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pritchard.163@osu.edu

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Central Ohio Alumni Association of Phi Delta Theta

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Fall 2017

Ohio Zeta Chapter • The Ohio State University

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Family Affair

Phi Delt Gave Robert Laughhunn '17 a Dream Girl Wife and a Brother for a Son



Karen and Robert with their son Andy and his wife, Lona, in Colorado this past August.

You could say that for **Robert Laughhunn '74**, Phi Delt runs in the family. His wife Karen was a Phi Delt Dream Girl in 1974, and their son Andy also went on to become a Phi Delt.

And because of that special connection, Robert still visits the house on Saturdays during football and especially on Alumni Day. He reminisces about his time in the fraternity.

"During my stay in the house, I was both the Athletic Chairman and Steward and worked closely with Mom Sandburg in planning meals," said Robert. "It was great fun living in the house for three years and I wouldn't change a moment."

Being a Phi Delt Dream Girl meant that Karen had her picture over the fireplace for a year at the house.

"It was a great honor to be voted Dream Girl," said Karen.

Robert says that while he didn't persuade

"It was great fun living in the house and I wouldn't change a moment."

Andy to pledge, he was happy that he did. With nearly 30 years between them, many of the same things that attracted Robert to the fraternity, also attracted his son.

"Our bond numbers are about 800 apart," said Robert. "It was great having him as a legacy."

Since 2013, Andy has lived in San Francisco with his wife, Lona. Robert and Karen recently met up with them near Breckenridge, Colo.

Today, Robert and his wife, Karen, are enjoying retirement. Karen was a first-grade teacher and Robert spent his entire career in the automotive industry with GM, Delphi, TRW, and Johnson Controls.

Robert and Karen were high school sweethearts who dated for six years, four of those years at OSU. They married in 1974 after graduating from college. In addition to their son Andy, they have a daughter, Jennifer, who is a few years older than her brother.

Committed to Core Values of Moral Rectitude, Sound Learning, and Friendship

Ohio Zeta Recruits Largest Pledge Classes in Recent History, Ranks in Top 10 for Fraternity GPA

In today's Greek climate, fraternities are continually cast in a negative spotlight with media stories that cover hazing, underage drinking, and fraternity deaths.

Ohio Zeta is committed to combatting this negative stereotype by working with each individual member to maximize his time in the chapter and at the University. Each brother is expected to properly represent Phi Delta Theta's core principles of moral rectitude, sound learning, and friendship.

"When an individual is representing more than just themselves, they are motivated to display these principles at the rest of the chapter events as well as on campus," said Chapter President **Taylor Pritchard**. "We stress the importance of not only being a

good representation of yourself, but of the organization we all have the privilege to be a part of."

This fall, Ohio Zeta recruited 16 new members and initiated 28 in the spring. These are the largest classes recruited in recent history for their respective semesters. The fall 2017 pledge class has the highest GPA among all pledge classes in the chapter. Many of our newest members are in honor programs for their respective schools.

As a whole, the brotherhood has a cumulative GPA of 3.36, ranking 9th out of 37 fraternity chapters. We are proud of our focus on academic excellence, and reserve study tables multiple times a week in campus libraries to ensure all brothers are committed to a high academic standard.

Phi Delt Fight Night Leads Campus in Fight Against ALS



We recently held our annual philanthropy event, Phi Delt Fight Night—a boxing tournament to raise money for ALS research. A lot of time went into promoting the event, selling tickets, setting up, and reaching out to other Greek organizations to participate and donate. The entire chapter helped out and made great efforts and were led by Philanthropy Chair **Eric Eichler**. The event raised over \$3,000 for the ALS Association.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Uncovered: The Story Behind the Picture



In our August eLetter we published this 1970 class photo—one of the most unique of all yearbook pictures in Ohio Zeta's history. It even features Mom Sandberg!

Thank you to **Jim Phipps '72** for answering our call and sharing some of the background behind the photo.

He writes, "it was inspired by the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper Album cover. Most of the other fraternities showed up with blazers

and regimental stripped ties. Phi Delt's always wanted to be different and stand apart from the crowd. We were told to dress outrageously. I think we succeeded. I am in the back row, 5th from the right."

Find many more pictures from our chapter history and share your own at www.ohiozeta.com.

The Immeasurable Impact PDT Had On Jack Luce '65

Fraternity Connections Follow Him to the West Coast

When **John “Jack” Luce '65** joined Phi Delta Theta at Ohio State in 1959, he was a shy, introverted 18-year-old. Those four years with his fellow Phi Deltas changed everything.

