



The Paragon

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

Fall 2000

Winners!

Alpha Beta Takes Top Awards at University and National Levels



- The Actives, looking quite festive, proudly show off the Agnar Pytte Cup.

We are proud to announce that our chapter won the Founders' Cup Award at the Phi Kappa Theta National Leadership College held in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 3-6, 2000. The Founders' Cup is the top award given by the National Fraternity to its 60-plus chapters nationwide.

Each year, the award is given to the chapter who demonstrates a "spirit of excellence" and shows "the highest distinction for achieving excellence in overall chapter operations." The awards program consists of four main categories: General Administration, Member Development, Fraternity Relations, and Public Affairs. Each category is further divided into smaller sections.

The chapter that receives the highest combined score in all of these categories is the recipient of the Founders' Cup. Ohio Alpha Beta this year scored a solid 485 of a possible 500 points. The application was an impressive sight to see. Totalling over 1,000 pages, it had to be bound in four separate

books, one for each category.

The chapter also was the recipient of several other national awards, including the Social Action Award and the Gold Award. The Social Action Award is given to the chapter that implements the most effective programming in service to the school and community nationally. Last year, the chapter became the first chapter to finish its portion of the 365 Days of Service Campaign for the third consecutive year. The Gold Award is given to the chapters that receive at least 70 out of 100 possible points in each category of the application. Six (6) chapters earned this honor, including chapters at Washington State University, the University of Missouri at Rolla, and the University of Houston.

In April of this year, the Ohio AB Chapter also swept the top awards at the Greek Leadership Awards held at CWRU. At this ceremony, Phi Kappa Theta won the Agnar Pytte Cup, given to the best chapter

Brother, can you spare the time?

I recently learned that participation in voluntary organizations is decreasing. No doubt this is true. The common denominator is priorities: How do you divvy up that precious spare time?

One challenge for the Ohio Alpha Beta Alumni is to measure interest in better organizing its 800 members. Is this a worthwhile endeavor? Can we achieve something beneficial? Something special? Are we headed in the right direction? What's in it for you?

The National Leadership Conference in August opened my eyes. It taught me that the mission and goals we set for Ohio Alpha Beta are consistent with the National Fraternity. More importantly, it showed me the lifelong advantages of fraternity membership.

Currently, the core alumni willing to devote their time is enough to act as a value-added guiding body for the active house. We think we can do more. We want to continue to build a quality network, support the active chapter, and organize social events. In order to sustain these initiatives, more alumni must demonstrate an interest.

As alumni, we can choose to become involved in different ways. If you do nothing but consistently give us your current contact information, you are contributing. Consider your time at Ohio Alpha Beta. The fraternity touched our lives. Perhaps that common bond can inspire all of us to give something back.

Eric Malkin, 1989

President, Phi Kappa Theta Alumni Group
lilshaan@yahoo.com

P.S. Late addition! For the first time in 20 years Ohio Alpha Beta will have a monthly mortgage payment. The necessary kitchen renovations require the chapter to spend about \$20,000. This loan is provided by Fifth Third Bank. The collateral? It's the Ohio Alpha Beta Alumni Corporation's only asset: The house!

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all around on the CWRU campus. The awards program was awarded on nine different categories, including Overall Scholarship, Rush Excellence, New Member Retention and Education, Campus Leadership, Greek Leadership, Philanthropy and Community Service, Alumni Programming, Chapter Management, and Chapter Programming and Member Development.

The chapter won four categories of the Cup: Rush Excellence, New Member Retention and Education, Greek Leadership, and Philanthropy and Community Service, as well as receiving Certificates of Achievement in the following areas: Chapter Management, Alumni Programming, and Campus Leadership. These certificates are given to the chapters who score in the top 15 percent of the chapters on campus.

For further information on the fraternity and the awards contact Dave Jaklitsch via e-mail or (216) 754-7583.

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Andrew Hsia Co-Rush Chairman
ahh5@po.cwru.edu

Actives Update

The house is currently in pretty good shape in terms of membership. This fall semester, we have 30 active brothers, of which 22 are living in the house. Two brothers are inactive while away on co-op; they will be returning in January. Six pledges are making their way through the pledge program under the guidance of Brother Sean Dunlop, this semester's AME (associate member educator).

