

Psidelights



Penn State Skull House

Est. 1890

www.psuskull.com

July 2006

ALUMNI PROFILE

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Thank You All For Your 2005 Contributions You Keep Us Going

We want to thank all alumni who contributed to the 2005 Penn State Skull House Alumni Association Annual Fund. We had 128 brothers donate – one of our highest levels of contribution in 20 years. See a list of our donors on page 5.

Vietnam Memorial Plaque Donated by Bob Brown '69; Names Needed for Plaque

We are very pleased that **Bob Brown '69** is donating a bronze plaque honoring all of those Psi Chapter Brothers who served in the Vietnam War. We want to make sure we include all brothers, so please e-mail www.psuskulls@hotmail.com with any names that should be added to the plaque.

This plaque will be hung in the foyer along with our WWII Memorial plaques.

Thank you again, Bob.

Following the Winding Road of Life

Bill Rother '55 Says "Life's Been Good to Me"

At 73 years old, **William O. Rother '55** (Otto) is launching a new career: that of singer-songwriter. His first CD is titled *Life's Been Good to Me*, which could be the theme for Bill's life. He is a man who has followed his heart and his talent and looks back on the past 50 years with satisfaction.



Following his dreams has taken Bill on a winding path, as exemplified by the fact that his undergraduate degree from Penn State is in Forestry, but he's never worked in that profession. He played banjo with a Dixieland band while a student at Penn State and, on the very day he was discharged from the Army, began playing professionally.

"In the morning, I was training recruits at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. That night, I was on the stage at Madison Square Garden, playing for [Dwight] Eisenhower," he recalls. It was 1956, and Eisenhower was in the midst of his second run for the presidency. "In order to join the [musician's] union, I had to prove that I had lived at least a year in New York and could read music. I couldn't do either, but they told me Mr. Waring said I was in." The "Mr.

Waring" who vouched for him was fellow Penn State alumnus Fred Waring, of Fred Waring & The Pennsylvanians, the popular musical group.

Bill continued to perform with the group for several years, including appearances on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, the *Jackie Gleason Show* and the *Perry Como Show*. Then his life took another turn when he decided to produce a television series about Grand Prix auto racing. It was going to be produced in London, so he became a tour director with Tauck Tours so he'd have an affordable way to get there. He later left to work on the show.

"I spent a year in Europe and wound up with no money," Bill says. "Tauck took me back, and 40 years later I retired as vice president." During those 40 years, he visited 120 countries.

Following his retirement from Tauck, Bill became an enrichment lecturer for Celebrity Cruise Lines. His bio says he has played for a "president, a queen and a king": President Eisenhower, Queen Elizabeth II and the King of Rock n' Roll, Elvis (Bill played the guitar during the

"In the morning, I was training recruits...That night, I was...at Madison Square Garden, playing for [Dwight] Eisenhower."

making of Elvis's movie *Blue Hawaii*.) Bill estimates he's lectured on 22 cruises in the past five years, mostly to Hawaii and Alaska, but also several countries around the world.

The next turn in Bill's journey came a few years ago when he agreed to become the road manager for José Feliciano, the international recording star.

View the complete profile at www.psuskull.com

OLD PHOTO ALBUM

2006 NITTANY LIONS FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

9/2	Akron
9/9	at Notre Dame
9/16	Youngstown State
9/23	at Ohio State
9/30	Northwestern
10/7	at Minnesota
10/14	Michigan
10/21	Illinois
10/28	at Purdue
11/4	at Wisconsin
11/11	Temple
11/18	Michigan State

Homegames in Bold.

ON THE WEB

Link Up with Our
Website at
[www.psuskull.com!](http://www.psuskull.com)

Why not link your company or personal website to www.psuskull.com? Join the ranks of Skull alumni sites such Spectra Wood, Beer Head.com and the Penn State Alumni Association.

Just e-mail your website info to psuskulls@hotmail.com and we will get it linked for you! Also, be sure to check out others' submissions!

Summer House Update

**Skull House Closed
Due to Renovation and
Sprinkler Upgrade**

The House will be closed for safety reasons during the summer as we upgrade the sprinkler system and perform some indoor and outdoor renovations. The parking lot will also be closed.



