

# THE FRONT RHO

Alpha Epsilon Pi, Beta Rho Chapter



*Pledge Serenades at AEPi*

**Highlights of the semester:**

- Raised Over \$3800 for Charity
- Initiated 13 Member Xi Pledge Class
- Newly Painted Basement Rooms
- Decade Project Kickoff
- Fundraising Event with Golf-Serv
- AEPi Seder at Hillel
- 3 Great Parties
- Spring Formal at Café Nuovo
- Website Adds New Features

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## Greetings from the Master

Dear Friends and Alumni,

Simply stated, I dedicated myself to solidifying our chapter's legacy in my time as Master. My major goal was to more effectively integrate our brotherhood by both redesigning our physical space while taking our brotherhood events to progressively higher levels. Essentially, I worked to harness our aggregate potential and shape it into a more cohesive brotherhood. This sort of undertaking, however, is immensely challenging, as it will take several semesters to complete. However, I am elated that our new Master, Steven Beckoff, also shares in my vision and is completely prepared to continue on this same path.

Moreover, I firmly believe that we need more formal connections to our Beta Rho alumni, as they are the keystone to our chapter's future. One of the hallmarks of my chapter improvement initiative was the implementation of the 'Decade Project,' a capital campaign aimed at raising almost thirty thousand dollars next semester to be used for a huge investment in our house. Notably, this momentous undertaking will coincide with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beta Rho chapter. This promises to be an exciting event that will certainly be a memorable celebration.

In keeping with our investment in our future, this semester we really hit the ground running in February with a spectacular rush program. Several parties, thousands of wings, a Superbowl screening, a bowling trip, lots of poker and other exciting entertainment were all inspiring for the potential pledges. In the end, we were proud to initiate thirteen fine gentlemen into our robust

Xi Pledge class. They were truly a noteworthy pledge class, routinely exceeding all expectations of the brotherhood. This was certainly a testament to the revamped pledge program headed by Tal Itzkovich, a design that will certainly be passed on to the future Pledgemasters.

Finally, I truly hope that my hard work will not be forgotten. More specifically, I hope that I have raised the bar in what it means to be Master, encouraging those to follow to work a little harder than their predecessor. Though we have come a long way in our ten years, we as a chapter still have a lot to improve on. These things will not be solved on their own but by the hard work of individuals dedicated to making AEPi here at Brown the absolute best it can be.



*Master Chris Schmitt*

Faternally,

Christopher Schmitt '06  
Brother Master "Walrus"



*Brothers having a great Spring Weekend*

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

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT  
THE DECADE PROJECT!

<http://students.brown.edu/aepi>



Devin Cohen and Michael Morgenstern enjoy the spring formal with their dates.

## Lieutenant Master's Report

This was a great semester for Beta Rho.

Rush was a huge success, welcoming thirteen new brothers into our chapter. This year's pledge program was equally fruitful, helping to initiate bonds between pledges and brothers that we look forward to strengthening in the coming years.

We also organized a very successful Seder for Passover this year. Over 50 Brothers and friends joined together to celebrate the holiday and bond in a way that we don't often have the opportunity to. The Seder was led by David Guttmann and Justin Markovits.

Later this spring, the entire brotherhood came together and contributed towards a common cause in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. We raised over three thousand dollars, showing how much we can accomplish by working together towards a specific goal.

We also enjoyed hosting a barbecue with Kappa Alpha Theta for ADOCH this year, which was a great way to show the prefrish what our fraternity and Brown is all about.

Spring weekend was enjoyable for everyone as well, despite the lackluster weather. We held events all weekend and to combat all the rain during our showcase Saturday night event, we strung up large tarps to create a makeshift roof to keep everyone dry while we enjoyed Rage on Wriston.

This year's Spring Formal was held at Café Nuovo and it provided a great atmosphere to celebrate both the end of the year and the graduating seniors. It was a memorable experience for everyone.

