



*Sigma Theta Epsilon
National Conclave Journal
April 4-6, 2003
St. Louis, MO*



Friday 4/4:

Arrive

Secret Meeting of the Saints TBA

Saturday 4/5:

8:30: Devotion

9:30: Business I (Officer and Chapter reports, Officer Elections)

11:00: Housing Corp. Meeting

12:00: Lunch (on your own)

1:30: Business II (New Business)

4:00: Cabinet Meeting

5:30: Rituals (Officer Installation, Love Feast, Initiation of WVU Chapter)

6:30: Dinner

8:00: Free time

Sunday 4/6:

9:00: Devotion

9:30: Head home

**THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE, AND WILL
LIKELY CHANGE**

CONCLAVE RULES OF ORDER

- I. Officer and Chapter Reports
 - A. Reports shall be limited to 6 minutes
 - 1. Reports can be read or presented orally
 - 2. The 6 minutes includes questions and discussion from the floor
 - B. Presentation and discussion of the Budget shall be limited to 12 minutes, which includes amendments to the Budget and concludes with a motion to accept

- II. Elections

Nominations

- 1. Opened by presiding officer
- 2. Closed by motion to close
- A. Candidate Speeches – 2 minutes for each candidate
- B. Questions for Candidates
 - 1. The time period for questions shall be the sum total of 5 minutes per candidate
 - 2. Each individual response shall be limited to 2 minutes
- C. Call for vote – may come earlier with a motion to vote
- D. Candidate leaves the room
- E. Discussion
 - 1. Limited to 5 minutes
 - 2. No individual may speak for more than 1 minute without relinquishing the floor
- F. Vote

- III. Business Items

- A. Proposal – unlimited time to read written proposal
- B. Authorship Speech – 3 minute authorship speech
- C. Questions for Clarification – 5 minutes for questions to author
- D. Discussion of Proposal
 - 1. Limited to 10 minutes
 - 2. No individual may speak for more than 2 minutes without relinquishing the floor
- E. Amendments
 - 1. Authorship speech – 2 minutes
 - 2. Discussion – 5 minutes (includes questions to author)
- F. Vote

- IV. Housing Corp. Business

- A. Presentation of business
- B. 10 Minute discussion lead by presiding officer
- C. Action if needed

These rules of order may be superceded at the discretion of the presiding officer or by a motion from the floor (i.e. “I move to extend discussion ____ minutes”) and consensu

Elections

Offices to be elected: Nominees
Vice President: Shannon Wagers
Expansion: Isaac Woodby
Alumni: Justin Evilsizor
Historian: Dave Kohl

Votes of Confidence
President: Chad Burdette
Secretary: Ben Kroger
Finance: Chris Long
IT: Joshua Parsell

Housing Corporation Trustees
2003-2006: Dwight Stephenson

(No vote of confidence required)
2002-2005: Aaron Aldridge
2001-2004: Rob Lombardo

New Business:

Standard Updates

The Following are proposed updates to The Standard. The National Officers support each of these proposals, which are as follows:

Section 1: National Meetings

Current Policy

1.02

The chapter hosting Conclave must not charge any fees to delegates or National Officers without prior permission from the National Cabinet.

Change to

The chapter delegates and National Officers shall not be charged any fees for Conclave attendance without prior permission from the National Cabinet.

Current Policy

1.05

Regional Fall Gatherings shall be held on separate weekends, dates subject to approval by the National Officers so that they will be able to attend all Fall Gatherings

Change to

Regional Fall Gatherings shall be held on concurrent weekends, dates subject to approval by the National Officers

Add to Section 1

1.06

The National Officers shall arrange to have several officers at each regional Fall Gathering, and the entire National Cabinet shall hold a business meeting via teleconference.

1.07

Each chapter President shall attend Fall Gathering, unless his absence has been approved in advance by the National President. If such approval is obtained, the chapter President must designate another active brother from his chapter to report in his place and attend the National Cabinet business meeting.

Section 2: Dues

Current Policy

2.01 National Dues shall be \$20 per brother, per year

Change to

2.01 National Dues shall be \$30 per brother, per year

The increased funds will be used to provide funds for the National Fraternity only. This is necessary due to the addition of two national officers and would allow for Nationals to become more active with the local chapters and expansion.

Creation of Section 14: Online Policies

14.01

The official National Website shall be under the domain 'www.sigmitheta.org' and shall be maintained by the National Information Technology Director.