The house is still reveling in winning both the Founder's Cup (best chapter of Phi Kap) and President's Cup (best fraternity at CWRU) for the past school year. Recently we have begun our yearly philanthropic initiative, volunteering our time to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and their annual "Boo! at the Zoo" event. "Boo" provides a safe alternative to traditional trick-or-treating. The brothers participate by dressing up like pirates, decorating a boat, and trying to scare the kids.

While the intramural football team failed to record a victory, the Phi Kap IM soccer team was 2-2 going into fall break and we placed third in the IM Ultimate Frisbee tournament. Also, the float we

jointly built with our Greek neighbors on Magnolia Drive placed first in the Homecoming Parade. Finally, to everyone's surprise, Brother Nathan Kossover was elected Homecoming King, beating out a candidate sponsored by the football team.

The basement renovation that began last semester was completed over the summer. It provides us with a larger laundry room that can be used for bike storage, thus



Needed Purchases and Projects

- Renovation of the third floor (electrical and structural)
- Replacement of old, leaking plumbing.
- The ceiling in the FOB Room was destroyed by a leaking toilet.
- We now have space for two more washers and three more dryers in the new laundry room.
- Replacement of all windows (over 100).
- Renovation of our kitchen so it will pass Health Department inspection. New flooring in the apartment and places in the house is needed.
- The roof of the garage is still the original slate roof; it is leaking and should be replaced.
- Though not critical, new furniture for the TV Room, Red Room, and Chapter Room.

freeing up workshop space in the boiler room. Also, the new game room is much larger than the old one, and we have refurbished the pool table to go along with this improvement. Our new TV Room has tiered seating and is of suitable shape to allow for the future installation of a surround-sound system. Finally, a new bedroom (smaller than the old Catacombs) was installed, but renovated to include a dropped ceiling and electric heater.

Nick DeCenzo
Alumni Relations Chairman
ned2@po.cwru.edu

House Financial Status

The house's financial status has improved from the beginning of the year, but is still far less than optimal. While some money has been received, total Alumni debt to the house still stands at more than \$15,000. New additions to the by-laws have been passed to help hold active debt at more reasonable levels.

The chapter has held money aside this semester in anticipation of taking out a loan or line-of-credit to finance the critically needed house improvement project to renovate the kitchen and replace at least some of the windows in the house. The kitchen project is necessary for our kitchen to pass the City of Cleveland's Health Department inspection. The windows project is long overdue, as many of the windows are still original and very drafty. With the cost of natural gas fully doubling what it was last winter, we are hoping our gas bill will be reduced with the installation of new windows.

The Ernie Schmidt fund, established in 1998 to finance future house improvement projects, has seen very little in the way of donations since its inception. The Alumni Association is exploring the possibility of making the fund or the Association 501(c)(3) corporations, thus donations to these would be tax deductible.

Nick DeCenzo
Alumni Relations Chairman
ned2@po.cwru.edu

Another 30-Year Reunion Smash

Our 30-year Reunion Party on June 3rd was a great time with a tremendous turnout. The response exceeded anything I had imagined — 29 alumni and 21 wives and girlfriends, along with a whole group of actives. Nine different graduated classes were represented. Many thank yous are in order starting with the actives who helped get the house in fine condition for the party. Also thanks to Mike and Cindy Ahrens, Vince and Fox Ferraro, and Rick and Chris Treveloni for all the preparation work.

One part that I was excited about was the ability to raise some money for the active chapter, although the two beer runs that we had to make blew my budget. We

were still able to donate \$140 to the Ernie Schmidt fund to be used for some of the current upgrade projects under way at the house. Thanks to the alumni for that.

Shortly after the event, I sent to the brothers on my e-mail list a list of the brothers who attended, two photo pages, plus an identification sheet of those brothers pictured (in case you forgot what the guys looked like after thirty years).

