

## Upcoming EVENTS

Watch for More ...

### Philly Golf Outing Spring 2005

For more information, contact **Mike Horan '91** at [michael.horan@amec.com](mailto:michael.horan@amec.com) or (215) 769-8335. Details will also follow on the Web site at [www.TKEpennstate.com](http://www.TKEpennstate.com).

## CONSTRUCTION

### House Update

#### Phase One: Mission Accomplished

By *Craig M. Aronow '95*

After some bumps in the road, I am proud to announce that the new bathrooms are complete. Both the second- and third-floor bathrooms have been demolished and rebuilt from the studs up. The plumbing, fixtures and finishes have all been upgraded. The new colors are cherry and white. The bathrooms look great and are in fine operation. I urge any alumni in the area to stop in and take a look at the first phase of the TKE house renovation.

I would like to thank **Bill Nickerson '78** for his time and effort in serving as the local contact for the project. **Brian Gibbons '97**, **Ross Gibson '66** and **Dale Davenport '66** served as the financial oversight committee for the project and deserve our thanks. Most importantly, this project could not have happened without the bequest of **Walter "By" Riley '43** (see page 2 for more). I think that I speak on behalf of all Pi Chapter Tekes when I thank Frater Riley and his family.

The TKE Board of Advisors is working with the fraternity's design professionals to set a renovation priority list. It is anticipated that the next item on the list may be the replacement of the existing roof. We welcome any ideas that the alumni would like to offer with respect to renovations. Additionally, as the Chapter Room has been rid of asbestos, we hope to bring it into working order in the not too distant future. Feel free to e-mail me at [caronow@hoaglandlong.com](mailto:caronow@hoaglandlong.com).

# Pieces of Pi



Pi Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity  
at the Pennsylvania State University

State College, PA

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

January 2005

## Alumni

By *Rich Wolfgang '94*

# Report All Systems Go for Phase Two

**Almost** two years ago, Pi Chapter was at one of the lowest points in its history. Surviving, let alone becoming successful, was going to be an uphill battle. Today, it makes me very proud to see what the alumni association, board of advisors and house corporation have accomplished. A handful of alumni volunteers have established:

- recurring alumni events and communications
- a working relationship with the active chapter
- profitable house operations and a house renovation plan

We are proud of our success, and my gratitude goes out to each alumni volunteer. We are also hungry for more success now that we see what is possible — we are ready for Phase Two. Phase Two will include more news and activities for alumni, more support for the active chapter in reaching their goals and the execution of complete renovation of the house.

Our current small team of volunteers cannot execute Phase Two. We need manpower and a fair amount of it in order to reach the success that we are hoping for. I am asking for at least 20 volunteers to step forward and help make this fraternity something you are proud of. The teams will be large, and the amount of work will be small. More importantly, you will have fun and gain quite a bit of personal satisfaction by helping out Pi Chapter.

Are you unsure of where your financial donations have gone? Have you been disappointed by a recent visit to the house? Have you been ashamed of the deteriorating physical condition of the house? These problems will not go away without a strong base of alumni volunteers. Please consider becoming part of our team and leading the way for a better Pi Chapter. Contact me at (512) 589-9609 or [Connect@TKEpennstate.com](mailto:Connect@TKEpennstate.com) to find out more.

### It's Never Too Late to Be a Brother

We've all heard it before ... now is the time to give back. It has definitely become a cliché. But have you considered benefits of becoming a mentor to our undergraduate brothers? It is a tremendous opportunity to help them with important career and life choices while helping to channel their energy in positive and constructive directions. If interested, contact **Rich Wolfgang '94** at [Connect@TKEpennstate.com](mailto:Connect@TKEpennstate.com).

### Alumni Communications and Donations

One measure of success for Pi Chapter is the increase in alumni sharing stories, participating in events and making donations of time and money. This success is a result of dramatically increasing our expenditures on Pi Chapter alumni. Our costs for alumni communications, alumni events and the infrastructure needed to operate averages out to around \$35 per year per active alumnus.

### Here are our donation figures, this year (1/1/04 – 11/23/04) vs. last year:

2003: 87 donors at \$8,181

2004: 67 donors at \$5,470

*It is important to note, however, that last year, the fall newsletter was mailed on 11/4/2003, and we most likely received contributions included in the total to date.*

While the results have been phenomenal, the expenditures responsible for those results are not sustainable. That money is desperately needed in other areas. Thus, we are hoping to incrementally scale our communications spending back so that we can spend more money on making a visit to the house an enjoyable experience and one that you will want to share with your family.

As you can imagine, we are worried about a reduction in alumni financial donations. To help combat this, we are making an appeal to all of our alumni to prevent this and, in so doing, keep the momentum going for making TKE a great fraternity!

