

# BUCKEYE PHI

Columbus, Ohio

November 2003

Ohio Zeta Chapter • The Ohio State University

## 12th Annual Golf

# Outing

## Alumni Golf Tournament a Success

The 12th Annual PDT Golf Outing was held on Aug. 16 at The Phoenix Golf Links, just south of downtown Columbus. The tournament attracted 90 players and was unfortunately cut short by rain after 13 holes. The winner, with a score of 10 under par, was a tie between the team of **Joe Griffin '88**, **Mark Silbaugh '86**, **Mark Hulka '86** and **Tim Fondy '84** and a team headed by **Buzzy Wentz '84**. After the tournament, a dinner and award ceremony was held in Grove City at The Time Zone, owned by **Donny Martin '88**. A plaque was presented by Alumni President **Bruce Rothermund '90** to House Corporation President **Scott Armstrong '86** to commemorate **Robin A. Bell '26** as the first inductee into the Ohio Zeta Alumni Hall of Fame. A special Recognition of Service Award was presented to **Rob Anderson '88** by **John Weixel '86** for Rob's dedicated service to the U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq. Rob was stationed in Baghdad, and all of us welcomed him home with gratitude for the sacrifices he made to keep us safe and free. A special thanks goes out to John Weixel, the chair of this year's PDT Open. The tournament was well-run, the prizes and awards were excellent and the number of participants was strong. Also, thanks to **Tim Marsh '86** who assisted John in the project. Their efforts made this tournament a huge success.



*An impressive group of Ohio Zeta Phi Delt members joined together for this year's golf outing. Make plans to attend next year's event!*

## Hall of

# Fame

By Bruce Rothermund '90, Alumni Board President

## Robin Bell '26 is Hall's Inaugural Inductee

With this edition of the Buckeye Phi, I am proud to make the announcement of the inaugural inductee into the Ohio Zeta Alumni Hall of Fame. The first member of the hall is **Robin A. Bell '26**. The fact that Robin is the first inductee should come as no surprise to those of you who are familiar with the history of the chapter. Robin was far and away the leader, in terms of contributions of time and leadership, over the majority of the last century. Robin passed away in 1993 and there is not much that he did not accomplish in his life.

Robin Bell starred in football and basketball at Ohio State, earning All-America football honors in 1924 and 1925. He was the captain of the basketball and football teams in 1925. In addition to being an excellent athlete, Robin excelled in the classroom, graduating with honors. After graduating from OSU, Robin began a career in business in Columbus. He built several successful companies and worked closely with the government during World War II, supplying materials to build planes to fuel the war effort.

In the early 1950s, the Greek system at Ohio State was at an all-time low. Chapter houses were being closed at an alarming rate and Greek life at OSU was in jeopardy. Not surprisingly, Ohio Zeta was prepared to close its doors as well. After unsuccessful attempts at a capital campaign, Robin Bell stood up and took on the challenge. He almost single-handedly saved the Greek system at Ohio State and put the Ohio Zeta capital campaign on his back and made it a success. Without his efforts, Ohio Zeta would not have survived. In addition to all of this, Robin served on several committees for the university, both on the academic and athletic side.

Robin remained active in the house corporation until his death, holding every office available during his long tenure. Possibly his greatest contribution came with his publication of "The Instant Executive," a handbook for the day-to-day operation of a fraternity or sorority house. The book addressed the financial, social and public relations issues faced by officers in the Greek system. It gave students a blueprint to follow in order to achieve success and organization in a sometimes-chaotic and always-challenging environment. In essence, "The Instant Executive" helped students to become better leaders and members of the community. It also gave all of us a head start toward success in our future post-graduate endeavors.

Robin Bell will be missed. He gave selflessly of his time, his resources, his energy and his knowledge to make the entire Ohio State University a better place. I consider myself very fortunate to have known him. If ever someone created an immortal place in Ohio Zeta history, Robin Bell surely did.

Buckeye Phi is published for the alumni and friends of the Ohio Zeta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity at The Ohio State University. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelope; mailed to Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 361303, Columbus, OH, 43246-1303.

2003-2004

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## Alumni

### UpDates

**Henry A. Porterfield '44** (509 Wood Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60521-2722; pchank@ameritech.net) Another beautiful Chicago summer is coming up. I see **Red LeFeber '46** regularly. I retired once and could not stand it, so I am now doing real estate in Chicago and Fort Myers, Fla.

