

# The Rho Alpha Review

Of the Zeta Psi Fraternity of North America

Fall 2009

Greetings brothers, pledges, and elder members alike to this year's fall edition of the Rho Alpha Review. I'm Jonathan Estrada '11, Alpha Sigma for the year of 2009, member of the Alpha Zeta pledge class, and Junior in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering. Though we're only part of the way through fall term of the 2009 academic year, lots of exciting things have either happened to date or are in the works.

Kicking off this term in a hugely successful way was this year's Rush. Through a combined, selfless effort set forth by the 35 actives and many local elders as well, we formed the Alpha Theta pledge class, consisting of 16 freshman pledges, all of whom have consistently put forth strong efforts both in events during pledge period and assimilating into the house.

Zeta successes didn't stop with Rush. We have many highly-involved brothers and pledges this term. In terms of sports, we have seven varsity athletes representing lacrosse, crew, rifle, swimming, and pistol, all while fielding eight different house intramural sports teams this term alone.

Meals this term have been of professional quality – the 15 cooks this term, supplemented by a pledge each night, have been on their game. Dinner attendance has been extremely good this term as well, partly due to the 7:30 PM time, which is more conducive to athletes' schedules and also typical work hours for all you local and hungry elders out there!

On a different note, I would personally like to thank the elders who have donated funds to us – near the beginning of the year we had two washing machines donated to us; they

have been the reason we have been able to wash any of our clothes this semester. You may not be sure if it makes a difference, but every cent really does make an impact.

As we close out our thirtieth year of existence, we proudly look forward to many great years to come.

Always in Tau Kappa Phi,

Jonathan "Sticky" Estrada

Alpha Sigma

## SOCIAL SUCCESS

By Nick King, AE '10 and Bryan Landman AZ '11

Social is as good as it's ever been. We kicked off the semester with our annual "Closing the Book Party" where we celebrate the end of rush and our new pledges. As a senior, this may have been the best party I'd seen in our house... that is, until our "Eurotrash Party" topped it. Both parties drew crowds of about 400 guests. We've got a few more parties in store for the rest of the year, including AllZete, of course. Brothers are more excited than ever for the year's biggest party as it's shaping up to be one to remember. We've already started hyping the party and inviting Zetes from all over the country to come hang out at Rho Alpha. As the school year really starts bearing down on us, we hope to keep the parties going and finish the semester like we started.



*Zetes dressed up for the Eurotrash Party this year.*

# Words of the Phi

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Dear Brothers,

The weather is cooling down and the leaves are changing color here in Boston as we trek through our Fall semester here at MIT, but neither the school work nor the chill can keep our chapter down this semester. Vitalized with a new pledge class of 16, the year has started off with a bang, and has gotten only better from there.

The Zeta Psi social agenda has never been better. With parties being consistently filled to the brim, and drawing students from all nearby universities, we have become a big name on the local party scene. Internally, the house is in a great place, with brothers supporting each others' endeavors, from coming in droves for IM games, to having Zeta rows at brothers' performances/presentations. On a large scale, the chapter won the Silver Award at convention in August this past summer.

We look forward to our upcoming celebration of our house's acquisition, glorious ALLZETE. With many chapters already telling us they plan on sending brothers, and our status as great place to party, this is looking to be one of the biggest AllZetes' yet.

As always, if you happen to be in the Boston area, I encourage you to stop by the house and visit the place you once, and we currently, call home.

Always in TKΦ,

-Chris "Ahab" Peters AE '10



# ZETA PSPORTS

By Mike Gerhardt, AH '12

Intramural athletics are off to a solid start this semester, as Zeta Psi's eight IM sports teams are off to a combined 21-6 record after the first month of IM play. New this year is a beginner's league badminton team composed of pledges and brothers which is tied for the league lead with two wins and one loss.

Also, due to changes in dodgeball management, we moved up to A-league in dodgeball, while also offering a B-league brothers and B-league pledges team. The B-league dodgeball brothers' team also enjoys a 6-0 record and the league lead. We are very excited for IM sports this season, offering competitive teams in each sport offered this season.

