



IOTA QUARTERLY

PHI SIGMA KAPPA STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

SPRING 2004

Active Brothers Persevere While House Is Repaired

Greetings to all brothers !

As you all are aware, we have been diligently working on the sprinkler/alarm installation for over a year now. All is complete and going through the final approvals. We hit a snag with regard to the depth of the sprinkler main in the street (too shallow—in the frost zone), but we expect it to be rectified. Hopefully, we will not have to tear open the street again!

The house is almost back to 100 percent. There is still some patching and painting to be done, which we expect to complete over the summer. Once that is done, we will replace the carpet.

Over the past year, we discovered many other needed repairs/improvements. The list is almost endless (see the list at right). We kept the electrician quite busy fixing a host of sub-standard work and added additional outlets and lights. We had some major plumbing problems, but they, too, have been completed. The alumni association has also done quite a bit of fix-up work at the house.

We appreciate all the efforts of the undergrads—it has been a tough year having to live through all the dust and mess, but it all worked out well. They really pitched in and were a big help in this most difficult endeavor. Two of our Iota Association board mem-

bers, Dave Battaglia '93 and Kevin McDermott '96, are PE's and have extensive construction experience. They have been quite helpful with all of the specs, codes, etc. that we have had to deal with.

Of course, during all this, we had our five-year state hotel inspection and annual Hoboken fire prevention inspection. Not only were we busy trying to get final approval on the sprinkler system, but we had a list of miscellaneous items that they wanted done. Never a dull moment!

I would like to thank all of the brothers who donated to Iota Association over the past year! Donations were better than ever and have been a big help paying for all of the improvements we have made. ALL donations are appreciated! No amount is too small.

I would further like to thank the brothers who have donated on a regular basis. It seems that the bulk of donations are from the same group of brothers. To all those who have not had the chance to send in a donation, it is not too late!

I would say that the most difficult part of this entire project has been the paperwork. Trying to pull the funds from the state was like pulling teeth!

Plus the loan that we took out from Haven Savings was a paperwork nightmare. Makes closing on a house look like a walk in the park! But that is all in the past now.

Fraternally yours,
Ed Giacobbe '82
President of Iota Assoc. and
Chapter Advisor
Giacobb1@optonline.net

List Of Completed Projects 2003-2004

- Sprinkler and alarm system installation
- New steel attic ladder installed
- New attic lighting
- New backyard lighting
- New shroud installed in kitchen fuse box
- Relocated light switch in ladies' room
- Additional outlets in halls, kitchen, and dining room
- Repair of all non-working outlets, switches, etc.
- Shower stalls in 2nd floor bath replaced
- New tile walls in 2nd front shower
- New barroom sink
- New work sink in boiler room
- Replacement of all valves and air vents in radiators
- New condensate pump for boiler installed
- Barroom cabinets repaired
- Wood trim in basement repaired
- Tile in kitchen fixed
- Hot water heater replaced
- Damaged sidewalk along 9th street replaced
- Window replaced at fire escape
- Entire house re-keyed
- New fire extinguishers installed

Memorial For Bob McAuliffe '53

We will be holding a get-together in memory of our brother, Bob McAuliffe '53, on
Saturday, June 12, at 11:00 a.m.
at the house. A light lunch will be served.

All are welcome! Anyone wishing to attend, please RSVP to:

Ed Giacobbe '82

Giacobb1@optonline.net ♦ Cell: 732/236-3044

Brothers Help Each Other Achieve Academic Excellence

Phi Sigma Kappa prides itself on three cardinal principles: the promotion of brotherhood, the stimulation of scholarship, and the development of character. Scholarship is greatly encouraged within our fraternity, and it is the primary reason we have a scholarship chair. Whoever holds this position does whatever he can to help brothers and pledges learn what they need to know to achieve a higher GPA.

Our fraternity consists of a diverse group of people with various majors. This makes it easier to find brothers who have a good handle on a subject and who under-

stand what taking a class is like—which makes it possible to help those who are struggling in any class. This tutoring system is much like the tutoring offered on the Stevens campus, but it is better in that the people requiring help feel more comfortable receiving help from someone they already know. The tutoring program offered by Stevens randomly assigns tutors who have done well in a class to students who need help. Knowing brothers on a personal level also allows for easier communication and more reliable meetings.

Aside from one-on-one tutoring ses-

sions, we also offer review sessions. If there is an exam approaching and several students need help, we have a few brothers review the subject and offer a review “class” in which those who need help watch brothers answer possible questions on the test. Phi Sigma Kappa encourages everyone to ask for help when needed. All brothers hold scholarship as a high priority, and we are happy to offer help to those who are having trouble with their course work.

Jon Fajardo '05
Scholarship Chair

Stock Alert!—PSK Is Moving Upward

The brothers of the Iota Chapter have helped take our house to an excellent financial state. We managed a significant rent increase last semester, even though it was not in the budget. The time that it takes brothers to pay their bills decreases every semester, increasing our cash flow. This allows us to deal with unexpected expenses, such as the rent increase. All bills to outside collectors are paid on time, and we carry no debt.

