

For The Staunchest • E-Newsletter • Tuesday, May 01, 2007

Welcome Our New Brothers!

By Scott Nadeau '89, EGHC Communications Director

At 10:00 in the morning on April 21st the Beta House was once again filled with song as three more men joined the rolls of the Epsilon Gamma Chapter:

Norman Robert Andersen - EG 357

William Judson Zeoli - EG 358

Larry Joseph Thomas - Jablonski EG 359

This was the culmination of several months of planning by brother Mark Andersen '08 as he and brothers Zak Zeoli '10 and Dave Jablonski '10 saw their fathers initiated into Beta Theta Pi Fraternity.

The colony performed their best initiation ceremony to date. Following the ceremony everyone went outside for a short picture session and some even played a round of croquet.

Newly initiated brother Norm Andersen sent the following letter to the colony:

Brothers of Epsilon Gamma,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest and most sincere thank you to my new brothers in Beta Theta Pi for the honor of being initiated into such a good and great Fraternity. You all can be sure in the knowledge that the ideas, symbols, and things we all hold dear as Beta's are safe with me and that I will always be at hand if and when any need arises.

When Mark asked me if I was interested in becoming a brother I accepted with only the thought of becoming his brother. Now, after being initiated, I am overwhelmed by the fact that ALL Beta's are my brothers!!!

I look forward to seeing all of you again and I am yours in ____kai____.

Norm Andersen
EG 357

Newly initiated brother Billy "Z" Zeoli was featured in a *Time* magazine article around the time of President Ford's passing. You can read the article here: <http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1573304,00.html>

Congratulations to our new brothers!

[Pictures at http://www.epsilongamma.org/news/latest_news.htm#2007_honorary_initiation]

Beta Theta Pi now has highest Greek GPA after recolonization

By: Brian McLean, CMLife Reporter

[Editor's note: The following article appeared in Monday's edition of the CMLife newspaper at CMU. You can see the article on the web by clicking [here](#).]

Beta Theta Pi's 21 members are aiming to correct the missteps within their social fraternity's past.

The group's charter was suspended in 2002. In 2004, Beta Theta Pi recolonized at CMU under new leadership. "The chapter was acting in a manner that contradicted the values that the general fraternity held," said Chris Mueller, Beta Theta Pi's public relations chairman.

In contrast to the misconduct that led to its charter's suspension, Beta Theta Pi received the highest collective

grade point average among CMU's fraternities for the fall semester, and was awarded the President's Cup this semester.

It also is the only dry fraternity [house] on campus, said Brandyn Lawson, chapter president and Sandusky sophomore. "There's just a lot of values and integrity that our brothers have," he said.

As a colony, Beta Theta Pi has full participation rights within the Interfraternity Council, Lawson said. The main difference between a colony and chapter is autonomy; the general fraternity works more closely with its colonies.

Mueller, a Grandville sophomore, said re-formation was led by Beta Theta Pi's six "re-founding fathers" who took several classes and worked closely with the general fraternity. "(The re-founding fathers) put in countless hours in learning this stuff," Mueller said. Their dedication, as well as the fraternity's increased membership and 100 percent member retention, indicate student desire for the fraternity, he said. "There's definitely a demand for the fraternity back on campus," Mueller said.

The group's reformed image has caught others' attention. Saginaw senior Julie Zielinski, the chapter president for social sorority Alpha Sigma Tau, said the new fraternity is hard-working and energetic - in stark contrast to her memories of the old CMU chapter. "They just have completely turned things around," Zielinski said. "Their reputation has completely changed from what I remember as a freshman." Beta Theta Pi was paired with Alpha Sigma Tau during this year's Greek Week.

The work isn't done yet.

Beta Theta Pi worked with its general fraternity to set a list of directives for its recolonization. On its current trajectory, the group will regain its charter in summer 2008. "We have no reason to believe that won't happen," Mueller said.

Central Michigan Wins Presidents Cup

[This is the official write-up of the accomplishment that appears on the [Beta Theta Pi website](#).]

The Central Michigan colony was recognized at the Greek Awards of Excellence ceremony, April 24. The brothers created a [video](#) a few weeks ago for the presentations, but did not win the award for most creative/best theme on Tuesday night.

