



Beta Alpha Psi Jan/Feb Newsletter

A PUBLICATION BY MEMBERS AND CANDIDATES

MARCH 1, 2011

Who Wants Some Free Money? By: Noel Heustis, Candidate

On January 20, 2011 members of the firm Cross, Fernandez, and Riley came to USF to get familiar with the members and candidates of the Delta Gamma chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, and to play 1 vs. 100. Steve Crisman started the evening off by introducing the CFR representatives, telling us about the firm, and explaining the game we were about to play

1 vs. 100 is a TV game show in which one contestant comes up from the audience of 100 (in this case 1 vs. about 30) and answers various multiple choice questions without being able to see the audience reaction. Each person in the audience has A, B, C, and D cards in front of them and holds up their answer to each question. The moderator then announces the answer and whoever got it correct moves on to the next question and closer to an ever increasing pot of money. Get it wrong...you're out!

The questions were mostly accounting related. A few of the questions related to auditing and a few of the questions related to financial accounting and reporting. One question asked was "If today is Wednesday November 18th, on what day does December 12th fall?" Another question asked "What are the primary colors of the 7 Eleven logo?"

The big money winners of the evening were Mike Territo and Cristen Grund who each walked away with the equivalent of a years' salary in some countries or gas money for at least a

trip and a half from home to USF. Both contestants successfully answered long strings of questions to knock out the rest of the audience. Although it wasn't the largest amount of money, Elizabeth Shepard answered some particularly difficult questions to win her pot.

After the game everyone gathered outside for some Sbarro's pizza and salad. All of the people from CFR stayed and answered questions about the firm and the accounting profession in general. We all had a great time with Steve, Sara, and the rest of the CFR folks.



"Show Me the Money!"



BAP President Christopher Rosales joins other BAPpers at the CFR 1 vs. 100 social



BAP member Christina Ruiz takes a break from playing 1 vs. 100 at the social



Leadership Conference By: Katherine Fotopoulos, Member

On a cold, brisk Sunday in January, many studious accounting students took time out of their busy schedules to gather at the USF park and enjoy a friendly competition filled with fun, quirky games. This event, of course, is otherwise known as the bi-annual Beta Alpha Psi Leadership Conference that took place on January 23, 2011. As students huddled together at picnic tables, donning hats, gloves, sweaters, and sneakers, the day started with a speaker from Larson Allen who shared some “day-in-the-life-of-an-accounting-professional” stories. After this warm-up, Beta Buddies were revealed through a clever paper puzzle-piece matching game. And then the fun really began!

Teams of about 8 to 10 students were formed, and each team participated in 5 events: an egg race, tug-of-

war, a three-legged race, dodge-ball, and a “no hands allowed” beach ball race. Two different teams were matched up for each event, and there was strong competition among the teams. The winners received small prizes from the Beta Alpha Psi goodie-bag, but at the end of the day, every team and every competitor walked away with a smile on their face. Students continued to play friendly pick-up games of dodgeball after the competition ended.

After all the physical activity, our group had worked up a big appetite. Boxes upon boxes of pizza appeared, and this was a great way to end the day. Basking in the sunshine while nourishing our bodies, buddies were able to get to know each other a little better over lunch. The Leadership Conference is one of the first events

every semester, and many students look forward to it with excitement. The bonds we create in our organization strengthen over time, and this event is a great way to bring our students together in a fun way for the first time.



BAP members and candidates strategize during the tug-of-war exercise at the conference

GT Rock Climbing: A Beta Alpha Psi Tradition By: Donna Finke, Candidate

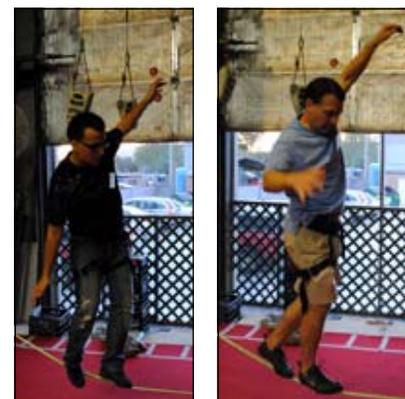
In January, USF's Beta Alpha Psi members and candidates had a chance to get to know some of the folks from Grant Thornton, learn a new skill, and get some exercise—all at the same time. Grant Thornton hosted the annual and very popular rock climbing social at Vertical Ventures rock climbing gym in Tampa. Everyone had a great time and some of us learned some new climbing skills with the help of the Vertical Ventures staff who acted as belays for the group.

Matt Dumar from Grant Thornton organized the event which has become a Grant Thornton/Beta Alpha Psi tradi-

tion in the past few years. Matt was joined by Grant Thornton team members Jeff Farrington, Josh Goodelman, and Beta Alpha Psi alumnae April Wetherbee and Jaimie Worth.



Christine LaBon and Elizabeth Shepherd at the GT Rock Climbing Social



Christopher Rosales and Matt Dumar show off their balancing skills before heading to the rock climbing wall

Ernst and Young Social

By: Eric Riddle, Candidate

On Wednesday evening, February 2nd, Beta Alpha Psi had the pleasure of making an audience with none other than Ernst & Young. Employing 144,000 people and spanning across 140 different countries, they undoubtedly had our attention.

Prior to the meeting, the E&Y Tax Department gave an insightful presentation about how the changing political climate is influencing the tax code in the United States as well as trends in global tax reform. The speakers also indicated they will give greater attention on USF when recruiting for tax going in the future.