Scott Seiver '07

Lieutenant Master "49"

## Pledge Program Report

I am pleased to report that the Spring 2006 Pledge Program thoroughly trained thirteen pledges to become our Brothers. This year's pledge class is energetic and enthusiastic about the fraternity and will certainly make positive contributions to our house as Brothers.

As always, education is the cornerstone of our Pledge Program. The pledges diligently learned about the history of the Beta Rho Chapter and the Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity. They have faithfully memorized the important elements of our tradition and history such as the Cofa, Founding Fathers, Immortal Eleven, Greek Alphabet, and Poem. Pledge Tobias Cohen even managed to defeat veteran Brother Ben Mantell—who previously held the fraternity record—during our annual Greek Alphabet competition!

In addition to their customary education, the pledges became close friends through a number of projects. To ensure that the pledges knew all of the Brothers early in the pledge process, the first major project was to complete pledge books, where each pledge researched facts about every Brother. However, new this year, the pledges then collectively created one Brother Book, in which each Brother has a unique page with his picture, biographical information, and a brief narrative paragraph. Also, the pledges held a fantastic party that entertained Brothers and guests all night,



Brothers at a recent semi-formal cocktail



Brothers in the Brown marching band playing at a recent hockey game



Xi's pledge class members Toby Cohen, Caleb Miller, and Evan Stone during Spring Weekend.

participated in our annual Relay for Life community services project, and helped during the Master's Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Finally, before pledging concluded, the pledges revealed their singing talent to the campus during their serenades, completed their renovation of the tiled basement room, and joined the brothers for a camping trip.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to visit the chapter and meet the new men who are the future of our brotherhood. The pledges are proud of our fraternity, and I am confident that you will be pleased by the contributions that they are making to the Beta Rho Chapter.

Rob Lazerow '06  
Assistant Pledgemaster "Rug"

## A Pledge's Perspective

On a cold day in March, the Xi pledge class met for the first time in suit and tie. The 13 of us began complaining about how AEPi was not prompt at all as we began to freeze outside. However, this was all part of the plan, as it just made us start to get to know each other. Those 15 minutes together were just the beginning.

Throughout this past semester, with the help of our Pledgemaster, Tal Itzkovich, and Assistant Pledgemasters, the Xi pledge class has taken part in some pretty awesome things.

Our pledge party, "Paradise Found," was a major success, bringing a great number of people to dance the night away.

With March Madness pools and Golfserv shifts, we raised a significant amount of money for our pledge program (including our pledge camping trip). A number of us also took part in Relay for Life, which was a very moving experience, as we walked for those suffering from cancer.

Our final project was the painting of the bar room. Although we went through several coats of paint to change color combinations, it is now done and to all of our likings.



*Pledges form a human pyramid to get back the pledge brick*



*Pledges in Hillel at our Seder, each wearing a mask of one of the plagues*

Our serenades were probably my favorite part of pledging. Singing both Beastie Boys' "Girls" and Dropkick Murphy's "Kiss Me, I'm Sh\*t-faced" across campus was one of my most memorable and fun times at Brown this year. We sang to both sororities, a lot of our friends at AEPi, random people at Jo's, and those who we thought were studying a little too hard at the CIT, SciLi, and Barus and Holley. On the whole, it was a fun-filled night and we all went home with no voices left.

Lastly, we went on our camping trip in East Greenwich, Rhode Island. We all had a great time hanging out with the guys and bonding in the woods. Whether it was cooking food over the fire, playing "Mafia" or just sitting around the campfire talking, it was a very fun and relaxing night. Pledging, although very time-consuming, was an extremely rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Our pledge class is a group of 13 amazing guys who were brought together just a couple months ago not knowing each other and we have already formed exceptionally strong friendships.

