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drock1@gmail.com

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The Phi Phi Review



www.PhiPhiClub.com

Phi Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho • University of Pennsylvania • Philadelphia, Pa. • Spring 2011

ALUMNI REPORT

A Call for Alumni Support

By John G. Richards '93

Brothers:

The fraternity is awaking from winter along with the entire campus. Activity levels around College Green (Blanche Levy Park to you nitpickers) are up noticeably now that the icy weather has gone.

Activity in the chapter house is up as well with a new group of postulants undergoing the process of becoming new brothers. It is the largest postulant class in some time and these new arrivals bring a great deal of optimism to the undergraduates and alumni alike.

"Please consider renewing your connection to the house if you are in a position to contribute your time and experience to the fraternity."

Change is also impacting the graduate board. I am leaving the board after more than fifteen years due to a relocation to Minnesota. **John Hawkins '93** recently celebrated the birth of his second daughter. Other members have left or reduced their level of involvement as growing families, job changes or other concerns come to the fore.

Although some new additions to the board, notably **Jordan Gushurst '95** and **Suresh Swaminathan '04**, have brought energy and enthusiasm to our group, more alumni involvement is needed. Simply put, the Board needs your assistance. Apart from Alumni Day and Homecoming, we meet four other times per year. Please consider renewing your connection to the house if you are in a position to contribute your time and experience to the fraternity. I know that you will find it to be a rewarding effort.

On another note, sometimes "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Our status as an independently owned house remains challenging. Regular maintenance and

infrastructure upgrades must be self-funded. At the same time, the University retains jurisdiction over our recognition status and, therefore, has some input over residential requirements. After a recent tragedy at our neighbor, Phi Kappa Sigma, the University has requested that our house and six other houses bring stairwell guardrail heights up to code. These modifications require an increase in our center stairwell banister height (the Skulls accident involved a fatal fall from a center stairwell). While we are seeking the University's assistance in mitigating the financial impact of those changes, the situation demonstrates our ongoing need for resources to maintain the house. Springtime has most homeowners identifying necessary improvements and repairs. Imagine the undergraduates residing in your home for a long winter. Our need for your financial support should be readily apparent on that (somewhat frightening) reflection.

To recap: Your time and your money are all we ask. Whatever you do, renew your commitment and connection to our fraternity. Our value as a house is measured by the connections we make and maintain with each other.

Phi Phi Club Board of Trustees

John Hawkins '93 - President
John Richards '93 - Vice President
Jared Miller '95 - Treasurer
Manuel Calero '98 - Secretary
Dan D'Imperio '53
Tom McCarthy '78
Pete Sigmund '51
Jordan Gushurst '95
Suresh Swaminathan '04
Damon Rocco '11 - Undergraduate President
Joe Moloznik '54 - Chair Emeritus
Dave Mudge '73 - Emeritus
Rob Rosenbaum '90 - Emeritus

CHAPTER REPORT

Phi Phi Boasts Highest GPA in National Fraternity *Brothers Welcome Second Largest Pledge Class in Five Years*

By Damon Rocco, Phi Phi Undergraduate President

Our undergraduate chapter has stepped up substantially this past semester and rush period to help ensure the chapter's survival. Our rush this semester went excellently, although we experienced several unfortunate setbacks between the last rush event and the start of pledging.

This year, the undergraduate executive board completely redesigned the rush schedule eliminating events that were not attracting freshmen, like the rush semi-formal, and introducing new well-received events like paintball. The new rush schedule worked extremely well; all of our events were well attended, and those that attended had a great time. Throughout the process, brotherhood involvement was at the highest I have ever seen during my time at Alpha Chi Rho. Brothers were actively engaged in the process, taking kids out to dinner, and making sure that every rush had met the majority of our brotherhood. Our final rush meeting was

the only time in house history that I have witnessed every single undergraduate brother present at a meeting. Our motivation and planning paid off – at our final supper event, we had 20 rushes attend with the intention to pledge Alpha Chi Rho.

Unfortunately, things do not always work out as well as we would like. Several of our potential new pledges were academically ineligible to pledge, and others had family issues. A few kids were hypersensitive about their grades because they were trying to get into a dual degree program and needed a 3.9 GPA at the end of their freshmen year to qualify. These individuals have expressed interest in joining the house next fall. While such platitudes must be taken with a grain of salt, many of their friends are pledging this semester, so I am confident that we can add them to our ranks in the fall.

One week into pledging, we had 13 pledges and the focus was shifted from

recruitment to integration. We were all a little disappointed at the loss of so many potential new brothers in the final moments of rush, but we were resolved to assure that these 13 new brothers (still the second largest pledge class in the last 5+ years of the Phi Phi Chapter) understand the challenges ahead and want to be fully engaged in the house.

In other news, the Phi Phi Chapter GPA is the highest of any national AXP chapter and roughly 0.2 higher than the all-men's average at Penn. The university has not released the chapter rankings yet, but I am confident that academically we are now one of the strongest houses on campus, a drastic improvement from our position in the lower fifth last year.

ON THE WEB

Send Us Your Email Address!

By updating your email address with Phi Phi, you'll get much more than just our email communications.

Other benefits include:

- You'll be reminded when we're about to publish a newsletter, so you can submit your news, photos and stories
- You'll help the Phi Phi Club save money on paper, printing and postage (and be utilized for other things!)
- You'll be the first to know of the latest news, updates and event details from the alumni and active chapters

As a reminder, our database is used solely for AXP communications. Update your email address by sending it to feedback@affinityconnection.com (mention AXP at Penn).

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

Why should you support the Phi Phi Scholarship?

The scholarship has made a lasting impact on the chapter and its undergraduate brothers. By contributing now, we can build an even larger fund to help these young men with the ever increasing cost of obtaining a Penn education.

Your most generous, tax-deductible contribution should be made to the **Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation**, Phi Phi Fund, 109 Oxford Way, Neptune, NJ 07753 or online at www.axpef.org/donate.htm.



Jim Rappaport '77 and Byron Connell '63 congratulate Phi Phi Scholarship winner Will Doyle.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'40s

From the wife of **John R. Rosengarten '48** John R. Rosengarten was a true Phi Phi member, but last January 4, 2010 a brain tumor took his life. He was 84 years old. We were married 57 years. We have five lovely daughters, 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. Also Walter E. Rosengarten, John's father, paraded for his Class of 1910 when he was 100 years old.

'50s

Arthur Staib '51

(7 Outpost Ln., Port Royal Plantation, Hilton Head, SC 29928) My best memory is my friendship with Joe Devlin, my roommate in 1950-51. We kept in touch until Joe's death in 1995. I am 81 years old now. I'm getting ready to see Joe again - somewhere.

'60s

Robert A. Busser '60

(619 W. Hortter St., Philadelphia, PA 19119) Having returned from 10 weeks in Haiti participating in the recovery effort, I am now sharing those experiences with schools, university groups, and churches to let people know one person's view of what happened in Haiti on January 12, 2010. What is the potential for real recovery? There is still a great need to remove tens of thousands of rubble-initially mostly by hand- and to build schools, medical clinics, employment opportunities, infrastructure and shelter. As an architect I

trained local engineers on the international standards for evaluation of earthquake damage to structures. Five hundred have been trained so far. I also designed a "transitional" core shelter that could be erected by a crew of three in one day. The earthquake/hurricane-resistant transitional shelter could become a permanent structure with added construction around the core. Over 1,000 of these had been built by the end of August- all using local labor- but, a drop in the bucket compared to the need.

James L. Benjamin '62

(26 Schnoor Rd., Killingworth, CT 06419; jbbenjamin@comcast.net) I was elected President in April 1960, four months shy of my 19th birthday. After graduation, we were left with 9 members. Thanks to the help of our small group, we did some great recruiting, and we had 16 members when I graduated. My wife and I recently purchased a used 39' RV to complement our 45' motor yacht. We hope to split our time between RVing and cruising.

'70s

John G. Kelly '71

(4701 Cedar Ln., Drexel Hill, PA 19026; jgkelly1949@comcast.net) My best memories from the fraternity come from the time spent with my brothers, especially bending elbows! Currently, my fifth grandkid is on the way.

Steven Arkin '77

(100 Payson Road, Belmont, MA 2478; stevenarkin@comcast.net) My wife Christine,

our daughter Kate and I are now located in the Boston, MA metro area.

'80s

Peter Schankowitz '83

(1517 23rd St., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; pschankowitz@vdbp.com) My best memory from the fraternity days was when Mark Coogan was found alive and well in a bush. I am the founder of Joe Digital, Inc., a full service content production/ digital strategy company servicing TV networks, major brands and business across all verticals. I'm working on Coogan to do the very first "Belkest West" in Montana where we will keep Dan Levin from mixing alcohol and firearms.

'90s

Noah Sferra '96

(nsferra@yahoo.com) Jessica and I moved out to Northern Westchester County to Mt. Kisco (aka Zipkin-land) about 20 minutes from where I grew up. This is after a combined 30 years in NYC. We kept the place Hell's Kitchen though and we are still regularly in town a couple nights a week.

