



Eta Iota of Sigma Chi



House Corporation

Fall 2010 Newsletter

Brothers,

As the summer winds down, many of you will be preparing yourselves or your children for the ritualistic return to academics. The Eta Iota House Corporation is also preparing for the return of undergraduate activity to the House.

PETERSON AWARD

Congratulations to the undergraduates for achieving a Peterson Award for 2010. This is the first Peterson since 2005, having come within a half point of winning the award last year and finally achieving success this year. The award was presented to the Brothers of Eta Iota during the annual Balfour Leadership Training Workshop (BLTW) held at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The Eta Iota House Corporation was represented by HC Trustee Brian Lojko and HC Executive Vice President Nick Weiss. Nick was attending workshops conducted by the Grand Trustees, learning and sharing best practices regarding House issues. Brother Lojko was heard saying, "I really want to relive my undergraduate days," and attended BLTW simply to enjoy the plush housing accommodations and Vegas style food buffet.

FIRE ALARM AND MONITORING SYSTEM

The House has a newly installed fire alarm and monitoring system. The project is the culmination of many month's worth of preparation, estimates, and work with the contractors and Sigma Chi Headquarters. The Risk Management Foundation, the insurance mechanism of Sigma Chi, mandated last year that this type of system be installed in order to lower the overall fire risk and to better protect our brother's and our asset. In order to help defray the cost of this type of upgrade, RMF offered a \$3,000.00 grant and the insurance company proposed a \$600.00 yearly premium deduction for those chapters complying with the change. When the project was finished, the upgrade cost approximately \$8,000.00, (\$5,000.00 when deducting the grant), and with the grant and yearly premium deductions, an ROI will be realized in approximately 8 years with a system life expectancy of 10-15 years. Monitoring of the system is internet based and the cost of the monthly service is paid by the undergrads.

40th BIRTHDAY

Plans for the 40th Birthday are well underway. The date has been set for Thursday, March 31st through Sunday, April 3rd. Registration and specific event activity information will be available starting October 1st through our website, www.etaiota.org. In order to ensure fiscal success and to relieve the burden of planning the entire event from one individual,



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the birthday chairperson role has been streamlined to a committee (team) format. The new voluntary committee consists of Brothers James "Gassi" Ahrens, Brian Lojko, and Rich Schooley. Collectively, they will coordinate and help execute many of the weekend events. Additionally, there will be opportunities for alumni brothers to donate either products or services that will be part of a silent auction or similar fundraising event during the birthday weekend. A formal process for donating will be forthcoming.

HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning) INSTALLATION

The second phase of the central A/C system is underway. The south wing will join the north wing in having an updated HVAC system, which will replace the existing wall units. This \$12,000.00 capital improvement project began in the fall of 2009 and should be complete by the end of September, 2010. The upgrade should lower utility costs while at the same time eliminate mold and condensation damage created by the old wall units; this will also reduce/eliminate A/C replacement costs (which has been an annual budget burden).

WINGS AND WAVES

Embry Riddle is hosting another, "Wings and Waves" airshow and alumni weekend October 9th-10th, (not to be confused with homecoming scheduled for November 5th-7th). The Eta Iota HC has not planned for any formal events to coincide with either weekend due to the financial focus of our own 40th birthday party. However, if you are in the area that weekend(s), stop by the House and spend some time with the brothers as we are certain they will they will have their own RMF compliant non alcoholic activities planned.

CHAPTER ADVISOR

Below is an email transmitted on August 22, 2010 by our Grand Praetor, P.J Stephens:

"I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Tim Wargo** (George Mason '91) as the new Chapter Advisor for Sigma Chi Fraternity's Eta Iota Chapter at Embry-Riddle. Tim's appointment is with immediate effect. He replaces **Roger Moody** who has served the chapter with distinction over a number of years, culminating with the chapter's designation as a **J. Dwight Peterson Award** recipient for 2010, the highest honor which Sigma Chi bestows on an individual chapter in our Fraternity.

Tim lives in the Brevard County community of Rockledge, Florida. He serves as a Federal Supervising Agent based in Central Florida for the U. S. Department of Homeland Security in Immigration and Drug Enforcement where he directs a team of Agents.

ERAU/Sigma Chi alumnus **Brian Lojko** attended the Fraternity's Balfour Leadership Training Workshop at the University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill this summer in the Chapter Advisor division. He is prepping Tim for his role. Tim will also be working closely with Roger during his transition period."

We thank Roger for over 8+ years of service and dedication to the Chapter and wish Tim well in his new role.



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NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

And finally, as with any older home or building, repairs are usually consistent with the age of the property...the older the structure, the more maintenance that it requires. The House at 520 South Ridgewood is no exception.

There has been numerous discussions regarding renovations, upgrades, moving the property, the elusive "Greek Row" on campus (how many times have we heard that one), etc. While discussions and meetings continue, the house still must be maintained in a condition that will continue to attract and retain undergraduate tenants, and that is comparable in price and amenities to other apartments or dormitory accommodations. Until such time that a decision is made as to "what happens next," we must plan out our maintenance upgrades and become more *proactive* with these activities rather than *reactive*. To that end, we must coordinate and forecast our fiscal objectives as well. Repairs, renovations and upgrades require capital, and rental income alone cannot meet all of those goals. Membership in the 1855 club and donations directly to the Eta Iota House Corporation make many of the capital improvement projects and goals achievable and also help the HC team to plan for the future. Even with the absence of a mortgage, donations are vital to the success and growth of our Chapter.

This fall, the undergrads are preparing to initiate the 800th Brother from Eta Iota. Your contributions and membership in the 1855 club have helped make this milestone possible. As acting HC President, I encourage you to continue to support the House and the undergrads as you have in the past and I cannot emphasize enough the importance of your support and attendance at the upcoming 40th birthday party; not only to celebrate, renew and relive, but also to help plan and build for the next forty years and beyond.

IHSV,

Robert Tetrault, "Mr. Burns" 2002