



# IOTA QUARTERLY

PHI SIGMA KAPPA

STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

WINTER 2003-'04

## Chapter President Reports

### The Brothers Enjoy A Great Year

The year kicked off with a delightful retreat where all the brothers got to speak their mind and get things off their chest. This really opened up everyone to what was to come this year. Now with the school year halfway done, we have accomplished so much both in our house and in the Stevens community.

A new excitement about philan-

thropy, led by Samuel Lai '05, has really boosted the morale of the brotherhood. Jack Bil '03 continues to do some amazing things to the house to improve the look and feel of it.

The brothers didn't do very well at sports this year, including soccer and football. Regardless, the big turnouts and high energy meant a good time was had by all.

Recent trips with freshmen have led to a great feeling for rush and upcoming pledging in the spring. We have just as much planned for the brothers for the rest of the year, but with academics pushing down even harder as the school year wraps up, everyone is going full-strength to keep their grades up.

Israel Torres '04



Brothers enjoy each other's company on the retreat.



The guys who graduated this year.

### Iota Chapter Tutors Help Brothers And Freshmen

Here at Iota Chapter, we put our full effort into stimulating scholarship. The scholarship chair organizes tutoring for all brothers and oversees a campus-wide freshman tutoring program. Exam review sessions are set up to help

freshmen with their core subjects. These reviews are run by brothers who have a complete command of the material.

Special one-on-one tutoring is also available on a weekly basis. Freshmen who take advantage of these tutoring ses-

sions receive unparalleled help equal to or greater than the help provided by the school's academic support center.

Rafal Szlezak '06

## An Update On The Sprinkler System, December 2003

As previously reported, we have been working to get the sprinkler system installation under way, and we have made great progress this year.

A year ago, it was believed that Stevens was going to wash its hands of any further involvement with the sprinklers for all non-Tech owned fraternities, as all of the contractors who were working on the Tech-owned properties disappeared. We guessed that this was going to happen, so the alumni board took over in order to get the project rolling. It was not until June of this year that Stevens informed us that they would be bowing out of any further responsibility. This is humorous, as the state requirements make it Stevens' responsibility to assure 100-percent compliance by July 2004.

Bob McAuliffe '53 (see his obituary in this issue) got involved and recruited Blaise Martucci '57, who has contacts in the fire sprinkler field. Working with Brian Paschenik (Iota '88) at the design firm Omdex, Bob and Blaise ironed out the design to the satisfaction of Stevens, Hoboken, and the state of New Jersey. This was by no means an easy task! During the course of revising the design, there were conflicting requirements by all of the authorities involved. Through much discussion and trips to Trenton, the design was finalized to the point that we could go out for bid.

Then there was the matter of securing the low-interest loan from the state. It took many phone calls and paperwork

submittals, but in the end, we were able to secure two-percent money for \$98,000. The balance of \$67,000 will be taken out as a loan from Havens Savings Bank in Hoboken. Financially, we should be able to handle this loan, as we just finished paying off the mortgage that was taken out in 1989 for some much-needed house improvements.

Unfortunately, this new burden will make doing any repairs or improvements to the house more difficult. There are several projects that will be necessary over the next five years—a new roof being one of them (last completed in 1983). Fundraising will be necessary to keep the fraternity house in good repair.

When Iota Association calculates the rent to charge the undergraduates, we take into consideration our costs for insurance, mortgage, and budgeted improvements, then see what the monthly rent will be. That figure is then broken down into a per-brother number. Other brothers' fees are added in to see if the total cost is less expensive than staying in the dorms (which it usually is). This is the benchmark we use.

Liberty Fire Protection was selected as the contractor of choice. It has a great reputation in the sprinkler field and is familiar with the requirements of doing work in Hoboken. Frank Boccio, the owner, has worked closely with Ray Falco, the Hoboken fire subcode official, and he knows what Ray wants in a proper system installation. Hopefully, this should make the installation go smoothly.

