

The Rho Alpha Review

Of the Zeta Psi Fraternity of North America

Spring 2009

Hello! My name is Jonathan Bartholomew Estrada. I'm a member of the Alpha Zeta pledge class, from East Northport, NY, and am a sophomore in Materials Science and Engineering. It has been a pretty hectic year so far, so as the current Alpha Sigma, I have plenty of news to report.

This year kicked off in style with the initiation of 14 new Brothers of the Alpha Eta class, the largest pledge class we've had in the past seven years. They have already proven their devotion to the house, participating as an entire pledge class in community service efforts at a local food bank and comprising much of the athletic rosters of the sports this term.

After a couple of hectic weeks, transition, and an awesome initiation party, the officers this term were elected as follows:

Φ.....Chris Peters, '10
ΑΦ.....Kyle Fink, '11
Γ.....Bryan Landman, '11
Σ.....Chip Whittemore, '12
ΑΣ.....Jon Estrada, '11
Δ.....Mike Leaman '12
ΣΡ.....Shawn Conrad '11

So far, the officers have done a great job in terms of running the house and everything seems to be moving forward smoothly in terms of social, Rush, and organization.

This term, there are 47 active brothers with the 14 new Alpha Eta class members. 40 brothers live in the house full time, and many more are going to be moving in next fall.

This term has included a pretty intense social schedule along with an unprecedented 11 spring intramural sports teams. After our great success last term with many teams that made the playoffs, we have continued to build our franchise and successfully

emphasized our continual presence in hockey, softball, and bowling. We also have shown fierce competition in volleyball, water polo, dodgeball and a bunch of others as well.

This term we also happen to have an incredibly musical house, with lots of brothers taking part either in musical organizations like the Logarithms, the all-house rock band we have aptly named Castle Bravo (<http://castlebravo.mit.edu>), or just being there to jam.

In this issue are words of the Phi (Chris Peters '10) statements from our athletic and social chairs, a message from the community service chair, and a few notes about Rush.

Always in Tau Kappa Phi,

Jonathan "Sticky" Estrada

Alpha Sigma

PROUD TO BE A ZETE

By Michael Leaman, Alpha Eta '12

For 30 years, the Rho Alpha chapter of Zeta Psi has been producing extraordinary men. This dream was started by the Master Class and has just recently spread to incorporate the House's newest pledge class, the Alpha Etas. The Alpha Etas are one of the most diverse pledge classes, bringing many ideas from different walks of life. The 14 members of the class have already begun to take up responsibility within the house as Greek-letter officers and other house positions, and are ready to contribute their skills for the betterment (*continued p.3*)



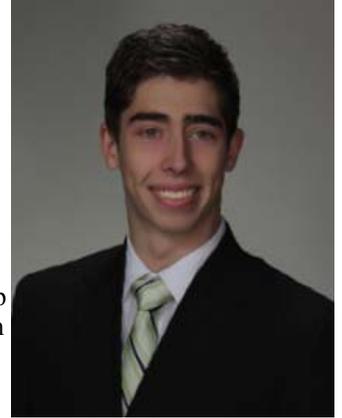
Zetes enjoying a game of dodgeball as an event for CPW 2009

Words of the Phi

Dear Brothers,

As this semester draws to an end, it dawns on me that I have nearly completed half of my term as Phi. It barely feels as if any time has passed since I took the position at the beginning of this spring semester. I reflect on what my experiences have been so far: what issues have I faced? What problems have I dealt with? The truth is, with the exception of a few minor instances, I've had a pretty easy time as Phi. Why is that you might ask? The answer lies in the strength of this house. In any situation, I have an entire brotherhood behind me to help out on a moments notice. For this, I am proud to be the president of the Rho Alpha chapter of the Zeta Psi Fraternity.

