

# Psidelights



Penn State Skull House Est. 1890

[www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com)

April 2009

## Join the Phi Kap Journey Help Make our House a Home for our New Chapter

Phi Kap is back at Penn State, and the road to a new active chapter has been quite a journey.

Thanks to the support of our loyal alumni, 40 active Brothers of our fraternity will live at 234 E. Beaver Avenue in the fall 2009 semester. The young men of our newly reinstated chapter are quickly making a place for themselves in the Penn State Greek community, participating in THON, raising money for a philanthropy project, and joining the Homecoming parade.



*We need your help to prove not only that Phi Kap is back on campus, but that we're here to stay. Our current house was built in 1927.*

***But our journey doesn't end here.***

Now it's time to insure our investment in this new Brotherhood by providing a competitive living environment that retains upperclass-

men in the house and appeals to potential new members. We must prove that Phi Kap is back to stay. Our 82-year-old house is in need of major repairs and renovations in order for the chapter to recruit against other newly renovated fraternities and modern, amenity-rich off-campus housing.

In November 2008, we embarked on the next leg of our journey—a \$1.2 million capital campaign to fund a major renovation project. During the beginning phase of this campaign, we have secured \$213,600 in cash, pledges and bequests from 20 board members and alumni who are listed on page 4.

***We're asking you now to join them in making a commitment to make our house a home for our new chapter.***

In the coming weeks, you will receive a phone call from a Brother from your era who will explain our exciting renovation project in further detail and answer your questions. You'll also receive a brochure outlining exactly what we need to do to complete the necessary renovations this summer. The next two pages of *Psidelights* give a sneak preview of our ambitious mission.

**We need your help to reach our \$1.2 million goal. Your financial contribution is critical. Remember, gifts can be payable over**

**a period of up to five years. We're striving for a high percentage of participation from every class, so once you sign on encourage other Brothers from your era to get involved as well!**

The names of all Psi Chapter Brothers contributing \$1,000 or more will be forever memorialized on a Wall of Fame on the entry wall under the staircase. Naming opportunities are also available for contributions of \$10,000 and over and will be recognized by a bronze plaque at the designated location.

We realize that economic times are uncertain, but imagine what could happen to Phi Kap if no one supported this effort. Our house, built in 1927, has survived the 1930s, wars, recessions and even the counter-culture movement of the 1970s. Working together, we'll get through today's challenges as well.

Please take a few minutes to discuss this project with your class agent representative when he calls, and consider making a pledge that fits your capacity. More information on how to make a gift will be included in the forthcoming brochure.

With a clear vision of the future, we have emerged strong, growing and dedicated to long-term success.

***We're ready to take the next step in our journey...come along for the ride.***

"We can all remember how proud we were to move into Skull House as pledges. It's exciting to be back on campus again but we desperately need to invest in our facilities. In order to again be ranked as one of the most desirable fraternities at Penn State, please consider supporting our capital improvement project through a major gift or pledge."

- Jim Broadhurst '65

Chairman, Penn State Board of Trustees;  
Co-Chairman, Phi Kappa Sigma Campaign

### Honorary Campaign Chairmen

Richard Schweiker '50  
Jim Broadhurst '65

### Campaign Chairmen

**Alumni President**  
Otto Grupp '51  
**Alumni Vice President**  
Michael Rycheck '87  
**Chapter Advisor**  
Eric Friberg '91

### Alumni Corporation

Jacob Shook '53  
Chet Buckenmaier '59  
Samuel Curry '62  
Joe Koletar '66  
Sean Lacey '78  
George Bodenger '79  
Kevin Olsavsky '86  
Lance Kandler '89  
Eric Friberg '91  
Thomas Keating '00

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## Headquarters Update

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# “We Knew We Had Something Special in This Group of Men” Psi Chapter Acknowledged by Headquarters for Vision, Commitment and Dedication

By Toby Smith, Executive Director of Phi Kappa Sigma

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Effective February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, the Phi Kappa Sigma International Fraternity headquarters on behalf of the Executive Committee and all members of Phi Kappa Sigma welcome back Psi Chapter to Phi Kappa Sigma and by extension, the Penn State Greek community.

First and foremost, we want to extend our most heartfelt thanks to the numerous alumni who have supported the re-chartering of Psi chapter the past few years. Yes, it's been quite a few years in the works! Without the vision, resolve, commitment, and dedicated support and involvement of alumni like



Skull House Dancers at THON 2009. Phi Kap Raised \$15,000 toward this year's record total of \$7.49 million.

**Otto Grupp '51, Michael Rycheck '87, Eric Friberg '91 and Kevin Olsavsky '86**, this might not have been possible.

Secondly, we want to acknowledge the support received from Penn State University, and from Dr. Roy Baker and his office. From day one they have been exemplary in their support of this effort. Whether it was arranging for on-campus meeting space, advertising, food provisions, support letters, IFC-coordination, credit terms, office support, and the like, our jobs would have been exceedingly more difficult without their help. There is a reason why we value our University partners, and in particular, Dr. Baker, and we have an excellent example of why that is so important.

