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Kappa Sigma Fraternity Beta-Sigma Chapter News

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Spring 2010 at a glance



Thurtene Carnival

Beta Sig and KKG won the prestigious Burmeister award at the Thurtene Carnival this year, along with the Spirit cup. Proceeds from the carnival benefit The Family Resource Center.



Habitat for Humanity

Brothers stayed in St. Louis after exams ended to take part in a Kappa Sigma philanthropy event. "This is something new," Kappa Sigma Philanthropy Chair Jon Kornblau said. "In the past, philanthropy has not been one of our strongest points, and we are really trying to improve on that and do something more impactful in the community."



Seniors

We'd like to extend our congratulations to:

Borkan, Kenneth Alan
Caplan, Seth Daniel
Demers, Peter Swain
Eckhart, William McKinley
Kim, Paul Jongha
Sauer, Peter Warren
Statman, Scott Matthew
Steinbock, Michael Joseph
Thomas, Matthew Michael
Zbikowski, Jeffrey Mark

Brothers walk to prevent suicide



Members of the Wash U community joined brothers in a walk to prevent suicide prevention. Brothers solicited donations online

from friends and family, raising over one thousand dollars for The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and ranking as one of the top ten fundraising teams for the event. In addition, the Chapter worked together in publicizing the event on Facebook and flyers posted around the South Forty. Brother Louis Keene, a member of the Philanthropy Committee, even received permission from Student Union to paint the underpass, garnering much attention for the event.

“The event was, unfortunately, timely, given the wave of student suicides across the country that have been on the news lately,” remarked Brother Ryan Kang. Many members of our brotherhood expressed personal connection to this event and have personally been affected by suicide.

“We were happy with the turnout,” said Keene. “Many of the other teams walking that day were walking in

honor of a friend or family member. Though we as a team were not walking for anyone specifically, everybody clearly appreciated our attendance.”

“Given how well organized the event was and how important an issue it is to the Brotherhood, it is quite likely that this will become an annual event,” said Brother Tucker Krone.

It’s not too late to donate online at kappasig.wustl.edu/walk

Semi-Formal at the City Museum

This year’s Semi-Formal, organized by senior brothers Forrest Xiao and Jordan Jacobs, was held at the City Museum. “The City Museum is an unusual choice for semi-formal, but the Brotherhood really embraced the idea” said Jacobs. Brother Greg Villeneuve remarked, “It was fun to be able to explore the museum with your date while taking a break from the dance floor.”



However, the exhibits at the museum were not the only entertainment that Jacobs and Xiao had arranged for the night. The Noam Chomskys, a Wash U student band, performed live all night. According to Brother

Willy Huang, “the live music added an exciting dynamic to the event — much more fun than just playing an iPod playlist.” At one point, Pledge Will Rogers even free-styled with the band for a song or two.

“This year’s formal was very successful and affordable, and will serve as a model for formals and semi-formals to come,” said Xiao.

Large Presence on Airwaves

Five brothers host three shows on Wash U’s radio station, KWUR 90.3 FM.

Brother Louis Keene: “Campus radio is a dying medium. There’s no other way in St. Louis or on campus to express yourself the way KWUR lets you. I love being able to share music and broadcast it live for my brothers in the house and my friends across the country.”

Brother Greg Sergay: “The radio station is a robust underground community of alternative thinkers. KWURians bring a fresh perspective to a, sometimes, homogeneous music scene on campus. I am proud to say lots of Kappa Sigmas are involved in the station and partying it up – alternative bro style.”

Listen to KWUR online at KWUR.com.

Brother leads Wilderness Project

Contributed by Brother Colin Whitmarsh.

During my spring semester as a sophomore I spent four weekends training to become a leader for Washington University’s Wilderness Project. The Wilderness Project is a student run pre-orientation programs that serves to provide a smooth transition for freshmen into the Washington University community. Wilderness Project was founded on the phi-

losophy that the natural environment provides a neutral space for facilitating life’s transitions, for promoting personal growth, and for discussing pressing social issues. Outside the context of everyday routines, students gain a powerful perspective on their lives, their communities, and how they fit into a global perspective.

The project is designed to challenge the participants to be effective, socially and environmentally conscious leaders.

This past August I co-lead a trail group of nine freshmen in the Mark Twain National Forest



outside Eminence, MO. The trip was a blast and I had an incredible time as a leader, making new friends and enjoying the opportunity to introduce freshmen into a part of Washing-



ton University's community. After the trip was over, I, along with five other leaders was selected to be on the Steering Committee for Wilderness Project 2011. As the governing body of Wil-

derness Project, we are currently in the middle of reviewing applications to choose the future leaders and are planning their weekend trainings which will take place next semester. I love Wilderness Project and see it as one of the best communities I've been a part of at Washington University.

