Brothers, Alumni, Parents, Friends,

Over the past semester, the brothers of Beta Rho raised the bar by which we measure ourselves. We set out in January with lofty goals, but in our devotion to the fraternity and to each other, we came away with a whole new outlook on what we could achieve together.

No one knew quite what to expect for hosting the Northeast Conclave Weekend. Led by Conclave Chair Max Chaiken (Xi ’09), however, the brothers mobilized as 44 strong to welcome both the AEΠ National contingent and 200+ brothers from the region. We quickly realized just how much the fraternity meant to all these other people as it did for us. While the seminars ran smoothly and pizza was ordered in record proportions, brothers from over 20 chapters were able to learn from each other through comparing experiences about fundraising, social events, and Rush itself. Needless to say, Rhode Island hospitality was put on hold as the Beta Rho Lions overwhelmed the competition during the Friday night dodgeball tournament.

As an encore, the brothers coordinated a massive effort to raise nearly $20,000 towards refurbishing the Pediatric Oncology Center at the nearby Hasbro Children’s Hospital. Following a highly-attended Silent Auction on Wriston Quad, the night was capped off by a Gala event at the 5-star Hotel Providence that included a surprise appearance by whom looked to be Luther Vandross. Sparked by the know-how and direction of Fundraising Chair Devin Cohen (Xi ’09), the chapter truly made a difference in its adopted Providence community, and a room in the cancer wing will now bear the name of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Other highlights from the spring semester include: the ‘Mafioso’ themed party, the classy toga study break planned during Reading Period (shhh), the ritualistic decimation of the wood box door during Senior Week, the historic 4-square games played at Relay for Life, and the spectacular Passover Seder set.
up in our very own Marcy lounge. Moreover, with such good-looking studs in hand, forging stronger relationships with the two sororities on campus came easy.

Even with such a wild semester, the Founding Fathers who visited during Commencement Weekend were most blown away by the Intramural Brown Cup secured by the fierce Lion athletes. They should not have been surprised, though, for anything less than victory is entirely unacceptable these days. Alumni visiting the OMAC will find the name “AEΠ Lions” engraved on the Brown Cup plaque stationed near the entrance.

Looking ahead, thanks to the superb management of Rush Chair Dan Block (Pi ’10), Beta Rho has a bright future in the hands of the Rho pledge class. In a project spearheaded by Will Miller (Rho ’11), the Rho’s built a beautiful table top adorned by a carefully-crafted Lion design. In addition, Jeff Lisiecki (Rho ’11) and the Rho's used an entertaining Masquerade theme to pull off the first ever Class F pledge party. They even wowed the crowds at Joe’s and the SciLi with their captivating a capella rendition of Avril Lavigne’s “Girlfriend.” Most importantly, under the guidance of Pledgemaster Mike Morgenstern (Nu ’08), the Rho’s quickly developed an understanding of what it truly means to be an AEΠ brother.

Despite the grand achievements of the past semester, what we all get out of this wonderful place the most are two things: brotherhood in the truest sense, and memories that will last a lifetime. Beta Rho is the greatest community of which we will ever be a part, and not having pledged my freshman year at Brown, I consider the day I walked into Marcy House sophomore year as the luckiest moment of my entire life. I would not trade the amazing times from these past two years for anything.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to my go-to wide receiver and Lieutenant Master Danny Scheinerman (Xi ’09), and the rest of the E-Board officers, for the tremendous jobs they performed over the course of the busy semester. As for next fall, incoming Master Troy Shapiro (Pi ’10) carries an unbridled enthusiasm and creativity to the position, and the brothers are all very excited about what the semester may bring.

All the best next year.

Most Fraternally,
Stephen Alerhand, Xi ’08

Accomplishments this Semester:
We initiated 15 new brothers, the Rho Pledge Class
We successfully hosted the AEΠ Northeast Conclave leadership event
We raised $17,500 for the Pediatric Oncology Unit at Hasbro Children’s Hospital
The Lions won the Brown Intramural Sports Campus Points Race
As I reflect on AEPi's accomplishments this past semester, I am impressed by how we continued to to embody the Jewish ideals on which AEPi was founded. Whether Brothers were enjoying Shabbat dinners at Hillel, marveling at Brian Luu's (Omicron '09) mastery of Yiddish, or reflecting on the Birthright Trip to Israel that many of the brother's attended over Winter Break, we were in the words of Matt Slen (Xi '09) "mad Jewish yo!" Perhaps our greatest accomplishments were in the realm of community service - a mitzvah!

