

Psidelights



Penn State Skull House

Est. 1890

December 2005

Alumni Profile with Robert Stevens '48

Finding Pleasure in the Simple Things

Robert "Bob" Stevens is living proof that the best things in life are free. Even with a successful career in advertising that afforded him opportunities for extensive travel and the finer things in life, he still appreciates the simple things.

When asked about his favorite memories of his time in the Skull House, he recalls occasions in winter when he and his fraternity brothers rented a big dump truck and drove out into the mountains to cut down old trees. They would split the wood and bring it back to the house, where the brothers enjoyed roaring fires on the coldest weekends.

"I still chopped wood up until about 10 years ago," Bob says. "I would take my black labrador out in the woods surrounding my house, and chop and split wood for fun."

When we moved, I left eight cords of wood cut and split and stacked outside the house!"

This native of the Forest Hills suburb of Pittsburgh arrived at Penn State in the summer of 1944. He and four others lived over a chicken coop on South Allen, and took to hanging out on the high school football field in the evenings. "We played lacrosse with the varsity football team," he says. "Some of the guys we hung around with were Phi Kappa Sigmas, and they invited us to join."

He pledged in fall 1944, just after the U.S. Navy vacated the house. The pledges avoided an initiation of paddling by doing all the work to clean up the house. "We all moved in

(Continued on Page 4)

The Fraternal Walk Extension

Part of our 2006 annual plan is to expand the fraternal walk to the yard between the House and Triangle. Due to the chimney and gutter work, many of the bushes and trees that had separated us from Triangle have been removed. This area was cleared of the building debris, wood, rocks, etc., that had accumulated over the years, and is being prepared for a spring planting.

All donors will be recognized with a bronze plaque in the foyer in the fall of 2006. This is a great way to help the chapter or honor a pledge class or fellow brother. A \$750 contribution will allow us to plant an elm tree, and \$500 will allow us to plant several hemlocks.

New Web Site Gains Recognition

We are pleased that our Web site was selected as the best by Affinity Connection Inc. Affinity Connection supports more than 250 fraternities with their alumni communications, and selected our site as the most dynamic and informative. Good words have poured in from our alumni too, including **Neil Kleinman '91**: "The Web site is really fantastic. It's fun and has great pics and lots of info."

Major Enhancements to Alumni Web Site Unveiled!

Revamped Site Offers New Look, Added Features

For many of our alumni members, making frequent trips back to Penn State is not always possible. That's why we urge you to utilize our newly improved alumni Web site at www.psuskull.com. The Web site serves as a place for brothers to come together and share memories, photos and updates about themselves! The site also provides chapter news, event details and so much more.

All the services from our previous Web site are still available, with many enhanced for easier usage. New services include the following:

- Event listings, alumni news and chapter news can now be displayed on your home page, with corresponding photos.
- The searchable directory will capture and display more information (at individual members' discretion).
- The bulletin board has been replaced with a more user-friendly blog service.
- Your online contributions will be processed faster and acknowledged sooner.
- Photos can be organized into event- or topic-specific albums, and each member can create his own personal album.

If you haven't logged onto the new site yet, register today to take part in this Skull House e-community!



Alumni Q&A with Norman Marlin '48

The following Q&A profile is part of our efforts to get to know our brothers better:

Why did you join the fraternity?

I wanted to join a fraternity for the fellowship. The Skull House members were a good bunch of men, and there were several fellows from my hometown of Norristown, Pa.

Did you live in the house? Did you keep in touch with your roommates?

Oh, yes, I lived in the house, but I haven't really kept in touch with anyone. Now, though, there are three brothers living in the same retirement village here in State College. Two were in the house at the same time I was: **Chuck Daiker '48** and **Henry Keller '43**.

Did you have a nickname in the house?

Just Norm.

Did you find your fraternity experience beneficial? In what way?

Yes, very. As a member, I could study with the other men in the house, and we learned from each other. We had several good athletic teams. I played football and basketball.

Tell us about your family.

