

BUCKEYE PHI

Ohio Zeta Chapter • The Ohio State University

Columbus, Ohio

June 2001

MORE THAN A LEGACY ...

By Andy Laughhuun '04

My father had always told me stories of what he and his fraternity brothers had done in college. I wasn't that old, so I never heard any of the really good ones. From everything he had told me, I thought I would look into Greek life at Ohio State. I rushed all of the fraternities on campus, but none seemed to compare to Phi Delta Theta. After meeting all of the guys, I realized it was simply a house of great people. I was happy to accept my bid, but I never knew how exciting my pledgship would be. I became incredibly close to my pledge brothers and going active with them was one of the greatest feelings I've ever had. When I called and told my Dad I was active, the tone in his voice spoke louder than his congratulations. I'm sure my pledge brothers did the same as I did, but it was different for me. My dad was a Phi Delt in the early '70s at Ohio State, and had lived in the same house that I live in now. Just knowing that I had carried on a tradition in my family and followed in my father's footsteps amplified the feeling for me. Now that I'm in college and in the fraternity, he has told me all the crazy stories I was once not allowed to hear. I am extremely proud to be a Phi Delt and part of this great tradition, but it makes it even better to know that I made my Dad proud.

Now, he is more than just Dad, he is my Brother in the Bond.

THE TIME FOR INVOLVEMENT IS NOW

"THE ARTICLE IN THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE CITES ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS IN GREEK LIFE AS THE LACK OF ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT"

By Bruce Rothermund '90, Alumni Association President

As I write this edition of the *Buckeye Phi*, I have just received the *Ohio State Alumni Magazine*. The headline article, and cover story is titled "The Future of Greek Life." The article addresses the decline in membership of Greek systems across the country and the challenges that must be faced and dealt with head on to guarantee a future of success. It is true that fraternities and sororities face difficult situations that most of us never had to deal with in college. The University realized that alumni support from the Greek system is greater than any other faction on campus and has taken action to help cure the sickness in Greek life. A task force was formed and several parameters laid out before the chapters, ranging from minimum GPA, alcohol policy, hazing, and overall day to day operations. The University has even gone as far as placing an advisor in the house of chapters that are experiencing problems. This shows great effort and dedication by the University's faculty to the long-term success of the Greek system.

In regard to Ohio Zeta, the members have positioned themselves for success. It is true that recruitment continues to be tough, with formal rush nonexistent, and interest in becoming a member of a fraternity is at an all-time low. However, they continue to persevere and work extremely hard to attain the numbers needed to be successful. There is an excellent group of young men currently in the chapter. The chapter GPA is above the all-men's average and is the highest in

recent memory. The alcohol-free policy is being strictly followed and has had a profoundly positive effect on the condition of the chapter house and the amount of money needed for periodic repairs. The chapter bylaws have been rewritten to bring them up to date. The general consensus is that the University will weed out those chapters choosing not to follow the program, thus leaving a smaller number of fraternities with larger memberships. In fact, the task force is bringing back two large national fraternities, Phi Gamma Delta and Alpha Tau Omega beginning next year. Both were kicked off campus in recent years for violating University policy. The feeling among the members of the House Corporation is that Ohio Zeta is in a good position to take advantage of the "bull run" and capitalize on the momentum that the University is attempting to create. The relationship between the chapter and both the University and National Headquarters in Miami has never been better. Ohio Zeta is qualified for two national awards, the Harvard Trophy and the Gold Star. Things at the chapter are being done the right way and are being done repeatedly.

The article in the alumni magazine cites one of the biggest problems in Greek Life as the lack of alumni involvement. The number of advisors is down, which is a direct reflection of the recent problems. The article quotes Evie McCord, who should be a familiar name to many of you as the manager of the Ohio State Interfraternity Council and Women's Panhellenic

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UNDERGRADUATES SEEK HELP IN HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

John Schock '00, House Manager

If you have been to the house recently you have noticed that while the outside remains unchanged, the interior is beginning to take on a new look.

This fall when the men moved into the house, the very positive trend of room renovations continued. Using money out of their own pockets, the undergraduates made major improvements to 15 of the 35 rooms in the house. Stop by your old room and you may be pleasantly surprised. New carpet, drywall, paneling and lofts were installed in many of the rooms.

The basement is in the process of being transformed from a dungeon to a palace. Current president Ben Oster '01 and his father spent much of their free time remodeling the old chapter room. Once in disrepair, the room is now an

immaculate library. We would like to install a couple computers in this room so every brother would have full access to a computer. This study should help us continue our academic improvements.

