

Iowa Beta HEART TO HEART



A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI OF IOWA BETA CHAPTER ♦ SIGMA PHI EPSILON

FALL 2008

IOWA BETA CHAPTER BUILDS MOMENTUM

*Annual Philanthropy Draws Large Crowd, Raises over \$1,500
Recruitment Numbers Highest in Recent Years*

The fall semester is a very busy and exciting time for Iowa Beta. With Homecoming activities right around the corner, and with ample opportunities for members to immerse themselves academically, physically, and socially there is never a dull moment. Iowa Beta continues to improve our academics, recruitment, and campus involvement.

ACADEMICS

One thing we have stressed is G.P.A., and all of our hard work is starting to pay off. Last semester we received a 3.02. (the second time above a 3.0 ever), ranking us eighth out of the 27 fraternities.



Graham Whye '11, Christopher Countryman '10, and Mahmoud Fawzy '11 work the Sausagefest ticket counter.

This also puts us above the all-active Greek average, all-undergraduate average, and all-IFC average. However, we do not want to settle at a 3.02; we set a goal of a 3.05 for the fall semester. Our new resident scholar, Taren Reker, has been hard at work with our vice president of membership development to develop a tutoring program for new members in which they have to receive tutoring for at least one of their classes and learn study skills to better prepare them for success in the college classroom.

PHILANTHROPY

Our Sausagefest philanthropy is a giant cookout where we sell hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst to benefit our national partnership, YouthAIDS. It was a huge success for the second year in a row. **Zach Schaaf '10**, philanthropy chairman for the second year said, "This year's Sausagefest was a huge success, from the food to the dunk tank. We raised over \$1,500 for the second year in a row for YouthAIDS."

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment, as always, is a priority for the Iowa Beta Chapter and we have consistently seen high recruitment numbers in the past few years. This year's pledge class has 20 new members in the fall semester, and many potential members

are being pursued. This would not have been possible without the hard work of Vice President of Recruitment **Steven Erbstein '10** and his recruitment cabinet, including **Alex McBride '11**, **Graham Whye '11**, Zack Schaaf, and **Justin Holm '11**.

One goal the Chapter has set for itself is to initiate at least 25 members this fall, and it looks like we are well on the way to surpassing that number by the spring semester. In addition to recruitment, **Clay Hopes '09** and his cabinet for our International Perspectives program have done a fabulous job and implemented the program for our Chapter. Nick Morley is a study abroad student from Safety Beach, Australia, living with us and participating in Chapter activities. This is the first program of its kind for us and Iowa State University; it has gone extremely smoothly.

We had a very successful Balanced Man scholarship banquet on Sunday, August 24. We had a lot of very good applicants, and the banquet was very nicely put together. New members **Alex Kelly '12** and **Kyle Kalinosky '12** were both finalists.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

Our members do not check their leadership bag at the big red door of SigEp; they hold campus leadership positions as well. **Ben Day '09**, and **Andrew Broedster '09**, and I serve as Student Union board directors. **Trent Jacobson '10**, is the Dance Marathon entertainment director, and Ben Day is also the PRSSA president.

Christopher Moen '10 is a peer mentor, Alex Kelly serves on the Blood Drive committee, and **Kyle Wood '10** is the president of the Bass Fishing Club that took fifth in the Alabama Invitational College Bass fishing tournament. **Thomas Augustine '11** served as one of the youngest delegates at the Republican National Convention. I was one of 50 students selected

(Continued on page 2)



All proceeds from the Iowa Beta Sausagefest go to YouthAIDS. For the second year in a row, the Chapter raised over \$1,500 for the organization.



A group of Sausagefest attendees wait in line to get food and drinks.

IOWA BETA CHAPTER BUILDS MOMENTUM

(Continued from page 1)

from around the country to attend the Oxfam America Change Initiative in Boston, Massachusetts where I was trained how to inspire greater global awareness on Iowa State's campus.

On September 20 the chapter held a retreat in the Memorial Union to set goals for the upcoming semester, such as our G.P.A. of 3.05, having 100 percent of the Chapter actively involved in at least one campus organization, and having at least 25 members go through initiation this fall. In November the gavel will be passed to a new executive board, and this retreat also served to start people thinking about running for positions.

It is shaping up to be a fantastic year, with many changes and we're challenging ourselves to reach for new heights. On behalf of the chapter I thank you for your ongoing support. We always welcome any Iowa Beta alumni to stop by the house and share your experiences with us. It's great to be a SigEp!



Fraternally,
Morgan Dowdall '10
Vice President of Communications
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Iowa Beta members take a break from Work Week projects for a photo.



The men of Iowa Beta.