Near the end of the semester, Community Service chair Adam Yarnell (Pi '10) organized the AEPi teams for Relay For Life, a semiannual event that raises funds to further research in cancer treatment and prevention. AEPi teams raised a total of $3084 which was the third highest at Brown. Earlier in the semester, Yarnell, Dan Block (Pi ’10), Jason Ziplow (Pi ’10), Brett Cropp (Nu '08) and I helped paint the preschool corridor of the local Jewish Community Center's daycare and school. Naturally, they fed us well. Perhaps most exciting of all was the new community service project that the brothers undertook this semester. Organized in large measure by Devin Cohen (Xi '09) and Troy Shapiro (Pi '10) brothers and pledges organized a benefit gala and a silent auction to raise funds for the Pediatric Oncology Center at the Hasbro Children's Hospital. The silent auction, held on Wriston Quadrangle directly in front of our house, was an incredible success with over 300 people participating. In total, nearly twenty thousand dollars was raised!

This semester we continued our one year old tradition of hosting second night seder in our lounge. The event was organized by Dan Block (Pi '10) and was a wonderful success. Brothers brought matzoh and delicious passover treats from home and ridiculous amounts of chicken were enjoyed by all. The seder was led by Tobias Cohen (Xi '09) and Mike Bohl (Rho '11), and brothers (Jewish and otherwise) agreed that it was both a fun and moving experience. This year Hillel had a new program, whereby students visit local professors' for Shabbat dinner. Many brothers chose to participate and found it a wonderful way to meet and connect with Jewish professors, escape campus for a few hours and, perhaps most importantly, enjoy some delicious food.

Finally came the event everyone was waiting for - Formal! There was perhaps no doubt in anyone's mind that the graduating Nu's wanted to make their final formal an unforgettable one. Held under the beautiful paraboloid rotunda of One Citizen's Plaza in downtown Providence the food and atmosphere of Cafe Nuovo was simply incredible. Honestly, nothing could match enjoying a night there while enjoying the company of your forty best friends.
To see the Fraternity in all its bounty and potential, one needn’t look further than the Rho pledge class. In our first meeting, each of us shared the reasons we decided to join. Their answers revealed an excitement and enthusiasm for our brotherhood and a belief in the importance of the connections they were about to form. Seeing their energy infected our entire chapter with these feelings.

The pledge class began with a fun-filled rush period led by Rush Chair Dan Block (Pi ’10). He mobilized the chapter to recruit new freshmen and organize events. He succeeded in engaging more of the fraternity in the rush process than ever in recent memory, as well as recruiting this great group of guys!

I had the pleasure of being the Pledgemaster for fifteen stellar gentlemen: fourteen Freshmen and one Sophomore, Matt Scult (Rho ’10). They quickly got to know the brothers and integrated quickly with the chapter, playing an integral role in running our first annual fundraising gala. Michael Bohl (Rho ’11), along with brother Toby Cohen (Xi ’09), led our seder. Will Miller (Rho ’11) led the pledges to complete a beautiful table that will furnish our downstairs room, with a “lion rampant” design outlined by bottle caps.

This year’s program focused on the core tenets of Alpha Epsilon Pi, exploring them in depth and relating them to the pledges’ personal lives as well as fraternity activities. We tried to present these tenets and our history in a meaningful and personal manner.

We also had a great time! Watching Anchorman and Snakes on a Plane, attending and running a pledge party that was flawlessly executed by Jeff Liscieki (Rho ’11), and dining nightly outside of “Roots and Shoots” were fun opportunities for the pledges to kick back with the brothers.

We hosted a mixer with Alpha Chi Omega, organized by brother Noah Blitzer (Xi ’09). The pledge program also featured a joint AEΠ / Kappa Alpha Theta scavenger hunt followed by a joint ice cream party; both of these events began relationships with the

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**Letter from the Pledgemaster**

Mike Morgenstern Nu ’08

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**Beta Rho**

**WELCOMES THE**

**Rho Pledge Class!**

John Aubitz ’11
Jonathan Beller ’11
Michael Bohl ’11
Matthew Garza ’11
Sung-Yong Han ’11
Samuel Holzman ’11
Daniel Hyman ’11
Jeff Liscieki ’11
William Miller ’11
Jack Mizerak ’11
Sean Monahan ’11
Ari Rubenstein ’11
Matt Scult ’10
Sam Winograd ’11
Paul Zhu ’11
pledge classes of the sororities on campus, as well as some of the sisters!