I sincerely hope that this year's and past years' successes will inspire future classes to continue to organize these 30-year reunion parties. I don't know of anyone who was sorry he or she came! As I have before, I will offer any help I can to the class of 1971 to make their party a reality. (Phi Kap song books are also available via my e-mail, with correct lyrics courtesy of Vince Ferraro's original song book.)

Mike "Ghost" Urbancic, 1970
mju.cmu@worldnet.att.net



• Attendees at this year's 30-year reunion stand proudly outside the chapter house.

WeAlumni.com

Are you reading this issue of the Paragon and wondering what your Phi Kap friends are doing now? After all, how often do you get to see them? Would any of us have guessed back at graduation that we would have drifted so far apart? Time and distance separate most of us now that our careers and/or family life are full steam ahead.

However, thanks to your fellow Phi Kaps at National and Ohio Alpha Beta, there is a bridge to help close the gap and make keeping in touch much easier. This bridge is

a free service called WeAlumni.com. For quick access, set your browser to www.PhiKappaTheta.org and click on the "WeAlumni" button. It takes less than five minutes to activate your account.

Once you've arrived at the log-in page, type your first and last names where indicated. The next screen prompts you to "Activate Your Account" where you need to type your first and last names again. After doing this, the next screen prompts you for your Member ID. This can be found on the mailing label of your most recent Phi Kap periodical or on your member card which you probably received as an undergrad. Don't worry if you can't find that number.

E-mail the community manager listed on the site and he will get back to you with the information. The rest is easy. You will be able to choose a log-on name with your own password so that logging on is simple on all future visits.

There will be more about Phi Kappa Theta and WeAlumni.com in future Paragons, so get on board by registering your personal account and help bridge that gap between you and your fellow Phi Kaps.

Joe Jirgal, 1988
Alumni Group Secretary
jirgs@yahoo.com

M.I.Alumni

Here's a request for all Ohio AB brothers. If you know where these missing brothers are, then please drop us a line or have them get a hold of us. The alumni of our chapter have taken an active role in our brotherhood and we don't want anyone to be left out.

Timothy Acree
James Adams
John Anderson
Francis Bonk
Stephen Brock
Robert Bubnick
Michael Carter
Cameron Chen
David Cikra
Stephen Ciuni
Dominic Coviello

Mark Crow
Conrad Deletis
Theodore Evon
Peter Greco
William Hehs
Michael Herskowitz
Paul Huang
William Jansen
Jeff Johnson
Kevin Kiger
David Klimovich

Dor Koch
James Matt
Richard Miltner
Nima Mirmadjilessi
William Munley
Gerald O'Hara
John Regalbuto
Robert Schaefer
Robert Schafrik
Robert Socha
Stephen Stahara
Lawrence Staller
Robert Wojeik
Leigh Yu

Please contact us at
alumni@tbe.cwru.edu or call at
(216) 754-7586.



• Brothers on Bourbon St. before the annual Dixieland Classic Softball Tourney

Brotherhood Does Not End at Commencement

Like many other alumni, I look back at my days at old AB of PKT with fondness and nostalgia. I can recall the many experiences I shared with my brothers as we grew and matured together: Sharing the joy of the loves that we found and the sorrow of broken hearts; the many weekends of cleaning the old mansion and the hours of painting walls and fixing plumbing; and who could forget the heated debates in chapter meetings on where to budget our money for house expenditures? Unbeknown to us at the time, we were gaining valuable experience for the time that we bought our own houses.

Throughout this experience, we all had the guidance of the late Ernie Schmidt, who was always available to lend his wisdom and experience to keep the old house maintained and, most importantly, up to city code. Now the house has entered a new era in its existence. Fraternities are continually viewed by the public with a jaundiced eye and typically typecast them like the ram-bunctious "Animal House" fraternity. Consequently, many outsiders to the fraternity system are too quick to file frivolous lawsuits for even perceived infractions. This is why it is more important than ever to give our young current actives the benefit of our experience and wisdom to keep the tradition of Phi Kappa Theta intact on Magnolia Drive near Case Western Reserve University.