14.02

Nationals may purchase other domains and develop other websites for specialized purposes, such as expansion.

14.03

Chapters may create individual websites. Such websites must be clearly identified as belonging to the specific chapter, and must prominently display a link to the official National Website.

Constitutional Amendments

Article VII Expansion, Section 4:

Current Policy

Section Four:

A. Chapters of the fraternity shall be designated by the letters of the Greek alphabet or a successive combination thereof, except that the Omega chapter shall be reserved for the deceased members of the fraternity

Proposal

ADD:

B. The naming of new chapters shall continue in order through the Greek alphabet. The names of chapters whose charters have been absorbed shall not be re-used on that campus or any other

Submitted by: Justin Evilsizor, BG active

Article VI Government, Section 1, Subsection C:

Current Policy

C. Each chapter shall select three (3) delegates. These delegates shall consist of the chapter president, or his designee, and two (2) other chapter members, one of whom may be an alumnus.

Proposal

Strike Article VI, Section One, Subsection C and replace in lieu thereof:

C. Each chapter shall select up to three (3) delegates. These delegates shall consist of the chapter president, or his designee, and two (2) other chapter members, one of whom must be an alumnus. Chapters shall be exempt from the alumni delegate requirement for four years from their charter date, or they may only send up to two (2) delegates

Topics for Discussion

--The need for a National Statement of Faith and the formation of a committee to draft such a statement

--The use of "SERVICE" in our name



Sigma Theta Epsilon

National Christian Service Fraternity

Office of the National President

Brothers,

Welcome to St. Louis! I hope you all had a good and safe trip here. The past year has been a very busy for the office of the National President.

It has been a busy one for me not only with Fraternity business but with my physical health. As some my not know I spent last summer and fall dealing with problems caused by a bulging disk in my back. Due to the fact that I had to undergo back surgery in October, my ability to travel and make chapter visits among other things were limited but I am pleased to report that my back is doing much better and plan to return to the golf course later this Spring. The fraternity as made many great strides this year in many areas which have taken many of the ideas and policies from previous years and moved on them in order to make them become a reality.

The first area that has benefited the fraternity greatly is the creation and implementation of the new website which includes the bulletin boards which has allowed for brothers across the country to communicate and fellowship with each other (and for some, rob our employers of valuable work time will we basically get paid to post to the board). The board has also lead to things such as the first annual STE National Fantasy Baseball League (which has 15 teams), a NCAA tourney fantasy league, and provided a place for chapters to post chapter reports and announcements of service and social activities that are open for brothers to attend. I would like to thank Josh, out IT Director for doing an excellent job on setting everything up and would encourage everyone who has not signed up to do so or those who have and not been back in a while to surf back over and see what is new.

Another major accomplishment has been with the Housing Corporation and getting it up and running. Since January I have met with the members of the board and we have made great strides since then. As of March 25, 2003, the Corporation has become confirmed and the Articles of Incorporation have been ratified by the five member board. These actions will allow the board to move forward and begin to take the necessary steps to bring the various fraternity houses under their control. If you have any questions I am sure that Rob Lombardo, the Housing Corporation CEO would be glad to answer any questions during the Housing Corp part of the meeting this weekend

Expansion has also taken place over the past year with the addition of the Beta Zeta Chapter and the WVU Temp club which should be chartered at Conclave. The Beta Zeta chapter became part of our Brotherhood this year at West Fall Gathering in Oklahoma City. The new chapter at Northeastern University seems to be doing well and seems to be lead by a good group of men who really love God and want to extend their ministry on their campus. As for the West Virginia University Temp club, hopefully they will pass their test and join us in fellowship. It has been a pleasure to work and guide them through the pledging period even though we have had a few rough spots but have been able to address the concerns and move forward as a stronger group. Some may remember that last year as I listed my goals that I would strive for as President that one of my main goals was to form a chapter here on campus so I thank God for providing the means and working things in such a way that the group came together as easily as it did. In the coming years, I would like to see both Nationals and chapters actively pursuing expansion options similar to the one that we have done this year with Conclave by finding a contact at Washington University here in St. Louis and introducing them to who we are in an attempt to encourage interest and the formation of a temporary club.