The pledge serenades were a lot of fun, and they charmed audiences across campus with Avril Lavigne’s ‘Girlfriend’ and ‘I Believe in a Thing Called Love’ by the Darkness It was a night to remember!

Our camping trip was perhaps the most memorable part of the experience, with activities organized by Jon Aubitz (Rho ’11) that included a football game, a water balloon toss, and a tug-of-war. We were lucky to have Founding Father Seth Orkand (’99) present, who recounted a history of the chapter’s beginnings. The Rho members’ faces around the campfire that night were engaged and passionate, ready for the coming years of brotherhood. They are the future of our chapter, and I could not think of a better group to bear that responsibility.

I owe a debt of thanks to the six Assistant Pledgemasters for their tireless help with the process:

Matt Drooyan (Nu ’08) and Troy Shapiro (Pi ’10) on the pledge project, Caleb Miller (Xi ’09) on the serenades, Caleb Karpay (Nu ’08.5) on fundraising, and Jon Levin (Nu ’08) and Michael Field (Nu ’08) on the camping trip.

Reflections on Pledging

I decided earlier than most brothers that I wanted to join AEΠ, as I did so during the fall before any sort of rush officially started. However, I had not really thought much about what pledging would actually entail. I did not anticipate it being anything more than just enduring some sort of evaluation period, acceptance, and then getting to move into Marcy House next fall. I never imagined how moving the process would eventually be, enabling me to forge incredibly close bonds with all of my new brothers, and especially with members of my pledge class.

Two memories stand out. One time, we were put in a room and given a task which, at first, seemed incredibly mundane and bordering ridiculous. At that point, I had briefly met members of my pledge class, could only identify a few by name, and knew virtually nothing more about each pledge. Shortly after we started the task, a brother burst into the room and barked at us, demanding that we inform him about another pledge. I was shocked at his tone, but quickly understood that this mundane task was meant to confine us to a small room so that we had to interact and learn about each other.

Another memory stands out in contrast to the first. This occurred during the celebratory dinner following initiation, while everyone was having the meaning of his pledge-brother’s names explained in whispered tones. The difference here - between initially knowing nothing about his brothers spare a few first names - and now being able to understand obscure inside jokes about each brother’s character quirks really exemplifies how much my relationships have changed.

- Will Miller Rho ’11
This summer I will be twenty-six years old. I have just finished my seventh year at AEΠ, and I have been a member of or advisor to the last eleven Executive Boards. This is what our friends from AEΠ National call “dedication,” and what virtually everyone else calls “weird.” I have had to answer the questions “What the hell is wrong with you?” and “Have you ever seen Old School?” nearly daily for the last three years.

The reason that I have stayed with Beta Rho for so long and devoted so many thousands of hours to the organization is not, contrary to popular belief, that I have failed to notice that I am no longer nineteen. I have instead stayed at AEΠ for seven years because when I was a sophomore in college, I learned how powerful our organization can be. In April of that year my father died at age 52 without warning or apparent cause; my mom came home from the supermarket and found his body in the pool. I quickly left school to fly home to Florida, with no idea if or when I would return. Over the course of the two weeks that followed, I was completely overwhelmed with love and support from my fraternity brothers, as was the rest of my family. After less than two weeks at home, I made the decision to go immediately back to AEΠ and actually drove there straight from the funeral. I was not able to finish my classes, so I had no academic reason to be at Brown, but the all I wanted to do was spend time with my brothers. That summer I declined the job I was going to take, and had no plans. I drove to Providence for what I thought would be one day, ended up staying a week, buying clothes from the Salvation Army, and eventually renting a closet in a house where some brothers were living for the summer. Thankfully, Ari Gerstman (Iota ’05) and Josh Lessing (Eta ’04) took turns lending me their bedrooms, so I never actually had to sleep in the closet.

This summer I will be leaving AEΠ to move to Tucson (with Rich Gottesman Kappa ‘06!), where I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at U. of Arizona. My essay to get into graduate school focused exclusively on my experience with AEΠ after my father’s death; I was routinely crying because I missed my dad, but was also the happiest I had ever been in my life because of how much love was surrounding me. I had been majoring in Spanish Literature but switched my major to Psychology to understand what AEΠ was doing for me and how I could learn to foster this resilience and happiness in other people. I became Master, and later Chapter Advisor for three years, with the sole purpose of nurturing this aspect of our community.

