

# BETA THETA PI

BETA OMEGA CHAPTER



# TRIDENT

*Summer 2009*

ISSUE I · VOLUME III

## PRESIDENT

**Dear Brothers-**

As summer in Seattle is upon us, I have mixed emotions on completing yet another school year. On one hand, I'm excited to have a vacation with no lectures, stressful exams and a homework-free three months coupled with great Seattle sun.



However, it is with notable sadness that I bid farewell to a class of great seniors that graduated this June. While it is always a gloomy day each year when the senior class leaves, this group in particular has made a remarkable contribution to Beta Omega. Alumni that came before, and all actives that will come after this class, owe these graduates many thanks.

Shortly after these seniors started as freshman, the chapter underwent a turbulent period of reorganization and faced strict sanctions, not because of the actions of these seniors, but the result of poor choices made by a few upperclassmen. While it would have been easy to drop the house or stop caring in the wake of an uncertain future, this class did the opposite. As freshman, they took the reigns and committed themselves to changing the culture and standards of the chapter for the better, under the steady guidance of alumni, Ben Hoover, Carl Kester, Greg Cox, James Miller, Whitney Smith, and Jim Clack. By the time I entered two years later, Beta Omega was in the incredible position it is today, excelling in academics, interfraternal development, intramural athletics and a commitment to the Seattle community.

The obstacles and challenges these men surmounted were daunting but what truly distinguishes them is their continued infectious-positive attitude toward all things Beta. This past spring, 25 of the original 30 members were still paying dues and were

regular attendants at chapter meetings and social events. These men embody what it truly is to be a member of Beta Omega—a commitment to the notion of *\_kai\_* through all times, both good and bad. Please take a second to look at the column inside this issue identifying these seniors, their former roles in the house and plans for the future.

While only half of the chapter is living in during this summer, all locals come together throughout the summer for barbecues, Mariner games, inner-tubing competitions on Lake Washington and much more. Additionally, on July 10, a good amount of the active chapter and alumni will head east to Yakima to the home of Andy Brassington (Beta Omega Class of '80) for our annual Raft Trip. Andy's daughter, Andrea, is a junior in the Kappa Kappa Gamma house and a revered friend within our chapter. Additionally, our rush chairmen are working with Matt Teagarden to make sure our annual Alumni-Active basketball tournament is bigger and better than ever. Please read more regarding this event inside this issue.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the alumni who responded with such positive feedback to our most recent issue of *The Trident*. Our Alumni Relations Chair, Alec Maghami, and I took a personal interest in improving content and layout and judging by your comments, it paid off. If you have any suggestions or there is some subject you would like to see in future *Tridents*, please do not hesitate to contact Alec or myself.

This September, I will be studying abroad in Barcelona and our current rush chair, Ben Werth, will be taking over as President until January 2010. I have had a great time in office and believe without a doubt our chapter will continue to excel in all areas of fraternity and collegiate life. Please feel free to still contact me with questions or stop by the house anytime. As always, on behalf of the house, I appreciate our alumni brothers' interest in and commitment to the well being of Beta Omega. Have a relaxing and rewarding summer.

~kai~

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## HOUSE MANAGER

I want to start by thanking all the alumni whose generous donations make our house projects possible. The spring quarter went extremely well with no issues happening within the house.



Our biggest project occurring over the course of spring quarter was the renovation of all the house heating units in the common areas, including hallways, chapter room and bathrooms. Once again, McKinstry did magnificent work under the leadership of Beta Omega alumni James Miller.

Next fall and winter these updates will be “warmly” remembered. Additionally, during the annual inspection of our boiler room some of the pipes attached to our boilers were replaced due to age. Now, our boilers and heaters will be operating at their full potential for the upcoming school year.

In the past week, I completed a head-to-toe inspection of the chapter house with Whitney Smith, '86, who is the leader of the Beta Omega Association's chapter house committee. We reviewed completed projects, including the installation of additional safety bars across windows, and updated our project/task list and priorities for house maintenance and repair to ensure that the chapter house not only looks good, but that all structural, electrical, plumbing, roofing, and fire safety systems are performing well.

We are all looking forward to summer and next school year. The next project being considered is a remodel of the library. Last summer's remodel of the second floor bathroom had a huge impact on recruitment and freshman parents' first impressions of the house.

