

The Phoenix

Phi Kappa Tau, Phi Chapter

Alumni Newsletter

Volume LXXXIX Issue 1 Bethany College Spring 2012

Upcoming Alumni Events

- April 28, Alumni BBQ at Bethany Park
- May 5, HROG and Dick Meess Luncheon

Philanthropy Events

- Brothers traveling to Mt. Giliad on March 30th for the National Service Event
- National Service Month Clothes Drive
- Nostalgia Dinner March 24 at 5:00pm at the Bethany Church
- Spaghetti Dinner April 22 4-8pm at the Bethany Church
- Making donations to the YWCA to set up rooms for battered women in the area. We would love for donations from alumni



Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone,

As the newest Vice President of Alumni Relations this will be my very first Phoenix that I will be releasing. I hope that you enjoy all of the articles that are inside and I hope to hear feedback and comments so we as a chapter know what is going on with all of you. Hope all of you can come up and visit the chapter and catch up; I am sure that everyone would enjoy it. To contact me you can send me an email. My email address is malbert@bethanywv.edu. I use my school email because that is the one I check on a daily basis. Feel free to contact me any time. Have a Happy Founders Day.

-Michael Albert '11, Vice President of Alumni Relations

State of the Chapter

This semester, your Brothers of Phi Chapter are striving to be the Chapter we all know we can be. After attending Presidents' Academy in Tampa Bay this past January I came back with motivation and a truckload of ideas to help improve the Chapter. I am ecstatic to report that all of the Brothers are on board and looking to make our House great once again. With the semester already underway, we have 8 new Associate Members, each having a positive impact on campus, as well as representing both the Lacrosse and Baseball Teams. They are all quality gentlemen who truly live up to the ideals of our National Fraternity. There are also quite a few other gentlemen on campus who have expressed interest in wanting to become a Brother in the fall. Our philanthropic activities, although marked by a slow start are also underway, marked by the second annual clothes drive for the local shelters currently underway, with future events planned and marked on the calendar. I am anxiously waiting what the future holds for our humble Chapter in terms of recruitment, and the opportunities awaiting us in terms of philanthropic activities and personal growth.

In Phi,
Scotty Tyree '10
President of Phi Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau

Why Did I Decide to Join?

Three years ago I was fresh out of high school getting ready to leave my home in West Virginia to go to Bethany College, needless to say tons of emotions were going through me such as excitement to be on my own to being nervous and sad about leaving all my friends behind. But when it happened I was okay with it because there were tons of things to do and people to meet. Of course like every freshman I believe it happens to, the freedom gets to you. Going out way too much, partying when you should be studying or sleeping, not going to class, and your grades in result suffer from it. But I guess with all the stuff I had done from going out, going to class, and playing football here I met a wide variety of people in doing so. Some of those people being best friends still and the brothers of Phi Kappa Tau. After being around for almost a year and going through surgery from football and still playing the brothers of Phi Kappa Tau saw me as something I guess and wanted me to come hang out more and more. As time passed my best friends got to rush and I didn't, from my own fault not having the grades, but they never gave up on me they always helped me if I needed it and always checked up on me and my friendship with the entire house grew over the next two years and I have to say I am glad they never gave up because I'm finally being able to rush this semester three years later and it is one of the happiest moments in my life to date. It is definitely true Phi Kappa Tau makes good men better.

James Gifford, Associate Member

Why I Wanted to Join

The reason I'm in the process of joining the fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau is because I was trying to find a place I fit into. The reason I say this is because at Bethany I don't play any sports and I'm not really involved in any group activities. Since I don't participate in either of those I haven't formed a lot of friendships with people. It took me a little over a semester to realize this and to come up with the best possible answer to my problem I could think of, and it was to go Greek. After deciding I wanted to go Greek I had to find the house that I felt most comfortable in and that house was, Phi Kappa Tau. The two main reasons I chose Phi Tau was one, they were completely anti-hazing, which hazing was the one thing that was keeping me away before, and two it seemed like everyone I enjoyed talking to that was part of the Greek society was a Phi Tau.

To describe my experience so far, I would have to say it has surpassed my expectations. The thing that is making this experience so great for me is that I never have to be alone. No matter what time I go to eat during the week I always have someone there to eat with, unlike before when I would have to eat by myself. It's also great to actually have a place to go on the weekends and do something rather than sit in my dorm watching television. In closing I believe that choosing to join Phi Kappa Tau may have been one of the best choices I've made in my life.

