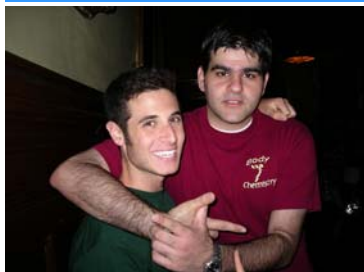


# The Front Rho

## Alpha Epsilon Pi, Beta Rho Chapter



David Guttman and Tal Itzkovich

### Highlights of the semester:

- 3 successful parties
- 3 join as Mu Pledge Class
- Pledge trip to the Berkshires
- Basement hallway painted by pledges for the pledge project
- Alumni visit for Homecoming Weekend
- 3 successful blood drives
- Fall Formal at the Gatehouse

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### Greetings from the Master

Dear Friends and Alumni,

In the last six months, the Beta Rho chapter has been continuing on its mission to become as fine a fraternity as Charles C. Moskowitz was a basketball player.

This semester, we have had one of the few fall pledge classes in our history. The Mu Pledge class has dubbed itself "The Greatest Pledge Class Ever," and though they haven't yet compiled the statistics to back up their lack of humility, their work so far puts them on the right track. Under the leadership of Pledgemaster Tal Itzkovich, the pledge class finished painting our basement, and the walls in the corridor are now the bright blue color of the AEPi pledge pin. The pledges raised money to buy their ceremonial paddle and helped serve the Providence community by throwing a Halloween party, in conjunction with Greek Liaison Isaac Haxton, for kids in local schools. To back it all up, every pledge knew the names of every one of the Immortal Eleven on the pledge test.

In further success, under the leadership of Social Chair Craig Convissar, AEPi has cemented its role as Brown's finest fraternity for social events. New fire codes instituted this year as a response to the Station Night Club fire required fraternities to move campus-wide parties to Sayles Hall. Sayles Hall is where President Ruth Simmons entertains her guests; the room has portraits of past Brown presidents on the wall, as well as a multi-million-dollar, one-of-a-kind organ. AEPi was the only fraternity that was able to rise to the challenge of the new fire codes and throw a successful party. Body Chemistry VIII, held in Sayles, was the first campus-wide party of the year and still holds its title as the best. The portraits and the organ remained intact, and we gained a reputation as a

fraternity able to host responsible, enjoyable parties in the eyes of both the student body and the University.

Rush Chair David Guttman is taking our tremendous successes this semester and turning them into rush results. We are greatly looking forward to this year's rush, and based on the momentum we've gained this semester and the number of men who have already expressed interest in AEPi, I think we are all expecting a rush class large enough that we might have to move it into Sayles Hall.

As you read on in this issue of The Front Rho and see how many new challenges we have undertaken this semester and how many traditions we have improved, I hope you will come to be as proud of our chapter as I am.

Sincerely,

Tucker Peck '05

Brother Master "Manny"



Master Tucker Peck and Leigh Elion

THANK YOU

TO THE BETA RHO FUND

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE!

<http://students.brown.edu/aepi>

## Lt. Master's Report

As the fall semester rapidly draws to a close, I once again wonder with a heavy heart where all the time has gone. This semester has just flown by. Soon enough, the frenzy of final examinations will subside, and brothers will head home for Winter Vacation and some much needed rest and relaxation. We leave Beta Rho this semester with much to be proud of. I am both extremely pleased and extremely thankful that we have made lasting contributions to our house, our school, and our community, and managed to have a lot of fun in the process.

Not only did we meet our goal for charitable donations this semester, but we doubled it. Under the leadership of Community Service Chair Alex Levi, Beta Rho has continued its dedication to community service and community action. With profits from our annual furniture sale, Beta Rho made sizeable donations to the Alpha Epsilon Pi Foundation, benefiting Jewish children in Ethiopia, and to the American Jewish World Society, benefiting victims of violence in Sudan. Brothers also played a leading role in planning and executing three blood drives this semester for the Rhode Island Blood Center, helping in one drive to raise a record 350 pints of blood.