If you are part of the 75 percent of our alumni who has not donated in recent years, please consider making a financial gift this year that will cover the costs we spend to communicate with you. For those of you who have regularly made donations and have regularly increased those donations, thank you — without you this issue of *Pieces of Pi* would not be possible.

For those who have reservations about donating, please call me. I want you to call me not so I can "sell" you on Pi Chapter, but rather so I can learn from your concerns, so that you give me a chance to earn your trust, and maybe one of these years, earn your donation as well.

Happy Holidays!



## The 2004 Wildwood Reunion ... 50 Years

The Pi Chapter Tekes celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Class of 1954 annual reunion with a glorious gathering on June 1-2. We drew 38 brothers and wives from the classes of 1951 through 1956 and 10 states.

Those who attended this 50th reunion were Jane and **Art Bates '56** (Conn.), Joyce and **Duane Buck '55** (Pa.), Bev and **Walt Cron '56** (N.C.), **Fury Feraco '54** (N.J.), Dottie and **Bob Franks '56** (Md.), Sally and **Gerry Gillispie '55** (Pa.), Joan and **Jack Gruber '53** (Pa.), Joan and **Tom Hahn '53** (Pa.), Barb and **Ted Hardy '51** (Pa.), Terry and **Jack Hartman '52** (Pa.), Lavonne and **Frank Hills '55** (S.C.), Mary Lee and **Dave Jones '54** (N.J.), Jane and **Bill Lysinger '54** (Fla.), Evelyn and **Jack Pinezich '55** (N.Y.), Jeanne and **Darrell Ray '55** (Tenn.), Jean and **Dick Schuler '54** (Fla.), Norma and **Gene Shue '56** (Pa.), Evelyn and **Don Taylor '54** (Md.), **Fran Taylor '56** (Pa.), and Nancy and **Andy Zerban '55** (Mich.).

The event was held at the Reges Resort in Wildwood Crest, N.J., a new venue for the reunion, and it proved a popular choice. It is a small high-rise hotel that sits right on the wide Wildwood beach, with a sizable heated pool on the ocean front and all rooms facing the ocean. There is a small restaurant, as well as a large poolside entertainment room that was put exclusively at our disposal.

The weather was perfect — blue skies, lots of sun and balmy breezes. But it was no doubt a commentary on our age, as well as the attractive ocean front area at the hotel, that there were no Teke umbrellas and chairs taken to the beach this year. The best a few of us could do was a bit of wading in the ocean and dipping in the pool.

This was our first mid-week reunion — we can do that now that we are all retired geezers — and that meant things at the hotel were quiet and pretty much all ours. Events began on Tuesday afternoon with a round of golf arranged by the Pineziches and including the Grubers, Zerbans, Walt Cron and Fran Taylor. That was cut a bit short when a thunderstorm broke out on the 17th hole, saving the men the embarrassment of officially losing to Evie Pinezich.

A potluck barbecue dinner was held in the entertainment room on Tuesday evening, attended by about half the group. The remainder scattered to various eateries in the Wildwood area. But everyone gathered after dinner in the entertainment room for reminiscences and a short show by Dick Schuler of slides and movies from our undergraduate days and Dave Jones' slides of previous Wildwood reunions. We also spent a lot of time browsing through memorabilia and scrapbooks brought for this occasion.

On Wednesday, we spent the day lounging around the pool, reliving old times and telling lies. Lunch was served in the entertainment room from leftovers from the previous night's barbecue. And for dinner we carpooled, as usual, out to Fury Feraco's wonderful house on Delaware Bay for cocktails, dinner and good fellowship.

In tune with the Teke tradition, Don Taylor arranged attractive table centerpieces of orchids (necessarily artificial). We had a delightful potluck ham dinner, enhanced by five of Fury's spectacular desserts. Then followed more good fellowship and singing under the direction of Bear Zerban from music provided by **Dave Margolf '53**. We were admittedly a bit rusty — it took four tries to get the Teke Toast into any semblance of shape — but the spirit was still there.

Sally and Gerry Gillispie, this year's reunion chairmen, did a remarkable

job in arranging affairs for the 50th gathering. Sally reproduced copies of a chronicle of the 1953-54 academic year, written by Dave Jones for a history of Penn State as seen through the pages of *The Daily Collegian*, to be published this fall for the university's sesquicentennial year. Sally also encouraged people to bring mementos of their college days, and they did — ranging from a dried orchid corsage from Orchid Dance to green dinks and TKE paddles. And not a few wives wore their Teke pins. Gene and Norma Shue won the prize of a book on the history of the Nittany Lion for bringing the most mementos.

This year's reunion drew three brothers who had never been to the reunion — Jack Gruber, Jack Hartman and Fran Taylor. Gruber said in brief remarks at the end of the evening that he now realized that one of his mistakes in life had been never attending one of the reunions before, something he promised to make up for in the future. And Fran sent everyone a very affectionate note afterward, saying that attending the reunion had reminded him of how much being a member of Pi Chapter had meant to him at Penn State.