For those who have not met me, let me introduce myself. I am Christopher Peters. I come from a military family so I have lived all over the world, the most recent location being Los Lunas, NM. I am finishing up my junior year here at MIT as a Mechanical Engineer (course 2), and I am a member of the Alpha Epsilon pledge class. As Phi, I have three major goals for the house: strengthen brotherhood activities, solidify good reputation on campus, and have a great time.



In addition to the normal Rho Alpha nights, the Brotherhood chairs (Nick King '10 & Eric Munoz '09) have come up with many additional events during the semester, and have been met with great success. Movie nights have led to a packed movie room (which if you have not seen recently, includes a 60" flat screen HDTV.) Die games and Beirut tournaments are always popular and just ask a brother about our Easter weekend activities. Both spring and winter retreats have high attendance among the house and brothers come back with memories that will last a lifetime. Just ask Kyle Fink '11.

This year we've had great publicity on campus. During the fall, the Alpha Eta pledge class performed to loud cheers during the annual ΣK Late night variety show . In the Spring, Mike Gerhardt '12 represented Zeta Psi at AΦ's King of Hearts (think male beauty pageant,) and Zetes rocked the house at AXΩ's Lip Sync. As a house, we have tallied up more community service hours this year than we have had in recent memory. In addition, Kyle Fink '11 is the sixth Zete in the past seven years to be an Orientation coordinator here at MIT. The position is a great tool for Rush and is highly coveted among the Greek community.

Now for fun... The social scene here at Zeta Psi is the best they have been in the three years that I've lived here. Our reputation extends to BU, Harvard, BC, Northeastern, Simmons, and Wellesley, and our parties are packed to the brim. There is rarely a weekend here without anything happening.

As you can see, the house is in great shape, but there is always room for help. As our Seniors graduate this year, and many recent graduates move out, the house will be in a tight financial situation. The house will be slightly under-capacity, and therefore our budget will leave little room for any breakdowns that could occur or major repairs that need to be made. Any donations from elders would therefore be much appreciated.

That's all I have for now. I hope to see and meet many of you at Elder Banquet, and, as always, feel free to drop by the house to say hi or even stay for dinner.

Always in TKΦ,

-Chris "Ahab" Peters AE '10



Brothers kickin' it back with an impromptu grill session on the first warm day of spring. Not Pictured: the grill

THE SPORTS OF CHAMPIONS

By Jon Estrada AZ '11 and Bryan Landman AZ '11

It has truly been some year for Zeta Psi intramural athletics. We had a total of 8 varsity athletes this year, with numerous awards and high distinctions received between them.

Fielding a total of 15 teams in the spring in 11 different sports, we have proven ourselves as one of the most versatile houses in terms of not only sport participation, but also overall success. We also had three different brothers actually manage individual sports – Bowling, Dodgeball, and Octathlon were all Zeta-run.

Many of our teams this term went to the playoffs this year and enjoyed considerable success. The teams we fielded this year were:

Dodgeball

- 3 teams
- two teams made playoffs, both made it to semis
- upset #1 seed as #8 in large team

Bowling

- League Champions!
- Highest average score both terms

Softball

- 6-2 record, included a walk-off win in last B league game

Hockey

- 13-5 overall record

Volleyball

- Perfect 5-0 record in regular season

Unihoc

- Advanced to semifinals
- Largest span of classes; many elders played this year

Water Polo

- 3-1 record, advanced to semifinals

Ping Pong

- Perfect record in regular season, advanced to finals

Soccer

- 3-2-1 record; strong elder showing

PROUD TO BE A ZETE (CONT.)

(Below) Zetes volunteering at Pie Boxing, a community service event that raises thousands of dollars annually.

The House itself is in great standing. Relations in the house and with other chapters are strong due to the Brotherhood Chairs and the Alpha Sigma. Brotherhood events are almost biweekly now, encouraging Brothers to spend more time with one another. Along with this, other chapters have been contacted weekly in efforts to improve our relations with surrounding chapters.

