

# ETA IOTA HOUSE CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

Sigma Chi Fraternity

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Fall 2001

## 1855 CLUB GOING STRONG

As many of you are already aware, House Corp has started a proactive fund-raising campaign designed to ensure future financial stability and to provide a foundation for financing any new housing opportunities. The program is going strong and membership saw a significant boost following 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday last April but we still need your help if you have not already signed up. The [coins](#) are finished and a new Polo shirt has been designed for the members. This is the perfect time to sign up if you haven't already. You can find out more information on this simple program later in this newsletter.

### **-RMF UPDATE-**

Well we were warned about this year's increase to insurance premiums and it happened...did it ever! Eta Iota was hit hard with a year over year increase of approximately 70% while we were expecting something considerably less. We were not alone by any means and some chapters saw increases of over 130%.

Eta Iota was represented along with House Corporation officers from University of Montana, University of Oregon and several other large chapters at a meeting last month with our Grand Trustees to discuss the reasons and impacts of the increased premiums. The Risk Management Foundation has been hit hard in the past year with enormous out of court settlements and costs associated with claims against Sigma Chi chapters and recent instances of Greek houses burning to the ground. While Eta Iota has not done anything to make us more of a risk, it is the unfortunate fact that the actions and misfortunes of other Greek organizations make all of us inherently risky when it comes to insurance and we therefore share in the costs.

While it is true we are under no obligation to be insured by Sigma Chi's Risk Management Foundation, we are required to carry \$10 million in liability coverage...something that other insurers won't touch with a ten-foot pole. In the grand scheme of the insurance industry, the risk of a fraternity falls somewhere in between that of medical malpractice and a nuclear power plant.

The increase forced us to reevaluate our lease with the undergraduate chapter and adjust the monthly rent accordingly with the 2001-2002 lease signed earlier this semester. I'm glad to say that the actives understood the situation and have continued to pay their rent, on time, in full without exception.

The Sigma Chi Foundation is aware of how hard the increase is hitting some chapters financially and is on the verge of making funds available to help in lowering premiums. One of the more promising options being discussed is a grant of approximately \$720,000 to assist in outfitting Sigma Chi houses with fire sprinkler systems. It looks as though money from this grant would pay for 100% of the costs of 'sprinkling' the areas of the house that are dedicated to learning

(for tax reasons) and the chapters would pay for the remainder. For example, if a house has 10,000 sq. ft of living space and a 1,000 sq. foot library, the Foundation would foot 10% of the bill for installing sprinklers throughout the house. Based on this, I am pleased to announce that 520 South Ridgewood will no longer have bathrooms but Meditation & Reading Centers outfitted with porcelain furniture.

We're looking at all the options and will keep everyone updated on developments.

### **-SIGMA CHI LEADS THE WAY AGAIN-**

*Full-Tim Greek Advisor in the Budget for ERAU  
Daytona Campus*

Never underestimate the lasting affects that an Eta Iota Birthday can have on the community, the Chapter & the University. Not only did Eta Iota set unbreakable records for consuming margaritas & kegs, records were broken in various attendance categories, midget tossing categories, and J's wings eating categories.

While these are all admirable achievements, worthy of songs and stories that will be handed down to future generations of Sigs, our real impact was the influence we collectively exerted upon the University.

For the first time ever, the University has budgeted money for a full-time Greek Advisor. The selection process will begin in the Spring Semester and the targeted hire date is sometime in May '02. Unofficially, one University official attributed this major change in the University's position towards Greeks to the attendance and strong beliefs demonstrated by our Worthy Brothers at Eta Iota's 30th.

In addition to a Greek Advisor, Ken Dufour ([Ken4gps@aol.com](mailto:Ken4gps@aol.com)), a member of the Board of Trustees, has taken on the responsibility for Greek Affairs. Ken has already conducted an industry survey of our peer schools and understands the benefits that a strong Greek system can bring to a University in terms of undergraduate scholastic performance and alumni university support. He is not a Greek, therefore he cannot be accused of being biased. Based on the results of his survey he has committed to improving University relations with Greeks at all levels, and acting as a focal point to insure that our agendas receive the attention they deserve.

*"this badge requires more of me than the world requires of other men"*

## -UPCOMING EVENTS-

BETA TAU Initiation – December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2001  
Eta Iota 31st Birthday Celebration – March 2002

## -ALUMNI UPDATES-

**Brother Roger Gross**, currently an F.O. on the Canadair CL-65 "RJ" for Comair out of CVG, recently became engaged to Marci Klein of Houston on Oct. 10. Nuptials will probably take place in Houston on November 16, 2002.

