

2005
Tau
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Tau TALES

Tau Company of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity • The Pennsylvania State University
State College, Pa. • October 2005 • www.psudelts.org

Alumni President's Report

HOUSE RENOVATIONS UNDERWAY

By Jim King '78, Tau Company President

Greetings from Tau Company! By the time you receive this, I hope Penn State has extended its current 3–0 record; we are certainly due for a strong season.

There are a number of things to report to you since the last newsletter. Sadly, the first is that **Fred Taylor '59** has passed on to the Chapter Eternal. As an alumnus, Fred served Tau and the international fraternity for over 40 years. He was a board member of Tau and served as president for many of those years. He led Tau Company through the difficult years of the 1960s and 1970s, worked with the local fraternity Alpha Lambda Tau to bring the Delts back to PSU, spearheaded the purchase of the new Shelter and worked tirelessly to maintain the Chapter following the devastating fire a few years later.

As with any leader, not all of Fred's decisions were popular ones, but his love of and dedication to Tau and Delta Tau Delta have never been questioned. A member of the Distinguished Service Chapter and the Tau Hall of Fame, his enthusiasm and humor will be greatly missed. Our condolences to Fred's Delt sweetheart, Joann, as well as to his children.

On a happier note, in April we enjoyed celebrating in the front hall of the Shelter at the installation of a plaque recognizing alumni service. We all enjoyed getting to know the many parents who were present for Parents Weekend. The undergraduates had the house looking great and made all brothers and guests feel very welcome.

We completed the second-floor hallway renovation, including new wainscoting, the ceiling, base and door trim, and carpet. In addition, the first floor ladies room was entirely renovated with new fixtures, partitions, ceiling and a beautiful tile floor. Also, brother **Ron Krasnansky '90** completed his significant pledge to the capital campaign by paying for the design and installation of new landscaping in front of the Shelter. Thanks again, Ron! Lastly, over the summer we replaced the main water line to the house, a major undertaking that cost \$12,000, but finally providing adequate water pressure for the showers and toilets throughout the house.

Our next improvements will be the third-floor bath and hallway, as well as common areas in the basement and on the first floor.

Please stop by! Good things continue to happen at Tau, and we want you to be part of it. I'll look for you at homecoming!

Join Us for Homecoming 2005!

Penn State's homecoming is set for the weekend of October 28-30, with Penn State taking on Purdue on Saturday at Beaver Stadium. All Tau alumni are invited to a tailgate party before the game and to visit the Shelter for the postgame celebration, to meet other Tau alumni and friends and to celebrate another Penn State victory.

As has been the tradition, the Tau Corporation annual meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 29, at the Shelter, and will be followed immediately by a Tau Board meeting. These meetings are open to all Tau alumni.

Chapter Report

PROUD OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, MANY PLANS FOR MORE SUCCESSES

By Brad Fitzpatrick '07

So far the 2005-06 school year is off to a great start. The rooms in the Shelter have never looked better — every room has had an improvement. Thanks to the new landscaping, which has greatly improved the exterior of the Shelter, combined with the new water line, we've further increased the already prominent sense of pride the undergraduates have in the Shelter.

This semester the brotherhood looks forward to homecoming with Gamma Phi Beta. Our theme this year is based on the movie "Elf." The homecoming chairs got together recently to watch the movie again to brainstorm for ideas about what our float will look like and what aspects from the movie we want to build upon. One of our more artistic brothers drew up a preliminary sketch, and the possibilities seem endless.

For the first time in several years, Tau Chapter will also be participating in Greek Sing with the lovely women of Delta Zeta. Everyone is really looking forward to working with these women; already a number of brothers have offered their time and talent to make our return to Greek Sing a winning one.



Undergraduates gathered in Massapequa, N.Y., for the Fourth of July weekend. Back row (L-R): Erik Allsopp '07, Kevin King '06, Andrew Connor '07, Brad Fitzpatrick '07. Front: Harley Roberts '07 (aka Bruce).

Rush is off to a great start. We already have a large base of freshmen and sophomore students interested in pledging. They have been coming out and spending time with the brothers, both when we have social functions and when we're just hanging around. A big hit has been our Saturday morning tailgates at the Shelter. We invite over our close friends and rushes, and run two separate barbecues on the front lawn. We encourage all alumni to stop by the Shelter on game days to meet the new faces. Since last fall we've initiated 15 new brothers and are looking to double that number this coming year.

Tau Chapter's grades from the spring semester placed us 15th out of the nearly 60 Penn State fraternities, with a combined house GPA of 3.06. We successfully reached our goal of maintaining our entire Chapter average over 3.0.