The house manager's budget was increased 40 percent over last semester to improve the quality of living in the house. We even had an excess of cash left over from last term that was placed in a newly created fund named the “Project Fund.” Large projects, such as painting the exterior of our house, would be funded by this with no increase to the brothers' semester dues.

The main goal of this fund is to make long-term improvements on the house we live in.

A complete overhaul of the budget was made to re-examine every expense that would be incurred this spring; as a result, living expenses for brothers residing at the house dropped \$240 this semester.

Rush was the only budget that was over-spent, but for a good reason. We had 18 pledges, twice as high as normal. The new budget is designed to account for unexpected expenditures such as this. Any budgeted item that was under-spent will be carried over, minus over-spent items, to the next semester. The difference is money saved on the next semester's bill.

Despite the positive financial conditions, many alumni carry outstanding balances with our house. We are working with the Iota Association to reclaim that debt, but

what is left unpaid is shouldered by the active brothers. We cannot continue carrying these debts, so I urge those alumni to settle their accounts with us.

Alumni donations are needed more than ever because there are many projects involving repairing the house that need to be accomplished. Any donation made directly to our house will go to the newly created Project Fund. The money in this fund can only be used for improvements and renovations to the house.

We had a great fall semester, and this semester already has the momentum to keep the cash flow moving upward. A thank you is owed to the active brothers of the Iota Chapter, who make it their duty to be as fiscally responsible as they can.

Rob Volk '05, Treasurer

Rush Nets A Record 18 Pledges

This year, Phi Sigma Kappa received a record 18 pledges, who have already begun to impress the brotherhood. Pledge night was an extremely good time, with records being broken by both pledges and brothers alike. Several alumni showed up and were quite impressed with the large number of proficient pledges standing late into the night.

With the largest freshman class ever to come to Stevens Institute of Technology, the fraternity expected all Greek organizations to receive large pledge classes—but to our surprise, Phi Sigma Kappa blew the competition out of the water. Some may account this happening to an inactive freshman class, but the brotherhood knows it was due to the hard work and involvement of every brother in the rush semester. I would personally like to thank everyone involved, from the young guys to the alumni, as everyone helped me do my job with ease and enjoyment.



Inductor Eric Schlageter '04 after his “shake and bake.”

Kyle Okamoto '05, Rush Chair

Chapter President Reports

The Brothers Stay Focused And Strong This Term

The spring semester started off great with a brotherhood retreat that included a great meal of steak and shrimp with baby green beans and Southern-style mashed potatoes—and did I mention I love our new gourmet chef? The retreat allowed everyone to lay out their personal feelings about the house and their lives in general, helping everyone get ready for a jam-packed semester of hard work and good times.

The year is in full swing, and everyone is in a great mood after our very memorable 42nd annual shrimp fest. Brothers are hard at work improving their grade point averages (GPAs) as the chapter's average GPA climbs the rankings (2.76). Inductor Eric Schlageter '04 is doing a wonderful job guiding our 18 pledges through the process of becoming a brother, and everyone is giving him lots of support.

The sprinkler and alarm installation is finally finished and fully active, allowing the brothers to breathe a sigh of relief know-

ing that construction is complete. Clean up and patching have begun, while painting of the pipes helps them to blend into the exquisite moldings of our ancient establishment. Although excruciatingly loud and unsightly, the alarm system gives us all a great deal of comfort, knowing our brothers, pledges, and guests are all safe.



One of the 38 new sprinklers in the house.

It seems like we have accomplished so much this semester. The condition of the physical house has greatly improved, while the brothers have grown tremendously on a personal level, helping each other out by tutoring and studying, sharing crew and work assignment duties, and simply hanging out a lot more. Such occasions include visiting a hookah bar in New York City, frequent trips to the grease trucks by Rutgers, and of course, the local spots here in Hoboken.

While the brotherhood presses on through the semester, our 105th pledge class is coming together really well. They have realized how much they can accomplish by themselves, but most importantly, they have realized how much they can do together. We are all very excited to welcome them into our fraternity now that they are officially associated with Phi Sigma Kappa.

Kyle Okamoto '05

Attention Brothers: Donate A Sprinkler Head!

We have installed 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 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.

Serious Repairs At The House Are Still Ongoing

The house is now equipped with high-tech sprinklers and an advanced fire alarm system. The contractors did an excellent job of not damaging the house, apart from some unnecessary holes and drilling. However, with 18 pledges and 26 active brothers, patching and painting should take care of this cosmetic issue. Heaters will be installed in the attic to prevent the sprinkler system from freezing, and the house should be back to its normal condition by the beginning of May.

As contractors were installing the sprinkler system, electrical work was also

in progress. Most of the electrical issues and miscellaneous problems were repaired. New electrical outlets were installed and all light fixtures are currently functional. Emergency lights and exit fixtures were also installed throughout the house, and new light fixtures will be mounted in the backyard.

