



# The Phi News

Pennsylvania Theta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity  
At The Pennsylvania State University

State College, Pa. — March 2001

## A FANTASTIC EVENT FOR AN IMPORTANT CAUSE

By Sam Haldeman '01

**Y**ou already know about the improvements Phi Delta Theta has made in the past semester. Let me tell you what we are planning for philanthropy. Right now we are scheduled to have a "Battle of the Bands" philanthropic event at our house. Proceeds will go to the Lou Gehrig Foundation to help fight Lou Gehrig's Disease.

One of the headlining bands, Candyflip, has a bass guitarist who is a Phi. A Panhellenic sorority will be co-sponsoring the event with us, something we haven't had in recent years. We are looking forward to this event for more than one reason; obviously the publicity and the excitement.

(Continued on page 2)

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The spring membership meeting of the Pennsylvania Theta Alumni Corporation will be held on April 21, 2001, at 10:30 a.m. at the chapter house. You are urged to attend.

## OLD THOUGHTS; NEW CHALLENGE

By Tom Smith '54, President, Pennsylvania Theta Alumni Corporation

**I** recently had the urge to look through some past issues of *The Phi News*, and I discovered that the old adage, *the more things change, the more they stay the same*, still holds true; even though things may stay the same for different reasons. Please read several excerpts from what I wrote during my first year (1980-81) as Chapter Adviser:

"I will welcome assistance from any brother of Pennsylvania Theta, but I do want to caution you about using your memories of how things were when you were at Penn State as a guide for your advice. The social system now is different; the school system now is different; the economic system now is different. In short, while many of the problems are the same, most of the solutions will be different."

"The rush program will remain the number-one priority program."

"... while Pennsylvania Theta may have altered its slide downhill, there is still a long uphill climb ahead of us. In the long run, whether we succeed or not will depend on the efforts of both the undergraduates and the alumni. Because of this, your support is genuinely solicited."

Additionally, Jack Cosgrove '38 wrote during that same year:

"The second real problem is to decide what the future should be for the physical plant. Should we consider another remodeling, replacement, or what?" [Note: The *first* problem referred to by Jack was the deplorable condition of the furnishings on the main floor. Adequate furniture was finally purchased in 1984 and again in 1993.]

In the fall of 1980, we were faced with the problem of maintaining adequate membership after losing 33 members the previous spring; in 2001, we are faced with the problem of maintaining adequate membership after converting to an alcohol-free house. In 1980, we were down to eleven undergraduate members; in 2001, we have 21. In 1980, we had a chapter house in need of renovation; in 2001, we have a chapter house in need of renovation.

By comparing 1980 to 2001, you could conclude that we haven't made much progress over the past twenty or so years. But, if you did, you would have forgotten that twenty years ago we had a strong core of undergraduate brothers who, through hard work, perseverance, and the support of our Phi alumni, eventually raised Pennsylvania Theta to once more being a top fraternity at Penn State in campus activities, academic achievements, and social life. It is my opinion that the remaining undergraduate members represent another strong core who deserve our support and upon whom Pennsylvania Theta should be able to rebuild in that same manner and to that same degree.

During the past 20 years, we have been able to maintain our almost 100-year-old chapter house so that it meets, and in some cases exceeds, the necessary housing codes. As one example, ever since 1989, we have had a central-station fire- and smoke-monitoring system. Another example is that we are one of only four fraternities at Penn State with a complete fire suppression sprinkler system. This major safety feature was made possible by the generous donations of many Pennsylvania Theta alumni who cared enough about their chapter house (which is 99 percent

(Continued on page 3)