I married a coed, Marguerite Quick, in 1946. Everyone knows her as Peg. We have three children — two girls and one boy — and two grandchildren. I have one daughter in Detroit, one in Indianapolis and our son is in Texas.

Tell us about your career.

I'm an industrial engineer by education and spent most of my career as a plant manager or vice president of operations for different manufacturing companies. I retired in 1992.

What hobbies do you enjoy?

I have two hobbies: trout fishing and carving. I enjoy fly-fishing and get out about 30-40 times each year. [Editor's note: Norm is acquainted with **George Harvey '35**, one of the world's foremost fly-fishing experts. George was profiled in this newsletter last year.] I'm also a carver. I work in basswood, and carve birds, ducks and other animals. I like things from nature. I'll give the pieces as gifts, but I also belong to a large club in Philadelphia. We have a show and sale once a year, where I display my work.

Norm Marlin lives in State College, Pa. If you would like to get in touch with him, please contact Affinity Connection at 800-598-4050 for his phone number or address.

Donations Still Needed for WWII Plaque and Keller Portrait

Your generosity is again called upon so we can complete the last two projects for our 2005 annual plan. We are close to funding the completion of the WWII plaque and **J. Orvis Keller '14** portrait but still need your help. The first of the two WWII plaques, honoring our Psi Chapter brothers for their service to their country, is already completed and hanging in the foyer, as are the fraternal walk plaques. The Keller portrait has been commissioned and will be hung in the Club Room above the fireplace.

House Renovations Continue

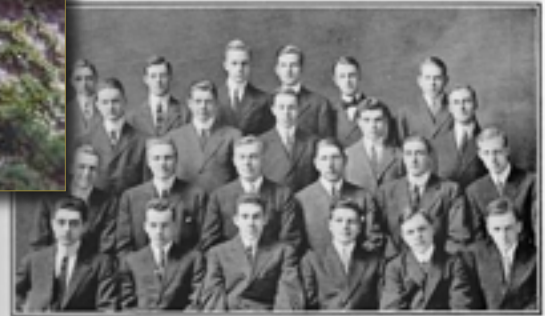
Work on the house goes on, with the highlight this summer being the rebuilding of all three chimneys to maintain their original appearance. The fireplace and mantle in the Club Room were also cleaned and painted. New gutters and downspouts were added, complementing the new windows installed last fall in many of the sleeping rooms. This fall, a new ice machine (with double the capacity of the old one) and mixer were added to the kitchen. Ongoing projects include upgrading the sprinkler system and heating system.

Blasts from the Past



Left: Toga! Toga! The things we did in 1966...

Below: The brothers of 1912.



We all had a lot more hair in 1969.



News From the Bone

Jacob C. Forney '35

(690 Chandler Rd., Apt. 206, Gurnee, IL 60031-3181; fjrjcf@aol.com) I was so pleased to see the very nice alumni profile with "Jake." I have lots of great memories of Psi Chapter, Thespians and (I must add) the Kappas. I now have a great-grandson named Jacob. I'm still peddling dirt and commercial buildings, and fishing in Canada and Key West when I get time off. Roommate **George "Ike" Harvey '35** was my fishing tutor. Best wishes to the chapter.

James Drylie '43

(Box 88, Doylestown, PA 18901) I am a consultant for Derby, Drylie & Associates Inc., a machinery business for industry. I competed in the annual Pennsylvania Senior Games and brought home some medals.

Paul F. Corbiere '49

(2130 Pontiac Dr., Sylvan Lake, MI 48320-1762) I attended my 60th Allentown High



Picture of one of the redone chimneys

School reunion in June and then went on to Atlantic City.

John W. Mitchell '49

(79308 Montego Bay Dr., Bermuda Dunes, CA 92203; weavermitch2000@yahoo.com) I think we are still missing some names on the WWII plaque.

One is **Aaron Dowler '23**, a commander in the U.S. Navy. He became vice president of sales for Armstrong Cork Company.