*The 51st reunion will be held at the Reges Resort in Wildwood Crest on May 31 and June 1, 2005. All Fifties Tekes are invited to join us in a good start on the next half century. ■*



**Class of '54 50th Reunion at Wildwood Crest, June 2004.**

(Front row, L-R): Jack Gruber, Fury Feracco, Walt Cron, Gerry Gillespie, Don Taylor, Bob Franks and Frank Hill. (second row, L-R): Art Bates, Andy Zerban, Darrell Ray, Fran Taylor, Dick Schuler, Jack Pinezich, Gene Shue, Bill Lysinger, Ted Hardy, Jack Hartman, Tom Hahn, Dave Jones and Duane Buck.

## What's In It for You?

**Please** consider how you can make an impact in the lives of your alumni and undergraduate brothers. If you have an interest in finding a position on the board that best fits your schedule, interests and areas of expertise, please contact **Rich Wolfgang '94** at **Connect@TKEpennstate.com** or **(512) 589-9609**.

### How Can You Fulfill Your Lifelong Commitment to Tau Kappa Epsilon?

*As a member of the board, you can help in so many ways:*

- By volunteering to play a leadership role in the Pi Chapter House Corporation.
- By assisting in the direction of our alumni relations and communications programs, including our *Pieces of Pi* newsletter and Web site (**www.TKEpennstate.com**).
- By joining the mentorship program to keep our alumni network alive by pairing undergraduates with successful alumni.
- By working to develop strategies for our financial plans and fund-raising initiatives.
- By organizing events including pledge class reunions and homecoming celebrations.
- By serving as a chapter advisor to provide academic support, leadership training and more. ■

## Blue-White Weekend

**April 22-24, 2005**

Come to the house and enjoy a pregame tailgate.  
*More details to follow.*

## TKE Reunions: When Was Your Last One?

We are looking for brothers to help organize a series of mini reunions (basically just to coordinate the time and location). This is a great chance to reconnect with other TKE fraters back at 346 E. Prospect Ave. or wherever you chose to gather.

For example, the class of '69 along with fraters from the classes of '67 through '71 held a reunion gathering over the October 30th weekend. This event occurs every five years and continues to draw

fraters from all over the country. Events included golf, a visit to the house, TV game viewing, a tour of campus, a short jog, socializing at the Skellar, Champs Sports Bar and a great dinner Saturday at the Nittany Lion Inn. Fraters crooned the old Teke standards: "Honey," "Of All the Girls" and numerous Penn State songs. The event was attended by 35 Tekes and guests. Planning is already beginning for the next reunion in 2009.

If you are interested in planning a reunion for your pledge class or graduating class, please contact **Rich Wolfgang '94** at **Connect@TKEpennstate.com**. ■



Twelve TKE Alumni from '78-'83 gathered for the first annual TKE golf/beach weekend in St. Petersburg Fla. (top row, L-R) Sam Rogers '81 and Jim Pike '81. (third row, L-R) Tom Komarnicki '80, Tom "Tex" Trautman '78 and Dave Gleeson '79. (second row, L-R) Larry Dennis '83, Greg Danielle '82 and Brad Murphy '81. (bottom row, L-R) Larry Fusan '82, Steve "Parksy" Parks '81, Jim Colton '81 (taking the picture) and Dave Vaughan '82.

## Profile By Dale Davenport '66

### Walter B. Riley Jr. '43

#### A Selfless Tribute to His Beloved Pi Chapter

**Walter B. Riley Jr. '43** enjoyed a successful career as a developer and builder in Southern New Jersey, but a part of his heart was always in central Pennsylvania, specifically at Penn State.

"Pi Chapter TKE was the seminal influence on him while he was in college," said his son, Walter B. III. "I think the fraternity had more to do with who he became than anything else."

"By" Riley, as he was known to Pi TKEs of the early 1940s, came to Penn State from South Jersey and went back there to work and raise a family. With partner Bob Scarborough, he formed Scarborough Homes, which they eventually sold to the Weyerhaeuser Corp. He then moved east to Medford, N.J., where he spent his retirement years growing Christmas trees, his son said.

But he never forgot his fraternity. "It was his thing," said Walter III.

Over the years, his name appeared again and again on the honor roll of alumni contributors, and in 1997, in honor of the work of 1965 alumnus **Ben Novak** as chapter adviser, By and his wife, Adele, established an endowment fund with a \$3,000 gift of stock.

But as he lay ill last winter — just weeks before his death on February 13, his 83rd birthday — he talked with his son about arranging a more substantial and lasting gift. His wish was to extend the life of the house and improve living conditions for the active fraters.

