



# Pi Kappa Alpha

Beta Beta Chapter - University of Washington

Spring 2002 - Issue #18

## Beta Beta Looks for a Great Pledge Class

At the helm of this operation once again is Adam Benson ('01), who did a remarkable job last summer rushing the largest pledge class in Beta Beta history. Working alongside Joe Marchesano ('02) and Andy O'Connell ('02), Adam team plans to use their friendship, intellect and love of the chapter to make this summer's program the best yet.



*Adam Benson*



*Andy O'Connell*



*Joe Marchesano*

**In this newsletter you will have the chance to read about Pikes like Greg Ganz, who flies Apache helicopters for the U.S. Army, and John Oetjen, who is probably our only alumnus that has a Grammy award to his name. This summer Beta Beta is once again going to be seeking out a quality class of men we hope to bring into the bonds of our Fraternity. Please let us know if you are interested in offering your help.**

The approach to this summer's rush program will be a little different than in previous years. With the unprecedented growth Beta Beta has seen in the last three years, there is a severe lack of housing space for the incoming class. As such, the chapter is working to develop a more inclusive live-out involvement program and rush several live-out pledges. Hopefully, with our combined efforts, this dream can be a reality.

As usual, the summer rush calendar will be packed with exciting events, including traditional trips to cabins, lakes, and campgrounds across the state. The chapter is planning

trips to Spokane (which will coincide with the upcoming wedding of Josh Sampson ('99)), Yakima, Priest Lake, Vancouver, Zilla, Walla Walla and many other destinations. Pikes also will be hosting weekly barbecues and a series of regular events throughout each week.

If you would like to help out the rush team, either by offering the use of any facilities (cabins, beach houses, etc.) or other resources (boats, money, food, etc.) please contact Joe Marchesano at [jm3@u.washington.edu](mailto:jm3@u.washington.edu) or call him at (206) 849-3557.

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# Alumni Letters

## “Congratulations!

My what wonders you Pikes have accomplished. Congrats to the Actives, the recent pledges, and the new pledges.

Accomplishment is predicated on having the guts to start, and you obviously had/have those.

I am from way back in ‘46’, the first time, I guess, that Beta Beta rose from the dust. Almost all of us pledges were WWII vets, and we set some rules that were very different for those days. Like no alcohol at any PKA function nor in the house, and the mandatory study hall for all pledges every school night. But we did allow pledges to ‘pin’ a gal with their pledge pin (our average

pledge age was 22 and 90% of the females were in college that year to find a husband).

Well keep up the good work, you may find that your outstanding reputation is harder to keep, than it was to get there in the first place.”

Richard Loutzenhiser (’47)

**Have something you want to say? We want to hear from you! Write us at:**

**Beta Beta Chapter of  
Pi Kappa Alpha  
P.O. Box 85569  
Seattle, WA 98105**

## Alumnus Profile: John Oetjen

When Brother John Oetjen (’79) isn’t busy winning a Grammy or having tea with Japan’s Crown Prince Naruhito, he can be found having breakfast at C.J.’s, a Belltown café just a few blocks from his home.

Oetjen graduated from UW with a degree in communications, but his major was definitely not the only focus on his life. While studying at the U, John served as ASUW Arts & Entertainment Advertising Director and Lecture Director. Part of his duties included producing concerts. Brother Oetjen was also a member of Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa. Somehow John also found time to be a part of the Fraternity’s Alpha Class and have a steady girlfriend most of the time.

After graduation, John decided to continue his education. He applied to Oxford and was accepted in 1983. While there, John’s involvement in campus life didn’t stop. He was a member of the crew, rugby and water polo teams and served as Class President. While at Oxford, John met Prince Naruhito who was also a graduate student at the time. The two quickly became friends and still maintain that friendship today.