Brother tutors Engineering students

Contributed by Brother Tucker Krone.

I have made it a point to be present in a community outside of my chapter. I have been a tutor in the Engineering School for six classes. I am proud to be Greek and the people who I tutor in the Engineering School know I am Greek. It feels great to be Greek and involved

in an academic environment that helps other people. I hate the negative stereotypes revolving around Greek Life and I use my involvement in other activities to show the true face of Greek Life. I was also a TA for Engineering Math Spring Semester 2010. Being a Greek TA empowered me because I proved how Greek students care about school, can excel in school and care about other people being successful in school.

I worked for Dr. Martha Hasting. I held office hours three times a week, proctored each exam and was a part of the grading team for each exam.

Office hours were a rewarding experience because I was able to continue my exposure and understanding of the Engineering Math topics and I was able to help other people grasp the concepts. Engineer Math covers material



I have used in every engineering class I have taken. The continuing exposure gave me a deeper understanding

that has helped me to succeed in subsequent classes. It was rewarding to see the students who came regularly gain confidence and need my assistance less as the semester progressed.

Proctoring exams has been a learning experience. I was entrusted to be the head proctor of an exam room. I had to learn how to deal with students who appear to be looking at other people's papers, brought the wrong calculator, have more or larger note cards than allowed and students who go over time. I learned how to separate being a peer from having responsibility. I also answered students' questions, and

even at times, was asked by the graduate school proctor what the correct answer was.

Grading had the largest learning curve. I learned how to organize exams so I could maintain consistency among mistakes. It was a welcome challenge to grade many different approaches to the same problem.

After one of the exams, I received a phone call from one of my friends who was in Engineering Math while I was the TA. She was crying because she had points taken off for turning her exam in late. I learned a lot about separating work from personal relationships.

I enjoyed being a TA and being Greek and involved in the Engineering school helps me to fight negative stereotypes of Greek students.

Greek Week a Huge Success

Contributed by Brother Andy Lowell.

Greek Week 2010 was a huge success! Kappa Sigma teamed up with ZBT, ΣX , $A\Phi$, $\beta\Theta\Pi$, and $\Pi\beta\Phi$ to form the Hip Team. We had a great turn out at all of the events.

We had great turnouts at the events. “I had a lot of fun playing beach volleyball at Greek Olympics,” exclaims Brother Eric Fischer, “it was great to play with other fraternities and sororities.” Some other events included guest speaker Dr. Corey Ciochetti who spoke to the Greek Community and oth-



ers about reducing stress. “I learned a lot from Dr. Ciochetti. He really showed me how to deal with my stress. It also helped that he was really funny and engaging,” remarked Brother Bill Restemayer.

Greek Week culminated with Greek Prom, a formal event in Bowles Plaza where the winners of Greek Week were announced. The anticipation grew throughout the night to see who the winner would be. Finally, the moment came... “and the winner is... Hip Team!” Kappa Sigma’s team had won. Brother Roger Koche lamented, “Of course I was nervous. Who wouldn’t be? We had great attendance at the events and we won several of them, but I just couldn’t be sure. It was a great moment though when we found out that we won.”

Chapter History

The Beta-Sigma chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Washington University in St. Louis was founded on November 22nd, 1902 by six original members: H. F. Parker, Wm. B. Latta, Robert Funkhouser, Oscar Kilby, Dan C. Goodman, and Sargent F. Jones.

The first fraternity at the University to move out of the dormitories into our own house – by 1907, membership had grown to 17. Forced to relinquish our charter in 1939 due to many of our members serving our country during WWII, we returned to campus in 1946, and built the newest and most modern building on campus in 1951. The chapter house was an experiment in postwar construction that utilized excess battleship steel in the house’s exterior walls and floors thanks to Beta Sigma alumnus Norman J. Stupp and his family’s company, Stupp Brothers Bridge and Iron Co. The house enjoyed the honor of being one of the safest and sturdiest structures in the entire St. Louis metropolitan area until its demolition in 1995, when we vacated our house to make way for the Law Building, and moved to our current location – House #7 on Fraternity Row.

On June 30, 2001, the University exercised a buy-out option in our lease, and we have since rented the building from the school. Kappa Sigma at Wash U boasts the largest active brotherhood and consistently has one of the largest pledge classes.