Another area that I have tired to work on this year is making chapter visits and keeping in contact with chapter presidents. I managed to make visits to Beta Gamma, Beta Epsilon, Alpha Gamma (of course) and have plans to go to Beta Beta next weekend. I have greatly enjoyed my visits to the chapters and am pleased with what I have been able to reserve among these groups and very optimistic about the future of these chapters. I have also tried to keep in contact with the chapters through email, the board, and instant messenger on a regular basis and feel that by doing this it promotes a stronger bond between the national and local level.

However there are a few areas that need to be the focus of the fraternity at both the national and local levels. First, both need to focus on restoring alumni relations with contact through mailings and providing opportunities for alumni to get together with the brothers and other alumni. One way that some are addressing this is through the creation of alumni associations, the most current being SWONKY (no idea? Stay tuned...). The second area that needs to be worked on is the area of communication between national officers and national officers and local chapters. While this seems to be a problem that has troubled the fraternity throughout the years I believe that with the addition of the boards and with National Officers that actively participate on the boards than we can start to correct the problem and make great strides and do great things for this fraternity.

Finally I hope everyone enjoys themselves this weekend. Much planning has taken place to provide attendees with facilities (ie. indoor pool and hot tub) and incentives (gotta love free t-shirts) that will hopefully attract more attendees in the following years. I would also like to say that as we debate business such as changes to the Standard and Constitution and the topic of a National Statement of Faith that no matter our disagreements we all serve the same God and that he should be the focus of everything we do and that everything we do should be in service to Him.

Respectfully submitted in Him,

Chad A. Burdette

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year has been a relatively quiet one for the office of Vice President. A few Bible studies have gone out (sorry for crashing anyone's mail server) and the Ritual Book was put in electronic form and posted to a secure site on the national website (thanks to our IT director).

The Conclave Rules of Order which I proposed last Conclave seemed to have worked well and will have been proposed again for this Conclave. I hope that they will be adopted into the Conclave operating procedure for continued use.

That's it.

It has been a wonderful four years serving Sigma Theta Epsilon as its National Vice President. I look forward to many more years of service as an alum of the organization. My absence today and my decision not to run again comes because of, and on the eve of, my first child's birth. Please keep us in your prayers.

Philo,
Charles E. Neff
National Vice-President
1999-2003

Dear Brothers,

First, over the past six months I know that I have been little to no help to the expansion of our organization, and for this I am sorry. My life has changed a lot in these last few months, for the good, and it has been very busy and crazy in my life (if you ask me I will tell you the whole story, but too much to type in my report). But I have been blessed lately and am very happy with how my new situation in New England is working out for me. Ok, onto my report.

In the past year the Brother of NSU's chapter Beta Zeta were chartered into our brotherhood at Fall Gathering. I am sorry that I could not be there, but I hope that they are doing well and are growing as a chapter and brothers in the name of God.

At that very same fall gathering West Virginia University was given a temp club and begun the process of becoming a chapter. With great thanks to and hard work by Chad (or fearless leader) they have worked really hard to get to this weekend and become the Beta Eta chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon.

I now end my report saying that I am not going to seek reelection to my office. It pains me to do this... I really love the brotherhood that I have gained with Sigma Theta Epsilon, and wish that there was some way that I could continue to work with the nationals of this organization. But I feel that my Job and industry do not give me the adequate time to fulfill the duties that go along with this office of STE. I know that whoever fills my position will find great wealth in the fact that they help this organization grow. I wish that I could find a way to continue to be a part and get to work with all of these wonderful men (and some women) in this organization. To Chad and the whole national cabinet, please do not hesitate in calling me for anything at anytime... I will always be there for my brothers. Thank you so much to Chad who is and hopefully will always be not only one of my best friends, but a strong presence in my life spiritually and beyond... thank you my friend. Thank you to all my brother and Sigma Theta Epsilon... for being my rock in college... and helping keep that strength after. I thank you all.

Philo and God Bless,

Craig H Guido
Expansion Director
Sigma Theta Epsilon



Sigma Theta Epsilon National Christian Service Fraternity

Office of the National IT Director
11708 Potomac Crossing Way. #22
Fairfax, VA 22030

March 12, 2003

Conclave 2003 Annual Report

Brothers,

What a year we have had! For the second year in a row, the Conclave installed a new National Officer in 2002, and I had the honor of being entrusted to perform this new office. I thank you for your confidence, and I hope that my record in this first year is worthy of your continuing support.

