \_\_\_\_\_ x \$50 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Cut out and return Order Form along with check payable to Beta Sigma Psi to:**

**Dale Durfey, 6541 Terrace Drive, Downers Grove, IL 60516 (630) 960-3352**

# **Alpha Alumni Officers**

[alpha.alumni.betasigmapi.org](http://alpha.alumni.betasigmapi.org)

<b><u>President</u></b>	<b>2009 - 2011</b>	<b><u>Recruitment Advisor</u></b>	<b>2010 - 2012</b>
Brent Gieseke 1770 SE Silkwood Ln Lee's Summit, MO 64063 (815) 238-7564 <a href="mailto:bgieseke@gmail.com">bgieseke@gmail.com</a>		Jason Braun 2238 Central St. #2 Evanston, IL 60201 (847) 525-2766 <a href="mailto:jasonbraun1@gmail.com">jasonbraun1@gmail.com</a>	
<b><u>Vice President</u></b>	<b>2009 - 2011</b>	<b><u>Director – Homecoming</u></b>	<b>2009 - 2011</b>
Vacant Primary Job: varies Time commitment: 5 hours/month		Dale Durfey 6541 Terrace Downers Grove, IL 60516 (630) 960-3352 <a href="mailto:daledurfey@gmail.com">daledurfey@gmail.com</a>	
<b><u>Secretary-Treasurer</u></b>	<b>2008 - 2010</b>	<b><u>Director – Building</u></b>	<b>2008 - 2010</b>
Greg Treichler 1804 Rita Ave. St. Charles, IL 60174 (630) 762-8578 <a href="mailto:treichler@ameritech.net">treichler@ameritech.net</a>		Vacant Primary job: prioritize house projects Instrumental for sprinkler installation Time commitment: 5 hours/month	
<b><u>Collegiate Group Advisor</u></b>	<b>2008 - 2010</b>	<b><u>Director – Scholarship</u></b>	<b>2008 - 2010</b>
Adam Rusch 706 W. Ohio St. Urbana, IL 61801 <a href="mailto:arusch2@illinois.edu">arusch2@illinois.edu</a>		Alex Johnson 8705 Shabbona Rd. Shabbona, IL 60550 (815) 762-1987 <a href="mailto:alexanderjohnson87@gmail.com">alexanderjohnson87@gmail.com</a>	
<b><u>Publications</u></b>	<b>2009 - 2011</b>	<b><u>Immediate Past President</u></b>	
Vacant Primary Job: newsletters Time commitment: 10 hours per newsletter		Michael Nolte 3600 Tesla Drive West Lafayette, IN 47906 (618) 974-9375 <a href="mailto:noltemw@yahoo.com">noltemw@yahoo.com</a>	



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# Alpha Alumni News

Brent Gieseke, President  
c/o Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity  
1770 SE Silkwood Lane  
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

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Permit No. 114  
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