**Brother John Alford ('84)** moved from Atlanta to Seattle last year and is currently the Regional Director of Sales for UPS Freight Services. John and his wife, Sherry, celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary this year along with their three children: John "Parker" Alford-age 9 (Parker is Sherry's maiden name), Cole Alford-age 7, and Maggie Alford-age 4.

Starting in Dec or Jan, **Brother Bill Palmer** will be one of Northwest's initial cadre of A330 pilots -attending A330 school in Jan, and will be writing Northwest's systems manual for this aircraft, and flying the A320 for fun. The company gets A330's in spring of 2003. Bill has been serving as DC-10 captain/instructor/fleet simulator technical rep and led the DC10 systems manual complete rewrite since checking out on the DC10 in late '97.

Once again back in school, **Brother Ben Brandt** is attending MIT in Boston for the next couple years as part of a special Air Force assignment to get his Master's degree. Brother Brandt will come out of school with a Master's of Science in Technology and Policy. Ben is hoping to participate in the initiation ceremony for the MIT pledges this semester. Any brothers planning to be in the Boston area feel free to contact him at [bmbbrandt@mit.edu](mailto:bmbbrandt@mit.edu).

**Brother Chris Nevins** and his wife, Theresa, are celebrating the birth of their son Austin Tyler on Oct. 10th. Austin arrived 15 weeks early and is expected to be in the hospital until mid January but he's doing well and is up to 2 lbs 3 oz (born at 11b 14oz).

**Brother Stuart Fraenkel ('89)** and wife, Stacy Wise, tied the knot on August 19, 2001. **Brothers Mitch Nimey, Spencer Smith and Matt Hansen** were groomsmen. Stuart was also elected to President-Elect for the Aviation Section of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and to the Board of Trustees for the Los Angeles County Bar Association. And if that's not enough, Stuart is also Adjunct Professor of Aviation Law and Aviation Insurance and Risk Management for ERAU in Los Angeles as well as a member of Plaintiffs' Steering Committee for the Singapore Air and Silk Air crash cases.

Little Sigma, **Laura McMenamy Kruse**. ('86) currently works for Raytheon Company and wanted to spread the word to our Brothers that Raytheon has MANY job openings around the world (currently 1,067 for various positions, to be exact). Check out [www.rayjobs.com](http://www.rayjobs.com) for more info or visit Eta Iota's own job postings online at [www.etaiota.org](http://www.etaiota.org).

**Brother Eric Hockman** is still employed with NWA, but like many others, would like to get out of the airline business. Eric is currently looking for a project management or operations management opportunity somewhere in TX, CA, FL or anywhere on the East Coast south of DC. He has 5 years experience in project & operations management, 300-600 mechanic organizations. For a copy of his resume, he can be reached at [eric.hockman@nwa.com](mailto:eric.hockman@nwa.com).

**Brother James Dianto** is currently looking for a traditional or electronic marketing position, senior level (senior manager, director) in the Northeast. Alternatively, he's interested in any leads on contract or consulting gigs. James may be reached at [jamesdianto@aol.com](mailto:jamesdianto@aol.com).

**Brothers Chuck Bonini and Ramano Sprueil** have both recently been appointed as Chapter Advisors. Chuck is taking over for Kent Krause at our very own Eta Iota and Ramano has been appointed to the SMU chapter in Dallas, TX. Good luck to both of them.



## -WINGS, WAVES & LESBIANS-

*ERAU's 75th Homecoming a Hit With Local Winos,  
Adult Entertainers, and Felons*

Several Eta Iota alumni were in town for ERAU's 75th Homecoming. The celebrations included an air show on the beach and a Beach Boys concert held at the Daytona Beach Bandshell.

Eta Iota Brothers James "Gassi" Ahrens, Jan Paladino, Jeff Penn, Mitch Friedman, Jeff Fejfar, Kevin Parker, Tom Magueri, John Banta, and Brian Lojko, 1999-2001 International Sweetheart Wendy Papson, and Former Chapter Advisors Julio Varela, Kent Krause were on hand to take part in the festivities.

The undergraduate chapter kicked off the weekend with an Alumni Barbecue. Parents of brothers and pledges were on hand to witness the life-long commitment exhibited by Brothers of Our Great Fraternity.

