

Sigma Pi - Beta Psi

John Gudikunt Memorial Scholarship Essay

I would first like to start by thanking the Beta-Psi Housing Association Board of Directors as well as all the Beta-Psi Alumni for offering this gracious scholarship to the current active brothers of the Beta-Psi chapter.

Since coming to East Stroudsburg University I have always strived to push myself to be more active and helpful in the local community. To name a few of my past volunteering experiences, I have helped students move in on “move-in” day, worked on project turkey, collected, and donated toys to Toys for Tots. I had also personally purchased 5 Dozen doughnuts and donated them to the staff at Lehigh Valley Hospital Pocono Branch in the name of Sigma Pi - Beta Psi Chapter last semester. Besides being an active member of the East Stroudsburg University and Stroudsburg community. I also strive to be an advocate for mental health awareness and those suffering from drug or alcohol addictions.

Mental health awareness has always been a taboo topic. This being said, I have always strived to be there for my family, friends, and brothers to discuss any struggles they may be going through. I want to be there for them because I know how life-changing it can be to lose a friend to suicide. Back when I was in high school, I had one friend who took his own life because of depression. I always think back to how if one person could have talked to him or just spoken up life could be completely different. When talking about mental health, I must bring up the topic of drug and alcohol addiction. In recent years, I have stepped up and tried to be an advocate for those who suffer from addiction. Since coming to college in the Fall of 2017 I have lost two friends from drug overdoses. Drug and alcohol addiction has not only affected my friends, but it has also affected my family. Addiction has hindered my family for the last three generations, and I strive to break the cycle. Seeing the ones that I care about in their worst state of mind pushes me to try my best to succeed and help others before it is too late. Therefore, I always have an open-door policy for any brothers to come and talk to me if they need someone. Pushing these hard-to-talk-about topics to the front-line is the only way to put an end to this vicious illness. Overall, I strive to be there for my family, brothers, and friends if they need me.

After my time at East Stroudsburg University is up, I plan on either enlisting into the United States Air Force or try to get a position teaching in a developing country. I believe that being able to help others is my calling in life. With my parents recently divorcing I am now pushing myself more towards enlisting but that was always one of my biggest aspirations in life. After enlisting, I plan to receive another degree specifically in Special Education, where I would be dual certified to teach students with disabilities as well as teaching any content between 4th and 8th grade. I feel as if the meaning of life is to be the best person I can be and to help others.

One of the things that I remember from pledging three years ago is our motto. It goes as followed; “*Progress, man’s distinctive mark alone, Not God’s, and not the beasts’. God is, they are, Man partly is and wholly hopes to be*”. I vividly remember while pledging staring at this quote and constantly reading it over and over for hours every day trying to memorize it. Now three years later I know this quote like the back of my hand. Something about it just stuck with me, and recently I finally found out what it was while breaking down the full excerpt that Robert Browning wrote during a literature class over winter break. For every brother in Sigma Pi, we strive to grow and better ourselves through progress. I see my current achievements in comparison to what my past goals were and what I want my future to hold. Our past achievements in life show our progress and growth towards our idea of our version of perfection.

The second line reads, *“Not Gods’, and not the beasts. God is, they are,”*. This line makes me think about how we will never actually achieve perfectionism. Since once you reach your set goals and aspiration, it is only human to strive for more. The only “thing” that is perfect is my God, and the only way I can achieve perfectionism is through him. This wraps into the last line of the moto saying, *“Man partly is and wholly hopes to be”*. Stating that we are not perfect, however, we can always push ourselves to be better. My ultimate goal in life is to help others and support them to better themselves every day. In hopes that one day I will be remembered in a comparable way to how Brother John Gudikunst is remembered in your eyes and hearts.

~Jevo