



## NEWS FROM THE

# TREEHOUSE

Tau Phi Delta Fraternity – Penn State Alpha Chapter  
427 East Fairmount Avenue, State College, PA 16801 • [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org)

Spring 2018

## Phi's Report

Br. Tyler Turcheck (Fall 2016)  
(724)953-8092 / [tw5155@psu.edu](mailto:tw5155@psu.edu)

Another year has come and gone within the Tau Phi Delta and Greek community. I hope that all of you had a fantastic fall with enjoyment from great PSU football and hunting seasons. I was recently elected as the active Phi and am both honored and very excited to assume my role in serving the Actives of our great fraternity.

After serving as Alpha Phi on our Executive Board for the previous year, I had familiarized myself with much of what responsibilities the Phi has, and hope to execute my duties to the best of my ability.

Thanks to the major efforts put in by the former Executive Board, and with the support from the Active Brotherhood last year, I am proud to say we met the standard in three-quarters of the categories for IFC Standards of Excellence for the year 2017; this is something only 18 out of 38 of the recognized fraternities met. So job well done to the former Executives: Phi Nathan Yocum, Tau Keith Thomas, and Sigma Chris Barnish.

Unfortunately, with new recruiting measures set by the University preventing first semester freshmen from pledging in the fall, recruiting was hard to come by for this past semester. We were still able to welcome 5 new quality Brothers into the mix between both the Spring and Fall 2017 classes, leaving us with 23 Active Brothers. In addition, we have 4 pledges this semester who are currently going through the pledge process. We will continue to make strides at recruiting new members in order to keep this great fraternity going.

Regarding the Penn State Greek community, many new regulations have been enacted over the past two semesters. The social ban has been lifted as of November 2017, which was in effect since February 2017. Under current rules, each fraternity may only have 10 social events per semester, which is down from the former 45; these social events must also be registered with the University 10 days in advance. In addition, the pledge process can now only be 6 weeks long, and potential new members must go through several seminars (i.e., on hazing, sexual assault, alcohol) before they can receive a bid. They must also attend several other related seminars during the 6-week process. Although challenging at times, it has gone relatively smooth over the last 2 semesters, and I hope it continues to go that way.

Finally, I want to thank all the Alumni and Actives for making Tau Phi Delta such a great organization. If it weren't for the great efforts that we all put forth, it wouldn't be what it is today. As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or feedback. You can reach me by phone via call or text, or shoot me an email. Thank you and please don't hesitate to stop by the House if you are ever in the State College area.



Current Executives (L to R) Tau Nick Grecni, Alpha Phi Matt Mihaly, Sigma Chris Barnish, and Phi Tyler Turcheck.

## NEWS FROM THE TREEHOUSE

**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity  
Penn State Alpha Chapter**  
427 East Fairmount Avenue  
State College, PA 16801-5711  
(814) 237-2207  
[www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org)

### House Committees

#### Executive –

**Phi** Tyler Turcheck  
**Alpha Phi** Matt Mihaly  
**Tau** Nick Greci  
**Sigma** Chris Barnish

#### Standing –

**Membership** Gavin Collins  
and Keith Thomas

#### New Member Educator

Keith Rhodes (**aka Pledge Master**)

**Social** Sam Durant and Keith Rhodes

**Philanthropy** Ian Hemann

**Activities** Nate Lieb

**Scrapbook** Jake Glotzbach  
and Nate Lieb

**Finance** Keith Rhodes

**Jolly Friar** Will Johns

#### Ag. Student Council

James Ostergaard and Ian Hemann

#### Environmental Systems

**Management** Ian Hemann

**Sustainability** Ian Hemann

**Community Service** Jake Glotzbach

**Risk Management** Ron Hartman  
and Nate Leib

**Academic** Nick Wagner

**Forest Ranger** Ron Hartman

**Web** Nick Wagner

**Greek Week** Keith Rhodes

**THON** Matt Coleman

**Alumni** Nathan Yocum  
and 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.



## Alpha Phi's Report

Br. Matthew Mihaly (Fall 2016)  
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[mmihaly14@gmail.com](mailto:mmihaly14@gmail.com)

With the change of House Executive positions at the start of this Spring semester, let me first introduce myself. I am a sophomore from Trumbull, Connecticut. It may seem odd as to what a Connecticut native has in common with a fraternity such as Tau Phi Delta. The simple answer to that question is the love for the great outdoors! Like many of us, hunting and fishing is not just a sport, but a passion, a tradition, and a way of life and I knew from the start that this fraternity was something I wanted to be a part of.

With that being said, I pledged with the Fall 2016 class, and took over as Alpha Phi beginning this Spring 2018 semester. I am looking forward to executing my role over the next year, and hope to improve the House in any way I can.

