

UPCOMING EVENT

Homecoming 2011
November 5
Penn vs. Princeton

ON THE WEB

Did You Know?...

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Stay informed on what's going on with Beta Pi and register your email address with us! If you're not receiving our monthly eLetter because we don't have your email, you're missing out!

Send your email address to Melissa, our contact at our alumni relations firm, at mgummo@affinityconnection.com (mention PiKA at Penn) or update your contact information on our website at www.pika-upenn.org.

ANNUAL FUND

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1. Visit www.pika-upenn.org.
2. Call 800-975-6699.
3. Mail a check payable to "Beta Pi Alumni Association" to: Pi Kappa Alpha/Penn, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 7007, Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

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jlclii@aol.com

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August 2011

Slices of Beta Pi

www.pika-upenn.org

The Alumni Newsletter of the Beta Pi Chapter of
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

2011 FOUNDERS' DAY

Seventy-Seven Beta Pi Pikes Celebrate 143rd Anniversary of Fraternity

On Saturday evening, March 26, 2011, over 50 undergraduate brothers were joined by 27 alumni to celebrate the 143rd anniversary of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity. The event was held in the Tuscany-like courtyard setting of



Bruce Wolfson '71 (right) accepting alumni award from chapter VP Patrick Malone.

the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College. Alumni traveled from as far away as Canada, California and even Switzerland to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

Following the cocktail hour, which allowed time for the guests to mingle, a number of speakers addressed the group during intervals between the three tasty courses comprising the evening's dinner. Alumni association President **Joel Catania '71** introduced chapter President **John Stuckey**, who provided the group with an update of what the chapter had accomplished during the current academic year and its plans for the future.

Bruce Wolfson '71 spoke about the International Fraternity and, in particular, the

(Continued on Page 2)

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Our Brotherhood is Counting on You!

As we kick off our 2011-12 giving year, which began July 1, we'd like to share with you how we've fared over the past few years in regards to donors and dollars. As you can see from the accompanying graph, donations have ranged between \$11,000 and \$14,000. We are challenging our alumni to help us reach a goal of \$15,000 this year.

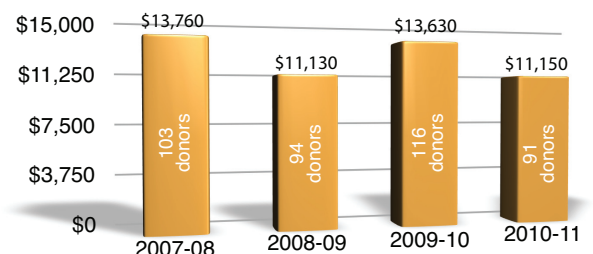
We are hoping that at least 150 of you will support us with a minimum donation of \$100.00. It would require only 15% of our over 1,000 living alumni base to achieve this goal.

The alumni association has contracted this year with our alumni relations firm, Affinity Connection, in an aggressive new campaign aimed at growing our alumni base of supporters and volunteers. We need you to help us keep our Beta Pi brotherhood con-

nected through our annual newsletters, monthly e-letters, maintaining our web site and membership database and our new Facebook page.

Thanks to the 91 brothers who supported our efforts in 2010-11. (See them recognized on the Honor Roll at www.pika-upenn.org.) We cannot rely on their support alone. As Mark Twain said, "the universal brotherhood of man is our most precious possession." Will you help support our brotherhood? Let's kick off 2011-12 with a bang!

Annual Fund (7/1-6/30)

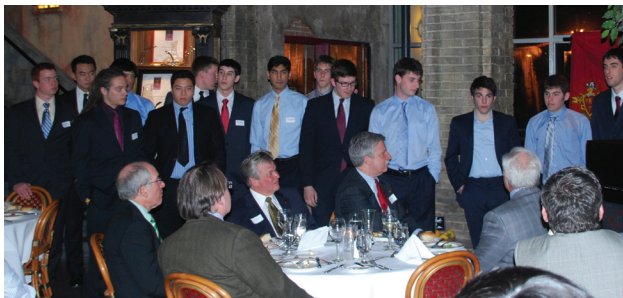


progress that the Fraternity has been making in building the endowment that funds educational programs for undergraduate leaders.

New Member Educator **Michael Smyth** presented the new pledge class - the "Tau" class - that was to be initiated shortly. The 15 members were introduced individually and the home town and educational goal for each of them were identified.

Chapter VPs **Frank Wang** and **Patrick Malone** then presented the annual undergraduate SLAG award winners to four outstanding brothers. The winners of the Scholar, Leader, Athlete and Gentleman Awards were respectively, **Jake Ferber**, **Will Hayes**, **Kris Abbate** and **Matt Stine**.

