Beta Chapter Annual Report

The Executive Committee of the Beta Chapter of Eta Kappa Nu
Purdue University

Academic Year 2009–2010

Contents

Letter from the President

This document describes the activities for the Beta Chapter of Eta Kappa Nu for the 2009–2010 academic year. We believe that this report serves as a testament to the excellence of Beta Chapter's active membership and their commitment to improving themselves through the service of others.

With the latest developments of IEEE's acquisition of HKN, HKN is in a critical stage with much of the future direction being decided over the next few years. Beta Chapter wishes to continue it commitment to continously improving HKN for the chapters and its members. Therefore, over the course of this academic year, we set the following goals:

1. Ensure the new HKN framework continues to serve the HKN's original purpose.

2. Create and maintain positive relationships with other chapters.

3. Elect Beta-friendly representatives to the HKN Board of Governors.

4. Write a proposal to host the next HKN National Conference with sessions designed to better address chapter needs and national issues.

At the same time, Beta Chapter is a relatively large organization that needs to be organized in its activities in order to be successful in providing a meaningful way to serve the Purdue ECE Community. To that end, I set the following set of goals:

1. Continue to host Beta Chapter events and community activities with high active member attendance

2. Continue the successful budgeting program to maintain fiscal responsibility and long-term planning

3. Continue to actively cultivate internal and external relationships with departmental, industrial, and fraternal partners, including other HKN chapters, through service and communication.

4. Assist in strengthening other Purdue ECE student organizations.

Above all, Beta Chapter constantly strives to ensure stability and provide opportunities for future generations of HKN members. We believe that Beta Chapter was accomplished this through achieving each of these goals

Sincerely,

Aaron Hershberger
Beta Chapter President, Spring 2010

Robert Wortman
Beta Chapter President, Fall 2009

1 Beta Chapter at a Glance

1.1 History

Beta Chapter was formed in 1906 at Purdue University at a time when Purdue prohibited fraternal organizations. Shortly after Beta's founding, President Winston E. Stone heard of Beta's existence and demanded that the chapter be withdrawn. The national organization complied and assured Beta Chapter membership in Eta Chapter, the second Chapter at Large. Throughout this period, Beta continued to hold meetings in secret. When Purdue recognized fraternities in 1913, Professor Rowel of the Case Applied Science School, now known as Case Western Reserve University, encouraged Beta Chapter's reorganization.

Early on, Beta Chapter sported one of the largest chapter enrollments. Beta's energy and innovation increased with its active list. By the 1960's, Beta Chapter had received room in the EE building to use as a lounge. In the 1970's, the lounge began to sell snacks, bringing income that helped increase the number and size of Beta's activities. Beta Chapter activities have created many versatile and innovative improvements and projects, ranging from internal changes, such as the lounge turned mini-mart, to extra-curricular activities, such as Friday socials and professors as lounge staff.

Beta Chapter looks forward to new challenges and activities to bring the members of HKN closer to the faculty, department, and community. Through generous donations, Beta Chapter has continued its tradition of supporting student laboratories and providing a number of scholarships to undergraduate students. Beta Chapter is always striving to ensure its members are ethically responsible and worthy of their membership in Eta Kappa Nu.

1.2 Current Operations

Beta Chapter is fortunate to operate two spaces in the EE building: a student-operated snack shop and an open laboratory. Despite space constraints, Beta Chapter has been able to keep this space due to our history of service within the ECE department. Beta Chapter provides a friendly meeting place that students from a wide range of disciplines patronize.

1.2.1 HKN Lounge

Beta Chapter maintains a space in the basement of the EE building called the "HKN Lounge." The lounge is a social hub for the department where students and professors mingle throughout the day. Beta Chapter runs a student-operated snack shop that provides inexpensive coffee, bagels, doughnuts, snacks, and sodas to the public at a minimal profit. The profits from the lounge are recycled into the community through community service projects, scholarships, and social events. Without the HKN Lounge, Beta Chapter would be unable to maintain such a broad sphere of influence. The lounge is open from 7:30 AM–5:00 PM on weekdays.

1.2.2 HKN Laboratory

Beta Chapter operates a laboratory near the lounge. The HKN Laboratory is a popular site for students working on assigned laboratory experiments and those engaging in independent research projects. Free electronics are available to the public, including boxes of resistors, inductors, capacitors, and integrated circuits. A multitude of resources in the form of electronic manuals and popular journals are also showcased for student use. The HKN Laboratory is particularly important because most ECE laboratories are closed after standard business hours.