Richard S. Schweiker '50

(8890 Windy Ridge Way, McLean, VA 22102-1558) We just had our 21st grandchild.

John S. Wylie '52

(4012 E. Hinsdale Cr., Centennial, CO 80122) It's great to read the news from **Robert "Bob" Irwin '52** in the *Psidelights*. We were great friends and roommates and, as students at the Skull House, we had experiences with our brothers that we'll never forget. I haven't seen Bob for over 50 years. I may be able to change that soon. He said to have a drink on him. I'll take Wild Turkey.

Stanley Ulsh '54

(57 Hammonassett Meadows Rd., Madison, CT 06443; saulsh@att.net) I retired in 1988 after 31 years with Connecticut General Insurance. Congratulations on a fine, updated publication for our fraternity. It is the best I have received.

Thomas P. Woolaway '54

(316 Sewickley Ridge Dr., Sewickley, PA 15143-8902) My wife Shirley is a counselor with the Good Shepherd Counseling Service, and I am a volunteer for People Helpers Ministry at St. Stephen's Church. We spend time at our places on Marco Island, Fla., and Chautauqua Lake, N.Y. Shirley and I took our first trip to Alaska in late August and came back in September. It was a fabulous experience — six days aboard a ship, four days making land tours, and two

days traveling by plane to get there and then return home. We saw whales, porpoises, lots of salmon and seabirds while underway. Glaciers were fascinating, and the mountain ranges with high peaks are outstanding. We saw moose and a black bear with two cubs when our group took a hike with a naturalist. We went through the Denali National Forest and saw more animals and birds. The Holland America cruise line did all the planning and scheduling from the time we left home



The House circa 1918.

until we returned. I can't say enough about that line and the beauty of Alaska's mountains and forests. If you would like to know more, call me at 412-741-3490. We went whitewater rafting on our last day — wow!

John C. Molloy '56

(9000 S.W. Freeway, Ste. 320, Houston, TX 77074) I noted the photo of me in a recent *Psidelights*. I believe it was taken in 1955. I continue with our two businesses, along with my son who manages our 25-year-old commercial printing business here in Houston. I continue to travel the world as a technology training consultant. My wife Dorothy, who has almost as many flier miles as I do, almost always accompanies me. We're looking forward to celebrating our 45th somewhere in Europe or the Middle East. I still enjoy the challenge of our own business, but my son and I have our eyes on two of my eight grandchildren who show

... continued on page 4

NYC Alumni Get Together

All had a great time this past summer at the Psi Chapter alumni gathering on the Lower East Side of New York City. The brothers, their wives and many fans were entertained by **Ken Dolman '94** and the soothing sounds of his band, No North. (You can find his songs on www.itunes.com or www.nonorth.net.)

The Boys of the Bone included **Anton Silich '91**, **Jonathan Cramer '94**, **Mike Rycheck '87**, **Ryan Woodring '94**, **Chris Zuniga '91**, **Linc Taylor '93** and **Steve Jurczak '93**. Many thanks go to Jonathan for selecting the beer garden, clubs and post-party entertainment.



Alumni Profile with Robert Stevens '48

(Continued from Page 1)

when the Navy left, but the pledges did all the work," Bob says, with vivid recollections of sanding and varnishing the entire main floor. They also painted the bedrooms and bathrooms on all three floors.

Bob remains close to his best friends from the Skull House, **Fred Walker '48** and **Sam Eyer '48**. Both Fred and Sam live outside Denver now, and Bob has visited them and their wives over the years.

Of the group of men he lived with at Skull House, Bob says, "It was a good bunch. We were committed to being good guys, upholding the goals of the fraternity. We conducted ourselves as gentlemen."

Bob retired in 1996, after 49 years in advertising. He was executive vice president and general manager of an advertising agency on Madison Avenue in New York for 35 of those years, working primarily with the national airlines of other countries. His name appears in five *Who's Who* directories,

and he is a member of Alpha Delta Sigma, the national honorary society of the American Advertising Federation.

"I had a very fine career," Bob says. "It enabled me to travel extensively — to Europe, the Middle East and Africa. I really enjoyed that."

