



NEWS FROM THE

TREEHOUSE

Tau Phi Delta Fraternity – Penn State Alpha Chapter
427 East Fairmount Avenue, State College, PA 16801 • www.tauphidelta.org

Spring 2017

Phi's Report

Br. Nathan Yocum (Fall 2015)

Another year has come and gone and I hope this newsletter finds you well as we're all still coming down from the crazy fall semester with a surprise Penn State football season and another successful hunting season.

I was recently elected as the active Phi for the year of 2017. It is a huge honor, and I can't wait to do my part in continuing to make Tau Phi Delta the best it can be. I am also looking forward to working with my fellow executive board, Alpha Phi Tyler Turcheck, Tau Keith Thomas, and Sigma Chris Barnish, as well as the many alumni who serve on the TΦΔ Grand National, the Corporation Board of Directors, and the Foundation. The transition has been so far, so good, thanks to help from the previous executives, alumni, and the entire active Brotherhood.

Thanks to the former executives, consisting of Bros. Austin Noguera, Keith Thomas, David Frederick, and Ethan Bauer, we were able to achieve "Chapter of Good Standing" status through the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) and Penn State Student Affairs Office for the year of 2016.

We are finding recruiting to be increasingly difficult every semester due to restrictions that all fraternities face, but we were able to welcome 5 new Brothers in the House last year, which brings our active Brotherhood total to 24 Brothers. We also currently have two pledges this semester, both of whom seem like quality guys this far and continue to impress the Brotherhood with their dedication and interest in being a part of the House. Our Little Sister program has taken off recently, and has grown to 14 Sisters with an additional 3 pledges for this semester.

Recently, plans of major capital improvements to the fraternity house, which includes the inevitable replacing of the electrical wiring system have progressed. These projects, which have been discussed over the years, will be happening sooner rather than later. We are also planning on replacing the retaining wall adjacent to the fire escape by Elk Alley this spring, which has diminished in condition increasingly over the years. In addition, there will be work completed on the fireplace and chimney this semester as well, after a large crack was found due to a prior chimney fire. These projects, once completed, will set our House over the top and will make for a great presentation piece for all returning alumni and prospective new members in the future.

Unfortunately, on the flip side of the positives are a lot of troubles in fraternity life here at Penn State. Due to recent unfortunate events at Beta Theta Pi, which cost a young man's life, Penn State has been forced to take action against *all* fraternities. Social events have been suspended indefinitely, which will unfortunately affect our spring homecoming and any other event that usually attracts alumni back to the House. We have also had to amend the pledge process, which includes having to meet with officials through the IFC and Penn State to review how we educate and what we do with our pledges.

How this will affect fraternity life in the future is unknown at this point, but there will have to be long-term changes to both social and pledge aspects of fraternity life. We are all hopeful that things

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Phi Nathan Yocum

Alpha Phi Tyler Turcheck

Tau Keith Thomas

Sigma Chris Barnish

Alumni Will Johns and

Frank Barbour

Membership Ethan Bauer and

Jake Glotzbach

Forest Ranger Ian Hemann

Jolly Friar James Ostergaard

Social Keith Rhodes and

Gavin Collins

Academic Nick Greci

Finance Gavin Collins

Philanthropy Matt Mihaly

Community Service

Jake Glotzbach

IFC Representative Frank Barbour

Ag Student Council Ian Hemann

and James Ostergaard

Activities Matt Coleman

Webmaster Gavin Collins

Scrapbook Jake Glotzbach

and Nate Lieb

Environmental Systems

Management James Ostergaard

Sustainability Ian Hemann

Risk Management Frank Barbour

and Nate Leib

Greek Week Gavin Collins

News From The Tree House is published each spring by the Active Brothers of the Penn State Alpha Chapter - Tau Phi Delta Fraternity.

**Phi's Report Continued —**

will go back to normal over time.

I am very excited to work with everyone during my time as Phi, and I think to accomplish everything that we hope, it will require continued active-alumni communications.

I love checking the annual composites mounted along the walls in the hallways and seeing all of the quality Brothers that are part of this fraternity, but unfortunately I have only met a small fraction of you.

I am always open to speaking with anyone and listening to any concerns or advice. I would encourage you all to stop by the House sometime, as all of the actives are always thrilled to hear the stories from "back when you pledged" here at Tau Phi Delta.

Brothers, you are always welcome to contact me.

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Alpha Phi's Report

Br. Tyler Turcheck
 (Fall 2016)

With the change of executive positions at the start of this spring, so let me first introduce myself. I am a freshman who only pledged last semester, and took over as Alpha Phi. I am looking forward to executing my role over the next year, and hope to improve the House in any way I can.

Recently the roof was replaced and, prior to that, the resident room windows were upgraded — all funded by alumni and the Tau Phi Delta Corporation.