Below are the IM teams offered by the house this semester. If you would like to play on any of the IM teams, contact that team's respective captain or the athletic chair, Michael Gerhardt, at [gerhardt@mit.edu](mailto:gerhardt@mit.edu).

Sport	League	Record	Captain	Contact
Flag Football	C	1-1	Chijoke Okeke AH '12	<a href="mailto:cokeke@mit.edu">cokeke@mit.edu</a>
Soccer	B	2-0	Stuart Bermack AZ '11	<a href="mailto:bermack@mit.edu">bermack@mit.edu</a>
Soccer	C	1-0	Stuart Bermack AZ '11	<a href="mailto:bermack@mit.edu">bermack@mit.edu</a>
Badminton	C	2-1	David Chester AH '12	<a href="mailto:dchester@mit.edu">dchester@mit.edu</a>
Dodgeball	A	5-3	Jonathan Estrada AZ '11	<a href="mailto:jestrada@mit.edu">jestrada@mit.edu</a>
Dodgeball (Bros)	B	7-0	Jonathan Estrada AZ '11	<a href="mailto:jestrada@mit.edu">jestrada@mit.edu</a>
Dodgeball (Pledges)	B	3-1	Christopher Rullan A0 Pledge '13	<a href="mailto:crullan@mit.edu">crullan@mit.edu</a>

## RUSH 2009, THE SAGA

By Alex Hopkins, AE '10 and Ryan Foote AZ '11

Planning Rush over the summer was easy with veteran rush chair Ryan Foote and seasoned former Alpha Phi Alex Hopkins at the helm. Delegating tasks to other brothers and instituting a voting procedure for shirt designs, we made an effort to get the brotherhood excited and involved in Rush long before the school year even began. Our goal for Rush this year was to improve upon our previous two successful pledge classes of 13 and 14. We also sought to increase the number of events we hosted throughout the week by bringing back paintball while keeping laser tag from last year.

Before rush even started, our brothers worked hard to gather as many contacts as possible to make the transition from orientation to rush as seamless as possible. With brothers involved in FPOPs, as Orientation Leaders, and even one as an Orientation Coordinator, we had over 80 contacts before the Greek Griller kicked off rush officially.



*Zetes, Rush Girls, and Rushees alike goofing off after laser tag.*

## RUSH 2009 (CONT.)

*Zetes celebrating car destruction after Car Bash.*

Continuing our momentum, we started the week off strong with our 25th Annual Car Bash, which drew a huge crowd as usual. On Sunday, we created our own roasting pit where we cooked a pig for 8 hours before having the Luau party that evening. The next day, we sent a large group of freshmen and brothers to Six Flags. That night, we had our After-hours event, setting up an indoor paintball range, Beatles Rock Band, and making plenty of fried food. Tuesday, after registering for classes, we took the freshmen out paintballing to get out their last minute jitters before classes began. Wednesday evening we broke out the white tablecloths and glassware for our invite only Steak and Lobster dinner. Finally, we ended our rush week with a night on the town at the Hard Rock Café. This event went off without a hitch, with about 60 bid-ees, brothers, and rush girls. After the dinner, brothers and freshmen alike spent the remainder of the evening taking limos to Mike's Pastries, to the movies, or on tours around downtown Boston.



After a week of waiting, we ended our rush with a packed first party of the year, celebrating the closing of the book and our 16 new pledges. The Rush Chairs fought valiantly, but they were unable to fight tradition, and the pledges were able to throw them in the river, congratulating them for a job well done. At this point, they were turned over to our Pledge Trainer, Adam Tourgee, to continue their journey of becoming brothers of our strong fraternity. While our rush was very successful, we will not be complacent and have already begun the process of selecting next year's rush chairs, as well as brainstorming new ideas to continue our recent tradition of strong, effective rushes and large pledge classes.



# SAVE THE DATE!

## ELDER BANQUET 2010 IS *MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>*