This year Tau Chapter is once again partnered with a sorority for the Penn State Dance Marathon, with Delta Phi Epsilon. Our Thon chairs met with the sorority's women recently and have started planning canning trips and other fundraising events to help put our Chapter near the top of the money list for Thon 2006. Delta Phi Epsilon's numbers combined with ours should easily triple our total from last year and finally get us the recognition that participating as an individual organization could never achieve.

Last year we ranked eighth overall for fraternity intramurals. This is the highest we've been ranked in years, and we look to improve in 2005 and 2006. Our softball team has been practicing regularly and hard.

The volleyball team is itching to play again after losing the championship by one point in overtime last year. Overall, everyone is looking to take their game to the next level but, more important, to just have fun.

One of Tau Chapter's more involved members, **Tom Graham '07**, was chosen for the Delta Tau Delta Leadership Academy this past year, for which he traveled to Colorado for a week over the summer to work with other Delts, all while rock climbing and hiking. Tom says it was an amazing experience, and he hopes to use the ideas and techniques from the trip to teach the younger members how to make our house better.

This summer several undergraduate members had the privilege of attending the annual get-together at the cabin of **Ben Margerum '82** deep in the woods outside Halifax, Pa. Everyone who went had an amazing time, and we all look forward to going back next summer with even more brothers.

Our annual retreat was also held at the beginning of the fall semester. Used as a way to get out of the Chapter Room, the undergraduates and several alumni all met in Lederer Park to discuss new positions within the house, Chapter organization and other general issues usually not detailed in a typical Chapter meeting.



The Shelter's new landscaping, viewed from the side of the house.



The new landscaping, viewed from the front.

Alumni Profile with Dave Espenshade '60

'SHADE' RECALLS HAPPY TIMES AT TAU CHAPTER

What could be as memorable as landing a Navy jet on the deck of an aircraft carrier? According to **Dave Espenshade '60**, the answer is being a brother at the Tau Chapter.

"It was just a wonderful experience," said Dave. "Probably the two happiest times of my life were at Penn State at Delta Tau Delta and in the Navy flying on the carriers — I did 486 landings."

At the Tau Chapter, where some brothers called him "Shade," he got his first leadership opportunity — serving as president of the Chapter. The skills learned there served him well during six years in the Navy and then during a career at Rohm and Haas, from which he retired 18 months ago.

His fraternity adventure started with a few friends. "I met a couple of guys in the dorm, and they had mutual friends at Delta Tau Delta," he said. "I joined them in some visits, and I liked everything I saw. I had a couple of other houses that rushed me, and I liked Delta Tau Delta better. All of the members were just wonderful individuals that I really liked. It was a broad cross-section of different types of fellows. They were all studying different things. There were some athletes and some really bright students.

"We used to have wonderful parties and lots of fun, and my class was exceptionally close," he said. "I still remain friendly with a couple of guys who don't live too far away."

Dave stays in touch with George Campbell, J. Roger Kent and Bob Schimmel, all from the class of 1960. He would like to hear from James J. Greeves, a Delt brother who left Penn State early.

Dave travels from his home in Philadelphia to Happy Valley from time to time. He said he's eager to see how the big renovation project at the Shelter comes out.

He married Joanne McGee in 1961 and will celebrate 42 years of marriage this November. They have three adult children, one grandchild and another on the way. Although retired, he's still active as an officer of his country club where he plays golf two or three times each week. He enjoys reading and said his 75-year-old house "requires constant work."

Brothers may contact Dave at 215-242-5512 or espenshaded@aol.com.



The above profile was submitted via our alumni websites, www.psudelts.org. You can submit a profile by logging onto the site and clicking "Submit a Profile" on the left side of the screen.

Why Should You Support the Annual Fund

Your support for our alumni Chapter's annual fund proves your commitment to the future of Tau Chapter. Your annual gift is an investment in the fraternity's potential to make a positive impact in the lives of young men as the fraternity did for you, me and so many of our alumni.

Your annual contribution affirms your belief that:

- Delta Tau Delta still provides the best leadership development and character-building opportunities on campus.

- The spirit of volunteerism that drives our alumni board and other volunteers is vital to the strength of the organization.
- The value of friendships forged at Delta Tau Delta grows as time passes and should be celebrated with reunions, annual gatherings and other events that bring alumni back to the place they can always call home. Alumni contributions to the annual fund make possible our Tau Tales newsletter,

our alumni Web site at www.psudelts.org, event invitations and other forms of alumni communication.

Your annual support is crucial to the success of our Chapter and our alumni relations program. You can make a gift now by:

- Visiting our Web site at www.psudelts.org and clicking on "Make a Donation."
- Calling our toll-free donation hotline at 800-975-6699.

Capital Campaign Update

The Tau Chapter's Strengthening the Bond Capital Campaign has reached the \$350,000 level in commitments from alumni, friends and undergraduate brothers. Counting another \$100,000 from planned-giving commitments, the campaign has reached \$450,000.