Through alumni relationships, AFA Fire Protection was selected as the alarm contractor. Their responsibilities include the alarm, emergency lighting, and CO detectors. They will also subcontract the electrical work that is necessary for the system, including installing two electric heaters in the attic (to prevent possible freezing). AFA will also be hired to monitor the system after all is complete.

Liberty Fire Protection has subcontracted the water main tap to JL Plumbing. Their task is to dig a trench from the house (just outside the boiler room) to the center of 9th St. and install a 4" water supply main. Logistically, this will be a tough task, as 9th St. will have to be shut down for a day (the only street that provides access to Stevens' upper campus).

The sprinkler installation started on November 14 and is expected to take six to eight weeks. We have discussed the schedule with the brotherhood and Liberty and have worked out the details so that the rooms are not being worked on during finals. The rooms will be the last part worked on, and this part of the project will occur during winter break. The alarm contractor is expected to start after Thanksgiving.

Once the installation is complete, patching and painting will begin. This work will be done by the brotherhood, and hopefully, come summer, the house will be back to normal.

Ed Giacobbe '82  
Alumni President

### Attention Brothers: Donate A Sprinkler Head!

We are installing a fire sprinkler system at the house as required by state law, and in an effort to offset the \$165,000 cost, we would like to accept donations from alumni.

For a \$300 donation, we will "name" a sprinkler head of your choice—pick any room: the chapter room, living room, dining room, a specific bedroom, etc., and we will have the donor's name engraved on a plaque in that room.

With 38 heads to be installed, we can accept many donations!

If you are interested, kindly send your check, payable to *Iota Association*, to: Ed Giacobbe, 11 Carlisle Rd., Basking Ridge, NJ 07920.

## Chapter Is In Good Financial Shape

**O**ur chapter is in good financial standing. The sizable mortgage on the house was paid off this past summer. The rent paid to the alumni association, which was increased to compensate for the upcoming sprinkler system, is paid off. Insurance on our chapter house is included in the rent check. All bills, including utilities, are up-to-date, and we carry a zero balance with national.

The sprinkler installation will be funded through borrowed money from local banks and the state. Construction begins this semester.



*Brothers enthusiastically renovate the house.*

Robert Volk '05

## House Locks Are Re-keyed

**T**o assure access to all rooms, closets, etc., we contracted with the Stevens locksmith to re-key all locks in the house. This has enabled us to permit the contractors access to all areas as the sprinkler work progresses.

We have made copies of the keys so we have a master, and sub-masters have been distributed to the various officers who would need them.

It is unsure if new keys will be made available to alumni. A discussion is necessary between the Iota Association and the undergrads to see which policy should be adopted regarding alumni having these new keys. Security and access are the key issues. Comments should be directed to Ravi at [rpitchik@stevens.edu](mailto:rpitchik@stevens.edu).

Ravi Pitchika '03

## Iota Chapter Tries New Rush Strategies

**T**his year, Phi Sigma Kappa has experimented with several new techniques in the hope of luring freshmen into the realm of our fair lady. To start the year off, an ingenious idea from Eric Lee '04 inspired us to make the rush tool a lighter and bottle opener combination with "ΦΣΚ Est. 1873" etched on each one.

This got the ball rolling, as PSK threw several large parties within the first two weeks of school. Bowling nights, coffee and movie nights, special dinners, and Beirut tournaments have all brought large crowds of eager freshmen to the house.

This year's freshman class is one of the largest Stevens Institute of Technology has ever seen, so it is projected and hoped that this year's pledge class will be the largest and most dedicated Phi Sigma Kappa has ever seen. With such a large body to select from, the selection process has been increased in stringency, making PSK's standards of excellence the limiting factor in the number of bids handed out.

Kyle Okamoto '05



*The newest pledge class of Phi Sigma Kappa.*

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Published by Iota Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity at Stevens Institute of Technology for its members and friends. News contributions and pictures are welcome and should be sent to Alumni Records Office, Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity, P.O. Box 35, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0035.

