Renewed Pitt vs. Penn State Football Match-up Brings Excitement and Weekend full of Beta Theta Events

The Pitt-Penn State football rivalry stretches back to 1893. Nearly 100 total games have been played in the all-time series with Penn State leading the tally 50-42-4. The two teams last met in 2000 with Pitt pulling out a 12-0 win in the last season at Pitt Stadium in Oakland. After an absence of 16 long years, this rivalry is back with the Panthers and Nittany Lions slated to clash on September 10, 2016 at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh. Pitt is going into this match-up riding a wave of excitement under the leadership of first year head coach Pat Narduzzi, several returning electrifying players, and a highly-touted recruiting class. We’ve decided to build on this excitement by planning a weekend of events around the game.

Sigma Chi Club of Pittsburgh Annual Board Meeting – Friday, September 9, 2016 – 11:00 am – Quicksilver Golf Club – The Sigma Chi Club of Pittsburgh is the official name of the Housing Corporation. At this meeting we will elect the Board members for the following year. You do not need to be present to be nominated or elected. If you want to be nominated, please email Brother Marty St. John at Stjohn.associates@comcast.net.

Beta Theta Annual Golf Outing – Quicksilver Golf Club – Friday, September 9, 2016 – Shotgun Start at 1:00 pm. In the past decade, our annual scramble has had several homes; however, we think that the Quicksilver Golf Club in Midway, PA, might just be the perfect fit for our event. Our last two outings have been here and have had a very high turnout. Last year, almost 20 foursomes turned out despite stretches of pouring rain. A team comprised of brothers from the Fall 2001 pledge class won the event. Many more brothers showed up at the Golf Club for heavy appetizers and cocktails afterwards. This year, the outing will be held at the same venue and will begin with a shotgun start after noon. Bring your best four-man team. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team as well as for closest to the pin, longest drive, etc. As always, light lunch will be provided as well as heavy hors d’oeuvres and drinks afterwards. Please check our website www.pittsig.com for more details as the date nears. We are actively looking for hole sponsors. If you or your business would be interested, please contact us.

Campus Reception - Friday evening, September 9, 2016. The undergraduates will host a happy hour reception for all returning Beta Theta alumni and their guests in Oakland. This event has traditionally been held at the upstairs portion on Peter’s Pub from 8-10 p.m. Confirmation of this time will follow as the date nears as we are looking to reserve the venue for a longer amount of time that evening.

Pre-Game Tailgate – Saturday, September 10, 2016. The last several tailgates have been extremely well attended and we expect this one to be the biggest and best yet. Meet us outside Heinz Field in Gold Lot A1 before the game for a tailgate party. Lot A1 is the parking lot closest to the stadium directly across from the B gate. Look for the high-flying Sigma Chi flag to mark our exact location. Since the game time hasn’t yet been announced, you can expect us to start the tailgate 4 hours before kick-off. Again, check www.pittsig.com for more details. The site also offers payment a Paypal option so that you can pay in advance of the events. In addition to the website, you can RSVP, make inquiries, and submit payment to Brother Brad Borghetti at bmborghetti@gmail.com or (813) 751-4044.

Help Us Preserve Our History! What happens to all of the old composites, photos, articles, trophies, awards, and other historical items from our Chapter’s history? The Chapter House doesn’t have the space to store everything and these pieces often get collected in people’s basements or garages. Unfortunately, they then get stained, ripped and decay. As they do, bits of our Chapter’s 100+ years’ worth of history get lost. To do everything that we can to preserve our history, Brothers Michael DeMarco, Frank Ruscetti, and Bob Boucher are leading the charge to gather all memorabilia that they can and have it preserved by scanning it. Then we will have digital copies that are easier and cheaper to maintain. If you have anything that you can contribute please contact Brother Bob Boucher - bouch137@yahoo.com

Composites, like the one above, need to be saved. Help us in this effort!
President’s Report – Board President, Martin St. John

Brothers,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. We appreciate your continued sense of brotherhood and your interest in the events of the Chapter.

