



Arizona Beta

SPRING 2010

SigEp Newsletter

WWW.SIGEPAZBETA.ORG - AZBETA@SIGEPAZBETA.ORG

ARIZONA BETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON • UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Arizona Beta Closed...

How you can help our return to campus!

Last spring, the University of Arizona withdrew recognition of Arizona Beta Chapter.

On behalf of the Alumni Board, I want to bring you up to date on what brought this about, what the Alumni Board is currently doing, and what plans are being made for the future. Some of you are generally aware of the problems with which the Alumni Board has been dealing. For many of you, however, I suspect that this is sad news.

The Sig Ep and Phi Gamma Delta chapters at the U of A were the only houses on campus with a continuous presence since the mid 50s. Arizona Beta was recognized throughout the 70's and 80s as one of the top Sig Ep Chapters in the country. It was, for more than three decades, one of the top chapters on campus. The one weakness of AZ Beta that continued throughout its more than 50 years was the absence of a strong ongoing Alumni Association and Alumni Board. There were volunteers at various times, some of them worked closely with chapter, but there was never a sustained effort to pass the baton, as it were, to succeeding volunteers.

By 2004 there was virtually no alumni presence. A single alumnus kept the finances and allocated money to the chapter, paid the bills and most significantly (and

fortuitously as it turned out) arranged the purchase of the land the Chapter House was on from the University for about \$90K in the early 2000's. More on that later. But there was no oversight or providing guidance to the members. The Alumni Board wants you to know the sequence of events, over the past two years, that brought AZ Beta to its present state.



2007 – 2009

The current Alumni Board was formed in March of 2007. The Board was made up of five alumni from the early 70s and one from the early 60s. The conditions in the house were deplorable. The property was not being maintained. What amounted to an ongoing

party was at full throttle each night by 8 p.m. Several incidents had brought the chapter to the attention of the University and it was on social probation in the spring of 08.

However, the new Alumni Board was making progress, having held an every man review in December '07 that resulted in the expulsion of about half (70) the members. The Alumni Board took possession of the Charter. New officers were appointed and there was some progress in curbing the social agenda.

A slate of officers was elected in May of '08. The young

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Housing Corporation

Pete Rich '76 - President/Finance
Property Management Chair
bigoldpete@cox.net
602-850-2028

Bart Fleming '65 - Secretary
bartfleming@cox.net
480-802-4063

Larry Woolson '77 - Treasurer
LWoolson@trans-system.com
602-243-2900

Dan Knauss '68
dgknauss@ultrasw.com
520-529-2387

Mike Franks '75 - Recognition
Chair
michael.franks@cbcmetro.com
602-850-2002

Bob Ross '76 - Investment Chair
bob@bobrossmotorsports.com
520-293-3529

John Oelze '91 - Investment
oelzej@yahoo.com
917-742-9903

Mike Murphy '94 - Construction
Chair
tiarasundev@yahoo.com
602-292-3052

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man who became President is an outstanding individual. The officers were all good young men who wanted to get the chapter on the right track. The Alumni Board was cautiously optimistic. The fall semester began with a successful rush, pledging just over 40 men. The incoming H.S. GPA exceeded 3.0 (B). By all accounts the chapter was running reasonably well. The property was being maintained. The men were on a strict budget controlled by the Alumni Board. We knew, however, we were not out of the woods. Many of the expelled brothers were still around.

In early October '09, a complaint of hazing was filed with the University, by one of the pledges. The subsequent investigation revealed that several of the expelled members were returning, one of which wasn't enrolled in school, and were hazing the pledges. The members and officers didn't have the courage to stand up to the trouble makers. The list of infractions grew as the University's investigation expanded beyond the original complaint. At no time during the process was the Alumni Board permitted to have information. We offered one of our members, the immediate past United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, to be part of the investigation. We were as interested as was the University in getting to the bottom of the trouble. The offer was rejected without explanation.

In early December '09, just before Christmas Break, the Dean's office notified the Chapter that recognition was being withdrawn. An appeal process was explained. The Alumni Board worked with the officers to appeal the decision. Refutation of the charges was impossible as the rules did not permit discovery. The pledges could not be interviewed. We planned to offer a counter proposal to the University. It involved the closing of the physical plant and retaining up to a dozen men and operating as a colony for two years. We had strengthened the Alumni Board and were working with a University faculty member, a psychologist who specialized in leadership development and mentoring. She had been working with the pledges during the early part of the fall, helping direct the scholarship program. One of the ironies of all this was that the chapter GPA improved one full grade point during the fall semester to just under a 3.0. That is a pretty good indicator that the chapter was in fact turning around.