Initiated in 2003, the capital campaign is

a five-year program with the goal of supporting Tau Chapter in a series of renovations to help maintain the competitiveness of the Shelter.

If you are interested in participating in the campaign, please call Tim Phillips '79 at 704-483-7434.

Tau Tales is published for the alumni and friends of the **Tau Chapter of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University**. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelope; mailed to **Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 296, State College, PA 16804-0296**; or sent via our Web site at www.psudelts.org.

PSU Football 2005 Schedule

Come cheer our Nittany Lions on to a winning Big Ten season!

10/1	Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
10/8	Ohio State, 7:00 p.m.
10/15	at Michigan, TBA
10/22	at Illinois, 7:00 p.m., ESPN2
10/29	Purdue (Homecoming), TBA
10/5	Wisconsin, TBA
10/19	at Michigan State, TBA

Home games in bold • All times are Eastern and may be subject to change

Alumni NEWS

Robert L. Bridge '60

(16659 Purcival Ct., Dumfries, VA 22026-3100; bridgepsu@aol.com) I retired on February 28, 2005, and look forward to a life of fishing on the Chesapeake Bay.

Roger J. Peelor '83

(213 Gardens Pl., Hoover, AL 35216; zrjp01@yahoo.com) It has only taken me three and a half years to post another update. I did relocate my family here in 2001, divorced in 2004 and will live out my days — well, at least till my three sons grow up — here in the Birmingham area.

John Thorsen '86

(3489 Coronet Ave., Lancaster, PA 17601-1164) John was recently promoted to di-

rector of operations for Pyramid Construction Services Inc., a subsidiary of Quandel Enterprises, where John previously served as a senior project manager. Pyramid Construction is located in the Harrisburg area. John will oversee all management and field operations for Pyramid as they double their work volume in the coming year. John and his wife Tracie, and daughters Vicki and Katie, still reside in Lancaster.

Theodore J. Walker '87

(2426 Lobach Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-5376; ted@reflectionsinsilver.com) I appreciate reading about others, so it's my turn. Built a house in Mechanicsburg, Pa., with my wife of seven years, Mary. We plan to die there (meaning that we expect to spend many years there — I'm not sick). No kids yet. Mary is fortunately many years younger than I, and I like that. I have been working as a jeweler (designing and fabricating sterling silver) for about 14 years. Check out my new Web site at www.reflectionsinsilver.com to see what that is all about. All is well.

reflectionsinsilver.com to see what that is all about. All is well.

Thomas E. Cunningham '92

(3048 N. Grand Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73107; thomasc@harrymortgage.com) Hey, I am now in Oklahoma City, working as a loan officer. I also just finished shooting a movie, "The Hunt," see www.thehuntmovie.com, in which I got to play the bad guy. It should be out in October, all things being equal. My mom passed away suddenly in May. Hope all is well with everyone. I haven't seen anyone in a while...

Chapter Eternal

Since publication of our last newsletter, we have learned of the deaths of **Edward Murphy '41** (12/26/04) & **Fred Taylor '59**. Delta Tau Delta mourns their passing and extends condolences to their family and friends.

James D. King '78

(1441 E. Lamplighter Ln., North Wales, PA 19454-3695; kingjim@comcast.net) Jim King remembers a long-ago article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* about the sudden popularity of toga parties at Delta Tau Delta at Penn State in the wake of the hit movie, "National Lampoon's Animal House." The undergraduates used the rowdy events to let off steam, wear bedsheets as clothing and, of course, shout "To-ga! To-ga!"

The movie resurrected the toga fad at American colleges throughout the country, and the Delta Tau Delta brothers knew how to party. After a hard week of studying, there was nothing like a toga party. Brothers quoted in the *Inquirer* article included **Neil Bidwell '80**, who explained it best: "You don't have to be proper and you don't have to be sane. It's the most fun party you can have."

A photo with the article pictured several of our brothers in hilarious get-ups for a late-1970s bash at the Shelter, including **Dave Beighley '80**, **Jack Ryan '77**, **Jeff Anderson '79**, **Neil Bidwell '80**, **Mark Ryan '78**, **Joe Hritz '76**, **Bill Geilfuss '79**, **Tom Moore '77**, **Jim Gherardi '80**, **Craig Emrey '81**, **Ray Werner '81**, **Tim Phillips '79**, **Fred Jones**, **Bill Fustos '79** and **John Russell '77**.

Check out the full article and photos at www.psudelts.org.

MOVING? NEW ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

Please send your new street address, telephone number and e-mail address to:

DTD National, 1-800-335-8795
PSU Alumni Association, 1-800-546-5466
Bob Schimmel '60, rhstrider@juno.com

Bob will update your new information with Affinity Connection Inc., our alumni resource affiliation.



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Delta Tau Delta Fraternity



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October 28-30!

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