Working with Frater **Larry Foster '48**, they put together a plan to donate \$100,000 to the fraternity for a specific project. They asked four other alumni — **Bob Mechling '48**, **Ross Gibson '66**, **Dale Davenport '66** and **Rich Wolfgang '94** — to work with Foster to choose a project and oversee it.

This committee, consulting with other members of the alumni Board of Advisers, decided quickly and firmly that top priority for improvement of the chapter house was replacement of the 1950s-era bathrooms. So, working with architect John Lew, the board undertook this renovation, which culminated this fall in completion of bright new facilities on the second and third floors.

"By" Riley's \$100,000 donation to Pi Chapter will be recognized during Blue-White Weekend next spring with dedication of a plaque and a personal "thank you" to his family. His generous remembrance to his fraternity surely will be remembered by TKE actives and alumni for many years to come. ■

## In Memory

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

- Frank E. Pagenkemper '48** (10/21/03)
- Charles W. Swartz II '53** (4/9/04)
- Bernard E. Grady '63** (8/17/01)
- Tommy G. Stayer** (12/5/03)

*Tau Kappa Epsilon mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.*

## Chapter

**Report**

By Phil Harter '07 and Steve Dryer '07

**Fall 2004 in Review ... a Semester of Achievement**

The fall 2004 semester has proven to be one of growth, activity and valuable education about the health and future of our chapter. Below you will find just brief summaries of what has transpired over the past few weeks. Happy holidays to you from your undergraduate Pi Chapter.

**Recruitment**

During fall 2004 rush, 27 bids were given out with 13 acceptances. They are currently planning their BOLT weekend with hopes of going to Drexel, IUP or Pittsburgh.

**Greek Sing**

This year, we are partnering with Sigma Kappa to perform "Seussical the Musical."

Chairmen are Brian Birdsong and Matthew Dooley, and Eric Frohman has the lead. Look for results in our spring communications.

**'Thon**

Led by chairs Eric Frohman, Vince Agresto and Phil Harter, Pi Chapter is teaming up with Theta Kappa Pi this year for Dance Marathon. During our first canning trip, we raised \$14,200. We only raised a total of \$2,200 independently, but that was due mostly to the decision of most of the brothers to support Chris Blanchard at his father's funeral. We had a very good turnout at the services, and I'm glad to say that his family appreciated the gesture. The next canning trip is scheduled for December, and we plan to have a large showing. We have our

first stand at the 'Thon Family Carnival this year and are planning to build a ski ball game.

**'40s Dinner**

Ryan Loder, Eric Frohman and Phil Harter attended a banquet with many of the alumni from the graduating classes of the '40s. It was a really good way to learn the history of the old house, and how much it changed. When not listening to war stories from the alums, we heard a lot about how the house used to be very thespian in nature. Many of the guys I met were singers and actors. Surprising to me, no girls were allowed above the first floor, thanks to the house mom. The house was dry, and the members did not have their own rooms. Instead, they slept in the rack room in a barracks-style set of bunks. We had a good time, and as always at the Nittany Lion Inn, the food was great. We'd just like to say our thanks to the alumni for welcoming us there and showing us a good time.

**Intramural Sports**

The year was started off with softball and the chapter proving, with a 0-4 record, that it should remain a girls' sport. Vincent Agresto and Stephen Dryer ran in the IM 5k. Steve finished in the middle of the pack with a time of 21:34. Vince, who ran even though under the weather, finished towards the back with a time exceeding 25:00. On to a man's sport now — IM football, where we proved that we can't perform well on the gridiron either,

going 1-4 on the season. Corey Chubon was our primary quarterback even though he stands at only about five feet tall. Finally success with hockey. We found a sport where we can excel. We have one loss on the season and are heading into the playoffs in third place. Anoosh Montasser is one of the top scorers in the league, and he's supported up front by Matt Kondracki and Joe Montemayer. Steve Dryer provides some support on defense as he consistently holds the line. Volleyball is coming up soon.

*Those are the happenings at Pi Chapter. Thank you for all you do for us! ■*

**Want to Help TKE With 'Thon Efforts?**

Over the weekend of February 18-20, 2005, our brothers will once again be involved with Dance Marathon, or 'Thon, the largest student-run philanthropy in the world, raising over \$20 million for the Four Diamonds Fund and cancer research at the Penn State Children's Hospital. For more information, go to [www.tkepennstate.com/shownews.php?id=1999267](http://www.tkepennstate.com/shownews.php?id=1999267). Or if you will be making a contribution online toward 'Thon and would like to have it credited to Pi Chapter, log on to <http://www.thon.org/alumni/donate.php#onlineDonations>. Here, there is a very convenient way to select Tau Kappa Epsilon as the organization that should get credit for your gift.

*see inside.*

*Phase Two of our Pi Chapter mission begins Plus Class of '54 reunion highlights profile on By Riley '43 and more ...*

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