Actions Speak Loudest

Iowa Beta Brothers Show Commitment and Enthusiasm

Actions speak louder than words. Act as if your best friend is watching. Anything worth doing is worth doing well. These sayings and others like them take on more meaning as we gain more experience and understanding. Andrew Carnegie once said, "As I grow older, I pay less attention to what men say. I just watch what they do." This truth is relevant whether we are part of a family, a major corporation, or a multi-generational fraternity. "Doing" is the external view of our internal codes, and to be effective our actions have two key components: commitment and enthusiasm. When applied to a well-designed plan in equal proportion there is a high probability of success. SigEp is alive and thriving thanks to numerous members who possess and share these abilities.

Each of us can remember tackling some stretch goal that proved these two ingredients were a vital part of the end result. Whether making great scores on tests or finally hitting a breakthrough discovery, each requires dedication and desire. If asked to visualize a person who is committed we can all see someone we know who is of good character and consistently reliable. Our image of him is made up of the things that person does; characteristics that make him a positive role model, such as an unwavering dedication to being a good family member, a true fraternity brother or a very close friend. He is someone who does great work both at and away from a job. He volunteers, helps and leads in ways big and small. We admire him because he stays focused and does what's right, noble, ethical and decent. We follow him because we trust his leadership.

Committed people seem to have their heads and hearts in the right place. They keep their priorities straight. They stay on task doing what's most important—not just for today but

for the best long-term impact. They know inherently that what they believe drives their behavior, and their behavior ultimately determines their character, reputation and legacy. When faced with temptations to compromise goals or seek easier paths, they resist because their core belief keeps them on track.

Add enthusiasm to commitment and an individual or group can achieve great things. Norman Vincent Peale said, "There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment." When given a choice between two teams who have matching game plans, we invariably prefer the one that seems to be having the most fun. There is no fun in working and living all tensed up. The best environments are ones that find ways to chase goals in creative ways. I'm lucky to work with a group that celebrates successes with high fives, heartfelt hugs and good-natured teasing.

Enthusiasm is truly infectious and gets everyone involved whether it's as boisterous as an ISU touchdown or as harmonious as a favorite fraternity theme song. Leading with enthusiasm is a personality magnet that exponentially increases confidence and support.

This issue of *Heart to Heart* includes great examples of how committed and enthusiastic your ISU brothers and alumni remain for the good of Iowa Beta, and it is a pleasure to be surrounded by folks who possess these positive action traits.



In the bonds,
Ray Schwichtenberg '76
Board President
(515) 382-2191 ext. 224
Ray.Schwichtenberg@
BankSBT.com



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Kalled Ashour '12
Urbandale, Iowa

Christopher Countryman '10
Moenville, Iowa

Justin Heth '12
Des Moines, Iowa

Alex Kelley '12
West Point, Neb.

Eric Wilt '12
Antioch, Ill.

Robert Barger '10
Adel, Iowa

Alex Feygin '12
West Des Moines, Iowa

Derek Hurford '12
West Des Moines, Iowa

John Lauder '12
Eagan, Minn.

Kyle Zibrowski '12
Eagan, Minn.

Marcus Beasley '10
Minneapolis, Minn.

Andrew Fiedler '12
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Jordan Iliff '12
Cumming, Iowa

Stuart Millar '12
LeClaire, Iowa

AJ Richards '12
Davenport, Iowa

Colton Carter '12
Blume Grass, Iowa

Wesley Geary '12
Wauke, Iowa

Kyle Kalinosky '12
Omaha, Neb.

Steven Vuong '12
Eagan, Minn.

Cade Russell '12
Clive, Iowa

Chapter Provides Valuable Leadership Skills

Bob Jester '62 Reflects on SigEp Experience

After graduating from high school in Des Moines, Iowa, **Bob Jester '62** and his good friend, **Art Roberts '62** joined Iowa Beta thanks to **Dick Danziger '60**, who was the president at the time. “Dick and Art were acquainted and Dick sold us on the opportunities within SigEp. It was nice to have that hometown connection between myself and Art, as well.”

As an undergraduate, Bob felt he was lucky to have a great experience at a time when Iowa Beta was head and shoulders above other fraternities and was a major leader at Iowa State. The Chapter had 120 members at the time and enough manpower to volunteer at a number of events across campus. Through the encouragement and mentoring of upperclassman **Ron Baukol '59**, Bob served on VEISHA and Homecoming committees, eventually becoming co-chairman of these activities.

Bob’s first business experience was the formation and development of the Fraternity Food Buying Association, which is still in operation today. This and other campus involvements gave Bob leadership and communication skills he uses in his insurance business and many volunteer organizations.

Bob is the fourth generation to manage Jester Insurance Service Inc. in Des Moines. The company was started in 1897 and remains Iowa’s oldest family owned insurance agency and has grown substantially in its 100+ years. Bob says, “The average daily sales volume today equals what was produced annually when I joined the company in 1964.” Bob serves as president and



CEO, and the company specializes in property and casualty coverage.

