



THE PHOENIX

PHI KAPPA TAU, PHI CHAPTER
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 This Year at a Glance
- 2 State of the Fraternity
- 2 Philanthropy Update
- 3 "What I learned at Capital Conference"
- 3 Chapter Culture
- 4 Chapter Culture

Upcoming Alumni Events

- 4/30 – Harvard Red and Old Gold Club Meeting
- 4/30 – Dick Meess Memorial Luncheon
- 5/6 – Annual Honorary Seniors Roast

For more information, contact: VPAR@pktphichapter.org

From the Editor

With each new administration comes a new approach to house affairs, and Alumni Relations is no different. This is the first of what I hope will be a new regular cycle of Phoenix distributions: One in the spring, one at the beginning of Fall and one just in time for the holidays.

Alumni Relations is currently undergoing an overhaul in its infrastructure, as to better serve you, our alumni. Let us know what you think! Email us at PhiVPAR@gmail.com or visit the chapter website: <http://pktphichapter.org/>

-Ben Lighter '10, Phi Chapter Vice President of Alumni Relations

This Year at a Glance

- Brother Greg Greg Heilmeier '86 sworn in as National President 2010 Summer Convention
- 4 new members from Fall Rush
- 7 in the Spring, making 11 total!
- 8 graduating seniors in May
- Over 1,000lbs of clothing collected from the Bethany community donated to local soup kitchen.
- The return of the Woolery Cup in at the 2011 Fall Convocation.
- Jay Buckelew, '78, retiring in May, after decades of service to the college and chapter.
- Six Brothers sent to the Regional Capital Conference in February

Want to get in touch?

Contact the house Vice President of Alumni Relations, Ben Lighter '10 at: vpar@pktphichapter.org

Philanthropy Update

It's been an excellent year of charity for the brothers of Phi Kappa Tau Phi Chapter. The election of Brother Scotty Tyree as the new Philanthropy Chair has led to several successful trips to local animal shelters and soup kitchens as well as a rise in campus presence for the fraternity.

This year's Spaghetti Dinner brought in \$415 and served people from every walk of life on this campus. Independents and Greeks alike enjoyed delicious food while putting up money for a good cause.

Phi Chapter hosted a movie night in Renner Too in the bottom of Phillips. Enjoying popcorn and beverages, guests watched our hall of fame Alumnus Paul Newman's famous comedy "Slapshot" and got the opportunity to donate to Hole in the Wall Gang Camps. But the successes don't end there.

The highlight of this semester has been the Phi Kappa Tau Clothing drive. In honor of March's Founders Month of Service, the brothers of Phi Chapter collected over 1,000lbs of clothing for the local homeless- with donations still coming through the door!

This semester's philanthropy events have been amazing, and plans for next semester are even bigger. Stay tuned!

State of the Fraternity

Brothers,

Greetings from Dear Ole' Bethany! Phi Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau is growing again, both in actual numbers and in spirit. This semester we initiated 7 new members to the house, bringing the Associate Member class for the year "all the way to" 11. At this semester's Honors Convocation, we brought the Wool Cup home after a two semester separation, with a GPA of 3.12. We intend to keep it where it belongs. We are once again an active presence on campus, with bi-monthly philanthropy events, soup kitchen trips and animal shelter visits. The chapter has committed itself to the Borradaile Challenge, striving to reach the highest standards of the fraternity at large, with our ultimate goal to once again reach Maxwell status. Needless to say, expect to see some good things from this Chapter.

In Phi,

Rob Christiansen '09, President of Phi Chapter.

Dick Meess Memorial Luncheon

In honor of the late Brother Dick Meess '50, Phi Chapter alumni will be having a memorial banquet. Join us on April 30th at the Wheeling Country Club, to honor and celebrate his contributions to the house. For more information, contact the Phi Chapter Grad Council.

Contact Information:

Ben Lighter '10, VP Alumni Relations -

(240)-601-4828 vpar@pktphichapter.org

Rob Christiansen '09, President -

(425)-327-9766 rchristi@bethanywv.edu

House phone: (304)-829-7570

What I Learned at Capital Conference

Evan Marmie, '11

As an associate member, the fraternity can be difficult to understand beyond the local chapter. Seeing brothers day by day and enjoying time spent with them is a wonderful thing, but one does not truly have an idea of what Phi Kappa Tau really is until they decide to attend an outside event. In this case, I was lucky enough to attend the capital conference at the University of Maryland. Once there, I really began to understand just what it meant to be a member of Phi Kappa Tau and, also, how to become a better man to those in my pledge class and in the fraternity.

At the Capital conference, I was able to experience an interaction with the fraternity that I could have never had otherwise. I learned about different positions in the house and what each of those positions is supposed to do, but each lesson felt more geared towards larger chapters moreso than the smaller chapters of the fraternity. I also learned the best ways to maximize risk management and even ways that the fraternity can just look better on campus.

More than anything, I learned what it really meant to be a brother of Phi Kappa Tau. Being around other brothers and seeing them interact with one another, but also interacting with them as friends despite never having met them before the conference felt as though there was already a bond there that had no need of being stated. The final result was a great time that more associates should have the chance to experience to learn about the fraternity but, more importantly, understand how it feels to actually be accepted as a brother.

