

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2005

# The Front Rho

Alpha Epsilon Pi, Beta Rho Chapter



## Greetings from the Master

Dear friends and alumni,

I am proud to report that the Beta Rho Chapter had another phenomenal semester this spring. Between rush, fundraising, and having fun, the Brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi had a busy, exciting, and rewarding semester.

As we returned to Providence after Winter Break, rush was our top priority. Under the leadership of Rush Chair David Guttmann we had a well planned and implemented rush period packed with cocktail parties, dinners, and formal rush events in our lounge. The results of David's leadership were outstanding as he brought together a group of eighteen students -- athletes, musicians, and campus leaders -- to form the Nu Pledge Class. When combined with last fall's Mu Pledge Class, we welcomed twenty-one men into our brotherhood this year, setting a new Beta Rho record.



Master Rob Lazerow

Additionally, our chapter's fundraising efforts were very successful this semester. In early April we were fortunate to work with GolfServ, Inc. during the Masters Tournament. Beta Rho brothers continuously monitored the golf tournament and updated GolfServ's online scoreboard for the duration of the Masters. As a result of our hard work, over 1.7 million golf fans followed the tournament

on GolfServ's website. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with GolfServ this semester and for their financial support.

Throughout all of our endeavors this semester we enjoyed working together and strengthening the bonds that make our brotherhood so successful. We were only able to achieve our wonderful feats through teamwork and we displayed the power and abilities of the Beta Rho Chapter to the new members throughout the pledge process. Our Chapter is expanding but we have not forgotten the ideals of our Fraternity or the impact of our actions. I am pleased with the promising future of our Fraternity and I hope that you are able to visit Providence and experience our strong brotherhood.

Fraternally,

Robert Lazerow '06

Brother Master "Rug"

### Highlights of the Semester:

- 18 person Nu pledge class
- Over \$2,700 raised for charity
- 3 Great Parties
- Fundraising event with GolfServ
- Spring Weekend Seder
- A new porch bench
- Spring Formal at CAV

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**THANK YOU**  
TO THE BETA RHO FUND  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**  
<http://students.brown.edu/aepi>

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## Lieutenant Master's Report

When I first stepped into the role of Lieutenant Master, I had absolutely no idea just how much work the position would entail. Out of all of the e-board positions, the Lieutenant Master seemed to have the most unclear set of responsibilities, aside from arranging the composite and planning the formal. However, throughout the semester, I came to find out that there was quite a bit more to being Lieutenant Master than these few responsibilities.

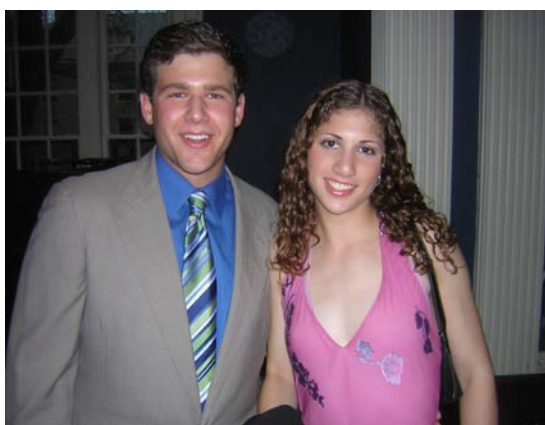
For instance, I organized our Chapter's minor board and led its meetings. Many different members of minor board have stepped up to help our Chapter achieve many of its goals.

The community service chair, Joe Austerweil, has done a fine job helping to organize multiple blood drives with the Rhode Island Blood Center this past Spring. Many of our brothers worked shifts in the Ratty to publicize the drives. Additionally, we managed to raise almost \$3000 in donations for cancer research. Clearly, the Beta Rho Chapter continues to hold community service high on its list of priorities.

Dan Gradess, our Jewish affairs chair, really rose to the occasion this semester. When the University inadvertently scheduled the Spring Weekend series of concerts for the weekend of Passover, Dan was determined to orchestrate a successful Seder that brothers could attend, in order to be able to remain at Brown throughout the weekend. This Seder turned out to be one of the highlights of the semester, and made many of the brothers quite proud to be affiliated with a Jewish fraternity.