## OFFICERS

President/Scholarship Chair

*Rick Greevy '01*  
*Hockessin, Del.*

Vice President/Treasurer

*Tai Hyunb '02*  
*Mountville, Pa.*

Secretary

*Jason Jung '01*  
*Fayetteville, N.Y.*

Rush Chair

*Setb Custer*  
*Fairless Hills, Pa.*

Rush Chair

*Ryan Estrada '04*  
*Horsham, Pa.*

Rush and Risk Management

*Phil Garrison '04*  
*Wallingford, Pa.*

House Manager

*Brian Fletcher '02*  
*Coatesville, Pa.*

Alumni Secretary

*Kyle Schlenker '02*  
*Hamburg, Pa.*

Social Chair

*Nelson Leong '02*  
*Santurce, Puerto Rico*

Social Chair/Pledgemaster

*Scott Hodgson '02*  
*Coatesville, Pa.*

Social Chair/Philanthropy

*Karan Soni*  
*Dubai, United Arab Emirates*

Awards Chair

*Sam Haldeman '01*  
*State College, Pa.*



## UNDERGRADUATE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

By Rick Greevy '01, Chapter President

I consider myself a lucky man. Not only was I elected president of one of Penn State's finest fraternities, but the members of our executive board are the most enthusiastic and hardest working guys I've seen in years. I'm glad to be working for them. The morale is excellent, and for the first time since we became alcohol-free, we have a real focus and purpose in our social and rush planning. The hard work of the social and rush chairmen lead to the recruitment of four Phikeias, our first spring pledge class in four years.

Not only have we been successful in rush and social, but academically we have been able to dramatically improve our IFC ranking for grades. Several of our members made the Dean's list. I hope their achievements will serve as a positive example of what hard work will produce.

Nelson Leong '02 and I had the good fortune to attend the President's Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in January. The conference is an annual event held by Phi Delt general headquarters to help new presidents and rush chairmen understand and appreciate the responsibility of their roles. The conference lasted from Thursday to Sunday and consisted of several large and small group sessions. The large group sessions dealt with topics like alcohol awareness and leadership strategies. We were assigned to small groups based on similarities in the Greek systems at the respective colleges. While the small group sessions usually had a focus, I learned the most when we were able to throw out ideas or concerns to the group. Every Phi I met had a real desire to make Phi Delta Theta the premier fraternity on his campus. Nelson and I both came away from the conference with a real desire to put our new ideas to work for the chapter. I hope we continue to send our members to the leadership conferences in the future. It was one of the greatest learning experiences I've had during college.

The members have been taking steps to improve the physical appearance of the house. We have plans to do some landscaping and refurbish the volleyball court. I hope we can finish the semester with the same spirit with which we started.

## FANTASTIC, CONTINUED

ment are a bonus, but our goal is to raise money to help fight this awful disease.

Every Phi is approaching this with a positive attitude, expecting to raise a lot of money and help the cause tremendously. I would like to invite any alumni who are interested to come back to the house for the "Battle of the Bands" so you can see us in action. Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we will give you more information. It will be a fantastic event for an important cause.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jef Andruscavage '04  
*Prospect Park, Pa.*  
*Communications*

Nicholas Pressley '04  
*Tyrone, Pa.*  
*Information Systems and Technology*

Mike Tier '04  
*Glenolden, Pa.*  
*Secondary Education*

Justin Wilson '04  
*Frederick, Md.*  
*Computer Engineering*

# OLD THOUGHTS, CONTINUED

wood with a brick facade) ten years ago to make sure that it had a reasonable chance to survive a major fire.

Pennsylvania's legislature is just now getting around to mandating that every fraternity has a sprinkler system installed within the next four years.

Several years ago, this feature undoubtedly saved the Penn State Pi Lambda Phi house and most likely some lives, and every Pennsylvania Theta Phi should sleep better with the knowledge that we also have this protection.

To those unselfish brothers who supported the chapter then, thank you. Nevertheless, *every* brother can offer support not just through monetary donations, but also by becoming involved with Phi Delta Theta whenever and

wherever possible; by participating in local alumni club activities or just by visiting Pennsylvania Theta at Homecoming or whenever you are in town.