Finally, we want to acknowledge the newly initiated brothers for their vision, commitment, dedication, and hard work, especially **Max Abitbol** and **Mark Mezzone**. We knew we had something special in this group of men at the outset



and they have weathered the proverbial storm that accompanies all re-opening efforts and are to be commended!

It is not often that we see such stellar efforts during the colony phase of a re-opening but this group of men took on the challenge of incorporating themselves back into the Penn State Greek Community with utter abandon. There are many examples of this but I think we all should be most proud of their efforts in support of THON. Raising \$15,000 is by far the best philanthropic performance Phi Kappa Sigma has seen in a long time!

We are very proud of the efforts of Psi Chapter and look forward to many more accomplishments to come.

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## The Campaign Benefits More than Just the House

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Through this effort, the house isn't the only thing that is being improved.

Our alumni association has been rejuvenated, and we have a new, energetic and enthusiastic leadership in place.

Our alumni base has remained strong throughout our chapter's suspension and will only grow stronger, as our newsletters, contact information, database, web site and alumni relations efforts will continue to keep you informed of the latest Psi Chapter news and connected with each other.

The new undergraduate chapter and

its leadership has assumed an extremely proactive posture that truly creates a sense of ownership, mission and accountability. The undergraduate brothers of Psi Chapter have endorsed and adopted visible and vested roles to ensure that Phi Kappa Sigma regains its status as a top fraternity at Penn State.

In the coming months and years, we'll have many opportunities for you to come back to Happy Valley to meet the newest brothers and to see our progress at the house. These opportunities will also allow you to reconnect with fellow alumni and

renew your bonds of brotherhood.

The campaign will benefit you in preserving your forever "home" at Penn State. It will ensure that you have a place to come back to for Homecoming, Arts Fest, football weekends, etc. for years to come.

And, perhaps most importantly, the capital campaign will help to preserve the Phi Kap legacy forward for future generations, ensuring that many more young men have the opportunity to experience the same great fraternity that we once did.

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## Phi Kappa Sigma Project Highlights

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After careful study, we have identified the following projects to be included in our house improvement plan:

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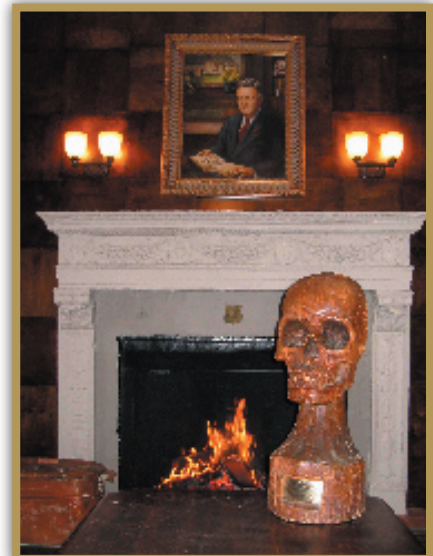
- Refurbish all wall and ceiling finishes in club room, entry and dining rooms; provide new lighting
- Lay new oak hardwood floors throughout the first floor; replacement/repair of the sub-floor as necessary
- Lay new tile flooring at rear and front entrances (including restroom and coat closet)
- Purchase:
  - o New Dining Room tables and chairs
  - o New furniture in the Club Room
  - o New area rugs on the first floor
- Remove paneling from second and third floor corridors and replace with new walls and finishes; install new tile floors
- Abate asbestos in basement and crawl space
- Replace windows with energy efficient thermal insulating glass
  - o All windows on the first floor will be replaced
  - o All second and third floor windows that were not replaced five years ago
- Completely renovate second and third floor bathrooms, including new tile, electrical plumbing, exhaust, floors and lighting
- Overhaul and modernize the kitchen
- Install a new heating system
- Repair exterior wood trim and stucco
- Re-point exterior stone where necessary
- Renovate:
  - o Basement and Chapter / Party Room
  - o Bedrooms (26)
  - o First floor unisex restroom
- Renovate / create new spaces for use as Library/Alumni Room/Lounge/TV Room. Addition of a new space under the Ice Box on the East side of the house could be considered for this purpose.
- Install new internet and computer systems
- Improve exterior landscaping and parking lot

**Your financial contribution today can help make all of these things happen!**

*The construction costs for each of the line items on the project highlight pages have been estimated by our General Contractor working in conjunction with the Building Committee. Any alumnus may request details of these project costs by contacting the Building Committee Chair Kevin Olsavsky at 610-446-0244 or kmolsavsky@aol.com.*

*Chapter Management - Along with the planning of the renovation of the Psi Chapter house, the Phi Kappa Sigma Alumni Corporation and the Chapter Advisor have developed comprehensive guidelines for the use, care and maintenance of the house, to ensure the long-term preservation of the new facility.*

*Corky in front of the fire.*





## Class Agents: Who's Calling You?

Thank you to the Brothers (at right) who are excited to re-engage with Phi Kap as they reach out to other alumni from their classes to discuss the *Building Our Heritage, Securing Our Future* campaign. When your assigned class agent calls you, please take the time to speak with him about this exciting chapter in our history!