*Piet Walvoord painting the pledges' bench*



*Steve Beckoff and friend at formal*



*Jon Levin, Caleb Karpay, and Jay Levin stand up to read the four questions of Passover*

Our alumni relations chair, Mike Gladstone, has been hard at work throughout the semester in his efforts to increase our alumni base. Mike not only organized a successful alumni/brothers event in New York City over winter break, but he also has an exciting event planned for the Summer vacation, which will give some of our newly initiated brothers a chance to further connect with the Beta Rho Chapter's past (see details on page six).

Our study breaks chair, Don Trella, did a nice job putting together a break during which Noah Pohl screened his movie *Mission to Matrimony*, a documentary dealing with the issue of gay marriage in America.

Our sports teams were also successful this semester as legendary athletics director, Phil Kalisman guided the intramural volleyball and ultimate Frisbee teams into the semi-finals. Additionally, our slow pitch softball team made an impressive first season debut making it into the playoffs.

This semester, I also had the distinct pleasure of serving as social chair. Our parties continued to be some of the most successful ones on campus, drawing in huge numbers of students from diverse sections of the Brown community. The Beta Rho Chapter has truly gained campus-wide recognition as a great place to spend time.

Craig Convissar '06

Lieutenant Master "Patrick Duffy"

## A Pledge's Perspective

It all started on a cold night in early March when we met for induction. While that night may seem like yesterday, we have come a long way from a group of diverse strangers.

Our pledge master, Toby Muresianu has helped us with the many activities of the pledge process. We made a "mockumentary" about the housing lottery. We serenaded both Brown sororities as well as the Undergraduate Council of Students with our rendition of Mandy Moore's "Candy." Finally, we threw our pledge party, "Farenheight," which was a huge success! While these projects were certainly time consuming, in the end, they were a lot of fun and brought the Nu Pledge Class together as a group.

Our final pledge project was to build a new bench that would complement the one on the porch. Matt Drooyan led the effort, and we all contributed in building and painting the bench. The bench currently sits on the porch, and we hope the product of our hard work will last for years to come.

Recently, we went on our pledge trip, which, due to rainy weather, was adapted to an overnight in the house. Nevertheless, we participated in fun activities such



*Michael Field, Brett Cropp, and Ian Cropp*

as improv comedy skits and Beta Rho trivia games.

Pledging has been a time-consuming but extremely rewarding and enjoyable process for us all. When the eighteen members of the Nu pledge class accepted bids in late February, we knew that we were joining an organization with an amazing group of guys. We had no idea how quickly they would become our closest friends.

Jon Levin '08

Brother "Big Gay Al"



*Pledges, led by Pledge Master Toby Muresianu, serenade sorority sisters*

## Pledge Report

This year, the Beta Rho Chapter ran a re-energized and successful pledge program which added fun and productive activities to our older pledge processes in order to really integrate the pledges into the house.

The pledges, for instance, filmed a clever and funny "mockumentary" about the housing lottery. The film will be submitted to next year's Ivy League Film Festival, and is heavily favored to win. Serenades were also added to the pledge process. Under the guidance of veteran capellists brothers Ben Mantell and Dan Gradess, the pledges performed Mandy Moore's "Candy" to the Kappa Alpha Theta and Alpha Chi Omega sororities, UCS, and the patrons of both Jo's and the Ivy Room! Additionally, to further learn about the history of Beta Rho and its alumni, pledges traced their "family trees" – their lineage of big brothers back to the Founding Fathers. Finally, special events

included a pledge overnight in the house featuring improv and sketch comedy, a debate tournament and house storytelling.

More traditional projects also went well, with the pledges building a new bench for the porch, increasing its overall sittability. The pledge cocktail, "Fahrenheit," was very successful and helped to increase pledge cohesiveness. On the academic front, a midterm exam was added, resulting in the Nu pledge class scoring several thousand points higher than any previous pledge class. I am proud to report that all eighteen pledges made it through to be initiated. Just as importantly, they have been an extraordinarily close group and will make a great contribution to the house.