The first thing I turned my attention to was the National Website. It was overhauled and transferred to a new domain registrar and host, resulting in significant cost savings for the fraternity. My next task was to implement a bulletin board system, and this went live in May of 2002. As of this writing, our bulletin board boasts 163 registered users, the vast majority of whom are members or pledges of Sigma Theta Epsilon. (A few wives and fiancées have joined our community as well.)

The bulletin board has afforded us a fantastic new opportunity to collaborate on a National level. Many alumni have found the board provides them a way to keep in touch with their brothers, and all of us have a chance to meet and get to know our brothers from all parts of the country. The board provides access (sometimes instantaneous!) to the National Officers with requests and suggestions, and has facilitated many new initiatives in the past year, from new Conclave business to the formation of a regional Alumni Association. The bulletin board has also helped me to set up a team of brothers and alumni to assist in the development of the National Website. These gentlemen have been an excellent resource with providing feedback to me on new design ideas and features, with planning and implementing the national database (more on that later), and with actually assisting in designing site graphics and writing code.

A secure website was set up for access by the National Cabinet, and this site currently serves confidential documents such as the Pledge Manual and the Ritual Book. Many non-confidential documents, from our Constitution to the minutes from National Meetings going back to 1999, were made available on our main website for research by anyone interested.

A new FTP server was set up to facilitate the transfer of large files between myself and others, without using email for this purpose. (Email was never intended for file exchange and is not very efficient at this. Anyone who has a reason to send me pictures, videos, documents, or other files, should contact me for private access to this server.)

Lastly, my work on the National Contact Database is progressing well. It uses the same username and password information from the bulletin board, eliminating the need to remember multiple passwords. As of the date of this report, it is currently undergoing testing and is expected to be ready for general use by Conclave.

On the personal side, I am pleased to report that I was married in February! My wife, Ann, and I enjoyed a western Caribbean cruise while northern Virginia was being buried under a couple feet of snow. We are enjoying settling into our new apartment and making it our home.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the National Website, or if you just want to help out!

Philoi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Josh Parsell', written in a cursive style.

Joshua Parsell
National IT Director

Housing Corporation Conclave Report:

The Housing Corporation has approved its code of regulations and filed for non-profit incorporation in OH.

The board of directors has determined that limiting the liability of the individual chapters takes priority over providing income for the National Fraternity. It has also authorized the corporation to provide utilities, which may include cable and internet access, whenever viable.

The corporate officers are now moving forward with selecting local chapters for whom property can be sublet. Progress has been slowed by complications in each of the corporate officers' personal lives, and communication has on average been very poor throughout the last year.

Remaining tasks are to create a corporate banking relationship and to integrate with the National Fraternity database (if any).

Philo,

2003 finds AG shrinking in membership but solidifying in purpose. Our smaller number has allowed us to begin rebuilding foundations that had been forgotten or abandoned for lost reasons. Our first Alumni Newsletter in ages is made but due to the pledge period and Spring break has been delayed in sending. We are looking into more efficient ways of managing this project. We have had a few small scale service projects this year ranging from a food drive for a local pantry to painting chairs for eventual placement in the campus game room. In December we DKR'ed our fabulous sweetheart Rebecca and Junior, one of our Shiny Pins.

This semester marked the first actual planned rush week in many years. It was not a roaring success but it will be given another shot in the fall. Other approaches to recruitment have been considered, such as getting to know potentials early in the year and attending other campus organizations and sniping their members. Our four pledges show great promise and we hope to welcome them all into the brotherhood in the fullness of time.

We have also gotten together with the temporary club at WVU for several events, although our bowling event was cancelled due to inclement weather and thanks to the wonderful world of college scheduling, it has not been rescheduled because of consecutive spring breaks.

Our formal should have been held by the time of Conclave and hopefully it goes well. We are deviating from the traditional form and attempting to have a nice informal, relaxing weekend in seclusion. Easter weekend has been slated for a possible camping trip over in Canaan, at most probably a two day affair with a sun rise retreat/meditation on Sunday morning.

AG is looking forward to another quiet year and slow growth.

Respectfully,

Zachary S. "LH" Borovicka, President and Pledgemaster, Alpha Gamma Chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Christian Service Fraternity

Brothers,

Greetings from the Epsilon Chapter at Ohio Northern University. I am filled with the joy that comes only from Christ as I prepare this report for you.