The pledge class of Spring 2017 brought in four new pledges, but in the end only two who were Brotherized: Brs. Nicholas Wagner and Paul Wardach. Their pledge project consisted of redoing the electrical for the light fixtures along the fence as well as installing a few more. The previous light fixtures were not operational and prohibited us from participating in night time outdoor activities, such as wiffle ball games and horseshoes.

The Fall 2017 pledge class brought in three new Brothers; Brs. Alex Gallaher, Kraig

Freeman, and Jared Adam. Their pledge project included total remodeling of the horseshoe pits as previous ones were heavily deteriorating. With the installation of new backboards, stakes, sand, and groundboards, a game of horseshoes has gained much popularity during a beautiful central Pennsylvania afternoon. Not to mention, the new light fixtures along the fence make night games a regular “brotherly” event.

All in all, the past two pledge projects have given the House a cleaner cosmetic look as well as bring the Brotherhood closer together. There are also high hopes set for the Spring 2018 pledge class as we hope to initiate four new members.

During this current semester, we wish to fix all the minor problems that arise, and improve some aspects of the house. Besides minor sink fixes, light fixture replacements, and water pump issues that have arisen in regards to the boiler, the Little Sister bathroom has received a mini renovation. This includes the installation of a SmartCore© wood floor, new toilet, and vanity.

This project has been long overdue and, in my opinion, was a nice gesture from us to our Little Sisters and female guests. There has been past issues with the old sink and toilet, and the Brothers decided it is easier to replace them. The Little Sisters have since been up-keeping the bathroom and are reorganizing their suite.

**[Continued on Page 3]**

## — AΦ Report Continued

In conclusion, I would like all Alumni, to come and visit your fraternity 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. I look forward to meeting many of you and carrying out the great spirit of Tau Phi Delta.

## Tau's Report

Br. Nick Greci (Fall 2016)  
(724) 287-7200 / [nvg5176@psu.edu](mailto:nvg5176@psu.edu)

The spring semester of 2018 has proven to be a prosperous one for the Brothers of TΦΔ. With a roster of 23 Active Brothers and four prospective members, the semester looks to be promising.

In regards to the House roster, 17 Members currently reside at 427 East Fairmount Avenue, including 16 Actives and one perspective member (Pledge).

For the coming fall semester the House roster should be 18 Actives living in-house.

The current House Bill stands at \$4,300 for in-house living, while Brothers living outside of the House pay \$650 with an optional meal plan.

These numbers have allowed us 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 had some attention in the past few months with multiple parts needing to get repaired or replaced.

Both the Spring and Fall 2017 Pledge Classes have done a lot in regards to their respective pledge projects. These new improvements have proven to be fun and beneficial to TΦΔ.

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

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

## Alumni Committee Report

Brs. Nathan Yocum (Fall 2015)  
Gavin Collins (Fall 2014)  
[nayocum@gmail.com](mailto:nayocum@gmail.com)  
[gsc5075@psu.edu](mailto:gsc5075@psu.edu)

It seems every year; the time to distribute the spring newsletter comes quicker and quicker. It also feels the "spring" season gets later every year, and this year was no different as many of you are probably aware.

In the future, I think we have to look into a new name for our "spring" newsletter. Stay tuned for updates on this.

As you have probably heard, our long-awaited, twice-previously delayed, 80's Decades Reunion will finally happen during the Saturday of the Blue and White Game weekend April 21<sup>st</sup> our annual spring homecoming.

The reunion committee consisting of several dedicated Alumni Brothers, some from the Foundation, and chaired by two great Little Sister Alumnae Christine Eberhart and Lisa Cairo-O'Brien, as well as Gavin and I. We have worked on delivering the best time possible, and have a lot of fun

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**Editor's Note:** Many more improvements have been made over the course of the past year:

- The stucco ceiling on the front porch was repainted to restore the faded gold that was there before. We erected a new mailbox on the porch as well.
- New log slab benches were added for the fire pit out back.
- Also the old wood shed was dilapidated, so a new one was built this past fall.
- Another significant project was the flue of our fireplace chimney was in long need of repair and it has since been fixed.

For the near future:

- The retaining wall on the Elk Alley side of the House needs rebuilt, and plans have been made to do that project over the Memorial Day weekend.
- One large repair that must be done soon is the replacement of the boiler. We received a notice from a Centre Region housing inspector that it must be replaced as soon as possible. So plans for that are currently in the works.
- Plus a large Norway maple on our property is hanging over the neighbors' house and it needs be removed soon, as they are becoming increasingly nervous about the tree's size and aging condition.

### — Alumni Report Continued

stuff planned. You can find the full-schedule of events planned during the day on our website: [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org).