1.3 Relation to Organizational Goals

Beta Chapter provides its resources to all Purdue students. By providing resources to all students, as opposed to exclusive use by HKN members, Beta Chapter is furthering our goal to cultivate our relationship with the department.

2 The "Nice Guys and Gals" of Beta Chapter

Beta Chapter's most valuable asset is its active membership. We have always been fortunate to find enthusiastic members who are dedicated to the organization. During the 2009–2010 academic year, we had 75 active members (often referred to as "actives") on the attendance roster. Some of these members are elected officers. Many members volunteer for the numerous committees that link the officers' plans and actives. This section presents an overview of our membership and the organization of Beta Chapter.

2.1 Officers

Beta Chapter's direction is supported by the goals and dedication its leaders. New officers are elected each semester and inducted immediately following the last meeting of the semester. Officers can occupy positions that involve upwards of 10 hours a week. In addition to their regular responsibilities, officers frequently devote extra time to committees, large activities, and small jobs. The officers for the 2009–2010 academic year are listed in Table 1.

2.1.1 President

The president's primary responsibilities [1] are to provide direction for Beta Chapter, act as the public face of the organization, and to preside over the actives' meetings. Direction is offered by casual meetings in the lounge throughout the semester and suggesting opportunities for the individual officers. The president represents Beta Chapter at all public events, including meetings with the ECE

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[1]The presidents are also responsible for drafting the annual report, a thankless job often overlooked by the active membership.

Office	Fall 2009	Spring 2010
President	Robert Wortman	Aaron Hershberger
Vice President	Daniel Aguiar	Eric Naglich
Treasurer	**David Sutherland**	David Sutherland
Secretary	Andrew Kovacs	Andrew Kovacs
Pledge Trainers	**Kathleen Taller**	**Reid Erekson**
	Ian Oliver	Dr. Chad Lau
Industry Chair	**Matthew Swanson**	Kathleen Taller
Community Service	**Karan Ahuja**	**Muhammed Aizuddin Zulkifli**
Lounge Chairs	**Thomas Greenhill**	**Sean Ma**
	Madalina Vintila	**William McGrath**
	Chad Lau	Travis Safford
Workshop Chair	Derek Schuff	Derek Schuff
Funstuff Chair	Aaron Hershberger	Robert Wortman

Table 1: Officer listing for 2009–2010 academic year. First-time officers are listed in bold. Eleven first-time officers were elected in the 2009–2010 academic year.

department head, conferences, banquets, and special events. Examples of such events include the Regional Leadership Conference and ECE Pride Day.

In addition, the President will often do different/stupid things to attempt to entertain the actives. Aaron was known for his tradition of "clapping-on" meeting a la the Clapper commercial. Rob was affectionately teased for missing his first meeting as President while on a camping trip with the implication he was lost, etc. Lastly, Aaron and other officers directed and starred in a parody of the television show "The Office" entitled "The Lounge" to be shown at the spring banquet.

2.1.2 Vice President

The vice president is responsible for assuming the responsiblities of the president should he/she become unable to perform the duties of the president. The vice president's primary function, however, is to coordinate the end-of-the-semester banquet. Additionally, the vice president acts as master of ceremonies for the banquet and awards graduating members paddles for their service to HKN. In fall semesters, Beta Chapter and the Purdue ECE department hold a joint banquet in which we recognize all scholarship recipents inside the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. All scholarship recipients are invited to attend the banquet, and the corresponding corporate benefactors are also invited to attend. All details regarding the organization of the event are left up to the vice president, and as a result, Purdue ECE helps fund the event. Last year's banquets were held at *the Trails*.

2.1.3 Treasurer

The treasurer is responsible for depositing funds, maintaining the annual budget, and dispursing funds for expenditures. The treasurer also acts as liason to the Business Office for Student Organizations (BOSO) to manage Beta Chapter's $90,000 annual budget. BOSO ensures that all university accounting requirements are met. The treasurer continues to work with lounge chairs to refine a home-made point-of-sale system for the lounge (created in 2007), which dramatically simplifies the treasurer's job and helps improve inventory control.

2.1.4 Secretary

The secretary records the minutes of each meeting, manages the HKN mailing list, and maintains records of active membership. The minutes are recorded on the Beta Chapter website and sent via email to actives, faculty, and interested Beta alumni. The secretary filters Chapter-wide emails. With the election of Andrew Kovacs to secretary, a concerted effort was put forth to end the unsavory and largely unfunny tradition of the Top Ten list. He instead chose to create brief videos starring himself and other actives oftern centering around his self-admitted creepiness. With such large shoes to fill in terms of entertainment value, it remains to be seen what new secretaries will employ to amuse the masses.