The opportunity to be part of AEΠ for so long has been, by far, the best thing in my life, but from a personal perspective I am ready to say goodbye. From a managerial perspective, after seven years, I think everyone already knows everything I have to say, and a change of advisor will be great for the Chapter. I am especially excited that Tal Itzkovich (Kappa ’06) will be
taking over the position, because he sees the same
power and potential that has kept me at Beta Rho for so
long. I know that his input will bring positive, fresh
change for our chapter.

- Tucker Peck Iota ’05

A Letter from our Incoming Chapter Advisor

It is my pleasure to announce that starting next
fall I will take on the role of chapter advisor for our
chapter. The opportunity bestowed upon me by our
national organization at Tucker’s recommendation
both honors and excites me. I remember fondly the guidance of chapter advisor
Josh Mandel as an undergrad and the bonds of mentorship that were formed that remain unbroken to
this day. Like Josh, Tucker, and all the others who have
held the position before me, I too must find the delicate
balance between respecting the autonomy of the
brotherhood and shielding them from the mistakes
made in the past. By striking this balance, I hope to
become the mentor that this position was intended to
create.

Every fall, with the opening of the Van Winkle
Gates, a new era begins at the Beta Rho chapter of
Alpha Epsilon Pi. The brothers will set ambitious goals
for the year as has been done for over a decade now.
From renovations to pledge classes, fund raisers to
formals, and everything in between. As chapter advisor,
I call upon my fellow Alumni to help the brotherhood
in the goals they set. This support need not come in the
form of checks (although this type of support is more
than welcome) but instead in the form of time and
experience. I challenge all of you to visit our chapter at
least once next year, if only to see the wonderful
changes that have been made since you left. I guarantee
that you’ll leave with a renewed sense of why you joined
AEΠ in the first place.

- Tal Itzkovich Kappa ’06

Contact Information:
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(917) 589 8786
The lyrical poet Andrew W.K. once wrote, “When it’s time to party, we will party hard”. This semester, Beta Rho rose to the challenge with a social atmosphere that would make most fraternity houses look like knitting circles. Between our killer parties and Ragnarok, spring weekend and watching the Giants win the Super Bowl, there have been few semesters on record that could compare with this one.

Kicking it off right, we started the semester with a cocktail designed to honor the “mafiaso” subculture complete with chin-strap beards and enough hair gel to cover Thayer street. The guests got so into the theme that one could have confused the house for a club in Trenton. A few weeks later, the brothers gathered together to watch the Super Bowl on our two big screens TV’s. While most brothers were expecting the worst (a 19-0 record at the expense of the Giants), the end of the game caused a mini-riot in the Beta Rho lounge. And while most of New England was in tears, the celebration around the house went on late into the night.

Around that time, the brothers of AEΠ had another sports-related party, but of a somewhat different nature. Long-story short: despite the Rockies losing the World Series, we were still proud of them for making it so far despite all odds and wanted to celebrate. And a few months later, that party was “Ragnarok”. Arguably the craziest party Brown has ever seen on a Thursday night, Ragnarok set a new standard for how Beta Rho entertains, including a dance party that would have made Studio 54 seem like child’s play.

Rush and pledging brought a whole new social dimension to the house. Our room-to-room early on in rush, this time happening on the second floor, featured a hodge-podge of different themes and introduced many brothers-to-be to how the house likes to get down. Later that month, we had a blast at...
This spring was a great semester for community service. First up was the Rhode Island Blood Center Blood Drive where, despite Sayles being closed for a few hours due to bats, our promotional efforts secured nearly 300 pints of blood over three days. The next blood drive, in May, was equally successful, and though brothers were tied down by finals, we still managed to convince Brunonians to donate 260 pints. Spring Rush was a blast this year, but everybody knows that rush is also a great time to give back to the community. Under the initiative of Rush Chair Daniel Block (Pi ’10), AEΠ contacted the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island and pledged our assistance. In February, brothers and rushes made their way down towards the stadium and helped administrators paint the pre-school wing. Everybody who went had a wonderful time despite fumes and paint stains. This Spring, Beta Rho once again participated in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, and the cooperative effort between brothers and pledges raised nearly $4000 towards cancer research. Our biggest accomplishment this semester, however, was spearheaded by junior Devin Cohen (Xi ’09), whose “Environment for a Cure” gala and silent auction raised nearly $20,000 for the Hasbro Children’s Hospital. Thank you to the Rho Pledge Class and everyone else who manned the silent auction tables. Special thanks should also be given to sophomores Troy Shapiro (Pi ’10) and Benjamin Rome (Pi’ 10) who offered invaluable assistance to Devin in planning and running the event. As I will be abroad next fall, I look forward to hearing about the wonderful work we will accomplish next semester!

