

# Sweet Happenings from Your Sweetheart

Sigma Chi ~ Eta Iota

*Merry*  
**Happy Holidays** from Eta Iota!

December 30, 2011

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It has been since October 10<sup>th</sup> that the last newsletter was published, and so much has happened. Eta Iota has joined together and celebrated both Thanksgiving and Christmas with each other. For those who were unable to go home for Thanksgiving, they spent the day with Sigma Chi Brothers and friends eating a delicious feast cooked at the house. The day was a great experience for everyone as they were able to spend the holiday with loved ones because the Brothers are just like family. Then, upon returning to school after break, the Brothers were treated with some turkey shaped treats!



For the Christmas holiday, Eta Iota Brothers got together and decorated the house with the traditional *Merry Christmas* lighting on the roof and Sigma Chi emblazoned decorations. Within the Chapter room, Brothers also decorated a Christmas tree. Then, to celebrate the holiday, Brothers hosted their annual White Elephant Christmas party and gift exchange on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

The night started off with a dinner hosted by a sorority at ERAU - Alpha Xi Delta. Every year, Alpha Xi Delta hosts a fundraiser called Penny Wars and not only does the winning Fraternity receive half of the money raised for their philanthropy, but they also get a homemade cooked dinner.

For the second year in a row, Sigma Chi has won this event and was not only able to raise extra funds for the Children's Miracle Network, but was also able to dine with the sorority. Last year Alpha Xi Delta cooked dinner for White Elephant and due to the success of the night, they women decided to cook, once again, at White Elephant. Eta Iota had a great time this year during the dinner.



A special surprise of the night came to a very special lady as Eta Iota crowned their 2012 Sweetheart (for more information, see page 4). After serenading their new special lady, the Chapter congregated outside of the house to take their annual Christmas picture!



## Eta Iota hosts their annual *Derby Days* fundraiser!

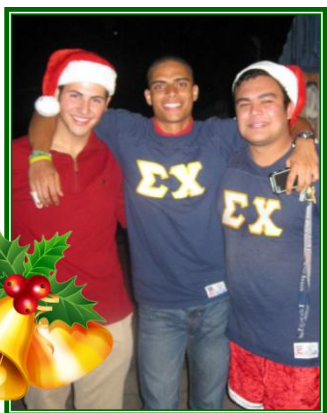
### *Diva Derby Days*

This year was the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Derby Days Event hosted by the Eta Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi – organized by Brother Jeremiah Poff. During the time leading up to the event, the participating sororities – Alpha Xi Delta, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Theta Phi Alpha – raised money in order to bid on different Brothers for the coach's auction.

Held in early October, the coach's auction allowed for the sororities to bid on and obtain two Brothers who acted as coaches to the sororities during the event. These Brothers helped the women fundraise money and plan for the events during the week with the ultimate goal of helping their sorority win. During the auction, Alpha Xi Delta bid on and won Brothers Andres Villalobos and Pedro Pinero, Sigma Sigma Sigma bid on and won Brothers Taylor Quackenbush and David Cruz, and Theta Phi Alpha bid on and won Brothers Jim Baldyga and Jason Auger.

The theme for the event was Divas – each of the sororities selected a diva to represent during the week (November 6<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>). On the first day, the Brothers hosted a *Banner BBQ* at the house in which the sororities came over and decorated wooden boards which represented both their sorority and diva. These banners were judged and the sororities were ranked from 1 to 3.

On the second day, each of the Brothers wore crazy hats and the women went around campus and tried to make the Brothers laugh. If they were successful, the girl was able to obtain the hat and gain their sorority a point. The sorority with the highest points won that event. On the 8<sup>th</sup>, the sororities competed in an underwater obstacle course and on the 9<sup>th</sup>, they competed in an event called *Slick Sig*. During this event, each of the coaches got oiled up with baby oil and were chased around by the other sororities until they women were able to catch them.