**Ned K. Barthelmas '50** (1000 Urlin Ave. #2204, Columbus, OH 43212-3341) In the summer of 2003 I was awarded the State of Ohio Medal of Merit for Distinguished Service to the community.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Alumni

### Profile

Jay Schoedinger '64

## Successful Family Businessman Does Phi Delt Proud

Though **Jay Schoedinger '64** spent only a year as an active member of Phi Delta Theta at Ohio State, he remembers it fondly and has been a member of the Alumni Club and generous contributor for 40 years. In turn, the fraternity has watched proudly as Jay has helped lead his family-owned funeral services business into one of the largest independent funeral homes in America, even awarding him the Distinguished Alumnus Award in the field of business in 1997.

The Phi Delt's are not alone in their praise of Schoedinger Funeral Services, which is now in its sixth generation of family ownership. The business has won The Pursuit of Excellence Award from the National Funeral Directors Association for the last five years, the Business Integrity Award from the Better Business Bureau and The Family Business of the Year award from the Family Business Center of Ohio, and was named The Best Place to Work by Columbus CEO magazine and National Business of the Year by Mass Mutual. Jay says he was extremely honored when Roger Blackwell of the Ohio State University Fisher College of Business said in May 2002, "This is the best-managed and most-enlightened family-owned business in America."

Jay Schoedinger's great-great-grandfather, Philip Jacob Schoedinger, immigrated from Dorrenbach, Germany, to Columbus in 1830 at the age of 5. He established a cabinet-making business as a young man, eventually expanding into livery and undertaking. The business has remained in the Schoedinger family ever since, with Jay's great-grandfather being the first to provide motorized service in 1912 and his father and uncle the first to expand to the suburbs in the 1950s and '60s. Jay insists that that is when the direction of the business was really established. Jay and his brother David continued the expansion from the mid '60s through the '90s.

Jay is understandably proud of what he and his family have accomplished in building such a successful funeral services business. He has used his success to help give back to the community. Currently on the board of the Rosemont Center and the advisory board of the Columbus Salvation Army, Jay is also a 40-year member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Columbus, receiving The Distinguished President Award of the Ohio District of Kiwanis International.

Jay has been married to the former Joyce Rogers, a Tri Delt, for 40 years. They have three married children and five grandchildren. His interests include traveling and collecting antique toys, wine and Lionel trains. In 2003, he was invited to join the Antique Toy Collectors of America, a group of 250 antique-toy collectors. Jay remains proud of the accomplishments of his family-owned business and stresses that its success comes from family members working together rather than the efforts of just one person. That sounds a bit like the brotherhood of Phi Delta Theta.

## Generous

### Brothers

By Patrick Zuchegno, Chapter President

## Making a Difference Everyday

Recently, our Ohio Zeta Chapter became involved in building a playground in Columbus, one of the three community service projects that we have done this quarter. It was put together by the Columbus Recreation & Parks Department, KABOOM and Home Depot, and they gladly let us help out during the day.

Our other two projects were moving the OWLs into the dorms on Sept. 18, and Blind Halloween with Delta Gamma on Oct. 27. The OWLs are the group of freshman that get to move in early to assist the 9,000 freshmen that are moving into the dorms on move-in day. Blind Halloween is a trick-or-treat event for the Columbus School for the Blind. They get bussed to the Delta Gamma house, and we walk them around so they can get candy.

Giving back to the community is an area I would like to see more of. We will be looking to do at least two community service projects the next two quarters of the school year. If you have any questions or would like to contact me, please e-mail me at [zuchegno.1@osu.edu](mailto:zuchegno.1@osu.edu).



*Twenty-nine Phi Delt brothers helped build a playground for Columbus' Saunders Park. Picture are Ted Jenkins, Matt Czarnecki, Matt Ribic, Hope Taft (governor's wife), Matt Jones, Pat Zuchegno and Tim Gorman.*

# Alumni UpDates ... continued

## Norman J. Burns '52

(751 S. Lazelle St., Columbus, OH 43206-2017) I am about to begin my 29th year as a sideline photographer representing The Bryan Times. I began photographing in 1975, Archie's senior year. I have photographed OSU basketball and baseball, the Jesse Owens track meet and two bowl games, the 1984 Fiesta Bowl XIII, when my daughter Marty Burns Steen was a cheerleader, and the 1987 Cotton Bowl. My photos continue to be published in The Bryan Times. At age 75 I am usually the oldest photographer on site. Having attended Founders Day '03, I was overjoyed to see the progress being made at 1942 Luka, especially academically.



Dr. Norman J. Burns '52 ... loading to shoot.