Currently, a new alumni board has been quite active for the past few years and has

done a commendable job helping to ensure the upkeep of the house and interacting with the current actives coordinating various events. But this group is small in number and are woefully over

tasked. This leads us to the enigma of how we can encourage more alumni to participate and broaden the demographics of our current alumni board.

The current board is essentially made up of relatively recent graduates who are single. What the board may require is the experience and wisdom from both alumni who are married with children as well as those alumni who are "empty nesters." Alumni from these groups could have a new insight regarding what events our alumni would like to participate in and could even hold social events throughout the year to renew old friendships.

Here are just some thoughts of possible events that we could pursue. Hopefully this may get the creative juices flowing for further suggestions from other alumni like you.

Fundraiser for charity: This could help promote a positive image for not only PKT, but for other fraternities as well

Summer Picnic at Six Flags: This would be a family-oriented event, so it will not be so hard to convince the wife to go.

Job Networking: Not only be beneficial for the current actives looking for their first job, but also for alumni looking for other opportunities.

If you have any other suggestions for future alumni activities, or wish to actively participate on the alumni board, please do not hesitate to contact us.

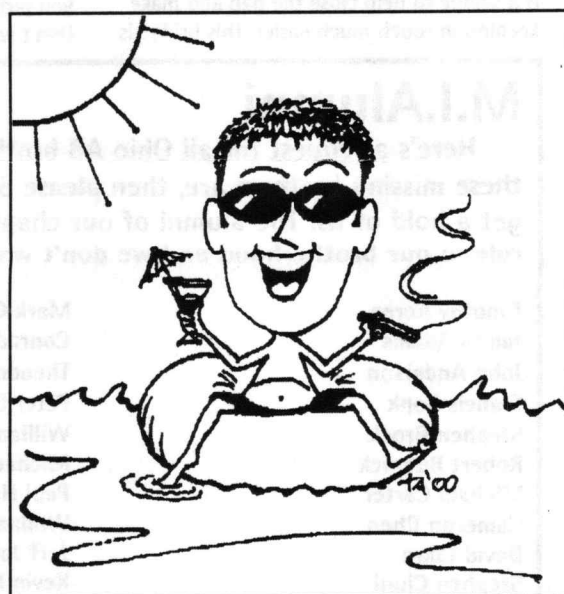
Dave Kattler, 1988
dkattler@spstech.com

Phi Kap Guy To Retire?

As I recall, Phi Kappa Theta was not like all the other fraternities — and that's exactly why I joined. We weren't all jocks, all preppies, all geeks or all freaks. Actually, we were all of the above, and then some. There wasn't a Phi Kap stereotype. We were the sort of the unfraternity: the 7-Up of the frat-world. In many ways, we were the most diverse house on campus. It is that diversity and open-mindedness which I remember most; these are qualities I continue to value in all aspects of my life.

Rudie (a.k.a. Phi Kap Guy) was a rebel without a home. Searching for true brotherhood, he arrived in the mid-eighties from Skaville (Skamania County, Washington) via the Rude Boy Train. Upon arriving in Cleveland, Rudie met two young men, Tom Angeles and Joe Banks, who introduced him to the diverse programming of college radio at WRUW and the mind-expanding experience of fraternal life with Phi Kappa Theta. Rudie, a nonconformist and free-thinker, found kinship with the Phi Kaps.

It was a dawning of a new era for the Alpha Beta chapter. We had a mascot who embodied the heart and soul of Phi Kappa Theta; Rudie represented the festive spirit of the house. He went on to sponsor and promote many of our infamous Labor Day Bashes. For over 15 years, Rudie has demonstrated an unparalleled devotion to lifelong



• The Phi Kap Guy on vacation somewhere in the Pacific.

brotherhood; we can all learn from his exemplary commitment.

Rumor has it that Rudie may soon retire. He wants to join his old pals and fellow retirees, Beavis and Butthead, on the island of Pukupaka somewhere in the South Pacific. A special message to you Rudie: enjoy yourself and thanks for sticking around all these years. Go on, you rule — Rudie can't fail!