2.1.5 Pledge Trainers

The Pledge Trainers recruit outstanding ECE students for HKN membership. Pledge trainers organize a social event for pledges and monthly meetings to evaluate the progress of pledges through Beta Chapter's pledge requirements. Pledge trainers also work closely with the Community Service Chair to arrange service projects for pledges. During the 2009–2010 academic year, Beta Chapter inducted 41 new members to continue the chapter's tradition of excellence.

2.1.6 Industry Chair

The Industry Chair arranges meetings between Beta Chapter and various corporate representatives. Typical meetings include technical presentations, tours, and meet-and-greet events in the lounge. The industry chair is also responsible for arranging catering for industry events to encourage attendance.

2.1.7 Community Service Chair

The Community Service Chair organizes events for actives to volunteer within the ECE department and greater Lafayette community. The community service chair has an important mission because it allows Beta Chapter to participate in projects that extend our impact beyond the campus borders. These projects foster a contageous sense of social responsibility among Beta actives.

2.1.8 Funstuff Chair

The Funstuff Chair is responsible for organizing social events for actives. These events include TGs [2], where Beta Chapter gives \$3 to each attendee to reduce meal costs, and seasonal picnics. All funstuff events are open to the public.

With the recent economic downturn, Funstuff Chair Aaron setup special deals with the owners of the businesses TGs were hosted at to save attendees further money.

2.1.9 Lounge Chairs

The Lounge Chairs are responsible for operating the HKN Lounge, located in the basement of the EE building. The lounge chairs maintain inventory, determine pricing, and maintain the lounge's point-of-sale system. Lounge chairs also arrange special orders for departmental events. Since maintaining the lounge is a full-time job, three active members split the lounge chair duties.

2.1.10 Workshop Chair

The Workshop Chair maintains the equipment in the lounge and laboratory to ensure that HKN operations proceed smoothly. This task involves the management of keys to critical resources, such as the cash box and inventory. The workshop chair also interfaces with the EE building manager to handle repairs to plumbing, electrical, and physical facilities.

2.2 Standing Committees

Nine committees assist in the operation of Beta Chapter. While several standing committees exist, Beta Chapter creates temporary committees to handle minor issues. All active members are encouraged to volunteer for committees. Each committee selects a chairperson who is responsible for organizing meetings, updating the President on activities, and encouraging involvement from all members. The chairpersons are often the first position a new member may occupy as they take a more important role in the organization.

2.2.1 Alumni Newsletter Committee

The Alumni Newsletter Committee deals with Beta alumni relations. The Alumni Newsletter is meant to keep Beta Chapter alumni informed on current HKN events.

2.2.2 Awards and Scholarships Committee

Beta Chapter is able to assist a growing number of deserving undergraduate students through its scholarship program. The Awards and Scholarships Committee is responsible for organizing national and local scholarships and awards. The

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[2]Short for "Thank Goodness It's Friday"

committee secures the support of corporate sponsors, informs students of scholarship opportunities, and supports the award programs by providing plaques and certificates. During the 2009–2010 academic year, the Awards and Scholarships committee dispersed $2000 in scholarships to Purdue undergraduates.

2.2.3 Budget Committee

The Budget Committee is responsible for organizing Beta Chapter's annual budget. The Treasurer is chairperson of the Budget Committee due to his/her role in dispersing funds. Each of the officers and committees are assigned a particular budget based on the financial needs for their respective positions' responsibilities. For example, the Vice President has a budget of $4000 in the fall semester and $3000 in the spring semester for the formal banquet.

2.2.4 History Committee

The History Commitee is responsible for maintaining records of Beta Chapter events. These records usually consist of pictures and are posted on the chapter website for public display. Such records are used to construct the annual report each year.

2.2.5 Lounge Renovations Committee

The Lounge Renovation Committee oversees improvements to the HKN Lounge and HKN Laboratory. Improvements range from functional changes, such as repairing leaking faucets and improving water quality, to cosmetic, such as painting the floors. The Workshop Chair is chairperson of the Lounge Renovation Committee, since he/she works closely with the EE building's facilities manager.

In the Lounge, there is a large floor safe attached to the floor beneath the POD desk (Lounge transactions such as sale of coffee take place here). In Spring 2008, the Workshop Chair contracted a locksmith to change the mechanical combination locking mechanism to an electronically-controlled locking mechanism. This made the assignment of combinations to old and new officers much more efficient, as the new mechanism is capable of saving and deleting multiple combinations (under the direction of a system administrator–the President).