Brothers gathered on the beach around the Adam's Mark for the air show early Saturday, and were treated to exhibitions by an all-female parachute team sporting a rainbow flag, a P-51, F-86, and F-15 demonstrating aerial combat and aerial acrobatics by some of the world's best pilots. The culminating event for Saturday's air show was a performance by the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, but the best was yet to come. Brothers, pledges, and friends gathered at the Bandshell as The Beach Boys took the stage at 8:00 p.m. They put on a two-hour show that got the Chapter dancing, singing, and bodysurfing.

After the concert the party moved south to Fat Tuesday. The Chapter bellied up to the bar for some frozen daiquiris and decomposed (or maybe we decompressed) after a day of having fun and making Wendy laugh.

Whether we were on the beach watching the air show, or sipping 190 Octane, at Fat Tuesday, Eta Iota once again proved that we've got the tightest Chapter in Sigma Chi!

## -NEWSLETTERS GOING ELECTRONIC-

In an effort to save on printing & mailing costs, House Corp will only be sending paper copies of these newsletters to Brother for whom we do not have a current email address, unless you specifically request to receive the paper version. This will start with the next newsletter, due out in early 2002. For those of you who will receive the electronic version, we will be posting the newsletters on [etaiota.org](http://etaiota.org) in PDF format and email everyone when they are up and ready to see. The benefits are simple, House Corp will save potentially hundreds of dollars annually and the PDF versions are actually better than hard copies as they will include color photos and any links to web sites or email addresses in the newsletter will be 'clickable'. Be sure to see your profile page later in this newsletter and update the Newsletter Preference section if you still want to receive the printed copies by mail.

**- ETA IOTA RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN THE FIELD OF HOUSING EXCELLENCE!-**

*Eta Iota House Corporation Embarks On Ambitious House Improvement Program*

Many of our generous brothers have taken on the responsibility of guaranteeing a future for Eta Iota by donating to the 1855 Club. These donations have provided the financial security that has allowed the House Corporation to embark on a strategically focused house improvement program. Funding is not limited to 1855 Club money. Only a fraction of the donations are actually used to fund House Corporation programs. The bulk of the money is placed in long-term savings. The housing programs are almost entirely funded by the rent collected from the undergraduates; a plan put in place by past House Corporation President **Bill Foulk**.

The goals of the house improvement program are to provide attractive, comfortable, and competitively priced housing for the undergraduate chapter. This does not limit the House Corporation to any particular building and location. In the short term we are conducting affordable renovations of the rooms and the kitchen. Our long-term objective is still evaluation of the capability of 520 S. Ridgewood Ave. to provide housing in the future, or if other more attractive and affordable properties are available.

Over the summer we began a pilot program that evaluated concepts for conducting room renovations. Room 10 in the breezeway was selected as the test bed, and demolition began in early August. It may come as no surprise, but as work progressed in the bathroom, termite damage in the walls was discovered and more work was required than originally quoted. This was not anticipated, and funds had been held in reserve for just such an eventuality.

Work on Room 10 was completed at the end of August in time for Brother **Joel Fenton** to occupy it. The renovation was a resounding success. Several lessons learned were derived for driving down costs on future rooms, but all brothers agreed that they believed the work was well worth the cost, and that the appearance of the room proved that the House Corporation achieved the goals set forth by the house improvement program.

On a side note, the carcass of the rat that gave its life during the house tenting conducted back in Summer '95 thereby providing an incredibly offensive odor to Room 10 (occupied at the time by current House Corporation President **John Banta**) was not recovered.

Next on the schedule is renovation of rooms 20 and 22, and the kitchen. The plan for the kitchen is to make it easier to prepare and serve chapter meals whether it is a barbecue or a catered meal. Appearance, ability to clean up, and health are also on the requirement list. Stay tuned to future newsletters for word on the progress of house improvement.