Psi Chapter Class of 1907



The House in 1908



The Class of 1908



Psi Chapter circa 1970

ALUMNI PHOTO ALBUM



Left: Three foresters get together after not seeing one another in 50 years... for an elk hunt in Idaho. (L-R) **Bo Campbell '56, Bud Filler '56,** and **Bill Rother '55** gather wood for a campfire!



Above: Don Pohland '92 catching a 55-pounder recently in Alaska.

Right: Lance Kandler '88 went out to LA last summer and dropped in on **Ty Torres '91,** his wife and new son!
LtoR: Jen Kandler (my wife), Robin Torres, Coltraine Torres, Ty Torres.



HOUSE UPDATE

New Curtains, Ice Machine, Sprinkler System and More

We are pleased to announce the addition of brand new, high quality, fire-resistant gold curtains to the club room, dining room and brotherhood



Photo caption: Club Room, with new curtains and refurbished furniture - March 2006.

stairs. These are the first new curtains in over 20 years. These heavy duty curtains have the easy-to-open and-close hardware similar to hotel rooms and offer additional privacy and security to the House.

We have also added a new ice machine. With double the ice-making capacity of the old maker, this new machine is winning rave reviews from the actives.

A sprinkler system upgrade has begun and will continue throughout the summer, upgrading the sprinkler heads and increasing the area covered by the sprinkler system to keep us current with new fire codes.

Weekly Walk-Thru Inspections and a landscaper were added also this year. Through the Fraternity Purchasing Association (FPA), we have now contracted for weekly walk-through inspections that help identify hazards or new damages and quickly fix or correct the situation. In addition, a landscape company will be cutting the lawn this summer to help maintain the appearance of the property.

We hired a "litter patrol" to sweep the property four times a week, making

sure that all beverage cans, paper plates, etc. are picked up and discarded. This litter patrol serves as a backup to the actives, who are still responsible for keeping the property clean.

Kappa Alpha Order continues to lease the House from us. There were roughly 35 KAs living in the House this spring, and they plan to have over 40 living in the House next year. Congrats to KA for raising over \$100,000 for this year's Dance Marathon!



New curtains for the House.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Heritage Continues – from Otto Grupp III '51, President of the Corporation Great Strides Made in Recent Years Show Promise for the Future

Since the actives were removed from the House in 2001, our Alumni Corporation and PKS National Headquarters, Chester Springs, PA have maintained a positive relationship with the University and the Intra-Fraternity Council. What has happened in the intervening years?

In 2001, we anticipated we could re-colonize in three to five years. As we began to assess the physical condition of the House and our financial position, it became apparent that a longer time commitment was necessary. We had to restructure our balance sheet, refinance

our mortgage, pay off outstanding debts and begin to match revenues against expenditures - we began a series of improvements to "save the House." Many of the recent improvements are listed in this *Psidelights*.

We give credit to the faithful brothers that never lost confidence that we would reemerge as a robust PSI Chapter. The brothers' financial support is outstanding: 1990 - \$8K from 108 brothers; 1997 - \$12K from 80 brothers; 2005 - \$15k from 128 brothers. We will continue to hold regional meetings and hope to have

more groups meet such as organized by **Sam Curry '62** in NC that gathered 35 brothers and their ladies from the '58 - '64 classes.

Perhaps the most significant *Psidelights* was October 1990 — the 100th Anniversary edition — which discussed our history as the first fraternity at Penn State, initially organized as the QTV Society in 1884. With this heritage, how can we not put forth every possible effort to open our House doors in the near future? In the next *Psidelights*, we will update our countdown plans for the re-colonization.

Take Advantage of One of Our Special Donor Opportunities!

The World War II Bronze Plaque — Honoring our Psi Chapter Brothers — \$1500

This special gift to the House will honor and remember all the Psi Chapter Brothers who served and protected us in WWII. Hand cast and one of a kind, the plaque will join one other plaque and complete our honoring of our WWII vets and will be prominently displayed in the foyer. The donor of this \$1500 gift will be recognized on the plaque, in *Psidelights* and on our web page.