## Justus D. Sundermann '55

(PMB 333, 1920 Abrams Pky., Dallas, TX 75214-6218; sundermann@att.net) I am retired after 37 years in higher education administration. My wife and I alternate our time between Dallas (our home), our farm getaway in Ohio and our condo in Port Aransas, Texas. My son, who is a head-injury survivor, is an outdoor photographer, and we take many photo trips. We travel a lot. We have been to France and next year we will go to several countries in Europe. After that we are off to a photo safari through Africa. I try to keep up with 11 grandchildren, and I have taken up golf again. I take in some OSU home games and Phi Delt alumni golf outings. I try to stay active in the Dallas Phi Delt alumni club. Just recently I became a 32-degree mason.

## Gerald A. Leist '62

(167 Watt St., P.O. Box 673, Circleville, OH 43113; jerryaleist@yahoo.com) Congratulations on your efforts to re-unite "Buckeye Phis." I am probably one of the few alumni who live in the same house he did when in college. Many will remember the brick house on the farm in Circleville where we had the Phi Delt hayrides. I am owner of Leist Mercantile Inc., a commodity brokerage/insurance office in Circleville, and am still active on the family farm. My wife and I

have four daughters (all of whom attended OSU) and now have six grandchildren, all future Buckeyes. I have kept in touch with **Bob Liggett '62**, **Bill Miller '61**, **Dave Hull '61**, **Ben Games '64**, **Ralph Williams '63** and **Pete Utrata '66**. I would also like to hear from some of the others who lived in the house during the golden years of '58-'62.

## C. Craig Washing '62

(8355 Heathrow Downs, Montgomery, AL 36117-5155) I am still working with plans to retire next summer, after I get my second knee replaced. Each summer about 60 of us from the glass industry gather in San Diego for a few days of golf, drinks and lies. Two of the members are **Don Mains '53** and **Randy Thrasher '64**. Randy, of course, represents the OSU golf team well.

## William L. Mielke '63

(4255 Kersey Ct., Columbus, OH 43221-4928; wlmielke@columbus.rr.com) I retired from Ditch Witch of Ohio in March of 2002. My wife Patty and I are enjoying the rewards of relaxed schedules and choices of things to do. We celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in August 2003. Golf has become a more important part of life. Phi Delt **Dave Hull '61**, **Pete Warnick '61** and I have a weekly threesome on the Central Ohio links. We have also included **Jay Schoedinger '64** and **Bill McMenemy '62** on occasion. Life is good.

## Kerry C. Dustin '67

(425 Eighth St., S., Naples, FL 34102-6607) I am chairman of International Network of Merger and Acquisition Partners, a global investment banking business with 250 dealmakers in the world. I am busy selling companies throughout the United States with enterprise values of \$20 million to \$200 million. I saw brother **Dick Cardy '63** and his wife for dinner in Baltimore and attended a 40th high school reunion in Akron, Ohio, where I saw brothers **Trey Hackney '67**, **James Hensal '67**, **Hugh Cardy '67** and **John Scheider '67**. I talk to brother **Michael Cavotta '66** periodically. I hope to get to an OSU game soon. I have four kids (three married), three grandkids and one daughter, 14, going on 21.

## W. Thomas Roemer '68

(12718 N. Lakeshore Dr., La Salle, MI 48145-9732) Vickie and I continue to defend our Buckeye brothers and sisters' northern border in LaSalle, Mich., on the shores of Lake Erie. I am still very active in

the family business. Contact is kept with brothers **Ken Johnson '67**, **Winger McCloy '65**, **Bobba Denk '67** and **Duke Fahey '66**. Running into young and old OZ This is normal at different Buckeye events and in Toledo, Ohio. We have an actress daughter, Tracey McCall, in Los Angeles. Our Molly is a senior at MSU. They are super young women. I've recently spoken to brother **Tom Backhus '70** in Wolcott, Colo. He sounds like he could still take the football field and knock some bodies around. Life is good.

## Mark W. Sheehan '71

(1231 E. Michner Way, Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-4767; shiekosu@aol.com) I am still enjoying my practice of interventional cardiology and am working long and hard hours. Our son Chris (a Phi Delt from Northwestern) is working on a book called "Prayer and Medicine, Touched by God's Grace." Our daughter Laurie is working as a nurse in Denver. I will be returning to Cambodia this January with 16 other physicians and nurses for the Cambodian Medical Mission Project.

## Gary L. Szerszen '75



Phi Delt's enjoy the Fiesta Bowl: (L-R) Brian Darah '76, Gary Szerszen '75, J.P. Krause '73 and Dr. George Darah '73.