Upon graduation from Oxford John went into the production business where he worked with M.C. Hammer on the music video for the hit song “U Can’t Touch This.” One day, John received a phone call saying that he had been nominated for a Grammy Award. Recalling this moment, Brother Oetjen said he was, “Shocked, it can’t be me! You must have the wrong guy.” As it turned out, the Grammy Association did have the right guy, and John won a Grammy for his production work on Hammer’s video. He also won an MTV Music Award and Billboard Award for the same video.

Currently Brother Oetjen is single and living in Seattle. He works for Believe Media, producing commercial spots for Diet Pepsi, Oreo Cookies and HBO, just to name a few. John also is a voting member with the recording Academy that votes on the Grammy Awards.

If you would like to get in touch with Brother Oetjen you can contact him at (206) 448-2278 or email him at [oetjen@aol.com](mailto:oetjen@aol.com).

# Pikes in the Military

Members of Pi Kappa Alpha aspire to greatness and many have gone on to phenomenal careers in a wide range of fields. And while we can trumpet their successes handily, there is a group of Brothers who make us proud each and every day - those Pikes who also serve in our country's armed forces. To each of you, we say thanks.

Here's a look at what some of these outstanding Pikes are doing:

**Vic Balasi** ('75) is a Lieutenant Colonel with the U.S. Marine Corps, currently assigned to the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon. An Aviation Supply Officer, Vic's current responsibilities involve developing the defense budget requirements for the spares and repair parts to support all Marine Corps and Navy aircraft, averaging \$1.2 billion annually. Prior to his Washington tour, Vic was the executive officer of Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 31 at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, SC. During his 19-year career, he also has been stationed in Georgia; California; Iwakuni, Japan; North Carolina and Virginia. He is part of the Marine Corps Acquisition Workforce that will lead to assignments in the acquisition of new aviation systems.



**Greg Ganz** ('84) with his AH-64 Apache Longbow

**Greg Ganz** ('84) is an AH-64 Apache Longbow pilot in the U.S. Army. He holds the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 3. Over the course of 14 years of active duty, Greg has had three tours in Korea and one in Germany. He is currently stationed in Savannah, GA at Hunter Army Field, but as he says, "I am hoping to add a tour to Iraq soon!"

**Marty Griffith** ('84) transferred to the reserves in 2001 after spending 13 years flying helicopters and fixed wing trainers for the United States Marine Corps. While on active duty, he rose to the rank of Major. He is currently the Assistant Operations Officer and Targeting Officer at Marine Air Group 42 in Atlanta. Marty spent most of his deployed time flying helicopters off ships in the Western Pacific, Persian Gulf and Africa. His last

active tour was in Pensacola as the Operations Officer/Flight Instructor. If his reserve unit isn't mobilized by the summer, he will be going back to Pensacola to start up a USMC reserve flying unit. Since going into the reserves, Marty has taken a job as a commercial pilot, and he and his wife have relocated to New York. They are expecting their first child in early September.

**Bob Parrish** ('86) is a Major in the Army National Guard and is currently serving as the Battalion S-3 of the 2nd Battalion 146th Field Artillery in Olympia, WA. He is part of a 155mm self-propelled artillery battalion, fielded with the M109A6 Paladin Howitzer.

**Jason Porteous** ('90) is in the Washington Army National Guard and just wrapped up seven and a half months of active duty at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport as part of the airport security force. He has been in the Guard for more than 10 years and is a Staff Sergeant (E-6). He is in A Company 1/161 Infantry (Mechanized) which is based in Kent, WA.

**Jason Toepfer** ('93) is a Captain in the U.S. Army, and is stationed in Ft. Hood, TX. He has been in the service since he graduated in 1997.

**Shane Sullivan** ('93) has been on active duty with the Navy for the past six years. Currently, he is an Instructor Pilot and Mission Commander for the P-3 Orion in Patrol Squadron 46. He was recently selected for the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School, but turned it down to take a transition to the Tactical Jet Community to have the possibility of flying F-18s.