The Fraternal Walk — \$500, \$750 or \$1000 — Recognized on Fraternal Walk Plaque

You can help with the continued success of the Fraternal Walk by making a specially named donation of \$500, \$750 or \$1000. Your gift entitles you to remember and recognize a fraternity brother, class or loved one. All donors and dedications will be recognized on a bronze plaque, in *Psidelights* and on our web page.

- A \$500 gift will purchase several hemlock trees that will be placed between the House and Triangle.
- A \$750 gift will purchase a number of bushes and hemlock

trees that will continue to give us more privacy on the Kappa Sigma side of the property.

- A \$1000 gift will allow for the purchase of either an elm or several flowering trees, the choice of which is up to you.

Special Recognition for all Skull House Donors of \$500 or more: A Framed Antique Etching as a Thank You

As an additional thanks for your support of the House and The Penn State Skull House Alumni Association, all donors of \$500 or more made during 2006 will receive a framed antique Phi Kappa Sigma etching. These etchings are from the early 1900s and most were produced in Philadelphia. Each etching is matted with... and comes in an 8x10 frame. Ideal for your office, den or living room.

Right: Engraving of Skull House badge will be given to donors of \$500 or more in 2006.



Psidelights is published for the alumni and friends of the **Psi Chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity** at **The Pennsylvania State University**. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions may be sent in the enclosed envelope; mailed to **Penn State Skull House, Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alumni Relations Processing Center, P.O. Box 7007, Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007**; or sent via our Website at www.psuskull.com.

Fraternal Walk Update – Thank You to Lance Kandler '88 for New American Elm Tree

Lance Dedicates This Elm Tree to Henry Keller



Henry Keller '43 tree by
Lance Kandler '88.

Thanks to **Lance Kandler '88**, we continue to “grow” the Fraternal Walk. Lance has donated an American elm, which is planted in the front of the House along the walkway leading to the front door. Lance dedicated this elm to **Henry Keller '43**.

We have also replaced the **Bob Burns '62** tree with another American elm, as the original tree was damaged during last year's drought. This year we have contracted a tree service that will water any trees during such an event.

Lance and Henry will be recognized on the upcoming Fraternal Walk bronze plaque which will be hung in the foyer of the House.



Tom Hebbel tree.

2005 HONOR ROLL

Thank You To Our Donors!

The following members have supported our alumni relations efforts over the past year. Because of their support, we are able to continue publication of *Psidelights* and maintenance of our website at www.psuskull.com.

1890 Club (\$890+)

Andrew P. Friberg 1993

Stellis Aequos Durando Club

(\$500-\$889)