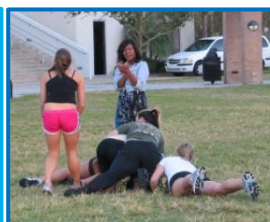
Brothers Tim, David, and Christian showing off their holiday spirits!

"It is the most human and kindly of seasons, as fully penetrated and irradiated with the feeling of human brotherhood, which is the essential spirit of Christianity, as the month of June with sunshine and the balmy breath of roses."

*George William Curtis*

"The merry family gatherings - the old, the very young; the strangely lovely way they harmonize in carols sung. For Christmas is tradition time - traditions that recall the precious memories down the years, the sameness of them all."

*Helen Lowrie Marshall*



### The finest of the events – *Diva Dance!*

The final day of the week was the premier event – it was an event where the sororities perform a dance routine (themed around their selected diva) with their coaches called *Diva Dance*. Then, later on in the evening, the coaches performed a dance that they choreographed in order to gain extra points for their sorority. This evening brought about a large audience in which the ticket sales helped to raise extra money for the week.



### And the winners are ...

At the end of the week, the total amount raised was slightly over \$3500. Sigma Sigma Sigma placed first in the *Banner BBQ* and *Slick Sig* events and Alpha Xi Delta placed first in making Brothers laugh as well as the underwater obstacle. In a very close race, Alpha Xi Delta also came out on top in the *Diva Dance*.

Half of the total money raised went to the organizations decided on by Eta Iota – these included the Wounded Warriors, Children's Miracle Network, and the Huntsman Cancer Society. The rest of the money was split up according to how the sororities placed overall throughout the week. On Veteran's Day, during halftime of the

ERAU Women's soccer game, the final winner was announced. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> time since the start of Derby Days in 2007, Alpha Xi Delta came out on top through not only winning 3 of the events during the week but also by raising \$2500 of the \$3500 total.

The Brothers also named a Derby Queen. The Derby Queen is the women who did the most for both her sorority and for Sigma Chi and works the hardest to raise money. The Derby Queen was announced at White Elephant – Johanna Petrocelli of Sigma Sigma Sigma. Her hard work was noticed by the Brothers during the week and they wanted to recognize and thank her for all that she did.



Andres and Spencer look great in their candid Christmas pictures!



HI Sweethearts from 2009/2010, 2012, and 2011 – Bridget, Mariah, and Michelle – posing in front of the Christmas tree.

# Eta Iota Initiates 15 New Brothers!!

Now over *800 Winged Sigs!*

On Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>, Eta Iota initiated 15 new brothers of the Gamma Omicron pledge class. There are now over 800 brothers initiated into the chapter. These men, guided by Magister Trevor Simms, worked diligently during their pledging period and earned their way into becoming initiated Brothers of Sigma Chi. They are very excited to begin their journey as Sigma Chis and hope to do great things for both the Chapter and the Fraternity as a whole.

|                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| #792 - Devin Huff     | #793 - Ramy Ghaly     | #794 - Mike Woodward  |
| #795 - Conner Trotter | #796 - Trevor Johnson | #797 - Blake Ditlow   |
| #798 - Alejandro Baza | #799 - Zach Bettis    | #800 - Liam Riden     |
| #801 - Paul Renart    | #802 - Adam Frazier   | #803 - Joe Sarli      |
| #804 - Kirk Haun      | #805 - Frank Nosek    | #806 - Carlos Giraldo |

The day was a very special occasion for two particular men - new initiate Kirk Haun and older brother, Eta Iota 2001 Alumnus Chris Haun. Chris was at his younger brother's initiation and was honored with being able to pin Kirk. There were also several other Sigma Chi Alumni Brothers at initiation including Central Florida Grand Praetor PJ Stephens, former HI Chapter Advisor Roger Moody, current HI Chapter Advisor Derek Pizzo, ERAU Faculty Advisor Joe Gablin, and Birthday Chair James Ahrens. Other alumni present included recent graduates Ryan Rush and Arash Sabet-Rasekh. The 15 newly initiated Brothers also had the opportunity to meet and hang out with HI Alumni Nick Nelson, Joe McCaffery, and John Gagne that night.