By virtue of the tireless leadership of Athletics Chair/spiritual leader Phil Kalisman, Beta Rho has continued to (nearly) dominate the hardwood, the turf, and the grass. This semester, we fielded top-notch teams in basketball, indoor soccer, and football, in which we made the playoffs.

Our Jewish Affairs Chair, Dan Gradess, has been indispensable in facilitating continued good relations with Hillel and planning fun and interesting Jewish-oriented events. Dan organized this year's Yom Kippur break-fast, which was remarkably well attended, as well as a blow-the-roof-off Chanukah celebration.

Study Breaks Chair Jeb Berman was also in rare form this semester. His Election Day Study Break proved a tremendous success, as brothers



Lt. Master Jesse Boodoo and Jessica Zerillo

and their friends flocked to the AEPi lounge to watch election returns and enjoy Allison Lauterbach's famous apple pie. Jeb then outdid himself with his Reading Period Study Break, featuring S'mores roasted at the newly-functional AEPi fireplace. This could not have come at a better time. Our lounge was once again packed, as students looked to relieve the stress of final exams in a friendly environment.

Over twenty-five brothers and their dates enjoyed our Fall Formal this year at The Gatehouse in Providence. Couples, all dressed to impress, relished in the fine cuisine and excellent company at the restaurant, beautifully set on the Seekonk River. While some danced the night away, others enjoyed an evening of scotch-sipping and fine cigars. For all who were there, it was an occasion to remember. Call me partial, but in my humble opinion our Fall Formal, and our entire fall semester for that matter, were truly the best ever.

Jesse Boodoo '06

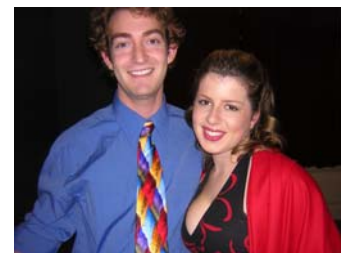
Lt. Master "Rocker"



Formal at the Gatehouse



Study Breaks Chair Jeb Berman with Allison Lauterbach



Minor Board Chairs Phil Kalisman, Alex Levi, & Dan Gradess



## Convention in Phoenix, Arizona

Attending the 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona provided a wonderful opportunity to meet brothers from around North America and learn many ways of continuing to improve the Beta Rho chapter. After a few hours on the airplane, I arrived in sunny Phoenix at a huge five-star resort. Needless to say, I was quite comfortable with my accommodations; king size bed, marble bathroom, and plenty of air conditioning to beat the Phoenix “dry heat.”

Most of the days during Convention were filled with educational events and speakers. I attended seminars on chapter operations, various leadership positions, risk management, proper ritual conduct, pledging, and of course rush. Each of these sessions provided me with new ideas to bring back to Providence. Nightlife at Convention included a 200-person charity Texas Hold ‘Em tournament (in which I placed 17th and won my flashy new AEPi license plate,) as well as ample time to visit with friends from other chapters and meet new brothers.

Convention also marked the outset of the AEPi Commitment to Excellence program. Under this new program, each chapter met with representatives of the Official Family to set goals for the chapter relating to all aspects of the house. I particularly enjoyed choosing goals for our chapter with our Regional Governor, Past Supreme Master David Bacharach, Director of Chapter Services Andy Borans, and our leadership consultant, Dani Greenspan. I am proud of the direction in which our chapter is heading, and the Commitment to Excellence program will ensure that we keep up the good work.

I definitely encourage active brothers and alumni alike to attend the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in Washington, DC. Attending Convention was a great opportunity for me last summer and I look forward to being part of a huge Beta Rho contingent this coming summer in Washington.

Rob Lazerow '06  
Exchequer “Rug”

## Alumni Happenings

It has been an active semester for the Beta Rho alumni. Beginning early last summer, many of the brothers joined our alumni in New York City to enjoy sushi, sake, and singing at 2<sup>nd</sup> on 2<sup>nd</sup>. It was a great opportunity for the new brothers of the Lambda pledge class to meet alumni and say goodbye to the recently graduated brothers from the Class of 2004.