About 10 years prior to retiring, Bob set up his own ad agency, running it out of his home office. He did most of the work himself and served clients such as Virgin Atlantic and Fujitsu. He also consulted for a former client and close friend, as that friend established businesses in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and here in the U.S.

Bob married his first wife during their last semester of college. "We graduated on a Saturday in May, loaded up the car and drove to Pittsburgh, and I started work on Monday morning," he said. They had four children but later divorced. Bob married his current wife in 1995.

Today, Bob says he does "little bits and pieces" of work from his home

office, but he primarily keeps busy as a volunteer with his church and the public library of Palm Harbor, Fla., where he now lives. "I am the volunteer chairman of the communications committee at my church, the largest Episcopal church in the county. With a dynamic new pastor with many new growth ideas, we are very, very busy with celebration and publicity efforts," he says.

He is a volunteer tutor for the literacy council at the public library. "We have 115 volunteer tutors working one-on-one with foreign-born adults in reading, writing and speaking English," he says. Bob enjoys the opportunity to help others, and says his students epitomize for him the idea that you get out of something as much as you put into it. And that is one of the finest, and simplest, concepts there is.

Bob can be reached at 727-771-7111.

To read this profile in its entirety, please visit our alumni Web site at www.psuskull.com.



interest, even now, in taking over someday.

David Allison '62

(302 Cambridge Station Rd., Louisville, KY 40223-3339; b.allison@insightbb.com) I am ready for the next reunion at the home of **Samuel "Sam" Curry '62!**

John R. Hellmann '77

(2419 Chatham Ct., State College, PA 16803-2400; jr3@ems.psu.edu) I spent Memorial Day weekend at the Indy 500 with brother **Stephen B. "Skid" Rowe '78**. I am always happy to visit with Phi Kaps at PSU tailgates in the fall. I stay in touch with **Tom Hebel '77, Ralph Van Horne '75, Steve Rowe, Joe Van Leer '75, Russ Hutton '78, Harry Scott Thomas '77** and **Sean Lacey '78**. Drop an e-mail sometime.

Eric McCarl '81

(30424 Via Rivera, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275-4472; eric.mccarl@verizon.net)

My third CD, entitled "Touch the Sun," debuted at number one on the New Age Charts, according to the *New Age Reporter*. All three of my CDs reached number one. The new CD is available at Amazon and on my Web site at www.ericmccarl.com/purchase.html.

Rand R. Ruland '81

(3476 Peacock Run, Fort Mill, SC 29715-7842) My favorite memory is of pig riding at the experimental farms. I currently own two businesses in Charlotte and would welcome contact with any brothers living in the area.

Michael Rycheck '87

(112 Willow St., Apt. 5B, Brooklyn, NY 11201; mrycheck@aol.com) It was a fall season of tailgating and catching up. I was lucky to go to the Northwestern game with pledge brother **Fritz Breisch '87** and his son Zane. I also enjoyed tailgating with **Gordy Kauffman '95, Darren Kayal '94, Doug Hubert '94, Lance Kandler '88, Kevin Olsavsky '86** and, I think, **Jim Kweder '91**. I ran into **John Stuart '85** and **Neil Kleinman '91** at another **Ken Dolman '94** performance in NYC, and had dinner

with brother **Andrew Kleeger '90** while in London.

Linc Taylor '93

(2411 Freetown Dr., Reston, VA 20191) Congratulations to Linc Taylor and his wife Kristin on the birth of their second son and third child, Elliott.

Ryan Woodring '94

(1058 Mayflower Ct., Martinsville, NJ 08836) Congratulations to Ryan Woodring and his wife Dania on the recent birth of their first son, Collin.

Since publication of our last newsletter, we have learned of the death of:

Thomas Cameron '40

Daniel Balmer '41

Henry Derbyshire '44

Adam E. Metz '48

W.T. Salom '49 (3/25/05)

Robert Swid '60

Phi Kappa Sigma mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.
