



“May No Act Of Ours Bring Shame!”



Challenging Times

Our *Alma Mater* was written by Fred Lewis Pattee who bemoaned the fact that Penn State had no song which would nourish college spirit and loyalty as other schools had.

More fitting is this one-line lyric (above headline title) that best describes the present-day situation for all of the fraternities in “Not-So Happy Valley.”

An outcome of recent tragedies – the hazing death of a pledge at BΘΠ and other recent related closings of KΔP, ΣAM, and ΦKT – our fraternity is in trouble. Not for hazing or a social infraction, but due to heavy-handed restrictions and required changes put on all Greeks at Penn State.

A notable Alumni Brother recently commented, “The university’s new mandates against all fraternities could easily ‘sink’ Tau Phi Delta.”

You have to agree that challenging times lay ahead for our Brotherhood!

PSU Greek-Letter Organizations to Face Change as Aggressive New Measures Launch

With the start of this fall semester, university officials have moved rapidly to put in place numerous new measures for Greek-letter organizations at Penn State, with the primary focus on student safety.

On June 2, 2017, Penn State announced a comprehensive set of reforms aimed at curbing dangerous drinking, hazing, sexual assault as well as other negative behaviors and consequences found within Greek life across the nation. The combination of the more than a dozen new initiatives the University plans to implement is unprecedented in its scope, and is intended to re-establish safety as the priority among organizations that have traditionally been private and self-governing.

“We have quickly instituted an expanded series of strategies that defines a new relationship between the university and its Greek-letter organizations,” said Penn State President Eric Barron. “And this is just the beginning. We plan to continue to roll out measures and adjust as needed, with the Greek-Life Response Team and its advisory group evaluating each measure and recommending adaptations as necessary to promote and produce responsible behavior.”

Beginning August 21, 2017, responsibility for organizational monitoring and discipline of fraternities and sororities will transfer from these independent groups to the Penn State University. All student organizational conduct cases are now handled by the university, including Greek-letter organizations, making the process uniform across the institution.

In the past, misconduct was investigated and adjudicated by the independent Greek-letter governing councils (e.g. Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council), which also maintained responsibility for monitoring for potential chapter violations, as is done on campuses across the nation. Individual student conduct cases have been and will continue to be handled by university officials.

Important actions have been solidified (**Note:** The listed measures will be assessed and adjusted as necessary to maximize their impact). They include the following:

New resources: Penn State is in the process of hiring for 14 new positions within Student Affairs. Eight positions have been advertised and a timeline has been developed for filling the remaining six vacancies.

University monitoring: Eight of the 14 full-time positions mentioned above are dedicated to monitoring Greek-letter organizations via random checks to monitor compliance with university policies.

This measure is a permanent carryover from similar university

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The **Taproot**

Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
427 E. Fairmount Avenue
State College, PA 16801-5711
(814) 237-2207
www.tauphidelta.org

Grand National Chapter
Officers: David O'Barto, Phi
 Dave Gustafson, Alpha Phi
 Gene Odato, Tau
 Earl Hower, Sigma

Penn State Alpha Chapter
Board of Directors
Officers: Mitchell Vowler, Phi
 Nathan Yocum, Alpha Phi
 Steve Toth, Tau
 Corbin Reinhart, Sigma
Directors: Ethan Bauer,
 Shaun Doran, Joseph Gans,
 Richie King, William Leete, and
 Kody Unangst

The TΦΔ Foundation
Board of Trustees
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Trustee: *Vacant*
Planned Giving Specialist:
 Dave Messics

The Taproot

Editor: Bill Herb
Associate Editors: Earl Hower and
 Ben Emminger
Honorary Editors: Tom Yorke and
 Adam Heggenstaller
Mailing List and Circulation:
 Joe Costanzo, Earl Hower, and
 Will Johns
Contributors: Bill Herb,
 Ben Hoffman, Martin McGann,
 Dave O'Barto, Steve Toth, and
 Nathan Yocum.
Illustrator: Steve Torok
Webmaster: Corbin Rinehart

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Greeks (from Page 1)

monitoring conducted in spring 2017, which uncovered violations by Sigma Alpha Mu, leading to that chapter's two-year suspension. It is the university's expectation that its compliance monitors may enter any common areas within chapter houses. Violations identified by the monitors will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action.

All social restrictions remain in effect: Social restrictions placed on Greek-letter organizations in spring 2017 are still in place, including the following:

- Moratorium on alcohol at chapter social events continues until all chapters complete various educational and risk-management programs (no earlier than November 1).
- No more than 10 social events with alcohol per semester.
- No daylong events allowed.
- Only beer and wine may be served. Kegs not permitted.
- Social events, both indoors and outdoors, are limited to the legal capacity of the chapter house.
- Service of alcohol at social events must follow Pennsylvania law, limited to people 21 years of age or older, and now must be distributed by RAMP-trained servers (**Note:** Penna. Liquor Control Board's Responsible Alcohol Management Program).
- University monitoring now in effect. Strongly enforced prohibition against underage possession and consumption of alcohol.
- Failure by Greek-letter organizations to prevent underage consumption and excessive drinking in their facilities will result in sanctions.

Deferred recruitment/enhanced eligibility requirements: Starting this fall, only full-time enrolled students who have already earned 14 credit hours at Penn State and meet a minimum GPA requirement of 2.5 are eligible to participate. Transfer students must have 27 credit hours from another institution and a 2.5 GPA. New member education may only last up to six weeks (**Note:** This was up to 12 weeks previously). The purpose of these new requirements is to ensure that students become established at Penn State academically and socially before joining a Greek-letter organization.

The new member process: In the fall if individuals meet the eligibility requirements, the new member process (previously known as 'pledging') may take place for a maximum of six weeks. Every fraternity and sorority chapter must produce an individual and specific new member process and education plan to the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life for review and approval before proceeding.

Greek Chapter Score Card: A score card will be posted online at the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life website that displays critical information to educate parents and potential new members. The information includes such things as total members, cumulative GPA, alcohol and hazing violations, as well as any chapter suspensions. This will be updated each semester.

Greek membership fee to fund new services: A per-participant fee for every Greek-letter member will be charged beginning in spring 2018 and will be charged for every semester after. The fee for chapter members in IFC or Panhellenic is \$90 per semester; for members of either the Multicultural Greek Council (MGC) or the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), the fee is \$30 per semester. Special

exceptions may be applied to students who are studying abroad for a semester.

Reinstatement of the Neighborhood Enforcement

Alcohol Team (NEAT): NEAT is a collaborative program organized by State College and Penn State police departments to enhance safety and security in State College's downtown neighborhoods. As part of the program, which started in 2010, officers from town and gown work in pairs to conduct additional patrols of neighborhoods. This year, the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement also plans to partner. The officers focus on alcohol, noise and other disorderly incidents, with a focus on enforcement and education. In addition, NEAT conducts pre-party checks during early evening hours and works in conjunction with student auxiliary staff to provide extra weekend security. NEAT will re-launch on August 24, 2017.

Relationship statement: A relationship statement signed by all fraternity and sorority members this fall that clarifies the respective rights and responsibilities of the University, the chapters and their members. All future new members will be required to sign the statement when they are initiated into their chapter. This statement will reinforce many of the key safety measures noted above and below.

