TORCH & TREFOIL

WINTER 2011

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Through the Years

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WINTER 2011 · VOLUME 88 · NUMBER 1

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Brothers Impact Goes Beyond U.S. Borders

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INCREASING EXCHANGE

Brother Scott Beale's Impact Goes Beyond U.S. Borders

By Ruth Goodman

n a crisp autumn afternoon, Georgetown University sophomore Scott Beale was walking across campus when a flier for an organization called Alpha Phi Omega caught his eye. Beale was an active member of Georgetown's student government, yet he had to admit that his level of community involvement wasn't anywhere near where he wanted it to be.

Beale attended a Mu Alpha Chapter function to learn more about the Leadership, Friendship and Service mentioned on APO's flier. That's when his life changed forever.

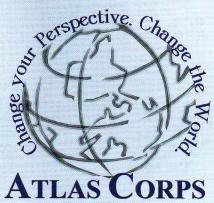
"I was drawn [to the Fraternity] by the people, the strong service mission and the fact that President Clinton, who I later worked for in the White House, was a brother in Mu Alpha Chapter," Beale said.

The friends he made within APO at Georgetown provided Beale the critical support he needed to launch Atlas Service Corps, Inc. in 2006. Atlas Corps is an international network of nonprofit leaders and organizations that address social issues by developing leaders, strengthening organizations, and promoting innovation and idea sharing through a global fellowship program.

THE RATE













"The world has a long list of intractable challenges, from the environment, to health, to equality, to poverty, to education and much more," said Beale, who serves as Atlas Corps' CEO. "The thesis of Atlas Corps is that the best way to address these issues is to empower the individuals who will be fixing those problems – teach them the best practices of the global nonprofit sector and network them to learn from each other."

At the heart of Atlas Corps' program is its direct-service fellowship program, which brings rising nonprofit leaders from developing countries to the United States and sends domestic nonprofit leaders to developing countries to volunteer at nonprofit organizations for 12 to 18 months. During their fellowship, these leaders learn best practices, build organizational capacity and return to their home countries to create a network of global change agents.

"At Atlas Corps, we bring nonprofit leaders from around the world to volunteer at some of the world's best organizations, including the Grameen Foundation, Ashoka, TechnoServe, the UN Foundation, the U.S. Peace Corps, Susan G. Komen for the Cure and many more," said Beale.
"We seek out organizations that share our values of cross-cultural learning and will respect the contributions of our fellows and provide them with meaningful, yearlong service opportunities. Host organizations also have to pay a cost share of about \$28,000 to receive a nonprofit leader for one year, so the organizations need to have the capacity to support a fellow." To date, Atlas Corps has worked with nearly 45 different organizations in the U.S. and Colombia.

To become a fellow, nonprofit leaders must have between three and 10 years of nonprofit experience, English proficiency, a bachelor's degree or equivalent and be age 35 or younger. They must also apply to volunteer in a country other than their own and commit to returning to their home country after their fellowship is complete.

Atlas Corps currently has fellows in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York and Bogota, Columbia.

In September 2011, the fellowship program expanded to Atlanta,
Minneapolis and Cartagena, Colombia.

"In 2012, we will be in Seattle, San Francisco, Mexico City and Cairo," said Beale. "Our goal is to have offices in 25 cities around the world and to be engaging 500 leaders a year."

Now in its fifth year, Atlas Corps has 50 active fellows and 50 alumni. By its 10th year, Beale hopes to have 400 active fellows and 500 alumni, and to be in eight countries and 20 cities.

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He also wants the program to be 90 percent sustainable based on the cost share paid by host organizations.

"Beyond the numbers," said Beale, "[in 10 years, our goal is that] Atlas Corps will have developed a global model for multilateral exchange where good ideas and talented people cross borders, working together to address the world's most significant social challenges."

APO brothers have played an integral part in the success of Atlas Corps by volunteering, supporting online fundraising campaigns and serving as organization leaders/partners.

"The people I met in APO are people who cared deeply about the world, believed passionately in their ability to make a difference and thought that actions were more important than words or good intentions. I have been blessed with a great biological family, but also a larger global community of people who

share these values and provided a great source of support in the long-term effort to effect social change."

Beale's own Fraternity experience prepared him for addressing critical social issues and for showing him that working in the nonprofit sector could be a fulfilling career path. "Even though I've had opportunities to work in the White House and the State Department, I'm thankful that I'm able to work full time in the nonprofit sector developing global leaders," he said.

But what about those of us who work in the for-profit sector or who can't commit as much time to service activities as we did in college?

"Not everyone needs to work for a nonprofit or volunteer 40 hours a week, but I believe that by prioritizing service, we bring greater value to our own lives while addressing issues we care about," said Beale. "Nothing defines a person more than by how they spend their time," he continued. "While everyone is busy, finding time to volunteer, even once a month...meaningfully enriches one's life while making a difference for others."

Alumni and collegiate brothers who want to learn more about or get involved with Atlas Corps' global movement are encouraged visit www.atlascorps.org or join the organization's Facebook fan page at facebook.com/atlascorps. There are countless ways to get involved – from reviewing applications, volunteering with fellows, financially sponsoring fellows, helping with training, nominating candidates or becoming a fellow.

"Our doors are open for people to get involved – especially APO members," said Beale. "Leadership, Friendship and Service are not past times of youth, but

fundamental to living a life of meaning."

