

THE CROSSED SWORDS

Spring Semester 2009

Alpha Tau Chapter

President's Academy

Gary Brown, 2011

The day had come: my bags were packed, the DVR set, and class absences "excused." We set off to the airport with our Wookie chauffeur, and 90 joyous, please-don't-put-your-hand-in-my-rectum-sir TSA checkpoint lines later, we found seats near the gate. We were soon joined by the other

ties for four easy payments of \$2.50. We were whisked off to Indianapolis, treated like kings among men with gifts of complimentary soda and pretzels for the trip's entirety. We arrived in a land where the geriatric polish the scuffs out of new marble floor with tennis balls, expensive electronics are available 'round the clock at vending machines, and the employees of Qdoba speak fluent English. 'Twas a strange, but marvelous place, and we were aboard the "Sig Bus" and arriving at camp in no time at all. The night was spent indulging on snack crackers and meeting men from chapters across the country, and when the time came to sleep, half the camp's power failed and mass relocation took place in the pitch black snowy wilderness for the following two hours.

The first presentation was made by Josh Orendi, co-founder and CEO of Phired Up, a fraternity recruitment education firm. Two hours of simple and obvious, yet incredibly eye-opening comedy later, we each received a copy

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two chapters of the New Jersey Triad, my identity given away by one of the truly gorgeous Alpha Sig hats made last spring by the incredible BroDev chair at the time. For any interested undergraduates and alumni, they are still available in limited quanti-

The Ties that Bind

Syed Raza Husain, 2010

The membership of our chapter is composed of many unique individuals from various walks of life. Although our styles of living may clash at times, we are unified as one in our ritual and virtues. We are men of principles and distinction, and can always be counted on for a brother in need. We strive to be better men by living out charity, purity, patriotism, honor, and silence. Our rituals

stand as the ties that bind us all in Alpha Sigma Phi. When you pass through the gateway to our brotherhood, you realize that any and all personal problems or differences in opinion are left at the door.

I look forward to accepting the position of Marshal next semester. As I consider the responsibilities that come with my obligation, I am humbled

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Silence and Respect

Da Wei Hou, 2011

Silence, is the absence of sound. Our sense of hearing shuts down while the rest of our senses sharpen. We are more sensitive and our thoughts become more focused in the presence of silence. It is a necessary step to enlightenment of many kinds. It provokes a higher level of thoughts, and gives us an opportunity to see ourselves and

people around us in a different perspective. Only through this process can we create something called respect in our everyday life. Respect cannot be felt in our life like joy, fear, hunger or anger. Only through a highly intellectual mind can we develop this sense that was not built in the human minds.

How I've planned your Future

Overlord Theodorus MK. MK. Reedicus V, 2010 or 11

I'm coming upon the last year of my undergraduate studies. Save for one semester, my entire time at college has involved Alpha Sigma Phi. I've never had any regrets. During the past two years I've taken a very hands on approach with the fraternity. I've also been elected president for the following fall 2009 semester.

Oh the schemes I've schemed, thinking about presidency! But the questions that I'll be addressing over the summer when planning my term are quite difficult. I want to be a great president. But why? Well first, I love being awesome. I'd hate to take on responsibility and fail to live up to my outstanding pseudo-god-like reputation. But how can I feel so wonderful knowing more than half of my undergraduate brothers could not have cared less about the position?

This is where my focus shall lie! Motivation and commitment must become contagious!

I'm an understanding fellow and I love everyone. There may be some attitudes that I find hard to get along with but I have the wonderful ability to be blinded by potential and see through crappy attitudes. There are so many talents in our chapter that have taken a back seat to carelessness and apathy. During this next semester I want to open the gates of potential and unleash a storm of passion and devotion upon the chapter and campus.

Everyone should be excited about next semester! The new prudential committee has already started to address some of the major issues within the house. We're finding a new way to evaluate involvement, work-

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Running a Business in the House

Nicholas Esposito, 2011

The very first step towards running a business from the house is to strategically pick roommates who constantly play starcraft or have a strange obsession with pain (in the form of running, or a similarly intensive but boring sport). By picking your roommates as such, you stand a much better chance of them not noticing that you've filled the entire room with stock and packaging supplies. Justin still thinks his dresser is full of clothes (HA!), for example.

