

UPCOMING EVENTS

11/7/15
Homecoming

5/13/15
Alumni Weekend 2016

4/2/2016
Founders' Day

INSIDE

See Page 2 for A Closer Look at Alumni Participation: Do 7% Represent our 1,100+ Alumni?

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We send our condolences to all the families of these gentlemen who have entered the chapter eternal:

Dale Doll '48 (01/22/15)

Joseph Hess III '48 (11/16/14)

Ray Kaelin '49 (05/02/15)

Ray was the emcee at Founders' Day for an entire generation of PiKAs! He was a well-respected leader in our Chapter as an undergraduate and as an alumnus.

John Wright '63 (04/15/15)

John was a world class sailor. At Penn, he was a mature and thoughtful gentleman, who contributed greatly to the spirit of the Chapter. He exemplified the spirit of leadership that PiKA encouraged.

MAKE A GIFT

Each gift to PiKA makes a difference. You can make your gift in three ways:

- Log on to www.pika-upenn.org
- Call 800-975-6699
- 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**

October 2015

Slices of Beta Pi

www.pika-upenn.org

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Honoring the Memory of Past Chapter & AA President, Gregg Ormond '74

By Ross Weiner '80

As we move forward in the coming year, the Beta Pi Alumni Association (AA) is ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that await us.

The untimely passing of Gregg Ormond this past year has left a huge void in our organization and our hearts. His dedication along with the time and effort he devoted to the Beta Pi Chapter over the past 40+ years cannot be matched by a single individual.

As the new AA President, I will do my utmost to help to maintain the excellence of Beta Pi, now and in the future. I look forward to working with my fellow officers, Bruce Wolfson, Joel Catania, and Morty Cohen, with the best interests of Beta Pi to guide us.

Our first and most important goal is to continue to improve upon how we keep our undergraduates and alumni better informed, as this will foster loyalty and increased member involvement. We encourage all members to become more involved and look forward to more

of you volunteering your time to assist us.

How You Can Help:

We are seeking alumni who meet the following criteria and are willing to step forward:

1. **Alumni with General Contractor knowledge / skills** who can assist Rich Epstein, who has done a terrific job in helping to maintain the Chapter House.
2. **Lawyers** who can assist in evaluating complex agreements that the Chapter has with the University and help to advise the AA and Chapter accordingly.
3. **Brothers of All Years** to become more active in the activities and financial support of the AA.

Let us work together to ensure Pi Kappa Alpha remains one of the premier fraternities at Penn. I look forward to connecting with many fellow alumni during the coming year. The AA can be reached at BetaPiAlumniPenn@gmail.com.

CHAPTER UPDATE

PIKA Penn Taking Several New Initiatives

Chapter Strives for Personal Development, to Recruit Better Men, and to Stay Connected with Alumni

Pi Kappa Alpha's Beta Pi Chapter began the year strong with several initiatives to increase chapter awareness, engage with alumni, and boost recruitment (as well as seeking out men who lead by example and are committed to academic excellence and service to the campus and the community).

PIKE University

Psi class Rush chair JJ Tamhankar attended PIKE University Academy in Memphis, Tennessee, and brought back ideas for a strong rush season. Brother JJ learned from Brother Charlie Barns from Florida State

University, whose groundbreaking rush techniques have since been incorporated into their own Chapter's recruitment plan. Brother JJ spoke highly of the experience, saying it was "life changing" and that it "allowed him to learn from others what made their chapters great."

Engaging with Alumni

Beta Pi's desire to engage with alumni is stronger than ever, and this year the chapter has taken concrete steps to further cooperation. The Executive Board looks

(Continued on Page 4)

A Closer Look at Alumni Participation: Do 7% Represent our 1,100+ Alumni Brothers?

The Beta Pi Alumni Association exists to help facilitate lifelong friendship among our alumni brothers and to provide support for our active chapter so that our fraternity positively impact the lives of young men, and maintains a strong legacy at Penn.

How do we do this? Simply, with support from our loyal alumni donors.

Historically, we've referred to our alumni giving program as dues.

In reality, we receive voluntary financial contributions from between 80-90 alumni brothers—about 7% of Beta Pi alumni with whom we maintain contact through email and snail mail.

Needless to say, we are grateful for these loyal brothers and we celebrate them in published honor rolls and at our annual Founders' Day event.

The original intent of this article was to announce an increase in the annual alumni dues amount to \$100 to help cover improvements in our services and some rising operations costs (keep reading for more on these). And, while "officially" the increase stands, it's important to look at our giving figures with a more critical eye.

- Annually, 80-90 donors support the alumni association with an average gift of \$155-175 (in other words, among those 80-90 donors, some already give \$100 or far more)

- Around 93% of alumni do not support the alumni association
- New grads receive a dues-free year after graduation, with \$25 annual dues for the next four years

As an alumni association, our ultimate goal is to increase alumni participation. Gifts of all sizes make a difference in our efforts to keep Beta Pi alums connected and help our active chapter thrive. If you can give \$100 or more, we appreciate your support. If you can give at all, we appreciate your support the same. In the end, we are seeking more alumni to participate in our mission.

Now, here's a look at how we put your dues, gifts, donations, whatever term we use, to work:

This year, we'll initiate a scholarship program for applicants from the freshman class who are scholars, leaders, athletes, and gentleman. Our international fraternity is touting the success of this program at other universities and we are eager to bring it to Penn.

The scholarship program is linked directly to our efforts to dedicate resources to recruiting new members who embody and embrace the values of the fraternity and are eager to lead by example.

Undergraduates who attend Pike University rely on our financial assistance for this

enriching experience.

Our professional communications program is a core part of keeping us connected; this program is supported by alumni donations, and as postage and printing costs increase, we need additional support to keep it going.

As any homeowner knows, facilities repairs will be an ongoing area of need.

How to Participate

Annual appeals for alumni association dues and additional donations are mailed twice yearly—once in the fall and once in the spring. We hope you will continue to support our efforts to keep our alumni brotherhood strong and connected. You can also find information on how to make your gift to the association in the "Make A Gift" box on page one of this newsletter.

Beta Pi Alumni Association Officers 2015-16

President: Ross Weiner '80,
gemscocapital@aol.com

Vice President: Bruce Wolfson '71,
bawolfson@me.com

Secretary: Mort Cohen '65,
fishfry1201@aol.com

Treasurer: Joel Catania '71,
jlcii@aol.com

ALUMNI UPDATES

What's new? Engagements, New Careers, and Catching Up with Friends

Ronald F. King '68

(4861 Tinasa Way, San Diego, CA 92124-2424; rking@mail.sdsu.edu)

"I hold the Bruce E. Porteous Endowed Professorship in Political Science from San Diego State and am 'Professor Onorific' at Babe-Bolyai University in Romania."

Joel Catania '71

(P.O. Box 7332, Garden City, NY; jlcii@aol.com)

My wife (and former Beta Pi "Dream Girl") Donna and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary on August 10th. Now that our second son has moved out we are "empty nesters" (unless you count our cat!).

John Woodward '78

(1113E North Stuart Street, Arlington, VA 22201-4781; woodwardlaw.comcast.net)

Earlier this year, I retired from a long career with the U.S. Government



John Woodward

and accepted a position as a Professor of the Practice of International Relations at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University.

Starting in the Fall 2015 semester, I will be teaching graduate and undergraduate courses on campus and mentoring students. I also plan to do briefings, research, and writing on national security issues.

Most recently, I've enjoyed several lunches with my classmate and fraternity brother, **Dr. Robert Ball**, who has generously shared his expertise about Boston.