We are committed to having our chapter house remain the premiere home in the Greek System. We appreciate all of the help we receive from alumni and parents, and we would love to connect with more alumni. If you want to be involved you can contact Whitney Smith (Smith@wscd.com) or contact me via the information below. Feel free to stop by and get a tour of the house and have dinner with the guys; I would be happy to show you our recent projects and our goals.

\_kai\_,  
Grant Madril '11  
madril@u.washington.edu

## VICE PRESIDENT

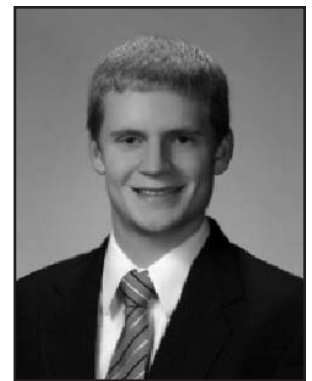
This spring quarter provided the brothers of Beta Omega with many social, brotherhood and philanthropic events to participate in. In April, we held our annual Dragon Cup, a philanthropic soccer tournament involving a week of on campus sorority activities to support cancer research. During spring quarter, Beta Omega entered a variety of philanthropic sorority sporting tournaments including flag football, basketball, tennis and others. Many of the teams that entered played successfully and the flag football team won our sister house's (Pi Beta Phi) philanthropy. We held a few large scale brotherhood events, the largest being a trip to a Mariner's game. We were able to get great attendance, and it was a good event for the house to spend with the graduating seniors one last time. This summer we have 50 members living in, and through the generosity of our alumni, were able to give seniors free rent for their last summer at Betas. All who are living in are excited to assist and participate in the summer Rush process in order to ensure the continued success of our chapter.



\_kai\_,  
Robbie Suelzle '11  
robsuelz@u.washington.edu

## TREASURER

Once again, Beta Omega has continued its stellar record of collecting 100 percent of its receivables. Additionally, we have done an excellent job throughout the year of controlling costs and staying within our budget. Doing so has enabled us to provide the chapter with some exciting opportunities, such as sending thirteen active members to General Convention in Phoenix, Arizona this summer! As treasurer, I have benefitted greatly from the open line of communication that I have with the alumni treasurer, Robert King, who has been very helpful in facilitating our chapter's financial achievements.



\_kai\_,  
Alex Whitney '10  
awhit@u.washington.edu



## SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS CHAIR

Spring quarter 2009 has been filled with continued progress and success regarding scholarship and awards. First and foremost, in the third week of the quarter, IFC announced that Beta Omega was again FIRST IN GRADES among all fraternities for the winter. We posted a remarkable 3.43 GPA, which included 51 Dean's List members. This is the second consecutive quarter that Betas has accomplished this feat. Despite the rising temperatures and with summer closing in, the house has been pushing hard to finish first again this spring. I believe our academic success highlights the well-rounded nature of the brothers of Beta Omega, and I think it will help us attract a top-notch pledge class as well.



On the awards front, numerous awards applications have been submitted for consideration to the General Fraternity. Most prominently, we have applied for the prestigious Knox Award, along with the Sisson Award. By galvanizing support from the executive team and the house as a whole, I was able to put together an application that I am very proud of. Countless members contributed something to the application; from pictures of Betas consulting a business in Honduras as a part of the Global Business Brigade, to descriptions of the alumni events held by the chapter, the application showed the best that Beta Omega has to offer. These awards will be given out at the General Convention in Phoenix from July 30th – August 2nd.

\_kai\_,  
Sean Burnstead '12  
sburnstead@hotmail.com

## RISK MANAGER

Spring quarter has proven to be another incident free quarter at the Beta Omega chapter. Besides simply "staying out of trouble," our chapter hosted a speaker from the Washington State Liquor Control Board to touch on topics relevant to college students. We had close to 100 percent chapter attendance and the knowledge gained should prove



to be extremely valuable for upperclassmen and younger members alike. In addition, we continued to make safety upgrades to the physical plant by adding more window bars in various locations in the house. Moving into summer, our main focus continues to be safety for both the house and its live-in members. Live-in actives were educated on the heightened level of crime north of 45th during the summer and ways to keep members, and their possessions, safe and secure. Finally, with summer continuing towards a new pledge quarter, the rush team will begin to solidify the incoming class. In terms of risk management this presents Beta Omega's next chapter of risk education. Continuing our excellent risk management record of the past few years will be stressed as a top priority for both actives and alumni. I'm excited to pass down this new tradition of keeping our fraternity and its members safe and happy. Happy Summer.