Instead, Greek Advisor Tom Idema announced to the entire Greek community that one presentation was so outstanding that a new award had to be created. This award, for what the judges felt was "the best presentation that they had ever seen," went to the brothers of Beta Theta Pi.

Idema told those in attendance that the presentation gave the judges chills, and was so inspiring that he and his staff felt everyone should see it. He then proceeded to show the video on several screens.

In addition, the Colony was presented with The Presidents Cup, which is given to the top fraternity and sorority on campus. Chapter Vice President John Morelli '09 was selected as best IFC representative.

In an email to chapter members, advisors and alumni, Colony President Brandyn Lawson '09 stated, "Thank you to all who have helped us achieve so much success this year. We look forward to many more years of Epsilon Gamma at Central Michigan University."

"They have shown the Greek Community what it is to be a Beta," offered Colony Counselor Gregory M. Compton '86. District Chief A.J. Calkins, *GMI-EMI* '88 added, "Their work and success over the past months has really paid off!"

The Pulse

By Greg Compton '86, chapter counselor

Well, the beat goes on. The group continues to bond together and pull together to become a stronger entity. They not only performed well during Greek Week, but they've obtained some awards as well (which many of you have been informed of already.) The Pig Roast was a great success. I have been proud of many things, but the time together at this activity was fun, as well as moving to hear so many great comments about the group and adding three to our roles as honorary members.

In the advising team, we continue to assist as we can with various situations that come up. Being part of the meetings, even though by web conference, allows us to gain insight into how the group is operating as well as the ability to give some advice. Finances are doing well, with a budget set for next year. A calendar for the fall is taking shape, and all reports have been turned in on time.

The Advising Team is fine with six individuals in the following roles:

Greg Compton:	Chapter/Colony counselor
Jeff Wandzel:	Financial Advisor
Scott Nadeau:	Communications and Alumni Relations Advisor
Paul "Bubba" Koehn:	Risk Management Advisor
Ross McCallum:	Ritual Advisor
Janell Barnard (CMU Grad Student):	Leadership Advisor
OPEN:	Recruitment Advisor
OPEN:	Pledge Education

However, in order to really look good for the General Fraternity and to help us to Charter next summer, we really need to have the last two positions filled. If we want to have this group proceed to become the group that we have all been a part of, we need some people to step up to the plate. We have momentum, we have brotherhood, and we have a good group of advisors to work with and have some fun helping these guys. I know you are out there, and that there are so many excuses not to help out, but giving back is very rewarding. Just sit with me a bit and you will see how it has energized me in my young 42.11 years in existence.

It is very simple to do, all you have to do is say yes and I give you all the information you need to interact with the active brothers. Think about it. Right now I fill in the pulpit at my church when the pastor is gone, run the sound, teach 10-11 years olds in Elementary School, coach a Little League Baseball team, as well as Coordinate the Minors' division, take classes online for Seminary and do my part in partnering with my lovely wife to raise three kids under the age of 10. Come on and climb aboard the advising team.

Respectfully groveling for your help. I'm on my knees. Beggin' you please. Advise, and be a part in our great history of Beta Theta Pi.

Greg Compton
Colony Counselor
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compton@aaps.k12.mi.us

Pig Roast and Family Day 2007

By Scott Nadeau '89, EGHC Communications Chair

Pig Roast and Family day was a lot of fun this year. We doubled our attendance from last year, the pig tasted great, we had plenty of food, and a lot more alums showed up than I expected! It was also great for me to get to meet a lot of the parents.

Doug Varner, the son of "International Pig Roaster" Lenny Varner was on hand this year. He wanted me to let everyone know that Lenny is doing fine. Also making a special appearance just in time to carve the pig was perennial amateur pig carver Bob Seeber Jr. All of the parents who made the trek to Mt. Pleasant for the day brought a lot of great food, and Barbara Koehn's famous caramel bars were also in attendance.

One of the highlights of the day came right after dinner when President Brandyn Lawson '09 asked every Beta who was in attendance, starting with low roll, to introduce themselves to the group and say a few words. It took a while to finish, but it was one of those Beta experiences that pumps you up and gets you excited about the direction Epsilon Gamma is headed.

The founders awards were then handed out by Founder and Colony Counselor Greg "six of six" Compton '86. We ended the day with a rousing rendition of *I Took My Girl Out Walking* sang by all of the brothers in attendance.