**Matt James** ('94) is a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Infantry and will be promoted to a Captain in June. He has been in Kosovo since November and will be returning to Fort Drum, NY later this month. He is also seeking a Special Forces tryout this summer and will be attending the Infantry Captain's Career Course in Fort Benning, GA beginning this fall.

*(continued on page 6)*

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# Founders' Day Draws 120 Pikes

On March 2, 2002, more than 120 alumni and active members of Pi Kappa Alpha gathered at the University of Washington Faculty Club to celebrate the 134<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fraternity and Beta Beta's first Robert Adger Smythe Award.

The evening began at 4 p.m. with an Open House at the chapter, where several generations of Pikes conversed and shared stories while sampling hors d'oeuvres and beverages. A few of the newer members of the fraternity gave house tours to alumni before gathering everyone together for a group photo in front of the fraternity, the garnet and gold flag of ΠΚΑ proudly flying in the background.

After a short walk through campus to the Faculty Club, Pikes enjoyed catching up with Pledge Brothers and perusing the photo albums and memorabilia displays set-up around the banquet hall. With the social hour concluded, Alumni Chairman Matt Matsuura ('00) officially welcomed everyone to the 2002 Pi Kappa Alpha Founders' Day Celebration.

The formal portion of the program began when the dinner plates were cleared and dessert was being served. SMC Jeremy Pelley ('99) moved to the podium for the annual State of the Chapter address, only to be interrupted after about two sentences by Brian Mann ('90) and Dan Miller ('92), chapter advisors, who distributed a surprise gift to the undergraduate members - t-shirts commemorating the chapter's first ever Smythe Award.

Following the welcomed delay, Pelley returned to the microphone, where he congratulated the chapter for its success, but made it clear that the membership was not satisfied. To make his point, Pelley outlined Beta Beta's five key goals for the year:

1. **Become a 100-man chapter**
2. **Win the UW Intramural Athletics Championship**
3. **Amass 1,000 additional community service hours over 2002-01's total**
4. **Earn a GPA in the Top 3 among fraternities**
5. **Win another Robert Adger Smythe Award**

It should be noted that midway through spring quarter, each of these five goals is within reach; the chapter currently stands at 95 men and is in 1<sup>st</sup> Place in all university athletics.

Having concluded, Pelley gave way to Don Isaak ('95), president of the Pi Kappa Alpha UW Housing Association, who discussed the major accomplishments of the alumni, including installation of a new boiler and water heater and lease of a 20-man annex on 19<sup>th</sup> Ave NE.

Isaak then turned the podium over to Patrick Haynes (Arkansas State, Delta Theta, '81), executive director of the Pi Kappa Alpha Educational Foundation, who flew in from Memphis, Tenn. for the festivities. His Keynote Address dealt with many subjects, but focused on the





*Taking time to enjoy the social hour before dinner*

Miller challenged alumni and undergraduates to dig deep and help ensure the future of the fraternity by endowing both undergraduate-funded and alumni-funded scholarships that evening. To everyone's excitement, one of the award levels was reached, giving Beta Beta its first ever recurring scholarship, to be distributed at Founders' Day each year.

The evening came to a close with a Pass the Gavel session that included many hearty laughs and cherished memories.



*Awaiting dessert at the tables*

need to live by the precepts set forth in our Ritual. It should be noted that midway through spring quarter, each of these five goals is within reach; the chapter currently stands at 95 men and is in 1<sup>st</sup> Place in all university athletics.

Haynes concluded his remarks by presenting the Undergraduate of the Year Award to Craig Donovan (YEAR) and the Bob Keene Award for the most involved undergraduate to Rod McLeod (YEAR).

McLeod's award came with a \$250 check, which came from generous donations to the Bob Keene Scholarship Fund. Noting that, Co-Chapter Advisor Dan Miller ('92) got up and announced the formation of a series of undergraduate scholarships, two of which (Bob Keene Scholarship included) were close to reaching the minimum \$10,000 mark needed for perpetual endowment.