Throughout the semester, alums have been frequently dropping by to say hello, see the new house improvements, and sit in on a meeting or two. Some were amazed by how radically the house had changed since their time at Brown, while others were pleased to notice the small changes and additions that had occurred most recently.

On the weekend of October 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a number of alumni for Homecoming weekend. Friday night featured music, drinks, and a fierce game of poker between the brothers and alumni. Saturday morning saw a group of us trek out to the stadium for some tailgating and fabulous Brown football. The alumni and brothers braved the wind and the cold to watch the Bears crush the Big Red of Cornell, and then went out to dinner after the game to celebrate. The next morning, brothers, parents and alumni

convened in our lounge to devour a breakfast of bagels and lox. This gave our parents the opportunity to meet some of the brothers who had founded our chapter, as well as those who had molded the fraternity and continued its traditions. All in all, it was a great weekend.

So, what’s next for Beta Rho alumni? **On the evening of Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 8 pm, we will be gathering at the Amsterdam Billiard Club on 344 Amsterdam Ave in New York City.** We'll send out updates and reminders to our alumni as we approach that date. See you in New York!

Michael Gladstone '07  
Alumni Relations Chair “Bait”



Mike Gladstone with Chris Schmitt



Rob Lazerow with Tal Itzkovich, some time after returning from Convention



Tucker Peck and Craig Convissar, looking forward to the Brother/Alumni event in NYC and the 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in Washington

## Pledgemaster's Report

The best part of being a brother of AEPi is undoubtedly pledging. Usually, we have to wait all year for our spring pledge class, but through clever planning during the summer, we were able to have the third fall pledge class in Beta Rho history. I am proud to present the three members of the Mu pledge class:

Joseph Austerweil '07 – Brother “How Do You Ask A Man To Be The Last Man To Die For A Mistake?”

Rahim Kassam-Adams '07 – Brother “Rand McNally”

Christopher Schmitt '06 – Brother “Walrus”

This fall's pledge program had to be adapted for the smaller pledge class size, but nothing was lost in the process. We continued the traditions of pledge packs and pledge books, ensuring that pledges became acquainted with all the men who would soon become their brothers. The pledge trip to Master Tucker Peck's Berkshire house was the highlight of the program, as pledges and brothers enjoyed a day of hiking and a night in the mountains.

While most pledge classes are able to divide up their tasks among different members, Chris, Joe, and Rahim had to work together on all aspects of the pledge process. But the Mu Pledges were up to the challenge. They accomplished their fundraising goal by having brothers and pledges participate in an economics experiment studying social welfare issues. They also completed their community service by leading local children around Wriston on Halloween to visit Greek houses. And of course, the pledge project gave the Mu's an opportunity to make a lasting contribution to the house, in the form of painting our basement hallway and doors a delightful Gold and Blue.

Lastly, a special thanks must go out to Beta Rho Founding Father and Chapter Advisor Josh Mandel '99, for visiting us and teaching the pledges all about our chapter history. This helped them to put their experience into perspective and gain a greater appreciation of the tradition they were about to become a part of.

Tal Itzkovich '06

Pledgemaster “Piggy”



Chris, Joe, Tal, and Rahim working on the pledge project



Isaac Haxton and Joe Austerweil



Chris, Rahim, Nate, and Joe



The newly initiated Mu Pledge Class

## Pledging a Jewish Fraternity

For this issue of *The Front Rho*, I was given the task of describing what it means to me to be a non-Jewish pledge of a Jewish fraternity. I found this surprisingly difficult, since it was the first time I was asked to focus on AEPi as a religious organization. I hadn't previously thought much about my pledge brothers in those terms.