A special "Thank You" goes out to brothers Jim Harkness `90 and Paul "Bubba" Koehn for chipping in for the cost of the Pig. Another big "Thanks" to brother Jeff Wandzel `89 for donating the cost of renting the shelter from the city.

Most of the credit belongs to brother Shane Farrell `10 and all of the guys at CMU who put on a top notch event.

...and now for the big announcement! Brothers Robert A. Seeber and Robert F. Seeber have kindly stepped forward to sponsor the event beginning next year. By sponsoring the event, the Seeber's also have earned the right to name the event. Beginning now and going forward, the event will be known as:

The Robert A. Seeber / Lenny Varner International Pig Roast

Thank you Bob & Bob!! See you next year!

[Lots of pictures from the event here: http://www.epsilongamma.org/events/recent_events.htm]

More Good News...

By Tom Olver `98, EGHC president

Two weeks ago, Jonathan Brant, the Beta Theta Pi foundation director attended the North-American Interfraternity Conference's annual meeting in Washington. At Monday night's awards dinner, the NIC presented the General Fraternity with four certificates recognizing, "Exemplary Achievement" in chapters with a "collective grade point average" that "placed them first academically among all campus fraternity chapters and whose grade point average exceeded the all men's grade point average by at least 50 bases points." The Beta chapters receiving the award, which was accepted by General Fraternity President Tom Purinton, are Eastern Kentucky, Kansas, Oklahoma State and CENTRAL MICHIGAN!

President Brandyn Lawson was presented with a certificate in honor of this recognition at the Pig Roast. A write up will appear on the Beta web site soon.

18th Annual Epsilon Gamma Golf Outing

By Jon Eadie `93 and Mike Wharton `93, Golf Outing Chairmen

You are cordially invited to join the actives and alumni of the Epsilon Gamma of Beta Theta Pi at our 2007 Golf Outing!

COULD YOU BE THE WINNER OF \$15,000?

A hole-in-one on the 8th Hole (a down hill 165 yard Par 3) during the Outing wins you \$15,000.00

A hole-in-one on the 3rd Hole-Brand New Set of Pulsar Irons

A hole-in-one on the 14th Hole 5 Day/4 Night Cruise for two

A hole-in-one on the 11th Hole-Two Round Trip Airline Tickets

When: Saturday, August 18, 2007, 1:30 p.m.

Where: [Brae Burn Golf Club](#), 10860 W. Five Mile Rd., Plymouth, Michigan 48170-5060

What: 2 Man Scramble-18 holes

Cost: \$99.00 Alumni and friends, \$75.00 Undergraduates

Price includes 18 holes of golf with Cart, a delicious Steak Diner, a tasty Lunch, A voucher for an additional 18 Holes of golf at Brae Burn GC, a \$3.50 Pro Shop Certificate, Exciting Door Prizes, Gift Bag, Prizes for the competitive "A" Flight and the high handicapper "B" Flight, Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, a chance to win \$15,000.00 and many other surprises.

Join us after dinner for our **Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament** where golfers and non-golfers alike can compete like they are on the Las Vegas Strip.

Don't like to golf? Then please join us for dinner and the poker tournament.

Address your comments and questions to Jon and Mike at golfouting07@epsilongamma.org.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

2007 Founders' Awards

By Scott Nadeau '89, EGHC Communications Chair

The annual founders' awards were handed out at the Pig Roast. This year's recipients are:

Randall Scott Hellman Award – Outstanding Beta of the Year
Brandyn K. Lawson '09

Matthew Francis Baad Award – Outstanding Pledge
Spring Semester 2006 - **Phillip M. Klassen '09**
Fall Semester 2007 - **Drew D. Mason '10**

Thomas Joseph Bussineau Award – Commitment to Community (Most Philanthropic)
John A. Morelli '09

Steven Andrew Swindell Award – Beta Spirit Award
Brandyn K. Lawson '09
Christopher J. Mueller '09
Robert M. Hunter '10

Gregory Michael Compton Award – Most Gentlemanly
John A. Morelli '09

Steven W. Martineau Award – Outstanding Alumnus
Scott E. Nadeau '89

Michael Douglas Bennis Award - MVP for each intramural sport played
Football - **Philip M. Klassen '09**
Soccer - **Philip M. Klassen '09**

New Letters on the Beta House

By Chris Mueller '09, public relations chairman, new member education

The Epsilon Gamma brotherhood has been very busy over the past couple of weeks. With a desire to do something nice for our Greek Week partners, the Betas crafted the ladies of Alpha Sigma Tau a new set of letters for their house to replace the set that was vandalized.