- Adam Yarnell Pi ’10
On April 16th, 2007, the brothers of the Beta Rho chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi engaged in a bold endeavor. They challenged themselves, and everyone around them, to bring all of the Providence community together in a silent auction to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Center at the Hasbro Children’s Hospital. The auction, which was held from 5-7 pm on Wriston Quad at Brown University, drew between 300 and 400 community-members, and raised over $2500. A gala event, which followed the auction and was held downtown at the Hotel Providence, raised another $6000. With $8500 raised, the brothers celebrated and danced the night away, only to find out on April 17th that an anonymous donor offered to match the amount raised to date, which brought the grand total raised for the renovation of the Pediatric Oncology Center to $17,500.

Once the brothers of Beta Rho heard that the Pediatric Oncology Unit at the Hasbro Children’s Hospital was in desperate need of an update, they immediately came together to found The 1st Annual AEΠ Benefit Silent Auction: An Environment for a Cure. Starting at the grassroots level, the brothers of Beta Rho first solicited friends and family for donations, and then moved to Thayer Street and downtown Providence to acquire donated items for the silent auction. By the time April 16th arrived, over 50 items had been collected for the auction, 30 of which came from local stores and companies. The other 20 items were donated by corporations from across America. Generous companies such as THQ, The New York Giants, Estee Lauder, Tiffany’s, and BC Sports donated items ranging from sports memorabilia to purses to video games.

Perhaps the event’s success can be attributed to the chapter’s avid desire to spread its fervor for supporting local hospitals to other chapters of AEΠ across the country. Environment for Cure succeeded to bring the entire city of Providence together in 2008, and will better the lives of innumerable pediatric cancer patients for years to come. On behalf of Beta Rho, we simply cannot wait to see what 2009 has in store.
This May, Brown graduated one of the largest and most athletic classes the Beta Rho Chapter has ever seen. Yet in our last semester of competition, our quest for six intramural championships was cut short, as the Lions went 0 for 6. In the end, we settled for victory in the Campus Points race, a small consolation that slightly mitigates the overwhelming disappointment many of us feel.

During the winter season, the Lions seemed poised to repeat as indoor soccer champions. Yet despite a solid regular season, there would be no repeat of last year’s incredible playoff run, as the Lions came up short during the playoffs. We look forward to the return of all-star forward Joel Cohen (Pi ’10), but dread the losses of Alerhand and Dan Block (Pi ’10), who will be enjoying and learning soccer at its finest next semester in Santiago, Chile respectively.

The winter season was not entirely without disappointment, however. As I move beyond the gates and College Hill, I hope to see our young hockey program sustain itself with the play of rising seniors Brian Luu (Omicron ’09), Daniel Scheinerman (Xi ’09) and Daniel Vinson (Xi ’09). With Vinson abroad, Luu and Scheinerman helped power the Lions to victory in the first round of the playoffs over its arch nemesis, Team Taco. Our disappointment after a crushing defeat in the championship game was partly offset by a clutch goal by Luu which evoked memories of Bobby Orr’s game winner in the Stanley Cup finals. And as our fraternity continues to infuse itself with ice-skating members of the Brown Band, I can only expect greatness from AEΠ hockey for years to come.

As the weather warmed up, the Lions came back from spring break ready to reestablish their athletic prowess with a successful spring campaign. Once again, high expectations were matched with disappointing playoff exits, particularly on the diamond. I will not dignify our softball season with a blurb, but I will comment that, with the loss of so many seniors, amending this ball club will not be an easy task. As of now, many solutions have been proposed. Pitcher Jay Levin (Nu ’08), recently signed to a four year extension, has proposed stacking the lineup with “better players.” Whatever that means. Alternatively, the “farm system” approach calls for rushing young athletes in order to develop future talent. Contraction, a favorite of commish Bud Selig, has also been proposed, but only as a final resort.

Despite collapsing in softball, the Lions fought hard on the gridiron, looking its first ever flag football championship. Following a solid 4-1 regular season, the Lions seemed poised to make a run deep into the playoffs. In the first round of the playoffs, Alerhand played through the pain of his knee injury and the Lions defense made a 6-0 lead stand. The defense could not hold the lead, however. A late touchdown was followed by the game-winner in overtime, and...
with the end of the semester, an era in AEΠ athletics had officially come to a close.