At certain times, though, pledging AEPi has been a cultural experience akin to visiting a foreign country. When I first began thinking about the prospect of joining a Jewish fraternity, I was surprised to realize that I had never really had much experience with Judaism before. I had only really known two people who were actually Jewish, and they were those "really lucky kids" who got presents on both Christmas and Hanukah. Not exactly the best representatives of the faith.

The hard part of joining a Jewish fraternity is sometimes being a bit on the outside of certain aspects of the culture. There is a fair amount of dialogue that goes on here that pivots around Jewish ethnicity and connections that I don't really understand yet, but I am slowly coming to learn and appreciate them. Judaism, not just as a religion but also as a culture, is on some level always present here, and that has taken a bit of getting used to.

However, I've really fallen in love with AEPi, and, as a result, with many facets of Judaism. AEPi brothers combine a good-natured attitude towards the principles of their faith with a high degree of comical introspection. I believe this creates a great atmosphere for brotherhood, and I am proud to be a part of it. There is not a single person in Beta Rho who isn't enormously talented, good-natured, brilliant, or above all, exciting. I know these traits are not exclusive to Judaism or AEPi, but I believe I am coming to understand the values common to both.

Christopher Schmitt '06

Brother “Walrus”

## Beta Rho Brother Makes History

Two days after finishing my freshman year at Brown, my older brother, Matthew, now a senior at Tufts, asked me to help him with a documentary idea he had. He wanted me to help him film the first legalized gay marriages issued on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since I live in Salem, it was only a half-hour away from my home, and as my brother put it, it was "history in the making." At first, I was reluctant because it was the first week after my finals had ended and I wasn't thrilled by the prospect of doing anything besides sitting on a beach, but he convinced me to do it anyway. We borrowed a camera from Tufts University and proceeded to film the event on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

This turned out to be one of the most interesting experiences of my life. I witnessed more human drama than I've ever seen. Ten thousand people showed up outside of Cambridge City Hall. Most of them were there to cheer the event, with the exception of a group called the West-boro Baptist Church who protested against it. Heated arguments broke out between members of this group and other people in attendance, and this is where much of the drama emerged. I filmed this, as well as interviews with newly married gay couples and others attending the event. After that night, I knew we had some great material for a documentary. This is when we got serious.

Over the course of the summer,

with the help of another filmmaker, Jerri Sher, my brother and I interviewed more than twenty religious, political, and human rights leaders about the issue. We also followed the lives of two gay couples, both raising young kids, who serve as the emotional centerpiece of our film. All in all, we filmed over thirty hours of footage, and I've spent the past three months editing them into a feature-length documentary. I should have a rough cut done within a month. What happens with it when we finish is anybody's guess, but I will be very proud to complete it and say that I took part in making it.

Noah Pohl '07

Brother "Jefferson"

## Alumni Announcements

**Pete Cohen '98**— Married to Robbie Millstein

**Jon Lee '99**— Married to Glenna Halperin

**Eric Snyder '04**— Engaged to Cara Zeldis

**Ben Kintisch '02.5**— Started JTS Cantorial School

**David Schuster '01**— Discovered new particle

**Mike Teitelbaum '02**— Engaged to Alexy Scholl

ALUMNI, SEND ANNOUNCEMENTS TO  
MICHAEL\_GLADSTONE@BROWN.EDU  
AND GO TO THE WEBSITE TO SUBMIT  
EVENTS, CREATE A PROFILE, OR  
UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO!



Noah Pohl and Rich Gottesman

## Fall 2004 Officers

Tucker Peck '05	Master
Jesse Boodoo '06	Lieutenant Master
Dan Teitelbaum '06	Scribe
Rob Lazerow '06	Exchequer
Tal Itzkovich '06	Sentinel
David Grabiner '05	Brother-at-Large
Nate Cohen '06	House Manager
Mike Rozensher '05	Immediate Past Master
Tal Itzkovich '06	Pledgemaster

*This issue of The Front Rho newsletter is brought to you by Scribe Dan Teitelbaum '06.*



Scribe Dan Teitelbaum and Scribe Emeritus Jesse Stout