We also acquired a big screen TV in the lounge. To put it to use, a group of students configured a HTPC to display videos of interest throughout the day. 'Top Gear Tuesdays' and 'Futurama Fridays' are particularly popular.

2.2.6 Retail Committee

The Retail Committee is responsible for ordering retail items for the HKN Lounge, such as coffee mugs and T-shirts. This committee reports inventory to the Treasurer for monthly BOSO reports. In Spring 2010, the Retail Committee designed two new coffee mug models.

2.2.7 Senior Design Committee

The Senior Design Committee sponsors an ECE senior design team's project in exchange for the completed product upon completion of the course. In recent years, the Senior Design Committee has sponsored various projects that are used as demonstrations for visiting students.

2.2.8 Web Committee

The Web Committee maintains the Beta Chapter website and computing resources. The Web Committee remains devoted to maintaining and regularly updating the point-of-sale system, which allows better inventory control and also automatically generates BOSO reports.

2.2.9 QE Wiki Committee

Unlike many chapters, Beta Chapter is highly populated with graduate students (the past four presidents have also been graduate students). The qualifying exam (QE) is typically the bane of the graduate students' existence. Typically, QE studying involves furiously hunting old, solved exam problems from other students in the department. In order to assist students going through the QE experience, Beta Chapter set up a special 'QE Wiki Committee' in which several actives spent time assembling a special server which ran a Mediawiki with the intention of posting solutions to example QE problems. Purdue ECE posts *unsolved* copies of old QEs online, so we held a special session amongst active volunteers in order to write solutions and post them to the wiki. The idea was run by many administrators, including the QE committee, and it was met with much praise. Beta Chapter will continue to administer the QE wiki and add additional solutions in future semesters as well.

2.3 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (also called Exec Comm) is an advisory group comprised of current officers, past officers, and current committee heads that provide continuity between Beta Chapter administrations. Exec Comm gives Beta Chapter an institutional memory that promotes continuity in activities. Since past officers are also a part of Exec Comm, the current officers are given insight into past decisions to avoid future pitfalls.

2.4 Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors are appointed to provide guidance and advice when interfacing with the ECE department. We continue to receive support from our faculty advisors. The 2009–2010 Beta Chapter Faculty Advisors are Professor Thomas M. Talavage and Professor David A. Meyer.

2.5 Relation to Organizational Goals

2.5.1 Increased Active Involvement

In previous years, officer positions were frequently held by the same members with positions rotating between semesters. During the 2009–2010 academic year, a total of 11 actives were elected to an officer position for the first time (7 in Fall 2009, 4 in Spring 2010). This change in chapter involvement has been reflected in increased attendance at meetings and special events, as well as renewed excitement within the organization's ranks.

3 Required Activities

Beta Chapter active members are required to perform various duties to maintain their active status. This section details the regular activities for active membership. Each active dedicates a minimum of 1.5 hours per week to Beta Chapter activities. However, many actives elect to spend additional time aiding the organization.

3.1 Lounge Duty

Maintaining the HKN Lounge requires over 50 person-hours per week. Each active member is required to work as a "Person on Duty" (also called a POD) at the cash box for one hour per week. Dedicated members may volunteer for multiple PODs. While working POD, actives are expected to make change, restock shelves, brew coffee, clean surfaces, tally inventory, and work the student newspaper's crossword puzzle. Opening and closing PODs are recognized for outstanding effort at the semester banquets.

3.2 Regular Meetings

During the 2009–2010 academic year, Beta Chapter had 15 regular meetings. Exec Comm begins at 5:30 PM, with the full actives meeting beginning at 6:00 PM and usually lasting for one hour. Meeting decorum is managed by Robert's Rules of Order. Active members are required to attend meetings to retain active status unless otherwise excused for exams, class, or other academic reasons. The first and last meetings of each semester have special formats. The first meeting is used to fill POD slots, in addition to regular business. The last meeting is devoted to the elections.

4 Pledge Activities

Perspective Beta Chapter pledges are contacted each semester by postal mail. Each pledge is required to submit to a rigorous pledge process designed to educate the pledge about Beta Chapter history, goals, and activities. By providing pledges with an understanding of Beta Chapter's operations, we cultivate a

desire to continue participation as active members. This process consists of five major steps: attending all pledge meetings, working two PODs, completing two hours of chapter service, completing two hours of community service, and completing a pledge board.

4.1 Pledge Social

All eligible students are invited to attend an information session. Attendance is mandatory for both actives and pledges. The purpose of this meeting is to relay Beta Chapter's goals and values to pledges. After a brief presentation, actives and pledges adjourn to a meeting area to socialize. Food is provided to attendees to encourage attendance and social interaction.

