

The Paragon

The Alumni Newsletter of the Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity

July 18, 1999

In This Issue

A welcome message from the new alumni board, pg.1

Province Volunteer Program, pg.2

A Banner Year for Ohio AB, pg.2

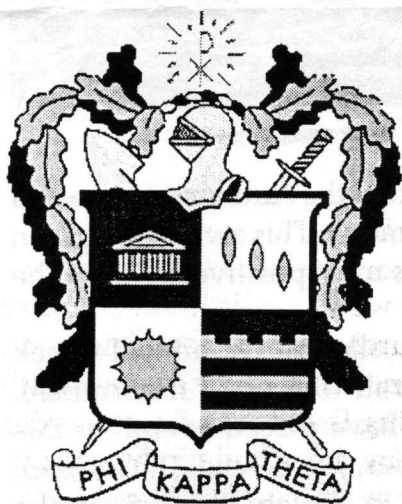
Ernie Schmidt Fund Update, pg. 3

Can Brotherhood Really be for Life?, pg. 4

Phi Kaps Commit to Social Action, pg. 5

This Old Phi Kap House, pg. 6

Treasurer's Update, pg.6



A Welcome from the New Alumni Board

After many years of service to the fraternity, the Alumni Board held elections for a new board to take its place. Those selected were President Eric Malkin ('89), Vice President of Legal Affairs and Finance Scott Miller ('90), Vice President of Chapter Affairs Brian Bacher ('98) and Secretary David Zuckerman ('98).

The main goals of this new board are to keep alumni in closer contact by means of an e-mail database, make the Paragon more alumni oriented and to aid the active chapter with financial, legal and long term goal setting. We also hope to become a nationally recognized alumni chapter with a vote at National Convention.

Eric Malkin is currently working as a financial analyst with Lesco and is involved in residential real estate. He hopes that the new board will be made stronger by having more alumni involvement in areas that used to be handled by the actives, such as writing for the Paragon and organizing events.

Scott Miller graduated from Case Western's School of law in 1993, and currently has his own practice. He's planning to run for Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Judge in the year 2000. Scott recently entered and won a contest to write a new alma mater for CWRU.

Brian Bacher is a recent graduate in Macromolecular Sciences and looks forward to continuing his involvement in the house as an Alumni Board member. He has served as Treasurer while active, and has attended several National Conventions.

David Zuckerman, also a recent graduate, is putting his chemistry degree to work as a molecular biologist for the School of Medicine at Case Western. He hopes to maintain close contact with the actives while meeting new alumni.

Of course, the Alumni Board is only productive for as long as it is serving the alumni and actives. If you have any ideas or suggestions for us to consider, would like to contribute news or an article to the newsletter, or if you'd like to become active on the board, please e-mail Eric at LILSHAAN@aol.com.

Province Volunteer Program

by Rob Stalder '94

I know many of you out there have tremendously busy schedules. However, if you ever get the chance to spare a few hours per month helping out Phi Kappa Theta, the Province volunteer program is a great way to give back to the Fraternity. This is especially true if you no longer live in Cleveland and can't make it back to Ohio Alpha Beta for our chapter's alumni events.

I am currently the Assistant Province President for the Southern Province. In this position, I oversee all of the District Governors between Virginia and Texas. What is a District Governor? A District Governor is a Phi Kap alum who serves as an alumnus advisor to a given chapter throughout the United States. District Governors generally should not be alums of the chapter they are advising. That helps keep a spirit of neutrality and helps provide a different worldview on how chapters operate at other universities.

I had the wonderful opportunity to work with the Phi Kaps at Georgia and Georgia Tech as their District Governor for several years. I was responsible for contacting the chapter at least once per month by phone or an actual visit to the chapter house. I listened to how things were going with the chapter and any problems they

see Province, pg. 4

A Banner Year for Ohio AB

by Andrew Hsia '00

This year has been a very successful year for the chapter on many different levels. The chapter is on a definite upswing. Our numbers are higher than they have been in recent years with 28 brothers returning for the fall. Next year promises to be one of good growth for the chapter.