Further parent and member education: The Fraternity and Sorority Life office will hold an educational session on Parent and Family weekend in October and prepare handouts with information regarding opportunities and risks, signs of troublesome behavior and incident reporting information, in addition to information and education already provided.

Semester survey for new

members: An anonymous survey is sent to all new members seeking information about their experience and determining if any hazing activities may be occurring. In addition, a random selection of new members from every chapter will be interviewed by University staff to again seek information on new member processes and to provide an opportunity to report misconduct anonymously.

No tolerance for hazing: Hazing that involves alcohol, physical abuse, or any behavior that puts a student's mental or physical health at risk will result in swift permanent revocation of University recognition for the chapter involved. In determining violations, the University is using the legal definition of hazing under Pennsylvania law. A large part of this measure will involve education of all members, as well as discussions of responsible behavior.

Risk management policy review: The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life has developed a program for presidents and risk managers of Greek chapters to work with community partners to develop new risk management plans and policies to ensure safety for their members.

Other measures: There also are other measures being evaluated and explored by the University such as reviewing the growing size of sororities at Penn State; a push for stronger criminal penalties for hazing; more education surrounding medical amnesty and Penn State's Responsible Action Protocol; and the coordination of a national conference hosted by the Big Ten at headquarters in Chicago that can examine and find solutions to problems shared by other institutions with Greek-letter organizations.

"For decades, we have

addressed these problems in myriad ways, recognizing that Greek houses are privately owned, managed by external parties, and sanctioned by national organizations, but more is needed," Barron said. "As we declared enough is enough and the University has concluded that taking the unprecedented step to break the longstanding self-governing model of the Greek-life community — which is the norm on college campuses across the country — is absolutely necessary. But making a true impact on these national issues is a tremendous challenge that requires the efforts of more than the University.

Barron said that while the measures are aimed at increasing student safety, the University cannot drive change alone. The initiatives need to be accepted and new regulations followed by not only each fraternity and sorority chapter, but by their individual members as well.

Barron noted that true change will not occur without the support of individual members, alumni boards, the private housing corporations, Greek councils and national organizations.

The president said his expectation is that all of these groups will partner with Penn State to minimize risky behaviors and keep student health, safety and well-being at the forefront of any decisions.

Barron concluded: "The Greek system has made many positive contributions over the years to Penn State. All its members must commit to positive partnership in achieving the reforms we seek, to achieve a sustained, safe and positive contribution by the Greek system to the well-being of our community, which is a worthy goal."

Editor's Note: *Modified and reprinted with permission from Penn State News, August 21, 2017.*

What's Next?

As you can see, Tau Phi Delta is facing some serious challenges.

With all of new restrictions and previous hurdles that the university imposed on how a fraternity could recruit new members, we will have to make some dramatic changes in order to survive and continue.

Both our reactions and actions will dictate our future. Let our newfound motto remind all the Penn State fraternities that from this day forward: "May no act of ours bring shame!"

The Honorable Phis' Reports

The Board of Directors

Br. Steve Toth, Tau (Fall '09)
— On behalf of the BOD Phi —

It has been an eventful year for Tau Phi Delta and the fraternity system as a whole.

Recently our Board of Directors saw the exit of Br. J.R. Murdock and Br. Ethan Bauer has stepped up to fill the position. I want thank J.R. for all of his help, as advisor when I was Phi, and for his involvement with the BOD over the past few years.

We completed repairs to the fireplace last winter, and we were looking into other capital improvement projects before the incident at "Beta House" occurred earlier this year. The BOD thought it would be wise to pause these improvements until we can get a better idea as to what this new Greek system will look like.

Our future plans include rewiring the house, completing the retaining wall and asbestos mitigation.

These steps will allow the House to function for years to come. We have received great feedback from the actives and alumni Brothers each and every step of the way.

The changes at the university are going to be a large challenge for

Tau Phi Delta. New restrictions and stronger enforcement of old rules will force all fraternities to adapt, or risk losing their rightful place at Penn State.

We've begun plans on updating our pledging process, to make sure our methods are beyond reproach from the university. We are working to build a better outreach program through a more active engagement of social media and by starting a Speaker Series to welcome in students as well as the surrounding neighborhood.

While things may sound bad, we are on the move here at TΦΔ.

I hope you will join us at Fall Homecoming and see the work going on. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments. Have a wonderful fall!

(724)322-7477

steven.t.toth@gmail.com

House Phi's Message

By Nathan Yocum (Fall '15)

Hello, Brothers and Sisters, from the Active TΦΔ Brotherhood. I hope this year's edition of *The Taproot* finds you well.

Entering the 2017 fall semester, we have 21 active Brothers, of which 18 are living in the house and three out-of-house. We also have a very strong Little Sister program, with 15 actives, and three potential rushes this semester.

Since the last fall, we had nine Brothers graduate and have added six new Brothers in the Fall '16 and Spring '17 classes.

The Fall '16 pledge class – Tyler Turcheck, Will Johns, Matt Mihaly and Nick Greci – did a fantastic job of a long overdue landscaping upgrade in the front lawn.

The Spring '17 pledge class – Paul Wardach and Nick Wagner – installed lights in the backyard, which the Brothers enjoy often.

I hope you all can stop by to see these upgrades at some point.

As you have all probably heard, the hazing incident that occurred at

"Beta House" this past spring has been hard on all fraternities at PSU, but has given smaller fraternities like ours even more of a challenge.

The university has taken a stranglehold on the recruiting and pledging aspects of fraternity life. We can no longer recruit first semester freshmen, which was extremely valuable to the longevity of our fraternity. Because of this, we are finding it increasingly difficult to add new members, which can be noticed in the sizes of our last three pledge classes, one, four and two, respectively.

We have also faced difficulties with our pledge program, and have been forced to make changes to ensure that the fraternity remains out of trouble from the university.

In spite of all of this, things have been looking up this semester, as we are seeing the largest number of rushes in years, and are hoping to add multiple large pledge classes this year to counteract the large number of active Brothers that we have graduating this spring.

Despite the doom-and-gloom that has been hanging over Greek life at Penn State recently, the future looks bright for Tau Phi Delta. Please rest assured that the Active Brotherhood is doing everything that we can to have a future for our great fraternity and ensure that we all have a house to come back to and enjoy.

We are also receiving a lot of guidance from our Grand National, Board of Directors, the Foundation, House Advisors, and other Alumni.

I hope to get to meet as many of you as possible this year, and I hope that many of you can find time to stop by on football weekends, homecoming, as well as our 'rescheduled' reunion that is coming up in the spring.

As always, you are more than welcome to reach out to me with any questions, concerns or advice.

(717)491-5345

nay5037@psu.edu

The Grand National

By Dave O'Barto (Fall '90), Phi

While it's been quite some time since the Grand National held a formal convention we have kept in touch via electronic communications, bi-annually at homecoming meetings, and even at bear hunting camp.

In light of the new sanctions Penn State placed upon the entire Greek life system, as expected, our fraternity chapter seems to be adapting. While we can all get frustrated with change we all know nothing stays the same; TΦΔ is no exception and our time honored traditions must change too.