Matthew Slen '09

Brother "Hyman"

## AEPi Community Service

Beta Rho has had an outstanding semester of volunteer work. In February, we helped sponsor a three-day Rhode Island Blood Center blood drive on campus. The blood drive collected over 270 pints! Beta Rho brothers helped by putting flyers up around campus and by tabling in the dining hall with sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta. Said chapter master Chris Schmitt, "One person giving blood can save 3 lives, everyone should donate!"

During March, the chapter participated in online fundraising for Relay for Life, which is coordinated by the American Cancer Society. By April 7, our chapter raised over \$3800, which will go to funding cancer research! This is the most money we have raised since we made Relay for Life a Beta Rho tradition, and all of the brothers were thrilled at the spectacular success. AEPi raised the most money out of any of the Greek houses at Brown, and because of this the Greek Council awarded us with a \$150 gift certificate to Best Buy.

AEPi is also helping publicize the May Rhode Island Blood Center blood drive. Thanks to all brothers who helped out, and to all of the alums and relatives who donated to our Relay team!

Josh Stern '08

Community service chair "Yeah!"



*AEPi was awarded a bronze award for raising the third most money of any group at Brown for the American Cancer Society.*

## Jesse Stout '06 Reflects on the Good Times

When I think back on my years living at AEPi, I will remember where I lived, with whom I lived, and what we did together.

When I bring a visitor to the house, I can walk down the first floor hallway and point at the double where I lived as a sophomore. A few feet farther, on the left, one can see the single where I moved as a junior. Facing it, on the right, is the single into which my roommate Dan moved. Finally, one door further is the room that I inhabited during my senior year, the dorm room I will always remember.

Dorm life is all about efficiency, packing an entire household into one room. My desk stores all of my office supplies, and serves as my study. Next to it is my refrigerator, with my microwave on top, and together they form my kitchen. Next to them is my television, my entertainment center. Under the window is my couch, which with my bed forms a living room by day and a bedroom by night. In the middle of it all is my coffee table, a piece of furniture whose uses are multifarious.

The other room a visitor most need see is the striped room, downstairs. Here I whiled many an hour with my brothers and our girlfriends and other friends. On these couches, our discussions knew no bounds: philosophy was a frequent topic, as were religion, history, literature, and the sciences.

I will remember my excursions from AEPi with my brothers—be they lazy afternoons lounging on Wriston Quad in lawn chairs and sandals, or month-long cross-country road trips. By this point, I have crossed America with members of the Eta, Iota, Kappa, and Nu Pledge Classes. Most of all, I will remember these brothers themselves, my friends.

Jesse Stout '06 Brother "Father"



David Guttman and Justin Markovits lead the Passover seder with aplomb.



Brothers celebrate initiation



Brothers share a memorable time during a cocktail party

## It was a Passover Seder to Remember...

This year AEPi celebrated Passover at Hillel of Brown University. Hillel generously offered the entire Brown campus a free Passover Seder in one of their many rooms, and offered the Brothers of AEPi an opportunity to lead our own Seder for Brothers and guests.

Thus, on the day of Passover, while the doors of Hillel parted like the Red Sea, 53 AEPi Brothers and guests entered to celebrate the freedom from bondage of our forefathers, while Brown University and the rest of Providence were consumed by an epic cascade of rushing water, until we left Hillel, at around 10 PM.

While we held a traditional and rigorous Passover Seder, which Dave Guttman and I planned, and which Dave led enthusiastically and flawlessly, we added a few additions to keep things lively and entertaining—added touches that we hope will become AEPi traditions.

Other highlights included a stirring rendition of the four questions by our youngest members, our pledges, a general discussion about which brother best represented each of the four sons, and the

pledges putting on masks representing each different plague, which they proudly showed off individually as we made our way through the plagues. In addition to the innovative aspects of our Seder, we also recounted essential themes of the Passover story, namely that with a strong hand and an outstretched arm the Lord brought us forth from the House of Bondage, so that whereas we were once slaves in Israel, today we are free men.

