

SigEp

Sigma Phi Epsilon
1057 Morewood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Brothers,

Spring 2011 was a fantastic time for the Penn Theta Chapter. Of course, the Big Three dominate any thoughts of a CMU spring, but that is not all that happened at SigEp.

Holding true to our principles, we pushed ourselves to be our very best. SigEp dominated the quad with a 3.34 GPA, 0.1 higher than any other fraternity. We excelled in Philanthropy, having an average of over 12 hours of community service per brother, and we soared in sports, placing second place overall in the intramural league. Additionally, 70% of our brothers are currently serving in leadership roles on campus. We are truly working to become better balanced men.



Our brotherhood was strengthened at our Spring Retreat. We returned to Woodlands, the special needs camp at which we perform ground maintenance every fall, to bond over hard questions and warm campfires. Spring formal was held at La Mont on Mount Washington. The restaurant offered fine dining, a great dance floor, and a fantastic view of the city of Pittsburgh, and fun was had by all brothers.

Greek Sing 2011 was a fantastic night, ending with a first-place victory in the Doubles category. SigEp partnered with the sisters of Delta Gamma in the biggest philanthropy event on campus. Delta Gamma won the overall Philanthropy Award; SigEp raised almost \$2000 and brother Dan Burdzy won the Chairman's Award for his efforts in making the whole show



possible. Our winning show was Hair, an anti-war, Vietnam-era story of the Tribe that wanted Peace and Love to prevail. You can see the Peace and Love for yourself at <http://tinyurl.com/SPE-GS11>.

SigEp Buggy has advanced in leaps and bounds as evidenced by its 2011 performance. The newest buggy, Mamba, was built under the direction of chairman Bryan Bleda, who continued the program's tradition of innovation. Mamba's solid construction and remastered steering points the direction of the program, encouraging further improvements for years to come. SigEp's A team once again broke the 2:10:00 barrier, but unfortunately was disqualified due to a failed break test. However, through this year's races, it became apparent to the buggy community that SigEp racing will be a force to be reckoned with. The future for SigEp buggy looks bright, and we can't wait to see what we can accomplish next year.

The Penn Theta chapter created another Booth masterpiece this spring, with SigEp presents The



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Working with the overall theme of "When I was your Age", the chapter decided no one better epitomized the ideals of our youth better than these karate-kicking, sewer-dwelling, teenage reptilians. Booth chairs Mark Loh and Kunal Deodhar led the SigEp to create a booth featuring a city scape exterior, complete with a billboard featuring our beloved Turtles, a realistic

sewer (for better or worse) leading to the turtle lair, and an alley featuring our custom game. Our game this year was a custom-made turtle skateboard racing game, where players actually controlled the movements of their turtles through a skateboard on the ground. All our work and dedication brought SigEp a 2011 First Place for Best Booth.

Finally we said good bye to our Seniors. Many brother found great jobs in their fields, such as Eric Lawson at Schlumberger, Josh Debner at Microsoft, Cristian Young at SapientNitro, and Brandon Wirakesuma at BlackRock. We are very proud of Brad Holden, who joined the United States Marine Corps. And we are very happy that many of our brothers have gone on to graduate school, including the many who are still at Carnegie Mellon and continue to lead by their example.

This semester, we've had a fantastic rush period. One of our new brothers, Alvan Mbongo, wrote the following note about his first month in SigEp.

I was nervous about joining this fraternity, nervous about the level of commitment and the personal sacrifices that I would have to make to be a part of the house. I knew about the stereotypes of “frat houses” and I heard about the differences between the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon and that stereotype, but without any experience with fraternities outside of Rush, I was unsure. However, after joining I have found some of the most brotherly, intelligent, and inspiring people I have met at Carnegie Mellon. By reading more into what this fraternity means to the brothers of this chapter and nationally, I learned what it truly means to be in a Fraternity. My experiences of only the first month or so have been excellent, bonding with my brothers over a Buggy at 4:30am and hearing memories of their first years as brothers. I have found brothers that I can and often do go to for help both academically and socially. I have found brothers that I can rely on at the instant I need something, who care and will help me find a way to get help. I anticipate that the culture in the house will help me grow as a student, as an athlete, and as a brother. Although I don’t know what to expect in the coming year, from the stories of my older brothers and the experiences I have had here, I am proud to be a SigEp.



With brothers like Alvan, we can’t help but be optimistic about SigEp’s future. We’re looking forward to mini rush, starting later this month, when we hope to recruit as many as 10 more brothers.

We would like to thank the alumni who, through their support, whether it be logistical, inspirational, or financial, help to make all of this possible. We look forward to seeing all who return during this upcoming homecoming. Again, thank you for all of your help.

In VDBL,
The Brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon