

# THE EPSILON GAMMA OF BETA THETA PI

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*For The Staunchest • E-Newsletter • Friday, July 07, 2006*

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## COLONY PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*By Ross McCallum '08, colony president*

*(Editor's note: The following report contains excerpts from a letter Ross sent to the colony, advising team and housing corporation on Wednesday.)*

I hope you all are enjoying your summer and are fired up for a terrific fall semester in August. Just a few days ago, The 167th General Convention opened its annual session and I was proud to serve you as the colony's representative.

The theme for this year's Convention was "Unity of Action." I found it very appropriate not just for the fraternity as a whole but for our purposes at Epsilon Gamma as well. In recent years our colony has struggled with finding its identity. I believe this fall we will find out what we are really made of and in doing so will get a better understanding of what unity of action truly is.

Unity of action saved the Theta Zeta chapter in Toronto prior to World War I. Unity of action helped the Beta Theta Pi Foundation raise over \$20 million dollars for us, the undergraduates. Unity of action brought Epsilon Gamma back to Central Michigan University. Now it is on us, the undergraduates of Epsilon Gamma, to unite in action and make Beta Theta Pi the best chapter we can. Remember this is our chapter; we can settle for mediocrity or strive towards the stars.

I was privileged to be able to hear some great speakers at my time at The 167<sup>th</sup> General Convention of Beta Theta Pi which included keynote address' from the following individuals: Former Canadian Prime Minister John W. Turner, *British Columbia '49*, General Fraternity President Dr. P. Thomas Purinton, *Kansas State '63*, and Senator Richard G. Lugar, *Denison '54*.

The 167th General Convention of Beta Theta Pi delegates passed some very tough legislation pieces that will ensure that Beta Theta Pi stays at the top of all fraternal organizations. Four pieces of legislation were put on the table that included: Scholarship requirements, chapter status, membership inclusiveness, and the printing of directories in The Beta Theta Pi Magazine.

The Epsilon Gamma Colony of Beta Theta Pi also went under a committee review. I am very pleased to announce that all went well and the directives that we have been given are very attainable. It is important for you all to know that these directives will put us in a great situation as we continue to strive towards excellence at CMU. Some of the directives include holding two brotherhood events a month, creating a fun and educational pledge program, and attending leadership opportunities that the fraternity makes available or all of us to go. The colony will be reviewed on December 1, 2006 and May 1, 2006 to ensure that we are making progress with these directives and fulfilling all S.C.O.E. \*\* requirements.

Now, don't misunderstand, we have a hard road ahead of us but it is my hope that we will take on the challenge to the fullest and succeed with flying colors. This is a pivotal year for us. Remember this year's Convention theme, "unity of action." United as a group we can reach for the stars and we will. Please come into the fall semester with an open mind and be ready to do great things as we continue the proud tradition that Epsilon Gamma has given us.

I want to thank three individuals for making my experience at Convention I will never forget. First, Greg Compton, you have always backed the Epsilon Gamma Colony as well as me and for that I am ever grateful. For those of you who don't know Greg made the trip to Toronto to support us, a trip which he did not have to make. Greg has always gone above and beyond with his duties as chapter counselor and I hope that all of you will take the time to thank Greg for volunteering so much of his time for the betterment of our fraternity.

Secondly, Tom Olver, you have also helped tremendously in our efforts to become a chartered member of Beta Theta Pi. You have given this colony a different perspective on certain issues that we

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faced throughout the year. The Epsilon Gamma Housing Corporation should be proud to have you as the president and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Finally, all the undergraduates who have made this experience one of a kind. Through trials and tribulations at the end of the day we all know we have each other to rely on.

This is our year brothers. Embrace the challenge ahead and let's move forward and set out to show what we know already, that we are the best fraternity at Central Michigan University.

*\*\*S.C.O.E. stands for Standard Chapter Operating Expectations - more information can be found here: <http://snipurl.com/eyry>*

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## **DISTRICT CHIEF'S REPORT**

**By AJ Calkins, Kettering`88**

*(Editor's note: The following report contains excerpts from a letter AJ sent to the colony and advising team on Wednesday.)*

Brothers, I thought I would send you a few highlights of the 167th Convention:

1. The single biggest Beta news story is that we not only completed the "Upon these Principles" Campaign, we exceeded the total by \$5,000,000. In 3 years, the foundation raised over \$20,000,000. This will endow the fraternity to continue to provide funding for undergraduate programming for the foreseeable future. If you haven't given to this campaign, you still can send a check to the Oxford office. (<http://snipurl.com/sudu>)
  2. Beta just took the lead in academic requirements for fraternities. We raised the chapter GPA requirement from 2.5 to 2.7. The original proposed was to make it 2.7 and better than the all men's average (AMA). The later part of the proposed was amended to make it only the 2.7.
  3. The U of M Chapter won a Sisson Award.
  4. MSU was reviewed at convention. This was the single biggest topic of debate on the convention floor. The review panel recommended that the chapter at MSU be disbanded. After 4 hours of debate. The vote was 55 to disband to 32 to keep it open. A vote to disband/close requires a 2/3 vote. The chapter was saved from closing by 3 votes. The following day, the undergraduates voted unanimously to move the chapter to "Suspended" status and gave the General Secretary authority to disband the chapter if any directives are missed. As of now, the chapter is dry - no exceptions.
  - 5) CMU was also reviewed at convention. The chapter also has a long list of directives. The primary gist for this chapter is that they must meet the S.C.O.E. requirements by Orlando or be disbanded. The biggest issues here seem to be recruitment and retention. It appears that the current pledge program is too heavy on Lore and not strong enough on brotherhood events.
  - 6) The last major issue of contention was whether Beta should add sexual orientation to our non-discrimination statement and if we should remove "age" from the current wording. The issue on age was defeated soundly (no one understood the logic on this one). The sexual orientation language passed by large majority.
  - 7) FYI - The Kettering recolonization process is starting this weekend! Adam Porter Price will be the Leadership Consultant that will be leading the initial phases of recolonization. He will be looking for the initial A-Section men in July & August & the B-Section guys in October & November. The full expansion team will be on campus in January & April of next year.
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## **JOIN THE HOUSING CORPORATION BOARD!**

The EGHC needs good thinkers and decision makers to join the team. If you've read the previous two entries in this month's e-newsletter, you understand that this is an important year in the life of our chapter. To provide the support system the colony needs in the area of housing and alumni relations, we need a strong group on the EGHC.

The nominating committee of the Epsilon Gamma Housing Corporation (EGHC) is accepting nominations for vacancies on the board of directors. At its annual meeting on August 12 the Board will consider nominations for up to two 3-year terms and approve a slate of officers for 2006-07. The

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board is also considering adding another board member this year.

Serving on the Housing Corp's board is not a huge time commitment. There is an annual meeting/work weekend held each year in August (this year it's on the 12th) and a mid-year meeting (usually held in the Detroit area in January/February.) The majority of the other business of the EGHC is conducted through conference calls and e-mails. Board members are also encouraged to attend Alumni-Active events whenever possible.

A few of the members on the current board have expressed a desire to leave the board at the end of 2006-07. In order to keep a sense of continuity a year from now, we need people to step up and join the board this year.

If you have any questions about serving on the EGHC board, are interested in serving the EGHC, or would like to nominate someone for service on the Board, please contact Tom Bussineau (252) 633-4254 or [thomas.bussineau@uscellular.com](mailto:thomas.bussineau@uscellular.com). You may also respond to this message, and I'll do the best to answer your questions.

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## COLONY KICK-OFF RETREAT - AUGUST 5, 2006

This semester's Kick-off retreat will be held August 5, 2006 at Brad Ervans' office in Saginaw. Kick-off retreats are held before the beginning of each semester.

The address is:

NextMedia

1795 Tittabawassee Rd

Saginaw, MI 48604

(Map here: <http://snipurl.com/suef>)

Brad writes: *From the south take I-75 N to I-675 N (before the Zilwaukee Bridge) to the Tittabawassee Rd exit. Turn right off the ramp.*

*It's the second driveway on the right, just past the church. Park in back, and then come to the front door. I will be there to buzz people in.*

Attendance by undergraduates and the Advising Team is required.

If you have questions about the event, please direct them to Chapter Counselor Greg Compton `86. [compton@aaps.k12.mi.us](mailto:compton@aaps.k12.mi.us) or (734) 484-1476

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## HOUSING CORPORATION MEETING - AUGUST 12 - MT. PLEASANT, MI

**By Tom Oliver `98, EGHC president**

The annual meeting of the Epsilon Gamma Housing Corporation will be held at the Chapter House in Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, August 12.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a continental breakfast, followed by a short business session.

Alumni, undergraduates and friends are invited to help with various work projects throughout the afternoon, as we prepare the House for the fall semester; you're encouraged to bring landscaping tools (weed whackers, edgers, trimmers, etc.) as well as paint brushes & rollers, power screwdrivers, etc. We'll be working on the outside, the basement and smaller projects throughout the house. Dinner will be provided for those who help out!

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## 17TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING - JUNE 24 - ST. JOHNS - PLYMOUTH, MI

**By Tom Oliver `98, EGHC president**

Twenty-seven golfers teed it up on the "Luke" and "Matthew" courses at The Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, Saturday, June 24, for the 17th annual Epsilon Gamma Golf Outing.

Six foursomes and one threesome, including 17 Epsilon Gamma alumni, one EG undergrad and nine Friends of Beta, participated in the event, which included 18 holes of golf, contests, dinner, cards and fun in the sun!

Congratulations to this year's Champions: **Matt Baad, Greg Compton, Norm Klein and Bruce Farrar**, who shot an impressive 7-under-par 64. The team of Scott Sawyer, David Sawyer, Ramsey Behnan and Rick Behnan tied the 64 as well, but lost the title in a scorecard playoff. Phil Adler, Paul "Bubba" Koehn, Brian Onderick and Greg Zbikowski came in third with 4-under, 67.