While Hillel provided us with wine, we supplied some kosher for Passover wine of our own, and although every bottle was empty by the end of the night, Elijah's cup remained safely untouched, until we all went out to the Hillel balcony to welcome him and leave his glass there.

Thus, the Brothers of AEPi and our guests had a spectacular Passover, and whether we celebrate Passover in our house or in Hillel, it is always an entertaining, rewarding and religious experience like no other.

Justin Markovits

Jewish Affairs Chair "Lox"

ALUMNI, VISIT THE WEBSITE:  
SUBMIT EVENTS; CREATE A PROFILE;  
UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO!

## AEPi's Expanding Website... Technologically Advancing

The website has seen huge changes this semester, and it's time to check it out! The site has been completely redesigned and now has a fresh, modern look. There are the standards—a list of all brothers and profiles for each one. Log in on top and you can see directory information like phone numbers and email addresses.

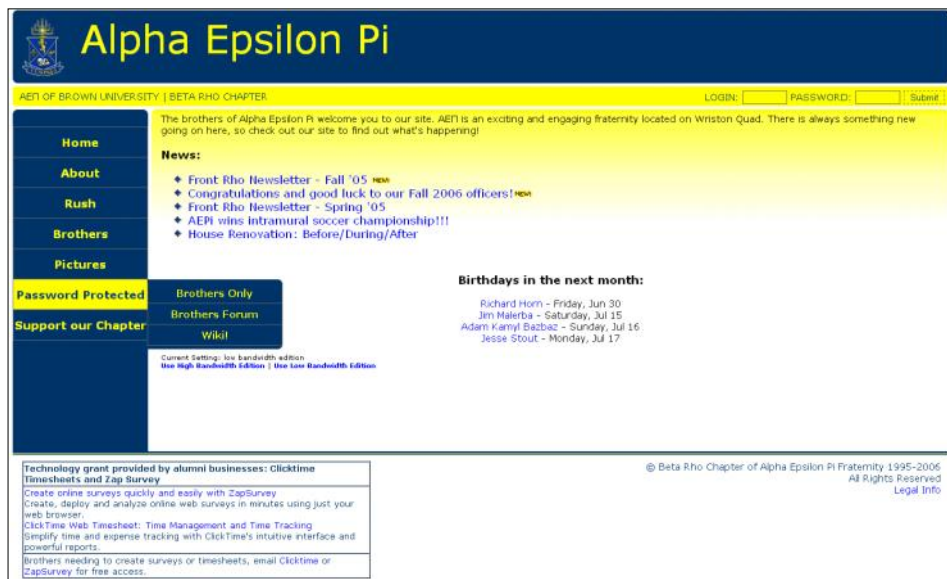
Once logged in, you can edit your brother profile and add information like birthday and location. Upcoming birthdays are displayed on the front page, and your location is shown on our brotherhood map. Use the brothers' map to see a Google map of all brothers. Zoom in on a location to see which brothers live there. In the password protected areas, you will find private information and a discussion forum. Come on by and talk to us!

You can also add to the editable Beta Rho history "wiki," which is a webpage editable by any brother. We will use the wiki to write a detailed history of Beta Rho. Endeavors like this one can only succeed with the wisdom and involvement of our alumni, and the website is designed to make it easier to stay in contact. Visit us online, update your profile, say hello in the forum, and contribute to the wiki!

Let me know if you have any wants for the website, I'm open to your suggestions. Email me at [mikem@brown.edu](mailto:mikem@brown.edu).

Mike Morgenstern '08

Webmaster "Jaws"



## House Improvements

Every year we continue to work hard to make our house a better place to live. Some nice improvements from the past include the additions of our big screen TV, the pool table, and the great work space in our library (the PiLi). We have added to the list of improvements this year in a number of ways.

The PiLi was already a nice place to do work, but we added a reliable wireless network that covers the library as well as the front porch and the kitchen. We have also added a new full-size refrigerator to replace the many mini-fridges that had been donated to the house by brothers over the years. Although the mini-fridges were very kind gifts to the house, they didn't work consistently or have enough space - two of the most essential components of a worthwhile refrigerator.