The next step is to pick an extremely annoying product or service to sell or offer. I record musicians who've never been in a studio before – that's that. I also run a webstore from my room which involves me taking over the sofa, table, my desk, and part of the floor with packages once per week. I've actually seen Justin sleeping on the sofa afloat in a sea of packed t-shirts

and cds. I don't think he even noticed them.

Lastly, you must be able to convince your roommates that dinner sucks (this is made twice as entertaining if your roommate is the steward). This way you can pay them off by buying them taco bell, which is obviously not a worthy payment for losing 8 hours of peace and quiet in their own room.

Follow these steps and soon you'll find yourself enjoying the benefits of a home business, and partially disregarding the concerns and wellbeing of the lovable oafs you live with!



Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity Alpha Tau Chapter

HSP
HJP
HE
HS
HZ
HM
HC
HR
HP
HA
Manager of the House
Parliamentarian
Brotherhood Development
Steward
Assistant Steward
IFC Chair
Pledge Educators
Service Chair
Historian
Social Chair
Athletic Chair
Networking Chairs
Risk Chair

Gary Brown
Theodore Reed
Nathaniel Slinin
Timothy Stanoch
Kevin Pearson
Wayne Stankewicz
Nicholas Cole
Theodore Reed
Dennis Donatelli
Mark Villavicencio
Simon Sidhom
Timothy Stanoch
Justin Eusebio/Timothy Stanoch
Justin Richman
Timothy Stanoch
Syed Raza Husain
Bryan Long/John Taylor
Justin Eusebio
Nicholas Cole
Dennis Donatelli
Justin Eusebio
Kevin Pearson, Evan Stalter
John Daily

Top 5 Ways to Win at Debate

Bruce R. Jordan Jr., 2009

In an effort to spur brother-ship, I feel that it is important that each of us understands the fine art of debate. Any idiot can string together a list of insults, but only a true man can find the proper words to not only best another person in debate, but to make them fear to ever disagree with you.

With that in mind we can begin the list of top five ways to win at debate.

The first step is to pick the winning side. Seriously. This tip has won me countless arguments and discussions during my time at Stevens. Figure out which side is going to have the most going for it, and is most easily defensible. Once you have figured out which side is the stronger, add your voice to its support. This will further strengthen the that side of the argument and more will join your cause. Remember, the goal is not to be right, but rather to win. For those new to the game, you will have difficulty discerning which side is the winning side. Here is an easy method, if I'm arguing for it, it's already won.

The second step is to have a great deal of quotes memorized. Your opponent may not trust what you have to say, but they will have difficulty arguing with the likes of Aristotle, Socrates, or even their girlfriend. So when in doubt, or effectively backed into a corner, through a quote at them. While they are trying to figure out an effective retort, you can move on to the third tactic.

Speak quickly, without appearing to. Carefully enunciate your words, and make sure to say them in an even cadence. Remove unnecessary pauses, and never appear to be searching for a way to say something. People

who are right, are confident in what they say, and they know exactly how to say it. In fact, words are like bullets in debate. The more you put in the air, the more your opponent has to keep their head down. Do not allow your opponent to get a word in edgewise. If they retort, they have a chance of winning. Do not give them this chance. If they do get a word in prepare to use the fourth tactic.

The fourth tactic is the art of twisting someone's words around on them. Most people say things that they do not mean. The English language is notorious for having words that have many different shades of meaning. While your opponent may say something that is completely rational, they may use a word that has two meanings. Capitalize on that fact and use the word's meaning to destroy their argument. Again, once you start twisting their words, be prepared to use the third method and speak quickly to avoid giving them the chance to clarify what they are saying.

Finally, if you are unable to best someone in debate using these tactics, jump straight to ad-hominem. This method is where you cease attacking the argument that your opponent is presenting, and instead attack the person himself. Key phrases are, "Of course you think that way, you are a fat, sloppy drunk. Maybe when you get some friends, you'll see things my way." Or, "I guess you make a good argument, but for us in the real world, this is the way things work." This method will win you the argument, but may get you beat up. So use with caution. And only on people you think you can take in a fight.

