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Are You Receiving Our Monthly eLetter?

Make sure you are receiving the monthly Beta Iota Corporation eletter! If you aren't getting this email update, log onto our website at www.atogatech.org and update your email address. You'll receive the latest Beta Iota news – including notification of the latest additions to the website and details of future events – right in your inbox!

Board of Trustees Report

Chad Vickery '97, Chairman

Distinguished Alumnus Award

The inaugural John Robertson Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to John Robertson October 29, 2005 during Homecoming festivities. This annual award will acknowledge the accomplishments and efforts of Beta Iota alumni who put forth the betterment of the chapter as well as serve the alumni community.

John Robertson has served as Beta Iota's chapter advisor since 1979, influencing and affecting the lives of all the members who have gone through the chapter during his tenure. John's countless hours and dedication to the brotherhood and rich history of Beta Iota continue to pay their dividends as the chapter continues to improve. Please congratulate him on his distinction and the dedication of the award in his honor. ■

Undergrad Profile

Q+A with

Vladik Rikhter

Meet Vladik Rikhter...Our 'Outstanding Brother'

The following interview is with Vladik Rikhter, winner of the 2005 Eugene M. Clary award. This award is for the most outstanding all-around brother, taking to account academic performance, ATO leadership and service, school leadership and recognition, as well as community service and leadership

Major: Industrial Engineering

Age: 22

Graduation: Fall 2005

High School: Riverwood High School

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Q: To start off, who has been the biggest role model in your life to this point?

A: My dad is by far my biggest role model; having had to overcome numerous obstacles, I know many people who would have gotten frustrated or tired, but he kept going as hard as he could and overcame them without ever complaining. Life isn't

always fair and one of the most important lessons I've learned from him is that hard work, perseverance, and believing in yourself truly are the way to get ahead in life.

Q: What is the most important decision you have made while at Georgia Tech?

A: As expected, the most important decision I've ever made was joining ATO. The doors fraternity life at Georgia Tech as a member of Alpha Tau Omega opened have been truly awesome. In addition, my decision to study abroad in the South Pacific this past spring was an eye opening experience, gave me another view of the world I live in, and overall definitely affected me in a positive way.

Q: What can you tell me about your most important mistake and what you learned from it?

A: My first semester I think I acted a lot like most freshman, trying to do my best to please everyone, but I

think I learned an important lesson from my mistakes back then: in life it is impossible to pick a path that pleases everyone exactly the same amount; rather you must work to find the path that displeases the least number of people.

Q: Explain the effect that joining Alpha Tau Omega has had on your life

A: It brought out a person inside of me that didn't exist earlier, taught me leadership, problem solving, social skills, taught me everything else I will need to be successful in life, helped me make tons of connections, and I was able to do it all with guys that I've been close with for the past four years of my life.

Q: What are your plans for after graduation?

A: I'm currently waiting on my scores for the LSAT, and I'm checking out a number of law schools, but if the right opportunity presents itself I

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Board Sets Goal For Chapter

The Board of Trustees has resumed its monthly meetings with the chapter after a summer hiatus. The chapter is in good order thanks to the efforts of all the current officers. We had a productive fall rush in which a few of the Board members attended one night to support the chapter. The Board is impressed with the chapter's continued excellence in grades, philanthropy and campus leadership. In light of the chapter's recent achievements, the Board has recommended that the chapter should strive for the National True Merit Award within the coming year.

The Board has enjoyed working with the chapter officers and has been encouraged by their commitment to keep ATO a strong presence on the Georgia Tech campus. The Board is looking forward to continuing its initiatives with the new chapter officers.

The Board also welcomes its newest member, **Scott Springfield '05**. He will be serving as the young alumni liaison on the Board and as the ATO representative on the Georgia Tech Greek Alumni Council.

The Board of Trustees is looking to fill a few member positions that have opened in the past year. If you live in the Atlanta area and are interested in supporting the Beta Iota chapter by becoming a Board member, please do not hesitate to contact me. We are looking for alumni from all graduation years. Your time and effort will be welcome and appreciated by all ATO brothers. There's also the incentive of complimentary football game day parking in the ATO lawn for Board of Trustees members. Please contact a member of the Board to express your interest. ■

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Undergrad Profile

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may choose not to go to law school. I know that I'd love to work in a start up, either my own or someone else's, doing something that I'm passionate about, something I'm excited to wake up every morning for, and something with a large potential for growth.