Q'doba segued the group elegantly into the social, where the mood was most agreeable. Throughout the night BAP members were approached by many associates and interns who were genuinely eager to converse, and provide wisdom about the profession.

All of the representatives seemed so enthused about their jobs and the future, that it was almost staggering. Fortune Magazine was on the mark when they ranked Ernst & Young among the top 100 Best Places to Work for in 2010.

Our group was also pleased to hear that many of the interns had suc-

cessfully passed sections, if not all, of the CPA exam. They assured us that Ernst & Young was more than accommodating when it came to preparation and scheduling for the examination.

After all was said and done, the event was a success and all who attended were immensely grateful for the opportunity to share the evening with E&Y.



LarsonAllen Social

By: Donna Mecoli, Candidate

Pizza, games, and a refrigerator full of soda, LarsonAllen sure knows their way into our student hearts. LarsonAllen prides themselves on being noticeably different and explained their culture and background before getting the games started. At the social, they set up three different competitions. In one room Guitar Hero, in another MarioKart, and in a third the game of Taboo, the top winners of the games would go home with Target Gift cards.

As everyone did their best in competing against fellow Beta members and the LarsonAllen team, only a few prevailed. Geoff Higgins came in first for MarioKart. Donna Mecoli came in first in guitar hero with Ben Gasparini in second and Marissa Fassino in third. The winners of Taboo were Derbis Lopez and Matt Gill. If you look past all the pizza and competitions, LarsonAllen showed the culture and closeness of their office. They illustrated that they are able to get work done, but also have a lot of fun at the same time.

PwC Social

By: Eric Riddle, Candidate

According to statistics, two-thirds of the adult population gambled in some fashion last year. Certainly and obviously, accountants are part of the one-third who abstained. *Were*, that is. On Friday evening, February 4th, gambling was brought to Beta Alpha Psi by none other than PwC.

Upon entering, there were four tables: Poker, Craps, Blackjack, and Roulette. The dealers were all quite nice, and would charismatically give advice and instruction. At first the lot of us seemed a little hesitant, so most munched on the Chic-fil-A. In a short time though, the friendly people from PwC seemed to coax us to the tables, where the energy gradually increased until the night's close. I found myself unable to leave the Craps table, and in competition with the other tables for

who could be the loudest.

A common and unfortunate stigma placed on the accounting profession is that, with it, comes a boring job, and a boring personality. I could make a career of tallying the number of times that I told someone I was an accounting major and they responded with a puzzled look of revulsion. If these same people had attended this social, they definitely would have a different perspective. A good time was had by all, and even to the extent that we had to be politely pried from our newfangled gambling addictions and funneled out of the room.

Kickball for a Cause By: Christen Grund, Candidate

On Saturday, February 12, Beta Alpha Psi hosted its charity kickball tournament, raising funds for Shriner's Children's Hospital. The cool February day was filled with fun and competitive spirit as teams from the local accounting firms and organizations set their eye on the coveted golden kickball trophy. The teams that competed were from CBIZ KRMT, Cherry Bekaert & Holland, Ernst & Young, Grant Thornton, KPMG, Larson-Allen, Protiviti, and of course, Beta Alpha Psi.

The day began with three preliminary games to determine seeding. Grant Thornton and Ernst & Young came out of the preliminary rounds

strong--both winning all three of these games. Then came the three-round, single elimination tournament. Grant Thornton lost a few of their key players, and was overthrown in the first round by Protiviti. Ernst & Young, on the other hand, continued to dominate throughout the remaining games. The championship game came down to Ernst & Young versus KPMG. While KPMG fought hard, Ernst & Young proved to be unstoppable, enacting the mercy rule (10 point lead) to end the game.

By the end of the day, only Ernst & Young could claim the golden kickball trophy, but everyone enjoyed a great time for a great cause. Special

thanks go out to Kristin Mixon and her kickball committee, and of course to all of the organizations that participated, raising almost \$700 for Shriner's Children's Hospital. Now hurry up and start practicing! Less than 364 days until next year's tournament!



The winning kickball team!

BAP Regionals Best Practices Winning Teams! By: Amanda Porupski

Six members of the Delta Gamma Chapter of BAP attended the Southeast Regional Beta Alpha Psi Meeting in Charlotte, NC February 25-26, and competed in Deloitte's Best Practices Competition in two areas.

Christopher Rosales, Ingrid Poole, and Amanda Kerney presented "Helping Others Understand the Financial Information Professions" providing insights on how our chapter recently reached out to local high school students to help educate them about career opportunities in the financial profession. This team also sponsored a competition for students

who prepared presentations about which careers they were most interested in and why.



(L-R) Amanda Porupski, Ashley Harris, Robert Goodwin, Kirsten Crame, Professor Jennifer Cainas, Christopher Rosales, Amanda Kerney and Ingrid Poole

Our members also competed in "Innovate: The Accountant's Role in the Changing Business Environment" and won first place! Amanda Porupski, Robert Goodwin, and Ashley Harris presented a proposal to expand the Beta Alpha Psi Portal to accumulate valuable resources on chapter operations and resources to accommodate our members and alumni in transitioning from student to professional. This group will represent the Southeast Region when they compete at Nationals in Denver, Colorado this August.

Great job!!! We are extremely proud of our teams!!!

Beta Alpha Psi Website Newsletter Committee

- Linda Wolf, Chair
- Donna Finke, Candidate
- Katherine Fotopoulous, Member
- Christen Grund, Candidate

- Noel Heustis, Candidate
- Donna Mecoli, Candidate
- Eric Riddle, Candidate