*Eric Kwan ('98) presents Nate Hogle ('99) with the Presidents' Award*

**NOTE:** Next year's Founders' Day celebration will be combined with the Regional Conference Awards Banquet and alumni from each of the Northwest Region's chapters will be invited. The Fraternity expects between 300 and 500 reservations.

## Alumni Notes

**Mark Gerboth** ('82) is working as a regional engineering manager for Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation in the Tri-Cities area. Currently, he is working on the design for a storage facility for spent nuclear fuel, a project for the Department of Energy. Last year he completed his second graduate degree and received an MBA from the UW through the Executive Program. Mark has been living in Kennewick, Wash. since the summer of 2000. He can be reached at (509) 628-3372 or by email at [mgerboth@fwenc.com](mailto:mgerboth@fwenc.com)

**Tony Szabo** ('89) married Roxanne Violett in Lake Tahoe in March. Roxanne is from California but has been living in Puyallup, where the couple met when Tony was singing karaoke. The Szabos will be living in the Seattle area and you can congratulate Tony at [walawdog2@aol.com](mailto:walawdog2@aol.com)

**Paul George** ('93) and his wife, Sarah, were delighted to welcome the arrival of their second son, Charlie (or Chaz), on February 13. For the time being, the Georges are living in Redmond, but they are looking to move to the Fall City area later this year. You can congratulate the family at (425) 895-9774.

An update from **Bert Wilkins** ('95): "I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Masters in Healthcare Administration. I am planning on staying in the Chapel Hill area and am actively trying to find gainful employment. I am planning on taking the MCAT in August and will be applying to medical school in the early fall. My phone number is (919) 270-1868 and my email address is [rbwilkins@hotmail.com](mailto:rbwilkins@hotmail.com)"

**Aaron Dutton** ('97) and his wife, Leah, became proud parents on March 11, when their first child, Alexander, was born. Aaron is working as a developer for LowgradeLumber.com, where he builds applications to allow web transactions. The enlarged family is living in north Seattle, but plans to move to Bellingham later this year. For the time being, they can be reached at (206) 365-7507 or at [adutton@scn.org](mailto:adutton@scn.org)



Charlie George and Alexander Dutton

## Pikes in the Military (cont.)

**Matt Faler** ('95) is a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, based at Fort Drum, NY. He was profiled on local TV recently among other soldiers serving in the Afghanistan region. He is in the 10th Mountain Division which has seen extensive action since September 11.

**Jeff Hedgpeth** ('97) is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Air Force and is currently stationed in Wichita Falls, TX at Sheppard AFB for pilot training. For the past year and a half, he was in Okinawa, Japan at Kadena Air Base assigned as Chief of Current Operations for the 353rd Special Operations Group. Jeff will be promoted to 1st Lieutenant in July and will be staying at Sheppard until February 2003, when he finds out what fighter he will get to fly. He is currently training at the Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) base, so he trains with servicemen from throughout NATO.

**Adam Justice** ('99) is a Senior Airman 1st Class in the United States Air Force, and is working with the Security Forces at Luke AFB in Phoenix, AZ. He entered the Air Force two years

ago and trained in Texas until September 2000. Since September 11, he has been working 12-13 hour shifts and received an early promotion for his work. He is trying to get a "permanent" transfer overseas (Germany or elsewhere in Europe), which would last about a year and a half, and then he hopes to come back to McChord AFB.

**Ben Tate** ('00) has been in the U.S. Marine Corps for the past three years, while attending the UW. He is a landing support specialist and is stationed with Alpha Company, 4th LSB at Ft. Lewis. He is currently a Lance Corporal and aspires to continue serving his country after college as an active duty officer in the USMC, hopefully as a fighter pilot.

**Brent Huntington** ('00), Tate's pledge brother, reports that "Ben and I are pledge brothers of Alpha Upsilon class and brothers in the largest fraternity in America: The United States Marine Corps." Like Ben, Brent is also a Lance Corporal with the 4th Landing Support Battalion, Alpha Company at Fort Lewis. Brent has been in the reserves since June 2001.

# Chapter Eternal



**Hugh Benton, Jr.** ('26) died on December 3, 2001 in Bellevue. He was 94. Benton lived and worked his entire life in the Seattle area. Born December 10, 1906, he attended Roosevelt High School and the University of Washington, graduating in 1930 with a degree in law. He specialized in real estate law and became a partner in White & Bollard, a Seattle mortgage firm. After the company was sold in 1959, Benton continued to represent selected real estate developers and property management firms. He married E. Patience Simenstad on January 23, 1931. After 12 years living in Seattle, they moved to Medina in 1943, where he served as Water Commissioner and Planning Commissioner for the City of Medina.

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**Stephen S. Haugseth** ('67) passed away March 27, 2002 after a long courageous battle with cancer. His love of life, wonderful smile, contagious laugh and endless stories truly will be missed. Surviving are his wife, Janet Robbins, parents Enoch & Signe Haugseth, sisters Kristine (Steini) Haugseth, Julie (Rick) Arnevik,

Jill (D.R.) Hendel, and three nephews, Enok, Thor and Jeffrey. A Memorial Celebration was held April 9 at the Mercer Island Beach Club. Donations to Hospice of Kitsap County, 3100 Bucklin Hill Rd., Suites 100/101, Silverdale, WA 98383.



**Robert Williams** ('49) died January 9, 2002 at his home in Rochester, Minnesota following a lengthy illness.

Born Aug. 19, 1926, in Power, Mont., he graduated from Queen Anne High School in Seattle in 1944 and served in the Army from

1945 to 1947, with duty in Germany. On Oct. 11, 1949, he married Juliana A. Becker. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1951, began his employment with Travelers Insurance in 1952 and organized Rochester's first Medicare office in 1966. After the company moved to Bloomington, Minn., in 1978, he became patient accounts manager for Saint Marys Hospital in 1979. In 1980, he returned to Travelers and worked there until his retirement in 1987.

Mr. Williams became a charter member of Sertoma in 1960, was a member of the Rochester Jaycees and Elks Lodge 1091, a past president of Soiree Dance Club, a life member of American Legion Post 92, and a member of Voiture 327 of the 40 & 8. He was a past president and life member of the Rochester Archery Club, served as president of the Southeastern Minnesota Archery League and was district governor of the Minnesota Archery Association. In 1994, he became the first president of French Creek Central Homeowners Association. He had articles published in the Archery Digest, National Bowhunters and The Saturday Evening Post, and his poems were published in the National Library of Poetry. He also enjoyed camping and playing table tennis.

Survivors include his wife; five daughters, Marilyn (Kent) Rahn of St. Louis Park, Minn., Jeanne (Mike) Byron of Rochester, Donna (Rob) Chisholm of Depoe Bay, Ore., Bonny (Rick) Herman of Apple Valley, Minn., and Mary Diane (James) Jacobs of Bozeman, Mont.; a son, Robert J. of Burnsville, Minn.; and six grandchildren.

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## Pi Kappa Alpha

# *Alumni Calendar*

### Regional Golf Tournament

July 13th

For more information please visit <http://home1.gte.net/wsualum/nwgolf.htm>

### Beta Beta Annual Golf Tournament

July 28th

We will be returning to Riverbend Golf Course in Auburn another University of Washington Pike tournament. For more information please contact Don Isaak at (206) 524-6478 or visit <http://www.uwpikes.com>

### Pikes Night at the Mariners

September 1st

We've got more than 60 tickets available for a Sunday afternoon game against Kansas City. For more information please contact Don Isaak at (206) 524-6478 or visit <http://www.uwpikes.com>