Whether you have graduated recently or been removed 30, 40 or 50-plus years, I strongly encourage every one of you to become more involved with Tau Phi Delta and visit the house. I know while revisiting Tau Phi Delta many of us can't believe how things have changed— not just with the physical aspects of the aging fraternity house but with the traditions passed down. No matter when you were in the House, we have all heard an alumnus reminisce the good ole days or say "Back when I was in the House" or "When I pledged." Then shake their head with disappointment and can't believe how drastically things have changed or traditions lost.

As Alumni, however frustrating it is to hear about these heavy-handed, university-imposed regulations, it is even more frustrating and demanding on the Active Brotherhood to comply with and continue on with the expected traditions of Tau Phi Delta.

Our Brothers in the House today must be commended for their diligence and hard work of keeping the doors open and Tau Phi Delta operating. Thank you Brothers!

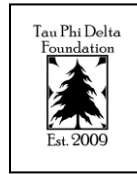
As Alumni Brothers it will take a collaborate effort from all of us to keep Tau Phi Delta solvent. I encourage you to become involved,

reach out to active Brothers or contact the university and voice a concern for Greek life.

Lastly, Tau Phi Delta was represented for the sixth straight year at the Plant-a-Tree at Flight 93 Memorial located in Shanksville, Somerset County, Penna. If you are interested in volunteering to planting trees please contact me.

Thanks, hope to see you in the fall or spring!

obarto@comcast.net



Foundation's Good News

By Ben Hoffman (Fall '86), Treasurer

On behalf of the Board of Trustees for Tau Phi Delta Foundation, I want to thank all of those who have given for their generous support!

First of all, congratulations go out to Bros. Matthew Coleman, Nick, Greci, Christopher Barnish, Jacob Glotzbach, Austin Noguera, and Keith Thomas, as recipients of **Tau Phi Delta Foundation Scholarships** awarded in 2017. Their academic

achievements and the contributions they've made to the fraternity and the Centre Region community is impressive. Keep up the good work!

Late in the spring 2017 semester we kicked off the "**Tau Phi Delta Speaker Series**" with Br. Gene Odato speaking to the group about mountain lions in the eastern U.S. and drawing 15 to 20 individuals (non-Tau Phis) to the fraternity.

The speaker series provides educational opportunities while exposing many students to our fraternity and its many benefits and shared values.

Covering a wide range of outdoor related and professional topics, we will resume in fall 2017 with flyfishing legends and experts Br. Joe Humphreys and PSU entomologist Greg Hoover.

Yes, Tau Phi Delta is facing unprecedented challenges. Through the scholarships we're able to offer, the speaker series and educational opportunities, we're able to provide a soft sell and allow the House to reach and attract new members.

Please consider supporting the Tau Phi Delta Foundation by making a donation or buying a paver. Yes, we're still selling pavers. We have plenty of space left on the patio so if you haven't yet bought a paver, or want another one, there's no better time than right now. Just email me for a **Patio Paver Fundraiser** order form (Or at: www.tauphidelta.org).

Finally, mark April 21st on your 2018 calendar. It's the Blue-White football game and date of the **'80s Decade Reunion** (Yes it's really going to happen. Refer to insert). We hope you can make it back and look forward to seeing everyone next spring.

flyfishben@comcast.net

Advisors' Corner

By Martin McGann (Fall '73)

Its fall again, a time for school to start, leaves to turn, football games and my annual contribution to *The Taproot*. One of these years, I would love to write a positive piece about how the university and fraternities, both on and off campus, are getting along. That will not be in this issue!

I have to say that I am very impressed with the way the leadership in the House has tried to work with the university to meet the new, rigorous standards that they have come up with in their efforts to keep the fraternity system under their thumb. As many of you may recall, there was an unfortunate incident in February at the Beta Theta Pi house, where a pledge died from his injuries. This precipitated a whole host of new and, in some cases, over-reaching regulations aimed at the fraternity

system, all of which can be traced back to the university.

For myself, I find it very interesting that an entity, “The university,” which has no affiliation with the fraternities and which does not own the properties or contributes to the upkeep of the houses, can place itself in a position where they have the right of oversight as to whether a fraternity will remain open or not.

A logical person would say that the right of oversight belongs to the Borough of State College who, through the offices of the zoning, health and police services, would have enough rules and regulations to determine if a house should remain open or not. What is happened, though, is that the borough has not relinquished any of these responsibilities, but has instead included the university in the process of deciding if we should remain open or not.

Example: a fraternity decides not to follow the rules that the university has set up and indicates such in a letter stating that they no longer wish to play by the university’s rules. The university will then declare that they are a fraternity that is not in good standing. The university will most likely notify the borough. The borough will then notify the fraternity that they are in violation of the zoning rules and regulations governing fraternities and will be closed down if the situation does not correct itself within two years.

The university has tried to frame the new rules as a partnership between the university and the fraternities, but if the percentages of partnership were to be allocated for this situation, it would be that the university maintains 99-percent of the shares and the fraternities have roughly 1-percent. In other words, the fraternities have no power to press their side of the issue aside from asking alumni that contribute money to the university to withhold their contributions until

the situation rectifies itself. I apologize if I’m getting too dark with this piece, but I feel the fraternities are being treated in a very unfair fashion.

Other examples include:

- Fraternities get a report card from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) on where they stand. This office requires that fraternity members must contribute a certain number of community service hours (without monetary value) each semester and must be completed.
- The OFSL requires that fraternity members must contribute a certain amount of money every semester and if they don’t meet the minimum \$25 to \$30 per person, that fact is noted as being noncompliant on the report card.
- I imagine the money that is contributed is used by PSU for their own public relations purposes to show everyone how they are community- minded and have this money to give out. What do fraternities get out of it? ... A mere check mark on their report card.
- It is my understanding that the fraternities now need to pay a fee of \$90 per active member to the university because they had to hire more staff to administer all of these new regulations.
- The university also requires employed monitors be given immediate access to all common spaces within the fraternity houses. Once the monitors identify themselves at the front door, these “social monitors” are to be let in without delay so they can snoop around and see what is going on.
- There are also requirements for setting out the standards for the pledge programs which need to be reviewed by the university, as well as dates when certain events need to be completed, such as starting/ ending the pledge process, which in dramatically cut to six weeks.

This is certainly not to the old system that many of us were

familiar with. That is not to say that a lot of things in the old system were necessarily good, but at least we were able to work them out ourselves. Using the Beta Theta Pi incident as an excuse to come down on the fraternities with both feet, and paint us all with the same brush is extremely unfair. Using that same logic – Once President Graham Spanner was accused of involvement in child abuse, some type of third party should have been brought in to intrusively monitor all at Old Main (and the athletic department). That didn’t happen, but it is okay to go after the fraternities?

Some of you know *my* opinion about where we should be in regard to the university. I feel it would be better if we can disassociate ourselves with the university. Yes, we would not be able to have a float in the Homecoming parade. Cry me a river. Yes, we would not be able to play intramural sports. Perhaps the biggest thing that would impact us would be that we could not participate in the recruitment fair, however, with social media, I’m not sure that would be such an imposition. What we would get away from it is all the rules that the university has instituted without our say-so, and we would not have to contribute any money to the university. We could do community service on our own, as well as have any philanthropic events on our own.

Things are hard enough trying to make ends meet at the House. The university has made them harder without any thought to what the effect will be on fraternities such as Tau Phi Delta.