Tom Gray '83

(P.O. Box 1542, Los Gatos, CA 95031; tgray@kslaw.com)

After spending 7 years in Orange County, CA, we relocated back to Silicon Valley in August 2013. Then, in August 2014, I changed law firms to join King & Spalding's Palo Alto office as an Intellectual Property Partner. Patty

(Continued on Page 3)

ALUMNI PROFILE

Paul Zaentz's Enduring Commitment to Beta Pi

"I Always Make Time for Beta Pi"

Paul Zaentz '69 has traveled around the world, producing films that tell incredible stories. "I've been fortunate to work all over the world—the Amazon rainforest, the Sahara Desert..." he said. Despite his travels and demanding career, Paul hasn't forgotten his time at Beta Pi. In fact, his Beta Pi roots run deep.



Paul Zaentz today



1995: Paul on the set of *English Patient*, set in the Sahara Desert



1990: Paul on the set of *At Play in the Fields of the Lord*, set in *The Amazon*. The film illustrates the destruction of the Indian culture caused mostly by the missionaries.

Though 43 years have passed, Paul remembers his time at the Chapter like it was yesterday, and to this day, he treasures his time spent there. "Beta Pi has given me a lot over the years—great friends and a great place to live for 3 years," Paul said. "Back then we lived in the house for 3 years, so I became very close with many of the brothers."

"Fortunately, I'm now in the position to give back," he said. "I think it's very important that [the fraternity values] be stressed to young men. I don't know where I'd be today if it wasn't for the friendships and encouragement from my fraternity brothers."

Paul is one of the loyal alumni who travels every year to make it to Founders'

Day. "At least 30 alumni show up and 15 of them are the same core group that shows up every year," Paul said. "And I'm talking about people coming from Switzerland, California, Florida, Canada, and the state of Washington."

It's those 15 brothers that Paul is closest with. "I'm in touch with them all the time," he said. "I feel that if the Beta Pi house ceased to exist on Penn's campus, the brothers from the late 60s and mid-70s would still go back every year to have a reunion. It's about the friendships that you made when you were at the chapter."

While Beta Pi continues to recruit good young men, Paul noted that the fraternity

experience has changed quite a bit over the years.

"Unfortunately, I don't think that undergrads today can get the same experience I had because of the way Penn's campus has changed over the past 45 years," Paul said. "I think back then our group had an opportunity to be much closer just

because of the nature of what was going on at Penn and in the world. We had extremely limited choices to eat on and around campus, so we had our lunches and dinners together 5 days a week."

The use of cell phones has also triggered a major change in the way that younger brothers and alumni communicate as compared to the earlier graduates. "Even after I graduated, there was no email and long distance phone calls were expensive," Paul said. "You actually wrote letters and postcards to keep in touch with friends."

When Paul was at the Chapter House, Beta

(Continued on Page 4)

ALUMNI UPDATES (CONTINUED)

and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary last month, July 2015. Our four kids (ages 11, 13, 15, and 17) are all enjoying Northern California and are doing well!

Barry Fleischer '86

(580 Vernon Ave., Glencoe, IL 60022-1644; bfleischer@ric.org)

30 years later, members of pledge class '86 (graduating class of '89) got together for a brief moment to share life stories, remember simpler days, raise a glass (or two), and crush each other at an epic tournament-rules beer pong game. Participants were **Barry Fleischer**, **Jeffrey Rosen**, **Jay Erb**, **Mark Song**, and **Rick Solit**. We plan on repeating next year with more!

Joseph Cohen '02

(2938 Macomb St NW, Washington, DC. 20008-3315; jocohen2@gmail.com)

Joseph Cohen is engaged to Sara Feldenkris of Cleveland, Ohio. Sara is a graduate of Ohio State University. Joey met Sara when they were attending



Barry Fleischer & Class of '86

University of Virginia Law School. Sara presently works as an attorney for the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank in Washington.

Anders Miltner '10

(610 Via Casitas, Greenbrae, CA 94904; amiltner@seas.upenn.edu)

I quit Microsoft and am going to Princeton for my PhD in computer science.