4.2 Pledge Meetings

All interested pledges are asked to attend monthly pledge meetings. Prospective members are given handouts about Eta Kappa Nu and Beta Chapter and introduced to the pledge process. Meetings are held monthly to announce upcoming service opportunities and monitor each pledge's progress.

4.3 Working 2 PODs

Pledges are required to work PODs because the HKN Lounge is essential to all Beta Chapter operations. Pledges must be willing to assist in the lounge to maintain active status. Furthermore, doing a POD correctly is important for inventory control, fiscal management, and health code compliance. One POD session is devoted to teaching pledges normal lounge operation such as: using the POS, where essential supplies can be found, and other details needed for "normal" POD shifts. The second POD session must either be an opening or closing POD to teach them the essentials for shifts with special tasks to be performed. Needless to say, Beta Chapter takes this requirement *very seriously*.

4.4 Chapter Service

Chapter service is assigned to provide pledges an opportunity to get involved with a project within Beta Chapter. Typical projects include lounge cleaning, laboratory organization, and lounge inventory. A few clever pledges elected to act as a scout team for the HKN/IEEE Electric Bowl flag football game.

4.5 Community Service

Beta Chapter requires community service in addition to chapter service to emphasize the importance of helping those outside of the department. Pledges typically volunteer with Lafayette Urban Ministry's after school program, the Columbian Park Zoo, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, or the George Davis

Manor retirement community. Pledges are invited to suggest their own community service ideas, as well. Beta Chapter accepts community service hours in conjunction with other student organizations because, as the induction ritual states, HKN is not meant to supercede any commitment to other organizations.

4.6 Pledge Boards

Undergraduate pledges are required to complete a pledge board by obtaining signatures of various faculty and officers. Beta Chapter only requires this of undergraduates because they are less likely to establish a rapport with the faculty. The pledge board also acts as an ice-breaker for pledge and active socialization.

4.7 Relation to Organizational Goals

4.7.1 Improve Active Attendance

Beta Chapter has always sought to provide a friendly environment which would foster a high level of interaction between actives and pledges. Each pledge trainer pair brings a different culture and set of activities to the process, and this year was no different. In Spring 2010, our good guy pledge trainers retained our pledges with stunningly good looks, sharp wit, and general good-natured humor. In Fall 2009, the tradition of a good cop/bad cop continued. Katie baked her pledges delicious cookies, while Ian was the taskmaster insuring the requirements were met.

4.7.2 Improve External Relationships

By requiring both chapter service and community service, we foster relationships with charities within the greater Lafayette community. This increases the scope of Beta Chapter involvement in our service mission.

5 Regular Events

5.1 Professional Development

Beta Chapter invites corporate representatives to present seminars on technical subjects related to their companies. These presentations occur in alternating weeks with regular meetings. Industry presentations benefit the students, the companies, and Beta Chapter. The presentations provide students with a means to relate course work to practical applications. Companies benefit from industry presentations by collecting resumes and arranging interviews. Beta Chapter often receives generous donations for scholarships and equipment from visiting companies.

These presentations coincide with dinner, so companies typically supply food to the attendees. We continued providing a wide variety of food options during

2009-2010, as experimentation done during Spring 2007 indicated that food options other than pizza tripled industry presentaiton attendance.

During the 2009–2010 academic year, the following companies presented an industry presentation:

- September 14, 2009: Lutron Electronics, 70 attendees

- September 28, 2009: Cummins, 60 attendees

- October 18, 2009: Indigo BioSystems, 60 attendees

- November 30, 2009: Northrop Grumman, 25 attendees

- February 8, 2010: Harris, 50 attendees

- February 22, 2010: Intel, 80 attendees

- March 1, 2010: Lockheed Martin, 60 attendees

- April 12, 2010: Electronic Interconnect, 40 attendees

Occasionally, companies would like to meet with students on a more informal basis than a seminar. Beta Chapter allows companies to "rent" space in the HKN Lounge by providing free bagels and doughnuts throughout the day. Corporate sponsorship is clearly noted and company representatives are invited to spend the day in the lounge conversing with students. Some companies provide additional support during their free bagel days.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the following companies held free bagel xor (exclusive or) donut days:

- September 14, 2009: Intel

- September 16, 2009: Lockheed Martin

- October 28, 2009: Qualcomm[3]

- November 12, 2009: Thomson Reuters

- February 10, 2010: Harris

- March 1, 2010: Lockheed Marin

- March 2, 2010: AMD

[3]To distinguish themselves from other companies, Qualcomm opted to provide free breakfast burritos rather than the standard bagel offering. There was much rejoicing.