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Reflections on Change

Dennis Donatelli, 2010,
Theodore Reed, 2010, Simon Sidhom, 2012

During the first few weeks of the semester I asked all the brothers to write small articles about different topics. This started out as a great idea and I was able to publish 4 weeks filled with small sets of thoughts. However my motivation quickly waned when the articles stopped flowing. I also couldn't remember why I was HR, my spelling is horrible and my grammar is his best friend. I devised a plan to help brothers write articles and avoid constantly nagging for submissions. Alas, it did not work and deadlines, unless punishable, are meaningless. So I wanted to fill this space in the Crossed Swords with the first two submissions I received. I hope everyone can read them now and wonder why they did not take a few moments to express their thoughts if they care so much about them.

Simon Sidhom

Change, in my opinion, is the driving force behind our fraternity moving forward. Different people with different outlooks on life and different attitudes all come together; each of them tries to make his mark. And with each competition between the gingers and the white kids we come one step closer to a better place. We also break stuff with a nasty soccer ball sometimes. Personally I feel that our brotherhood needs as much change as it can get while still maintaining integrity and tradition.

Dennis Donatelli

The stories of the house that give this place character must be told! The mistakes of the past must be learned from! The older, wiser men must teach the young, inexperienced apprentices the Alpha Sig Ways! For these reasons (along with the possibility that someone might come by, feel sorry for us, and give us a huge donation), I would like our own alumni to become more involved and seen at more events. I want us to change the views of our predecessors and allow them to come back and feel like it was when they were our age. I want to change our relations with the alumni, so when I return to the house at Mooney's age, I see guys that are still older than me.

Theodore Reed

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You're gonna love my Nuts Hats

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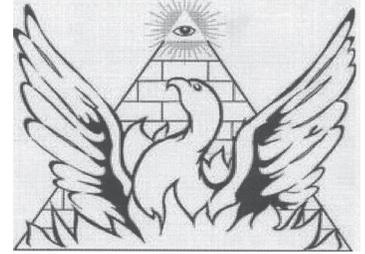
of the DVD to share with our chapters. The rest of the day was focused on eating, chapter structure, snacking, parliamentary procedure, a meeting with the Grand Council, more eating, the launch of Livestrong as our national philanthropy, a discussion with another brother regarding the fundraising potential of requiring members to sell their plasma weekly at blood centers, and a final presentation by StrengthsQuest, which aids in identifying and leveraging the abilities of individuals.

Saturday, I had become ill and was unable to leave my bunk before mid-afternoon. I was, however, able to catch a presentation entitled "Taking the Frat out of Fraternity," highlighting the recognition and avoidance of behavior that perpetuates negative stereotypes toward fraternities. We then received information regarding crisis management, ate dinner, and

Plans

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ing on new ways of notifying brothers of events, spending close considering on the improvement of public areas in the house, and organizing past information to ease the transition into house positions for brothers. This is a powerful organization and if the best parts of your college life don't involve Alpha Sigma Phi, then you sir, are doing it wrong.



took a ride to Carmel for a tour of headquarters. Photographs, documents, and other memorabilia adorn the walls and shelves of the two floor brick building, among them a photo of the Alpha Tau house above a desk, and one of Beta Theta's on a shelf. It was truly great to see so much history in so little a space. A stop there is highly recommended to anyone that may venture to the area. We dissected ritual upon our return to camp and, once again, my love of it was renewed, as it is toward the close of every semester.

Sunday arrived and we wound down by addressing individual chapter issues in group Q&A and taking part in a group singing exercise, during which one team put forth a rousing rendition of a rather vulgar Tenacious D melody that happens to be an Alpha Tau classic. We closed the weekend the way Alpha Sigs always do, and boarded an early flight back home.

Afterword

Seriously, buy the hats, they're only \$10 and I'm tired of them taking up space in my room. We also have messenger bags: I'll let them go for \$15.



How to Turn around a Bad Day

Kevin Pearson, 2011

Music - Blast it. Make Gary Brown think that you might actually have a lady in the room by making your subwoofer hit loud and hard. Anything that makes you feel better would be superb, for me its reggae, nothing beats a good steady drum, bass & guitar playing some good ol' island love. Takes a nice edge off if something just happened, but won't help if you're still trying to get over something for a bit.