If your year isn't represented, why don't you consider serving as an agent for your class? It is a great opportunity to reconnect with Phi Kap friends while helping us take the next step in our journey. Contact our campaign manager Ellen Konkle at 814-571-0576 or [ellen@affinityconnection.com](mailto:ellen@affinityconnection.com) for details.

**Thank you class agents! Your work is critical to our future.**

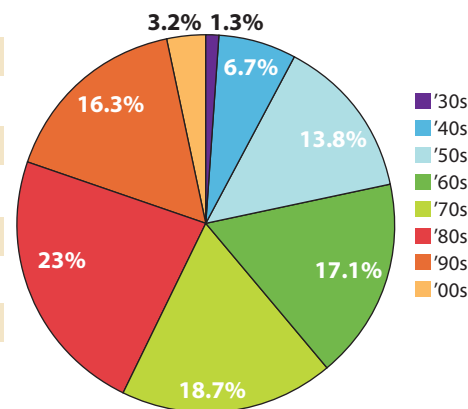
### Class Agent Callers

David Christopher '51	Michael Whitesell '76	Jon Larry '86
Ronald Coder '51	Alfred Clark '78	Kevin Olsavsky '86
Otto Grupp '51	Russell Hatton '78	Michael Rychek '87
Jacob Shook '53	Sean Lacey '78	Richard Caccamise '91
Chet Buckenmaier '59	George Bodenger '79	Bradley Ottinger '91
Nicholas Molloy '59	David Mooney '81	Chris Zuniga '91
William Euwer '61	John Bravacos '82	Eric Arcudi '93
Joe Koletar '66	Kevin McKee '82	Thomas Keating '00
Gregory Peterson '72	Robert Kerrigan '83	Adam Law '00
James Van Pelt '73	Joseph Delanko '86	<i>List as of</i>
Thomas Krug '74	Leonard Dore '86	<i>April 14, 2009</i>

## Amount of Brothers in Each Class

Help your class to achieve 100% participation! Rally up brothers from your era to participate in our *Building Our Heritage, Securing Our Future* capital campaign.

1935	4	1947	2	1959	14	1971	15	1983	13	1995	9
1936	1	1948	18	1960	23	1972	16	1984	11	1996	18
1937	1	1949	12	1961	12	1973	17	1985	28	1997	6
1938	1	1950	13	1962	11	1974	17	1986	22	1998	7
1939	5	1951	8	1963	22	1975	19	1987	26	1999	3
1940	2	1952	1	1964	6	1976	12	1988	17	2000	9
1941	3	1953	11	1965	16	1977	21	1989	15	2001	2
1942	8	1954	14	1966	16	1978	19	1990	18	2002	14
1943	6	1955	17	1967	15	1979	13	1991	25	2003	4
1944	4	1956	22	1968	12	1980	21	1992	16		
1945	4	1957	15	1969	22	1981	23	1993	26		
1946	2	1958	10	1970	21	1982	33	1994	20		



*A breakdown of our alumni base, by decade of graduation. Based on 909 active brothers.*

## Building Our Heritage, Securing Our Future Honor Roll of Pledges

### The House Society (\$100,000+)

Otto Grupp III 1951  
*(In memory of Otto Grupp Jr. '22 and Lillian Grupp)*

### Keller Society (\$25,000+)

James Broadhurst 1965  
Thomas L. Hebel 1977

### Toga Society (\$15,000+)

Michael Rychek 1987

### Corky Society (\$5,000+)

Ronald Coder 1951  
Graham Hume 1955  
Chet Buckenmaier Jr. 1959  
Samuel Curry Jr. 1962  
Kevin Olsavsky 1986

### Psi Society (\$1,000+)

Richard Schweiker 1950  
David W. Christopher 1951  
James Davis 1952  
Nicholas Molloy 1959  
David Allison 1962  
Joseph Koletar 1966

Sean Lacey 1978  
George Bodenger Esq. 1979  
Lance Kandler 1989  
Eric C. Friberg 1991  
Andrew P. Friberg 1993  
Thomas Keating 2000

Bequests were also received from **David Christopher '51** and **William Sandston '42**.

*This list reflects pledges received as of 4/14/09. From now until the end of May, we will send out a weekly update of this list.*