The lone Spring 2016 pledge's project consisted of installing shelves in the laundry rooms to help combat the clutter that finds its way into the rooms.

My pledge class, Fall 2016, brought four new

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Current Executives (L to R) Tau Keith Thomas, Phi Nathan Yocum, Alpha Phi Tyler Turcheck, and Sigma Chris Barnish.

AΦ's Report Continued — members to the House. Our pledge project consisted of multiple updates to the front of our fraternity house facing East Fairmount.

The first part was the addition of larger Greek letters centered to the front of the resident rooms. These replaced the wood letters made of 2x4s previously on the lower right side of the front of the House, which faced constant battles with being torn down by souvenir seeking vandals.

Also, the old brown, aluminum shutters were torn down and replaced them with green, vinyl raised-panel ones.

The flagpole was beginning to lean sideways, so it was moved a few feet towards the front porch, and re-set it in the ground.

Two exterior outlets were wired that power two 100 watt LED fixtures to light up the front of the House. These lights also can change colors to fit any festivity.

The front of the House is now on its way to looking much better!

During this current semester, we wish to fix all the minor problems that arise, and improve some aspects of the House. This includes the front landscape, and the lights in the backyard. As always, we strive to keep the House clean, and make it an enjoyable place to live in.

I would like alumni of Tau Phi Delta, to come and visit the House any time that you are in the area. We love to hear your stories of your times in the House, and enjoy making connections that could help us in the future.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with regards to anything about the House.

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Tau's Report

Br. Keith A. Thomas
(Fall 2015)

The spring semester of 2017 has shown to be trying, but promising for the Tau Phis. With a roster of 24 Actives and two prospective members, the Brotherhood is strong but is continuously

looking for more recruiting opportunities. In regards to the House roster, 17 currently reside at 427 East Fairmount Avenue, all of which being Active Brothers.

For the coming fall semester the House roster will shrink a bit due to anticipated graduations, but with more recruitment we hope for sizable pledge classes in the future.

The current House Bill stands at \$4,200 for in-house living, while Brothers living outside of the House pay \$650 with an optional meal plan. These numbers have allowed the Brothers of Tau Phi Delta to properly manage their finances through conscientious spending and an increased importance on responsibility.

As far as expenditures on repairs, Tau Phi Delta has had to make some payments since the last newsletter. The boiler room has required some attention in the past few months with a pump on the hot water boiler needing replacement. Currently we're looking into estimates for replacement of the drop ceiling in the chapter room and the retaining wall near the cook's parking spot. The Fall 2016 pledge class work to improve our curb appeal was money well spent. Be sure to take a look at the front of the House the next time you stop, the appearance has changed significantly!



A New Look Out Front Of Tau Phi Delta Fraternity

New blunders and problems are bound to occur, but I am confident that Tau Phi Delta will be able to meet these challenges accordingly, as well as maintain a proficient financial standing throughout the semester and into the summer.

If anyone finds a need to contact me, please do so as so that I may accommodate your thoughts or concerns.

(610)804-4821

thomaska9696@yahoo.com

Membership Report

Bros. Ethan Bauer
(Fall 2015) and

Jake Glotzbach (Fall 2013)

This past semester in Fall '16 we received four new active Brothers into Tau Phi Delta. The group of new Brothers consists of Bros. Nick Greci, William Johns, Matt Mihaly, and Tyler Turcheck. Prior to that, Br. Chris Barnish pledged in Spring '16. They are a great asset and contribution to the House; participating regularly in Brother's events and meetings.

Along with the new Brothers, we also have a strong pair of pledges this semester (Spring 2017) — Nick Wagner and Paul Wardach. So far they have proved to be committed and dedicated pledges. Both seem to be very interested in the House and what it stands for. They look forward to

meeting more of the alumni throughout the semester and at the upcoming Blue White weekend.

Although all fraternities were not included in the campus wide Involvement Fair this year. However we *were* able to participate in both days of this Penn State club recruiting event by signing up for the wait list and filling a last-minute vacancy.

Our goal this semester is to strive to keep bringing guys down that share our outdoor interests and to inform them about the House.

We are currently working with the Tau Phi Delta Foundation to organize a series of speakers to give outdoor-related presentations at the House. The overall purpose of the speaker series is to spread the good word about our fraternity around campus and to attract potential new members for the future.

Typically the recruitment process stops after the end of university-authorized rush period. We hope that the speaker series will help boost our pledge class numbers and work parallel to our goal of semester long recruitment.

Looking forward, all active brothers and current pledges are utilizing their personal and social connection to encourage their friends to see if our fraternity to be a good fit for them. Fall

semester brings new faces and more people who are interested in the outdoors.

Not only are the Actives recruiting heavily, but there have been several rush/pledges who have visited the House after receiving information from recent and older alumni.