5.2 Semester Banquets

Beta Chapter organizes a banquet each semester to honor the achievements of ECE students and Beta Chapter members. The Fall Banquet focuses on ECE scholarship recipients. The Spring Banquet emphasizes Beta Chapter accomplishments. New initiates, scholarship recipients, and ECE faculty are admitted free of charge. Actives and their guests are charged a $10 fee to offset the cost of the banquet. All attendees are served dinner before the awards segment.

The awards segment begins by recognizing graduating Beta Chapter members with graduation paddles. These paddles are financed by the members' initial membership fees. The head faculty advisor, Professor Talavage, has the honor of presenting the paddles. After "paddling" of the graduates, scholarship recipents are announced. The presentation of the Outstanding ECE Teaching Award follows scholarship recipients. Professors Mike Melloch and Saurbh Bagchi received the teaching award in Fall 2009 and Spring 2010, respectively.

In Fall 2010, Beta Chapter again awarded the outstanding junior and senior awards to ECE undergraduate students who have demonstrated an exemplary academic performance and attitude during their junior and senior years, respectively. A $1000 prize is awarded to the recipients, but beginning in Fall 2007, the outstanding senior award has been funded by a donation from the Sabbagh family, and the award is officially titled the "Professor Elias M. Sabbagh Memorial Outstanding Senior Scholarship".

After all other awards have been bestown, the Beta Chapter awards are presented.

5.3 TGs

Every one or two weeks the chapter holds "Thank Goodness It's Friday" parties, commonly known as "TG's." These are open to all ECE students, faculty, staff, and friends. The gatherings usually take place at a local restaurant or local gathering place. Each person who attends a TG receives three dollars to offset the food portion of the bill.

Our membership, and indeed the undergraduate and graduate population is of an increasingly internationally diverse group. A continued emphasis was placed on varying locales, themes, and activities. A brief description of these events follows:

- Dog and Suds - drive-in restaurant with American fare

- Luv Shak - campus's beloved calzone eatery

- Precision Putt - putt-putt golf course

- Chipotle - Mexican fast food

- Elks Golf Course - golf tournament, rained out

- Buffalo Wild Wings - famous buffalo wing eatery

- Jake's Roadhouse - campus bar and grill

- Triple XXX Roadhouse - famous campus burger joint, as featured on "Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives"

- Lenny's Sub Shop - sub sandwiches

- Riverside Bar and Music Center - local concert venue

- Potbelly's - sandwiches

- "Pizza and Idiocracy" - enjoying Mad Mushroom pizza while watching the movie "Idiocracy"

- Riverside Skating - ice skating rink

- Five Guys - best burger place in town

- "Lounge Games" - Nintendo and card games in the lounge with Subway sandwiches

- Route 66 Diner - American fare

5.4   Picnics

Beta Chapter holds a departmental picnic each semester at Happy Hollow Park. Typical activities include softball, football, and ultimate Frisbee. The picnics are open to all ECE students and friends. The Spring picnic is host to the annual HKN/IEEE Flag Football game.

5.5   Flag Football

Beta Chapter once again fielded a team to compete in Purdue's intrermural Grad Flag Football League. After a perfect season and number one ranking, we were upset in the semifinals of the playoffs. The Beta Chapter Open team were hoping to participate in the HKN/IEEE Electric Bowl however IEEE was not able to field at team.[4]

5.6   Relation to Organizational Goals

5.6.1   Improved Fiscal Responsibility

As the largest items in Beta Chapter's budget, outside of the lounge, the semester end banquets were key to adhering to the annual chapter budget during the 2008–2009 academic year. Through keen negotitaions and careful planning, both the Fall and the Spring banquets came in under budget, while provide a lavish and festive atmosphere. Because the Fall 2008 spring banquet was

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[4]Next year, we shouldn't admit that we practice under the theory they didn't show because of fear. I can't say I blame them.

kept to a minimal cost, the total cost was also under the total amount alloted by the Purdue ECE department, and as a result, the Fall banquet costs were completely covered by the department.

5.6.2 Improve External Relationships

The technical seminars that Beta Chapter hosts are a primary mean of cultivating relationships with corporations. Throughout the 2008–2009 academic year, Beta Chapter continued to host industrial events with high attendance, which has attracted the attention of additional companies, including but not limited to Intel and Lockheed Martin. The companies have expressed interest in working with Beta Chapter in the future to both spread the name of the respective companies and increase hiring specific to Purdue ECE students.