**-1855 CLUB AUTHORIZATION FORM-**

**Name & Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name on the Account:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bank Routing Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(see example check below)

**Bank ABA Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(see example check below)

**Bank Account Number:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(see example check below)

**Contribution Level:**  
(please circle one)

**Blue** ..... \$9.27 per month (\$18.55 bi-monthly)

**White Cross** ..... \$42.24 per month

**Gold** ..... \$18.55 per month

**Constantine** ..... \$154.58 per month (\$1855 per year)

*Your monthly draft will remain in full force and effect until revoked by you, your financial institution, or The Eta Iota House Corporation. This option is offered at no charge by The Eta Iota House Corporation for fundraising purposes. To request adjustments to incorrect charges or to cancel this option, contact The Eta Iota House Corporation Treasurer or Fundraising Chairman. Current contact information can be found at [www.etaiota.org](http://www.etaiota.org).*

**Signature Required:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(must be the authorized signer for the account indicated above)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## -1855 CLUB UPDATE-

Well, the 1855 Club coins are finally in and they came out fantastic...very much worth the wait! They've gotten great reviews so far as these have turned out to be quite a collector's item with our chapter name and fraternity's logos incorporated on both sides. These coins are cast in solid bronze with the Sigma Chi crest emblazoned in enamel on one side and the badge on the other. To the right, you can see one of the original design drafts but this doesn't do justice for how well they turned out. To see an actual photo of these limited edition coins, see them [online here](#). Only 100 individually numbered coins were cast and will never be redone with this same design. To get yours, [just sign up for the 1855 Club](#) and you'll also get all the other gifts associated with the level you choose. Contact Rich Schooley at (770) 552-7250 for more information.

All of us in the House Corporation and the undergraduate chapter would once again like to thank those Brothers who have graciously signed up as active donors:

Reese Aguilar	Seth Downs	Larry Hesterberg	Chris Nevins		
John Bailey	Rod Ebbe	Gary Homanick	Mitch Nimey	Mike Pelosi	Ramano Sprueil
John Banta	Chris Edmondson	Tom Kachmar	Mike O'Donnell	Jeff Penn	Dave Wilkinson
Larry Biddle	Eric Eichmann	Brian Lojko	Terry Owens	Mike Saggese	John Wrightington
Nick Cornwell	Dave Fraser	Kevan MacKenzie	Rob Pacheco	Rich Schooley	Mike Wyble
Joe Diana	Ross Giamportone	Jaime Mercado	Bill Palmer	Gary Spangler	
Bill Dlhosh	Mike Gehman	Don Miller	Rob Papandrea		

## -ETA IOTA'S ANNUAL CENSUS-

Brother,

In the version of this newsletter mailed out in Late November, we merged current information for review. Since you're reading the online version it is not personalized but you can still see your current information [here](#). You have several options for how to make updates:

1. Update online at <http://nwdc10.com/etaiota/newdata.htm>
2. E-mail your changes to Eta Iota's database administrator, Dave Spaller: [dave\\_spaller@yahoo.ca](mailto:dave_spaller@yahoo.ca)
3. Use standard mail and return this updated form to:

Dave Spaller  
Eta Iota Database Administrator  
PO Box 864592  
Plano, TX 75086

### ***NAME***

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

---

Address (line 1): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (line 2): \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION***

---

Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Status: \_\_\_\_\_  
Initiation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***PERMANENT CONTACT INFORMATION***

---

Please provide the following information for someone whom we may contact in the event we lose touch with you.  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***MAILING PREFERENCE***

---

In an effort to save on printing and mailing costs, you will continue to receive a PRINTED version of these newsletters only if your preference below is listed as PAPER. If it is ELECTRONIC, you will receive an email instructing you how to view them online in a PDF format at [etaiota.org](http://etaiota.org). You may still receive the paper editions if you like.  
Newsletter Format:

*Eta Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi  
the "Winged Sigs"*

*Celebrating  
30 years*



[www.etaiota.org](http://www.etaiota.org)

## Fall 2001

### Consul's Update

Brother,

I must say that we have had a revitalization and injection of that brotherhood spirit we all like, around the house this year. We had 5 brothers attend our annual LTW held in Muncie, IN this year. Each left with a new spirit and passion for Sigma Chi aiming to achieve great things in Sigma Chi this year. It was my hope that it would last until the start of fall classes and rub off on the rest of the chapter. It obviously has.

I am sad, however, to report that our annual Welcome Back party was not a success this year. This was a result to actions taken, due to disgruntled feeling by one IFC Board Member towards all the Fraternities. It was decided by the chapter to have the party on 600 North's pool Deck to avoid liability and new rules that were necessary to follow. There is no replacement for a Sigma Chi Welcome Back Party at the Sigma Chi House, they will return.