A big thank you goes out to all that have promoted TΦΔ and continue to do so.

If you have any questions or ideas regarding membership, we are always available to contact.

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Ethan: eab5528@psu.edu

Jake: jog5413@psu.edu

Alumni Report

Bros. William Johns
(Fall 2016) and

Frank Barbour (Fall 2014)

Spring time is back again, after another short and mild winter, which means it's about time again for our next BOD meeting. The meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on annual Blue White weekend, on April 22. Anyone is welcome to attend. The Penn State annual Blue White scrimmage football game is afterwards (3 p.m. kickoff).

Due to restrictions of social events by the University and the IFC following the tragic incident at Beta Theta Pi, the *previously-planned* '80s Decade Reunion that *was* scheduled to take place on the upcoming Blue White weekend has been postponed.

This reunion will instead be held during a (non-homecoming) weekend on Saturday, September 30th. For more details, refer to the enclosed flyer or online at: www.tauphidelta.org.

This spring homecoming will feature the usual morning meeting and a lunch. However, we are currently prohibited from holding a social function with any alcohol present.

We encourage you to travel back and welcome you to check out the various improvements made to the House itself and catch up with old friends.

Will: (814) 203-5304

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Frank: (484) 356-7470

fpb5021@psu.edu

House Advisor Commentary

Br. Martin McGann
(Fall 1973)

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and hopefully you will be able to come back this spring to State College for a visit to the House and for the Blue White Game!

Over the past several weeks I have had time to meet and speak with a number of the Brothers and the current pledges. I have found that to be an interesting and pleasurable experience since I have found them to be excited about how they can contribute to making their time at the House better

through improving the general condition and experience of living there.

I think this came out at the recent Tau Phi Delta Leadership Summit meeting — attended by several alumni representatives from the Grand National, Corporation Board of Directors and the Foundation, along with current actives — that we had where we discussed numerous topics. I can attest that the actives that were present were able to contribute quite a bit to those discussions. There seems to be a big push within the active Brotherhood to try and recruit more members.

This is exhibiting itself through an interest in having speakers on outdoor interest and forestry either at the House or at different PSU campuses. Br. Gene Odatto is heading up this effort along with some of the actives and they plan to have the first such event this spring at the fraternity house.

Other venues that are being considered would be talks at campuses in Altoona, Mont Alto, and also Williamsport. These talks would be done in conjunction with some of the existing clubs on campus which would act as the inviting entity while the fraternity with the support of the foundation will supply the speakers and some light refreshments. It is hoped that we can attract freshmen

and sophomores so that their longevity at the House will increase in the total numbers contributing to House Bills, among other things.

As you may have heard there has been quite a frenzy of activity here at Penn State and dictates on and off campus over the past several months. Much of this is due to an unfortunate incident in a fraternity house where a young person fell down some steps and later on died from those injuries. As a result, the University took it upon itself to implement dictates affecting the entire Greek system limiting or eliminating things such as pledge programs, socials, and alcohol. This was done without any input from the Inter-Fraternity Council. Furthermore, it appears it was done without any consultation with the Office of Greek Life on campus.

Getting information back about the extent of these dictates has been difficult and very confusing. For example, for a while it appears that we don't have a clear-cut decision on whether we can host any kind of alumni activity at our fraternity house, such as the proposed '80s Reunion. The Foundation, other alumni, and the actives tried to work through that. [**Note:** This reunion has been postponed until September 30th.]

Needless to say, these dictates being handed down from the University leave me

with a *very bad* taste in my mouth since they, the University, have never contribute anything towards the purchase of the TΦΔ property, the maintenance of the fraternity house, or the everyday operations ... but they still feel they have the right to hold a recognition over our heads.

Such a withdrawal from this "fraternity" recognition puts us in a situation with the Borough of State College where we are considered not to be a fraternity but a group boardinghouse even though we have been a fraternity for a lot longer than any of these regulations have been in existence. Somehow I think there is something slightly off about this whole relationship which I would love to have a lawyer look into at some point.

As we go farther and farther along this road, I am wondering what else the University is going to dictate to us. For example, in the future will they tell us that we can no longer have guns at the fraternity house.

At this point it may seem unlikely, however I suppose given the previous restrictions they have imposed, nothing seems to be beyond belief. I suppose a test of this theory would be to ask someone who was in

the House 10 years ago whether they ever thought the University would act in such a manner as we have seen the last few months.

What further surprises me is that with as much of the money raised through the Alumni Association and other interest groups and societies coming from Greeks and the fundraising from highly influenced by Greek participation, why haven't the Greeks banded together, both actives and alumni, to send a message back to Old Main indicating that this type of relationship is not desired and that more of a two-way street with discussions and agreement on both parts should be instituted and maintained so that both parties feel that they have input on these type of decisions.