This past year has had many trials for us. In our fall quarter alone, two of our officers decided to vacate their office and receive the degree of the knotted rope. Our chapter also lost four officers at the start of our spring quarter. We are currently filling these positions, and as we learned fall quarter, this is not a panic situation, but rather a position for God to prove his faithfulness further, by once again rising up new leaders.

We have also brought in three awesome groups of pledges. In the spring of 2002, we initiated three new brothers (the Beta Theta class), each of whom God has already used to lead the brotherhood. In the fall-winter of 2002-2003 (Beta Iota), we initiated seven new brothers, each of whom is already bringing his unique holy influences into our fellowship. We currently have three pledges for our Spring 2003 (Beta Kappa) class, and we can see a fire in them for Christ, and a passion in them for Sigma Theta Epsilon.

Our newest brothers have also brought with them new successes and achievements to the brotherhood. Our Beta Theta class brought in the Christian group Broken Yoke for one of their three projects, and it was a wild success that brought many people closer to Christ. The Beta Iota class then used one of their projects to start working on a prayer room for our house. This project is ongoing, and looks to be a great asset to our brotherhood.

Our normal projects also were met with success in the past year. Our Annual Hog Roast to benefit Cystic Fibrosis raised over \$400 for the fund; by far our most successful hog roast ever. We were also able to do a Christmas canned food drive to help the local food pantry, as well as a service trip to Camp Otterbein to help them prepare for their camping season.

With the internal struggles we have had this year, our new officer group has decided to create a new focus on the Lord. We feel that if we have an awesome Spiritual Growth, we will also have a greater unity, and a greater passion for the campus, which will in turn create growth in the brotherhood. We have recently taken two steps to foster this spiritual focus. First, we have reintroduced a time of Praise and Worship at regular business meetings. Second, we have elected a new advisor, Rev. Wayne Albertson, who is the pastor at the Ada First United Methodist Church.

It is our hope and prayer that each of you has found more of Christ in the past year, and that we hear many triumphant stories of His glory as we hear from you.

Philo,

Tyler Betts
Epsilon Chapter President

Greetings from Beta Alpha

I wish I had some good news this time around, but in reality we are in some pretty dire straits. Apathy among our brothers has reached an all time high. I am sorry to admit that our active membership has dropped considerably in the past year or so. Currently we are taking a brief break to allow those who wish to remain active to refocus and recenter. There is really nothing that can be done from the outside, except for prayer. We will need as much of that as we can get.

Sincerely

James Riley

Acting President
Beta Alpha Chapter

Philo Brothers,

To many of you, the events of Beta Beta's fall semester are well known. James Orr, our president at the time, was in contact with many of you during our trials. On behalf of the brothers of Beta Beta I want to thank each of you that supported us with prayers during our time of need. Your words of encouragement and support were a source of hope for our brotherhood.

I will give a brief recap of the ordeal for those brothers here who do not know of what I speak. In August, as we returned to school and began moving back into our house, we noticed black mold growing on our basement walls. Because of this mold, the three brothers who were to move into the basement were unable to do so. These three brothers were now forced to find another place to live. The ensuing financial strain put upon our brotherhood was overshadowed by the rash of deactivations by five of our brothers. By December of that fall semester, we had secured our current residence at Oxford Commons and made the decision to leave our house at 7 East Spring.

Though a difficult time for our chapter, that semester saw the adding of Brian Davis to our brotherhood. He fits our brotherhood well and his coming brought us joy in a dark time.

The spring, associated with new beginnings, ushered us into a new beginning as well. Our ordeal had forged our bonds of brotherhood. For a time, the Lord has given us rest from spiritual and physical attacks. Above all else in this quiet time, we have sought to build upon the bonds of brotherhood that were forged through the past semester. We have begun meeting in small groups to encourage fellowship and accountability with brothers who might not otherwise meet on a regular basis.

As we look to the future of our brotherhood, we know that next year six of our brothers will be leaving us when they graduate. This coming year will be a decisive time in the history of our fraternity, and we know that God will be faithful. Regardless, we will press on towards the Goal, doing the work that we are shown. And as always we will take joy in being fellow workers with God.