Over Christmas break, the house experienced serious plumbing issues. There was a major clog in the drain that services the front side of the house. Pieces of the drain were removed and new pieces were spliced in for \$1,600. Another \$1,000 worth of various plumbing

problems around the house were also repaired. The second front shower was also rebuilt with new walls and tile thanks to Ed Giacobbe '82. We had a leak in the second-floor bathroom showers, but this problem was fixed and new showers installed on March 17.

PSK would especially like to thank Ed Giacobbe '82 for all the help and various repairs he has done around the house. Without Ed's assistance and guidance, none of this would be possible.

Jack Bil '04
House Manager

Iota Alumni Send Their News

F. NEWTON WELLS III is retired from General Electric. He currently resides at 61 Narberth Way, Toms River, NJ 08757.

JAMES J. CULLEN '48 reports that he is retired from the US Civil Service-Navy. He can be reached at 104 Imperial Dr., Warwick, RI 02886. His e-mail address is packersfan217@att.net.

"I'm today a father of five," writes RAYMOND W. "Bloomer" BLOHM '57, "with eight grandchildren, and I have been retired for nine years. I was social chairman for our chapter from '54 to '57. My campaign pledge was three parties a week. It worked and was. One thing I miss today is the older generation's knack for assigning special nicknames to people they liked. For example, BLAISE MARTUCCI's ('57) nickname was 'The Buzzard.' We bussed in the nursing ladies from New York City, and he was known to swoop! (Though we may get a denial about that.) Thanks for all the memories!" Bloomer's address is 1739 S. Peoria Ave., #38, Tulsa, OK 74120.

RALPH A. D'ANGELO '71 receives mail at 5 East 22nd St., #17D, New York, NY 10010. His e-mail address is rdangelo@nyc.rr.com or ralph.a.dangelo@morsh.com.

VINCENT A. DIPALMA's ('71) contact info is: 217 Hope St., #2, Bristol, RI 02809. His e-mail address is vindipalma@aol.com.

WAYNE J. RICHMOND '71 writes that he recently retired and repatriated

from Doha, Qatar, back to Virginia. "All communications welcome!" he says. Wayne's new address is 2963 Franklin Oaks Dr., Oakhill, Virginia 20171. His e-mail address is richmondj1@cox.net.

PHILIP G. MOREIRA '79 writes, "I am still on assignment in Singapore for Air Products as general manger of our business here. It will be four years here this coming summer, and it's likely I will be returning to the U.S. in July. Former roommates LOU TOMASSO '79 and ED HOJNACKI '77 have stopped by here a couple of times each when passing through on business. One of my more significant accomplishments here was to arrange to get a Stevens Tech pennant put up in the bar at the American Club, given that just about every other U.S. college or university already had one up. Take care, and thanks for all of your effort on behalf of the chapter." Phil's State-side address is P.O. Box 311, Mendham, NJ 07945. His e-mail address is cpmjmore@yahoo.com.

MARK L. LAVACH '80 is the manager of applications development and technical services at Atofina Chemicals, Inc. He can be reached at 1722 Dell St., Allentown, PA 18103. His e-mail address is mark.lavach@atofina.com.

ERIC GOLDSTEIN '90 resides at 1227 Fox Hollow Dr., Toms River, NJ 08755. Send him e-mail at me@4esg.com.

GERARD G. "Jerry" PISERCHIA JR. '90 is the manager of traction projects at Schindler Elevator Corp. in Morristown, New Jersey. "My wife, Marcy, and I have a healthy and happy son, Ger-

ard III, who was born in July 2001," he reports. "I also note you're looking for contact info on JULIO RAMOS '90. He lives at 52 Knob Hill Rd., Hackettstown, NJ 07840." Send congratulations to Jerry and Marcy at 57 Washington Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630. E-mail may be sent tomarcyandjerry@att.net.

MICHAEL P. WEBER '95 receives snail mail at 2128 Crestview Ct., Wauwatosa, WI 53226. Send him e-mail at mweber908@yahoo.com.

HUMBERTO RIVERA JR. '95 is a technical support engineer at C-Cor.Net. He reports a new address of 1155 Shady Lane, Merritt Island, FL 32952. His e-mail address is hrivera@c-cor.net.

JOSH W. HALL '98 recently moved to 8427 Brock Bridge Rd., Laurel, MD 20724.

FRANK PETROSILLO '99 now lives at 645 Otter Hole Rd., West Milford, NJ 07480. E-mail reaches him at fpetros@pica.army.mil.

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

JOHN T. SMITH '45
July 7, 2003

ROBERT BRYANT '49
October 27, 2003

ROBERT H. VOORHEES '71
June 24, 2000

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CURRENT HOUSE OFFICERS!

President.....	Kyle Okamoto
Inductor.....	Eric Schlageter
Vice President.....	Matthew McLeod
Secretary.....	Patrick McCabe
Treasurer.....	Robert Volk
Sentinel.....	Craig MacGregor
Commissary.....	Israel Torres
House Manager.....	Jack Bil
Social Chair.....	Nick Altomare
Athletic Chair.....	Dave Insley
Brotherhood Chair.....	Angel de la Riva
Historian.....	Ralph Szlezak
Scholarship Chair.....	Jon Fajardo

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