In addition, we also have our bi-annual Board of Director's meeting at 9:00 a.m. on that same morning. We hope to see as many of you as possible.

Please note that there will be alcohol provided. If you would like, also feel free to bring your own favorite beer or wine, upon arrival, please give it to the RAM-certified bartenders with your name on it upon arrival.

We are not allowed to have hard liquor on the property due to the new policies placed on all fraternities by Penn State.

We would like to thank all of the Alumni for your continued patience, as the past year or so has not been the easiest for anybody involved in Greek life at Penn State with many imposed requirements (and challenges) from the University. Things are finally beginning to look up for us, and we are focused on putting our best foot forward and continuing to improve as a fraternity.

Further we'd like to thank Br. Corbin Rinehart for his efforts in keeping the website updated. We encourage all of you to check out the website for updates regarding the fraternity in between our mailing of the *News From The Treehouse* newsletters and *The Taproot* alumni newsletters that get sent every year.

Once again, we hope to see as many of you as possible during the homecoming over Blue and White weekend this semester. Remember that all Alumni are

welcomed – regardless of when you pledged – during the upcoming 80's Reunion.

As always, you are more than welcome to reach out to us with any questions or comments.

P.S. This semester, we have compiled a list of email addresses for Alumni (and Actives) in order to communicate more efficiently and in a timely manner.

Cost of postage and printing newsletters has been taking its toll on our budget, so anyway we can reduce our financial liabilities is helpful.

If you would like to begin receiving electronic versions of *News From The Treehouse* and *The Taproot* – instead of the mailed copies – contact: [gsc5075@psu.edu](mailto:gsc5075@psu.edu).

Should you want to have your email added to our working email list, please email: [corbin@windsorone.com](mailto:corbin@windsorone.com)

## Membership Report

Brs. Gavin Collins (Fall 2014)

Keith Thomas (Fall 2015)

[gsc5075@psu.edu](mailto:gsc5075@psu.edu)

[kat5459@psu.edu](mailto:kat5459@psu.edu)

**T**his past semester in Fall '17 we received 3 new Brothers: Alex Gallaher, Jared Adam, and Kraig Freeman. Prior in Spring '17, we brotherized: Paul Wardch (Alpha Class) and Nicholas Wagner (Beta Class).

They are a great asset and contribution to the House; participating regularly in Brother's events and meetings.

Along with these new Brothers, we also a small but strong Spring '18 Pledge Class:

Travis Kostyal, Eric Kemper, Aaron Sweger, and Luke Norwig. So far these 4 have proved to be committed and dedicated. All seem to be very interested in the House and all it stands for. They look forward to meeting more of the Alumni this semester and at homecoming.

Although spring semesters seem to be difficult to recruit members due to the fact that there are limited involvement fairs or information sessions, we still had a successful turnout during the rush period. Our goal this semester is to strive to keep bringing guys down that share our outdoor interest and to inform them about the House.

We look to continue our success recruiting pledges next semester with the strong pledge class we have this semester, which have friends who are interested in the house. The fall semester always 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 TΦΔ after receiving information from recent and older Alumni.

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

Hope to see you all soon!



### WANTED

#### POTENTIAL TΦΔ BROTHERS

Refer to us your sons,  
grandsons, nephews,  
neighbors, and  
acquaintances.



We need Little Sisters too!



## 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 2018) 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).

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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](mailto:m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com)



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity  
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427 East Fairmount Avenue  
State College, PA 16801-5711

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## 2018 Dates To Remember ...

**Spring Homecoming/80's Decade Reunion** – Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The same day as the annual Blue White Football Game (3 p.m.) and Fraternity's BOD and Foundation's BOT meeting (9 a.m.) followed by a daylong gathering. Events include catered BBQ lunch and dinner, silent auction, trivia contest, raffles, fraternal sales items, group photos, and more. You can also expect good food, adult beverages, fun with friends (and their family), and more importantly, an opportunity to meet up with those Brothers and Little Sisters from years gone by. More details, registration form, and survey online at: [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org).

**Flight 93 National Memorial Park Tree Planting** – Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. This annual gathering of TΦΔ alums, actives, and 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](mailto:obarto@comcast.net).

**Annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament** – Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Tee time is 10 a.m. with a shotgun start. 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](mailto:jshuey2001@yahoo.com).

**2018 Fall Homecoming** – Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. The Fraternity's BOD and Foundation's BOT morning meeting will be followed by a possible tailgate, Homecoming Football Game against the Michigan State Spartans, and post-game festivities at the House. Meeting and kick-off times are to be determined. More details when available will be online and in the fall 2018 issue of *The Taproot* alumni newsletter.

**Stay connected with TΦΔ online at: [www.tauphidelta.org](http://www.tauphidelta.org)**