Joel Catania provided an update on the alumni association. While membership numbers are below expectations, the association continues to thrive thanks to the generosity of a solid core of loyal members. Joel provided numerous examples of Beta Pi alumni generosity including: leading the pack of all Pike Chapters in the number of President's Council members, nine of whom were in attendance; Beta Pi's top five standing in chapter specific endowments; subsidizing the cost of the dinner for the undergraduate brothers; and, a last-minute drive to help raise the funds necessary to manufacture and install new letters on the front of the chapter house. The



The "Tau" pledge class.

beautiful new letters, three times the size of the old ones, were installed just in time to be admired by alumni in town for Founders' Day.

Awards recognizing alums in attendance who were celebrating five year anniversaries of their initiation years were then presented. In attendance were **Dan Keefe '06**, Bruce Wolfson, Joel Catania and **Joe Livezey '56**. **J. Conrad Bosely '61** was unable to attend at the last minute but was recognized by both the alumni association and the International Fraternity on his 50th anniversary.

Joel closed by issuing a challenge to the undergraduate chapter to "strive for the Smythe." He reminded the young brothers that the alumni association stands behind and supports the chapter and believes it is time for a new Smythe award to stand next to the last one won by the chapter, all the way back in 1985. He acknowledged the numerous awards that have been won by the chapter since the alumni association was formed and encouraged them to aim for the top echelon of the PKA chapter hierarchy.

Jerry Herman '72 then presented the annual Dave Herman Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes an outstanding undergraduate who made the greatest contribution to the chapter and who excelled in the areas of leadership, character, academics and extracurricular activities. This year's award was presented to **Yasha Shahidi**, who was unable to attend but conveyed his gratitude to the group via an email message.

External VP **Frank Wang** then hosted a new program feature titled "Pike Traditions." First, awards were presented to two alums that provided ongoing support and encouragement to the chapter. These were presented to Dan Keefe

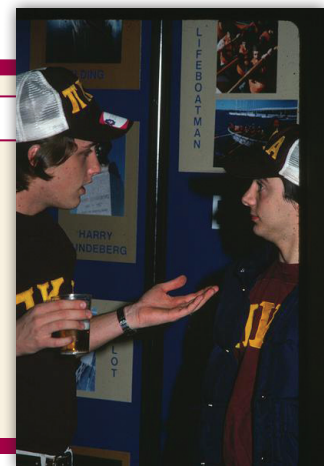


and Bruce Wolfson. Then, the "Tau" pledge class was assembled up front to lead the entire group in singing some Fraternity songs.

Joel Catania returned to the podium to give the undergraduates another incentive when he announced that after his earlier remarks, one alumnus suggested that the alumni association provide a suitable trophy case for the chapter when it wins the Smythe Award. This recommendation was immediately supported by several alums in attendance and the offer is now there for the taking by the undergraduate brothers. He closed by calling up **Alex Brodsky '03** and Bruce Wolfson to lead the assemblage in the singing of "Down In Old Virginy."

Chapter President John Stuckey invited everyone back to the chapter house. A group of alums did visit the house to admire the new house letters and enjoy some refreshments and conversation. Brothers Joel Catania, **Mort Cohen '65**, **Rich Myers '69** and **Paul Zaentz '69** once again reunited for the annual pinochle game, which lasted into the wee hours of the morning, long after the last of the undergraduates had turned in for the evening!

Once again, Founders' Day proved to be a demonstration of the strong bonds of the Beta Pi brotherhood.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

We love great pictures from our chapter's archives. This one features **Marc Anderson '83** and **Woody Rosenbach '82** in the early '80s.

Got any old photos from your day as an active? If so, share them with your brothers! You can email them to Melissa, our contact at our alumni relations firm, at mgummo@affinityconnection.com (mention PiKA at Penn) or upload them to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pikaupenn.

Ron King '70 Recalls Hands-On Experience of Finishing the New House

As a highly-respected political science scholar, **Ron King '70** has traveled the world to research, lecture, and teach. In his spare time, Ron continues to travel the world – but with a much different purpose. Find out what intense activity has Ron battling opponents from Canada, Italy, and Japan.

Like most college-aged men during this time, the Vietnam War and the impending draft weighed heavily on Ron's mind as an undergrad at the University of Pennsylvania. He credits the fraternity with helping everyone overcome that stress together.