Peace be yours in Abundance,

Ryan Schilling
Beta Beta

Chapter Report – Conclave 2003 – St. Louis, Missouri

The time since we last gathered as a national fraternity has brought us many changes. We celebrated our fifth birthday this February, and through that have realized that we are beyond the infancy stage as a ministry. We have made it through the growing pains and now need to stand firm in the Lord and continue to grow. Recently, we elected new crew of officers, most of them younger brothers. This has given opportunity for our older brothers to be intentional in pouring out their experience into those who are younger. This past fall quarter we adopted a vision statement that we believe is God's purpose for us on this campus. We see-sawed back and forth on the issue of who we are: Are we a campus ministry, focused on outreach? Or are we a ministry focused on building up men as leaders? After almost a year of teetering on the fence, we had to realize that God has us at the University of Cincinnati for one purpose: "*We strive to refine Christian men, giving them tools and resources, so that they may dynamically impact our world and the Kingdom for the cause of Christ.*" We are a ministry that aims to embolden Christian men to be leaders and to be sold out for Christ. Through that growth, outreach and evangelism will come in individual brothers lives. In the past year our three focus areas have grown tremendously.

Religious

Our previous religious chair made unprecedented advances for us as a fraternity by taking a real passion for his office and pursuing our overall religious temperature. Fall quarter he did a team building religious event where teams of brothers competed in events that required intelligence, creativity, athleticism, artistic ability, and team work. He really worked to define the responsibilities of an office that was previously slightly ambiguous. Our current religious chair took us rock climbing last month. Our previous chaplain brought in men from outside of the fraternity to lead our Bible studies. The effect of this was twofold: 1) it brought mature Christian experience and wisdom from men who were at the next life stage, and 2) it freed up brothers from leading fraternity studies so they could focus more attention on their personal ministry.

Social

Socially we have held events to grow beyond our parties. We continued having success with our Drive In Movies. Held in our own parking lot, we made a 16'x24' movie screen out of PVC pipe and a tarp and hung it from the back of our house. Double features included Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure/ Back to the Future, Karate Kid/ Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, and Goonies/ Ghostbusters. We plan for two more this spring and summer. Test-of-Manliness nights started as a religious project, but ended up being a more of a social event, incorporating hot sauce eating contests, leg wrestling, a car pull, and other tests of physical and mental stamina to prove that men are men.

Service

Our current Service Chair has built on the shoulders of his predecessors and taken service to a new level. We still do our Canned Food Drive, netting nearly 4 tons of canned goods. But this quarter, God has used our service chair to develop a new passion for service that is permeating through the rest of us. We had probably 5-6 different service events this quarter, from the annual Cross Town Help-Out, to painting at University Christian Church, to working a coat check at a car show.

God has brought us through the steps of adolescence as a ministry and we are now carrying on the legacy that was started five years ago by our alumni. Pray that we can continue to influence the Church and the world for the Kingdom of Christ. Praise God.

Dave Scherpelz, President

Beta Gamma Chapter, University of Cincinnati, Sigma Theta Epsilon

Sigma Theta Epsilon,
National Christian Service Fraternity, Inc., Beta Delta Chapter,
Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX

This year has been a busy yet exciting one for the Beta Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon in San Antonio, TX.

We began August coming out of a slow spring semester, trying to define what a brother of STE should be, starting where we left in May. At the same time we began the pledge process for the Eta class, the first pledge class we have had in a year. The fall semester was filled with many trials ranging from needing money for activities to arguments between brothers. However, the semester was also a great semester for us concerning the three aspects of Sigma Theta Epsilon; Social, Religious, and definitely Service. Beta Delta racked up close to 200 service hours, and we received recognition and congratulations for having more service hours than any organization on campus.

With the Eta class installed in December 2002, the Beta Delta Chapter underwent a dramatic change not only in leadership, but also in attitude. The Eta class—Stephen “Scuba” Martinez, David Martinez, Bryan Biediger, “Indiana” John Hegedus, Jason Reveles, Alberto Bautista, and Frank “#3” Castillo—provided a breath of fresh air for our chapter and we found a new sense of pride and of unity within our brotherhood. Along with the addition of new brothers, brothers Roger Urrabazo and Zeke Aguilera departed Our Lady of the Lake University as Alumni.