Despite the disappointments, it has been a pleasure working and competing on the field as athletics chair this semester. Two years ago, Nate Cohen (Kappa ’06) spoke in his final good & welfare of athletic competition as a way to bring people together, and I am glad that some of my strongest friendships in AEΠ were formed through athletics. For the younger brothers who will play intramurals next year and for years to come, I hope that AEΠ athletics will have the same impact on your life it has had on mine.

This semester, it was my pleasure to serve as Alumni Relations Chair for AEΠ. Donations from our generous alumni brought in over $1,000 in additional funds for future educational and religious projects. More importantly, though, my conversations with alumni, including the Founding Fathers of our chapter, reinforced the strength of many brothers’ emotional connections to AEΠ, even years after graduation. With that in mind, I am excited to continue as Alumni Relations Chair next semester, during which time we hope to ramp up our chapter’s Alumni Relations efforts, including the compilation of an updated Alumni Directory, as well as bi-monthly e-mail updates, to ensure that all our brothers, past and present, are more informed of the goings-on here at AEΠ. I look forward to seeing many of you this summer at the annual Brothers and Alumni Gathering July 26th in New York City!
For the last two years, between five and ten brothers from the Beta Rho chapter have joined me to make a total of three wintertime journeys to West Bridgewater, Vermont. Here, we stayed with a man who has been a friend of my father’s since the two men were in Pop Warner Football together, Richie. From his house, which sits afoot Killington Mountain, we have the opportunity to enjoy an expansive ski resort that boasts over 200 trails. Since the trips are carefully planned so that we beat the weekend crowds, we normally have the slopes to ourselves. These trips provide the rare opportunity for a group of young men (and sometimes their significant others) to vacation together, away from their nagging parents.

However, to describe this trip as one that merely consists of “skiing” would completely miss its essence. What really defines the trip is the opportunity to encounter the boisterous personality of our host, Richie. Upon meeting Richie, you will immediately sense his outgoing nature as he will greet you with an outlandishly loud “What’s good?!” and then proceed to practice a comical conversational unrestraint. His unique character is so beloved that many brothers at AEΠ will often attempt to imitate his wisecracking and humorous quotes, even back among the halls of Marcy House.

Whether it be the convenient lodgings, spectacularly entertaining host, or unique chance for the men of the Beta Rho chapter to participate in a large scale vacation event together, the AEΠ ski-trips never fail to prove a memorable and enjoyable community experience. This vacation has really become a tradition and will continue as one.
Jonathan Levin (Nu ’08) and Steve Alerhand (Xi ’08)

Most Brown students decide to take relaxing spring breaks, whether by sleeping in late at home or relaxing on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. But eleven AEΠ brothers chose to go against this norm and spend their spring break facing grueling challenges of character, endurance, and will. In the end, only one of eleven would be able to claim ultimate bragging rights and Front Rho immortality.

Events throughout the week included white-water rafting through the rainforest in Turrialba, bird watching in the cloud forest at Monteverde (accessed by only a two hour trip on a dirt, cliff-side road), zip lining across valleys in the mountains, surfing at the beach in Tamarindo, riding on ATV and snorkeling on the Guanacoste coast, kayaking through rivers and mangroves, and finding a last-minute hotel on the final night when our prior reservation was inexplicably cancelled.

The contest was divided into eight categories:

1. Stamina and Health
Steve Alerhand and Mike Morgenstern (Nu ’08) took top honors in this category, participating in just about every event, followed by Toby Cohen (Xi ’09), Matt Drooyan (Nu ’08), and Jay Levin (Nu ’08) for overall good participation. Adam Yarnell (Pi ’10), though participating in every event, was hurt by an unfortunate bout of stomach problems that interrupted an otherwise successful night. Jon Levin was very red, Paul Savitz (Nu ’08) slept, and Michael Field (Nu ’08), Brian Lau (Omicron ’09), and Brett Cropp (Nu ’08) all got ill at one point.

2. Adventure and Athletic Prowess
Adam earned top points for participating in every category, followed by Steve and Jon for their powerful rowing in white water rafting. Toby also earned points for showing excellent surfing skills for a novice. Mike Morgenstern was hurt by pictures of rafting that emerged afterwards, not one of which showed him to be rowing. Jay, though performing better than predicted, still showed his reputation as the “Great Indoorsman”, while Matt, a popular dark-horse candidate to win the competition, fell to last in this category by being the first to fall off the boat during rafting.