After successfully replacing the AST letters, the brothers decided that, with the skills we had demonstrated, we could make a set of letters for the Epsilon Gamma house. The letters, made out of a **high-quality selection of oak** and painted blue with red border, were put on the house in the beginning of April.

We are currently working on a sign for the front of the porch and in the coming months we are hoping for permanent lighting to be attached to the outside of the house to illuminate the letters and let the light of Beta Theta Pi shine over Main Street.

[See the pictures here: http://www.epsilongamma.org/news/latest_news.htm#2007_letters]

Housing Corporation Needs New Blood!

Up to three director slots in the Epsilon Gamma Housing Corporation's board will open up this summer.

Housing Corporation board members help to provide a quality housing environment, develop and foster relationships between collegiate and alumni members, lead the fundraising efforts for Epsilon Gamma, support the Epsilon Gamma Chapter Advising Team, provide scholarships and leadership opportunities for undergraduate members and assist with the communication efforts of the chapter.

Elections will take place on August 11th during the Summer meeting.

If you think you might be interested in joining the Housing Corporation board, please contact Tom Olver (tom.olver@betathetapi.org) or Scott Nadeau (scott.nadeau@epsilongamma.org).

Upcoming Events

<p>May - July</p> <p><i>No events planned</i></p>	<p>August</p> <p>168th General Convention August 2-5, 2007 Orlando, Florida</p> <p>EGHC Annual Meeting & Work Weekend Saturday, August 11, 2007 814 S. Main Mt. Pleasant, Michigan</p> <p>18th Annual Golf Outing Saturday, August 18, 2007 Brae Burn Golf Club Plymouth, Michigan</p> <p>House Move-in August 20, 2007</p>
<p>September</p> <p>CMU Homecoming September 29, 2007 Mt. Pleasant Michigan</p>	

EG's interactive full event calendar is [here](#).

The Beta Network

- **Todd Finnin `96** writes: I would like to congratulate Mr. Todd DeVito and Janet McMahon on their engagement. It seems it took the unheard of altitude of 1979 ft to bring you to your knee to pop the question. If Janet knew that this was all it would take, she would have taken you to Mt. Arvon (which is most likely a converted landfill) back in the early 90's. Just a thought. Again congrats. I was able to hold out for 4 years, DeVito, you're my idol!! Erin Koehler my fiancée and I get married on May 5th, 2007 at the Phoenix Zoo. Erin and I live in North Phoenix with the coyotes, snakes and lizards. My daughter is now 8 years old and as wonderful as can be. She told me the other day that she was a Verve Pipe fan after she listened to one of my CDs. Does this mean that we are getting old?? Anyway, I would also like to congratulate the colony on initiating another group of leaders.
- **Matt Bush `08** was recently voted the CMU Student Government Association's "Senator of the Year" for 2006-07.
- **Tom Parr `03** writes: Jackie (CMU Sigma Kappa '01) and I just had our first child! Keegan Charles Parr was born April 18th at 3:41 pm. He was 9 lbs. 5 oz. and 21" long. Mom and baby are doing great. Other than an unplanned C-section, everything went fine. We just got home today and it'll be nice to sleep in my own bed. The padded bench at the hospital wasn't as comfortable as one would hope. However, I'm enjoying my new role as "Dad" and can't wait to raise my future Beta. For all interested parties, I have an online photo album with some great pics of the little guy: <http://picasaweb.google.com/tlparr>
If anyone has some good pointers for newborns, I'd love to hear 'em!

BETAS IN THE MILITARY

- -nothing new to report this month

Send in your Beta Network News to scott.nadeau@epsilongamma.org.

Happy Birthday

By Tom Olver `98, EGHC president

Twenty-two members of the Epsilon Gamma rolls will celebrate a birthday this month. The average age of these men is 36. The oldest brother with a birthday this month is James Riley, #23 at 49 and the youngest is Thomas Younger, #349, at 19.