Before closing this report, I have a very serious request to make of some specific brothers. If you were ever elected to the position of chapter president, I ask, no, I *challenge* you to take the initiative and organize a weekend reunion of your classmates; whether you schedule it on Homecoming weekend at Penn State or some other time and place doesn't matter. And, it doesn't matter whether you do it on a multiple of five or ten years; there's nothing magical about those numbers. You can pick your senior-year classmates, your pledge mates, or join together with another

class — whatever way suits you best. Just do it and realize the joy of renewing the bonds of brotherhood that Phi Delta Theta taught you when you were at Penn State. Some of us have already done it, and it's astonishing what satisfaction and enjoyment it produces.

I hope to see you at the Pennsylvania Theta chapter house. If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached at (H) 814-238-1184; (F) 814-238-0687; (E-Mail) [tlscs@bestevent.com](mailto:tlscs@bestevent.com).

Proud to be a Phi!

## TRANSFORMATION TO BROTHERHOOD AND SOCIAL LIFE FOR THE BETTER

By Nelson Leong '02

**D**uring Spring 2001, the Pennsylvania Theta chapter witnessed a complete transformation in the brotherhood and the social life. It was a change for the better. Although we have not been partying on the property, all the undergraduates have gone above and beyond to make this the best semester anyone of us has ever had. We finally believe that, even being dry, Pennsylvania Theta will flourish once again with the help of the alumni and the undergraduates.

The social chairmen — Karan Soni '01, Scott Hodgson '02 and I — have moved alcoholic functions to third party vendors. In these functions, we have gained respect from many sororities and the Greek organization. However, the cost of third party vendors has limited the amount of events we would normally hope to do in a semester. Hard work and good planning allowed us to recruit four new Phikeias in the spring. I am proud to say that we finally have a spring pledge class after four years.

The chapter house has also been used for nonalcoholic functions with sororities. Formal dinners, cooked by our own brothers, have become a big hit. Delta

Gamma, our sister sorority, was so impressed that they have asked us to do Parents' Weekend with them. We finally know what has to be done for this house to succeed and we are glad to say we are doing it. We are optimistic, proud and ready to take on any challenges we are faced with.

I would also like to take this time to thank one of the most dedicated Phis in Pennsylvania Theta. He has motivated each and every one of the undergraduates and has become our father figure in this house. On behalf of all the undergraduates, thanks for everything, Bob Olson '64!

---

*The Phi News* is published for the members and friends of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University. Address changes, news items, photos and contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 296, State College, PA 16804-0296.

## REESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH YOU!

By Kyle Schlenker '02, Alumni Secretary

**I**t has come to our attention that the communication between the undergraduate brothers and alumni is not where we want it to be. In other words, we want all alumni to have a feel for the progression of the house, so you can be as enthusiastic about the strides we've made as we are.

One of our major goals is to strengthen our ties with as many alumni as possible. Through this we hope to gain your support, which is needed now more than ever. We do understand that your trust and support need to be gained. We have a spring pledge class for the first time since 1996, hopefully a sign to all of you that we are moving in the right direction. Obviously we are all very enthusiastic about that and the overall progression of the house. Increasing the awareness of our fellow alumni on how and what the active brothers are accomplishing is the first step.

If you have any ideas, concerns, and/or questions about this, please e-mail me at [khs121@psu.edu](mailto:khs121@psu.edu). One final note, Blue/White and Parents' Weekend is April 21-22. We will be catering to any alumni and parents that come to visit us. I strongly encourage your attendance at this festive occasion — I promise you won't be disappointed!

# Alumni News

**Gil Mohr '37** asks if any brother has a color front-view photo (8" x 10") of the chapter house, morning sunlight preferred. Gil would like to buy a print or borrow a negative, if available, to make a print. He wants to update his house memorabilia. Gil is at 5916 Cresthaven Ln, #219B, Toledo, OH 43614; (H) 419-866-4479; jgilbert-mohr@webtv.net.

Last summer, **John I. Blanck '61** (422 Orchard Ln., Manheim, PA 17545), his wife, Carol, and their three children vacationed on Squam Lake, N.H., with **Bob Elliott '61**, his wife, Marcy, one of their two children and two grandchildren. Two other families, friends of the Elliotts, were also in the group. Everyone had a great time.