\_kai\_,  
Ben Pitasky '11  
benpitasky@yahoo.com

Rush has been going very well so far. Spring quarter was great as the rush team signed 12 new members, giving a total of 14 pledges so far. Rush has been successful because of a variety of events and a lot of house participation. Rushees have really enjoyed the fact that our house is strong in both grades and athletics. We have signed men doing simple events like playing basketball and rounds of golf, in addition to more extravagant social events like our Spring Cruise. The character of our pledges so far is very strong and we trust they will all be great additions to the Beta Omega chapter. The pledges are not only smart but athletic; seven of the 16 were varsity basketball players and other's participated in swimming, football and lacrosse. We have been striving to find men who know how to balance their education with athletics and being socially active.

Our pledge class is full of intelligent, hard working young men. We have signed most men from the Seattle area in addition to one California resident. One of our goals is to sign a diverse pledge class that will bring different assets to the house. We are currently leading the fraternity pack in terms of quantity and, more importantly, quality.

Summer rush is going to be full of exceptional rush events. We have already planned our annual raft trip that will be hosted at an alumni's home in Yakima. Our summer will continue to be busy as we work to fill our pledge class with solid young men. We appreciate all of you who have given us contact information for rushees. We have signed two rushees already who were suggested to us by alumni.

Alumni are one of our strongest resources. If you have any prospective Betas in your circle of family or friends, please contact us! Encourage whoever you know to check out the "Rush" tab on our website at [www.uwbetas.com](http://www.uwbetas.com). Also, please let us know if you have any event tickets or other resources you can contribute. Thank you!

\_kai\_  
The Rush Team



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*The 2008-2009 school year is over and rush is in full-swing at Beta Omega. After three great quarters consistently at the top of the Greek Community, Betas are now focused on perpetuating and building upon this greatness with the 2009 Pledge Class. Here are some highlights from the spring and an update on what's going on at Betas this summer.*

**GENERAL FRATERNITY UPDATE: UW BETAS UP FOR GENERAL FRATERNITY'S HIGHEST HONOR**

This summer is set to be an important one in Beta Omega history. In early August, we will be sending 14 actives to Phoenix, Arizona for Beta Theta Pi's 170th General Convention at which Kevin Durkin will serve as delegate and former-president Kyle Thomas will facilitate. The other 12 actives will be attending the prestigious Leadership College. Most importantly, it is at convention that the Knox Award, Beta Theta Pi's highest honor recognizing the top 10 chapters, and the Sisson Award, the second highest honor, are awarded. This is the second year Beta Omega has qualified and applied for the Knox. After last year's application resulted in a Sisson, Beta Omega's first, we have submitted a 250+ page application packet, including numerous letters of recommendation and a new Beta song, for consideration this year. Considering the outstanding year Beta Omega has had and the hours of work put into the application by scholarship chairman Sean Burnstead and other officers, we look to have a good shot at taking home the plaque this year!

*For more information on the General Convention, Beta Theta Pi leadership programs, or the Knox Award, visit [www.betathetapi.org](http://www.betathetapi.org).*

**GRADES UPDATE: BETAS MAKE IT A HAT TRICK**

For the third quarter in a row, Betas placed first in grades out of the 31 fraternities on campus. The house, UW's second largest, with 100 active members, reported an astounding average GPA of 3.42 for spring quarter. Not only is maintaining the best fraternity GPA for a full academic year good for the chapter's reputation, it also means our actives are advancing through their college careers with stellar grades and are investing in their futures. Beta Omega is now the only UW fraternity to maintain first place grades for an entire academic year in this decade.

**PHILANTHROPY UPDATE: SOPHOMORE NICK BOSTON WINS DG'S HARDBODY**

Of the 40 fraternity and sorority philanthropy events that take place each year, none is more highly anticipated or attended than Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash which raises money for the vision and hearing impaired. This year was no different with 29 of 31 houses participating. The philanthropy, which involves a week of fundraising events, builds up to the main event: A bodybuilding/hardbody competition known as Anchorman. Candidates for Anchorman, who typically spend the entire year preparing for the event, are judged on appearance, size, a skit and monies-raised. Sophomore Nick Boston, who represented Beta Theta Pi, diligently worked-out and managed his diet for nine months to prepare for the event and put on an impressive 30 lbs of muscle. Nick raised funds by selling T-shirts in the house and to the numerous sororities who supported him.