As a leader, Bob believes in planting seeds that generate ideas in others who will make them grow. He also strongly believes in the power of team work. “Great organizations have great teams that pitch in whenever and wherever help is needed—you can see it in all companies from a local restaurant to a Fortune 500 company.”

Bob understands that good leadership comes from experience. “The Fraternity offered great opportunities to learn valuable leadership skills. By joining committees and actively helping, brothers can learn by watching others and being mentored by older members. Our Chapter had

great young men who went on to be key executives at large companies like 3M and Mobil Oil—their experience in the fraternity helped them become successful professionally and in their communities.”

To young alumni, Bob says, “Get involved! Start participating in volunteer opportunities on campus and in your community early which will help establish good habits that last a lifetime. The more you do, the more comfortable you will become with major projects.” And to undergraduate members Bob advises them to also get involved early on. “Be sure to get involved and learn how to take charge and work effectively with others. Your time in college is ideal for doing good things and helping others.” He thinks it is wise for undergraduates to learn about financial management and understand the importance of having a personal finance plan as the business world is tied to contracts and money.

Bob was able to take what he learned while in SigEp and apply it to his life both personally and professionally. He truly values his time in Iowa Beta and says some of his favorite memories include spending time with a great group of people who shared ideas and helped each other make the most of their time in the Chapter. “The lifetime friends I gained while in the fraternity are priceless.”

Bob and his wife, Patricia, live in Des Moines and enjoy sailing and spending time at their homes in Scottsdale, Arizona, and on San Juan Island near Seattle.



ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

William S. Norman '49 passed on to Chapter Eternal November 26, 2007. His wife, Sherry, shares that "he wanted to make it to 80 years, but lacked just four months. His birthday would have been on March 17, 2008." The couple were married for 21 years, most of which were spent in Pharr, Texas. Bill was a wonderful man and very successful farmer. He passed away at his home in Washington, Iowa.

ALUMNI NEWS

1940s

John R. Alt '48 and his wife, Pauline, live in Grand Rapids, Mich., and are enjoying their retirement years. They have two grown sons, John Jr. and Jeff. John keeps healthy by swimming and playing golf. He even participated in a swimming competition known as the Michigan Masters. E-mail: jraswim@yahoo.com

L. Edward Brungraber '48 is having a great time traveling. His most recent trip was to Ames to celebrate the 60th year since graduating. Edward and his wife, Irene, live in Pittsburgh, Pa. They are the parents of four: Sue, Carol, Laurie, and Kurt.

Richard J. Denny '48 is a volunteer marshal at a golf course in Springfield, Va. He shares that his exercise these days consists of walking the 18 holes several times a week. Richard is the father of three grown children. E-mail: dickdenny1@verizon.net

1950s

Shelly "Harold" Shellabarger '56 has remained active in his retirement years with lots of volunteering and traveling. He is the president of the local philharmonic organization and involved with a variety of volunteer organizations, including the Salvation Army and several local churches. During the last five years, Harold and his wife, Sandra, have taken trips to Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, China, Tibet, Chile, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand. E-mail: hlssls@comcast.net

C. Bruce Johnson '57 and his wife, June, live in Phoenix, Ariz., where he serves as president of Johnson Scientific Group Inc. He also consults in the areas of night vision and renewable energy, which involves a lot of travel. Bruce and June have raised two daughters, Kimberly and Kirsten. E-mail: cbjsg@msn.com

Richard A. Liddy '57 lives out the warmer months of the year in St. Louis, Mo., and his winters in Naples, Fla. He served as chairman for Reinsurances Group of America until his retirement in 2000 but remains active on public company boards. Dick volunteers for arts and education institutions. E-mail: raliddy@hotmail.com

Ronald J. Brickey '58 is the chapter chairman of the local SCORE chapter, the treasurer and fundraising chairman for Bridge View Center, a performing arts and civic center, and he sings in the church choir. Ronald lives in Ottumwa, Iowa, with his wife, Janet, and has raised two children, Thomas and Ann, both of whom graduated from Iowa State. E-mail: brickeyrj@msn.com

John "Bob" Bragonier '59 is the retired medical director of the Department of Health Services for the county of Los Angeles. Since retiring in 2002, Bob is all about jazz and the history behind it. He is a writer, reviewer, and interviewer for www.allaboutjazz.com, as well as the jazz forum moderator at www.52ndstreet.com. Bob is a member of the American Institute for Jazz Education and an instructor of the history of jazz for both the South Bay Adult School and for California State University. Bob is married to Barbara Ellen and has three children: Bruce, Rebecca, and Elizabeth. E-mail: randb.bragonier@verizon.net