3. Most Immersed in Nature
Brett Cropp, who will be studying birds in Costa Rica this summer, easily won this category. Mike also did well by spotting birds during the adventure through the cloud forest. Adam also showed knowledge during the kayaking trip. Again, Matt and Jay rounded out the list; Matt approached a flock of doves during kayaking and scared them all away, while Jay is simply against nature.

4. Lowest Level of General Nuisance
Brian Lau easily took top honors here, as by his personality he got along with everyone and easily went along with everything. Predicted winner Michael Field and Paul Savitz were hurt by their long and overly-philosophical conversations about time travel during the long and bumpy bus ride up to Monteverde, prompting another candidate to claim that he was in “his own personal hell.” The infamous ‘Ahi Tuna’ incident further contributed to their downfall.
5. Late Night Activities
Adam Yarnell won this category with his ability to interact with the locals. Matt and Toby also did well with their poker winnings, while Jay was hurt by his poker losses at the sketchy casino, where the universe clearly conspired against him. Michael Field had a strong performance with his dancing at the “Johnny Dread” concert in Tamarindo, whereas Brett Cropp was not applicable to “Late Night Activities”

6. Consumption
Paul Savitz won top honors here for sampling an assortment of Costa Rican beverages. Jon also earned points for skinning a fish at the dinner table. Jay, who enjoyed dinners of chicken fingers and French fries for much of the vacation, did not perform well here.

7. Spanish Cultural/Language Feats
Steve was expected to win the prize here, but was hurt when he couldn’t hear the hotel manager on the cell phone. Instead, Mike came up strong with his second grade-level Spanish skills and cries of “Ayúdanos” over the phone. Adam Yarnell earned top honors with his well-versed, yet thick Chilean/Westchester accent.

8. Contribution to Trip’s Success
Mike Morgenstern dominated this category by planning the entire trip, with a strong second by Michael field who planned the hotels and also cooked on occasion. Jon and Brett also cooked omelets and steak, respectively, and Steve cleaned a number of dishes, just as he did all summer long when others did not.

And the winner is...
Mike Morgenstern earned his “Cuidado” nickname as the winner of “Survivor: Costa Rica.” He won very deservingly, as he initiated and planned almost the entire trip, was very active during the trip, and had a strong sense of Spanish and culture. Congratulations to Mike!
During Israel’s coldest week in five years, eleven AEΠ brothers in three buses journeyed across the country on Brown Hillel’s annual Birthright trip. The trip is typically frequented by the brothers of AEΠ, but this number is one of the highest in recent memory.

I must admit, this was not my first attempt to go on Birthright. I had applied and was accepted to trips twice before this one, but ultimately I decided not to go on either because I wanted to share the experience with close friends. I elected to go on Brown Hillel’s trip, and signed up along with many other AEΠ brothers, and in the end that made a huge difference.

The trip was quite an experience. Of course, we visited the standard Israeli tourist spots: the Western Wall, the Dead Sea, and the ruins of Caesarea, and of course, those are no less than spectacular. Dinner with the Bedouins and lunch with the Druze is delicious and enlightening.

However, though most consider a Masada sunrise to be magnificent, there is nothing quite like sharing it with your brothers. In particular, AEΠ’s identity as a Jewish fraternity meshed well with the mindset of the trip; we were all able to connect in a deeper way because of our Jewish identity, but that identity defined our interactions in a less significant way than the fact that we were brothers. This I think is illustrative of the way we as a fraternity interact with regard to our Jewish roots, and it played a significant role in our trip to Israel.

We stayed at a Kibbutz on the Mediterranean Sea during Shabbat, and in the afternoon, we were treated to a scenic walk along the water through ancient ruins and stunning natural pools. Though this walk was not uniquely Israeli, it remains one of the highlights of the trip for me, and one of the reasons why I delayed by birthright experience so that I could go with fellow brothers. There really is something special about experiencing a shared heritage with one’s closest friends.

In Tel Aviv, we were treated with the pleasure of the huge smile and delightfully distinctive diction of recent graduate David Guttmann (Lambda ’07), spent the year engaging in cancer research at the nearby Weizmann Institute. It was a great way for many of us to catch up with a departed brother and further the experience of being in Israel with one who has been immersed in the culture, and Dave serves as an example of how to combine academic interests with Jewish upbringings.

