



NEWS FROM THE

TREEHOUSE

www.tauphidelta.org

Spring 2020



**Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
Penn State Alpha Chapter
427 East Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711
(814) 237 2207**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Phi: Aaron Sweger
Alpha Phi: Steve Flis
Tau: Eric Kemper
Sigma: Tristen Bressler

STANDING COMMITTEES

Membership: Tyler Turcheck,
Matt Bellia, and Evan Buck
**New Member Educator
(aka Pledgemaster):** Matt Mihaly
Social: Matt Bellia
Philanthropy: Evan Buck and
Jeremy Creed
Activities: Luke Norwig
Finance: Luke Norwig
Ag Student Council:
Kefer Marshall
Community Service: Dan Smith
Risk Management: Tristen Bressler
and Luke Norwig
Academic: Nick Wagner
Alumni: Owen Neff and Evan Buck

House Phi's Report

**Aaron M. Sweger
(Spring '18)**

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Greetings Brothers!

As many of you know, a month ago that famous groundhog from nearby Punxsutawney did not see his shadow. So, it looks like we're in for an early spring!

As the spring semester continues and is quickly winding down, everyone at Tau Phi Delta has been hard at work up to this point and will continue working hard until the semesters end in early May.

The Brothers came back from our winter break ready to continue our recruiting efforts with even more motivation than at the end of the fall semester. We're even more determined to make this one better than the previous semester of 6 pledges, who are now proud Brothers ... And we did just that.

Despite the many hurdles that the University continues to put on Greek's recruitment, we found some success. With as much interest in the House as we had generated while using new marketing tools, some new approaches to recruiting and concentrated promotional efforts, I can proudly say that we currently have a 12-man pledge class.

Yes, that's right: 12 pledges! The best we could figure, is that the last time there was such a large class was over 35 years ago. (Refer to Membership Update on page 3).

All the Brothers are thrilled to see this many young men wanting to become Brothers in our great fraternity. We know that it would not have been possible without the recent generous donations – over \$3,000 – from our Alumni Brothers that came in after last spring's *News From The Treehouse* newsletter to aid in funding our recruitment efforts and more membership events. Wow!

At the end of January, we hosted a TΦΔ Leadership Summit, with a few dozen of Alumni in attendance. Many provided input and suggestions on managing House facilities, future improvements and new member recruitment. Also, ideas started to float about our 100th anniversary celebration in 2022. Overall, they offered support to the Actives and we are very much grateful.

The Brotherhood recently participated in PSU's annual dance marathon, THON, and supported Br. Tyler Turcheck as he stood for 46 hours. TΦΔ did its part raising awareness for the Four-Diamonds Fund and to fight childhood cancer – and helped raised \$11.7 million!

Also, as winter break has past, so did the end of the many fall hunting seasons, in which we took full advantage of. Needless to say, we are all very excited for spring gobbler season to open, as well as the statewide trout opener!

Furthermore, with the number of pledges we have this semester, we will be looking forward to a full fraternity house this fall with

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Phi's (from Page 1)

no empty rooms. Along with this will bring greater financial stability and increased funds for the new Alpha Phi, Br. Steve Flis, to operate with.

As we move forward, we are striving to maintain a trend of large pledge classes through hosting better and membership events, tables at involvement and career fairs and doing anything and everything to let future generations of potential Tau Phi's know about our proud past, who we are, and what we stand for.

In saying this, consider supporting the Tau Phi Delta Corporation's "Annual Sportsman's Raffle." Proceeds to be further used to recruit and ensure the future of Tau Phi Delta (See inserted order form).

We all look forward to seeing everyone at April 25th spring homecoming this year (Note: Not Blue White Football Game weekend). Also plan ahead now, so we can hopefully connect again at the fall homecoming as well in mid-October.

Lastly, I want to assure all Brothers, that we understand the history of this House and the importance that it means to all who came before us.

Ending, I would like to say a big "thank you!" to everyone, especially the Alumni, for everything that is done for this fraternity. Without having the support of everyone, we wouldn't be who we are today.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions or you would just like to talk, feel free to reach out to me at any time!

Big steps are being made in the future of the Tau Phi Delta

Brotherhood. This is the beginning of something great, and we need your help to keep that trend going!

From The AΦ

Steve G. Flis (Fall '19)

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We are opening a new chapter here at Tau Phi Delta. With the newfound motivation and dedication of our Brotherhood, we are proudly growing.

After the last pledge class, 6 more Brothers have moved in, and we expect 10, or possibly more, will move in this fall. So the rooms in the House are once again filled entirely.

I have to thank the previous Alpha Phis for their hard work and willingness to continue pass on their knowledge onto me. They've all done a fantastic job holding the position.

Spring '19 pledge class project turned out exceptional and included a complete renovation of the cook's bathroom and the janitor's and Alpha Phi's supply closets in the back hallway.

We consistently keep a well-stocked woodpile. I want to thank those few local Alumni for their contributions and their sources of cut down trees in the town – it significantly helps us out. You now can almost always find someone out back of the Treehouse splitting some wood.

The AΦ's work is never done ... This semester started out with the fixing of both floor urinals. They would occasionally work, so we just decided to completely replace the top gaskets. The bathrooms always look clean and sanitary, thanks to that week's Brother on that house duty. Lots of minor fixes, such



FYI: Per semester, house/social bills are currently \$4,500 (those in the house) and \$800 (those living out of the house with apartment or dormitory contract obligations).

as upgrading light fixtures and replacing light bulbs, have really helped with the look of the House. The new LED bulbs make the interior wood panel walls shine. We saved a major amount of money with the black mold cleanup on the second floor bathroom ceiling and walls. All it took was a good scrubbing with 50/50 bleach and water combination and you can't even tell it was ever there. It's been roughly 6 months since then and no more problems.

