



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity

Spring 2015 Newsletter

www.tauphidelta.org

427 East Fairmount Avenue • State College, PA 16801 • (814) 237-2207

Phi's Report: Br. Mike Kocjancic

Dear Brothers,

Congratulations on another year of continued prosperity within the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity! My name is Michael Kocjancic and I was elected President of the Active Brotherhood this past December. I would like to thank all the alumni for their contributions and support which have allowed us to be in the position we are today. I would also like to thank the alumni that have reached out to me and other members of the house on what they would like to see accomplished. I believe that by both following the great example left by alumni and continuing quality communication between actives we will reach our maximum potential as an organization.

Since last homecoming we've been active in all areas of the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity. This allowed us to achieve "Chapter in Good Standing" for 2014 within the Interfraternity Council and Penn State. The previous House Execs: Brs. Mathews, Henderson, Kashiwsky, and Glotzbach worked diligently to meet our chapter requirements as well as maintain order within the house. To close out the 2014 year we welcomed 4 new brothers into the house, bringing our active total to 25 with one brother studying abroad. We also put in a great recruitment effort this spring semester by gaining the interest of 8 prospective new members who are currently pledging. Even the little sister program has grown to 8 members with 3 prospective new members pledging.

Many improvements that were requested and talked about at the last B.O.D meeting have been made to the house. We've had illuminated house letters put up thanks to the Spring 14' class and hardwood flooring installed in the chapter room thanks to the pledge class of Fall 14'. These improvements among many others have polished the overall look and appeal of the house and it definitely has helped with attracting new members. There are also long term projects that we are communicating with Br. Prinkey about that are in the works. Some examples are improving or replacing bricks in the fireplace as well as, roof, window, and electrical work. With much thanks to Brs. Hollenbach and Rinehart we also updated our website which will allow potential members, actives, and alumni to communicate events and information.

With all these positives and improvements to the house I believe we will be able to attract the interest of a considerable pledge class next fall. This will allow us to remain and possibly even grow in social, academic, and financial prosperity. We recently had our Valentine's day formal and our cook reported having over 60 people here (brothers, alumni, and dates) which

was the highest number in her 10 years employed here. Things like this are exciting to a Tau Phi because it shows us a glimpse of our potential as a brotherhood. I can assure you the actives will continue to work hard to uphold the traditions and legacy of Tau Phi Delta. I encourage you to stop down to the house to check out our standing any time and hope that you feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions. Please call 814-598-0971 or email mak5933@psu.edu. Thanks and we hope to see you at homecoming!

Fraternally,

Br. Mike Kocjancic

Alpha Phi's Report: Br. Kody Unangst

Greetings Brothers,

As I am sure many of you have noticed, often times the reports within the Spring Newsletter remain eerily similar from year to year. I am venturing away from the traditional format of the Alpha Phi's Report and hope you will find interest in what I have to say. First, I would like to talk about past semesters, followed with our current standings and goals, and concluding with a call to action.

Let me begin with an update of what has transpired here at Tree House since the previous newsletter's circulation. During the Spring '14 semester normal house proceedings were carried out and all went reasonably well. We welcomed nine strong new brothers into our fraternity and they continue to be nothing but an asset. Their pledge project consisted mainly of fastening large letters on the western side of the house, easily noticeable from Garner Street.

The following semester, Fall '14, also went well in that we maintained good standing with the IFC and the house remained reasonably well kept. However we did stumble in the recruitment facet of our brotherhood. We began the semester with ten interested pledges but their ranks were quickly depleted with only four standing the test of time and becoming fellow brothers. To help ensure this does not happen again we have taken several steps including a stricter criteria for whom we extend bids too, offering a better explanation of what to expect during the pledge process, and ensuring potential new brothers are able to maintain their academic standing while pledging. Regardless, I am roused to say they completed one of the best pledge projects in recent years. They dedicated many hours into installing a brand new hardwood floor in the rear of the Chapter Room. It truly accents the room and is a great addition to the house.

Many of us here at Tau Phi are very excited for the current and upcoming semesters. We have the ability to greatly improve the house in many ways and are actively seizing the opportunities as they arise. We continue to improve our standing scholastically, interfraternally, and within our own brotherhood and are seeing the results.

In conclusion I would like to announce a call to action. I ask you, as alumni of Tau Phi Delta, to simply come and visit the house. Many of you have not returned for many years, and that is truly unfortunate. A place where so many memories were made, fun times were had, and relationships were formed should not be forgot simply because of graduation. Weeknight dinner is at 6, meetings are still Mondays at 10PM and there is always somewhere you can spend the night, come visit. Please don't hesitate to contact me with regards to anything about the house.

