

BETA THETA PI

EPSILON GAMMA CHAPTER



For the Staunchest • eNewsletter • May 2011

22nd Annual Epsilon Gamma Golf Outing June 4, 2011 Gateway Golf Club - Romulus, Michigan



By Jon Eadie '93 & Mike Wharton '93, golf outing co-chairman

Less than a month to the Golf Outing and the weather is starting to turn here in Michigan. We are still looking for additional sponsors and volunteers. For more information or to register today please go to www.epsilongamma.org. We are beginning to line up some exciting sponsors, it should be a great time. We look forward to seeing everyone June 4th.

kai

Jon Eadie '93
Michael Wharton '93

Direct link to golf registration page with links for sponsors:
http://www.epsilongamma.org/events/golf_registration.htm

golfouting@epsilongamma.org

Seeber/Varner International Pig Roast

By Scott Nadeau '89, housing corporation president



Pork + a 30 lb. turkey + venison + brothers + family & friends = a great event.

More than 150 Betas, sweethearts family and friends gathered at Chip-A-Waters park on April 30th for the 24th annual event. Because of flooding at Island Park, the event was moved to Chip-A-Waters. The park was not scheduled to be opened for another week, but due to the persistence of Alumni Relations Chairman Adam Whitt '14, the city opened it up one week early.

There is a saying in my line of work called the "Happy Accident." It's when something great happens during less than ideal situations. Having the event at Chip-A-Waters was this year's happy accident; we hope to have the event there every year in the future. Everyone liked it better.

The great thing about the new location is that we have the park all to ourselves, it's closer to convenience stores, the house and CMU campus,

UPCOMING EVENTS

22nd Annual Golf Outing

June 4, 2011
Gateway Golf Club
33290 Gateway Drive
Romulus, MI 48174
[DETAILS](#)

CMU Homecoming & Bubba's Beta Brunch

October 15, 2011
814 S. Main - Mt. Pleasant, Michigan
[DETAILS T.B.A.](#)



[FULL EVENT CALENDAR](#)

SUPPORT YOUR CHAPTER

[One-Time donation](#)

or

[Subscription Donation](#)

You can choose to donate to the house or non-housing activities.



OUR WEBSITE



SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



and the kids' play areas are nicer and closer to the shelter (so that the little folks are always within eyeshot of parents).

As always, the event was a great celebration of the end of another school year.

Food was consumed, awards were given out, the Beta Sweetheart and Beta Rose were announced, songs were sung, the loving cup was passed.

I could go on, but I'll let the pictures tell the story: (If you can't see the photos below, they are posted on our web site)

[View all](#)

[Get your own](#)

Special thanks to Bob Sr. & Jr. for once again sponsoring the event and bringing their special homemade treats, Nicole Kokorelis ([Kakes by Koko](#)) for the awesome "Pig Cake" and cupcakes, and all brothers, family and FOBs who brought a dish to pass and showed up to support the chapter. Also, big credit goes to Alumni Relations Chair Adam Whitt `14 for all of his hard work organizing the event and making sure it went off without a hitch, despite several weather induced challenges.

Next year is the 25th Annual event...let's make it the biggest ever! The tentative date is April 28th, 2012.

Questions or comments: pigroast@epsilongamma.org

The Beta Network

Send your updates to

communications@epsilongamma.org



- On April 18th **Jim Mottern `91** posted to Facebook:
Oh yeah, we [he & wife Kathryn] had a baby two weeks ago. Kaitlyn Elizabeth 6.15 oz, 9.5 inches long.

Once, Always, Everywhere

By **Matthew Brauer `90**

Interview with **Sean O'Bryan`86**
Epsilon Gamma #33



MB: Hello brother!

Sean O'Bryan: Hello brother!

MB: Right outta the gates, let's talk about the fact in addition to running your

own law firm, you have a host of horses, sheep, goats, dogs, cats and chickens— all housed at a beautiful spread in Lapeer County which you have christened Celtic Ridge. Were you born into this, or did you put it all together yourself? And how did you learn how to run that kind of an operation?

Sean O'Bryan: Well, my father grew up on a farm, and we were raised in a rural area near the town of Almont, Michigan. I was in FFA for all 4 years of high school. But none of that mattered until I married my wife, Aimee, who was even more an animal lover than I. We enjoy being with animals, and thought it was the best environment for the kids. The work never ends. The animals need to be fed and cared for -- even on Christmas morning. But the upside has always outweighed the hard work.

MB: Photos can be seen via a link on obryanlaw.com or celticridge.com. Is "Celtic Ridge" just a nod to your ancestry or is there more to why you chose that name?

Sean O'Bryan: There is nice ridge that frames the back of the property, and the kids and I talked about it, and choose the name several years back. Being Irish, we always try and find a way to incorporate a bit of green into things.

MB: And of course you also own and operate O'Bryan Law Firm, PLC, specializing in estate planning, elder law, and estate administration. How did you get into that line of work and why did you choose your location in Davison, MI?