When the day arrived in early May, an unprecedented swath of people filled 21st Street and poured into AEPi's parking lot to witness the competition. Though the crowd was loud all day, Nick's appearance sent the crowd into an uproar. After each fraternity had appeared, the ladies of Delta Gamma and their celebrity judges took over an hour to tally votes and funds raised. After the deliberation, it was announced that Nick had won both the hardbody and fundraising competitions, earning him the coveted title of Anchorman.



*Nick flexes while members of Tau Kappa Epsilon look on in shock*

## ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES: CHAPTER LOVES SPRING QUARTER GUEST

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At one of the last chapter meetings of the year, the entire active chapter was treated to a tremendous speaking engagement with Duane Covey, Beta Omega class of 1976. Duane expounded to an eager audience about his current job as a Financial Advisor at Edwards Jones' Investments and his path to that position, which included past employment with fellow Betas in Nordstrom's corporate division. Not only did he provide insight but also subtle investment advice, Duane also gave hope to many of the Finance majors in the house who fear having to look for a job post-graduation in this dismal economy. The most advice or important lesson Duane provided? Something relatively simple: do something that you want to do and enjoy. He spoke about the importance of being happy, waking up every morning and taking pride in your work. And like most alumni speakers, Duane was able to recount a few of the moments during his collegiate career in the Beta house that bring an uncanny smile to his face and all other alumni in the room.



Duane ended his speech with a question and answer period that the active chapter really took an interest in. Questions were flying around regarding a myriad of subjects. Most questions dealt with some financial advice while others explored the necessity of graduate school in dealing with the investment sector. The evening began with a salmon dinner and ended with a scholarship awards ceremony, but surely Duane's speech was the highlight. Thanks again to Duane for volunteering his time and insight for our current active members!

*The Alumni Speaker Series was started roughly 4 years ago and aims to engage the active chapter with one speaker each quarter. Past speakers have included lawyers, CEO's, doctors, construction managers, financial advisors and marketing strategists. If you are interested in speaking or would like to recommend a pledge brother, please contact Kevin Durkin ([kmdurkin@u.washington.edu](mailto:kmdurkin@u.washington.edu)) to line up a date for the '09-'10 school year.*

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## GREEK SYSTEM UPDATE: INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL MAKES CHANGES

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This fall, for the first time ever, the University of Washington Greek system will be represented at the university level by a university employee: The Director of Greek Life. The position will be filled by David Hotz, a former director at Tulane and New Mexico State Universities, and will serve as a liaison between the Greek system and the greater university via the Interfraternity Council (IFC). In the past, relations between the highly-influential Greeks and the university, which simply 'recognizes' Greek organizations as legitimate, have been less than seamless. The creation of the Office of Greek Life is intended to be a major step in the alignment of goals and will be closely monitored by the IFC and Alumni IFC, both of which are chaired by Betas.

## ALUMNI NOSTALGIA: BLAST FROM THE PAST: 1960 A PIECE OF BETA OMEGA AND HUSKY HISTORY UNCOVERED



With the help of friends at Gasoline Alley Antiques and a little bit of detective work, Betas have uncovered a Washington Beta and Husky football relic. The item, pictured above, is an unused ticket to the 1960 UW Homecoming football game against California. The Huskies won the game 27-7 and later that season went on to beat Minnesota 17-7 in a January 2nd Rose Bowl and claim their first National Championship. Football history aside, the ticket is remarkable because it features the newly remodeled Beta House and an award winning homecoming float on its face. In the two years that the UW featured campus landmarks on home football tickets (1960-61), Beta Theta Pi was the only fraternity to make the cut. A lot has changed in the almost-fifty years since this ticket was issued (including our football programs fortunes), but Betas success and prominence on and off campus remains the same. Active members have purchased the ticket and will have it framed and on display in the chapter house by the 2009-2010 season.

## PC '05 UPDATE: INAUGURAL SENIOR DINNER A HUGE SUCCESS

Each year, our seniors graduate and move out of the house with no formal thank you or celebration. This has been a general complaint of many actives in the past and this year, we made it a goal to change it.

On a very sunny May 17th, the Beta Omega house gathered together to celebrate its graduating Senior Class. All 25 seniors actives were present for a magnificent evening honoring their commitment the past four years.

To start off, all the underclassmen signed individual posters (which included one photo of each senior in an infamous moment from their collegiate experience) throughout the week before. The house was cleaned that day to look more pristine than

normal for the arrival of all senior parents around 5 pm. Thanks to the Parents' Club, we had a fantastic catered meal including roasted chicken, grilled shrimp, pastas, salads, fruit and much more!