We met with the University at a time that was scheduled for the hearing. The University refused to allow retired U.S. Attorney, Dan Knauss '68 to represent the chapter since he was no longer a member of the AZ Bar Association. Trying to continue the appeal would be fruitless. We agreed to drop the appeal. In exchange the University agreed to three and a half year absence with the ability to apply for recognition in September of 2012. The usual sentence is five years.

Status of the House at 1420 North Vine

The closing of the house meant that we would have to find a tenant that would maintain the property and provide a cash flow. The Chapter was carrying

return to campus continued...

\$300K note, taken out several years earlier. The house had outlived its useful life. To continue at the site would mean razing the house and starting over, or at the very least demolishing the dorms and building suites with private bathrooms. The rest of the house would require a complete remodeling job. We were not real enthusiastic about having to worry about liability for the next five years and then raise the money to build a new house. Moreover, the house is two blocks from the University Medical Center which is expanding. The University exercising its right of eminent domain was always a possibility.

We were contacted by several fraternities that were colonizing and looking for a house to rent for 3 – 5 years. Then in March or early April we were contacted by the University, expressing an interest in purchasing the property. They ended up offering \$1.4M. The president of Alumni Board is a Senior VP with Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate. He was hoping to get \$1.2M. Needless to say we accepted the offer and the deal closed in May. The balance on the loan was paid, leaving net proceeds of \$1.09M.

Where We Go From Here

The Alumni Board and National are committed to colonizing at the earliest possible date. Our first priority is to obtain professional investment counsel for the management of the funds. The Alumni Board met June 9 to hear presentations from several investment managers. The investment objective is protection of principal and the generation of a reasonable rate of return. We appointed an investment committee of three alumni have professional investment experience. That committee will oversee the investment of the funds. We will be reporting to National on the status of the funds on a quarterly basis.

As part of the sales agreement of the 1420 N. Vine property we secured a 13,000 sq ft parcel on campus (1st Street behind Phi Delta Theta and across from what was Alpha Arizona Beta Omega). The property is ideally located. Once a new colony is chartered and demonstrates its staying power, we will be able to build on the property.

The proceeds from the sale of the property give us the capital with which to work as we go forward with plans to re-colonize in 2012.

A high priority is the development of an AZ Beta Alumni Association in Phoenix and Tucson. We need to be connecting with you, the alumni scattered across the country. To that end we are recruiting new members to the Alumni Board. We need brothers who graduated in the 80s and early 90s. We have retained Fraternity Management Group, a highly regarded consulting company that will facilitate the development of the alumni association and eventually our housing campaign.

We are planning to produce a semi-annual on-line and print newsletters that will be mailed to chapter alumni. The Website is up. There is a link to the Facebook page on the front. Incidentally, the group picture on the Webpage was taken in August at an Arizona Diamondbacks game. We had a special Sig Ep alumni reception at the game. About forty alumni attended, many from other chapters including ASU.

You will be hearing from us as we gather information and hold events in the markets in which we have substantial

numbers of alumni (Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Tucson, and Newport Beach).

Please direct questions to:

Pete Rich '76, President, AZ Beta Alumni President
bigoldpete@cox.net

or

Bart Fleming '65, AZ Beta Alumni Secretary
bartfleming@cox.net

Fraternally,

The Alumni Board, Arizona Beta Chapter, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

Pete Rich '76, President

Bart Fleming '65, Secretary, Past Chairman, Alumni



Your Mission!

should you choose to accept it – help Arizona Beta build better men!

Before you begin your five mini-missions it is important for you to become educated about Sigma Phi Epsilon & Ariona Beta Chapter by visiting www.sigepazbeta.org.

- Mini-Mission #1 – Update your records. If you at all care about Sigma Phi Epsilon & Ariona Beta & want to be kept informed, please use the enclosed form or go to the website to update your contact information as well as share with us your interests.
- Mini-Mission #2 – Attend an event! For those of you who live in the Tucson, Phoenix, San Diego, Newport Bach, Los Angeles & San Francisco areas we will be holding a luncheon or dinner this spring. Please email us at azbeta@sigepazbeta.org if you are interested in attending one or more of these events. Also, make plans to be at Homecoming 2010.
- Mini-Mission #3 – Nominate a brother for the Ariona Beta Hall of Fame. We are looking for alumni who have been successful in their chosen careers and/or those who have provided great service to the fraternity, university and/or local community they live in. The alumnus must have been out of school for at least five years. Send your nominations to azbeta@sigepazbeta.org.
- Mini-Mission #4 – Convince another alumnus to complete our missions. As each of you joined Sigma Phi Epsilon you heard that it is a lifetime experience. You learned about Paying the Debt. As an undergraduate that meant stepping up and serving as an officer or committee chairmen and in helping recruit a new member who would become a leader, move the fraternity forward, and was a quality brother. As an alumnus that means attend fraternity events, volunteer your time with our chapter or another Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter, send in rush recommendations, and finally, to convince others to do the same.
- Mini-Mission #5 – Commit to contribute a gift annually. You started lifetime friendships at Arizona Beta. You developed your social, organizational & leadership skills at Ariona Beta. Certainly that is worth at least \$50 per year. For those of you really committed please join with us when we kick of the housing campaign. These donors will be recognized in the the chapter house.



