

The Graduate Link

Beta Pi's Graduate Newsletter

Beta Pi Chapter Phi Gamma Delta Bradley University October 2003

Calling Out 2003 Successful!



Bottom Row: Nick Kuhnel, Steve Kessler, Ross Smith, Amit Riswadkar, Roy Fiorello, Tim Unser
2nd Row: Peter Lawin, Joe Sullivan, Nate Steele, Greg Rider, Mark Sheehan, Peter Bobis, Brandon Shallcross, Dave Deutsch
3rd Row: Brett Miller, Matt Adams, Steve Caponigri, Matt Rafferty, Kenny Koch, Tom Polokonis
Back Row: Randy Satterthwaite, Stephen Shuman, Jason Weber, Steve Duke, Bob Schaich, Jesse Smith, Dan Pelphey

The members of Beta Pi would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the Graduate Brothers who helped make Fall 2003 Rush the best it possibly could be. Without their years of experience, there is no way we could have recruited the caliber of gentlemen we did.

Name: Amit Riswadkar
 Year: Freshman
 Major: Computer Science
 Hometown: Schaumburg, Illinois
 -I am interested in music, computers, and hanging out with friends. The reason I joined FIJI is because most other fraternities gave us rushees a superficial image of what they were. FIJI did not have to do this, and I found that I fit in very easily with this bunch of guys. In high school, I was involved in Internet Club, German Club, Quiz Bowl, Tennis, and Academic Challenge. Here, I am planning to get involved with BuFusion.net, Quiz Bowl, and Intramurals (outdoor soccer, and table tennis).

Name: Mark Sheehan
 Year: Freshman
 Major: Mechanical Engineering
 Hometown: Pekin, Illinois
 -Interests: Card games, Pool, Thinking, Debating
 -Previous activities: Science Olympiad, Scholastic Bowl
 -Planned activities: MCS, Anime club
 -Why I joined FIJI: Pretty much it came down to FIJI and Theta Chi. Both houses seemed like they had some pretty good people in them, but it was Fiji's adherence to being a dry house and the thought that FIJI is more about academics than anything else that eventually drove me to knee Jason in the back (heh) at Calling Out.

Name: Roy William Fiorello III
 Year: Sophomore
 Major: Economics.
 Hometown: Rockford, Illinois
 -My interests are Frisbee golf, golf, tennis, music, guitar, computers, and fishing. In high school, I played golf and tennis freshman year, and was in the green club senior year. I joined FIJI because of the immediate sense of belonging I felt.



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Name: Ross Smith
 Year: Freshman
 Major: Music Business
 Hometown: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 -High School Activities: Student Council Vice President 2 years, Classical and Jazz guitars 4 years, varsity captain of soccer and cross country teams, chess club, Jr. Rotary Club, National Youth Leadership Forum for medicine, Principal's honor roll 4 years, United Way Foundation, Senior Project for Positive Tomorrows children's center.

-College Activities: Football, soccer and softball intramurals, Frisbee team, will perform in the "pit" of many musicals, guitar recital in November; will be in more activities as the school year goes on.
 -Joining Fiji was a very simple decision. The men in the Fiji house are a great group of guys and would do anything for you whether you are a brother or not. I saw many things in these guys that I want to see in me, and hopefully I can reach this goal by becoming a Fiji. Thank you to everyone in the Fiji House for being themselves and treating me like a brother and friend.

Name: Nick Kuhnel
 Year: Freshman
 Major: Electrical Engineering
 Hometown: Chatham, Illinois
 -I came to Peoria, IL from Chatham, IL where I enjoyed competing on the high school Scholastic Bowl team or volunteering for the National Honor Society. I also enjoy playing softball and working on computers. I joined Fiji because they have the strongest brotherhood and, of course, the best group of guys.

Bradley University reacts to tragic death

By Chris Kaergard 9-19-03 BU Scout

A call to 911 at 7:01 p.m. Sunday brought paramedics to 1608 W. Barker Ave. to save the life of Robert Schmalz, but they were too late.

Schmalz was declared dead on the scene shortly after rescue crews arrived.

Preliminary autopsy results from the Peoria County Coroner's office said that Schmalz had no congenital medical conditions or defects that would have caused his death, and the Coroner's office will not have the results of toxicology testing for at least two weeks, a representative said Tuesday.

But based upon early police reports from the investigation showing that Schmalz had been drinking since 10 p.m. the prior night, administrators are comfortable saying alcohol played a role.

"There's no question that there was alcohol involved," Associate Provost for Student Affairs Alan Galsky said. "It's just a question of to what extent. Whether it was the cause of death or not remains to be seen."

When he was found, Schmalz hadn't been seen by anybody for five hours, according to police reports.

At approximately 2 p.m. Sunday, two hours after the annual Calling Out ceremony in Olin Quad for students joining fraternities, Schmalz was walked back to his home by two other members of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, reports said.

When they arrived, the friends helped Schmalz to bed, leaving a waste can for him and positioning him in case of illness, according to the incident report. One friend then left, and the one who remained in the house stayed with Schmalz, though he fell asleep partway through the afternoon.

When Schmalz's friend woke up at 7 p.m., Schmalz was not breathing. The friend contacted paramedics, who instructed him to begin CPR in advance of their arrival.



Robert Schmalz

Word spread quickly through campus about Schmalz's death, with students contacting each other and their parents by cell phone to share what they knew, and reassure one another.

Professional counseling staff arrived at Phi Tau shortly after the incident to speak with students and remained on call throughout the week.