Toby Muresianu '06

Pledge Master "Bitch Pube Tyrone Fatass Mitch"

## Relay For Life

On a chilly spring afternoon, the AEPi Beta Rho brothers and pledges prepared to spend their next twelve hours walking laps around Brown's Main Green as a team in the Relay For Life. What ensued was an amazing evening of commemorations, barbeques, capture the flag, a poker tournament (our very own Master Rob Lazerow won second place!), and quality bonding time between pledges and brothers.

The Relay is a twelve hour walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society's research, patient advocacy, and education programs. Our fundraising effort for the event was excellent; we raised nearly \$3,000 of the \$54,000 that Brown

raised in total.

Watching the sun rise at the event's conclusion at 6:00 AM, those of us who had made it through the night were filled with a sense of pride, knowing that we dedicated our evening to an amazing cause. We look forward to more comparable large-scale service endeavors in the coming semester, hoping to continue directing our strong sense of commitment and brotherhood to help benefit our surrounding community. Thanks to everyone who helped us out!

David Guttmann '07  
Rush Chair "Kenny"



Craig Convissar, Dave Guttmann, Phil Kalisman, and Dave Snitkof take a short break from walking to pose for picture

## Spring Weekend Seder



Paul Savitz holds up the Afikomen

When news got around that Brown University had scheduled spring weekend for the beginning of Passover, there was a lot of panic. Many Jewish students now had to choose between going home to spend the holiday with families or staying at Brown for one of the most fun weekends of the year. AEPi also faced a dilemma: how could we ensure a good spring weekend for our members when throwing our usual parties would be inappropriate? The answer: our first ever university-sponsored Seder in the AEPi lounge. This helped us achieve our goal of trying to give as many people as possible the option to stay at Brown for the weekend while still observing Passover.

On Saturday, April 23, forty-seven brothers, pledges, and guests sat around tables in the AEPi lounge to celebrate Passover together.

In the days leading up to the Seder, several brothers and pledges worked to cook a meal for all these people - no small task. Despite the challenge of a small kitchen and many people to feed, the food turned out great, and we enjoyed a full meal consisting of: charoset, Israeli salad, rosemary potatoes, ginger carrots, and baked lemon-parsley chicken. The Seder was led by Jewish Affairs Chair Daniel Gradess and me.

After over three hours of praying, singing, eating, and an unusually long search for the afikomen, the Seder was judged by all to be a great success. Although we are sure the University has now bought a Jewish calendar and intends to use it, we plan to continue this tradition for years to come.

David Snitkof '05  
Webmaster "OJ"

## BP's New Chapter Advisor

My senior year is now coming to a close, and though I've had to make a lot of major decisions this year, deciding where to go after college has been the hardest decision. I have friends going to San Francisco, Bangkok, and pretty much everywhere in between. After weighing all these options, though, I decided to stay near AEPi next year.

I can certainly complain that my four years at Brown were too short, but if it were not for AEPi, I would probably not have graduated in just four years. My father died unexpectedly in April of my sophomore year, and I immediately went home. The constant letters, phone calls, and demonstrations of support from AEPi, however, brought me back to school in only two weeks. By the end of the summer, I had finished all my work for the previous semester and gotten my academics back on track.

I'm not ready to leave that kind of camaraderie behind yet, and I was looking for a way to continue to play a role in the fraternity next year, so I was honored and excited when Founding Father Josh Mandel chose me to succeed him as Beta Rho's Chapter Advisor. Josh has been a member of AEPi for nearly ten years, so he has left some big shoes to fill. I hope that I can fill the gap that Josh will leave, and with both Josh and Dave Bacharach on speed dial, I'm confident that I can do the job.

Tucker Peck '05

Immediate Past Master "Manny"

## AEPi Road Trip

For spring break this semester, I went on a nine day road trip with fellow brothers Tal Itzkovich and Phil Kalisman. We stopped in Philadelphia, Penn State University, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Detroit, Toronto, Niagara Falls and Cornell University. One of the many interesting aspects of the trip was getting to visit other AEPi Chapters across the country. We first checked out the Pi Deuteron Chapter while staying over with a friend of mine at Penn State University. We arrived at their new mansion just as one brother was returning to the house to discover that his friends had wrapped every item in his room in tinfoil. They played no similar pranks on us, though, and were very friendly upon noticing our AEPi sweatshirts.



