

## ALUMNI RELATIONS

### Alumni Relations Officers

#### President

Bruce Rothermund '90

#### Vice President

Keith Davis '76

## HOUSE CORPORATION



### Ohio Zeta House Corporation

#### President

Scott Armstrong '85

#### Vice President

Keith Davis '76

#### Secretary

Cortland Schafer '09

#### Treasurer

Dick James '68

## LOST BROTHERS



We're missing contact information of Alumni Brothers and need your help to find them so we can send them The Buckeye Phi and Alumni eLetters. Visit [www.ohiozeta.com](http://www.ohiozeta.com) and look on the homepage for the current lost mailing list and email list. If you have contact information for any lost Brothers, email our alumni communications partner, Affinity Connection, your updates at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).

Central Ohio Alumni Association of Phi Delta Theta

# BUCKEYE PHI

[www.ohiozeta.com](http://www.ohiozeta.com)

Fall 2020

Ohio Zeta Chapter • The Ohio State University

## THE FUTURE OF OHIO ZETA

### Make Your Voice Heard: Respond to our Alumni Survey Today!

Dear Brothers,

In January we communicated that the Ohio Zeta chapter was suspended from operation until Fall 2024. Since that time the House has been systematically shut down with all unnecessary expenses removed and operations at barebones levels. Our only source of income without substantial house renovation is rental of parking spaces and contributions from alumni. With maximum parking revenue and minimal operating cost (e.g. property taxes, vacancy-level property insurance, interest-only Palmer payments, minimal utilities, and house maintenance), we will have annual losses of \$15K to \$20K in order to keep the property.

Obviously, this is not a sustainable situation. There seem to be two alternatives: (1) use alumni contributions to make up the shortfall, or (2) transfer the property along with existing debt obligations to the General Headquarters.

The existing debt obligations are approximately \$100K to Palmer and \$82K to Fidelity Scholarship Fund. If we transfer the property to the GHQ, they will pay ongoing operating expenses and hold the property for use once Ohio Zeta can return to Chapter operations. A number of details would need to be resolved, but essentially the GHQ would retain ownership of the property, lease it back to Ohio Zeta when operations resume, and provide the House Corporation first right of refusal if a sale of the property becomes necessary.

All the above is just to keep the property for future Ohio Zeta use. Before reopening the House in 2024, substantial renovation or a full rebuild is necessary in order to be viable going forward. This is to meet current City of Columbus housing codes, university requirements for sophomore live-in eligibility, and simply to compete with other fraternities and newer rental units. Such costs would likely amount to \$3-\$4 million. Discussion about raising that sort of money is for another day.

**For now, we need your help and input on what we should do to keep the property. Please respond to our online survey at [bit.ly/ohiozetasurvey](http://bit.ly/ohiozetasurvey). We need to make decisions before year-end. Thanks for your help.**

Yours in the Bond,

Ohio Zeta House Corporation:

Scott Armstrong, President

Keith Davis, Vice President

Cortland Schafer, Secretary

Dick James, Treasurer

Bruce Rothermund, Alumni Relations President

P.S. To give back to Ohio Zeta, visit [www.ohiozeta.com](http://www.ohiozeta.com) to make an online card donation, call our toll-free donation hotline at 1-800-975-6699, or send a check to our processing center listed here:



Phi Delta Theta  
Ohio State University  
Alumni Relations Processing Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

## Brothers Remember Greek Sing, Talk Buckeye Football, and Share Life Updates



Thanks to these brothers for responding to our recent alumni email survey! If you'd like to submit an update of your own for publication in an upcoming eLetter or a future edition of *The Buckeye Phi*, head over to our alumni website at [www.ohiozeta.com](http://www.ohiozeta.com) and click the "Submit an Update" tab.

### What were your favorite events, traditions, and activities to participate in at Ohio State?

"I really enjoyed the Greek Sing every year. Phi Delts won every year I was in the house. We had a lot of help from **Keith Davis '76** and his father. One year we had over twenty brothers sing in four-part harmony. One song was a spiritual and two were Ohio State songs: "Carmen Ohio" and "Buckeye Battle Cry." We sang a cappella. We brought down the house. Brother **Mark Bernsdorf '77** also won the individual act competition with a spirited speech from Patton. He was standing on stage with the Stadium Flag, dressed head to toe like Patton. It was great."

– **Mark Erickson '76**

"Ohio State football games. We watch from NC every chance we get. Participating and being around Greek Week was also fun."

– **Rusty Meyers '79**

"I loved all our events, our man auction philanthropy events and other social events. Buckeye football is huge, and we would have tailgates which were really fun. Even more than that though, the whole community came together to root for our team and that was just awesome. It's important because it set up traditions in my life where I try to watch the Buckeye game every season and come home for homecoming."

– **Hari Kunduru '16**



### What was your favorite spot in Columbus?

"The Varsity Club on Lane was the Rugby Club's after practice bar on Tuesday and Thursday. We still have our annual meeting there."