For best communications with the Chapter, you can contact the Tribune, Blake Ditlow. His phone number is 267.664.4511 and his email is [blake.ditlow@gmail.com](mailto:blake.ditlow@gmail.com).



## Christmas gifts for the Brothers ♥

As the 2011 Sweetheart, I wanted to make sure the Brothers were treated to extra special Christmas gifts this year. Last year, with the help of my mother and little sister, each of the Brothers were given a personalized ornament, stocking decoration, and miniature stocking full of candy. This year, all of the past year's initiated Brothers were given the same personalized gifts. I also wanted to give each Brother a little memento of my favorite memories with each of them - decorated frames.



More *Derby Days* pictures ...



## 2012 Sweetheart Crowned

# Mariah Law

With each year comes new beginnings and it is my distinct pleasure to announce to Brothers and Sweethearts the new beginning that has come to Eta Iota. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Eta Iota Chapter crowned a new Sweetheart at their annual White Elephant Christmas Party. Her name is Mariah Law and she is really excited to embark on the next year representing Eta Iota as their Sweetheart. With that, I want to tell everyone a little bit about her.

Mariah Colleen Law is 19 years old and is from North Salem, New York. She is in the class of 2014 at ERAU studying Space Physics with a minor in Astronomy. At school, she serves as Resident Advisor in the dorms, is an active member on the Orientation Team and is a Sister in the Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority. She is also in the Honors Program and a member of the Crew Team. In her free time, Mariah enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and being outdoors.

Mariah is very dedicated to help further Eta Iota's accomplishments and is very excited for everything that is about to come her way. She has also expressed to me that she is "ready to begin to make a mark in the hearts of Brothers, the Chapter, and hopefully the whole Fraternity."

## News from the newly appointed Eta Iota Chapter Advisor – DEREK PIZZO

Eta Iota has been recently appointed a new Chapter Advisor – Derek Pizzo. Central Florida Grand Praetor, PJ Stephens, stated: "Brother Pizzo has been appointed to the position of Chapter Advisor for the Eta Iota Chapter at ERAU. He succeeds Brother Brian Lojko who has resigned. Brother Pizzo is a 2009 graduate of Embry-Riddle. He is familiar with the chapter having served it as Quaestor, Consul, and House Corporation Trustee in recent years. More recently he has served as a member of Chapter Advisor Mike Hines' Chapter Advisory Board at Epsilon Zeta Chapter at Florida State. Derek received Cornerstone training last summer at BLTW." PJ also stated that "Derek has proven himself to be level headed, focused and professional in his demeanor in my dealings with him. His term in office begins immediately."

As Eta Iota's new Chapter Advisor, Derek wanted to write a letter to all Brothers.

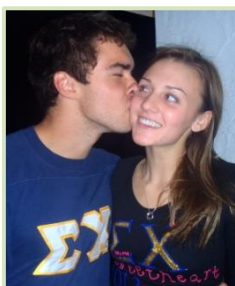
Brothers,

*I am both honored and humbled to be the next Chapter Advisor to Eta Iota. Our long standing tradition of exceptional performance both within Sigma Chi and at Embry-Riddle I only hope to make stronger. Eta Iota has seen many different styles of Chapter Advisors and mine will be different too. During my term I will emphasize the "advisor" in Chapter Advisor. The amount of learning that can be achieved is only exemplified by the mistakes that the undergrads learn to get up from. With that being said, there is also a lot of learning ahead for myself.*

*My first order of business will be to establish a Chapter Advisory Board. Not only is this now a requirement to have for chapters to win a Peterson award, but it helps*



**LEFT**  
**Top** Mariah Law  
**Bottom** Painting Brother David Cruz's face during Derby Days  
**RIGHT**  
**Top** Me hugging Mariah right after being named Sweetheart  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Brothers serenading Bridget (2009,2010), Mariah, and myself (2011)  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Me and Mariah  
**Bottom** Mariah with boyfriend Jim Baldyga



## Eta Iota Alumni are making differences within Sigma Chi!

Eta Iota has always been a successful chapter and the undergraduates have worked hard to do great things for the school and the house. But not only do the undergraduates make differences within the Fraternity, but so do many of the HI Alumni. Check out what a few HI Alumni are doing for Sigma Chi. Here is what Brad Vomacka (2005 Alumnus, HI House Corp. Trustee) is doing ...

