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# ALPHA TAU ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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2005 End of Year

## From the Chairman

By Ed Pieluc

2005 was a challenging year, but we have seen many improvements. Many of these have been directly seen in the Chapter house as well as with the increase of undergraduates. 2005 brought an end to our long work project, the installations of sprinkler system. We now have a fully functioning sprinkler system and a fire/emergency system that is tied directly to Stevens. There are still financial impacts that this system will have on our chapter. We need to stay determined in the challenges that we are going to face, mainly the repayment of our loan and the additional costs to maintain the system. There are two ways that we can accomplish these goals. First is a contribution that would come from the undergraduates. The house continues to keep its membership up; this helps because it supplies necessary funds to pay for the repayment of the NJ loan as well as pay for yearly maintenance fees and costs for inspections and tests. The second is from our alumni. By increasing your involvement with the undergraduate members, it will enrich their experience in the Chapter. Also, we have created two new committees to assist the undergrads with managing the Chapter house and for fundraisings. This is my last term as your President and I would like to leave you all with the following, be true to the Chapter, if you can stop by the house often & help the Chapter in any way that you can.

In Phi,

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## From the Vice Chairman

By Deep Balendra

Last year we set the stage for some of our short term and long term goals. Here is an update on where we are today.

**Short-term goals:** Alumni connection, more participation in the brotherhood, less introverted brotherhood. To accomplish these goals, the alumni association seeks to increase the relations with the undergrads. One of the ways we are attempting to do this is to have quarterly alumni board meetings at the Chapter house & have the undergrads participate. Another step is that we have formed two committees that will work closely with them: Housing Corp and Fundraising Committee. These committees will set goals to improve the Chapter house and set a plan to find the funding for it. These committees also have undergrad members on them.

**2-4 years Goals:** GSP Award. To accomplish these goals, we need greater involvement with our Chapter in all aspects of the community. This includes our involvement with National, other Chapters, local community service events, and with our alumni. I feel that the two committees that have been formed are a good start in increasing this involvement.

**5-10 years Goals:** Raise Money to repaint house. This goal rests directly on the Fundraising committee. However, if by this time we have won the Grand Senior President Award, we will be a strong and united house. We will also have an additional 5 years of recent alumni to help bridge the gap between older alumni and undergrads. If we accomplish our short-term & 2-4 year goal, this one will follow easily. Alumni will want to participate in more events, & the undergrads will be able to host more events.

Truly in Alpha, Sigma, and Phi

## From the Grand Chapter Advisor

By Erik Mooney

The undergraduate brotherhood has made significant strides in the last year. 2005 was a year of transition for the house, as we saw more than a dozen brothers graduate from Stevens, while also receiving our largest and most enthusiastic pledge class since the "year of the phoenix" in 2001. For a while the brotherhood saw problems common to having a large number of upperclassmen, with less participation in activities such as Greek sports and philanthropic events. But our 2005 pledge classes totaled twelve new undergraduate brothers for our ranks, who have brought a new sense of energy and purpose to the house, and we've just been joined by nine more pledges this January. Social activity in the house is very high; social events for the brotherhood are held almost weekly, and we've had several mixers with sororities from Stevens and other schools. 2005 also marked a major revision of our pledge program, in accordance with the new curriculum proposed by ASP National and adapted to our chapter. This program will be further expanded this spring, with new activities directed towards development of teamwork and communication among our new members, under the direction of pledge educator Law Lapitan. Finally, the chapter is re-establishing and improving its commitment to philanthropic service events. We're taking a major role in organizing a blood drive on campus, as well as improving participation in our traditional events like Conqueror of the Hill, the MS Walk, and the Liberty Humane Society for animals. Current HSP Spencer Burke and myself will be attending the HSP-GCA Academy of Leadership on Feb 3-5, and we look forward to meeting leaders of ASP from around the country.

## Calendar of Events

### **Event – Talisman Dinner**

Place – Keys on Sinatra Drive

Date – April 22, 2006 at 7pm

### **Event – MS-Walk**

Place – Liberty State Park

Date – April 23, 2006 at 9am

### **Event – Alumni Day & Softball Game**

Place – Chapter House

Date – May

### **Event – Camping Trip**

Place – Kittatinny Campgrounds

Date – June

### **Event – Alumni Day & Football Game**

Place – Chapter House

Date – October

### **Event – Thanksgiving Dinner**

Place – Stevens Center Building

Date – November

### **Event – Christmas Dinner/Party**

Place – Chapter House

Time – December

***PLEASE CHECK WEB PAGE FOR UPDATES***

## From the Secretary

*By Zef Ferreira*

This past October 15, we held an all alumni meeting at the Chapter House. The main discussion points were around the goals that have been setup by the VP and the Ben Oliver Fund. Other discussions dealt with the two new committees that have been formed. These committees are the Housing Corporations and the Fundraising Committee. Also, elections for alumni executive board were held. The results were:

**President:** Craig Polk

**Vice-President:** Deep Balendra

**Secretary:** Zef Ferreira

**Treasurer:** James Muscianesi

**Members at Large:** Rob Weiss, Erik Mooney, and Jason Morion

We also discussed some new ways of getting information to the alumni. Plans are underway to add a detailed alumni section to the current undergrad web site (the undergrad web link can be found below). This site is going to contain our Constitution and By-Laws, minutes from the executive board meetings, alumni event information, fundraising goals, loan repayment statistics, information about alumni as well as past & current pictures. We are even planning of having a place where we can share news about jobs, our family, and our accomplishments. Basically this will be a central location for undergrads and alumni.

Yours in the Mystic Circle

## From the Treasurer

*By Craig Polk*

Our 2004 financial summary is as follows:

Year End Balance = \$11,302.13

(Project break down)

insurance	sprinklers	alumni debt	scholarship	projects	emergency
\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$-	\$-	\$5,302.13

Our 2005 financial goals were as follows:

- 1.) Spring 2005 and Fall 2005 semester payments collected from undergrads. – Goal met 100%
- 2.) Pay 2006 House Insurance, approx. \$12k. – Goal met 100%
- 3.) Met BOF Payments. – Goal met 91%
- 4.) Have \$10k in Alumni bank account. – Goal met 113%

Our 2006 financial goals are as follows:

- 1.) Spring 2006 and Fall 2006 semester payments collected from undergrads.
- 2.) Pay 2005 House Insurance, approx. \$12k.
- 3.) Met BOF Payments.
- 4.) Have \$10k in Alumni bank account at year-end.

Financially things are continuing to settle out. We for the second year we have been able to have an overall balance of over \$10k in our account. Even though the cloud of the remaining debts still appear to over shadow all the progress we have made, we need to keep in mind that we are moving in the right direction. Our Chapter debt of \$144k still seems that we will never recover; but remember in two short years we have been able to pay off over \$26k of that debt (leaving us with \$118k). That is approx \$13k a year, which is above and beyond the \$9.6k that was required. If we keep up this pace we will have all of our debt paid back in 11 years instead of 15. I see that as a big improvement of where we were two years ago. Important thing to keep in mind is that we have made more then our schedule of payments to both NJ State & to our alumni. I have enjoyed working with the undergrads, Stevens, and NJ State to put us on the road to being more financially sound, I am sure the James (Mom) will enjoy it as much as I did.

## **Contact Information**

Alpha Tau Community Homepage: <https://www.e-greek.net/servlet/LoginServlet?chapterid=45&>

Group Site: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alumni\\_at\\_asp/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/alumni_at_asp/) Undergraduate Homepage: <http://www.stevens-tech.edu/alphasig/>

# Committee Updates

- Benjamin Oliver Fund
- Constitutional Committee
- Housing Corporation
- Fundraising Committee

## Benjamin Oliver Program Update

By Craig Polk

This year, the Program has reached a milestone. We have finally received all of our scheduled loans to cover the up front and total cost of the new system. This marks the completion of the operational tasks of the BOF. The only tasks that remain are the collection of past debt owed to the Chapter and payment of Chapter loans. The Bad news is that the amount of donations (majority of past year's funds) that have been received has not increased from the past year and is keeping us at a minimum operation. Also, this year the amount of debt that was collected was well below what the goal was. Even though the alumni contributions have not increased, we still received enough alumni donations to continue our yearly scholarship. This marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year that we were able to give out two scholarships. This years winners were Brian Compter of the \$1,000 Academic Scholarship and William Merunka of the \$250 Leadership Scholarship. As a same note, this is William's second consecutive year for being the Leadership winner. Based on the membership, as it is today & the donations that we received in combination with the debt we are collecting; we are scheduled to pay off the 1997 Alumni Tax loan by end of 2008. Also, we are scheduled to pay off the 2004 Alumni Fire System loan by end of 2010. Our last major loan, the NJ State Sprinkler loan is scheduled to be paid off by end of 2017.