*AEPi house at the University of Michigan*

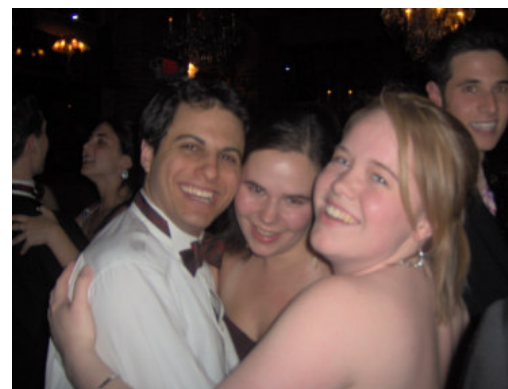
The next day, we stopped by the Alpha Kappa Chapter at Carnegie Mellon. The brothers there were a much more studious group than their neighbors to the east, but also had a very nice house and a welcoming atmosphere. In fact, while discussing the differences between the Greek Life at CMU and Brown, they invited us to stay at their house for a home-cooked dinner.

After watching the Detroit Pistons defeat the Sacramento Kings from our courtside seats, we drove out to Ann Arbor where Phil had arranged with the Omega Deuteron (the UMich Chapter) Master for us to spend the night. Despite being halfway across the country, we were given free housing and pledges whom we could ask to recite the Cofa. The brother who answered the door turned out to be an old friend of Beta Rho alum Danny Wasserman '03, and another brother had recently visited Brown and seen the Beta Rho Chapter, so we had many connections with our hosts. The Omega Deuteron Chapter had a fairly small house in which only 20 of the more than 100 active brothers were able to live. Yet, there were still brothers and pledges stopping by throughout the evening with whom we got a chance to hang out.

Overall, the trip was a great experience that showcased what a great privilege it is to be a member of AEPi. I enjoyed having fun and traveling the country with friends from Beta Rho, while also learning firsthand what it means to be part of a national fraternity.

Dan Teitelbaum '06

Brother "Princess Cumquat"



*Immediate Past Master Tucker Peck and friends*

### Brother and Alumni Accomplishments

Jeb Berman '05: Geolab over summer. Moving to D.C to live with Ari Gerstman  
 Tucker Peck '05: Homebased behavioral interventions, RI.  
 Dave Cohen '05: Deloitte Consulting, Boston  
 Mike Rozensher '05: Phi Beta Kappa. Business strategy consulting, MA.  
 Ian Cropp '05: Graduating Sports editor of the BDH  
 Dave Snitkof '05: Health care consulting, CSC, NY.  
 Ari Gerstman '05: Consultant, Kelly, Anderson & Associates  
 Lee Tessler '05: Washington University computational biology PHD program  
 David Grabiner '05: Lincoln Labs, MA.  
 Zach Teutsch '05: Research Analyst SEIU Capital Stewardship Program, D.C.  
 Steve Groopman '05: National Review, D.C.  
 Jon Villines '05: Continuing college at NYU  
 Jeff Gruhler '05: Harvard Premed Program  
 Brian Singer '04 and Stephanie Harris '04 are engaged to be married



Steve Beckoff and Piet Walvoord



Tal Levy and Mark Grabiner

### Spring 2005 Officers

Robert Lazerow '06	Master
Craig Convissar '06	Lieutenant Master
Toby Muresainu '06	Pledge Master
Alexander Levi '07	Scribe
Benjamin Mantell '06	Exchequer
Isaac Haxton '07	Sentinel
Ari Gerstman '05	Brother-At-Large
Michael Gladstone '07	House Manager
Tucker Peck '05	Immediate Past Master

*This Issue of The Front Rho Newsletter is brought to you by Scribe Alexander Levi, '07.*

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

The Beta Rho Brothers would like to thank the following people for the generous donations to our Chapter:

- GolfServ Inc.
- Nan and Joe Mantell, P '06

### Summer Alumni Event

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2005  
 8 PM TO 12 AM  
 CHELSEA GRILL  
 135 8TH AVE.  
 NEW YORK, NY 10011

RSVP BY JUNE 10TH TO  
 MICHAEL\_GLADSTONE@BROWN.EDU

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 MICHAEL\_GLADSTONE@BROWN.EDU AND VISIT THE WEBSITE TO  
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