The continuity of the Beta Theta is heavily dependent on the involvement of alumni and we have a strong core of brothers that go above and beyond in their efforts. But we can always use more. **And as your President, I ask that you please donate your time, your talent, and your treasure to the Chapter that we all love.**

**Your Time:** We have many exciting events coming up and we simply want to see you at them. The most exciting event is the golf outing and tailgate that we have planned around the renewal of the Pitt and Penn State rivalry on September 9 and September 10, 2016. Please, attend these events, and invite your friends. Young or old, active alumni or not, we want to see you. The undergraduates want to see you as well. We also have a meeting, on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. If school is in session, it is always at the Chapter House in Oakland. If it is not in session, we will have the meeting at the home or office of one of the Housing Corporation Board members. In these meetings, we meet with the undergraduate leadership, make sure that the house is in good standing – both financially and structurally, and plan alumni events and projects. You are always welcome to attend or even run for one of the five seats that will be elected this year. We are always looking for newer and younger members for the Board.

**Your Talent:** Each of us is blessed with a certain skill set and from time to time, our Chapter needs to tap into the skills of its brothers. The easiest way for you to donate your skill is to participate in our mentorship program. Each year, we match any undergraduate who wants to participate with a mentor based upon common areas of study and careers. If you have a particularly unique skill or knowledge, we welcome you to give a presentation to the undergraduates. We have facilitated presentations in the past about networking, resume building, etiquette, appropriate dress, and even basic life skills such as personal finance, insurance, and law. But from time to time, we may need your talent in a more concrete way, such as contractors to help with house repairs or lawyers to assist when legal issues arise.

**Your Treasure:** Our utmost obligation as alumni is to ensure that the chapter continues to exist, year after year. It has continually existed at Pitt for 107 years. But for as much effort as we put in, we still require money! We need to make sure that the house has insurance (which is extremely expensive), that repairs and upgrades are made (which is constant), and that we maintain reserves high enough in case of emergency (remember the fire in the late ’80s?). We are a dues paying club and ask that you contribute at one of our three suggested levels: $50, $100, or $200 annually. Dues can be paid by mail or via Paypal on our website. Any amount is appreciated and we do not want to discourage any donation.

Please, give back, any way that you can. Thank you.

University of Pittsburgh Switches to “Deferred” Recruitment System

Beginning with the 2015-2016 academic year, the University of Pittsburgh required that all fraternities must not recruit freshman students until they have completed their first semester. This is referred to as “deferred” recruitment and has been in place at numerous other schools throughout the country. This rule does not prevent a chapter from having a fall pledge class with sophomore/junior/senior members.

Proponents of deferred recruitment cite that first semester pledges tend to have lower grade point averages. In other words, first semester students will be better off having a full term to adjust to collegiate life without the demands of rushing a fraternity. Those who dislike deferred recruitment challenge the rule as abridging the freedom of association. Regardless of your position, the rule has altered the way Beta Theta recruits new members.

Prior to 2015, a fraternity could extend a bid to any student at any time during the year. The only restriction was that the pledge’s rush period could only last a maximum of eight weeks. Traditionally, fraternities like Beta Theta would have only two pledge classes per year: a larger fall pledge class (about 20-30 members) and a smaller spring pledge class (about 5-10 members). Each semester’s pledge period would usually begin by the end of the first month of the semester and the class would be initiated right before or after finals. Since most students decide to pledge in their first semester, more of Beta Theta’s resources were devoted to recruitment in the fall, and this ensured that the majority of all recruits for the year were initiated before the spring semester.
We offer our most sincere condolences to those brothers that have entered the Chapter Eternal

In Memoriam – Bob Smoko
In Memoriam – Dr. Joseph Marasco
In Memoriam – Simon Oderberg
In Memoriam – Roland Catrinella

Initiation of the Spring 2016 pledge class will be held on Saturday March 26, 2016 at the Frick Fine Arts Building in Oakland beginning at 10:00 a.m. If you wish to attend, please plan to arrive early. Recommended attire for Initiation is a jacket and tie.