The "Beach" provided the perfect dining area for the seniors and their families to gather one last time as a collective group. We had a formal recognition ceremony at which each graduate introduced their guests' and then were given a beautiful engraved money clip, again a gift from the Parents' Club. The program concluded with some great words of wisdom from Blake Nordstrom, who eloquently spoke about the strong ties that keep one a member of Beta Omega well beyond your undergraduate years.

Finally, a special thank you to Blake and also to Jim Clack (Beta Omega Housing Association) and Ben Hoover (Beta Omega Foundation), for coming out that evening and representing our various alumni constituents. Overall, this evening was a huge success and the foundation was laid to make this a highly anticipated annual event!



*Seniors pose for a group picture on the beach after dinner*



*(Left to right) Justin Pratt, Bryan Graf, Joel Wukelic, and Brad Sesnon with their moms*

## SENIOR UPDATE: CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT GRADS, BETA PC '05

After four outstanding years in the house and at the University of Washington, the Beta Omega class of 2009, Pledge Class '05, has graduated. PC '05 was instrumental in Betas return to the top of the Greek system and is full of leaders we expect to see in the papers in coming years. Below is a brief overview of PC '05, their past positions (in parentheses) in the house, and plans for the near future.

Cartter Berg Undecided at time of press  
(IFC President; Kitchen Manager)

Chase Brannen E Financial, Bellevue  
(Social Chairman; 3 term Kai Committee Member)

John Dawson Attending Oregon State Construction Mgmt.  
Graduate School  
(Pledge Educator)

Ryan Dawson Undecided at time of press

Andrew Donaldson Sellen Construction, Seattle  
(2 term House Manager; Vice President)

Mark Friedrich\* Holland America Cruise Line,  
Accounting Department  
(Secretary)

Bryan Graf Undecided at time of press

Mark Guiliano Undecided at time of press  
(Social Chair)

Max Harden\* Deloitte Consulting, Seattle  
(2 Time President; Kai Committee Member; Social Chair)

Nathan III\* Deloitte Auditing, Seattle  
(Recruitment Chairman; Treasurer)

Manaswi Mamilada Finishing additional credits at UW until  
December; traveling the world for 3 months  
(2 time Technology Chair)

Patrick Neu Completing additional credits at the  
University of Washington  
(Social Chair; Capital Improvements Chair)



Seniors Cartter Berg (left) and Andrew Donaldson after graduation at Husky Stadium

Mickel O'Bara\* Completing additional credits at UW  
(Bread Czar)

Tom O'Bara\* Completing additional credits at UW

Justin Pratt\* iCap Financial Services, New York  
(Recruitment Chair; Social Chair)

Ben Sacks Undecided at time of press

Luke Sedler\* Blackrock Investments, Seattle

Brad Sesnon Cintas Corporation, Seattle  
(Social Chair; Recruitment Chair)

Tommy Stover\* Veteran Affairs Medical Analyst, Seattle  
(2 term Risk Manager)

Patrick Tiernan Undecided at time of press

Kyle Torgerson Completing additional credits at the UW

Brett Valicoff Northwest Construction, Seattle  
(Mail Room Chair; Summer Raft Trip Chair)

Matt Washington\* Completing additional credits at the UW

Joel Wukelic\* Completing additional credits at the UW  
(Treasurer; Secretary; Recruitment Chair; Social Chair)