(1000 Urlin Ave., Apt. 618, Columbus, OH 43212-3328) Fiesta Bowl! Wow! I stayed with brother **Jeffrey Krause '73**. I had not seen him in 20 years and it was a great reunion. We went to the Princess Hotel afterward and ran into brother **George Darah '73** and his brother **Brian Darah '76**. Everyone is doing great. Bucs will repeat! See you in New Orleans. On May 22 we found an aneurysm the size of a grape in my head. We attacked (read the Lance Armstrong book). Everything is good. Listen to your body; bravery does not count. God bless.

## Stephen A. Cotter '81

(325 Aston Ct., Alpharetta, GA 30202-

(Continued on Page 4)



# Alumni UpDates ... continued

7671) There was a great party at the house of brother **Rick Delaney '82** in June, where several Phis were on hand to celebrate Solstice with wine, women and song!

## Thomas W. Hulme '81

(14 Middleton Park Ln., Nashville, TN 37215; tom.hulme@medcapproperties.com) I am married and have two girls, ages 10 and 5. I work as vice president of development for MedCap Properties. I stay in touch with **Ken Carey '81**, **Tim Spoerl '81**, **Tim Wright '81** and other alumni.

## L. Richard Crawford '83

(7342 Oak Hill Dr., Sylvania, OH 43560) I am still working for Owens-Illinois Inc. I have made it to several Buckeye games over the last couple of years, but none better than the Fiesta Bowl in 2003 to watch the national championship. My wife and I went out and met up with fellow Phis **Rick Day '83** and **Scott Armstrong '85** for a great reunion and a great game. We ran into many old friends and fellow Phis **Rick Delaney '82** and **Mike Windzeler '85**. I also had the opportunity to join brothers **Joe Belinske '85** and **Chris Dugger '96** in Banff, Canada, at brother Scott Armstrong's wedding. It was a beautiful spot for brother Armstrong to finally hang up his guns like the rest of us cowboys and begin his new life as a ranch hand. His wife Julie is a great lady, and we wished them the best in their new life together.

## Jeffrey D. Henry '83

(4335 Bramble Dr., Akron, OH 44321-2775; jeffdhenry@aol.com) I just left Hewlett-Packard. Joanne and I have three kids: Jessica (11), Conner (8) and Nikki (7). I stay in touch with **Darren Hissong '84**, **Tommy Hissong '87**, **Kevin Payne '83**, **Rick Day '83**, **Joe Bechtel '83**, **Rich Crawford '83**, **Scott Armstrong '85** and **Jeff Sturgeon '83**. I recently went to the Wisconsin game and suffered through the first defeat in 20 games. I saw **D. Keith Grossman '82** on CNBC last week getting interviewed, and he looked great.

## Michael D. Winzeler '85

(255 Connin St., Bryan, OH 43506-1631; mwinzel@bright.net) My son Owen, who turns 3 in December, has a baby sister, Jules, born 5/19/03.

## Robert S. Pema '86

(430 Trillium Dr., Galloway, OH 43119-9670; rspema@yahoo.com) I am expecting twins (boy and girl) in addition to a 3-1/2-year-old son. I would like to see **Steve Bumb '87**, **Chris Ward '86** and **Tom Wherry '85**.

## Frederick G. King '88

(4203 Maxwell Dr., Mason, OH 45040-6505) My wife, Kalisa, and I have two daughters, Caroline (4) and Ava (1). I was the best man at the wedding of Phi Delt **Tom Kelly '89** in Cincinnati on 9/27/03.

## Robert J. Whalen '91

(18 Phelps Ave., Cresskill, NJ 07626; njwhalen@msn.com) I am living five miles outside of New York. I have two children, Michael (9) and Katie (5). I am regional sales manager for Global Consultants Inc. We sell services to Fortune 500 clients. I stay in touch with **Steve Cordova '90** and **Kirk Shaffer '90**. Steve is in Columbus, and Kirk is living in Indianapolis and working for Anthem.

## Michael W. Kincaid '94

(3344 Kirkham Rd., Upper Arlington, OH 43221-1368; kincaidds@columbus.rr.com) I am now the president of Riverside Family Dental Group. New patients are welcome, with brothers receiving incredible discounts.

## In Memory

Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the deaths of

**Robert D. Young '39**  
**Harry M. Gunsett '41**  
**Charles G. Witte '51**  
**Charles M. Daughters '52**  
**David A. Shinaberry '70**

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

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