About a year ago I left the NetSuite software community and moved over into a company called Demand Solutions. We specialize in Supply Chain Management/ Forecasting software so still in tech, still on the (dark) sales side.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Love Old Photos?

So do we! That's why we need your help to preserve the best Phi Phi moments that have been captured on film.

Send the best pictures from your era to us, and we'll feature the best submissions in future newsletters.

You can email your photos to content@affinityconnection.com (mention AXP at Penn), or mail them to the return address on this newsletter.

In this photo: The Phi Phi Chapter in 1960. *From The Record.*



REMEMBER WHEN?

Thank you to the following alumni for sharing their best Phi Phi memories...

"In the fall of 1948, Dick Chase and I installed a microphone in the deer head over the fire place mantle. It made for fun listening as the refurbished couch was in front of the fireplace! But most of all I remember the friendships made in the 'bond' and I'm still a crow at heart."

- **Holmes McLendon Jr. '49**

"I was an active in AXP from 1949 till 1953, and lived in house for three years and was house mgr. During those years, Philadelphia closed South 36th Street, in order to construct the underground line. Since there was a very deep trench in front of the house, there was no way to get to Smokey Joe's. (At that time it was directly across 36th St from AXP). We rigged a wash line from the third floor front balcony across to Smokes. We would tie a pitcher (with money) to the line and send it across, where it would be filled with beer and returned.

Another story is about a group of brothers from classes 1951 thru 1956 that get together in Philadelphia every two years. We had 15 brothers, with wives, who met regularly; but our group had dwindled to about 9. We will continue, as long as some of us are still alive

One final remembrance... We had a party one Saturday night, with a band named Mike Pedicin. He was very popular, and we had more attendees than expected. Actually, we had so many, we had to put up braces in the basement, because we thought the first floor living room would collapse. Obviously, it was a GREAT party."

- **Dan D'Imperio '53**

"One of my better memories from my fraternity days in the '50s was the night we stole the trolley at 38th and Spruce Streets. It took three of us. Two waited at the designated stop ready to get on the next trolley that came.

The third was about 40 feet behind. The almost empty trolley stopped. With that, the trolley experienced a total blackout. The pole had mysteriously been pulled of the wire. The operator/conductor got out to walk to the back of the car to put the pole back on. With that the first two, who had carefully trained themselves to be temporary operators, closed the doors, turned the proper lever and sped off with the trolley, leaving the operator in our dust.

We went all the way down the hill (one block) to 34th Street, opened the doors and left a few confused passengers to wait for the real operator - who was then seen running down the street to take back his job. Just a prank, but I think it would be a little more difficult to pull off today. This event, plus swallowing live goldfish, is what got us accepted into Alpha Chi Rho."

- **Robert Busser '60**

2010-11 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following alumni who have contributed to the annual fund since our 2010-11 giving year began September 1.

William Craemer Jr.	1938	John R. Morris	1972
J. Richard Chase	1947	William L. Courtney	1973
Holmes "Mac" D. McLendon Jr.	1949	W. John Coats	1975
Arthur C. Staib Jr.	1951	Steven M. Seide	1976
Charles C. Easton Jr.	1952	James G. Dinan	1981
Daniel G. D'Imperio	1953	Jeffrey C. Adler	1984
Robert R. Gaudian	1955	Brian R. Harris	1986
Allen J. Staib	1955	Christopher R. Albani	1987
David H. Morton	1957	Mark C. Ventura	1987
Robert A. Busser	1960	Peter A. Stevens	1988
John J. Seksinsky	1960	Scott F. Kiesling	1989
Stanley T. Szcurek Jr.	1960	Todd A. Springer	1989
James L. Benjamin	1962	Robert Alan Rosenbaum MD	1990
Byron P. Connell	1963	Richard F. Cordova	1993
David R. Drain	1964	John Hawkins	1993
Harry J. Stuart	1965	John Richards	1993
Thomas M. Osborn	1966	Jordan D. Gushurst	1995
Philip H. Close III	1967	Matthew Gilroy	1996
Brent A. Grishkin M.D.	1969	Manuel Calero	1998
G. Donald Allen	1970		
Michael J. Karpinski Jr.	1970		
John G. Kelly	1971		
Ronald L. Miller	1971		

*Reflects gifts received as of
March 15, 2011.*

Make a Gift

Add your name to the Honor Roll in 2010-11! Remember, our annual fund helps maintain our historic chapter house and enables us to continue our communications program, including publication of *The Phi Phi Review*.

There are three ways to contribute:

- Call 800-975-6699.
- Mail a check with enclosed envelope.
- Via PayPal online at <http://tinyurl.com/PhiPhiClubUPenn>.