My wife and I just celebrated our 10th anniversary. She wanted a diamond, but according to tradition, it's tin for the 10th. A diamond isn't due until the 60th, so I've got some time to save. Well, in keeping with custom, I gave her some tin (can of pork and beans) and threw in a trip to England. After a decade of marriage, Ria finally got to meet some relatives on me mum's side. For me, it had been 16 years since my last visit to the U.K. — we were long overdue. To sum it up, we had a brilliantly bostin' time, we did. "Fancy a cuppa char our kid?"

Tommy Angeles, 1989
thoman@safeco.com

Swingin' Golf Outing

On Saturday, July 15th of this year, the Ohio Alpha Beta alumni gathered for an afternoon of golf at the Brunswick Hills Golf Course. About 20 people attended this year, of which half were Phi Kaps and the remainder were friends. Among those brothers in attendance were Rob Stalder, Dave Sutula, Eric Malkin, Joe Jirgal, Dom Cordiano, Denny Hruska, Joe Orichella, Mike Zifchak, and Marty Cinadr, an alumni from Ohio State and former Board of Trustee member.

The weather could not have been better, partly sunny and warm for our noon tee time. We played 18 holes of four-man scramble. Five and a half hours later our hungry golfers came back for a steak dinner complete with baked potatoes, salad and chocolate chip cookies. After dinner the first and second place prizes were awarded and Rob Stalder received a wedge golf club for the "closest to the pin" contest on the eighth hole.

A good time was had by all, with everybody looking forward to coming back next year and bringing more friends. Be sure to look for next year's outing to be announced in the next issue of the Paragon.

We are looking at a fall date in September or early October and we hope to have 50 to 60 people or more next time around. So be sure to let all of your golfing friends and family know and plan on joining us for what will become a fun annual event for the Ohio Alpha Beta Alumni

Brian Bacher, 1998
bacher@stratos.net

National Update

Things are cooking along at the Executive Offices in Indianapolis. Membership numbers are up on the aggregate and a sense of normalcy has settled in amongst the staff. Unfortunately, we lost an outstanding Director of Chapter Services in Josh Gisi (University of Kansas) to the Indianapolis Police Department and/or the Secret Service. Also, Scott Bova has moved on to the Triangle Foundation to head up their fundraising efforts.

However, our Executive Director, Craig Melancon (University of Louisiana-Lafayette) and our Business Operations Director Liz Langford have been keeping the

National Fraternity running smoothly. Speaking of that, the Board of Trustees recently approved the purchase of a new membership management and fundraising management software system. Yours truly put together the Request for Proposal to solicit proposals from several vendors in the non-profit software space.

The Board accepted the recommendation to purchase the Patriot product from Loring, Sternberg & Associates. This purchase will replace the current Fraternity Management System (FMS) solution from W.R. Blackmarr & Associates. That system had been in place for almost ten years and was based on some older BSD 386 UNIX technology that would not be supported in the near future.

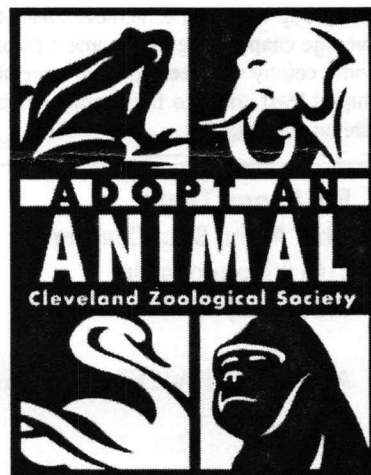
The new solution will utilize a Windows 2000 platform and finally get our Executive Offices into the 21st century after dealing with languishing and outdated character-based technology for far too long. As might be expected, it will utilize a Microsoft SQL Server database on the backend and publish content to the Web via Microsoft's Internet Information Server. For the time being, that information will not be directly available



Phi Kappa Theta
Ohio Alpha Beta
Saturday, March 24, 2001

You and a date are cordially invited to join in on the annual Phi Kappa Theta Spring Formal. Enjoy dinner and dancing while viewing the beautiful wildlife of the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo.