Koehn and Ken Breen won the two closest-to-the-pin contests on No. 22 (our #13) and No.14 (our #5), respectively, and Onderick and Brent Mussatto won prizes for the longest drives on No.17 (our #8) and No. 25 (our #16.)

The door prize went to Chuck Williams and David Steiner took home a whopping \$112 in the 50/50 drawing.

Special thanks to the golf committee (Breen, Coe, Nadeau, Olver and Sawyer) for their efforts. Information regarding next year's event will be available on-line ([www.epsilongamma.org](http://www.epsilongamma.org)) in the early fall.

*Pictures from the event are posted on our web site.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>JULY</b>  -no official events planned-	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>  <b>CMU - U of M FOOTBALL GAME</b> <b>Saturday, September 9, 2006</b> <i>Ann Arbor, Michigan</i>
<b>AUGUST</b>  <b>KICK-OFF RETREAT</b> <b>Saturday, August 5, 2006</b> Actives & Advisors plan for the 2006-07 School Year  <b>EGHC ANNUAL MEETING &amp; WORK WEEKEND</b> <b>Saturday, August 12, 2006</b> <i>Mt. Pleasant, Michigan</i> <i>Elections, Planning, Small House Projects, Fun</i>  <b>CMU FALL CLASSES BEGIN</b> <b>Monday, August 28, 2006</b>	<b>OCTOBER</b>  <b>CMU HOMECOMING</b> <b>Saturday, October 14, 2006</b> <i>Mt. Pleasant, Michigan</i> vs. Ball State, Game time is 1:00 PM

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## THE BETA NETWORK

- **Mark Walkowski** '00 writes: Another future BETA! My wife gave birth to our third child, and first boy, on Sunday, June 4. Mason Anthony Walkowski entered the world at 8 lbs. even and measured 21.5 inches long. He and Mom are doing well! He takes after his Dad already the way he can latch onto a pair of breasts! (Picture: <http://www.epsilongamma.org/betanetwork.html>)
- **Mike Latusek** '00 is getting married on October 14, 2006!

- **Mike Severy `94** writes: We've relocated from Ohio to Illinois where I now work for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as an Assistant Dean of Students. Angie and I are having a great time in our new location and look forward to celebrating Madeline's second birthday July 18 in our new home. All the best to each of you.

### BETAS IN THE MILITARY

-nothing to report this month-

To send in your Beta Network News go to: <http://www.epsilongamma.org/betabase.html> or send your information to [webmaster@epsilongamma.org](mailto:webmaster@epsilongamma.org).

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY *By Tom Olver `98, EGHC president*

Thirty-two members of the Epsilon Gamma rolls will celebrate a birthday this month. The average age of these men is 35. The oldest brother with a birthday this month is **Randy Helman, #1** at 46 (special initiate **Ron Helman, #200** turns 73 on July 13<sup>th</sup>) and the youngest is **Zac Beachler, #336**, at 19.

7/3	John Montooth, #57		40
	Ty Tinkey, #105	37	
	Mark Valchine, #275	27	
7/4	Randy Helman, #1	46	
	Greg Kacy, #118	39	
7/5	Andy Rowden, #160	35	
	Zac Beachler, #336		19
7/6	Ricardo DeLaTorre, #134	36	
	Brent Betzold, #187		31
7/8	Marc Sundberg, #92	37	
7/11	Greg Abraham, #59		39
	Mark Hess, #98	36	
7/12	James Zavasa, #133	38	
7/13	Ron Helman, #200	73	
	Nayef Samhat, #268	28	
7/14	Mike Latuszek, #228	37	
7/15	Aaron Leonard, #302	25	
7/16	Eric Maurer, #37	42	
7/17	Jeff Kinczkowski, #155	34	
7/18	Steve Fouchea, #168	35	
	Nick Pinazzo, #259	28	
7/19	Josh Malkin, #146	37	
	Dave Fouchea, #227	31	
7/21	Kevin Moncman, #277	25	
7/25	Mike Cook, #17	43	
	Andy Brownell, #175	33	
7/28	Chuck Williams, #104	36	
	Dusty Phillips, #323		24
7/29	Dan Brudzynsky, #188	31	
7/30	Chuck Heit, #145	37	
7/31	Mike McDermott, #69	39	
	Matt Chidester, #288	25	

Please help these brothers celebrate by [sending an email](#), making a phone call, sending a card, paying a visit, taking them out, etc. Best wishes for a healthy, happy and safe birthday, brothers!

Yours in \_\_\_\_*kai*\_\_\_\_,

Thomas C. Olver  
[tolver@wooglin.com](mailto:tolver@wooglin.com)

*For the Staunchest E-newsletter is compiled and edited by Scott Nadeau`89, EGHC Communications Director. If you have any questions or comments please send them to [scott.nadeau@epsilongamma.org](mailto:scott.nadeau@epsilongamma.org).*

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**The Epsilon Gamma Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity**

[814 S. Main, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48858](#)

**Housing Corporation: P.O. Box 151, Mount Pleasant, Michigan 48804**

email: [webmaster@epsilongamma.org](mailto:webmaster@epsilongamma.org)

[www.epsilongamma.org](http://www.epsilongamma.org)

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