We have some major projects coming soon. That includes a plan for redoing the entire dining room, bar area, and lower rear foyer (i.e., replace floor, new radiator system, remove asbestos ceiling, new furniture). This will be very costly, but most definitely needs done. Once completed, it will tie into the past summer's newly-remodeled chapter room.

Everything will have a better updated feel and will most definitely attract more members in the long run.

With the combination of the Active and Alumni Brothers collaborating effectively, we can accomplish great things. It is all our responsibility to keep our fraternity house the wonderful place that it is.

We are most definitely heading in the right direction ... Thanks to all, for your support!

Membership Update

Tyler W. Turcheck
(Spring '18)

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Even though formal rush has now passed, we all know that process to recruit never ceases at TΦΔ.

With the efforts of our Brothers, we were able to bring in 6 pledges last semester – this was the largest pledge class since Fall 2015. They are Bros. **Steve Flis** (Forestry; Chest Springs), **Keefer Marshall** (Plant Science; Chambersburg), **Tristen Bressler** (Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering; Curwensville), **Evan Buck** (Biology; Palmyra), **Jeremy Creed** (Wildlife and Fisheries Science; Havertown), and **Mark Lawrence** (Mining Engineering; Mahanoy City). All great additions to the Brotherhood and are now having an impact.

More recently, we tried some new tactics and tweaked our recruitment process to see if we could make this semester a very successful one.

There was a lot of interest from potential new members, and we were fortunate enough to have a huge class of 12 pledges. This is the largest pledge class in recent memory (possibly in the late '70s), and it was fulfilling to see all our efforts pay off.

These young men are: **Sean McCann** (Supply Chain Management; Audubon), **Brayden Clair** (Agribusiness Management; Elizabethtown), **Devin Gilmore** (Computer Science; Ridgway), **Ethan Kilian** (Undecided; Sellersville), **Andrew Roland** (Finance; Lancaster), **Nicholas Secoksy** (Chemistry; Mount Pleasant), **Derrick Wenrick** (Forestry; Weikert), **Derrick Halula** (Civil Engineering; Latrobe), **Keith Cullen** (Criminology; Weatherly), **Alex Shafley** (Computer Engineering; Mount Pleasant), **James McCreery** (Materials Science and Engineering; Bolivar),

and **Elijah Ayers** (Forestry; Coudersport). They're great assets already. We can't wait to see them become Brothers!

Just for reference, we had 19 Actives at the beginning of fall 2019. By the end of this spring, we will have added 18 Brothers to the House. Of course, this would not have been possible without the support of our Actives and the Alumni that donated thousands of dollars toward our recruiting efforts.

Recruitment for next fall has already begun, and it looks like this success will continue.

The young guys here are very excited to keep this streak going, and I believe they'll be the ones to do it.



Foundation News

Kory Enck (Fall '86)

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Tau Phi Delta Foundation continues to make college scholarships available to our Active Brothers. We have sponsored scholarships for the last 3 years running. Scholarship awards have been up to \$1,000 per student. Active Brothers can apply annually, and funds may be used for tuition, as well as for books, or room and board.

The sources of available funds that we have at our disposal range from Gifts In-Kind (cash, bequests, trusts), Patio Paver Project sales, Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament net proceeds, and other donations.

We have been able to help sponsor this newsletter and the fall alumni newsletter in order to promote the educational

mission of the Foundation.

At the recent TΦΔ Leadership Summit meeting, we reiterated our "Speaker Series Program" to all in attendance. These are educational programs using speakers, mostly Brothers, from many walks of life, such as Professionals in Forestry, Wildlife, Fisheries, Outdoor Recreation, Conservation Organizations, and others.

The Fraternity can hold these events in State College or on the road and the Foundation can sponsor the event. A list of potential educational speakers has been provided.

Finally, we help to underwrite the costs for any fundraising activities that someone would volunteer to organize and hold to benefit the Foundation. Some examples include hosting a sporting clays event, fishing tournament, even a corn hole tournament. All we need are volunteers willing to help lead and operate the events.

So, regarding the Patio Pavers – Currently we have the whole back patio available to us for this use. About 100 pavers and bricks have already been sold and installed. Many are in honor of alumni, memorials, lists of pledge classes, and individual Brother's names with date of pledging or simple nicknames. They look amazing and we have room for more (See the enclosed order form).

Please consider purchasing a paver or a brick (or two) to support the Foundation's educational mission and help Tau Phi Delta's impact on educating the next generation of leaders in our selected professions.



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
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Address Service Requested

FUTURE TΦΔ & PSU EVENTS

April 18: PSU Blue White Scrimmage Football Game - Kickoff 1:30 PM

April 25: Spring TΦΔ Alumni BOD/BOT Meeting - 10 AM
PSU School of Forest Resources Alumni Banquet Toftrees – 4PM

July 11: Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament – Shotgun Start Time 9AM

Date to be determined: Fall TΦΔ Alumni BOD/BOT Meeting

October 17: Fall Homecoming
Iowa Hawkeyes Football – Kickoff T.B.D.

November 21 – 22: Annual TΦΔ House Bear Hunt

For more details are online at: *www.tauphidelta.org*

Plan ahead ... TΦΔ 100th Anniversary Celebration • 2022