Schmalz's family was notified shortly after 9 p.m., Galsky said, and they arrived the next morning to meet with him and Director of Greek Life Nathan Thomas.

"It's never easy when we lose a student," Galsky said. "This is a very close-knit student body, and this is really a family."

Phi Tau's national office sent two representatives to help members of the fraternity and to comfort the family.

By the time media outlets became aware of the story, all houses within the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council had imposed no-comment policies for their members, and the university was permitting only Galsky and university spokeswoman Kath Conver to speak on the matter. Thomas could not comment for this article.

Administrators quickly pledged to review how Calling Out is handled every year and to determine the extent to which it may have played a role in Schmalz's death.

"I think it's fair to say that there is more drinking on the Calling Out weekend than on a typical weekend," Galsky said. "What happened before and after is the less controllable part of the activity, and the real issue is whether Calling Out had a direct effect on this incident."

But Galsky said that no decisions would be made before the review was completed.

"The incident that happened to this young man is a tragedy, but it could've happened to anybody, greek or non-greek," he said. "To the extent that this is an alcohol misuse problem, that's an issue for all students to have a thought about."

President's address - October 2003

Brothers,

The death of Phi Kappa Tau member Robert Schmalz has affected Greek life, but not at the fundamental levels. Calling out parties were cancelled, and open parties as a whole were banned until a week ago. A number of men and more women decided as a choice to not drink, and the desire to drink is decreasing in general on campus. However, the bonds of brotherhood remain strong both within this house and on campus, and the passing of Robert Schmalz has not affected our image on the campus.

Fall rush this year brought us five excellent pledges to our chapter, but still demands that we increase our informal recruitment efforts to find more men of quality. The importance has hit home for many; men have already been brought up for proposal to membership and both brothers and pledges are bringing new potentials to our weekend events.

Our chapter has fostered a renewed relationship with the Sigma Delta Tau sorority, following a recruitment tactic pioneered this year. The week before rush, we organized a recruitment exchange with SDT, going through a mock round of their rush and using them as mock rushees for ours. The end result: Brothers got a chance to practice the round, practice conversation with people they didn't know and everyone was a lot less nervous for rush in general. A party at our off campus house afterwards was a great success and we are planning a more organized social exchange with them for this year.

With Greek Week over (we placed 3rd overall) and the rules of rush behind us, our activities are moving more to our own events and intramural sports. As well, brothers are settled into their study habits as we are approaching the first round of tests and mid-terms soon. Many have gone beyond the programming of our scholarship program, and have made bets against each other on which will earn a higher GPA. Not to worry, our brothers are betting friendly; the wager of choice is picking up the tab for a steak dinner.

Life at the Beta Pi chapter is busy, but going well. We are looking forward to a semester filled with brotherhood events, getting to know our pledges and meeting new men to become Phi Gams. I'm looking forward to cabinet elections which are coming up soon and writing to you all about whom the new leaders of Fiji are.

Fraternally,

Stephen P. Shuman
Perge!



Two Beta Pi's Tied the Knot this Summer

On July 28th at 5:30 p.m., Brother Jesse Smith '06 and Amber McKinley exchanged their sacred vows and united their lives in marriage. The bride, with her creamy white dress and lace overcoat, stood by her groom in his long coat tuxedo before a crowd of family members and close friends. Throughout the entire ceremony, they never took their eyes off of each other, hinting at the excitement they shared at the thought of being together forever. The wedding ceremony came together beautifully, except for an inopportune mosquito bite on the groom's forehead. The best man was none other than Brother Smith's big brother Stephen Shuman '04, who, instead of embarrassing Jesse in his speech as is tradition, recounted and regaled the guests with the tale of his own parents' marriage. After the speech, many of the guests inquired as to the availability of Stephen to give speeches at other events. Although Brother Smith is currently in Peoria attending Bradley and Amber is living in the Quad Cities attending Scott Community College, they are both extremely happy and look forward to starting a family with their first born, which is due at the end of January. —*Jesse Smith*



(right)
Mr. and Mrs.
Smith

(left)
Mr. and Mrs.
Satterthwaite



The undergrad brotherhood gathered June 14, 2003 to celebrate the marriage of Graduate Brother Randall Satterthwaite '02 to Mary Kolet, a 2002 Bradley Alpha Chi Omega graduate. Brother Dan Pelphrey '05 and Graduate Brother Greg Harmon '00 were ushers, and Graduate Brother Dave Deutsch '02 took part as a groomsman. About 100 people attended the wedding in Inverness, Illinois, with the reception in Rolling Meadows. Rather than traditionally responding to the clinking of glasses, the bride and groom requested to be serenaded by songs containing the word "love". The couple now resides in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where Randy is employed at John Deere and Mary is a kindergarten teacher. —*Matt Adams '04*

Hey Grads!

Watch out for the new Gradlink near the end of the semester in the middle of December.

We want to buy FIJI girl t-shirts for the females on campus that support us. We know every guy looks at female's torsos, so what better place to advertise? If you're interested in helping out with this project, email our T-shirt committee chairman Jesse Smith at Jsmith8@bradley.edu.

If you need to change your home or email addresses, phone number, etc. in our database, or are just wondering what your current info is, email me, Greg Rider, the new graduate relations chairman, at grider@bradley.edu, and I'll hook you up.

Expect some new and exciting things in the next issue of the Graduate Link. Let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding this issue, or any suggestions for next issue.

Until next time,
Greg Rider '06
Perge!