This semester started off where the fall semester ended, with a lot of optimism and shared thirst for success from all of the brothers. With Stephen Martinez as the new Service Chairman, we have already received close to 150 service hours. Cory Earl, the new Social Chairman has proved us with great events such as the “Big Chicken Bar-B-Q Bash” and video games nights. Ivan Rivera as our new Chaplain has offered many new perspectives on what we as Christian men should concern ourselves with. Presently we are still occupying ourselves with evens and projects that help us and encourage us to better ourselves and our world including a community wide Love Feast to be held April 14th, and a retreat for our brother hood which will take place in late April. The Beta Delta Chapter also sponsors a bible study every Monday and a Rosary for Peace every Saturday, both of which are open to the community. We have worked with many youth in the Boys & Girls Club, JAM., and the Edgewood School District. We have participated with numerous events sponsored by the Lake, including building a ramp for an older man who had suffered from a stroke. A handful of our brothers teach young adults in the Smarts Friends Abstinence Program. Also, a group of brothers including Hector and myself visited Monterrey, Mexico for a Mexico Immersion Experience. We did missionary work where we practiced the ministry of Christ.

At the end of this semester, two of our brothers will receive their DKR. Three of our brothers will depart as well, one to India to continue his studies as a Social Work Major, another to the #1 Dental School in all the Nation to pursue his degree in dentistry, and the other is heading back home to support his family with his brothers in Christ praying for him every step of the way.

I am proud to be the president of the Beta Delta Chapter. We, as a fraternity are excelling academically and several of our brothers have received special recognition for their achievements. Stephen Martinez has just been elected President of the University Programming Council. Hector Garza is currently running for President of the Day, a fundraiser in which the person who raises the most money takes the President of the University’s seat for a whole day. Ivan Rivera is presenting a paper he composed for the Student Conference for Campus Scholarship. Dusting Kirkland has received the Business Communication Student of the Year Award. On April 4-6, around half of our active brothers will participate in an Awakening Retreat in which we are allowed to practice our ministry in various forms and practices, representing Sigma Theta Epsilon through our actions. Our brothers also take many leadership positions for this Awakening Retreat, even more proof that a brother of Sigma Theta Epsilon is a Fellow Worker with God.

Philo,

Javier R Ortiz III
Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Christian Service Fraternity, Inc.,
Beta Delta Chapter President
San Antonio, TX, Our Lady of the Lake University
(210) 528-6961

Beta Zeta Chapter Conclave Report

This past year has proven to be one of many exciting happenings. At the last Conclave we held the status of Temporary club. After many trials and testing of our commitment to each other as brothers we became the Beta Zeta Chapter of Sigma Theta Epsilon, National Service Fraternity. Since that time we have seen a growth amongst the brothers in commitment to Christian Service and our commitment to each other.

In the time since Conclave we have carried out many different activities and projects. Some of the service projects that we have carried out in the past year included pouring a concrete walk way and concrete activity pad for a local retirement community, a can drive at Halloween, a penny drive to benefit the Angel Tree Project and a trash pickup at a local park.

During the project at the local retirement center we were blessed to be interviewed for the campus television channel. This exposure has proven useful for us in the past semester. It has heightened awareness of us on campus. The project itself was very ambitious. It was scheduled to only take four days worth of work but turned out to be two weeks of continual work. All of our brothers and many other volunteers lent a hand and we saw the successful completion of the project. The concrete walkways and pads that we poured for them allow for easier access to a flower garden and seating area for the residents.

In the fall semester we had two opportunities to meet up with the Beta Alpha chapter from OCU. The first opportunity allowed us to go down and join with them in a bowling night, one of their Rush activities. The second time they joined us in Tulsa for a few games of LaserQuest and dinner at TGI Fridays. Other Social activities we have carried out are our World Famous Bonfires. While the bonfires are never really large they are always fun and entertaining. We have had a bonfire every semester that we have been with Sigma Theta and find it to be a good tool for fellowship and recruitment. While we do like to have fun at the bonfires we also like to have a serious element of Religious service.

During this spring semester we were excited to have two pledges for our chapter. While this pledge class is small they have been anything but in what they have done for our chapter. Their excitement for the purposes of Sigma Theta has shown our other brothers a new side of the fraternity. We now see the joy in passing on the purposes that we hold to be so true. By the time we reach conclave they will have completed all the requirements of the pledge period and will have been initiated as full members. Their projects have benefited not only our chapter but also the local community of Tahlequah and local community of believers.

The past year has truly been an enjoyable experience for us. We have had our ups and downs in many areas but have persevered. With the completion of our first pledge class we have our eyes set on the future looking forward to what it holds for us as we strive to be Fellow workers with God!