CHAPTER CULTURE

Leading a Double Life

CJ Studnicky, '11

What is required of a man in collegiate athletics, regardless of division, is not easily balanced with the demands of becoming a brother at Phi Kappa Tau. The two most rewarding decisions made in my young college career thus far have been: playing lacrosse, and attempting to become a member of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

Due to practice schedules as well as games, it has been a task for me especially, to become close to my A.M. class. It makes me appreciate more the time I do have with the A.M.'s and how they accept me, though I am not with them as much as I should be. Phi Kappa Tau as well as lacrosse are instilling in me the skills necessary for the future: leadership, confidence, brotherhood, and most importantly acceptance.

Although the time spent away from my A.M. class left me lacking when it came to class bonding, it's much like I haven't been away at all. Between school, lacrosse, and Phi Kappa Tau, I am prepared for anything that may be thrown at me in the future.

Phi Chapter's Hairy Situation

Kelvin Thomas, '11

While the men of Phi chapter at Bethany are mostly known for their character and academic excellence, they are also becoming recognized for their interesting choices in facial hairstyles. Maybe it was coldness of winter, a subconscious act of brotherhood solidarity, or just a widespread unwillingness to shave, but it seems as though many of Bethany's Phi Tau men suddenly began sporting more facial hair than usual.

Although I am currently unable to grow more than some unremarkable pale whiskers, let alone a full beard or mustache, many of my brothers have sported some rather impressive facial hair over the course of this semester. The styles of facial hair range from simple mustachio to full beards and everything in between, in all different hues. The presence of a facial hair craze could even be seen on our 2010 Bid Night t-shirts, which featured an extra curled handlebar mustache. *Continued on page 4*

Hairy Situation (cont.)

Some of my personal favorites have Michael Albert's accurate imitation of said handlebar mustache and Scotty Tyree's wiry goatee. But perhaps the most versatile and interesting styling belongs to Ben Lighter, whose facial hair has ranged from a full blonde beard to a well-groomed fu man choo.

As one of the facial hair-deficient members of the house, I am envious of the ability of some of my brethren to grow facial hair seemingly spontaneously. Hopefully someday I will be able to join the ranks of my bearded brothers.

I Guess It's "Classic" for a Reason!

Michael Albert, '11

I find myself a big fan of classic rock. People of my generation are into artists like Lil Wayne and Ke\$ha and that it just not me.

When I first entered the house I really did not know what kind of music I would hear. Some of the first music that I heard was Elton John, a good start for me. As time went on, I started to talk to the guys more and found that the majority of the people in the house have the same musical taste as myself.

The more I hung around the more I heard classic rock like Boston, Tom Petty, Motorhead, Rush, and many others. The wide variety of classic rock tastes are represented from many different people in the house. You could walk from room to room and every so often catch someone listening to some kind of classic rock.

I believe that with my A.M. class that classic rock will become even more prominent in the house. There will definitely be a mix of different genres from different decades, but I'm sure that "classic" rock will dominate for years to come.

What, Me Greek?

Flynn Pollard, '11

It was the second week of my first semester of college. It was a Thursday evening and I was just returning from my first Greek party. I had left early. The fraternity in question had left me disenchanted on Greek life, an institution that I had already formed several prejudices against, and, at that moment, I was finally closing all doors to going Greek. But all of that was about to change.

That very same evening I found myself chatting with a stranger who, amid excited jabber with several other people walking with us, had begun to tell me about his own fraternity. I was, quite frankly, bemused and uninterested... but only at first. Within minutes I had decided that I really quite liked that fellow I was talking with. He seemed intelligent, open minded, and kind. And he was *very* excited about Greek life.

Ben Lighter, a man I now proudly call my Big Brother, is a brother of the Phi Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau. Within days of meeting him I had found myself with a larger group of friends, most of which were also brothers. Their kind nature, paired with their enthusiasm for Ultimate Frisbee, a game I share a passion for, led me to begin visiting their house to hang out with them. I have never looked back.

While I am only recently initiated, I know that I have found myself a group of men I can easily call my brothers. They have shown me a different side of Greek life, and a different side of the Bethany student body that I have grown quite fond of. I know for a fact that, without this experience of joining Phi Kappa Tau, my life would never reach the peaks that it will now because I have made this choice.

I am proud to be a part of this experience, and I will be proud to call myself a brother of Phi Kappa Tau.

House Hobbies

Wesley Rogers, '11

Phi Chapter has always been known to be one of the most diverse Greek houses on campus, and this year is no different. The diversity of the Phi Tau house is most reflected in the odd hobbies and interests of the brothers

To me the most obscure hobby is Magic: The Gathering. A sizable portion of the brothers play Magic on a daily basis, where they clog the chapter table on week days for hours on end. Another peculiar hobby that is popular of late is Super Smash Bros, for the Nintendo 64. In fairness, if it wasn't for the N64 and the unwavering love of smashing each other's brains out with hammers and pokeballs I may have never joined the house. A not so new trend in the house is a love of bird watching. Yes, these brothers are constantly following in the Audubonesque footsteps of Dr. Buckelew.

Between these and other habits like painting, collecting, and even Dungeons and Dragons, the brothers of Phi Chapter are always busy. It seems as though our interests are as plentiful as they are bizarre.