Drake Duncan, Associate Member

Why I Joined

When I originally came to Bethany College, my plan was to focus on only one thing: my education. I came into the first semester with idea that I would not be worrying about other things because they would only take away from my education. I was especially against Greek life. My plan was to stay as far away from Greek life as I possibly could because I had only known the stereotype for fraternities. I believed that fraternities were only a way to get to be around friends and party. I did not want this to get in the way of my academics. However, my idea of fraternities and brotherhood were all wrong.

When I started going up to Greek Hill and began to get to know the guys in the fraternities, it opened my eyes to something that I hadn't noticed before. I began to notice that all the guys close to each other. They knew all about each other and were more than friends. I began to see that they were all more than just friends; they were brothers. I would go up to Phi Kappa Tau and be around the guys there and realized that I started to feel a certain connection with all of the brothers. I felt comfortable around and as time went on, the feeling only grew stronger. Being around these guys made me feel welcome, feel wanted. I knew that they would be there for me if I needed anything, that I could go to any one of them and ask them something and they would try their best to help me.

Because of this, I am now an associate member of Phi Kappa Tau. These men are like my family and they are some of the nicest people I have ever met. I know I can count on them if I really need help. They'll be there for me like they have been in the past. This is the reason I decided to go Greek and join the Phi Kappa Tau house. I look forward to one day being able to call these men my brothers.

Kyle Lehosit, Associate Member

Brotherhood

When I came to college all I ever had to my knowledge of a fraternity was from the movies *Old School* and *Animal House*. That is what my view was the entire first semester of my freshman year. I kept avoiding the chance to come up to the house because I did not want to join a fraternity ever. That was until the first time that I came up.

On that faithful visit, my eyes were opened to the true nature of what a fraternity really was and what I would be missing out on if I did not take a chance and jump into it. One main feeling stood out on that night. I found out how much the idea of a fraternity appealed to me. I liked how everything was set up, the idea of people to always be there for you, and all the opportunities that would become available to me. With all of these qualities opened up to me, I felt like I was ready to become a part of the brotherhood that is Phi Kappa Tau.

Now that I have become an associate member, I know that this is the next step that I needed to take in my life. It is going very well thus far and I cannot wait for more of the process to happen. I know that by the end of this semester I will be a full brother. I cannot wait for that day.

Samuel Duvall, Associate Member

Why I Joined Phi Kappa Tau

In all honesty, I never saw myself as the fraternal type. I have always been, foremost, an independent; I intend to succeed by the weight of my own strengths and weaknesses. Or so I thought. Throughout fall semester, and even towards the end of January term, I had little interest in Greek life. I had the company of good friends who were Greek, yet I never thought of them as brothers or sisters. In the several weeks following January term, I began to see Greek society differently.

I observed strong bonds of friendship, reliance and fortitude in brotherhood, and a collective family. It is in these particulars that I based my decision. I wanted to be part of a family that would be like siblings, who taught one another, bickered with one another, and grew with one another. Of Bethany College's Greek system, only Phi Kappa Tau matched my wants with my needs in a fraternity. Collective, content, and – often than not – joyous, Phi Kappa Tau took me as a friend my first day as a freshman, holding tight to my growing wings and welcoming me without needing a second detail about me. The support I received throughout the following semester, and the consistent offering of tightening friendship was all the necessities I needed. Thereafter, that is why I joined Phi Kappa Tau – instead of seeing an individual, or a person just idling by, they saw the potential for a brother.

Khristian Smith, Associate Member

The New Guys

This new incoming class of associate members is a really great group of guys. Each and every one of them brings something different and interesting to the house and I cannot wait to see these guys initiated and see what leadership roles each of them takes up. The new associate members are James Gifford, Drake Duncan, Sam Duvall, Luke Smith, Khristian Smith, Nate Hansell, Kyle Lehosit, and Harrison Rightmyer. Out of these eight guys Khristian and Harrison were open bids that came in a week or two after bid night. Because of this we were all afraid that these two would find it hard to assimilate into the already established group of guys. From what we have seen these two have found their place and are showing that they are willing to catch up to the rest of the group. Also with this group we are starting to get more guys that are involved in sports. Jimmy is a football player, Kyle is a Lacrosse player, and Harrison is a baseball player. This goes to show that we are extending are network of guys that we want for the house each being a man or character. All of these guys have shown that they can be what the men of Phi Kappa Tau are always striving to be, men of character that are dedicated to learning, leading, and serving.

Michael Albert '11
Vice President of Alumni Relations

Photo Gallery



-A Phi Tau Christmas



-Presidents Academy



Decorations from Halloween



-Artwork by Brother Richard Strassguetl '09



-Some Brothers and A.M.s at Alpha Xi Delta Formal



-Brother CJ Studnicky '11, Goalie for Lacrosse



Artwork by Brother Mat Robinson '10-