The chapter has also won numerous awards in the past year both from the university and Nationals. At the Phi Kap National Leadership Conference in August, we won the Social Action Award for having the best philanthropy and community service program among all Phi Kap chapters nationwide.

In April, our chapter also won many awards at the Greek Leadership Awards Ceremony. We won the Presidents' Cup Awards for Philanthropy and Community Service, Campus Leadership, and Alumni Programming. We also received Certificates of Achievement in the following areas: Rush Excellence, Pledge/New Member Retention and Education, Overall Scholastic Programming, and Chapter Management. These were given for scoring better than 70% of the all Greek organizations in these areas.



The Phi Kaps participate in the Greek Week event Rope Pull

Later that month, we were awarded the Ambassador Award at the Student Leadership Awards Ceremony. This award was given to the organization that represented the most positive image of the university to the outside community.

In addition, the chapter also excelled at the annual Greek Week competition. We placed 6th overall (out of 18 fraternities). This is the first time in years that we have placed overall at this competition. In the week long festivities, we placed 1st in Greek Sing, 3rd in the Banner competition, 4th in Variety Show, 5th in the Raft Race, and 4th in Root Beer Chug.

Also, brother Adam Grauer, was elected to the IFC Member-At-Large position. Brother Andrew Hsia ran for the IFC VP of Membership position as well, but unfortunately did not win the position.

We hope that the coming up year proves to be as successful as this one has been. We encourage you to stop on by the house to see how the chapter is doing. The door is always open.

Ernie Schmidt Fund Update

by Gary Jarkewicz

Remember the House, that stately old mansion that we all enjoyed during our years at CWRU (and for the older alumni, Case and Western Reserve)? Remember the fun times that we all had living, studying and partying there? I'm sure we all have special remembrances of events that we shared and work that we did to keep it in the condition we

found it (or better off in some cases).

It's still standing, but needs lots of attention to keep it in shape from year to year! As we all know it always needs some major repair or another. Recently, a full fire alarm system has been installed. Before that, the roof was repaired. One of the next big-ticket items is replacing the windows. (It still has the same windows that leak like mad in the winter!)

Last year we established the Ernie Schmidt Trust Fund. The purpose of this fund was to establish a growing fund that would be eventually used to help with some of the major expenses to keep the house in good repair. (It's now the (I believe) the only piece of University approved housing that isn't owned by CWRU or UCI and we intend to keep it that way). We named the fund for Ernie because he consistently helped

See Schmidt, pg. 5



Andrew and Will display the Flintstone car-banner the chapter created for Greek Week

Missing Alumni

The following is a list of alumni whose names and addresses are missing from our database. If you have their current contact information, please contact Mr. John Dutton at jad9@po.cwru.edu, or call (216)-754-7582

Theodore M. Evon
John Christopher Anderson
Richard G. Miltner
Michael D. Carter
Stephen J. Stahara
Mark Crow
James E. Matt
Robert P. Socha
James C. Adams
Lawrence D. Staller
David H. Cakra
Nima Mirmadjilessi
William J. Munley

The Paragon

The Paragon is published on a semesterly basis for you, the alumni of the Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter of Phi Kappa Theta. To contact us, please call (216) 754-PKT (0-7) or email alumni@phikap.cwru.edu

Editor	Ben Langhals (bjl4@po.cwru.edu)
Assistant Editor	Andrew Hsia (ahh5@po.cwru.edu)
Tech Editor	Nick DeCenzo (ned2@po.cwru.edu)

Contributing Writers:

Andrew Hsia (ahh5@po.cwru.edu)
Mike Mann (mrm2@po.cwru.edu)
Ben Langhals (bjl4@po.cwru.edu)
Erik Mulkin (LILSHAAN@aol.com)
Gary Jarkewicz
Rob Stalder

Come visit our homepage at
<http://phikap.cwru.edu>

Of course, the Alumni Board is only productive for as long as it's serving the alumni and actives. If you have any ideas or suggestions for us to consider, would like to contribute news or an article to the newsletter, or if you'd like to become active on the board, please e-mail Eric at LILSHAAN@aol.com

were having. Then, I would provide some of my perspective on how I thought they should resolve their problems, based on my experiences at CWRU. I would file a fairly simple report for the National Offices and send it to Indy.