“The most important thing about my time as an undergraduate is the political and social transformations occurring at Penn and elsewhere throughout the American university system. I strongly remember many of us sitting around watching the draft lottery and debating whether to serve, evade, or resist induction. I strongly remember the political rallies and protests and am proud to have participated. Of course there were social events and parties, and long nights hanging out. But the changes in society at the time affected

us all dramatically and have left lasting impressions.”

The draft wasn't the only thing on the minds of the brothers of PiKA. What would you do if you arrived on campus one fall, and discovered you (and your fraternity brothers) didn't have a place to live? That's exactly what Ron and the rest of Beta Pi brothers found at the beginning of one school year.

“The university was building a set of ugly new high-rise residences and thus the house would (tragically) be torn down. Yet our new fraternity house was not completed in time. We arrived for the 1967 fall semester with no place to live. The university then temporarily provided a decaying old building for us, which we named “The Slum”. I lived, for a while, in part of a large, unusable, somewhat smelly upstairs kitchen. When it was available, brothers all pitched in to help put the

finishing touches on the new house. One evening, while we were initiating a new group of pledges, many of us also were installing the wardrobe units in the rooms. The new house proved worth the wait.”

Ron said that he learned a lot of important life lessons in his time as an undergrad at Penn. Of course, the socials and sororities were nice, but Ron said watching everyone's maturation is what was most memorable.

“The most important thing about belonging to the fraternity was the experience of supportive self-government. We were responsible for the house and its management. Even more importantly, we were all responsible for making the house a place where everyone felt comfortable, felt empowered, and belonged. The older I get, the more I appreciate the difficulty of this lesson.”

Reconnect with Ron at rking@mail.sdsu.edu. You can read his full profile at www.pika-upenn.org.

Thank you to **Gregg Ormond '77** for participating in this Q&A...

What is your most memorable experience during your PiKA days?

Probably serving as an undergraduate VP on the Supreme Counsel. Having the opportunity to represent all undergraduates and get to know so many alumni leaders really had an impact on me and began a life of leadership in PKA.

How were you actively involved in PiKA?

I served as Social Chairman and SMC at Beta Pi.

How are you actively involved as an alumnus now?

I was a graduate advisor at U of Miami while in law school. Served as Sunshine Regional President for 4 years and on the Housing Commission for 12 years. I also

A Life of Leadership in PiKA

worked with the alumni association/house corporation at Miami for many years and in a similar capacity for Beta Pi.

Do you still keep in contact with any brothers?

Yes, a lot of guys from Penn, Miami, and other chapters around the country.

Would you recommend PiKA to those guys interested in joining a fraternity?

Definitely.

What was the best part about being in PiKA?

The lifelong friendships and the opportunity to meet younger brothers as they join IKA.

What is your occupation now?

Attorney.

Can you tell us about your family?

I have one son, 19 and am fortunate that my parents are still healthy and active in their 80s.

Why should other alumni donate and/or stay actively involved?

For the opportunity to give forward.

What does coming back for reunions mean to you?

The opportunity to rekindle the great relationships we had as undergrads.

Is there anything else you'd like to add?

I think our alumni relations firm does a great job for us and takes a lot of load off keeping everyone in contact with one and other.

Reconnect with Gregg at gjo@ormondlaw.com.

In the Words of Our Brothers...

What is Your Fondest PiKA Memory?

"Knowing the brothers."
- James Schneider '64

"The friendships made."
- Colin Hart '75

"Serving in a leadership role."
- Gregg Ormond '74

"Parties and social events."
- J. Conrad Bosley '61

"The many lifelong friendships."
- Jerome Herman '72

"Friendships."
- Ronald Perilstein '77

"The friendships and spirit of working together as a team to build a successful undergraduate fraternity experience."

- Joel Catania '71

Share YOUR fondest memories on the message board at www.pika-upenn.org.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

It's terrific to see groups of brothers from past generations still getting together. Thanks to **Michael Feuerman '90** for sharing this picture on our Facebook page.

He writes, "Class of '90 Beta Pi alumni visiting the house for our 20th reunion in 2010. Pictured are **Brad Meier, Jon Belmonte, Mark Yosowitz, Michael Feuerman, Peter Malkin, Kurt Cousins, Mark Stein** and **Alan Turkus**."

We want to see your reunion photos too! Email them to Melissa, our contact at our alumni relations firm, at mgummo@affinityconnection.com (mention PiKA at Penn) or upload them to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pikaupenn



Join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pikaupenn. Click the "like" button at the top of the screen to become a part of our community.

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In this Issue...
- 77 Brothers Celebrate Founders' Day
- An Alum with Ties to Penn and Miami Chapters
- The Fondest PiKA Memories

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