Fraternity Co-Advisors

(Martin McGann) mrm19@psu.edu
(Shaun Doran) shdoran@pa.gov

Note: At the time of publication, all Greeks had to sign a ‘Fraternity and Sorority Statement of Relationship’ which further dictated restrictions in detail (See www.tauphidelta.org).

Alumni Updates

STAN ARNER (Fall '64) retired from the Inventory Group of the NE Forest Experiment Station in 2000 when his wife, Liz, got a job in Chicago. They lived out of state before moving back "home" to Penna. in 2006.

Stan fishes a little (too little) and travels a lot. This summer they took a road trip through the Black Hills, Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone and Grand Tetons, and visited their daughter in Evergreen, Co. They spend a lot of time at their OBX cottage.

Their oldest granddaughter just started at Penn State in the Millennial Program this summer, a much better choice than Virginia Tech, where her parents went to school.

Another Hey You story: Liz lived in a house next to the old fraternity house during the summer after Stan graduated. Hey You would often accompany her to classes. He would wait at each street corner to cross with her, but once on campus, she would get a lot of questioning stares when calling "Hey You!" while he was off chasing another squirrel.

Some sad news arrived from Steubenville, Ohio during the summer. **RON BANKS** (Spring '89) died suddenly on June 4th of a massive heart attack at age 49. He had been recovering from a previous industrial accident while working for the railroad in western Penna. He is survived by his two adult daughters and his ex-wife, Little Sister **JULIE (WARF) BANKS** (Spring '90).

The Penn State Alumni Association reported that **ROBERT J. BARTHOLOMEW** (PSU '63) died on December 10, 2015.

ED "WHIP" BROWNING (Fall '55) and his wife Mary – sister of **CARL WOLFE** (Fall '55) – moved from Utah to Sun City, Ariz. in October 2016. After he retired from the U.S.

Forest Service in 1994, Ed coached the local high school tennis team and also gave tennis lessons to many of the youth in the North Ogden area.

JOHN A. "JACK" BYERLY (Fall '65) said the he played golf with **FRANK JUDD** (Fall '64) and **LEE MOYER** (Fall '65) early in May in Harrisburg. He also met with **GREG SCHRUM** (Fall '64) for a quick bite and some refreshment.

JIM CLARK (Fall '67) admits that his involvement with Tau Phi Delta has been minimal, but he remembers and appreciates those years in both the old and new houses that helped shape the rest of his life.

Jim is now semi-retired and lives in York, Penna., where he has resided since 1973. He has children in Penna., New Jersey, and Texas.

He had a variety of jobs over the years, including insurance sales, manager of the snow tubing area at Ski Roundtop, dispatcher/router and route designer for school bus routes for a local school district, and now does some limo driving/car service for a friend.

Also he has been doing stage, film, and TV work as an actor, and has been on "House of Cards." He has also done some commercials and a couple plays this past year.

Jim regrets to announce that **BEN ARMUSIK'S** (Fall '67) wife, Tina, passed away October 1, 2016 after years of struggle with Multiple Sclerosis – just two weeks shy of their 44th wedding anniversary.

Although Ben, like Jim, has been distant from Tau Phi Delta for years, those who know Ben might like to send him a note or card of support: Ben Armusik, 1833 Manitoba Court, North, Middleburg, FL 32068

jimclark105@comcast.net

Editor's Note: Ben and Tina are **ERIC ARMUSIK'S** (Fall '92) parents.

AARON COOK (Fall '05) is a forester for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Forest Service in the office located in Clear Spring, Md. He lives in Waynesboro, Penna.

"I have more or less been accepted by the folks here in Maryland, and I am pretty grateful to be using my education in my career. It is hard to believe I have been with the state government in one capacity or another for a decade now!"

I was surprised with two seasonal employees in the summer of 2016. I considered myself extremely fortunate to have two recently graduated forest technology students from Mont Alto under my charge. I quickly learned that one, **NATHAN YOCUM** was an Active in the House. It truly is a small world at times!

It is nice to touch base with other Brothers. **SHAUN DORAN** called me up soon after Nathan was elected Phi. Also, I was able to help line up **FRED FREDERICK** with a temporary adjunct faculty gig as a surveying instructor at the Mont Alto Campus during this past spring."

aaron.cook@maryland.gov

The passing of **RICHARD C. COOK** (Fall '48), who died on August 3, 2016 in Stuart, Fla., was reported by his daughter, Carolyn Gotay.

Richard served with the U.S. Army Air Corps 451st Bomb Group in Italy during World War II.

After PSU, he received a Masters of Forestry from Duke (1949) and did additional graduate work at Syracuse and Rutgers, where he was acting Forestry Department Chair.

He was an executive with Johnson and Johnson for 20 years, and later a director with the National Wholesale Druggists' Association.

Although his end career was not directly in the field, forestry was always dear to his heart. "Dad taught me how to cultivate Scotch pine trees from seed as part of my 4-H club activities. After the seedlings grew to proper size, our family used my trees as Christmas trees."

Carolyn thanked *The Taproot* for providing her father with a link to Penn State, and Tau Phi Delta in particular, over the years. It was very important to him.

House co- advisor, **SHAUN "SLOMO" DORAN** (Fall '03) reported on August 24th from the Mauer Mountain Fire in Montana near the Idaho border, compliments of the outlook mobile app.

"I'm not totally off the grid. I spent some time with **RICH PAYNE** (Spring '94), who was working in fire logistics and hooked up our Penna. engines with vast quantities of elk and buffalo cured meats. `Tau Phis all over the country!"



Bros. Payne and Doran

Shaun noted that Rich is now living in Couer d'Alene, Idaho and took a few years off from law enforcement with the U.S. Forest Service to work in fire management.

Shaun and other embedded Penna. DCNR staff (including Tau Phi **JOE ENGLE**) were working on an engine strike team on a severity assignment out of Miles City, Montana.

"We're basically extra horsepower for initial attack when lightning storms roll through. Currently though, we're being sent to Dillon to help out some other state resources."

shdoran@pa.gov

DAVE DRIES (Fall '63) thought it was great reading about Pearl Snow and Hey You. `Great memories.

In 2007, he retired after 23 years in Naval Aviation and another 17 in marketing and business development.

His son, daughter, and daughter-in-law are all PSU graduates. Bev and he have four grandchildren and will be married 50 years in December.

Dave enjoys woodworking, reading, and writing his memoirs.

didries@aol.com

KORY ENCK (Fall '86) stopped by the recent Penn State Coaches Caravan in Harrisburg to meet-and-greet and get this photo taken with



Coach James Franklin – now the fifth highest paid college football coach in America.

kenck@nrahq.org



HOWARD FEDDEN (PSU '74) of Sheridan, Wyoming, scored on this trophy Big Horn Sheep last fall while hunting with his son, Kyle.

feddenhm@yahoo.com

Little Sister **VIRGINIA "GINNY" (BURNE) GLASSCOCK** reports that there is nothing much new for her in tiny Picabo, Idaho. Her husband, Dave, and she are the owners and operators of Idaho Angling Services, a trout fishing guide service in south central Idaho near Sun Valley.

"We still live in a log cabin, too!"

The `70s reunion looked like a blast. It was great to read about everyone and recognize all the names. Too bad the photo in *The Taproot* wasn't bigger, as I couldn't really see the faces."