For years the porch leaked into what was the old "Boat Room" making the room unusable. Thanks to alumnus Chris Duger '96 who refinished the porch, we are planning a complete overhaul of this room. We would like to install a new tile floor, restaurant style booths, and reframe two walls which are in disrepair. Our plan is to return it to its original purpose for only Phi to enjoy.

House Father Bob Roemer is planning a drive to repair the presidential suite on the second floor. He plans on making it a "high tech" executive style office. It

would have a museum atmosphere with framed articles, pictures and plaques commemorating all of the past presidents of Ohio Zeta. The room needs new carpet, electrical fixtures, and a new window and door.

We have found that our biggest obstacle in making these renovations is not man-hours, but a lack of capital. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. All checks can be made payable to Ohio Zeta Phi Delta Theta and sent to 1942 Iuka Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201, attention treasurer. If you wish to specify your donation for the president's room, please call Scott Armstrong at 614-846-6000 ext. 123. Any other questions can be directed to Christopher Detwiler at 614-668-6134 or detwiler19@yahoo.com.

PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

By Albert Breer '02, Philanthropy Chairman

For years philanthropy has been a weak point of the Ohio Zeta chapter that has been passed down like a sinking rock. But with the progress we've made since September, we feel that we have turned the corner. We participated in three major philanthropies in conjunction with sororities over fall quarter. Brothers took on independent community service projects and we have continued to make strides in organizing our own flagship philanthropy for this spring.

The first of our big philanthropies was a Halloween trick-or-treat event for disadvantaged children with the ladies of Alpha Phi at their chapter house on 15th Avenue. We followed this up less than a week later with our annual "Blind Halloween" event with the ladies of Delta Gamma.

After the Thanksgiving break, we returned to put on a Christmas party for battered women at the Alpha Chi Omega chapter house, an event that received coverage from the Columbus Dispatch. At the two Halloween events, the brothers of Ohio Zeta bought candy and gifts for disadvantaged and blind children. For our Christmas event, each brother bought a gift for the women attending the party. Each brother was assigned to a group of both Phi Deltas and A Chi Os, which would pool the money and buy the gifts.

Adding to that, we had brothers volunteer with the preschool class at the United Methodist Church weekday mornings. And we had wonderful turnout for a series of blood drives. We're continuing to look for ways to further extend our hand to the community.

INCOMING OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ~ Christopher Detwiler '02

VICE PRESIDENT ~ David Robison '02

RUSH CHAIRMAN ~ Robert Peirce '03

STEWARD ~ Isiah Brooks '02

RISK MANAGEMENT CHAIRMAN ~ Brian Gerschutz '02

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN ~ Marc Finet '02

PLEDGE EDUCATOR ~ Sean Carano '02

PHILANTHROPY CHAIRMAN ~ Albert Breer '02

HOUSE MANAGER ~ Jeff Krall '03

ALUMNI CHAIRMAN ~ Daniel Richardson '03

OUTGOING OFFICERS

PRESIDENT ~ Ben Oster '01

VICE PRESIDENT ~ Sean Carano '02

TREASURER ~ Daniel Gillen '01

SOCIAL CHAIRMAN ~ David Miller '02

RUSH CHAIRMAN ~ Robert Peirce '03

STEWARD ~ Ignacio Covarrubias '02

RISK MANAGEMENT CHAIRMAN ~ Dave Robison '02

SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN ~ Christopher Detwiler '02

PLEDGE EDUCATOR ~ Evan Madlinger '01

PHILANTHROPY CHAIRMAN ~ Albert Breer '02

HOUSE MANAGER ~ John Schrock '02

Thank you to all of the outgoing officers for a wonderful year. You are leaving your positions better off than they were given to you. Make sure you give all of the incoming officers a hard time this year.

The Buckeye Phi is published by the Central Ohio Alumni Association of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity at The Ohio State University for its members and friends. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and should be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to Alumni Records Office, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, P.O. Box 361303, Columbus, OH 43236-1303.

WE ARE ONE

Christopher Detwiler '02, Scholarship Chairman

As Phi Delta Theta moves into the new millennium, we can reflect on 130 years of common bonds and shared experiences. You see it in the eyes of alumni walking up the front stairs of the house. You see it in the eyes of a pledge when he first goes active and wears the letters upon his head. And in between are the everyday experiences of the men in the fraternity. Our history has been one of excellence in the classroom, greatness in athletics and success in all facets of life. At times we have been the biggest fraternity on campus, the most social, dominant in intramurals and the models of Greek life. No matter what the character of the chapter is, one thing remains unchanged: we are one, Brothers in the Bond.