Midway through the trip, we began our Mifgash — Hebrew for “encounter” — with a group of eight Israeli soldiers no older than ourselves. Exchanging cultural
anecdotes and relating our very different experiences proved to be an incredible way to immerse ourselves in Israeli culture and gain a better perspective on the issues Israelis face today. We were able to forge deep connections with these soldiers in a remarkably short period of time due to the fact that we all had the common bond of Judaism. While not necessary for our friendships to form, the Jewish background somehow felt significant to many of us, in much the same role as it plays in AEΠ. Towards the end of the trip we exchanged t-shirts with the soldiers we were closest to. Both Dan Block (Pi ’10) and I gave an AEΠ shirt, as if to signify the similarities to the relationships forged back in Marcy House at Brown.

In exchange, I now possess a t-shirt that indicates status as a member of Israel’s elite paratrooper unit. I’d say it was a fair exchange and a fitting end to such a remarkable trip.

- Adam Lewin Omicron ’09

I’ve spent the past semester studying at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. ‘Studying’, however, does not aptly describe the rigor of my academic experience here. Fortunately, that’s left me a lot of time to explore Cape Town and even do a bit of traveling. Twice a week I volunteered at a refugee center downtown, teaching English to adults from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I’ve done a lot of hiking in the area and learned to surf at Muizenberg Beach. Furthermore, being in the southern hemisphere during Brown’s winter and spring has afforded me a double summer for 2008! For spring break (fall break?), I went to Mozambique with a friend on my program (also from Brown). We visited the capital, Maputo, where we were twice extorted by the police, and hung out at a beach town, Tofo.

On our way home, we stopped to see Pretoria and Johannesburg. As much as one often hears that South Africa is a "first-world" country within Africa, the amount of "third-worldness" is unbelievable. A huge percentage of the population lives in extreme poverty, inhabiting matchbox houses made of corrugated metal and plywood. Crime is ridiculous. Transportation is abysmal. Racism still abounds. South Africa has one of the largest indices for wealth disparity in the world. I have no idea how the 2010 World Cup will manage to be a success. However, I have had an awesome time and have learned a lot. I miss Brown and AEΠ and America so much and am very excited to return.

- Matt Cline Omicron ’09
This semester I studied abroad in Bologna, Italy. It was a great experience because no one in Bologna speaks English so I was forced to get good at Italian. I spent an insane amount of time traveling, visiting about 25 different cities within Italy. My personal favorite experience was hiking along the cliffs of the Cinque Terre—five small towns on the Italian riviera. The weather was gorgeous, and it was one of the most peaceful yet exhilarating things I’ve ever done.

**Highlights of Joel’s semester:**
- Drinking Tuscan wine while overlooking the Tuscan countryside in San Gimignano
- Riding a Gondola in Venice with my girlfriend on our anniversary
- Watching Bologna’s local soccer team win and get promoted to the top Italian league
- Eating pasta alla bolognese
- Visiting a small town in northern Italy where my grandfather hid out during World War II after escaping from a prison camp

I spent the spring semester studying at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. I only took three classes, and each class was much easier than classes at Brown (especially the engineering ones), giving me plenty of time to take advantage of what Hong Kong has to offer and to travel. The spring in Hong Kong has many public holidays, ranging from Chinese Labor Day to the Birthday of the Buddha, which gave me many chances for longer trips. Hong Kong is an amazing city, with great cheap food and fun, but not so cheap, nightlife.

**Highlights of Dan’s Semester:**
- Sights and cheap shopping in Beijing
- Watching Sumo in Tokyo
- Beaches in Thailand and the Philippines
- Arcades in Taiwan and Hong Kong
- And of course, Karaoke
SPRING ’08 OFFICERS
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Lieutenant Master
Danny Scheinerman, Xi ’09
Pledgemaster
Michael Morgenstern, Nu ’08
Rush Chair
Dan Block, Pi ’10
Scribe
Brian Luu, Omicron ’09
Exchequer
Adam Lewin, Omicron ’09
Sentinel
Troy Shapiro, Pi ’10
Brother-at-Large
Caleb Miller, Xi ’09
House Manager
Ben Rome, Pi ’10
Immediate Past Master
Toby Cohen, Xi ’09

FALL ’08 OFFICERS
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Troy Shapiro, Pi ’10
Lieutenant Master
Matt Slen, Xi ’09
Scribe
Ben Rome, Pi ’10
Exchequer
Joel Cohen, Pi ’10
Sentinel
Alex Dowd, Pi ’10
Brother-at-Large
Zach Beauchamp, Pi ’10
House Manager
Benjy Asher, Pi ’10
Immediate Past Master
Toby Cohen, Xi ’09

This edition of the Front Rho brought to you by Scribe Brian Luu, Omicron ’09
Photographs courtesy of Adam Robbins, Xi ’09
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