She, of course, looks the same except for the hair turning silver "Good memories and best to all!"

ginnyglasscock@gmail.com

According to a recent issue of *The Penn Stater*, **HENRY S. GORIN** (PSU '67) died in August 2015.

PETER "PETE" K. HALLOCK, SR., (PSU '65) of Marion, Penna., passed away on September 25, 2016 at age 75. As a Penn State Forestry graduate he had a great love of the outdoors and spent the majority of his life working in the logging business as owner-operator of Hallock Forestry Products.

Outdoor writer, **ADAM "HIGGINS" HEGGENSTALLER** (Fall '95) has hunted all over the world for his job, as the executive editor of the National Rifle Association's *American Hunter* magazine, had the best experience of his lifetime last spring close to home. When after his 6-year old son, Jacob – who helped scout for turkeys, read the sign, located a spot for and helped set up the portable blind on – was sitting with him when they called in this gobbler in nearby Round Hill, Va.



"They gobbled several times on the roost, giving Jacob a good chance to experience what the spring season is all about. Every time they would gobble, he'd turn to me and ask, 'Did you hear that, Daddy?' Watching him get excited was one of the best moments I've had in the woods. Of course, I was fired up, too."

AHeggenstaller@nrahq.org

BILL HERB (Fall '65) and Marian have been travelling this past year. Bill had his 70th birthday cake delivered to him by a Masai warrior dancer while they were on a photo safari in Kenya and Tanzania last fall. More wildlife than you can imagine including 64 different lions!

They spent February and March in Florida where they had a chance to have dinner with **TOM YORKE** (Fall '61) and Jeannie at their condo in Naples. Bill also managed to catch some nice bull redfish while on a guided trip with his son Bryan. He also picked up a doe with his pistol during the "Old Fart" season in Penna. in October when he hunted with **DAVE GLAESSER** (Fall '65) and some other similarly-aged gents.

m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com



A crew of hardcore Pennsylvanian anglers spent some time this August fishing in western Wyoming. Bros. **TIM HOLTZ**, **KEVIN HORNER** and son Samuel, **ROY "SCREAMER" SIEFERT**, **TERRY STEMMLER**, **STEVE "BENNY" WARNER**, **JIM "CATFISH" BINDER**, **ED "EMHO" CROW**, and **JOHN "BEN" HERR** reported that they caught some cutthroat, brookies and a few brown trout. A few who had spent the day of the solar eclipse in Yellowstone National Park commented on the eclipse was, "A real dud!"

KEVIN KARMOSKY (Fall '90) is in the Air Force and regularly deploys overseas. He serves as an aircrew member and routinely flies combat missions in most of the common "hotspots." A tradition they have is to fly U.S. flags for people or organizations that provide support to the unit/military. Since his membership in Tau Phi Delta has provided a life-long bond with fellow Brothers, and since the House has always been a very patriotic organization, he thought it would be a great idea to take the house flag with him and fly it on a combat mission. The flag actually flew on

several missions, but he only provided the house with a certificate for a specific day.

He can't go into details, but the flag was flown over hostile areas to combat enemies of our country.

Kevin was extremely honored to take a flag that means so much to him on missions over a foreign land. It reminded him of what we are over there to protect. He thanks Tau Phi Delta for letting him "borrow" the flag. Tau Phi Delta always!

coalpole@hotmail.com

The March-April 2017 issue of *The Penn Stater* magazine reported the passing of **GEORGE P. KERN** (PSU '50) on September 1, 2016, had a last known address in Parama, Ohio.

BOB KREAR (Fall '42) was surprised to see the article on him in *The Taproot* (Fall 2016). He recalled that he entered Penn State in 1941 as a very poor high school student with a main motivations having been hunting, trapping, and just roaming the forest. He thought that PSU admitted him to make up for all the students that had departed for the military. But that was the break that Bob needed and he bloomed in grad school, and in gratitude gave PSU a \$25,000 Charitable Gift Annuity.

For years **CHARLES F. KREWSON, III** (Fall '51) of Washington, DC, had been on our Tau Phi Delta MIA List. Recently we discovered that he died in late 2013 at age 81.

His son recalled that soon after his dad joined the fraternity, he took a leave of absence his senior year.

"He enlisted in the Army, where he was assigned to the U.S. Geological Survey in Germany due to his forestry background. He met my mom there. After they married he came back to the states and completed his Penn State degree and a graduate degree from USC and then commissioned as an officer in the Air Force."

His career was in health care administration in the military and

in the Veterans Administration.



Br. Krewson was buried at the Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

ROB LUSK (Spring '11) is working for the Pa. DCNR Bureau of Forestry as southern area assistant forest health specialist since January 2015, and resides in Central City, Pa.

Prior, he'd been sharing a house in Duncansville, with **CALEB HOFFMAN** (Fall '08), who's a forester with the Game Commission.

rlusk3030@gmail.com

DAVE "SMILES" MARTINO (Fall '67) is still working. Lawyers never retire, particularly when they have a daughter in college. His daughter, Natalie, is a speech therapy freshman at Penn State Abington.

The recent issue of *The Penn Stater* reported the passing of **MARVIN D. MILLER** (PSU '55), of Buchanan Dam, Texas, on April 24, 2017.



JEFF "STUMPY" MORRELL (Hon. Fall '77) has been at Oregon State since 1983 and is

now a professor in Wood Science and Engineering.

jeff.morrell@oregonstate.edu

On January 20th, **GENE ODATO** (Fall '73) and **EARL HOWER** (Fall '77) travelled to our nation's capital to witness the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States.



Bros. Odato and Hower in DC

However, rumor has it the real reason they went to Washington, DC was to get an early start on checking out the ladies at the Million-Woman March that occurred on the next day!

The Penn State Alumni Association also reported that both **THOMAS E. PETERS** (PSU '54), of Port Ludlow, Wash., died on October 19, 2016 and **JAMES E. PFLIEGER** (PSU '61) of Glen Rock, Pa., died on Christmas day in 2015.

Life is good! After 37 years of working with Penna. DCNR Bureau of Forestry, a retired **TERENCE "TERRY" STEMMLER** (Fall '75) is spending his spare time travelling to wild places in Quebec, Alaska, and South Africa – with some success.



Terry in Africa and His Kudu

"Yep, I'm headed back to Alaska for a moose and caribou hunt in September. Retirement is good!"

terencestemmler@yahoo.com

Little Sister **WENDY A. (WEISEL) RANNEY** (Spring '91) and her husband just added a coffee shop to their lodge, and also hope to begin smoking fish for their clients and community sometime in 2017. Tau Phi alumni should contact her for a discount on an Alaskan Adventure. If nothing else, check out their Facebook page: *Orca Adventure Lodge*, and drop her a line. She has been able to reconnect with so many folks through social media.

Tau Phi Delta was an instrumental part of Wendy traveling to Alaska. The connections and friendships at Tau Phi were, and are, dear to her.

Since college, she has traveled to Alaska, radio-collared wolves, built trails with the U.S. Forest Service, worked with glaciologists, been a field medic for an Air Taxi, and fell in love with the 49th state. Wendy then did a season in Antarctica at Siple Dome Field Camp as a meteorologist and medic. In 1997, her first husband died and she spent

some time back home in Penna. before Alaska won her back in 2009.