On a lighter note, I think that the House is looking fairly well and that everyone was excited about hosting the planned [*now postponed*] 80s Reunion to have taken place this spring.

There was some discussion at the recent leadership meeting about improvements to the fraternity house. At the last House meeting I attended there seem to be an indication that the chimney will be fixed.

We also discussed replacing the rotted timber tie wall near the back door and I prepared plans for that which I will send out to the BOD shortly along with some estimates. This project might be an excellent project for the Brothers to engage in since it will involve an aesthetic improvement to the House, as well is some heavy lifting.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Blue White weekend!

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TΦΔ Brothers Missing In Action (As of February 2016)

Key: p = Pledge Class S = Spring F = Fall
g = Graduated 86 = I.e., Year 1986
LKN = Last Known Address

James Andrews; Ron Banks (LKA McKeesport, PA); J. Michael Baran; James Batholomew (LKA Morris, PA); Richard Bell (LKA San Antonio, FL); Brandon Bevan - pS95; James Bintrim; W. Bud Brown - g72 (LKA Asheville, NC); Arthur Briggs, Jr. - g65; William Chyle - p70s; Richard Clark - g49; Ernie Coder - pF64; Donald Coffey; Casey Fenton - S03/g06; Joe Fromme; Francis Gada; Tony Greulich; Victor Griswold; Robert Johnson; Josh Kesler - pF11; Joseph McCloskey (aka Big Joe); J.P. McHugh; John Meier - g47; Brian Monnin; Bill Montgomery - pS91/g93 (LKA Philadelphia, PA); Raymond Moore g36; Jon Musselman g65; Anthony Oreulich; George Otto; Ken Paul; William Rhodes - pF77; Mark Rice; Thomas Rodgers - p70s; John Ross; Ralph Saunders - g33; Lonny Shoup - p70s; Theodore Skdraszewski; Alexander Sperrazza; John Vasquez - g68; Robert Walk - g40; Jim Winkler.

If you have any information, please contact Earl Hower, TΦΔ Grand National Secretary: earlh@jwla.org; (703) 999-4170 (cell/text); or 207 Town Branch Terrace, S.W., Leesburg, VA 20175.

Stay connected with TΦΔ online at: www.tauphidelta.org



ALUMNI UPDATE & TAPROOT SUPPORT FORM

Please take a few minutes and tell us about yourself and your family so you can be included in the "Alumni Updates" section of the next issue (Fall 2017) of *The Taproot*.

Name and Nickname _____

Pledge Class _____ Graduation Year(s) _____

Phone Number(s) (To be printed) _____
(Specify home/work/cell)

Email Address (To be printed) _____

Quotable comments and other information about you, your family, your career and interests outside of work (If need be, continue on a separate sheet).

Enclosed is my contribution to support *The Taproot* : __ \$10, __ \$20, __ \$30, or \$_____ (specify).

Please make your check payable to: Tau Phi Delta Foundation

Then send this form and the check to: **Bill Herb**
9780 White Swan Court
Chestertown, MD 21620

You may also send an alumni update and suggestions for future newsletter articles by email to the editor, Bill Herb, at: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

2017 Dates To Remember ...

TΦΔ Corporation's Annual Ten Gun Raffle Drawing – April 1st through 10th. For last- minute ticket purchases call/text Steve Toth (724)322-7477 or steven.t.toth@gmail.com.

Spring Homecoming – Saturday, April 22nd. The same day as the annual Blue White Football Game (3 p.m.) and Fraternity's BOD and Foundation's BOT meeting (10 a.m.) followed by a lunchtime gathering.

Flight 93 National Memorial Park Tree Planting – Friday, May 19th. This annual gathering of TΦΔ alums, actives, friends will be planting trees as part of the National Park Service's reforestation at the 9-11 crash site, near Shanksville, PA. Contact Dave O'Barto call/text (412)310-3291 or obarto@comcast.net.

Annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament – Saturday, June 10th (10 a.m. tee time). Scholarship fund-raiser will be held again at Skytop Mountain Golf Course in Port Matilda, PA. For registration form and team details time, contact Jason Shuey: email jshuey2001@yahoo.com.

"80s Decade Reunion" – Saturday, September 30th. A daylong gathering of fun, friends, and football (Indiana Hoosiers coming to Happy Valley). For more event details, registration form, and survey online at: www.tauphidelta.org, or contact Christine Eberhart call/text (484)769-3311 or ebs0704@yahoo.com.

2017 Fall Homecoming – Saturday, November 11th. The Fraternity's BOD and Foundation's BOT morning meeting will be followed by a possible tailgate, Homecoming Football Game against the Rutgers University Scarlet Knights, and post-game festivities at the House. Meeting and kick-off times are to be determined. More details when available at: www.tauphidelta.org, and in the fall 2017 issue of *The Taproot* alumni newsletter.