Please use the enclosed envelope to send us any photos, stories, or your personal update for us to publish. You may also submit them by visiting sigepazbeta.org or azbeta@siggepazbetaorg.

Alumni Updates

Ed Coggin '54

Ed is retired and playing lots of golf and enjoying life. He is Charter Member of the Arizona Beta Chapter in 1954.

162 Evergreen Way, Milpitas, CA 95035
480.262.7864 - edcoggin@earthlink.net

Bob Masters '56

Bob worked as a CPA in Los Angeles before retiring and currently living in Seattle. He is a Charter Member of the Arizona Beta Chapter.

3725 131st Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98005
425.861.9597 robtmasters@yahoo.com

Jerry Bange '59

I have retired for the 4th time, hate sitting around, but at 76, seems like that is about all I am good for. Due to work sites, I have not been back to Tucson for a long time, try to keep up on the U of A alum stuff. Great football season for the old school. I live in the Atlanta, GA region, but am pretty inactive except for dropping into the neighborhood VFW post for a beer once in a while.

I had to quit golf about 5 years ago due to a bad knee that would not let me move my weight to it when swinging. That was a very hard decision, I used to play at least 3 times a week, all over the southeast. There are 5 children, 17 grands, a few greats, but that is an ever changing number, very active grands still, at last count 11, one in the oven. I have been widowed twice, so live with one of my sons and his family, and try to travel to see others as I can.

Advice for future undergrads --hmm, I think the one thing that is most needed for students in this time is to think out of the box, calculators other than bulky desk tops rotary machines had not even been invented when I was an undergrad -- What is here today will be outdated by the time you get into decision making positions in most companies, so use the noggin for projecting yourself into roles in the future that are not yet mature, or even not even around now.

I think one of the funniest things I have had as an adult in the business world, was a meeting in which I was on a panel with about 500 attendees, and the issue was nuclear power plants and the effects they have on streams into which they discharge the heated cooling water. After a series of other speakers blamed nuclear power for everything from cancer, birth defects, and I guess erectile dis-function, to fish being killed, or growing too big in the warm water, ad infinitum, it was my turn to say how I thought nukes had a serious place in our world. Well, my speech was trashed by then, the audience was fidgeting in their seats, and after I acknowledged all the bigwigs and politicians in the room in the proper sequence, I

then said, "We are putting in cooling towers," and sat down. You could have heard a pin drop. The funny part is that I did not know about the cooling towers until about 5 minutes before the meeting began. I was on TV stations all over GA announcing the cooling towers, and had no warning. Funny feeling, for sure.

107A Knoll Ct., Noblesville, IN 46062
317.877.7777 jwbrillsr@aol.com

Al Quick '62

Al is a retired Professor and Dean of Law Emeritus from University of Toledo and retired attorney counsel for Smith Haughey Rice & Roegge at Traverse City, Michigan. His wife Brenda is Emeritus Professor of Law Michigan State University. They have six children one of whom graduated from the UofA.

542 5th St., Traverse City, MI 49684
231.922.0017 - altquick@sbcglobal.net

Richard Covey '64

Richard retired from General Electric Co. as sales engineer and manager for GE radio communications in Western US. He is an active member of Rotary International since 1985 and member of Bible/Baptist churches since 1980. To relax, he drives a hot rod 74 Corvette and play golf every week Brother Covey is married to Sue Williams Chi-Omega '65.

Brother Covey says, "Maintain a state of continuous bafflement as to the amazing accomplishments of my children, as I remain convinced they have taken entirely after their mother and have managed to avoid any effects from their father's prior fraternal associations. :)"

1490 Forest View W., Prescott, AZ 86035
928.778.0247 - rickcovey@q.com

Bob Leonard '66

Bob has been retired since Jan. 2002. He worked in the computer software and consulting industries his whole career. His 1st job was with the Computer Systems Division of RCA. "That's right, RCA had a computer division." I also worked as a management consultant when they were called the Big 8 accounting firms. Other than living in Washington D.C. from 1975 to 1976, his wife, Nancy, and he have lived their whole lives in So Cal where they are both from. They met at the U of A. Since June, 2008 they have been living in Chicago where their oldest daughter, Kelsey, lives and teaches 8th grade English. They plan on being back in So Cal next year.

rmleonard@hotmail.com

Alumni Updates Continued...