She and her husband have 2 boys in Oregon at college and an 11-year old still at home.

thewindyrannen@gmail.com

www.orcaadventure.lodge.com



A recent Mont Alto magazine, *The Bridge*, announced that **Doug Rogers**, (Fall '72), formerly of Baltimore, Md., passed away on

February 17, 2017. Doug was last employed as a Md. Transportation Authority police officer.

DAVE RUPERT (Fall '77) recently completed a cross-county, 309-mile bicycle trip from Pittsburgh to Washington, DC on the Great Allegheny Passage and C&O Canal trail systems.

Dave tries to show off his Penn State pride on the trail whenever and where ever possible.



BROOKE THOMAS (Fall '58) writes that he retired from teaching anthropology at UMass/Amherst. He is running a non-profit group in the highlands of southern Peru helping alpaca herders improve the health and fiber quality of their animals, as well as their own well-being.

r.b.thomas@anthro.umass.edu

Brooke further informed us that **WILLIAM "BUD" BROWN** (Fall '58) passed away February 9, 2017, in Dahlgonega, Ga. Many who knew him and those who did not, may find his life both intriguing and adventurous. With that in mind, Brooke wrote this in memory of his Pledge Brother: ↓

"Bud Brown's most loyal friend, Beecher DuVall III, who since their time in the Army had supported him through thick and thin, was with our dear Brother Bud Brown at the end.

He had convinced Bud to come and live nearby and he became engaged in Scouting, the church, and hunting in the nearby forest. This became the place that Bud was seeking all his life, a place he could call home, surrounded by Beecher's family and friends.

Bud was a larger-than-life person who had experiences that not all his TΦΔ Brothers put together could match. I can still hear his boisterous laugh that got progressively louder as he became harder of hearing. Bud's enthusiasm for life and storytelling enabled him to walk into the toughest bars off the Can-Am Highway and come out with Native American logger friends who towed his broken down pick-up. And when no one could fix it, in part because he was out of money, the local preacher he befriended gave this total stranger a used vehicle.

Bud and his son, Clark, were determined to get to Alaska. But sadly Clark died and he was devastated. So he took off by bus to Mexico where his social security check would go further. A worker on his landscaping crew had family in a town where he'd be welcomed.

Bud made it there and shortly thereafter befriended a veterinarian who invited him to live in and guard a second home on a hilltop. He moved onto a fishing village on an inland lake, and eventually to the Yucatan Peninsula where he found a cheap rundown house in the fishing village of Sisal. However the relentless sun prompted him to head back north.

He ended up in a VA facility in Brooklyn where he and his good friend Erl combed the neighborhood for interesting spots and people. Residents of the veteran's home looked to Bud for his ability to resolve disputes and make people feel good about themselves.

At some point the Alaskan dream resurfaced and off he went. He built a living compartment on the back of the preacher's used pick-up where he could cook, eat and sleep. He shared this with his dog and would park it behind public buildings.

Libraries were day-time refuges where he could stay warm, email friends and look for jobs. He found several with the National Park Service. In a phone interview with one of his potential employers I was asked if Bud could deal with a diversity of people. My response was that when working for a polling group in NYC in his early days he was the only white guy who they let interview in Harlem.

One of his park duties was to stop poaching; but he was up against some pretty tough characters and had no law enforcement back-up. For another job, he was given a cabin to stay in but as winter approached the park closed down and it was back to parking lot living. Erl advised him on how to insulate the pick-up cabin so they wouldn't asphyxiate as they made it through the winter.

Continued on next page ~

Br. Bud Brown Tribute ~ Continued

Bud enrolled in online coursework at a university in Oregon which he was able to do out of an Alaskan library. Very quickly, and to his absolute amazement, he was pulling down A's and high B's; something that had eluded him at Mont Alto and the Main Campus. Ultimately he earned a M.S. in Environmental Science and a certificate to teach English as a Second Language.

Finally, with another winter closing in on him, he split for the lower 48.

He leaves us with great regret and lots of tales about how one gets by with enthusiasm, good spirits and graciousness while living by one's wits out there on the edge. His generosity (not financially because he had precious little to part with), delivered with a kindness and consideration for others, made him unique. What buoyed him up when he was down – and this was not infrequent – was his religion and his friends. He knew people were out there keeping track of his wanderings, giving advice and help when he hit bottom, marveling at his accomplishments.

I think the high point in his life was the years at TΦΔ surrounded by friends who stuck with him his entire life. Stories of the crazy things we did together became the fodder for reunions or phone calls, and as they became refried and enlarged upon, they never ceased to amuse us."

MATT THOMAS enjoyed the two articles on Hey You, and keeps both of them along with a pastel drawing of the dog as well as his collar and the ever-present "church key." Matt used to work at **BILL MITCHELL'S** (Fall '61) place near Doylestown, Pa. where Bill and his wife spent time with Hey You. He'd swim in their pool or would be kept in the house while Matt worked there.

CHARLES F. "VIRGE" THUMA, JR. (Fall '75) is still married after 34 years and is still working. He and his wife have two grandsons, Landon (3) and Mason (1).

Charles5652@cox.net



'Sad news from Corvallis, Ore. where **Dr. Richard "Skeeter" Werner** (PSU '58),

"transcended to the spirit world" on July 8, 2017. After Penn State, Skeeter went on to earn multiple advanced degrees including a Ph.D. in entomology/insect toxicology. During his 37 years with the Forest Service – 23 of them in Alaska – he authored 2 books and 125 scientific publications.

CHARLES B. "CHUCK" WHITEMAN (Fall '57) sends an "Aloha", and lets us know that this is the first time that he has heard from TΦΔ since leaving Penna. two days after graduation. He headed west beginning a career that he never anticipated in his wildest dreams after starting as a freshman at Mont Alto.

After getting his pilot's license while at PSU with ROTC, Chuck headed right to Army flight school for three years with the Army Security Agency and provided helicopters to all the high-level operations like snooping on Cuba, drone testing, and nuclear tests.

He then headed to UCLA for graduate school and then to Hawaii.

He went back to Arizona and graduated from law school with a J.D. degree, and became a member of both the Hawaii and Arizona Bars.

Having a helicopter and being an attorney was not a bad thing in Hawaii. He came back to Arizona in 1999 and has been in the legal defense business ever since. He is still working full time on several murder cases (three death penalties) and hopes to retire at 85.

charleswhiteman-8@msn.com

Editor's note: 'Sorry about that Chuck; but we listed you as MIA for years when one day we found you online on the Penn State Alumni Directory. Welcome back Brother!

Supporting *The Taproot*

The Taproot continues to provide news about the Actives and Alumni of Tau Phi Delta through the support of our alumni. The "Alumni Update" section of this issue includes many entries provided to us through emails or the return of the insert from last year's issue.

Each year out loyal readers, many are individuals or groups of Brothers and Little Sisters, have provided financial contributions so the printing and mailing of *The Taproot* is not a financial burden on the actives or the Alpha Chapter. The following Brothers, Little Sisters, and a spouse of a deceased Brother have donated \$20 to \$100 for a total of \$810 toward the cost of printing and mailing *The Taproot*.