Once per semester, District Governors are asked to fill out a more extensive questionnaire about their assigned chapter. Information containing the chapter officer roster and campus Greek system data is amongst the items requested in that report. That is also filed with the National Offices in Indianapolis.

It really is a fun way to help out the Fraternity, as well as make you feel somewhat young again. I get a great deal of satisfaction out of working with chapters on the chapter's level, and getting to meet a great group of guys. I hope you decide to give it a try if there's a Phi Kap chapter in your neck of the woods.

To get involved with the program, give Scott Bova at the National Offices a call at (800) 969-INDY, or write him some email at sbova@phikaps.org. Also, be sure to give me a ring in Atlanta at (404) 202-7226 if you have any questions about the program.

You'll be glad you did!

Can Brotherhood Really be for Life?

Eric Malkin, Alumni Chapter President, Ohio Alpha Beta

Most of us have several acquaintances, but how many real friends do we have? I have about twelve, nine of which are Phi Kaps. This is the single most important benefit that I derived from Alpha Beta.

The fraternity, much like a business, goes through cycles. As the number and the character of the brothers change, so does the quality of the fraternity. In the eighties, the actives lost contact with the alumni. In 1987, the actives realized the importance of reestablishing this communication. Understanding how fragile the fraternity's existence is, the mission was simple: Organize an alumni group to act as an advisory committee for the house. This was the board's primary function during the nineties.

Currently, we have a strong and enthusiastic group of actives that understand that an effective alumni group can help preserve the legacy of Alpha Beta. But this is only one side of the equation. An effective alumni organization utilizes its greatest strength - its entire brotherhood, that is, both actives and alumni - to build a foundation from which we can all benefit. With this in mind, the actives and some local alumni produced a new mission statement for the group: TO CREATE A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL NETWORK FOR BOTH THE ALUMNI *AND* THE ACTIVES.

I won't go into all the details of the strategic plan we have in place to fulfill our mission, but the first step of the plan is to acquire all of your e-mail addresses so that we can remain in touch in a timely and efficient manner. As we proceed toward reaching this goal, communication will increase substantially. We also are forming a task force whose purpose will be to design and build a web site for alumni. We feel this database of information can be used to locate old friends, network for jobs and act as a resource for many areas of expertise. If you have any interest in participating in this project, please send me an e-mail at LILSHAAN@aol.com. Also, if you have not been receiving e-mail updates during the past couple of months, please e-mail me your e-mail address.

In communicating with our alumni, the board has determined that an accessible alumni database and a newsletter created "by alumni; for alumni" is desirable. We also plan to organize social functions. What direction would you like to see the alumni group take? Again, please e-mail me with your ideas.

Schmidt from page 3

the house financially over the years and helped to make sure that our chapter kept going. To this end we are always accepting donations to this fund. They will be used for major repairs on the house.

The chapter does keep saving money each semester for house improvements, but this is one way the alumni can ensure that the quality of OUR house is maintained and now where your donations are going. Currently, this fund has

"To Create a mutually beneficial network for both the alumni and the natives"

\$2000 in donations. A good start but hardly enough help out in any meaningful way. We need your donations to grow this fund and help keep the house in better shape year after year. Please consider what you can spare to send in. Any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Phi Kaps Commit to Social Action