– **Mark Erickson '76**

"My favorite place was this bar called Chumley's that was right down the street from the house. It became our go-to spot and had awesome food. We would grab our giant schooners and go there for games, pregame, or for nights out after classes. Lots of memories were made there and I can confidently say that all my other Phi Delts would rank this place up there. Unfortunately, the school went through renovation and the bar isn't there anymore, but it was awesome while it lasted."

– **Hari Kunduru '16**

### Share your Alumni Updates.

"When I came to Ohio Zeta there were only 4 or 5 brothers from Upper Arlington out of the 80+ members. When we left 3 years later the house had 35 UA Brothers out of the 150+ members. I still see many of them over 40 years later. I never left Upper Arlington, married,

raised 3 great kids, and now I enjoy my 4 grandkids, 3 kids, and 1 wife. Life has been a wild ride. I have worked in the computer industry and everything was always changing. I started 6 companies, 2 were successful, and in between the startups I worked in sales for many Silicon Valley companies."

– **Mark Erickson '76**

"I am in the process of reopening our restaurant company. I am the VP of The Rusty Bucket and sit on the Cameron Mitchell Restaurants Executive Team. I have two teenagers that cannot wait to get out of this house once social distancing is relaxed. They, along with my wife and extended family, are my top priority. My wife helps support me with the kids, work, and my other interests. I mostly spend any extra time staying in shape, volunteering in our community's youth sports administration, trying to read a book or two here and there, and not much else."

– **Jim Sauter '99**

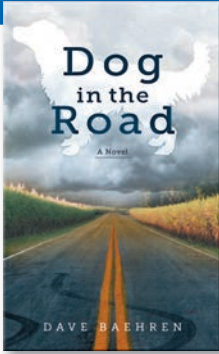
"I reside in Dublin, am employed with City of Columbus's Department of Development, and I'm a realtor."

– **Marty Majka '83**

"Life after college is different... Going from a lush social scene to isolation is tough. I'm currently growing a startup called Zoptiks where I'm making a virtual zoo and helping zoos with virtual field trips and interactive maps via augmented reality. Check it out at [Zoptiks.com](http://Zoptiks.com). (I know it's a far cry from my Phi Delt days, but it is what it is). Things have changed for the guys as well; I've gone to a few of my brothers' weddings and many are paving their way around the world. But a major reason I am who I am today is because of Phi Delt."

– **Hari Kunduru '16**

## Brother Dave Baehren '82's Riveting New Novel



*"Fast-paced and riveting, Dog in the Road resonates with an authenticity that is grounded in author Dave Baehren's stellar career in emergency medicine. As his characters' lives play out in these pages, it's clear that this is more than a story about the world of medicine. It's a story about life."*

— *Christine Brennan, USA Today columnist*

Since graduating from Ohio State in 1982, Brother **Dave Baehren** has been busy. After attending medical school at MCO in Toledo from 1982-86, he finished his Emergency Medicine Residency at OSU in '89. He married Sonja Scott in '87 (she was a Chi Omega at OSU) and the pair had two children. Their son is now a Lieutenant in the Navy in San Diego and their daughter is in her second year of PA school at Baldwin Wallace.



Since 1989, Dave has practiced and taught emergency medicine and has lived and worked in Columbus, OH, Hilton Head, SC, and New Orleans, LA. He currently works at a community hospital back in Toledo. Dave has written nearly 100 essays for ACEP (American College of Emergency Physicians) News over 7 years. He enjoys boating, biking, fishing, photography, and travel.

And as if being a successful husband, father, and doctor wasn't impressive enough, Dave recently added "published author" to his long list of accomplishments. Dave's new novel "Dog in the Road" is a story of recovery, perseverance, love, and forgiveness that is particularly poignant during these difficult times.

"Writing is an excellent outlet for me. Emergency medicine can be stressful, and I've seen and experienced events that can leave a mark on you. I find that writing provides an avenue to put these experiences in perspective and bring them to some order in my head," says Brother Baehren.

About his Phi Delt days, Dave says "Living with my brothers in the house gave me a home at OSU. It's a big place, of course, and the fraternity and the Greek system provided a world you could wrap your arms around.

Watching brothers like **Jim Curphey '80**, **Tim Wright '82**, **Tom Burns '82**, **Tom Hulme '81**, and **Richard Broughton '79**

helped me to learn leadership. Eventually, I was elected president and I learned to view things from a wider angle and listen to views from different sides.

I keep in touch with **Chip Moree '81**, **Dan King '83**, and **Brad Berlekamp '82**. Brad — my roommate for two years — was in my wedding, and he and his wife visited us at our cottage at Devils Lake, Michigan last year.

I feel a lifelong connection to PDT and Ohio Zeta. I also won a scholarship from PDT national organization my senior year and I have always wanted to more than repay that."

"Dog in the Road" just might be the perfect late summer/early autumn read to get you through the remainder of this time of social distancing. Here's the synopsis:

He thought he had the perfect life. Everything about it turned out to be wrong.