1960s

Robert C. Rodert '60 retired in 1998 as a staff systems engineer at Lockheed Martin. He resides in Cupertino, Calif., where he is busy playing with "toys." These toys include a new 37-foot Itasca motor home, a Beechcraft A-36, Cessna 172 planes, a Trek

road and touring bike, and a Honda CT 90 trail bike. Bob and his longtime girlfriend, Bev, enjoy taking trips and biking. E-mail: brodert@comcast.net

Lynn K. Vorbrich '60 is enjoying retirement. He says, "My kids are all grown, gone, and self-supporting. Ain't life grand?" Lynn was the president of the electric division for the Mid American Energy Company upon retirement in 1997. He is a resident of Johnston, Iowa. E-mail: lvorbrich@aol.com

John A. Newton III '66 retired in 2003 after 37 years as a space shuttle project engineer for NASA. He resides in Huntsville, Ala., where is busy with volunteer activities, such as the Red Cross, National Ski Patrol, and the First Presbyterian Church. John enjoys taking trips in his RV, golfing, taking hikes, and snow skiing.

David M. Strachan '68 retired last year as an architect developer. He shares that he lucked out and, over the last two years, has been able to sell his company's medical building portfolio. David lives in Del Mar, Calif., with his wife, Tamia, and absolutely loves it. He is the father of three: Carrie, Megan, and Michael. E-mail: dm.strachan@yahoo.com

1970s

William G. Carlson '78 and his wife, Marcie, are very busy with their three boys: Phil (22), Mark (21), and David (16). William is the senior landscape architect for the Bill Carlson Company. Their youngest son, Danny, who is a sophomore in high school, hopes to follow his father's footsteps as a SigEp at Iowa State. The family takes many vacations, and once the boys have graduated college they plan to travel the world. E-mail: bc630@sbcglobal.net

Leslie E. Hazelton '78 and his wife, Cynthia, have two children Meredith (21) and Colin (8). Leslie is a creative director at a Relationship Marketing, Inc. E-mail: hazeltonles@gmail.com



THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI

Kent Watkins '78 is president of E. W. Klien & Company, which is located in Atlanta, Ga. E-mail: Kent.watkins@gmail.com

1980s

Mark E. Samuelson '80 of Delavan, Wis., enjoys hiking trips with his wife, Teresa, and their two teenage sons, Jeremiah and Benjamin. Their most recent adventure was to the Grand Canyon. Mark is the pilot of a 777 International for American Airlines.

James R. Grieve '84 and his wife, Lisa, live in Des Moines, Iowa. They have two children, Taylor and Alex. James works for M&I Bank FSB as the vice president of information and technology. E-mail: james.grieve@micorp.com

C. Fenton Challgren III '87 is employed by Viking Pump as the vice president of operations. He and his wife, Amy, have made their home in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and have three children: Nick, Ben, and Jane. E-mail: fchallgren@cfu.net

Kyle M. Fritz '89 lives in Frisco, Texas, with his wife, Sally, and their two children, Brody (10) and Kendall (8). Kyle is the regional sales manager at Industrial Magnetics. E-mail: kfritz@magnetics.com

1990s

Duane A. Erickson '92 works for Cantor Fitzgerald in Chicago, Ill., as the managing director of institutional fixed income and debt capital markets. He and his wife, Jessica, have one son. E-mail: Dewandjess@comcast.net

Mark E. Holm '98 is a self-employed production coordinator and lives in Ames, Iowa. He and his wife, Kari, have a son, Sawyer. E-mail: meveholm@yahoo.com

2000s

Reid L. Swanson '01 and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their first child, Carter Stephen, in March 2008. Reid is an account manager at National Beef in Kansas City, Mo. E-mail: rlswanson@nationalbeef.com

Thanks to the support of loyal alumni, \$9,860 was contributed with 54 gifts to our spring 2008 appeal. The successes and achievements of the Iowa Beta Chapter are directly attributed to the support and involvement of its members. The active brothers are grateful for and proud of the support they receive from their alumni.

Contributors to the Iowa Beta annual campaign are listed below. Donors' cumulative giving totals are listed by giving level. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, we sincerely apologize. Please send corrections to Sigma Phi Epsilon Iowa Beta, P.O. Box 117, Nevada, IA 50201.

Club 5 (\$2,500 and above)

John V. Hanson '65

Club 4 (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

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Club 3 (\$500 to \$999)

Club 2 (\$100 to \$499)

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Shelly L. Shellabarger '56

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Roger F. Sellew '59

Lynn K. Vorbrich '60

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Iowa Beta HEART TO HEART



Sigma Phi Epsilon

Iowa Beta

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Attention: This newsletter is intended for Iowa Beta alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Iowa State University, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he is no longer in school, please send us his permanent address, to update our records. Thank you.

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