Not only is Rho Alpha great within the fraternity, but within the community as well. Brothers recently completed 85 hours of community service through Relay for Life and continue to perform smaller jobs throughout the year. On top of this, the fraternity has seen an increase in recognition on campus. Through venues such as Sigma Kappa Late Night and Alpha Chi Omega's Lip Sync, Brothers have proudly represented Zeta Psi through group performances. Orientation has also helped with Zeta Psi's image, as we have had a strong representation through not only Orientation Leaders, but through the Orientation Coordinators as well. This year, Chris Peters, AE '10, was one of four Orientation Coordinators, and next year, Kyle Fink, AZ '11, will be coordinating orientation for the class of 2013. After 30 years, the House is still doing well and producing men who are damn proud to be Zetes.



GEARING UP FOR RUSH 2009

By Alex Hopkins, Alpha Epsilon '10

Rush 2008 set the bar very high for my co-Rush chair Ryan Foote (AZ, '11) and me. Last year's Rush resulted in a class of 14 new Zetes, spanning incredibly diverse backgrounds. Ryan and I are striving for similar results this year. Campus Preview Weekend 2009 afforded us the opportunity to try a new dodgeball event, and show the Alpha Eta class what Rush looks like from our side of the fence. CPW showed us that the younger brothers in the house are going to be instrumental in this year's Rush, and that they are definitely up to the challenge.

The biggest change to the new Rush event lineup is the critical Friday night event, which has traditionally been Hard Rock Cafe. The restaurant, which had been a successful venue for years, has relocated and come under new management. Unfortunately, this change has not been good for our event, and we are currently discussing new ideas for the Friday night of Rush.

Ryan and I look forward to forming a large new pledge class this year. Rush at Rho Alpha is on the upswing, and our class sizes have been getting back to what they were before the 'freshmen on campus' rule. We will use this momentum this year to fill the house with more exceptional Zetes.

COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

By Mark Thompson, AH '11 and Kyle Fink AZ '11

The Zeta Psi Rho Alpha chapter strives to hold up to our pledge to give back to the community. In this school year the brotherhood has participated in many community service events. During the fall semester, around fifteen brothers helped repaint the Mass Ave Bridge in honor of the anniversary of Smoot. Around a hundred MIT students teamed up to make the bridge look new again.

On another date, the entire Alpha Eta pledge class went to Community Servings, an organization that prepares and delivers meals to the underprivileged disabled and sick people in the community. The pledges helped prepare and package the food. It was a great success. Near the holidays, we participated in Pie Boxing, an annual Community Servings fundraiser that raises several hundred thousand dollars. We also participated in Toys for Tots, where individual brothers bought presents for needy children, wrapped them, and gave them something to be happy for on Christmas Day.

In the spring semester, Zetes participated in Relay for Life. Relay for Life is the world's largest fundraiser and Zeta Psi raised over \$400 for the cause. On the night of the relay, seven brothers went to the Harvard Track to walk around the track for twelve straight hours (The Relay for Life's slogan: Cancer doesn't sleep, so why should we?). Throughout the year, Zetes have given enough blood to save hundreds of lives. Individual Zetes have participated in countless community servings events, helping out with the Rho Alpha goal of giving back to the community.

ZETA PSI CELEBRATES 30TH YEAR AT MIT

As you may have noticed, this year marks the end of the third decade of the Rho Alpha Chapter of Zeta Psi. With support of a strong base of elders, we are able to continue thriving and becoming the Zetes that are someday going to, like you all, become the backbone of society as we know it. Thus, it is with our personal thanks that I greet you all for this Elder Banquet, celebrating the thirtieth birthday of the Rho Alpha chapter of Zeta Psi.

Sincerely,

Josh Sklarsky, AA '09 and Udit Garg, AA '09

(Below) Zetes apparently thinking at AllZete, which was a huge success this year, with 5 other chapters coming to visit.

