

THE MU COW

FROM THE DESK OF THE MASTER

by Jeffery Kerbel

Greetings, brothers and friends! I hope this issue of the Mu Cow finds you well. My name is Jeff Kerbel, and I have the privilege of serving as Master of the Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi. As a fourth year, I've lately found myself looking back on past experiences in this fraternity, and it has been wonderful to witness the progress we have made in the 996 days since our re-founding. My experiences as a brother of AEPi have been some of the most memorable and formative of my whole life, and I can't wait to discover what this year can be.

As this is our first full semester back as both a chapter and an IFC member, we are working especially hard to grow and succeed on all fronts. It is not our wish to come back as alumni and see a fraternity that has stagnated, regressed, or even ceased to exist, and I'm sure you feel similarly if that is you are reading this. Each officer and chair has set ambitious goals for themselves, and we are always discussing how to assist each other in reaching those. Halfway through the semester, we are already seeing these efforts pay off as we continue to make a good name for ourselves both socially and civically. For me, one highlight so far has been President Sullivan and Dean Groves visiting our house to discuss UVA's latest initiatives to prevent sexual misconduct, and how our brothers could help lead the charge to make our community safer. Yet, as great as it to connect with two University leaders, it has also been incredibly exciting to connect with so many Mu alums. Between our re-chartering ceremony in May and Homecomings this month, we're meeting more alumni than ever before.

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I joined this fraternity to be a part of something much larger than myself, and it has been incredibly rewarding to experience more of that feeling. As a soon-to-be graduate, I look forward to joining your ranks.

As always, feel free to contact us if you ever have any questions about the chapter – my info is available on our website: aepimu.com. Keep an eye out for even more updates in the near future!

Most fraternally,
Jeff

THE BROTHERSHIP SAILS ON By Jake Sperling

Despite having a calendar chockfull of social and philanthropic events this semester, the brotherhood has made a great effort to come together often and bond. We kicked off the fall semester with a successful golf outing at the Birdwood golf course, the perfect way to spend a late summer Friday afternoon! Our next event was a brotherhood barbeque that allowed Master Jeffrey Kerbel (2015) to showcase his grill talents, and gave us an opportunity to catch up on the adventures and experiences of our brothers' summers.

Throughout the last year, much of the brotherhood had been calling for a family beer pong tournament that would give big brothers and little brothers a chance to claim chapter bragging rights. So the Gallahan Annual Family Tournament (GAFT) was born this October, named for Sean Gallahan (2013). Sean, our first Brother at Large, is so revered for his contributions to the chapter that pledges are instructed to refer to him as “The Fucking Hero”, and so it was only natural to create the event in his honor. Dawson Friedland (2015), Drew Cohen (2016), and Jordan Kohn (2016) emerged as the victorious trio of the tournament that gave birth to new traditions and new rivalries.



Steven Wergeles for birdie with Reuben Han

This past weekend was, in my opinion, the king of all Mu Chapter events, The Mexican. Having initially brought it back last fall, everyone was hoping for an even better reincarnation of the revered tradition this fall. Last year's winners Jason Schwarz (2015) and Ben Greenberg (2015) looked to graduate with another championship under their belt, while the Gamma class was excited to finally participate in the tournament. After hours of hard fought athletic and imbibing competition and numerous court storming celebrations Eric Siegel (2017) and Gil Vizner (2016) took home the bragging rights. Thanks to the help of alumnus Filipp Kofman, we are even recreating the traditional shirts to help commemorate the event!

JEWISH IDENTITY

By Ben Gilbert

The Mu Chapter of AEPI attempts to have a Jewish aspect of fraternity life which can accommodate every brother. Although different brothers consider themselves more or less religious than others or not religious at all, we try to make Jewish Identity programs into events where we can celebrate Jewish heritage and culture together as brothers while not making any brothers feel pressured. This year, we have had programs such as a challah eating contest for Rosh Hashanah and board games to help with the Yom Kippur fast in order to reach this exact goal. I am also looking forward to our Passover Seder in the spring.

Our Jewish Identity program is not meant not to be a comprehensive way for brothers to practice their Judaism, its goal is to provide a way to remain engaged with Jewish culture as a brother. Jewish Identity is very important to our chapter, which is reflected in our decision to provide brothers with a chance to decide what, if any, they want their Jewish Identity to be and to make Judaism available to every brother, making our brotherhood as a group even stronger.