Stan Arner	Tom Breslin
Edward Browning	Jack Byerly
Dave Dries	Carl Geesaman
Ginny Glasscock	Bill Herb
Earl Hower	Dave Martino
Bill Mitchell	Jeff Morrell
Wendy Ranney	Terence Stemmler
Matt Thomas	Brooke Thomas
Charles Thuma	Charles Whiteman
Patricia Wilson-Schmid	

We thank you for your continued support of *The Taproot*; however your contributions have come up short of our goal to support the printing and mailing of this issue. Please support *The Taproot*!

Please take a few minutes to complete the inserted yellow alumni update sheet in this issue (Or online at www.tauphidelta.org) and return it.

Also, sending a check for any amount to support *The Taproot* would also help and would be much appreciated! You also can send an update by emailing Bill Herb, Editor, at: m.b.tailfeathers@gmail.com.

We Are ... Family!

Two more pledges (Fall '16) were recently added as legacy Tau Phis:

- **Nick Greci** – first cousin to **Colby Mathews**
- **Will Johns** – son of **William**/nephew of **Freeman Johns**.

Congratulations to Nick and Will for keeping their family traditions alive at Tau Phi Delta!

This continuing feature of The Taproot is where Brothers of years gone by can share what life was really like at the old fraternity house at 238 East Fairmount Avenue.

Old House Heritage

By Br. Bill Herb (Fall '65)

“All Creatures, Great and Small”

In the previous two installments of “Old House Heritage” in *The Taproot*, we took a look at some of the canine denizens of 238 East Fairmount.

But there were many other non-brother inhuman residents: mammalian, reptile, and insect, which took up residence, at least on a temporary basis, in our House. This total does not even account for Claudia the eel, who probably deserves an installment all of her own.

Reptiles and the Brothers Who Love Them. A variety of reptiles found their way into the house, normally in the company of the Brothers who captured them in the wild. During the summer term of 1966, a black snake was brought back to the House after a Summer Camp field exercise.

He was fairly docile, and allowed himself to be handled without too much effort, and there is a photo somewhere in the Tau Phi Delta archives showing him



draped around the neck and beer belly of yours truly. He happily (or so we thought) accustomed himself to a large pretzel can in our room. However, upon finding the pretzel can empty (he may have been happier had we fed him), a search ensued, during which we much doubted his docile nature as we dug through closets and looked under beds. Finally the wandering reptile was found coiled up in the same closet where the original pretzel can was kept, and no wildlife or brothers were harmed in its recapture.

A blacksnake also was a resident in a box cage kept by one of the wildlife graduate students. This snake had the good fortune (or perhaps misfortune) to be the

recipient of some of the deceased subjects of the grad student's research. Because the student's interest was in wild turkeys, the snake had opportunities to ingest almost complete (wings were removed) wild turkey poult. As I recall, this was possible, but did require quite a bit of effort on the part of the reptile (and a very strong stomach on the part of the observers).



The same grad student also kept, but in a more secure cage, a timber rattler that he had picked up somewhere during his travels through the woods. This critter only had to contend with occasional mice as a food source, however.

We were grateful that the rattler's tenure in the House ran out before we had to do another room-to-room search.

The funniest reptile story I can recall involved, not a venomous snake, but a much more innocuous reptile. This green anole, or as they were often referred to, a chameleon, appropriately enough, arrived in a beer can.



This was via the U.S. Mail, and he was safely packed in sphagnum moss with one end of the can was sealed with cheesecloth to provide a ready supply of air. This critter, a pet of my roommate, Brother G, was as mild-mannered as could be, but did require a relatively steady diet of mealworms.

Mealworms cost money and times were tough for us college boys with limited funds. So what we used to keep our newly-immigrated green friend well fed will both amaze and amuse you.

(To be continued Fall 2018)



Yes, That Was What Life Was Like At 238 East Fairmount

This continuing feature of The Taproot — is a place much like the oaken walls of our fraternity — where Brothers can share their successes and failures, in the great outdoors. Send us your tall tales and any related photos for future edition.

Tau Phis in the Great Outdoors

The forest and fields and fish-filled waters are our playground

“The Trouble With Spikes”

As told by Bill Herb (Fall '65)

Illustrations by Steve Torok (Spring '86)

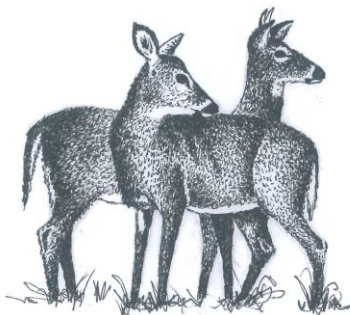
Spike bucks, that is. I always seem to find trouble when I am dealing with spike bucks.

Stone Valley Spike

It was a clear, dry day in Stone Valley on the 1965 buck opener. I was pledging Tau Phi Delta, but had managed to sneak away from pledge duties to do some buck hunting on my own.

I posted myself at a likely stand 100 yards or so above Shaver's Creek that I had identified during squirrel season, and had been watching for careless bucks for a couple of hours. Either they were scarce in that part of Huntingdon County, or they were just not moving.

To break the monotony, I decided to still hunt a bit. Before I had gone very far at all, I ran into a Pledge Brother, Ron Majeroni. Like me, he was out doing some independent hunting. We stopped to chew the fat a bit. Our discussions were interrupted by the sound of running deer.



Out of nowhere, apparently, a doe and a spike buck (small, but legal) appeared only about 30 yards from us. Maj and I did not know it at the time, but he only saw the doe, and I only saw the

buck. In spite of only seeing the doe, Maj had the presence of mind to raise his rifle to his shoulder. I stood there with my .300 Savage at port arms just staring at the buck which I assumed Maj was going to drill at any moment.

But Maj wasn't looking at the buck, he was concentrating on the doe. I was like a bird dog honoring a point, and was not going to try to shoot the buck because "Maj had his sights on it." After an eternity of my wondering why the hell he wasn't taking the shot, Maj spotted the buck, and finally shot. The trouble began from here.

The buck did not drop in its tracks. Confusion reigned. In my mind, the doe took off upslope, and the buck headed downhill toward Shaver's Creek at breakneck speed. Confusion reigned, because while I was shooting at the "buck" heading downslope, Maj was firing at the "doe" headed upslope, and it wasn't doe season.

Once both the deer had disappeared, we tried to straighten out what had happened. We both were sure that the deer that each of us were shooting at was the real "buck," but now seeds of doubt had been sown. Could I have gotten confused and misidentified, or had Maj made the same mistake? And how could he have missed that first shot?

Almost immediately we heard some splashing down near the creek, and a couple of other hunters, whom we did not know, came walking up the slope, and made some remark about "A wounded doe down by the creek." Oh, snap!

"Might as well face the music like a man. Heavy-hearted, I slowly trudged town toward the creek, and there, lying in a puddle of water, was a dead spike buck. Even today we still don't know about that "doe" that took off uphill, in a hail of gunfire from Maj. Maybe it was another buck that neither of us had spotted before the first shot, or maybe Maj was lucky that he missed that one also.

When I went to skin the deer, I found a groove of hair right across its back above the front shoulder that Maj had clipped with his shot. If it had been an inch lower, it would have broken its back. I can only assume that after holding his rifle in the firing position so long, and throwing in a bit of buck fever, he just pulled his first shot high.