**Bruce A. Quailey '71** (3070 N.E. 43rd St., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308) tells us: "When everyone talks about a college education, you very seldom hear anything about the tremendous social experiences. Phi Delta Theta proclaims to be a fraternity for life, not just for four years. In my case, I can truthfully say that the camaraderie and lifelong friendships I have derived from our fraternity are what I think most about Penn State."

**Robert B. Devine '77** (78-560 Via Bolero, La Quita, CA 92253; rdevine@usss.treas.gov), an assistant special agent in charge with the U.S. Secret Service, was transferred in 2000 to the Ford Protective Division. He now lives in California during the winter and spends the summers at President Ford's other residence near Vail, Colo. The work, he notes, is a nice change of pace from Washington, D.C. Robert adds: "Anyone interested in a reunion of the Classes of 1976-78 during the weekend of the Blue/White game in the summer of 2002 (25th reunion), write or send an e-mail. I'll start compiling a list and look into setting something up." Working with Fox Sports, **Thomas V. Huet '77** (1626 Third St., Natrona Heights, PA 15065; thuet@foxsports.net) is the producer of "Baseball Thursday," "Pirates Baseball" and "College

Football Saturday." His son, Matthew, is a freshman kicker on the Penn State football team.

**John M. Kauffman '82** (USEMB Beijing, PSC 461, Box 50, FPO, AP 96521) and his wife are back in Beijing, China, where Liz serves as the cultural officer of the U.S. Embassy. John published his third book on programming for the Internet in 2000 and was planning to have a fourth published in March of this year. For more details, brothers can search Amazon for "Kauffman." "Woody" notes, "Any Phis traveling to Beijing are welcome to contact john@kauffmans.org."

Marnie and **Malcolm D. McGaughy '91** (5356 Sequoia Farms Dr., Centerville, VA 20120; mcgdesign@aol.com) announce the birth of their first child, Aidan, in November 2000.

**Ronald J. Bryan '94** (1611 Schrader Blvd., Apt. 210, Los Angeles, CA 90028) enjoyed celebrating New Year's 2001 with **Gregory Dunkle '94**, **Mark Rieder '95**, **Anthony Barton '96**, **Chris Franklin '93** and **Doug Ellis '93**. (Anthony is on our "lost" list. If you have an address for him, please send it our way.)



**Daniel G. Swayze '92** (183 Clover Hill Dr., Flanders, NJ 07836; swayze@optionline.net) is a system engineer at TyCom. He and his wife, Laura, are expecting the arrival of their first child in June 2001. Daniel notes: "Stop by if you are ever in New Jersey. Does anyone know where 'Backpack' is?"

When **Charles Yohe '97** (415 Olive St., Denver, CO 80220; cyohe@rlps.com) was married in August in New Brunswick, Canada, **Jason Flury '95**,

**Matt Kaminer '96**, **Ricky Pham '98**, **Brian Guarnero '98** and **Rick McKissock '98** served in the wedding party. Many Phis attended the event and lots more came to a reception in Pennsylvania.



In a new job, **Marty Duff '98** (123 Readington Rd., Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889; mlduff@lucent.com) is an ERP specialist at Lucent Technologies. He sends congratulations to **Scott Engle '97**, **Nick Marco '98** and **Oscar Parks '99** on their marriages in 2000.

**Geoffrey Marcus '00** (7340 Eden Brook Dr., Apt. 912, Columbia, MD 21046; goff17@aol.com), an electrical engineer, is now working at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. He's designing a miniature communications and navigations system for multi-satellite NASA missions. Geoff and Lauren Retzlaff became engaged and have set tentative plans for an October 2001 wedding.



## CHAPTER GRAND

**Richard H. Maurer '36** (12/20/00)  
**Joseph R. Diehl '48** (3/19/01)

Memorial contributions for Joseph R. Diehl '48 may be made to Pennsylvania Theta Educational Foundation.