That is why we continue to be the best fraternity on campus. You may call it brotherhood or friendship, but it seems to run deeper here. Living within the walls of the house something happens. From time to time all of the characters come together, individuals are no more and all you know is that you are a Phi Delt and will be for life.

Our place at Ohio State has never looked better. The house needs some work, both inside and out, but the chapter is thriving. We have been recruiting outstanding people, and it shows as we grow more diverse but always stronger. We are one and look forward to a new millennium of Phi Delta Theta.

THE INSIGHT OF HOUSE FATHER

J. Robert Roemer '70

These are up close and personal quotes of Bob Roemer, Class of 1970, the acting house dad. "I'll never be Mom Sandberg, but the times they are a changing. If anyone is looking for the cold shower of 2001 college reality just call or email me. Our email address is ohiozetapdt@yahoo.com or call at 614-421-6927. I am putting together a scrap book, so if you could email or send any articles, pictures, old rush pamphlets, etc... it you be greatly appreciated.

This current group is a good looking bunch of singing scholar athletes. The sorority girls love each and every one of them. Things haven't changed much. These are young men looking for answers to the same questions that we confronted. The challenges are more difficult, competitive and expensive. There is a great deal of diversity here, but this is a close-knit group. "Why can't they be like we were? Perfect in every way."

The house has had only a few capital improvements since the 1950s. The kitchen was remodeled in the mid 1970s, but no other major changes. I am working on a Phi Delt house revitalization plan with Scott Armstrong '85. More on that topic later.

Hope all is well with all of my Brother Phis.

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
NEWEST PHI DELTS

Reagan Berry '03
Upper Arlington, Ohio

Tom Hewitt '04
Ramsey, N.J.

Adam Kirshbaum '03
Marlboro, N.J.

Jeff Krall '03
Worthington, Ohio

Andy Laughhuun '04
Kettering, Ohio

Daniel Richardson '03
Skokie, Ill.

Jason Shelley '04
Cranberry Twp., Pa.

Brent Zambone '03
New Albany, Ohio

THE TIME FOR INVOLVEMENT IS NOW FROM PAGE 1

Association from 1976 to 1999. She states that alumni are critical to the success of the community and that the leadership alumni can provide is an invaluable learning tool for the undergraduates. Membership in fraternities across the country reached 400,000 in 1990 but has declined approximately 30 percent since then. The point is that the time is now for involvement and support from alumni. Ohio State is doing its part to support the system, and now it is our turn to continue the progress.

In closing, I would like to call your attention to the enclosed fliers, one addressing the annual golf outing, and the other requesting information regarding prospective new members. In regard to the new member insert, recruitment continues to be at the core of many challenges facing the Greek system as a whole. With membership down, finances become an issue, as does managing day to day responsibilities — which are now shared by a smaller number of men — not to mention the difficulty recruiting large numbers with limited resources. Any help that you can provide in the form of information pertaining to young men attending the University now or in the near future is of great help to our chapter.

The annual PDT Open flier speaks for itself. The date is **July 28**, and it will be held at Bent Tree Golf Club, the sight of last year's event. The deadline for reservations is **July 1**. Our thanks again go to Tim Marsh '86 and John Weixel '89 for spearheading this extremely successful event. At present, we have the most successful Greek alumni golf outing in the country in terms of the number of participants. We hope to see you in July! Once again, thank you so much for your continued dedication to the Ohio Zeta Alumni Association. You make it possible for us to provide some alumni support to the chapter, which is so crucial at this pivotal time in our chapter's history.



ALUMNI NEWS

Flo and **Robert W. McKee '37** (2610 Turf Valley Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042) have been living in the same house for the last 24 years. Bob enjoyed reading the update on **George Sargent '37** in the last issue of the *Buckeye Phi*.

Last year, **Harreld Demunbrun '42** (1426 Royalty Way, Venice, FL 34292) completed a round-the-world trip on the Holland America Line, traveling 40,000 miles in less than four months. The trip included a cruise of the Antarctic, a shore trip of Ushusia, Tierra del Fuego and Argentina, and many interior visits in South America, Africa, India, Thailand, China, Korea, Japan and Hawaii.

James H. Gross '63 (Five Sessions Dr., Bexley, OH 43209; sandjgross@aol.com) represents the Kappa Kappa Gamma and Kappa Alpha Theta international women's fraternities. After attending the KKG Convention in June 2000, he spent a week-end with **David Scheiderer '63** in Pasadena.