6 Service Activities

6.1 University Service

As described in Section 5.2, Beta Chapter hosted semester banquets to present ECE awards and scholarships. The department continues to be appreciative of Beta Chapter's efforts. Beta Chapter has strengthened its relationship with the department by volunteering for several departmental activities. Beta Chapter members demonstrated ECE design projects at the Indiana State Fair, Purdue Family Day, and during freshman engineering tours of ECE. These demonstrations act as recruiting tools for the department by drawing awareness to the roles of ECE graduates and education that students may expect within the program. The most popular demonstration at these events is a remote-controlled Hummer robot, purchased in 2005 through Beta Chapter's senior design award.

6.2 Community Service

Our Community Service chair organizes several projects that extend our impact beyond the campus borders to improve the Greater Lafayette Area. The primary event for the year are the World's Biggest Turkey Contest (often simply referred to as "the Turkey Suit Contest"). This contest challenges lounge patrons to vote for the most deserving candidate by depositing spare change into their candidate's bucket in the lounge. The candidate with the most money at the end of the contest wins [5] the opportunity to wear a costume for an entire day. In November, the most deserving professor wears a turkey suit to class the Monday before Thanksgiving. This contest raised $150 for the Greater Lafayette Salvation Army and contributed to dinners for low-income families during the holidays.

Beyond our charitable giving, we spend one evening a month at the local nursing home playing Euchre with the residents. This year we teamed up with

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[5]Or loses, depending upon your frame of reference.

the Boiler Volunteer Network for different events including a Saturday spent helping local elderly residents with their yardwork.

6.3 Awards and Scholarships

Beta Chapter maintains a scholarship endowment to award scholarships to outstanding undergraduates in ECE without existing financial support. At the end of the 2009–2010 academic year, the endowment contained a principal of $55,112 and provided enough interest to award two $1000 scholarships per semester, although this will likely change to two $1000 scholarships per year in the future. Recipients are selected by the Awards and Scholarships Committee with the assistance of Professor Talavage. One recipient is selected from the junior class and the senior class based upon academic achievement and service to the community.

With the endowment constantly growing, Beta Chapter will continue to improve the lives of many more Purdue students. Our goal is to provide a single full scholarship to an outstanding senior in 2026. Our target endowment is $250,000.

7 Special Events

The previous sections describe the various events that Beta Chapter organizes every year. This section describes various special events that occurred during the 2009–2010 academic year.

7.1 Electric Vehicle Go-Kart Race

In Spring 2010, several members of Beta Chapter took part in the inaugural EV Grand Prix at Purdue University. Purdue already has a long standing Grand Prix race with gasoline powered cars, but to reamin a leader in alternative energy and environmental stewardship, the Electric Vehicle Grand Prix was proposed. After over 400 combined man hours of work, and barely making the cut, the Beta Chapter team had a vehicle, built from scratch, ready for race day.

Unfortunately, our car was rear ended in the 33rd lap, breaking a piece of the steering linkage. After working feverishly to get the car back together (and not without spare parts from another team), we were able to start the second half of the race. In the end, we finished 9th overall, but we set up our team for future sucess.

7.2 ECE Pride Day

In Fall 2008, Beta Chapter and the ECE department held the third annual ECE Pride Day in order to increase exposure for ECE on campus. On this day, Beta Chapter actives were encouraged to wear ECE-related clothing for the day, and we had volunteers distribute catered food (calzones) to all ECE

students, faculty, and staff. Both the clothing and the food distribution were very visible around both the EE building and MSEE (Materials Science and Electrical Engineering).

7.3 HKN Regional Leadership Conference

In Fall 2009, Beta Chapter sent six actives to the University of Michigan-Dearborn for the 2009 HKN Leadership Conference. There we interacted with members of the board, as well as actives from the schools in attendance. The members of Beta Chapter took special consideration to help advise smaller chapters on how to increase interest and involvement with HKN during the mixed chapter breakout session. Furthermore, we developed ties to the chapters nearest us in hopes of strengthening each chapter with future collaboration.

7.4 HKN District Conference

In Spring 2010, Beta Chapter along with our friends at University of Illinois Chicago's Iota Lamda Chapter hosted a district conference. We invited many local chapters including Illinois, Michigan, Valporaiso, Trine, Northwestern, and IIT. However because of a few last minute travel issues only Purdue, UIC, and Trine were able to attend. In meeting with these smaller chapters, we discussed how to involve the members, generate revenue, and become more prominent within their universities. We hope to host this event next year at a site to be determined and look forward to sharing our ideas and developing positive relationships with our neighboring chapters.

