



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity

Spring 2012 Newsletter

www.tauphidelta.org

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

Phi's Report: *Br. Steve Toth*

Dear Brothers,

Greetings! I hope that this newsletter finds you in good health. My name is Steven Toth, and I was elected as President of the Active Brotherhood this past December. First off, I would like to thank every alumnus for their continued support of our wonderful organization. Your actions, both past and present, set a fantastic example for the actives as we try to find our own way in the world.

Since the last homecoming, we have been busy as ever here at Tau Phi. As a credit to the work of the previous Executive Committee, we received the recognition as a "Chapter in Good Standing" for 2011 with the Interfraternity Council and Penn State. The previous House Execs: Br. Hoffman, Br. Castello, Br. Stephens, and Br. Yoder were all instrumental in this achievement; thank you all for your hard work during this past year. To close out a great 2011, we welcomed seven superb men into the house as new brothers, bringing our total to 28 active Brothers with two inactive Brothers. We currently have 20 Brothers living in the House, with several more are expressing interest in moving in for the fall semester.

We continue to work hard to maintain the house as best we can. In October of last fall, we successfully replaced the roof over the Phi's Suite and the Vestibule. It was badly in need of some TLC, as some of the plywood sheeting beneath the shingles had begun to rot. The entire project went smoothly, and was accomplished in a day with the help of several local alumni. I would like to thank Brs. Prinkey, Doran, Leete, Yoder, Sweeney, McHail, Murdock, and others for their help with the project.

Even with all these positives, new challenges can and will present themselves. As an Active Brotherhood, we will continue to work hard to uphold the traditions and the legacy of Tau Phi Delta. Please, feel free to stop down at the House at any time. If you have any questions, or are just curious about what's going on, feel free to contact me anytime. Please call (724) 322-7477 or email stt112@psu.edu. Thanks and I hope to see you at Homecoming!

Fraternally,

Br. Steven Toth

Alpha Phi's Report: Br. Devin Sheldon

Greetings,

As another year starts at Tau Phi Delta, I am honored to be writing this letter to all of you. I would like to start off by thanking the past House Executive Committee for their efforts dealing with the challenges within the House and Interfraternity Council (IFC). Br. Erik Castello did a wonderful job serving as our House Alpha Phi.

Many repairs have been done to the house with the help of active brothers and alumni. We have recently repaired the roof over top of the Phi's room due to soft spots and holes that have showed up overtime. I would like to give a big thank you to the alumni that came back to the house to give the actives a hand with the project as well as providing their expertise. During the repair, we also had other projects going on because not everyone could be on the roof at one time. As always, we had a large work party at the beginning of the Fall '11 semester. During the work party, the actives did a wonderful job cleaning the House and bringing the cleanliness back to the Tau Phi Delta standards. Since the work party, almost everyone has been putting forth an effort in keeping the house clean.

Recently, our number of active Brothers has increased to 28 members. With this many Actives, this year should be a very productive year for the House and we hope to continue our trend of keeping the House in good standing with the IFC, neighbors, and fellow Greeks. With that being said, I regret to inform all of you that we currently have a one-man pledge class. Although he is pledging alone, he demonstrates the attitude and persistence needed to complete the pledging.

Yet again, the windows in the dining room and the stairwells are still an issue that if addressed, has the potential of saving the house money on heating bills. Also, the back patio and the door at the back of the chapter room are growing issues and have come to attention within the past few years. With the passing of every winter the cracks within the patio continue to get bigger and new cracks are formed. Also, the frame of the door at the back of the chapter room is pulling away from the wall making it even harder to pull the door shut. I am hoping that within the year all of these issues will be taken care of.

Finally, if anyone has any questions, comments, and/or concerns, please feel free to email me at dms5666@psu.edu, or call (717) 275-5024. It has become clear that without the strong support from the alumni that Tau Phi Delta has always seen, many of the projects would not be completed and the strength of the house would start to deplete. Finally, I would like to remind all of the alumni that our doors are always open to you and I look forward to talking with most of you at the upcoming spring homecoming.

Fraternally,

Br. Devin M. Sheldon

Tau's Report: Br. Corey Martier

Greeting Brothers,

The spring semester has started off with a bang! The house started the semester with 28 Active Brothers. We currently have 20 Brothers living inside the house and 8 Brothers outside. The one boarder we had during the fall semester has since moved out of the house over Christmas break. In terms of repairs, this semester started off fairly mild, knock on wood, without many very serious repairs. We still have a fairly conservative approach with spending and the budget has remained stable. This semester house bills and dues have remained the same. This semester it is \$3,500 for a brother living in the House and \$3,800 for boarders. The eight brothers living outside of the House still had the \$400 house bill, and were given the option to purchase a meal plan.