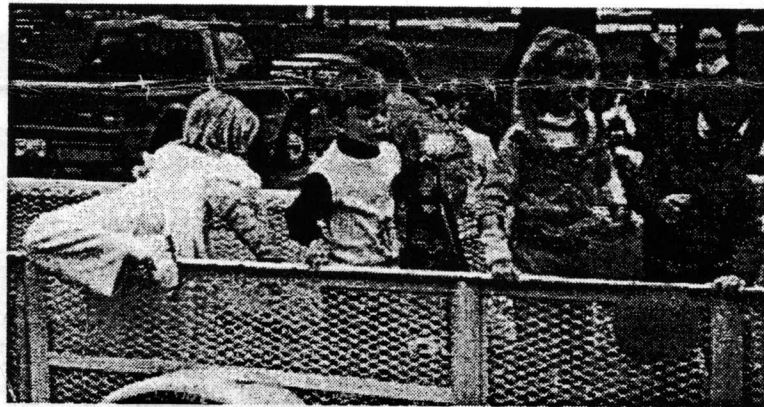
by Andrew Hsia '00

Ohio Alpha Beta of Phi Kappa Theta made some outstanding philanthropic efforts in the fall semester. Many brothers have put in countless hours helping out the community. In the fall, we were involved with North Coast Computer Recycling, The Cleveland Food Bank, as well as Boo at the Zoo, and Habitat for Humanity planned and on the way.

At North Coast, we refurbished old, donated computer into working order. Once the computers were fixed, we prepared them for distribution into the Cleveland community. The refurbished computers were mostly used to teach computer literacy skills to Cleveland's inner-city youth. Without our help, this would not have been possible. However, our biggest project this fall has been Boo at the Zoo. Every year the

Cleveland Mertoparks Zoo puts on this program as an alternative to traditional trick-or-treating. This event is among the zoo's most popular as it always draws large crowds. The zoo is filled with areas with things like treat stations, puppet shows, light shows, tram rides through the haunted forest, and a haunted green house. The Phi Kaps run a pirate ship on Lake Eeeeeerie as part of the festivities.

Planning on our part began way back in July. The chapter began looking at the boat we would be using and started to get the supplies



w e would need to repair the boat. The boat had structural problems as well as needing a big paint job. After talking with Sherwin Williams, the chapter was able to get some of the paint donated. Then the work on the boat began. We have had three Saturdays where we went

Philanthropy, continued on page 6



Philanthropy, from Page 5

out to fix the boat. Repairs were made, the boat painted, and the mast repaired. By the end we had a pretty good ship. We have even crafted 5 cannons, powered on propane and fashioned from PVC, to add more excitement to the ship.

The next part of the project is actually going out the zoo to perform as pirates. There are six days to the event, about 5 hours a night. We dress up as pirates and entertain the kids. There is a lot of excitement between the sword fighting and the cannons (complete with a smoke machine). You really have to see the ship with all the props to get a good feeling for the project.

Ohio Alpha Beta was the first chapter on campus to finish its goal of 14 days of service as part of the Greek 365 days of service program. This will allow us to use next semester to double our day requirement, a goal the chapter set for itself at the beginning of the semester. We like to see all of this service going on, and are proud to see the work of dedicated brothers helping others.

Phi Kappa Theta
Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter
11016 Magnolia Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44106-1812

This Old Phi Kap House

by Michael Mann '01

Although things can always do better, the house is at a very stable summit. We did regain tax exempt status and have been taking advantage of it. This semester we had a little extra money left over in the budget that went to purchase a 35' Sony television and a new dryer. House improvement projects are also abounding. We are in the process of drywalling the second floor in order to repair the holes in the walls created by the installation of the fire system. Another project that was finished this semester was the installation of PVC pipe around the volleyball court. More sand will follow this spring.

One of the big goals for next semester is to better manage the emergency fund. The emergency fund was created for future unexpected emergencies as well as for saving up for expenses not able to be tackled in one semester (i.e. the fire system). Well, this is a vague definition. We will collect information about which big projects brothers find necessary, and in conjunction with the Ernie Schmidt Fund, set aside money specifically for those projects. We are also looking into investing some of the money in the emergency fund. The advantage of the fund is that it can be liquidated when needed (like in the case of an emergency), however it may be possible to get better returns and still keep the liquidity. We are still in the idea phase and your input is appreciated.

We would also like to recognize and appreciate those alumni brothers who have sent us financial donations. Your help is greatly appreciated and comes in handy for things like the improvements mentioned above. Thank you very much and we look forward to future donations.

George Doviak III

David Cesarotto

Alumni of the '67-'69 reunions

Benjamin Martin

Matthew Raney

Anonymous