Allegheny National Forest Spike

Fast forward to the early 1970s. It was the first week of our second canoe-camping, deer hunting trip to the national forest near Bradford. The only similarity between this season and the previous season was the nature of the precipitation. The first

season it snowed, at least a bit, every day of the nine days we were in camp. This year: rain.

Not only was it rainy, but it was warm. No need for the Woolrich coat and down vest, as today's weather called for an undershirt and an orange sweatshirt to stay legal. I was walking through the wet woods on a ridge top above the lake, keeping my eye out for signs of a careless buck.



About 50 yards ahead of me, a spike buck bolted out of cover and made a mad dash out along the ridge, quartering away from me. By the time I had unslung my rifle he had gotten out to about 80 yards or so and was really motoring.

I picked a, more or less, clear spot in the direction of his flight, and at what seemed to be the right time, touched off a round from my Herter U9 .300 Winchester Magnum. I was probably more surprised than the buck when he dropped. This was probably the best shot of my life: unsupported and on a running deer.

Rothrock State Forest Spike

Several years later, on another opening day while I was in grad school, the weather was not so nice. It had rained the night before, there was a covering of ice on the trees and the back roads were not in very good condition.

I managed to drive from State College, crossing Tussey Mountain onto McAlevy's Fort Road on the way out toward Whipple Dam. Just across the top of another ridge there was a state forest road that cut back toward the east, but was chained off.

With the conditions in the shape that they were, it seemed like a good idea to park at the gate and walk back along this closed road. There were no other hunters around. At least walking on the road was relatively quiet. Trying to walk in the frozen woods was like walking on potato chips.

About a half of a mile back, I spotted a new clearcut, so figured I could walk up to the edge of it and get a good view of the entire open area.

No sooner had I stepped to the edge of the cut when a nice spike buck popped up about 40 yards away in the open and just stared at me. I swung up my rifle, put the Redfield cross hairs on his

shoulder, and touched off a round. The buck dropped like the hand of God had struck him.

I chambered another round, took a step or so in the direction of the downed deer, and up he popped again, just a short distance from where he went down. He was a wounded deer...with a completely bald head. Crap! Déjà vu Crap!

Well, I was committed now, and was not going to walk away from a wounded deer, even if it was the wrong season. I sent another 180 grains of lead downrange, and again the deer went down.

The rising sun had begun to warm the air, and the accumulated ice was melting. By the time I had crossed the 40 yards through the slash, I was soaked, and sure enough, there was a dead, hornless deer laying in front of me. I still could not believe what I had done. They were nice spikes that I spotted before the first shot. I picked up the deceased deer's head and saw two bloody patches on the skull. The damn deer had shed his spikes from the time I shot him until he popped up for the second time.



All I had to do now was find those spikes, tag the bald buck, and carry the spikes with me as I dragged him back to the car. After all, how tough could it be to find those missing antlers?

As it turned out, it was so tough that it was impossible. After about three hours of crawling around on my hands and knees in the soaking slash, all the while keeping an eye out for other hunters or game wardens, the only thing I had accomplished was becoming as wet and bedraggled as a frozen, drowned rat.

As the statute of limitations has past, I can now report that in the end, I just reluctantly walked away, and kept on hunting. Karma dictated that I did not see another buck, spiked or otherwise, during the rest of the season.



Co-Editor's Note: *Bill has since learned his lesson and has been condemned and forced to make significant financial restitution in the form of paying hundreds of dollars in non-resident hunting license fees – All because of this one spike buck!*

TΦΔ Leadership Summit

By Steve Toth (Fall '09)

This past February, a group of Alumni and Actives braved the cold to meet in a hotel just off of Interstate-99 for a Leadership Summit. This was the third meeting we've had of this kind, and we spent the day discussing the issues and challenges that face our fraternity's future.

Topics such as membership, finances, and capital improvements were discussed, with great feedback and insight coming from the active Brothers.

This meeting happened a few days after news of the hazing tragedy at the "Beta House," however much of the agreed upon plan was tabled until after we understood what this new environment for Greeks at Penn State would mean for the House.

The good news is that this plan is still a viable path forward once stability returns to Greek Life. We plan on continuing the "one active – one rush" policy to increase the number of new members, and we want to leverage the new sponsored Speaker Series to increase the visibility of the house within the student body and community.

Steps were taken to improve the organizational strength of the fraternity, with better communications regarding the Actives' and BOD's budget and creation of a document that outlines the financial responsibilities of each. This will be a living document that will eliminate the arbitrary nature of covering costs at the house.

Additionally, we discussed the capital improvements needed at the house. We finished the repair of the chapter room fireplace, and made plans to seek an engineering inspection for a complete house rewiring, retaining wall, and asbestos mitigation. This will give us a better idea on what we need financially to make sure the house remains our home for years to come.

Finally, we discussed the future of the leadership summits. These meetings have been great ways for actives and alumni (TΦΔ Corporation, Grand National, Foundation, and Advisors – present and past) to meet and see the other's viewpoint on challenges the House faces. Our 2013 meeting paved the way for the recent capital improvement projects, and the 2015 meeting was a huge discussion on actions the Brotherhood can take to increase our membership numbers.

We would like to continue these productive discussions this winter, so if you are interested in attendance, feel free to let me know.

Tailgate Meeting Success

While the recently-planned '80s Reunion as advertised for September 30th was postponed again (April 21, 2018), this did not discourage the reunion organizing committee to further "meet."



Kudos go to Litter Sisters **Chris Eberhart** (Spring '86) and **Lisa (Cairo) O'Brien** (Spring '87) who organized a pre-game tailgate gathering (Penn State vs. Indiana football game) of the reunion committee. Tau Phis came from all corners of Penna., and N. Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.



Attending the Summit. Seated L to R: Richie King, Earl Hower, Kory Enck, Dave Gustafson, Nate Yocum, Ethan Bauer, Steve Toth. Standing: Sam Durant, Chris Barnish, Jordan Miller, Keith Thomas, Martin McGann, Tyler Turcsek, Will Leete, Dr. Chuck Strauss, Kody Unangst, Dave O'Barto, and Corbin Rinehart.

Wanted

The editors of *The Taproot* are looking for any information about those Tau Phi Brothers and Little Sisters who had been or who are still practicing veterinary medicine and/or involved with a veterinary practice for a future feature story. Please contact Earl Hower at: earlh@iwla.org.

Tau Phi Delta Fraternity
427 E. Fairmount Ave.
State College, PA 16801-5711
Address Service Requested



FALL HOMECOMING

November 11, 2017

9:00 AM

**Fraternity Board of Directors &
Foundation Trustees Meeting**

11:00 AM

Light Lunch

12:00 PM (Noon)

Football Game Kick-Off – Penn State vs. Rutgers

Two Hours After Game

Victory Celebration Dinner with Beverages at the House

~ \$25 per person or \$45 per couple for lunch and dinner ~

For more information, contact:

Will Johns or Paul Wardach, Alumni Committee Co-Chairmen

House: (814) 237-2207 **Cell:** (814) 203-5304 or (570) 851-7435

Email: wjw5038@psu.edu or ptw5051@psu.edu

PLAN AHEAD! TΦΔ Spring Homecoming and '80s Reunion ...*Yes, rescheduled again!*
April 21, 2018 • PSU Blue White Game Weekend