John Livensparger '67

John is a sole-practitioner attorney in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. He is also the Vice President - Legal of the Bridgeview Bank Group. His specialties are estate planning, wills, trusts, and probate, while also doing some income tax and real estate. In his spare time, he serves on the Board of Trustees of Park Ridge Public Library.

Brother Livensparger met his wife Patricia at the UofA in 1969. She is currently working in a Park Ridge middle school. They have one son, Matthew, who is a senior at Columbia College.

413 Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, IL 60068
847.692.6548 - livensparger@ameritech.net

Charlie Waters '69

Charlie worked forty years as a migrant journalist at nine newspapers and one university. He is an enthusiastic but mediocre classic rock guitarist and singer for almost 50 years. He worked as a volunteer for the Salvation Army in various communities and at Habitat for Humanity and a food bank. Brother Waters is married to Linda and they have two daughters, Jolyn and Jennifer and one son, Rich. They are also proud grandparents of four grandsons and one granddaughter.

He spent two years as the humor editor of the Los Angeles Times. Played in the 2009 World Series of Poker. Served as juror for the Pulitzer Prizes in Journalism. He says, "No felony convictions. Once around is all you get, so make sure you enjoy it."

2113 Twin Falls Dr., Henderson, NV 89044
702.266.5988 - cwaters@stephensmedia.com

John Gemmill '70

John practiced law for 25 years in Phoenix, until appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals in 2001. The Court's website is <http://www.cofad1.state.az.us/>. Our current plan is for him to work for about 4 to 6 or 7 more years, but he'll have to see what happens. He is active in their church, Moon Valley Bible Church, in North Phoenix. He also loves to fish for wily trout in the rivers and creeks of Southwestern Colorado.

Brother Gemmill is "fortunate to marry Linda in December 1980." They have 2 adult daughters, Sarah and Rachel. Sarah and her husband, John Sehorn, live in South Bend, Indiana, and have 2 children, James and Mary. Rachel is single and teaches special ed in West Phoenix.

8626 North 12th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021
692.689.8355 - john.gemmill@cox.net

Daniel Stern '75

Daniel works as a Managing Director for Stern Investment Advisors, LLC. He is a member of the Chicago Board of Trade. His favorite activity is "having my free loader friends come over every Sunday to watch football games and eat a lot of food." He met his wife Robin through Maura Soble and they have three children, Michael, Jill and David and two grand kids. Brother Stern's advice to future undergraduates, "We never had a five year program. If you can talk your parents into it take advantage. The pressures of work are a lot more than a mid-term. An amusing story is me trying to survive 12 months as chapter president. It took me 11 months to figure out the job."

1948 Burr Oak Ln., Highland Park, IL 60035
360.687.1010 - stern@141trading.com

Garrison Karr '76

Garrison works for the US Marine Corps in San Diego at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. He is still restoring and enjoying antique, classic, and special interest automobiles. He lives in Point Loma, a beach community of San Diego.

619.318.7346 - garrisonkarr@yahoo.com

Bob Ross '76

Bob is the Owner of Bob Ross MotorSports. "I'm a 'deal junkie' and I buy and sell cars and trucks." He is a proud father of two daughters. Rosalind graduated from Arizona / Honors College Magna Cum Laude in '08, is employed with Huntington Learning Centers, and was the Fiesta Bowl Queen in '07....Raquel is currently a Junior in the Eller School at the UofA, majoring in Finance and Economics.

16181 N. Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ 85739
520.975.9555 - bob@bobrossmotorsports.com

Stafford Thurmond '78

Stafford is the Manager / CEO for EDI Financial / Simply Frijoles Ltd. He works in all areas of stocks, bonds, commodities analysis and trade desk Implementation. He advises and reports for Corporate Treasury Department and does independent investment advising and transactions. Two of his favorite hobbies are fly fishing and working out.

Brother Thurmond also is a big supporter of the local YMCA and just finished their annual Christmas Cheer project. Giving 85 kids at headstart schools to Toys R Us for presents and Chuckey Cheese pizza party afterward. He serves as Chairman for the Gifford Foundation and the YMCA of El Paso Foundation. Aliana his wife and Stafford are blessed with 3 kids and 1 grandchild.