Parker Schabel '10

(18930 Eastwood Dr., Chagrin Falls, OH 44023-2341;

parker.schabel@gmail.com)

I'm working at a PE firm in Cleveland but making the move out to Denver to begin a growth-equity role.

Parker also mentioned he'd like to reconnect with "Brodsky, Bruce, and Keefe," he said. "It's been too long!"

To let us know what's new with you, visit www.pika-upenn.org and "Submit an Update" under the "Alumni Updates" tab.



Pi Kappa Alpha

University of Pennsylvania

Alumni Relations Processing Center

P.O. Box 7007 • Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Address Service Requested

ΠΚΑ

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
State College, Pa.
Permit No. 2

In this Issue...

–Alumni Profile: Paul Zaentz '69

–Honoring the Memory of Gregg Ormond '74

–Do 7% Represent Our 1,100+ Alumni?

ALUMNI PROFILE

(Continued from Page 3)

Pi's ownership of the house allowed for active involvement in the upkeep, as well as bonding between brothers. "We did much of the house upkeep ourselves," said Paul. "We painted the house and paneled rooms. Not only did we have discussions together and played together, but we worked together. Now, since the university owns the house, the undergrads aren't even allowed to do that."

Despite the changes, Paul has nothing but confidence in Beta Pi. "I hope the chapter keeps getting young men who want to grow and participate in the world around them. I think that's the type of man that's in the brotherhood now, so those are the individuals who will seek out Beta Pi. Somehow you tend to gravitate to the place where you belong."

In many ways, Paul credits the fraternity with having broadened his horizons and helping him to discover and appreciate other ways of thinking and different cultures. "Living for 3 years with a group of guys, you really learn to respect other people thoughts, their privacy, and their work habits."

In Paul's travels, he's continued to learn about life and the people around him. "The one thing I've noticed that people all over the world want is for their children to have a better life than they did," Paul said. "There's just some universal truth to that."

"I have been blessed," Paul continued. "In my job, I get the opportunity to work with so many intelligent and creative people, and I am inspired by their passion. In the film business, you're also working with younger

people, and they keep you on your toes on what's happening in music, what's happening in their world... I think it keeps me young!" Paul said, laughing.

Paul's one piece of advice? "Get involved as much as possible with the social and political issues that are happening around you, encourage others, support people, and try to change things for the better," he said. "All the films I get involved with try not only to entertain, but to get people to think about how they can make a difference. The movie I'm working on right now is about women's rights in Pakistan. People say 'Can't you just do romantic comedies—something easy?' I say 'no'. Every film we've made, no one else wanted to touch, but they're stories that I'm passionate about and need to be told."

CHAPTER UPDATE

(Continued from Page 1)

forward to working closely with Chapter Advisor Dan Keefe and the International Fraternity to enhance the AAB, and to facilitate communication with Pike alumni. First steps include boosting involvement of newly graduated seniors and other young alumni. **Of course, we hope to see Beta Pi alumni of all ages stop by the Chapter House for Penn Homecoming on the weekend of November 6th. Homecoming is a wonderful time to reconnect with old friends and enjoy the festivities, so be sure to stop by!**

New Recruitment Scholarship

Beta Pi is excited to introduce a new Recruitment Scholarship for the coming year, made possible through generous alumni donations. Open to all male freshmen, the scholarship provides \$1,000 to carefully screened candidates and has been announced to the Class

of 2019. This program not only promotes the Pike name on campus, but allows Beta Pi to interface with freshman and the wider Penn community. The scholarship has seen approval from the University, and promotes the healthy dialogue between Beta Pi and the school set up by Rush Chair Nico DeLuna. Through these continual efforts, Beta Pi continues to cultivate the scholars, leaders, athletes and gentlemen across Penn.

A New Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs

The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life welcomes Eddie Banks-Crosson as the new director following the retirement of Scott Reikofski last spring. We at Beta Pi look forward to working with him and are confident that he will bring such a strong Greek spirit to Penn!