Fraternally,

Br. Kody O. Unangst (Kou5005@psu.edu: 484-894-3012)

Tau's Report: Br. Ben Emminger

Greetings Brothers,

The spring semester of 2015 has already shaped itself into being a prosperous one for the Brothers of Tau Phi Delta. With a roster of 25 Active Brothers and eight prospective members, the semester looks to be promising.

In regards to the House roster, 19 Members currently reside at 427 East Fairmount Avenue, including 18 Actives and one alumni: Josh Keslar (Fall 2011) who is boarding at the Tau Phi Delta Fraternity House while he works in the area. The current House Bill stands at \$3,800 for in-house living, while Brothers living outside of the House pay \$500 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. Electrical wiring issues in some of the rooms located on the second floor, as well as some in the Chapter Room, were in need of some tending to, but were able to be fixed. Also, the class of fall 2014 has repaired the decaying floor in the back of the Chapter Room, laying down new hardwood flooring and eliminating the deteriorated old floor. Be sure to commend them on their hard work, as their craftsmanship truly brightens the room.

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 months of summer. If anyone finds a need to contact me, please feel free to call me at (724)-309-6459 or send me an email at bte5032@gmail.com so that I may accommodate your thoughts or concerns.

Fraternally,

Br. Benjamin T. Emminger

Fall, 2011

Membership Report: Brs. Jake Hoover and Kody Unangst

Greetings Brothers,

This past semester in Fall '14 we received four new active Brothers into Tau Phi Delta. The group of new Brothers consists of Br. Keith Rhodes, Frank Barbour, Gavin Collins, and Cameron Clark. 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 group of pledges this semester (Spring 2015). These pledges include Ryan Barnes, Erik Ring, James Ostergaard, Jordan Miller, David Redmond, Nick Parker, Robert Haldeman, and Logan Coursen. So far they have proved to be committed and dedicated pledges. All 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 BOD meeting on April 18th.

Although spring semesters seem to be difficult to recruit members due to the fact that there are no 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. Three Brothers in the house attended the Great American Outdoors Show in association with the Penn State Bass Fishing club. The Brothers instructed the kids casting tournament in which they taught 5-13 year old children proper fishing/casting techniques while also spreading the name of Tau Phi Delta throughout the show.

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. Fall semester brings new faces and more people who are interested in the outdoors. Not only are the active Brothers 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 the house and continue to do so.

Similar to recent years, we are going to continue the membership raffle at the Spring 2015 Homecoming weekend. The raffle will award prizes such as guns, hunting and even fishing accessories. All proceeds will benefit the membership fund which will go towards rush events.

If you have any questions or ideas regarding membership, we are always available to contact. I, Jake Hoover can be reached at jdh5525@psu.edu and Kody Unangst at kou5005@psu.edu. Also, the house phone is always an available source to reach us at.

Fraternally,

Brs. Jake Hoover and Kody Unangst

Alumni Report: Brs. Kevin Stough and Julian Maza

Greetings Brothers,

It's that time of year again. Spring is coming (slowly) and so is the annual spring BOD meeting. This year's activities will take place on Saturday, April 18th. The BOD meeting will be held at the usual time of 10:00 am with the BBQ to follow. Kickoff for the spring Blue and White game is set at 4:00 pm and Tree House will have a tailgate set up near the stadium for anyone wishing to join.

The plan is to have a pig roast as we did for the fall 2014 homecoming. This turned out well last time so we decided to go with it again. The meal will be served after the BOD meeting and before kickoff. Also, there will be Tau Phi Delta gear and apparel available for purchase throughout the day.

On a final note I would like to applaud Brs. Rinehart and Hollenbach for rebooting our website. The web address is the same as before: www.tauphidelta.org. This website is up to date with happenings throughout the Brotherhood. It is still being tweaked and information is being added. Looking to the future the fall 2015 Homecoming is set for October 10th.

I encourage you to travel back and check out the various improvements made to the House itself and catch up with old friends. I can be reached at kms5428@psu.edu or (717) 818-6171. Br. Maza can be reached at jim5504@psu.edu.

Fraternally,

Br. Kevin Stough and Br. Julian Maza

B.O.D. Report: Br. Mike Prinkey

Greetings Brothers. We just survived the coldest February in recorded history here in State College, and everyone is generally looking forward to spring.