The House has been financially running smooth throughout the spring semester. As long as we remain conservative with spending through the remainder of the semester things should flow through the summer months. The pledge project of the Fall `11 class bettered the house with a beautiful deer antler chandelier in the lower entrance of the vestibule. Although, pledging numbers are currently low the one pledge we have has a great work ethic and character that reflect the importance of this house. Should you need it, my contact information is (717) 781-5183 or cam5754@gmail.com.

Fraternally,

Br. Corey A Martier

Membership Report: Brs. Matt Marshall and Kody Hassinger

Greetings Brothers,

Our past semester of Fall 2011 has given us a great group of six new brothers. This group consists of Jason Stouffer, Casey Johnson, Ben Emminger, Sam Stoltzfus, Dan Schneider, Josh Kesler, and Luke Mentzer. Along with these new brothers we have one pledge this semester, Matt Ulizio. Matt looks forward to talking to all of you during homecoming and has been excelling through the pledge process.

This semester has been rough on recruitment with one of our pledges dropping out of the process and two others not accepting their bids. With this said however the group of guys that we now have in the House are doing everything in their power to keep the House full of good guys with the same interests as us. A few of the many activities that we have participated in to gain the membership of new guys were things such as bowling, cookouts, clay bird shooting, as our annual Super Bowl party. These events have drawn in new crowds to the house including not only Forestry, Wildlife, and Wood Products majors but also many new engineers.

The outlook for our next semester is very good already with interest coming from transfers as well as students already at Penn State and even a few high school students. For this I would like to thank not only the active brothers who have passed out countless numbers of cards and talked to students in their classes but also the Tau Phi Delta alumni. I have heard from a few different kids that have gotten information from graduated Brothers. That is what keeps the house going and I would like to thank you all for that.

To go along with membership like every year we will be hosting our membership raffle once again over the Spring Homecoming weekend in April. Like in the previous years the raffle will hold all different sorts of prizes such as guns, and hunting and fishing accessories. The donations that we get from this raffle helps to fund the events that we bring rushes to. So any support is greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions or ideas I am open to just about anything and would love to hear from you. I could be reached at either mam5871@psu.edu or the house phone at (814) 237-2207. (Also Kody's email: [@psu.edu](mailto: @psu.edu).)

Fraternally,

Brs. Matt Marshall and Kody Hassinger

Alumni Report: Br. Travis Cunningham

Greetings Alumni,

This year's annual spring homecoming and BOD meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 21st** at 10:00 am. Once completed we will be having our usual cookout and the Blue and White football game will follow later in the afternoon (kick-off is at 2:00 pm) with the annual Pig Roast in the evening. As always, there will be a multitude of Tau Phi Delta apparel and stickers that will be made available so that you are able to stock up on your Tau Phi Delta Gear.

If you have not been back to the house lately, I highly encourage you to make the trip to State College this April and take part in the Brotherhood and other festivities throughout the weekend. Take the opportunity to see what the actives have been up to and meet up with some old friends. If you have any questions about homecoming or anything else please feel free to call me at (814) 706-7474 or email me at tac5226@psu.edu. Thanks, and hope to see you at homecoming!

Fraternally,

Br. Travis Cunningham

PS Penn State's Fall Homecoming date has been set for the weekend of October 6, 2012 – Northwestern's Wildcats will face the Nittany Lions on the gridiron. More House events are in the works and to be announced at a later date. So mark your calendar!

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

Greetings Brothers,

Since our last newsletter many things have happened at Penn State and also at Tau Phi Delta. The change in leadership and the accompanying media blitz at the university has taken the spotlight off of fraternities for the time being. I find this to be a good break from the always increasing rules and scrutiny that PSU has put on Fraternities over the past few years. The actives today face challenges that many of us as alumni can't fathom, including constant pressure to be a standardized Greek organization, stripped of individuality or tradition. The current actives are meeting these challenges well, barring a run-in with the law and a few missed deadlines, and the alumni of our organization should be doing all they can to support them.

As for House improvements, the Phi Suite roof was replaced this past fall during a work weekend. Actives and Alumni put in a full day to replace the failing roof. The cost of the roof materials was primarily funded by donations, including a generous donation by Br. Eric Horvat. The other project that has been a hot topic but lacks funding to get started is the replacement of the back patio and the windows in the Dining Room/Bar Area and the Chapter Room. Loan payments for the bathrooms will be finished this fall, freeing up some money, but the gun raffle tickets that have been the primary source of income for this payment will need to continue. If any of you have additional fund raising suggestions, please send them to me or attend and share them at the BOD meeting.