Paul McCartney 1969

Psi Club

\$250-\$499.99

Jacob Forney 1935

Richard S. Schweiker 1950

Graham W. Hume 1955

Albert Murphy 1971

Michael Rycheck 1987

Building Fund Donor

\$100-\$249.99

James Drylie 1943

Henry Keller 1943

Miles W. Smith 1943

Julius Corrubia 1945

Charles W. Daiker 1948

David B. Graham 1948

George Meeker Jr. 1948

Dr. John R. Schubert 1948

Robert Stevens 1948

David W. Christopher 1951

James W. Davis 1952

Robert Irwin 1952

John S. Wylie 1952

William Hafley 1953

Stanley Ulsh 1954

Thomas Woolaway 1954

Robert B. Mowery 1955

John Molloy III 1956

Fred W. Montanari 1956

Harold E. Pellow 1958

Jacob Shook 1958

Chester Buckenmaier Jr. 1959

Nicholas S. Molloy 1959

Richard C. Solt 1960

Kenneth Louis 1961

Henry J. Oppermann Jr. 1961

G. Esslinger 1963

Donald M. Barnes 1965

Elmer J. Cummings 1966

Joseph G. Milroy Jr. 1966

Don F. Marshall 1968

Thomas W. Salinsky 1969

John Humphreville 1975

Joseph W. Van Leer 1975

Paul A. McGeehan M.D. 1977

John Clarence Bender 1978

James M. Kerrigan 1978

Charles V. Rabolli 1978

George Kirk 1979

Patrick Mitchell 1980

Eric P. Johnston 1981

Andrew J. Kuncas 1981

Kevin M. Olsavsky 1986

Christopher Genovese 1987

Braden Klug 1988

Brett Wenger 1988

Ty A. Torres 1991

Henry J. Zielinski 1991

Christopher E. Zuniga 1991

Steven C. Jurczak 1993

Benjamin Lewis 1994

Jason Smith 1995

Dues Giver

Up to \$99

William A. Siegmann 1937

Samuel B. Eyer 1948

Jack N. Grossett 1948

W.Z. Walker 1948

Paul Corbiere 1949

Maj. John Mitchell 1949

William T. Stout 1949

Ronald T. Coder 1951

C. Nat Netscher 1951

Dr. R. Nevin Rupp 1954

James Harter Sr. 1955

William Rother 1955

Noel B. DeCavalcante 1959

Paul Sheckler 1960

John B. Haberlen 1962

John F. Hunt 1966

James Clark 1968

James Gaspari 1978

Russell C. Hatton 1978

Stephen T. Cramer 1982

Jeffrey D. Derr 1993



News From the Bone

'30s

George W. Blakslee '42

(N3976 Park Road, Brodhead, WI 53520-9633; blakslee@wekz.net) **Samuel "Sam" Eyer '48** called to say he and his wife were planning to visit the Chicago area and wanted to visit us in Wisconsin. We were out of town when the Eyers came east, but we will

definitely plan another venture west to Colorado to visit Sam and Joyce Eyer. I would like to pay tribute to brother **W.T. "Tad" Salom '49**. Tad was a great pledge, and he was another one who left school to join the army shortly after the USA entered WWII. Tad was seriously

injured when his tank was hit by a German explosive. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife and family. Tad was a very fine fraternity brother and, without a doubt, a great soldier. The new plaque in the entrance of our fraternity house turns out to be a real recognition of those who served from our fraternity. Sam Eyer also served as a P-47 pilot during WWII, and I trust that his name also

appears on the second plaque being forged. I have retired as a bank director, since our bank requires voluntary retirement when reaching the age of 85. This doesn't mean that I plan to shut down, since I have a lot of unfinished business, like getting back to State College to see the Fraternity Walk, the new curtains and the other ongoing renovations.



Skull House 1980s and '90s alumni - along with Orange Bowl Babe Lara Kauffman - at a little pre-game tailgate party in Florida.

'40s

Tom Brasher '55

(17 Riverwind Dr., Port Royal, SC 29935; tomhb@islc.net) Jenny and I bought a new house outside Beaufort, SC, the area where we have lived since 1993, when I began to wind down my consulting business, which had taken me to Korea, Mexico and Poland, among other places. I retired early from Lenox China & Crystal, where I was EVP-Operations. I would enjoy any news of guys from the mid-'50s. I have enjoyed seeing updates from **Graham W. "Bill" Hume '55**, **William "Bill" Hafley '53** and **Thomas "Tom" Woolaway '54**, among others. Keep up the good work. The photos look great.

Where Are All The Updates?

Log on to www.psuskull.com to submit your update for publication in a future issue of *Psidelights!*

IN MEMORIAM

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

Charles Mathews '42

Duane Boydos '55

Phi Kappa Sigma mourns the loss of these brothers and extends sympathy to their friends and families.

SKULL HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

2005 Highlights

(Lead by upgrades to House and Alumni Donors)

- 128 Psi Chapter alumni donors – one of highest levels in 20 years
- All three chimneys rebuilt
- New gutters on House
- New energy-efficient Pella windows placed in over half of sleeping rooms
- New high-capacity ice maker added
- Fraternal Walk expansion continues
- First of two bronze plaques honoring WWII vets hung in foyer
- www.psuskull.com wins award for Best Alumni Website

2006 Highlights

(So far to date)

- Pope Suite bathroom totally renovated
- Curtains in Dining Room and Club Room replaced with new gold curtains
- Sprinkler system being upgraded
- Elm trees added to Fraternal Walk
- Fraternal Walk continues to expand
- J. Orvis Keller portrait to be completed this fall
- Historic photos added to Skull website



The Pope Suite bathroom was renovated earlier this year.