*Wej (Jason Morang, 2006 Alumnus) and I both live in the Manchester, NH area and have since graduation. Three years ago there was a push by some local Alumni to start a Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter in NH. A brother from DC, Josh Hartman, took the lead and started contacting the Sigs that lived in NH. Both Wej and I were interested from the start. We have both been active members in our new New Hampshire Alumni Chapter over the past few years and that has lead us to be founding members of the Sigma Chi Colony at the University of New Hampshire. We are currently in our 3<sup>rd</sup> semester of colonization at UNH and the guys are doing great. The colony's numbers have grown each semester and we are on pace for a Spring 2013 Installation.*

*Wej and I aren't alone in our participation up here in NH. Fellow Eta Iota brother Scott Bacon (2006 Alumnus) is also involved with both the Colony and the Alumni Chapter. Scott and his wife Sam live in the Seacoast area of the State and Scott is around as much as his Army Reserve schedule allows him to be.*

If any other HI Alumni are active within Sigma Chi and would like to share your story, send it in! Everyone would love to hear about what you are doing to better the Brotherhood.



## Eta Iota Communications

Don't forget – you can keep in touch with the Eta Iota Sweetheart and keep up with the happenings through email, Facebook, and Twitter!

Email [sweetheart@etaiota.org](mailto:sweetheart@etaiota.org)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/EtaIota.Sweetheart](https://www.facebook.com/EtaIota.Sweetheart)

Twitter [SigmaChiERAU](https://twitter.com/SigmaChiERAU)

*the undergrads gain different perspectives from different alumnus. So far, Chuck Bonini, Nick Hugo and Sean Stefanak have volunteered their time to be part of the CAB. Chuck is the only member living in Daytona Beach and will work directly with the Magister and pledge program. Nick is a facilitator for Sigma Chi's Rush 365 and will be paired with the Recruitment Chair. Sean is an up and coming entrepreneur and will be paired with the Quaestor. With the CAB in place, we will be able to have consistency as undergrads change between positions and a better flow of the overall operations. I am still looking for volunteers for the CAB. If interested please contact me at 386-450-1954.*

Thank you brothers!

HI Brothers and Sweethearts,

It is officially my last newsletter and as I write it, I cannot help but think of all of the wonderful experiences that I have had over the past year and how grateful I am that I was given the opportunity to represent Eta Iota as your Sweetheart. This past year has forever changed my life and I will always look back on my time working with Eta Iota with great joy. It was very nice being able to meet everyone at 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday and learn about all of the Brothers who have been initiated over the years. Thank you very much for sharing your stories with me and I hope that I have been able to make an impact on the Brothers who crowned me their Sweetheart. I look forward to the coming years where I can come back with my soon-to-be husband and Eta Iota Chapter Advisor, Derek Pizzo, and see how the Chapter has grown.

I have made great friends during this past year, many of whom who have become family. Being a part of the Eta Iota family will forever leave an impact on my heart and I hope that I can stay involved for as long as I can. I truly believe that Sigma Chi is a great Fraternity teaching men how to become extraordinary leaders and friends and I love what it does for everyone that is given the opportunity to be a part of it – both Brothers and Sweethearts. So as this year comes to a close, I wanted to thank you all for what I have experienced throughout this past year and I hope that we will meet again. I want to leave you all with the wonderful memories I have made during this past year and hope that they bring back as much happiness as it does to me.

*Love Your 2011 Sweetheart* ♥