Sean O'Bryan: First of all, I went to law school more for the education than the expectation that I would ever practice law. When I got out, I decided to put out a shingle near my hometown, and take a few cases. After a year or so, I was miserable. Most of the cases were either criminal defense or divorce matters. I refocused, and decided that rather than allowing clients to dictate what types of cases I would take, I reversed the paradigm. From that day forward, I would only accept the cases that I wanted to - and that was planning cases. It was hard for a while, but eventually things fell into place. I have handled estates for over 5,000 families, and do a lot of family farm and business planning. Davison is close to my home. I could never see wasting a lot of time in a daily commute. I'm rarely in the car for more than 10 minutes.

MB: You are EG 33, so you pledged Beta in the mid-1980s. How did you get involved with the chapter and what was it like back then?

Sean O'Bryan: The Betas at CMU had just been awarded their charter, and it was an exciting time for the chapter. I was in the Alpha pledge class, and pledged with several members who really made tremendous contributions to the fraternity over the years. My only regret was that I was a senior when I pledged, so my time as a CMU Beta was just 1 year.

MB: You eventually left CMU and pursued your studies at Texas Tech. I think that had something to do with the fraternity, right? What was your involvement with Beta down in Texas?

Sean O'Bryan: Exactly. When I started law school, I had been alerted to a scholarship program that assisted graduate students at Universities with troubled Beta chapters. The program allowed me both in-state tuition at Texas Tech, and paid a large portion of my costs. In exchange, I became a chapter advisor. I have a friend who is starting law school this fall, and his tuition is over \$1,000 a credit hour. I paid less than \$20 per credit hour if you can believe. The Texas Tech chapter experienced a tremendous rebound for the last 20 years, before some more recent issues. I was

actually initiated in that chapter, and have a second Beta roll number, Delta Mu 330.

MB: While you're at it, tell us how you met your wife, and say a few words about your lovely children.

Sean O'Bryan: I hired my wife, Aimee, as a paralegal 18 years ago. I married her so she wouldn't sue me for sexual harassment. Now, she's the boss. We have 2 children, Caelan Patrick, our 11 year old son, and Teagan Riley, our 8 year old daughter. Caelan hates farms, animals, and the outdoors. But we kept him around anyway. Teagan is the complete opposite. She rides horses, and eats, sleeps and breathes farming. That is what makes kids what they are.

MB: So with a family like that, do you get help with all the responsibilities of your animals? Your day must start pretty early – feeding the livestock, delivering lambs and shoveling you-know-what before putting on a suit and heading to the office. Where do you get the energy?

Sean O'Bryan: Well, there is never a day off. My wife and I do chores 2 times each day. We love being outside -- no matter the weather. The kids help too, and have their own daily responsibilities. We do have hired help seasonally. I like to have our horses as more than pasture ornaments. That takes working with them continuously. In the better weather, we ride all of the time. I think everything is about balance. I work four 12 hour days at my office. I am inside the whole time. I then shift to 3 days at the farm.

MB: Well, thanks for taking the time out of that schedule to do this for us – very interesting stuff. Before we go, let me give you a chance to say a few words to the brotherhood out there.

Sean O'Bryan: I can say this, one of the best decisions I made in college was pledging my fraternity. I have many friends who went to Central that never go back. They tell me they have no reason to. Their friends are gone, the professors have moved on, they have no connection to the college. When a Beta comes home to CMU, he is greeted with open arms. Once a Beta, always a Beta. I have been in the places throughout the world and had Beta letters on, and had brothers buy me drinks, take me out to dinner, or just offer me a handshake. We take care of one another, and that doesn't end when they hand you a sheepskin.

This Month's Birthdays

By Greg Compton '86, founding father



Wish your brother a very happy birthday.

May Birthdays

Steve Swindell	May 02	48
Oren Lane	May 03	48
Scott Nadeau	May 03	45
Jim Wallace	May 09	48
Robert Peterson	May 09	32
Phil Adler	May 11	35
Steve Masters	May 15	44
Christopher Knight	May 15	37
Joshua Shanahan	May 15	37
Steve Witte	May 15	24
Thomas Younger	May 17	23
Stephen Pohe	May 18	40
Evan Peltier	May 18	23
Bill Browning	May 20	43
Steve Grenus	May 21	48

Doug Merrion	May 23	41
Joe Alexander	May 23	33
Joshua Weakland	May 23	32
Greg Compton	May 24	47
Lance Prins	May 27	23
Jamie Riley	May 28	53
Dave Gillrie	May 29	45
Andy Shubnell	May 29	40

Oldest: Jamie Riley 53 Youngest: Lance Prins 23 Ave. age is 38.30 years.

These are the birthdays I have for May. If any of you are not listed or are listed incorrectly, please contact me at compton@aaps.k12.mi.us and I will change it or add it to my major list. Have a great birthday brothers!

Yours in __kai__,
Greg Compton

compton@aaps.k12.mi.us

The Epsilon Gamma Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity

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