## Iota Alumni Send Their News

JAMES P. SHOOK '44 writes, "I've been retired now for over 20 years; still busy teaching English as a second language, singing in the church choir, and other volunteer jobs. Thanks to data maven, BOB MCAULIFFE '53, HARRY ROBINSON '44 has been found and we're in touch." Jim can be reached at 13202 W. Flagstone Ct., Sun City West, AZ 95375; loisshook@hotmail.com.

LINDSAY DUNHAM JR. '45 says hello from Rue Louis Hymans 40/12, Brussels 1050, BELGIUM. E-mail him at dunhaml@skypro.be.

HERBERT P. TINNING '52 resides at 93 Sagamore Rd., Millburn, NJ 07041.

STEPHEN BARTHELMES '58 can be reached at 2119 Primrose Lane, Martinsville, NJ 08836. His e-mail address is sbart21@aol.com.

Stay in touch with GERALD M. STEIN '62 at 57 Red Maple Ave., Bloomfield, NJ 07003 or via e-mail at jerrystein@torcon.com.

MICHAEL E. LAINO '66 works at Architectural Window Manufacturing.

Keep in touch with him at 99 Twinberry Court, Paramus, NJ 07652; mike11144@aol.com.

ROBERT J. MARTUCCI '71 lives at 9 Peters Lane, Franklin, MA 02038. His e-mail address is bobmartuc@aol.com.

BARRY E. RITTEBERG '71, who lives at 20 Oxbow Creek Lane, Laguna Hills, CA 92653, has a new e-mail address: barryritteberg@att.net.

STEVEN J. KNOTT '82 can be reached at 1939 Cotswold Dr., Orlando, FL 32825; failtecaomh@earthlink.net.

JOHN P. HURLEY '83 is still working for Lucent Technologies. Drop him a note at 80-A Anderson Hill Rd., Bernardsville, NJ 07924. E-mail reaches him at jphurley@lucent.com.

KENNETH C. SPARANO '86 reports a new address of 211 Meece Bridge Rd., Taylors, SC 29687. Send him e-mail at ksparano@aholdusa.com.

PAUL MERKEN '88 receives mail at 3 Swackhamer Rd., Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Send him e-mail at pmerken@lucent.com.

DANIEL ROSSI '95 has a new address of 2 Orston Court, Parsippany, NJ 07054. His e-mail address is dsrossi72@hotmail.com.

COLIN A. WARNES '99 recently moved to 3336 E. Austin Way, Fresno, CA 93726.

FREDERICK "Rick" KUEHN '01 writes, "I'm off to Vance AFB in Enid, Oklahoma, to fly the Air Force's T-1 jet. If all goes well, I should get my wings on the third of April next year." Rick lives at 43 Farview Dr., Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Send him e-mail at fkuehn@alumni.stevens-tech.edu.

### DECEASED

*We regret to report the death of the following alumni:*

LESTER A. MERSFELDER '30

ANTHONY NICHOLS '39  
*July 9, 2000*

JOHN W. BERSCH '45  
*November 20, 2003*

ROBERT F. MCAULIFFE '53  
*September 23, 2003*

## PSK Parties On

This year's social events at Phi Sigma Kappa have been theme-based. The first party this year had a dollar theme, and it was very successful. The dollar theme involved giving the brothers and invited guests a few dollars ("Piskies money"), which the ladies could try to earn to receive a prize. The goal of the party was to create interaction between the guests and the brothers. This theme did its purpose, as it encouraged a lot of socializing among the partygoers.

After the great success of this social activity, more theme-based social gatherings are planned. One of the themes will be "around the world," in which each room in the fraternity house will be decorated as a different country environment. Another theme we're considering deals with a heaven, earth, and hell theme.



*The newest brothers peel shrimp.*

### In Memoriam

#### Robert F. McAuliffe '53

Bob McAuliffe '53 passed away suddenly on September 23, 2003, after a long illness. He was active with the alumni association over the past two years, and he spearheaded our database update effort. He was also instrumental in getting the sprinkler system installation under way.