5/2	Steve Swindell, #4	44
5/3	Scott Nadeau, #85	41
5/6	Andy Woodliff, #142	36
5/9	James Wallace, #11	44
	Rob Peterson, # 254	28
5/11	Phil Adler, #206	31
5/15	Steve Masters, #62	40
	Chris Knight, #201	33
	Josh Shanahan, #216	33
	Steve Witte, #356	20
5/17	Thomas Younger, #349	19
5/18	Steve Pohe, #131	36
5/20	Bill Browning, #78	39
5/21	Steve Grenus, #117	44
5/23	Doug Merrion, #136	37
	Joe Alexander, #238	29
	Josh Weakland, #276	28
5/24	Greg Compton, #6	43
5/25	Tim McGovern, #91	38
5/26	Andy Shubnell, #139	36
5/28	James Riley, #23	49
5/29	Dave Gillrie, #26	41

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
tom.olver@betathetapi.org

One Last Thing...

By Scott Nadeau `89, EGHC Communications Chair

Last month one of Epsilon Gamma's newest initiates, Jamelle "J" Dooley, posted a letter to his Facebook page entitled "To My Beta Boys!" If you don't know what Facebook (www.facebook.com) is, it's a lot like MySpace except it's geared more toward college students. I found J's letter to be inspiring. Stories such as his remind me of why I've decided to stay involved with the fraternity 18 years after graduating from college.

J has given me permission to post his letter here for all of you to read:

I've been doing a little reflecting and this is something that I want to express to you all:

Almost nine weeks ago a bunch of us were piled in the Beta dining room. Eight of us, all of a different creeds, colors, backgrounds, and persuasions, became the Alpha Pi class of Epsilon Gamma chapter of Beta Theta Pi. At the beginning of my journey, I didn't know what the hell was going on. First, I was dazed by the fact that I was even considering joining a fraternity. I remember reflecting about the possibility over summer vacation and quickly dismissing the idea. Not to mention I knew the majority of my peer groups would question why I didn't join a "divine nine" or "African American" organization. Secondly, I'm in this room with all these random people who are gazing at me. Yeah, I enjoy people as a whole. Hell you could say that I'm obsessed with socialite-ism, but, honestly, I wouldn't have normally said a word to a good 60% of the people in the room. One question loomed over my head the whole night, "What am

I doing? What can I get out of this experience, and how will this change me?" All in all, I decided to go along for the ride. Being an optimist, I just knew I would be provided with answers to my questions by and by.

Now, on the 9th of April, I sit here at my computer as a member of Beta Theta Pi. Almost 9 weeks ago, most of us were strangers and now we now share a common bond, a brotherhood. When I holistically view Epsilon Gamma, I am often reminded of a family. We all have our varying philosophies, ideologies, and perspectives. We all have our varying perceptions of other brothers, and we may not agree on everything; however, the bond of Beta, our brotherly love, holds us together. It reminds us that we have something in common that overrules our differences. It reminds us to look away from the things that divide us and to focus on the things that bring us together. While all of my questions have not been answered, I am happy that I decided to travel the road of Beta. Sure, I've lost three-hundred and sixty dollars, but I've gained something that I've never had: strong male influences.

When I was two years old my father was ripped out of my life by some idiot with a complex and a handgun. The culprit and the motive: unknown. Sure, I have a step-father, who I love dearly, but between the ages of 2 and 15 I didn't have any father figures or strong male influences in my life. Sure, I had my grandfathers, but they never fostered a strong relationship like they should have. My mom, aunt, and grandma, with a few people here and there, helped shape who I am today. Yes, I was raised by women: strong black women.

All in All, I'm not sharing this information so you can be sad for me or give me pity and sympathy. My point is, I appreciate every single one of you. Sure, we've had our spats and negative interactions; however, I look up to every single one of you. Thank you all for everything that you've done. I owe you one. ;-)

Thank you J for allowing me to share your personal letter.

Jamelle is currently looking for a Summer internship in the Chicago or Naperville Illinois area. If you can offer anything or know of anything that may be available, please contact me at scott.nadeau@epsilongamma.org and I'll forward you J's resume' and contact information.

This fall J will be a Multicultural Resident Advisor at CMU in Celani Hall as well as a returning Senator for the Student Government Association.

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.

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