Another improvement to the house from the last semester is obvious the moment you walk into the house. The floor in the entrance area at the bottom of the front stairs has been redone and there are plans to have the entire entrance hall repainted over the summer. Not only will a new coat of paint look good, but we will be getting rid of the green trim and matching the blue from our lounge.

As House Manager this semester I have witnessed all of these changes first hand and I look forward to the future improvements that will continue to make our house an even better place to live.

Piet Walvoord '08

House Manager "Buddy"

## We'll Get 'em Next Time

This semester was an up and down season for AEPi athletics, with occasional disappointment on the field complemented by the growth of many brothers and pledges as athletes. The spirit of AEPi athletics this semester was best realized by the brothers who took to the ice, keeping our hockey team strong in its inaugural season. With seniors Dan Teitelbaum, Phil Kalisman and Nate Cohen leading the way and with the talents of younger brothers Alex Levi '07, Jonathan Levin '08 and Steven Beckoff '08, AEPi's ice hockey team fought hard every game from start to finish. Despite a rough season, the seniors have set a strong tone for this team and have made AEPi a force to contend with on the ice.

During the pledging period, several members of the Xi pledge class quickly left their mark on AEPi athletics: Amongst those who've made big contributions this semester are Daniel Vinson, Daniel Schienerman and Steve Alerhand. Vinson, a member of Brown's club volleyball team, helped carry the lions into the second round of the playoffs in volleyball and has stood out as a natural leader on the court. Schienerman, a member of Brown's ultimate frisbee team, has made big plays for AEPi in frisbee, basketball, and soccer this semester, while Alerhand has proven himself on the basketball court with his talents and his no-quit attitude.

Despite the departure of seniors who've done so much for AEPi athletics, the multitude of talented athletes in this fraternity will inevitably keep our program strong for years to come.

Matt Drooyan '08

Athletics Chair "Little Boy"



Brothers Steven Beckoff and Jon Levin share a moment atop Alta during a spring-break trip to Utah.

## Brotherhood Involvements at Brown and Beyond

Rush Chair Jon Levin ('08) put it best when he was rushing the house last year: "Wow, you guys really have a hand in everything!" Indeed, our brotherhood has shown amazing capabilities to serve as leaders throughout Brown's campus.

Our brothers have always been active in Brown's Jewish life. Paul Savitz and Sam Zuckerman (both '08) co-chair Brown Students for Israel, through which they initi-



Sam Zuckerman and Paul Savitz amongst friends and Dinesh D'Souza at a recent Brown Students for Israel event

ated a petition-signing campaign that swayed the Corporation to support Brown-sponsored study abroad programs in Israel and other Middle Eastern countries. Additionally, Steven Beckoff ('08) served as president of the Jewish Cooking Club this past year, bringing students together to learn about traditional Jewish food. As budding spiritual leaders, Daniel Teitelbaum ('06) and Craig Convissar ('06) led *minyanim* this past year as well.

As memories of E-board meetings attest to,



Jon Levin and Josh Stern in an Israeli desert. Many brothers traveled to Israel during winter break.

our brothers also have a passion for policy-setting. Michael Morgenstern ('08) and Tal Itzkovich ('06) serve on ResCouncil as Secretary and Program House Chair, respectively. They worked to revamp the housing lottery and are actively engaged in reorienting program house guidelines. To improve Greek life, David Guttmann ('07) and Robert Lazerow ('06) served on the Executive Board of Greek Council this past semester as Community Service Chair and Treasurer, respectively. They worked hard to bring new initiatives to each position.