### ***Ben Oliver Fund end-2005 Results Report:***

Our goals for the end-2004 time frame included the following:

ITEM: status; New 15 year plan goal {Old 5 year plan}

1. Pay back 1997 Tax Alumni Loan: status = 49% / goal = 40% [goal = 80%] => **goal has been met**
2. Pay back Sprinkler Installation Loan: status = 2.1% / goal = 6.7% [goal = 40%] => **goal has NOT been met**
3. Pay back 2004 Fire Alarm Loan: status = 0% / goal = 0% [goal = 60%] => **goal has been met**
4. Pay \$1,250 toward Undergraduate Scholarship for 2005: status = 100% goal = 100% [goal = 100%] => **goal has been met**
5. Collection of Total Debt: status = 17% / goal = 30% [goal = 80%] => **goal has NOT been met**

Of the two goals that we missed, NJ State did not require as much as we had planned to pay, so we redirected the money toward the alumni load repayment. The second one has not changed from last year, people who owe money to the house are not giving it back As you can see, based on the original 5-year plan we are very far from where we should be.

All the Committee members feel that the 15-year plan is much better suited and is a plan that we will be able to stick to. For tracking purposes, the 5-year plan will continue to appear in the year end report until year end 2007, the original end date of the plan.

### ***Ben Oliver Fund end-2006 Goal Report:***

Our goals for the end-2005 time frame included the following:

ITEM: New 15 year plan goal {Old 5 year plan}

6. Pay back 1997 Tax Alumni Loan: goal = 60% [goal = 90%]
7. Pay back Sprinkler Installation Loan: goal = 13.4% [goal = 70%]
8. Pay back 2004 Fire Alarm Loan: goal = 0% [goal = 80%]
9. Pay \$1,250 toward Undergraduate Scholarship for 2006: goal = 100% [goal = 100%]
10. Collection of Total Debt: goal = 35% [goal = 90%]

### ***Benjamin Oliver Fund 2005 Contributions***

On behalf of the Benjamin Oliver Fundraising Committee, we would like to thank all of the individual brothers that helped us raise or donate money during 2005:

**\$5,000 Ben Oliver Club:** No contributions

**\$2,000 Alpha Tau Club:** No contributions

**\$1,000 Phoenix Club:** Craig Polk

**\$500 Talisman Club:** No contributions

**\$225 1845 Club:** Howard Smith

**\$150 Pinnacle Club:** No contributions

**\$75 Anniversary Club:** No contributions

# Constitutional Committee

*By Paul Serrilli*

During the last three years, the Alumni Association has been operating on proposed Constitutional changes that have not yet become official. Due to constraints, mainly based on distances brothers find them selves from the Chapter house after they graduate, has slowed the official process. This year we tried another attempt to pass the changes, but we did not get enough alumni attendance. Also, the proposed (along with original Constitution and By-Laws) are soon to be placed on the Alumni web site. These changes center on new forms of communications that allow brothers you live at a distance from Hoboken, NJ to also be able to take part in meetings. Along with those changes, a few new policies as well as additional positions have been added. I hope that every one will take the time to look over the proposal.

Yours in the Mystic Circle

# Housing Corporation

*By Michael Krupnick*

The formation of the Housing Corporation was done during a quarterly executive board meeting during the month of July. At that meeting I was appointed to be the chair of this committee. This committee will be made up of four members. Those members are the chair, one alumni member (who is not the chair) and one undergraduate member; the remaining member will be the VP. The goals of the Housing Corp is to list all housing improvement projects that have to be done on the house, put them in a priority order, and then approach contractors for bids and time schedules of work. The improvement projects are being put together at this time. By end of 2006, our goal is to have a full list that is in priority order as well as estimates of the cost of the work. The plan is to list these on the web site when the list is complete.

# Fundraising Committee

*By Michael Krause*

The formation of the Fundraising Committee was done during a quarterly executive board meeting during the month of July. At that meeting I was appointed to be the chair of this committee. This committee will be made up of four members. Those members are the chair, one alumni member (who is not the chair) and one undergraduate member; the remaining member will be the VP. The goal of the Fundraising Committee is to coordinate the fundraising efforts of the alumni and the undergraduate members. Previously, fundraising was scheduled, planned and setup by the BOF program. That task has been removed so that the BOF can concentrate on tracking of the loan repayment as well as the collection of past debt. This committee will plan & organize events in an effort to raise money for the chapter. The main goal of this committee is to support the projects that the Housing Corp sees as necessary to do. This committee will also give recommendations to the executive board on where this additional money can best be spent. Based on their input, the executive board will vote where the money should be allocated. Along with raising money to pay for home improvement projects, this fundraising will also go to paying off loans in a quicker time frame then BOF has scheduled as well as giving the alumni association a budget to be able to host alumni events as well as events for undergrads.