“I graduated as an extroverted young man,” he said, proudly. “This change helped me immeasurably in my business and real estate careers.”

After becoming an active member of the fraternity in the spring of 1961, Jack's major in engineering earned him the role of house manager to maintain the electrical and plumbing systems in the house. Though this was the only position he held, he was also on several committees.

With such positive experience under his belt, it's no surprise that Jack has stayed active in Phi Delta Theta.

His 20-year career in the corrugated box industry in various engineering, management, and sales positions—followed by a 30+ years



Jack Luce '65

“I love this fraternity that I have been associated with for 57 years!”

as a realtor in California—has certainly kept him busy, but he hasn't forgotten about good old Phi Delt.

“I love this fraternity that I have been associated with for 57 years,” he said.

And it certainly shows!

Jack has been a member of the Orange County Alumni Club for 25 years; was on the convention committee when the convention was held in Marina Del Rey, Calif.; was a member of the advisory board of California Rho at the University of La Verne for 10 years; and occasionally filled in at California Pi at San Diego State University when the chairman of the advisory board was unable to attend the chapter meeting.

“I am now privileged to have served the fraternity as Province President of Omicron South since 2012,” he added.

When he's not busy with his real estate career and volunteering for Phi Delta Theta, Jack enjoys spending time with his family. He's been married for over 47 years and together, he and his wife have two grown children and four grandchildren.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank You, Donors!

Kudos to the donors below who have made their contributions to kick off our 2017-18 giving year (which runs 9/1 through 8/31)...

1848 Society (\$250 - \$499.99)

Glenn R. Baker	1963
David R. Priddy	1979
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Steven Carl Julian	1989
David Lawrence Straub	1990

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David T. Milligan	1965
Jay C. Lee	1968
James M. List	1972

Other

G. Allen Gano	1973
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Reflects gifts received as of October 11, 2017.

1942 Iuka Ave Society (\$194.20)

Philip A. Brewer	1958
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Patrick J. Fahey	1971
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Gregg Richard Lewis	1988
David Manning Ross	1989

There are three ways to donate:

- Online at www.ohiozeta.com.
- By calling 800-975-6699.
- By mailing a check payable to “Central Ohio Alumni Association” to the return address on this newsletter.

PLEDGE CLASS

Join Us in Welcoming the Newest Members of Ohio Zeta



First Row (L to R): Ahmed Negm, Daniel Freyschlag, Kohl Kuntze, Andrew Stichter, Zachary Winoker; **Second Row:** Tim Barely, Mitchell McMahon, RJ Gambhir, Ryan Bowman, Justin Chon, Kyle McIntyre, Ben Gugick, Kyle McCafferty; **Third Row:** Michael Martins, Tyler Simmonns, Connor Bender, Michael Lawton, David Slupski, Kenan Umar, Aaron Aurbach, Clayton Davis, Nick Ferguson; **Back Row:** Ryan Greene, Henry McIntyre, Ben Kloke, Devin Belisto, Ryan Speckl, Jackson Henz, and Corey Miller



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Uncovered: The story behind this classic photo. Read more on page 2!

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PDT Runs in the Family for a Number of Ohio Zeta Brothers

*Plus: Chapter Recruits Largest Pledge Classes
in Recent History, Ranks in Top 10 for GPA*

LIFELONG PHI DELT CONNECTIONS

Celebrating the Longtime Friendships that are Formed at Ohio Zeta



Thank you to **Doug Smith '67** (left) for sharing this picture of himself and his close friends **Gary Colburn Aker '66** and **Niels Christiansen '66**.

“This photo is from my home where we had brunch and watched a football game with our families,” Doug said. “My fondest fraternity memories include living

in the Phi House, the Knockwurst Band, going to away games, and skiing with the three Denk brothers.”



Jim Sauter '99 and a group from his era came back to campus for this year's Phi Delt Fight Night and the OSU vs. Army game in September.

He reports that he and his friends met up Friday night for a late night happy hour, then the next day went to “block” with the actives before the alumni tailgate and game.

“We raised about \$2,500 for the house with alumni donation packages,” he said.

How are you celebrating your lifelong Phi Delt friendships? Share your stories and photos at www.ohiozeta.com!



This past summer, **Bryant Denk '66** and **Bob Denk '67** visited Ohio State and the Ohio Zeta house.