Q: What advice would you give to entering freshman on how to succeed at Georgia Tech?

A: Don't come into Georgia Tech expecting it to be an easy ride like high school might have been. At some point you will realize that you have to buckle down and bust your butt to make it through. Don't ever close

doors on yourself, keep an open outlook, and try to meet as many people as you can.

Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

A: Hopefully I'll have started a family and be an important part of a successful business.

Q: What is your favorite book?

A: Tuesdays with Morrie is by far my favorite book, it's amazing how incredible an outlook someone can have on life when they realize their life is soon to end. It also showcases many great life lessons Morrie learned and the values he had adopted.

Q: Do you have any "off-the-wall" lifetime goals?

A: I've got two interesting lifetime goals, I'd like to try and visit every country on the planet and if I ever got the chance, I'd love to run an NBA team.

Q: What do you plan to do with the award money?

A: I'm going to be investing the money and then taking my earnings and buying a round the world plane ticket and travel after graduation before entering the real world. ■

Welcome To Our 21 New Brothers

As we are nearing the midpoint of the fall semester I would like to take this time to update you on the current happenings of Beta Iota and where we are trying to go.

Our summer was very successful with the renovation/addition of guest restrooms on the first floor. This has contributed to a friendlier and cleaner environment for families and guests of our chapter. Also this summer helped to orchestrate a very successful fall rush with 21 young men. Our pledges had very successful high school careers and exceeded in academics, lead-

ership, character, and athletics, one of our pledges has recently returned from serving our country overseas with the United States Marine Corps. We are expecting many great things from these guys in the years to come.

Our chapter's scholarship has continued to improve as we brought the chapter grade point average to a 2.92 with our house finishing in the top 10 out of all houses on campus. As always, we continue to foster a healthy balance of school and social events. We recently held our annual

Hawaiian Party and continued to make it the best party at Georgia Tech. Congratulations to all of our alumni celebrating their (can't think of the word) anniversaries.

I would like to thank everyone for their support, especially our Board of Trustees, for their continuous dedication to improvement of Beta Iota. If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or if you would like to recommend a candidate for Beta Iota, please don't hesitate to contact me at stewart@gtato.org or 404-217-8849. ■

Atlanta Alumni

Club

Atlanta Alumni Club Hosts Third Thursdays

The Atlanta Alumni Club wants to meet you! This club coordinates alumni socials at local establishments throughout the year. These gatherings are casual in nature to provide in-town alumni an opportunity to socialize with other ATO's from Tech. Some of the past events have included happy hours, poker tournaments, and an occasional golf outing.

The club also introduced **Third Thursdays**, which are intended to give local alumni and even members of the active chapter a chance to socialize at a centrally located establish-

ment in the Atlanta area. Beta Iota's from Georgia Tech meet monthly at Rock Bottom Brewery in Buckhead at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of every month. Regardless of age or interest, please feel welcome to come join other ATO's from Georgia Tech for **Third Thursdays**.

To be added to the distribution list of the Atlanta Alumni Club, please contact Eric Smith at ericsmith76@bellsouth.net or 678-455-8437 or Chad Vickery at cmvickery@mindspring.com or 770-424-344 or to be added to this distribution list. ■

Alumni

Updates

Blanchard D. Smith '45

(2509 Ryegate Ln., Alexandria, VA 22308; bdsr@cox.net) I am fully retired now, at age 80, but active in the SAR (Sons of the American Revolution), the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, and the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club.

Jean R. Hecht '45

(2057 Rt. 9, Toms River, NJ 08755; motionjrh@aol.com) I am going to repeat all the traveling I started in 1935 in a big camper from ocean to ocean and all points north of the Mexican border full time.

Thomas F. Curry '49

(2403 Beekay Ct., Vienna, VA 22181-3002; csys@earthlink.net) Deceased 10/19/2004 per Mary Ann Curry.

John H. Tucker '49

(5601 Promontory Pointe Rd., Midlothian, VA 23112-2023; wa4eae@juno.com) This last summer, my wife and I went on a cruise where we visited Istanbul, Turkey, Athens, Greece, and the Greek Islands of Mykanos, Rhodes, Crete, Santorini and Samos. Most interesting trip with lots of historic sights including the site of the Oracle of Delphi. Photographs are available on my web site tuckerphotos@webshots.com.