Judge **Dale A. Crawford '65** (2295 Concord Village Dr., Columbus, OH 43220) has been reelected to a fourth six-year term on the Franklin County Ohio Common Pleas Court.

David R. Phillips '71 (8041 Muirfield Ln., Maineville, OH 45039) attended two home football games at the new stadium with **Pat Fahey '71** last fall and was looking forward to seeing more alumni at the Homecoming weekend dinner that October.

James L. Phipps '72 (521 Erie Ct., Bowling Green, OH 43402), a dentist with Phipps, Levin & Associates, enjoyed an annual Chesapeake Bay cruise with **Dan Dorsheimer '72**.



"Fathering a son is something special; brothering a son is

something extra special!" writes **George N. Meeker '74** (1153 Fairway Dr., Troy, OH 45373; meeker@erinet.com). His father, David, was a Phi Delt at Dartmouth and his son, George Jr., is now a member of Phi Delta Theta at Miami University. Pictured are George Jr. and his dad.



Mark P. Frissora '77 (1170 Elmtree Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045; mark.frissora@tenneco-automotive.com), chairman, CEO, and president of Tenneco

Automotive, led the spin-off of the company as a separately traded company on the New York Stock Exchange. He's married and the father of four teenaged children.

"Biz is good!" notes **Marcus D. Presar '79** (P.O. Box 675265, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067; mpresar@aol.com), president of Sentech Measurement Inc.

In April 2000, **David C. Jenkins '81** (3190 Dona Mema Pl., Studio City, CA 91604; djnla@ix.netcom.com) joined Gloria Jean's Gourmet Coffees Corp. as director of international franchise operations and new development. From his home office

in the Los Angeles area, he oversees company operations in 12 countries. Gloria Jean's is ranked the top coffee in the USA by *Consumer Reports* and "Good Morning America."

Jeffrey S. Miller '82 (50590 Hollybrook Dr., Granger, IN 46530) completed his Ph.D. in accounting at the University of Texas-Austin in 2000 and moved to South Bend last summer to become an assistant professor at the University of Notre Dame. He's married to Michelle and has two children.

Brian K. Hauck '83 (4450 W. Byron St., Chicago, IL 60641) was looking forward to seeing **Joe Bechtel '83** and **Scott Sommers '83** last summer. Joe and Scott were planning to travel to the Windy City to take in a Cub's game with Brian.

Mark E. Farnham '84 (183 Potomac Ct., Medina, OH 44256; farn1@msn.com) and his wife ran into Lori and **Doug Brown '84** at a Cleveland Indians game.

With his promotion to regional vice president of independents at The Berry Co., **Kevin J. Payne '84** (910 Runnymede Rd., Dayton, OH 45419; kpayne@berry.com) is managing relationship operations and marketing support for more than 110 telephone companies that have contracted with The Berry Co. for Yellow Pages service. Bo and his wife, Tracy, have four children.

Robert DiPangrazio '89 (18906 Elm Row Ct., Davidson, NC 28036; dipan1@aol.com) is now division manager-Lowe's for Kwikset Corp. His third child, Sara, was born in the front seat of his car in September 2000.

When **Christopher J. Zazo '90** (113 Red Bluff Dr., Hickory Creek, TX 75065; www.chriszazo@home.com) and Micheale Wildt wed in Vegas in May 2000, **Joe Vereecken '90** served as best man and **Tom Kelly '89**, **Fritz Wink '89** and **Patrick Murphy '89** were in attendance. Christopher is a regional accounting representative with James Hardie Building Products.

Scott E. Clark '92 (8297 Abigail Cir., North Canton, OH 44720; scottclark@jo-annstores.com) took a new position as manager of transportation processes and planning for Jo-Ann Stores Inc. He and his wife have four children, including two sons they adopted in April 2000. When he last wrote, "Cha-Chi" reported that his brother, **Matt '95**, had moved with wife Julie to Virginia Beach and that his brother, **Todd '93**, was planning to be married in December of last year.

In the spring of 2000, **Brian D. McKee '93** (1014 Atlantic Ave., Manasquan, NJ 08736; bdmckee@worthingtonindustries.com) was promoted to manager of the New Jersey and southern New York/Connecticut territory for Worthington Steel. He and his wife moved from Virginia to the Garden State that July.

Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the death of **John T. Sellers '30** (6/3/00), **George E. Ellis '37** (11/13/00), **Edward H. Herndon '40** (4/14/00), **Robert A. Rankin '51** (5/31/00), **James L. Downey '52** (11/6/99) and **Ronald A. Borland '68** (10/25/99).

Phi Delta Theta mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.



Ronald A. Borland '68
with his family in 1998