Brothers are always eager to reach out and help members of our surrounding community as well. Jonathan Levin ('08) has been involved in, and will next year be coordinating, Asthma Swim, a program that uses swim instruction to educate and empower underprivileged Providence students with asthma. Additionally, Noah Pohl ('07) has been active in a unique program through the Swearer Center called SPACE, in which he brings his passion for screenwriting to medium-security prisons as a way to foster a sense of fulfillment among their inmates.

Brothers have also been anxious to lend assistance to fellow students. Steven Beckoff, Matthew Drooyan ('08), Michael Field ('08), David Guttmann, and Jonathan Levin are involved as Meiklejohn Advisors. Additionally, countless brothers work with OWC to coordinate freshman orientation each year.

Beta Rho provides a strong foundation in Brown's music scene as well. Piet Walvoord ('08) and Adam Robbins ('09) sing in the Brown Derbies and Daniel Gradess ('07) will be taking on the role of Musical Director for the Bear Necessities next year. Beta Rho has produced several stunning instrumentalists as well. Jay Levin plays drums for the internationally-acclaimed Brown Jazz Band and joins Joseph Austerweil ('07), Matthew Drooyan, Mark Grabiner ('08), Adam Robbins, and Piet Walvoord as cornerstone instrumentalists in the Brown Band.

We also never miss a chance to make our voices heard. Donald Trella ('07) has had numerous successes on the national intercollegiate debating circuit, winning two tournaments this past year. He also won a Brown-wide competition that landed him the Hickes Prize scholarship. In the campus drama scene, brothers Devin Cohen and Adam Lubitz (both '09) exhibited their talent in this year's Shakespeare on the Green spring festival.



Alex Levi and Piet Walvoord at the Dave Binder concert on Wriston Quad during Spring Weekend.

While we've always been stellar intramural athletics competitors, our brotherhood also houses several Varsity and Club athletes. Caleb Karpay ('08) has been rowing hard for Brown Crew all year, and Tobias Cohen ('09) has been able to duel his way through some heavy competition on the fencing team. Additionally, Matt Slen ('09) and



Mark Grabiner, Stephen Alerhand, Jon Levin, and Dave Guttmann pose for a photo during Spring Weekend.

Danny Scheinerman ('09) play for men's Ultimate Frisbee.

Although these accomplishments are impressive, they represent only a sampling of the diversity of talent that our brotherhood has brought to campus this year. As we move into Beta Rho's future, we look forward to seeing the new ways in which we will be able to flex our leadership potential at Brown.

David Guttmann '07  
Immediate Past Master "Kenny"

## Brother and Alumni Accomplishments

**Jesse Boodoo '06**—Political field work, Washington State

**Nate Cohen '06** - Pursuing medicine, Cleveland

**Craig Convissar '06** – Working at the Museum of Jewish Heritage

**Tal Itzkovich '06** – Technology Consulting, Boston

**Phil Kalisman '06** – Studing Chemistry in the Graduate program at Berkeley

**Rob Lazerow'06** – Healthcare Consulting, D.C.

**Tal Levy '06** – Economic Consulting, Boston.

**Ben Mantell '06** – MSTP program at U of Pittsburgh

**Toby Muresianu '06**- Microsoft, Seattle

**Jon Schaeffer '06**—Traveling to Europe

**Jayne Goldsten '00** married Natalie Belea in June of 2006.



*Brothers at the spring formal at Café Nuovo*



*Graduating seniors during the commencement celebrations*

### Spring 2006 Officers

Christopher Schmitt '06	Master
Scott Seiver '07	Lieutenant Master
Steven Beckoff '08	Scribe
Michael Field '08	Exchequer
Isaac Haxton '07	Sentinel
Dan Teitelbaum '06	Brother-at-Large
Piet Walvoord '08	House Manager
David Guttman '07	Immediate Past Master

*This issue of The Front Rho newsletter is brought to you by Scribe Steven Beckoff '08.*

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### Summer Alumni Event

**Where:** *Chelsea Grill* 135 8th Ave. NY, NY.

**When:** *July 8th at 7:30 pm*

**We hope to see you there!**

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