PHILANTHROPY

By Jason Warren

We have already held two philanthropy events in the fall of 2014. For the first we collaborated with a sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, and a local organization called TomTom. TomTom held a fall block party to celebrate culture, arts, and innovation in Charlottesville, and AET and AXO provided the majority of the volunteers to staff the event, which was held in downtown Charlottesville. We also had a booth at the event where we had a cornhole challenge and face painting for younger kids. The cornhole challenge consisted of a game of cornhole, where two members of our fraternity and partner sorority would play against two people attending the festival. If the people from the festival won, they were awarded drink tickets as prizes. This was a fun event that helped us put our name out there in the local community as well as raise money.

Our other event was a water pong tournament at the popular local bar and restaurant, Boylan Heights. We created a March Madness style tournament for teams of two, with winners of the tournament winning a prize basket! We had a fun night out with friends while raising money for philanthropy! Through both events we were able to raise \$750 for the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Foundation and we are excited to raise even more in the spring.

Jonah Zaleznick, Jake Sperling, and Dawson Friedland playing cornhole for a cause



Sports Center

By Jonah Zaleznick

The 2013–2014 year proved to be a good one for the AEPi boys. We started off strong in the fall (ignoring the Jews attempting to play football) with a softball trip to the semi-finals, falling in a close double-digit loss to a skilled group of law school has-beens. The next hope for the loveable band of misfits was the ultimate frisbee league, in which AEPi saw themselves give themselves a high seeding going into the playoffs, unfortunately suffering an upsetting first round exit. All anguish was extinguished, however, a month later when the AEPi floor hockey team toughed their way through a grueling playoff bracket to the fraternity's first Intramural championship in the new AEPi era, trouncing the gentlemen of FIJI 10–6 with 5 goals coming from tournament MVP Jonah “Bar Down” Zaleznick.

The spring season was a more forgetful epoch in AEPi sports, suffering first round playoff losses in a close softball match and an 82–6 flag football match (seriously, why do we play football). From then on the AEPi athletic program decided to not be terrible at sports and excelled by going deep into the basketball playoffs and suffering a semi-final overtime loss in ultimate frisbee. AEPi comes into the 2014–2015 season with high hopes and higher expectations, looking to reclaim frisbee, basketball and softball glory, not play football, and defend the coveted floor hockey championship.



OUR ESTEEMED GUESTS

By Dawson Friedland

This September we had the honor of hosting our University President, Teresa Sullivan, and Dean of Student Life, Allen Groves, at one of our weekly chapter meetings. As Universities, and especially Greek life within them, receive more scrutiny and criticism for sexual misconduct and assault, it is important for University leaders and Fraternity men to proactively confront this problem. President Sullivan and Dean Groves educated us about the issue of sexual assault on college campuses, informed us of UVA's initiatives and resources to help combat the problem, engaged us in a dialogue to hear our questions and opinions, and enlisted our aid in preventing future sexual assault by promoting a positive culture on grounds and being active by-standers at social events. With many fraternities on-grounds and nationwide being investigate for various forms of misconduct we are proud to work hand in hand with our administration to promote the positive aspects of Greek life and to push ourselves to be the best chapter we can be.



The whole Brotherhood with President Sullivan at the house

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

By Eric Siegel

For this ongoing school year, the brothers of the Mu Chapter have made it a point of emphasis to encourage the entire brotherhood to get more involved in the UVa and Charlottesville communities. Becoming involved in organizations on and off grounds is essential to rush, the outside perception of AEPi and the overall brotherhood, as we try to strengthen our presence in the community in our 4th year since being refounded.

Several brothers have stood out in regards to their civic engagement, exemplifying that there is more to a complete college experience than academics and fraternity life. Seth Kramer (COMM '15), a site director for CASH, which is an organization that prepares tax returns for low income individuals, said of his experience, "CASH is a great way to give back to the Charlottesville community; it's great being able to make a real difference in people's lives". Another civically engaged brother, Jason Schwarz (CLAS '15), who is a member of the University Guide Service, where he gives tours to prospective students and visitors, described it as "an awesome opportunity to represent UVa in a positive light and allows me to meet and share my story with tons of different people". One brother has even committed his future to service. Bryan Pitt (CLAS '16), whose father and grandfather both served in the army, has joined ROTC in an effort to give back to his country. Pitt is heavily committed to the program, and in describing its impact on him, said "I have gained a strong sense of comradery with my fellow army cadets. ROTC has gotten me into excellent physical shape, has improved my discipline and has even given me opportunity to work in Africa".

These are just a few examples, I encourage you to speak to brothers about all the different things they do throughout the University and Charlottesville communities. Civic engagement is a great way to help others, but it also allows brothers to develop important leadership skills and make connections between classroom learning and real-world experiences. A more civically engaged brotherhood is a brotherhood that will have lasting impacts on the Mu Chapter and the UVa community for years to come.