Cecil R. Phillips '55

(2810 Sarpy Av, Baton Rouge, LA 70820-5417; cphill99@cox.net) I was member of chapter in 1952-55, and was president senior year. My wife, Neila, and I attended 50th class reunion last weekend. Saw brothers **Bob Cary '55**, **Wayne Saterbak '55**, **Ron Jordan '55**, and **Mike**

Reu '55, as well as a number of other classmates. In January I retired from LSU, where I had been president of the LSU Foundation for 12 years. I had previously served as an officer in the Georgia Tech development program, 1984-89. Now have a management consulting practice, assisting nonprofits with their fundraising programs.

Edward W. Davis '57

(445 Ivy Farm Dr., Charlottesville, VA 22901; ewd@virginia.edu) Since 1978 I've been teaching at the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia. I'm married to the former Patricia Forrest of Richmond. We're fortunate to have one of our two sons and two of our 5 grandchildren living in Charlottesville.

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Alumni Updates

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J. Wayne Andrews '61

(7510 Pinehurst Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244; WayneA7@aol.com) Havalyn & I continue to enjoy "retired" life in Cincinnati. All three of our daughters and their families now live in the area so we have the pleasure of being with and keeping some number of our 16 grandchildren on a daily basis. I continue to lead the Board of Trustees of Miami Valley Christian Academy, which is a very active and growing school. We are now preschool through grade 11 with 370 students.

John S. Thibadeau '69

(105 Crown Ct., Peachtree City, GA 30269; johnthib@bellsouth.net) Cissy and I moved to Peachtree City, Ga. about a year ago to be near our kids and grandkids. Life is good. We recently found out

that **Gordon Price** lives down the street and have enjoyed getting together with he and his wife. Can't figure out when to pull the trigger on retirement and travel.

John B. Lovell '72

(460 River Bend Rd., Richmond Hill, GA 31324; jblovrlook@aol.com) My wife and I along with some friends had dinner not long ago on St. Simons Island at the Blackwater Grill. To me its the best food on the island and that's saying something.

John Howton '73 works real hard and it shows. Glad my new favorite place to eat is headed up by an ATO.

James E. Wiley '87

(30298 Scotch Pine Ct., Daphne, AL 36527; jewiley@mchsi.com) Still living

in Daphne, Alabama. In my 19th year of marriage to my beautiful wife Deidre, and working hard to raise 3 great kids (Hayden 14, Jackson 9, and Emma 6). Don't bump into many brothers in this part of the Gulf Coast region but would welcome any who want to come to the area (although I do hang around with a few Georgia Tech grads); we live about 45 minutes from the Gulf Shores, Al. Still working on the Sucralose (Splenda) project, although for a new owner (Tate & Lyle).

Paul C. Pope '90

(1485 Ashford Pl. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30319; paulp@ahearn.com)

Byron L. Eberhart '91

(2335 Muirfield Way, Duluth, GA 30096-6045; eberharttrip@hotmail.com) My wife, Lori, and three kids: Megan (9), Benjamin (7) and Tori (2) live in Duluth, GA. Yes, I am still working for Coca-Cola supporting the Sonic business. I look forward to seeing many of you at GT football games this fall.

James A. Warren '93

(2255 Off Shore Drive, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034; treywarren@yahoo.com)

Michael Thurmond '98

(6439 Alder Lane, Norcross, GA 30093-4998; mthurmond@manh.com) On 3/17/05 Hailey Ellen Thurmond was born to Kimberly and me. She is our first child. Other than that, still working as an Account Manager with Manhattan Associates. ■

Fundraising Update

Legislation Support Needed

Hot news! Making contributions to chapter houses tax deductible is on the agenda of the 109th Congress! Two Bills (H.R. 1548 and S.713) are under review -- they are called "The Collegiate Housing and Infrastructure Act of 2005." Simply put, all money raised to fix-up the house would be deductible as long as it passes through a qualified foundation like the ATO Foundation in Indianapolis.

If these bills pass and are signed into law, we would be perfectly positioned when the next renovation comes up. We need roof work and need to have a sprinkler system installed. Take some time and write your Congressmen and Senators in support of these bills. Please copy ATO National on these letters so that they can be forwarded to the lobbyists working for all national sororities and fraternities. Either fax them to 317-684-1862 or email them to housingact@ato.org. ■

The latest news on the house, the chapter and your alumni brothers!



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