Speaking of the BOD Meeting, at this Spring Homecoming, the BOD will be holding elections for a total of five individuals whose terms will have expired. Brs. Shawn Cable(Tau), Brian McHail (Sigma), Mike Prinkey (Phi), Charles Strauss, and Nick Spinelli will all be up for re-election this year. Br. McHail has decided to step down after serving on the board for the past 6 years. Since we will have a board opening, please let me know if anyone is interested in this position. Board positions are determined by vote of the BOD members, so Br. McHail's position does not include the role of Sigma. I encourage all of you to attend the meeting and take part in the elections.

I look forward to seeing many of you at South Seas. Do they still call it South Seas? Show up and find out! 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 at (814) 280-7888.

Fraternally

Br. Mike Prinkey
Phi –Board of Directors, Tau Phi Delta Corporation

House Advisor's Corner: Brs. J.R. Murdock and Martin McGann

Greetings Alumni,

I hope this Spring Newsletter finds you all in good health and spirits. Again I have the privilege of addressing you as Co-house advisor. I would like to briefly mention a few events the actives have recently participated in. As in all years past again our actives spent a few days in the rain in the cold collecting money for Penn State's Dance Marathon or THON. Also, in early February, 427 East Fairmount was the location of a spaghetti dinner that was co-sponsored by The Dear Hero Program which is an organization that raises funds to support morale boosting activities for deployed troops. I attended the event and can personally attest to the success of the event. These are in addition to the traditional work that is done in Stone Valley and Lederer Park.

Recently our executive committee met with Director of Greek Life Dr. Roy Baker. I was told the meeting went very well in which Dr. Baker offered much advice regarding what resources are available to help in recruiting new members, finding new community service and philanthropy activities and other easy way to Remain a Chapter in Good Standing and even boost our status in the eyes of the University. Four years ago when I was the Active's Phi it was clear to me the Office of Greek Life and Dr. Baker we very large fans of Tau Phi Delta. I am sure that is also very true today.

If anyone would like to give me a call my number is (570) 439-0307 and my e-mail is JMurdock5081@gmail.com. (Also Martin's contact information is (814) 237-0075 or mrm19@psu.edu.)

Fraternally,

Brs. J.R. Murdock and Martin McGann

PS I would like to encourage all to check out our new web site (www.tauphidelta.org) designed by Br. Corbin Rinehart and our Facebook page, as well.

Special Tree Planting at Flight 93 National Memorial

Br. Dave OBarto (Grand National Chapter President) and Caleb Hoffman (recent past House Phi) have organized a special volunteer event for Tau Phis on Saturday, April 28, 2012 at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA. It is welcomed to any Tau Phi Delta Brother and Little Sister, and their friends and families who wish to help. It is part of a larger effort to reforest the area around the September 11, 2001 crash site. For more information and to get copies of required National Park Service pre-registration and volunteer forms, immediately contact Dave at obarto@Comcast.net or (412)310-3291.

Dear Tau Phi Delts,

Please take a few minutes and tell us about yourself and your family so you can be included in the "Alumni Updates" section of this fall's 2012 issue of *The Taproot*.

Name and Nickname _____

Pledge Class _____ Degree(s) / 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).

My contribution for supporting the Taproot is \$10, \$20, \$30, or \$_____ (specify amount).

Please make your check payable to Tau Phi Delta Fraternity and send this form (detach this page or photocopy) and the donation check to: Tom Yorke, 5384 Antioch Ridge Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169.

You also can send an alumni update and suggestions for future articles by email to the assistant editor (Tom) at: tjyorke6465@comcast.net.



Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
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State College, PA 16801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament

It is time once again for the annual Jim Evans Memorial Golf Tournament – Saturday, July 14, 2012. Also the same weekend as the Arts Festival in State College.

It is at a new golf course this year in the same location! Huh? Well, as it turns out the Freestone Golf Course was purchased over the winter by Skytop Mountain Golf Club. It has taken awhile to get a hold of them but they look forward to us coming back this year.

The Saturday morning shotgun start is at 9:30 am – sharp! We have moved the start back a little so that they can get the course ready for us and so that the DUI laws will allow some of us to drive there. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact Mark Haffley (mah400@gmail.com) or Phil Brumbaugh (pwb124@gmail.com).

**Tau Phi Delta's Spring Homecoming will be
Saturday, April 21, 2012
Alumni B.O.D. Meeting at 10:00 am.**