We currently have a chapter of 32 active undergraduates. Since the beginning of the semester we have had near perfect attendance in all Chapter meeting. The brothers are seen participation in many school activities from: Girls Volleyball, our Intramurals, Jobs on campus, to just huge crowds at the lunch table. A new part of our pledge program is to have the pledges participate in another school club, organization, or have a job. Grant Petronsky our Magister is also the SGA Treasure. I am serving on the SGA Finance Board as well as helping out with the International Fraternity. I have been appointed the Ritual Committee at Headquarters and am also running for the position of Undergraduate Rep. to the EC at Headquarter for the term of 2002 - 2003.

This week we're currently participating in Greek Week. We've completed one community service project with a sorority from Flagler College, and have another scheduled for Saturday at J's Island Patio to help them out a little. We have two brothers up for homecoming court and 600 North is going to sponsor our float and provide some girls for it as well.

All in all it's been a busy and fun semester, and our forecast for the rest of it looks the same. I have to give the credit to my excellent Executive Board for their hard work and dedication to their duties, as well as every active brother for their participation in the organization they love. If anyone has any questions or concern for me I can be reached at 386-453-1118.

In Hoc,

Tyrel Gibson  
Consul

### Beta Tau Pledge Class Update

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the pledges of Eta Iota are strong and doing well. Currently 17 strong, they have come a long way and are still improving. First Review definitely opened some eyes and has motivated them to step it up to the next level. This semester has gone fast for the pledges. They have their National Exam on the 30th and still have their house improvement project as well as "CA" to go. Creeping on in is Initiation on the 1st of December.

There are some differences in the expectations and duties of the pledges this semester: ---We have brought back "black marks."  
-Made them responsible to get involved on campus or the community by joining a different club/organization or by getting a job on or off campus.

-Encouraged them to design a pledge class T-shirt.

The Eta Iota Chapter is impressed with the level of participation of the Beta Tau pledge class. This past week was Greek Week and there was not a day where there was less than 10 pledges there cheering on the brothers and ready to participate. They have been active in intramurals. They went on a Chapter excursion with the brothers to UCF's Homecoming to party with Eta Pi. This was a great trip for them to see that even though it is a different campus and a much larger chapter, the basic principles and values are evident in Sigma Chi wherever you may be.

I want to thank the brothers who have poked their head in as they are in town and meeting the pledges. It supports my teachings about how much this house and pledge program means to Eta Iota. Feel free to contact me if you have any specific questions concerning the program or pledges brothers. My phone is (904) 453-7712.

IN HOC

Grant "Sasquatch" Petronsky 592  
Fall 2001 Magister

Fall comes, and with it, a new set of pledges. This Beta Tau pledge class of our chapter began with twenty-six members and is now down to fourteen. It took quite a while for these gentlemen of such different temperaments, talents, and convictions to come together, but it looks as though everything may indeed be accomplished for a second review.

The community service project saw the local Humane Society got some much-needed help at their thrift store. The House Improvement project will include some improvements in the chapter room, and a new display of the letters where legend has it that grass used to grow out front. Of course, the CA, Mr. John Doe, has been doing a great job setting up for Friday the 16th. We're a pledge class with pride. Catch any of us around and we'll be happy to explain why we carry paddles bug enough to row everywhere we go.

Michael E. Tomai  
President  
Beta Tau Pledge Class

## Fall 2001 Undergraduate Officers

Consul .....	Tyrel Gibson
Pro Consul .....	Mark Nicalek
Annotator .....	Drew Hunter
Magister .....	Grant Petronsky
Quaestor .....	Aaron Pauly
Recruitment Chair .....	Joe Barrios
Tribune .....	Richard Allison
Kustos .....	Cy Maramangalam
Chapter Editor .....	Chris Ferguson
Historian .....	Chris Wood
Risk Manager .....	Trevor Prigge
House Manager .....	Brent Vonstein
Social Chair .....	Tommy Turfitt

## House Has New Area Code

Update your phone lists as the house telephone number has changed.  
The new number is (386) 252-2277

## Wings & Waves

We would like to thank all of you alumni who participated in Embry-Riddle's 75th anniversary celebration, Wings & Waves. The air show was the climax of the weekend and proves to be a monumental day of Embry-Riddle history. Many were in awe at the amazing tactical demonstration of the USAF Thunderbirds. Your participation and support was greatly appreciated by the undergraduate chapter, along with the University. We hope to see you for 31st Birthday next, and we hope it will be as memorable as 30th