I have been to house a few times this semester, and I am excited by the current group of leaders at the house and also by the membership efforts the actives have been putting in. We will probably always be a small house relative to PSU Fraternity averages, but continuing to pledge 5-10 young men per semester will make significant improvements for the future of our organization. A wonderful group of 9 young men are currently pledging, and I had the pleasure talking with most of these future Tau Phi's after dinner. In recent years the actives have had nice sized fall classes, but usually smaller spring classes. Hopefully this springs class will be the boost that helps change that trend. Great job actives, this is the kind of membership effort that makes our whole organization proud.

At the BOD Meeting this Spring Homecoming, there will also be elections for a total of five individuals whose terms will have expired. Br. Mitch Vowler (Sigma) Br. Joey Gans, Br. J.R. Murdock, Br. Steve Toth will all be up for re-election this year. If you are interested or have

a suggestion for someone that would make a good board member, please let me know. I encourage all of you to attend the meeting and take part in the elections.

The annual gun raffle is currently under way and will probably be wrapped by the time you read this. Thanks to Br. Steve Toth for taking this on, Thanks to all of you that sold tickets and purchased them. Thanks also to Br. Chris Campbell for pulling this together. He reports that nearly all of the tickets sold, and the fundraiser netted a sum of over \$4000 that will be put toward house improvements.

I look forward to seeing many of you at South Seas. If you can't make then, but are in the area, make an effort to stop by the house and see the actives. Share a memory or some wisdom with them and in doing so you'll help pass along the traditions of our fine organization.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at mip103@gmail.com or call me at 814-280-7888.

Fraternally
Br. Mike Prinkey
Phi – Board of Directors

House Advisor's Corner:

Br. Martin McGann

Greetings Brothers,

I have been asked to write a piece for the Taproot again this semester. I thought I would get some inspiration by pouring myself a whiskey and water and settle down in front of the fireplace and type something up. That didn't work, I fell asleep. So I decided to stop by the house for some real inspiration and see how things were progressing this semester. What I saw was a house full of seemingly healthy, happy, and for the most part, normal young men who seem to be enjoying themselves. The house looked to be in good shape. Brothers were doing house duties and the Little Sisters were working on upgrades to the women's restroom.

Besides that there have been several major improvements since my last visit. The electricity in a part of the chapter room has been restored allowing the lights to be employed for their designed purpose. There is a new floor in the back of the chapter room which looks GREAT!!!! Kudos to whomever, brothers and/or alumni, that got that project installed. What an improvement!

I had the opportunity to attend the house meeting during which the house made a significant contribution to THON which exceeded previous house efforts. Someone has also done a good job of recruiting as we now have eight pledges. I had the opportunity to meet with

seven of them after the house meeting. It was a good conversation, I hope they all stick around and you can meet them at spring homecoming.

The exec board also seemed to be on top of things as housing contract were being handed out, IFC requirements for a Chapter in Good Standing were being monitored, community service was being planned and even with State Patty's Day coming up, a reasonable accommodation for entertainment and beverages was being discussed. I heard no complaints and one of the actives I know well has related to me, that in his opinion, things are going well all around.

What I think the brothers are looking forward to are the next round of improvements. A good component to the BOD meeting this spring would be a tentative schedule of when other things will occur that can be shared with the actives.

PS Things must be improving at the house as we were asked to supply some men for a social with a sorority. Clean your flannel shirts boys and buff up them Redwings it's party time!

Fraternally,

Br. Martin McGann

Tau Phi Delta Foundation Report: Br. Kory Enck

Honorable Phi, Brothers, and Little Sisters;

The BOT for Tau Phi Delta Foundation has invested \$70,000 with TD Ameritrade as of December 2014.

We are currently prepared to fund Jim Evans memorial scholarships but need winners name from current actives.

We also need an alumnus to step up and join the BOT as soon as possible please.

Finally, we need alumni to step up and hold a fundraising activity.

Fraternally,

Kory Enck Fall 86

Tau Phi Delta Foundation Board of Trustees-Chairman

Special Tree Planting at Flight 93 National Memorial

Brother Dave O'Barto is once again organizing a volunteer planting event for active Tau Phi's, alumni, Little Sisters, and friends. The event is scheduled for Friday, April 17th. Spread the word and recruit volunteers. Brother O'Barto can be contacted at (412) 310-3291 or obarto@comcast.net for any additional information.

Annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament

It is time once again for the annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament – the possible dates are June 6th, 13th, or the 26th. The date has yet to be confirmed. This is not the same weekend as the Arts Festival in State College.

**Tau Phi Delta's Spring Homecoming will be
Saturday, April 18, 2015
Alumni B.O.D. Meeting at 10:00 am.**