\$70/Single & \$120/Couple
RSVP by Friday, March 2
Hotel Accommodations TBA



Need additional information? Contact Formal Chairman
Neal Pence: 216-754-7588, nap4@po.cwru.edu

from the Patriot system. That data will still be interfaced to/from the WeAlumni.com site.

The National Fraternity is also on the move in the area of expansion. In addition to my duties as Secretary of the Board of Trustees, I also chair the Expansion Committee. We are fortunate to have BJ Danek (Texas A&M) on board at the Offices as the new Expansion Director. He will be traveling throughout the United States getting colonies started for Phi Kappa Theta.

We have been working on expansion efforts at Duquesne, Arizona, Lewis, Sam Houston State, Texas-Pan Am, Marian, and Syracuse. During this semester, we have added SUNY-Buffalo to the mix as well. We're working on opportunities at Central Missouri State where a Greek Advisor from this summer's Leadership College was a faculty member. We're working very hard on our connections to open more doors to Phi Kap chapters.

In an effort to streamline and rationalize our expansion efforts, the Expansion Committee has proposed a revision of the Expansion Policy to tailor it to a particular campus situation. Right now, the guideline for going from affiliate group status to colony status to chapter status is the same for all campus sizes. The Committee has decided to make membership requirements commensurate with the average chapter size already existing on that particular campus as our measuring stick. So, an affiliate group will need to achieve 75% of the average chapter size to become a colony and a colony will need to have a membership at least equal to the average chapter size on that campus.

The Committee also decided to get rid of a couple of reporting requirements that were just adding more paperwork to the process. Additionally, we removed the time requirements for a group to be at a given status before it could "graduate" to the next status. It is the Committee's belief that a group should advance as quickly as it's ready to do so relative to merit rather than to time spent.

To bring the expansion idea home to everyone living in Cleveland, there may be an opportunity for us to expand on the campus of John Carroll University. Thus far, we haven't been able to gain much traction, but if Ohio Alpha Beta and some local alumni got the ball rolling, I don't think the Executive Offices would turn a deaf ear on it. JCU is currently looking to take its traditionally local fraternities and turn them into chapters of national fraternities. This would be a great opportunity for us, especially in light of the common heritage JCU and Phi Kappa Theta share. All it takes is a little initiative on the part of a few brothers to make something happen. All we need to do is convince a local fraternity there that it is in their best interests to become part of the Phi Kap family.

If you're interested in helping out in getting a colony going at John Carroll, please let BJ Danek know. His email address is bjdanek@phikaps.org. You can call him at (800) 969-INDY as well. Be sure to get in touch with me on it, too. You can always reach me at (404) 202-7226 or by email.

Yours In The Bonds,
Rob Stalder, 1994

rob_stalder@hotmail.com

Alumni Host Happy Hour

I'm not quite sure the actives knew how to respond to an event held specifically in their honor. Such comments as "Are we supposed to pay for this?" and "Can we order whatever we want?" came from a group simply not completely used to interacting with its alumni.

I believe that the bond of brotherhood quickly brought the actives and alumni together. It was not long before both began to share stories, resumes and financing options for future house projects.

The Happy Hour, or rather, Happy 3 Hours was a way of recognizing the active chapter for their accomplishments during the past year. We hosted the event at the Boarding House a week before classes started. Eighteen people attended. Such interaction is helping to foster communication between the actives and the alumni that I have not seen in the past.

The alumni want to have similar Happy gatherings throughout the year. This will happen if enough local alumni show interest.

Eric Malkin, 1989

The Paragon is published on a twice-yearly basis by and for the alumni of the Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter of Phi Kappa Theta. This edition edited by Joe Banks (joe@joebanks.com) with ample assistance from all contributing alumni and actives. If you have ideas or suggestions to consider, or if you would like to become active on the board, e-mail Alumni Group President Eric Malkin at lilshaan@yahoo.com. Visit the Actives' web site at phikap.cwru.edu. And don't forget to register on the new WeAlumni website. Just open your web browser and go to:

<http://www.PhiKappaTheta.org>

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