Exercise - Yeah, we all know I don't do it now a days, but when I got pissed in highschool I'd go swim for an hour. Can't think about what pissed you off when you're trying to remember to breath and swim. Again, good to take off that edge when something /just/ happened. Normally I got outta the pool and forgot what made me angry.

Go For a Walk - Think it over, listen to some music, walk along the Hudson, deep breaths the whole way. Anything you think of will help, whether it be on the topic that made you pissed or about how many teaspoons

in a row of Euseb's hot sauce you think you can take (Probably one, wussy). Throw a rock at some birds, push someone into the Hudson, but it does make you feel better.

Look at How Shitty Someone's Life is in Comparison - Just look over at fmylife.com, or break.com to see "hey, at least I'm not like that guy" or look at any ChemE, at least you're not doing two senior D's! Compare whatever you want to their status in life, and it does wonders. It's kinda mean, but who cares? We're gentlemen and scholars! We don't take crap from no one.

And last, but not least, but kinda gay - Draw a Squid- i mean... - Bro it Out - talk to some brothers about whats pissing you off. We're all here to help one another, and thats what we do. Get a 10 4 10 going and just do something messed up, like poop in a truck, blow something up, or throw a printer out a window. Just dont' set off the fire alarm, or I'll cut you.

Binds from Ties

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by the tradition I have been given charge of. At the very same rate, I could not be more

optimistic for the future of the chapter.

A little over one year from now, I will be graduating from Stevens. When I leave this place, I will have learned a great deal, and met many new people. And as I work towards the next chapter of my life, I will always carry with me the fond memories of my brothers, and the values that I learned in Alpha Sigma Phi.

Master Debating

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In closing, learning to argue effectively is one of the most important talents you can acquire. Do not hesitate to learn these methods, and soon you

will find yourself arguing like a champion. This will make the difference between you as a masturbator, and a Master Debater.

Remembering my Pledge Brother

Stephen "Dante" DeLuca, 2010

During these last few weeks of the pledge process, I have come to know my fellow pledge brother Chris Swartz quite well; and as such, trying to write about him in the capacity of anything less than a novel, would be extremely difficult. I have found Chris to be, without a doubt, one of the most resourceful, handy, and genuinely nice person I have met in a long time. When dealing with something, it may seem at times that he, at least initially to me, is "all over the place". But when everything is said and done, the task that he initially set out to accomplish is not only completed, but completed with an air of confidence in knowing what he was doing all along. The most defining thing he has done, the thing that really set in stone, to me, his attitude towards life, was during his preparation for a Yacht club event. It was approximately 30 minutes until the start of the event, and Chris has just returned to the house with about 100 pounds of frozen solid chicken. Obviously, it ALL had to be defrosted and cut into cookable portions before arriving at the event. So, to speed up a normally lengthy defrosting process, Chris had the idea to employ the services a very sharp knife and a hammer (yes, a hammer) and literally hammer the pieces of chicken out of their initially frozen together block state, into smaller pieces, which he then diced into even smaller chunks, threw onto a plate and put into a microwave, so that they would "warm up". Needless to say, the kitchen was an absolute disaster afterwards, but the results speak for themselves... he made it to the event with edible, cookable chicken. This approach, coupled with his always upbeat attitude really makes Chris an asset to not only the Zeta Sigma pledge class, but also, in the future, the brotherhood as a whole.

Election Results for Fall 2009

Congratulations to those who won positions for the Fall 2009 semester. The roster is much more diverse than last semester and the level of organization expressed by many of the candidates is outstanding. Their skills and talents will most definitely bring peace and unity to the empire!

HSP
HJP
HE
HS
HZ
HM
HC
HR
HP
HA
Manager of the House
Brotherhood Development
Steward
Assistant Steward
Pledge Educator
Service Chair
Social Chair
Prude Members at Large
Summer Manager

Theodore Reed
Evan Stalter
Nathaniel Slinin
Justin Richman
Gary Brown
Syed Raza Husain
Aaron Dennis
Da Wei Hou
Eric Erazo
Justin Richman
Kristopher Fonselius
Eric Erazo
Joel Guardia
Nicholas Cole
Kristopher Fonselius
Spencer Burke
Bryan Long
Joseph Arena/Nicholas Cole
Gary Brown