\* denotes member of the pledge class who lived in the chapter house all 4 years



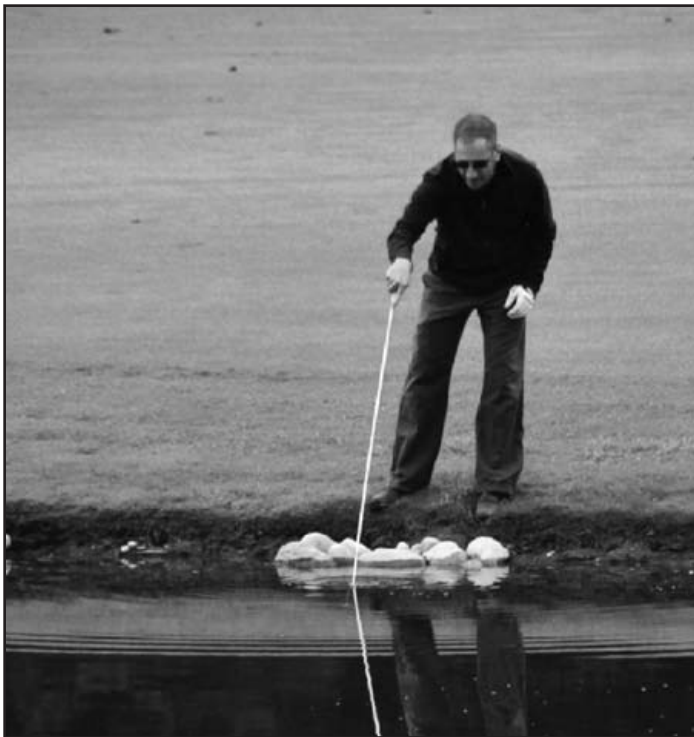
**ALUMNI EVENTS: 9TH ANNUAL BETA SHOOT OUT GOLF TOURNAMENT**



*Beta Shoot Out  
Traveling Trophy*

The ninth annual Beta Shoot Out was held at Washington National Golf Course on Saturday June 20th. The event was another great success with 88 Beta Omega Alumni and Actives tearing up the links. Carving their name on the trophy were Gross Score Champions (Rob Meussner, Bryan Naden, Nate III, and Robbie Stotler) and Net Champs (Carl Kester, Ryan Leland, Doug Miller, Jason Moss). The Beta Spirit award went to Bud Norquist who put a foursome of two Beta Omega fathers and sons

together. James Miller took home the Jangard. We are already planning to make next year's tourney, the 10th annual, the best ever. Please mark June 19th, 2010 on your calendar and bring some classmates to join us at Washington National next year!



*Alumni Geoff Hirsch '92 searches for his ball and his golf game. Both were lost causes.*

**ALUMNI EVENTS: BETA OMEGA ALUMNI – ACTIVE HOOPS TOURNAMENT**



**What:.....Bigger and better alumni basketball tournament**  
**Date: .....August 22nd, 2009**  
**Time: ..... 10:00 am**  
**Alumni Contact: .... Matt Teagarden (mteagarden@gmail.com)**  
**Cost: .....FREE (donations are accepted)**

This past spring, our alumni and rush chairmen decided it's time we revamp our annual basketball tournament. Accordingly, the chapter is stepping up their annual attendance and it is our hope the alumni will also! If you and your pledge bros are interested in participating (no matter how young or old), sign up TODAY!

To sign up, e-mail Matt with your team (members and e-mails) ASAP. For those that do not know, the tournament is a 3 on 3, double elimination between alumni and active teams. Lunch is provided and each alumni participant receives an authentic Beta jersey. Championship team receives U Village gift certificates, championship shirts and bragging rights. Time to hoop it up!

**COMING UP**

*Be sure to mark these upcoming events on your calendar.*

- Beta Hoops Tournament ..... 8/22/09
- 1st Football Game - LSU @ Wash.....9/5/09
- Pledge Class '09 Move-In.....9/13/09
- First Day of School ..... 9/30/09
- Broadmoor Alumni Luncheon.....10/23/09
- Homecoming - Oregon @ Washington .....10/24/09
- 10th Annual Beta Shoot Out.....6/19/10

## TECHNOLOGY UPDATE: WEBSITE RENOVATION

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Last year, former President Max Harden ('09) worked with alumnus Mike Kocher to completely redo the Beta Omega website. Last summer and fall, the two were at it again to make the site even more professional. The newest addition to the website is a page dedicated to the new Beta Omega Foundation. Along with the Foundation addition, the site still contains photos, recruitment (RUSH) information, house updates, chapter news updates, and more. By next fall, it is the goal of our tech chair and historian to provide weekly house-updates and alumni information on the site. Check it out at [www.uwbetas.com](http://www.uwbetas.com).

## ALUMNI RELATIONS UPDATE: COMMUNICATION AVENUE

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Have you been getting our e-mails? It is important for us to be in e-mail contact with as many alumni as possible for various events and notifications, and starting fall of 2009 the Trident will be distributed primarily by email which will save us a lot of money. If you have not been getting our e-mails, or feel we may not be up to date with any other information in our database, please provide us your info via our site [www.uwbetas.com](http://www.uwbetas.com) or contact our President, Kevin Durkin, at [kmdurkin@u.washington.edu](mailto:kmdurkin@u.washington.edu) and we will make sure you are good to go.

# BETA THETA PI

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## BETA OMEGA CHAPTER



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# BETA OMEGA CHAPTER

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