7.5 Alpha-Beta Flag Football

Because of scheduling conflicts largely caused by NCAA football and cold Midwest weather, the Alpha-Beta rivalry was postponed to the spring semester. Alpha was only able to arrange for 2 actives to make the travel to West Lafayette. They, combined with 2 members of the local IEEE chapter, and 3 of our own members played against the Beta Chapter team. Beta Chapter managed to win against the agglomeration by a score of 20-13. We look forward to the renewal of the good natured competition this Fall.

8 National Focus

This year, Beta Chapter continued its focus on issues that address chapters on a national scale. Beta Chapter is committed to improving the organization and enabling other chapters to have the freedom, impact, and recognition that Beta Chapter members are fortunate to experience.

8.1 National Representation

In continuing our commitment to nominate excellent leadership to the HKN Board of Governors, our chapter worked hard to secure nominations for many of the people on this Fall's ballot. We lended our support to Presidential nominee Dr. Stephen Goodnick, Vice Presidential nominee Dr. Steven Watkins, and East-Region Governor Dr. Michael Powell. We are extremely proud to be nominating one of Beta Chapter's Alumni, Dr. Powell, to office. In doing so, we hope to reinforce the strong bond between Beta Chapter and HKN's Board of Governors. We already are proud to claim two alumni on the board, Dr. Thomas Talavage and Dr. Edward Pettis.

8.2 Conference Proposal

Inline with our emphasis on promoting inter-chapter relations, Beta Chapter submitted another bid to host the national convention. Dan Aguiar formed and headed a committee that spent several months formulating and debating a conference that would best meet the needs of chapter members. It largely was based on a previously created, more structured, approached to hosting the event.

While all Beta Chapter members were quite happy with the proposal submitted to HKN Nationals, Nationals awarded the 2010 conference to the University of Oklahoma. We offer our sincerest congratulations to the members of the Beta Xi Chapter and look forward to meeting with them in person.

9 Other Student Organizations

The 2009-2010 academic year saw the continued success of two additional student organizations closely tied to Beta Chapter. Their leadership continued to be comprised laregly of HKN current and former officers. This has the added benefit of increasing the visibility of HKN at Purdue and in general. It also serves to confirm the excellent leadership experience gained being a Beta Chapter officer.

9.1 ECE Ambassadors

In Spring 2009, the Purdue ECE Department requested that HKN members assist in starting an organization to represent the department and provide a face to donors, alumni, prospective students, and the general public. This organization provides the department a great advantage of having one group of people to approach when student representatives are needed, rather than approaching several disparate groups as they had done in the past. As a direct result of the ECE Department's request to HKN members to start the Ambassadors, the first class and current officer positions were approximately half-filled with HKN members. The organizational skills and experience that the HKN

members brought to the group have proven invaluable in staffing the numerous college and departmental events that required student representatives.

Having completed its first year with Beta Chapter members at the helm, it continues to operate well, refining its structure, improving its methods, and maintaining a positive contribution to the department.

9.2   ECE Graduate Student Association

The ECE Graduate Student Association (ECEGSA), which provided an outlet and activities specifically for ECE graduate students, became inactive around 2007, much to the chagrin of the ECE Department and College of Engineering. After recognizing that the club would not re-start on its own, the department and College of Engineering approached several HKN members and asked them to take ownership of ECEGSA and get it started again. Led by veteran HKN graduate student members, a committee was formed that met several times in the Spring and Summer of 2009 and wrote a proposal that secured $4000 in funds for ECEGSA, allowing them to plan and execute events in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Beta Chapter's members participated in all of the ECEGSA's events this academic year. Their events included a Grad. Student picnic that Beta Chapter members helped cook for and a soccer tournament in which a team largely comprised of HKN members proved their athletic ability in defeating every opponent to win the prized ECE Cup.

10   Looking Forward

This has been an interesting year: a year full of change. Beta Chapter continues to enjoy a healthy relationship with Purdue ECE and we look forward to organizing site visits with Purdue's industrial partners in order to provide a fun and informative activity for students genuinely interested in industrial careers. Further, we intend to continue our commitment to serving on the national level in anyway possible, fostering positive inter-chapter relationships that will serve to increase the prominence and effectiveness of HKN. Lastly, we will continue to promote comradeship within the students of Beta Chapter and Purdue ECE through our lounge operations, events like TGs, and a continued positive example set by members inside and outside the classroom. We hope that the reviewers have enjoyed reading about the current life of Beta Chapter and are just as excited as us about what the future may hold.