Congratulations to Brother Allen Biehler on his retirement from Carnegie Mellon University

Congratulations to brother J. Roger Glunt, President of Glunt Development Co., Inc., who will be honored by the University of Pittsburgh College of Business Administration with a Distinguished Alumni Award. The award will be presented to Roger at the 52nd Annual Business Alumni Association Awards program on April 8, 2016 at the University Club.

Congratulations to Brother Fred Boutros on his recent marriage to his sweetheart, Katie.

Congratulations to Brother Michael Winters on his recent engagement to his sweetheart, Kelly.

Congratulations to Brother Jimmy Craig on his recent engagement to his sweetheart, Melissa.

On February 20, 2016, more than 50 brothers came to Peter’s Pub in Oakland to watch the Pitt men’s basketball team defeat Syracuse 66-52. The photo, left, is from the event.

Congratulations to Brother Billy Biffel on his recent engagement to his sweetheart, Veronica.

6th Annual Senior Luncheon to be held April 8th at the Duquesne Club on April 8, 2016 at Noon

Six years ago, Housing Corporation member Michael DeMarco had an idea. He wanted to create a formal event where the undergraduates could practice their table etiquette, networking skills, and be exposed to a business-style luncheon. Brother DeMarco’s idea has turned into an annual event where we honor all of the seniors from the chapter and provide them with some last minute words of wisdom before they receive their diplomas.

As is the tradition, all members of the undergraduate chapter who will graduate in the spring of 2016 or after the fall 2016 semester are invited to lunch at the Duquesne Club. Several officials from the University are invited such as the Dean of Students and the Greek Advisor. Also, a distinguished alumni is asked to “host” the event and provide some comments. Over the last several years a mini-tradition has developed where everyone in attendance takes a turn at the podium to share a favorite moment from their time at the chapter.

This year, the 6th annual Senior Luncheon will be held on Friday, April 8, 2016 at noon at the Duquesne Club located at 325 6th Avenue in Downtown Pittsburgh. The cost is $50 per person. Many alumni elect to sponsor the cost of an undergrad’s lunch. Jacket and tie are required. You can RSVP to brother DeMarco at senorsig@yahoo.com. We hope to see you there!
Thank you for your generosity. Your donations help keep the Beta Theta chapter alive. The 2016-2017 fiscal year begins in August. Please consider renewing your dues. If you are not included on the list and you should be, please accept our apologies.

**Cathedral Level ($200 and above)**

- Tom Pasternak ($500)
- Marty St. John
- Tom Olofson
- David Hammers
- James Gruber
- Ralph Manning ($250)
- Thomas Schillinger
- Adam Majcher
- Robert Giunta
- Hon. Joseph James
- Gary Ickes
- Guido Gurrera
- Frank Ruscetti
- Michael DeMarco
- Jim Chontos

**Gold Level ($100)**

- Brian Generalovich
- Hon. Bud Shuster
- Josh DeWitt
- Paul Staudenmeier
- Brad Borghetti
- Thomas Meisner, Jr.
- Bill Chrisner

**Blue Level ($50)**

- Carlos Reisen, Jr.
- William Miller
- Marc Ciga
- Raymond Blackham
- Gregory Davis
- Samuel Woodings
- Charles Gongloff

Please select your dues level!

- Cathedral level: $200.00
- Gold level: $100.00
- Blue level: $50.00 (or “other amount”)

Detach this insert and mail it with your dues payments to:

P.O. Box 23173
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
Payable to: Sigma Chi Club of Pittsburgh

Please send us your updated contact information!!!

Name: ________________________  Address: ________________________

Phone: ________________________  ________________________

Email: ________________________  ________________________