



NEWS FROM THE

TREEHOUSE

Winter / Spring 2023

Tau Phi Delta Fraternity – Penn State Alpha Chapter

427 East Fairmount Avenue, State College, PA 16801-5711 • www.tauphidelta.org



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Phi: Andrew Krawzyck

Alpha Phi: Tom Smith

Sigma: Jake Schneider

Tau: Caleb Gerber

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Membership: Jett Kelly & Devyn Clair

New Member Educator

(Pledgemaster): Nick Hogg

Social: Michael Minchhoff & Devyn Clair

Philanthropy: Sean Farrell

Activities: Jack Breen

Finance: Sean McCann

Community Service: Eli Ayers

Risk Management: Sean Farrell & Devyn Clair

Academic: Cole Brewer

Alumni: Jack Breen

Little Sisters: Adam Harbaugh



Honorable House Phi

Andrew Krawzyck (Fall '21)

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As you all may know our TΦΔ Brotherhood has had an unpredictable recent disaster strike our House over the Christmas break. While our House may be shut down this spring and summer, our Brotherhood is more than alive!

After being elected Phi in December, I was quickly thrust into something I never could have expected.

Instead of focusing on the negatives though, I would rather focus on the positives and how Tau Phi Delta has still been thriving even with the short-term loss of our beloved House. One of our biggest concerns with the loss of access to our fraternity house was how we were going to recruit new members. Without it, we were not sure where we would be able to get everyone together to meet new potential members. The bulk of our Brothers who are living in the Alpha Chi Rho (AXP) fraternity house had a rule in their lease stating we were not permitted to use their facility for recruitment activities.

Thankfully, I along with three other Brothers had found a rental house at 840 Old Boalsburg Road, and we quickly decided to it would have to act as a substitute “Treehouse.” Through recruitment in the past semesters, we had a number of potential new members reach out to us on social media with interest in joining, even with not having a fraternity house to act as the attraction.

We were able to host two rush events at the Old Boalsburg house and had a great turnout. We successfully met a lot of good people and extended out five bids, all of which were accepted. While five pledges are not record numbers, we were all still happy given the circumstances. The Spring 2023 Pledge Class

consists of **Nicholas Pacella** (Howard) – wildlife science, **Allen Clapp** (New Freedom) – criminology, **Jake Heckman** (Elizabethtown) – mechanical engineering, **Dominic Starr** (Bloomsburg) – computer engineering, and **Jack Valzania** (Boxford, Mass.) – agricultural engineering.

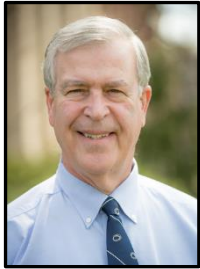
With pledging taken care of, we have still been finding other ways to get together and bond. We have gone on mountain rides all up and through Rothrock State Forest, paired up with AXP for joint events and have been looking at some IM sports to participate in to keep us united while also having fun.

With opening day of trout right around the corner, we have been gearing up and getting to hit the streams together and continue the traditions we have been raised with, as well, all while still making frequent stops at the Crow House where Patti, our cook, is now cooking. We miss her as much as she misses us, and we can't wait to see her back at 427 East Fairmount.

Special thanks for the continued support we've received during these challenging times needs to go to the Corporation's Board of Directors and the many other Alumni Brothers who are dealing with the insurance company and local zoning authorities and for managing the multiple contractors with the post-flood repairs.

Overall, while it has been one rocky start to the new year, we have strived to make the most of it and keep the spirit of Tau Phi Delta alive and running. We are looking forward to being able to return to our home, but for the time being, we will continue to honor our traditions and carry on the meaning of what it means to be a Tau Phi through our different locations throughout State College.

P.S.: On the evening of December 12th, we welcomed our three newest Brothers, when the Fall 2022 Pledge Class was duly sworn in during the Brotherization ceremony. We welcome the newest additions to our Brotherhood – **Michael Minchhoff**, **Devyn Clair**, and **Sean Farrell** – and wish the best to the current pledge class.



House Advisor's Notes

Martin McGann (Fall '73)

Normally I have some fun and interesting things to say about the Brothers in the House.

However, although I have interesting things to say, I cannot say anything about the Brothers currently in the House. That is because no one is currently living in the fraternity house due to our catastrophic waterline break during the Christmas holiday.

I called it "The Great Flood of 2022," while others called it "TΦΔ's 100-Year Flood." If you have not heard yet, a four-inch fire line froze and cracked due to the boiler going out. When things heated up the pipe fractured and flooded the basement area putting the boiler and electrical panel boxes out of commission while simultaneously flooding flooded the bottom floor of the House with more than six inches of water.

As a result, we had to shut off the electrical service, water service, and gas to the fraternity house for a period of several weeks until we could establish temporary heating. We had a lot of help from Casey McNeil from Nittany Co-Op who acted as our representative to get the water pumped out and Servpro in to dry out the fraternity house.

Because the Centre Regional Code Authority deemed the facility *uninhabitable*, for very good reason, it was necessary to find temporary housing for the affected Actives, pledges, and boarders. Initially, those who needed living arrangements, stayed at a hotel on North Atherton Street. Afterward, we made arrangements with nearby "Crow House" (AXP) to share their facility. This necessitated that all the Brothers remove their possessions into a metal shipping container and take whatever furniture or other personal items they needed with them. One good note is that Patti, the cook, is helping prepare meals for the Actives at AXP. Brothers not at AXP are spread over State College – with one group (which includes the Phi) renting a house on Old Boalsburg Road. This causes me some concern in that I think a lot of the cohesiveness of our House is having everyone together in one place. This obviously makes communication and support so much easier.

Even with this dislocation, I understand that the Actives are participating in the rush program. Hopefully we will have a good group of pledges next fall. Also surprisingly, there is a current spring class who had been to the fraternity last year and are accepting the challenge to pledge now outside the House.

As this is being written, things are starting to move in a positive direction in that we have hired Alexander Construction Company to act as overall construction manager and they will be working with the insurance company and contractors to, hopefully, get the fraternity house in working order so that, by this fall semester, the Brothers can be back in.

Our long-awaited, up-to-code fire doors did arrive, but the installation was stymied by "The Great Flood." When the major repair work is done, the new doors will be installed in the basement level and throughout the front foyer. Also, double doors to be placed at the top and bottom of the stairway between the front foyer and the lower level near the rear foyer.

There are also issues with the University in that the Lion Fraternity Alumni Association (LFAA), which is a loose confederation of fraternity representatives, has been after the University to renegotiate the relationship agreement. The relationship agreement stipulates the rules and regulations the fraternities and the University must abide by. This agreement was supposed to be renewed/revisited every year. To date, that has not happened for the past three years as Damon Sims (now the former PSU Vice President for Student Affairs) refused to negotiate with them. The Office of Student Affairs has threatened to "freeze" fraternities that do not sign off on a new relationship agreement. However, this new agreement has not been negotiated but simply created by the University. The LFAA is pushing the University to renegotiate, and to date, they seem to be moving toward that albeit at a glacial pace.

The LFAA is again starting up meetings this semester so, hopefully, more information about working with the University will be forthcoming.

As we go forward, please support Tau Phi Delta. Rich Kappel, the Corporation Board of Director's Phi, says it best. "We are in this together!"

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