605 Las Playas Court, El Paso, TX 79932
915.478.1206 - wstzorro@hotmail.com

Blaine Black '84

Blaine is the Senior Director at Cushman & Wakefield of Arizona, Inc. He is married to Suzanne and they have three daughters, Natalie, Georgia, and Kelly.

2525 E. Camelback Rd. #1000, Phoenix, AZ 85016
602.430.4602 - Blaine.Black@cushwake.com

Matt Golden '84

Matt is the Managing Director at Kimco Realty Corporation (NYSE: KIM). He is married with three boys, 21, 14 and 5.

PO Box 1437, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
mlgrsf@hotmail.com

Nelson Benchimol '87

Nelson currently is the Owner of LATCOR INC. - a 16 year old China/USA/Latin America Distributor based company in Miami, FL. Prior to that he worked at Dean Witter and Capital Markets on Wall Street. Boating, Motorcross and being a dad takes up his spare time. Nelson has been married to Franci for past five years and he is a proud dad to his two boys, Alan-12 and Neal-11.

Brother Benchimol "would like to help re-establish the chapter in a few years and redirect Sig Ep in a more productive, university supportive way with academics, the university, real leadership. Also would like to help the brother of the 80's organize so that we can support and assist and control the redevelopment of the NEW SIG EP at Arizona."

13615 S. Dixie Highway #466, Miami, FL 85225
305.725.3209 - nbenchimol@yahoo.com

Kevin Endres '89

Kevin is a realtor in La Jolla, California specializing in short sales and distressed sales for owners and a buyer specialist in the central coastal area of San Diego. Looking for a great foreclosure deal near the coast. He enjoys open water swimming at La Jolla Cove, jogging along the bay and boardwalk, and spending time with family. Married to Amy O'Melia (Delta Gamma @ UofA) with three kids (Haley 16, Audrey 11 and Parker 7)

2293 Soledad Rancho Rd., San Diego, CA 92109
858.699.2674 - kevin@kevinendres.com

Please visit sigepazbeta.org and you can access the alumni directory to contact other brothers and to submit your own updates.

Username: [sigep](#)

Password: [azbeta](#)

Mark Slepian '89

Mark works as an Interventional Radiologist at Associated Radiology Ltd. in Mesa, AZ. He has been married to Laurie Bryant for 14 years and they have four girls, Kaitlin (10), Lauren (8), Haley (8), and Olivia (6). They have a house up in Pinetop, AZ that they use both summer and winter for skiing. He says, "No flowery roads lead to glory."

9664 E. Davenport Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85260
480.221.2495 - sleprock1@earthlink.net

Brian Saulnier '91

Brian is a Partner at K&L Gates LLP (535 Smithfield Street Pittsburgh, PA 15222-2312, (412) 355-6504, brian.saulnier@klgates.com, www.klgates.com). He serves on the Board of Directors for Pittsburgh Cares. He and his wife Jennifer are proud parents of twin four year old sons, Marc and Brett.

9100 Collington Square, Allison Park, PA 15101
412.445.8296 - bfsaulnier@gmail.com

Bill Karp '93

Bill currently works as a Supply Chain Sales Engineer for SK&T Integration, Inc. in Denver, CO. He tries to golf & ski as much as the schedule allows. Married to Andrea and they have a son, Will and a dog, Buster.

10778 E. Crestridge Circle, Englewood, CO 80111
303.773.3302 - bkarpiii@hotmail.com

Scott Ryan '97

Scott is a Program Manager of Professional Services, Axway. He is a commercial-rated Pilot / Flight Instructor. Mountain Biking and Snowboarding are two of his other hobbies. Married to Breony with two children, Will (3) and Avery (9 months)

1182 Fairfield Rd., Bridgewater, NJ 08807
scottdryan@yahoo.com

Damon Frank '98

Damon is Director of Consulting Services for Hitachi Consulting - High Tech Industry, Southern California. Hitachi Consulting is a global Business and IT Consulting Firm. His office is based out of Orange County, CA. Skiing and Surfing takes up most of his spare time. Every year he and 3 of his pledge brothers (Jason Shorter, Tom Mullinix and Nick Hodgdon) get together for a ski trip!!! Last year they went Heli-Skiing. He married Renee Parker in 2003 (UofA Alumni) and they have two kids: a three year old Son (Colin) and one year old daughter (Kylie).

Check out their Heli Ski Video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjnJg_IA2fs
8 Bedstraw Loop, Ladera Ranch, CA 92694
949.813.9639 - dmofrank@yahoo.com



Arizona Beta Chapter
Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
c/o Fraternity Management Group
2660 N. 1st Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

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