Columbia, SC. Forty-something ER physician Sam Buchanan has gotten too comfortable in the lap of luxury. But when he discovers his wife is having an affair, he's ashamed to realize he's ended up a distant, selfish alcoholic. Vowing to redeem himself, he quits cold turkey, sells his possessions, and takes a job at a hospital in New Orleans.

Finding fresh opportunities and potential love, Sam reinvents himself in the Big Easy's Uptown district. But news of the death of a friend he could have saved back in South Carolina shatters his confidence and knocks him off the wagon. And when a meddling acquaintance threatens his budding romance, Sam fears his demons may be too strong to defeat.

Can Sam kiss the bottle goodbye forever and finally become the person he wants to be?

"Dog in the Road" is available now

in bookstores everywhere, and via online booksellers like Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Find out more about Brother Baehren's book at [davebaehren.com](http://davebaehren.com).



*Tim Wright '82, Dave Baehren '82, Tom Hulme '81  
– Champagne Formal '81*



*Valentine's Day Dance '79*



*Dave Baehren '82, Brad Berlekamp '82, Dan King '83, Tom Ritter '82 – Champagne Formal '81*



# Phi Delta Theta THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

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## In this edition of the Buckeye Phi...

- **The Future of Ohio Zeta**
- **Alumni Updates**
- **Brother-Owned Businesses to Support during COVID-19**

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## WHY OHIO ZETA?

### Brothers Share How Being a Phi Delt Changed Their Lives

You already know the impact Greek life has—because you lived it. The term ‘social fraternity’ might give the impression that the Greek experience is superficial, but research shows that personal connections and friendships are the key to happiness.

These lifelong relationships are only part of what makes the fraternity experience so transformational. From our career trajectories to our family’s values, our Ohio Zeta experience played a key role. Our experiences helped make us into the people we are today.

But don’t take our word for it. Here’s what your alumni brothers had to say:

“So much in life changes as you get older, but one thing doesn’t: brotherhood. I still

enjoy the friendships, counsel, company and connections with my friends from the house. I communicate with them now just as much (in some cases maybe more) as I did the year after I graduated.” - **Jim Sauter ‘99**

“Every single day of my life was impacted by my membership in PDT. The strong feeling of true brotherhood led me to begin a journey where I learned to trust others. More importantly, I learned to trust myself. Because others believed in me, my confidence grew, and all my leadership qualities began to come out. If you can stand in front of a room full of fraternity brothers, command their attention, sway them to your point of view and get them to buy into what you are trying to accomplish... you will gain a valuable tool no

matter what endeavor you choose to make a living. Membership in Phi Delta Theta gave me that, plus a lifetime of the best friends a man could ever ask for.” - **James McKnight ‘72**

“My experience at PDT helped inform my approach to adult life in general. I walked out of that house with a lot of confidence. I felt a huge sense of optimism and opportunity that’s directly related to the bonds I formed there.” - **Jeff Benzenberg ‘04**

“I enjoyed and respected the guys I met at PDT and thought it was a good fit. Our House brothers at PDT were all quality, good guys, the experience of multiple personalities having to live and work together to create an enjoyable and productive living environment. It was a good life experience.” - **Tom Backhus ‘70**

## BROTHER-OWNED BUSINESSES

### Support These Small Businesses and Restaurants Owned by Phi Delt

Small businesses are the heart of our communities, and they need our help during the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to do our part by showcasing Phi Delt-owned restaurants and small businesses. Who are we missing? To add your business to our list, email us your information at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) with subject line “Ohio Zeta Business.”

#### **41K9 LLC**

Address: 1707 Monroe St,  
Toledo, OH 43604  
Facebook: 41K9 Toledo  
Website: [41k9.com](http://41k9.com)  
Product/Service: Dog daycare and boarding  
**William Crown ‘14**  
**Gregg Rothermund - State Farm Insurance**  
Address: 50 Northwoods Blvd,

Columbus, OH 43235  
Phone: 614.436.9015  
Facebook:  
[greggrothermundsfagent](https://www.facebook.com/greggrothermundsfagent)  
Website: [greggrothermund.com](http://greggrothermund.com)  
Product/Service: Insurance agent  
**Gregg Rothermund ‘78**  
**Schwandner Law Firm, LLC**  
Address: 119 E Court St Ste 504,  
Cincinnati, OH 45202  
Phone: 513.429.4099

Website: [Schwanlawfirm.com](http://Schwanlawfirm.com)  
Product/Service: The firm represents businesses and individuals in construction disputes, such as project delays, change orders, warranties, and overdue payment.  
**Nick Schwandner ‘07**  
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Website: [columbus-cpa.com](http://columbus-cpa.com)  
Product/Service: A CPA firm providing financial management solutions for veterinarians, dentists, and doctors in Ohio.  
**Matt Jones ‘05**  
*See more of your brothers’ businesses at [www.ohiozeta.com](http://www.ohiozeta.com)*