

# Psidelights



Penn State Skull House Est. 1890

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

December 2012

## Help Wanted

### *Looking for Names of Previous Board Presidents*

So that we can recognize our brothers in the archives who have served as our alumni leaders, we are looking for the names and years of any previous Phi Kappa Sigma Corporation Presidents. **Otto Grupp III '51** has served 12 years and **Sean Lacey '78** served 10 years before that.

Please e-mail any information to **Michael Rycheck '87** at [mrycheck@aol.com](mailto:mrycheck@aol.com).

## Who Was Your Role Model in Psi Chapter?

"Hands down, Brother **Noel DeCavalcante '59**, our Pledge Captain in fall 1955-spring 1956. Noel led our very large pledge class (roughly 20 terrific guys) wisely, calmly and in a very dignified manner.

I always admired how he led us through all the tough pledging times. He kept calm and kept us calm and collected throughout. It's no wonder he was successful as an office in the U.S. Air Force.

Brother Noel is as good a role model as anyone out there. We are blessed to have had him in our lives."

- **Dave Allison '59**

## On the Web

Stay connected throughout the year at [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com)

## Thank You, Otto

### Otto Grupp '51 Steps Down as Alumni President

After 12 years as president of Phi Kappa Sigma Corporation, **Otto Grupp III '51** will be stepping down from this position. Otto will continue to serve Phi Kappa Sigma as treasurer and will also continue to lead the capital campaign.

Otto was instrumental in leading our chapter through a monumental period, with the deactivation and rebuilding of our active chapter and the capital campaign to renovate the Chapter House.

A few alumni and friends shared their kudos...

*"All of the alumni and actives of Psi Chapter are greatly appreciative and thankful for all that Otto has done and continues to do for*



*Otto and his wife Jean at the Phi Kap house after graduating from Penn State in 1951.*

*the House and our brotherhood."*

- **Mike Rycheck '87**, Vice President, Penn State Skull House

*"On behalf of the National HQ staff, thank you Brother Grupp for your time and dedication to the Psi Chapter. We look forward to working with you in your new role."*

- **Mike Short**, Executive Director, Phi Kappa Sigma International Fraternity

*"Stellar job, Otto! [Especially] during a tough period."*

- **Sam Curry '62**, Psi Chapter alumnus

*Would you like to send well wishes to Otto? You can email him at [OHGEEIII@aol.com](mailto:OHGEEIII@aol.com) or share your comments at [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com).*

## Chapter News

### Dancing for Brady

#### Brothers Team Up with Women's Chorale to Dance and Raise Money for 16-Year-Old Leukemia Patient in THON 2013

For the first time since re-colonizing, Psi Chapter will have a THON dance partner. We have partnered with Women's Chorale to dance for our THON child Brady Lucas, a 16-year-old leukemia patient from York, Pa. Brady has been bonding with Psi Chapter brothers leading up to THON. In August, four brothers participated in the Brady C. Lucas golf outing in York, getting the opportunity to spend time with his family and friends. For Brady's

birthday, the brotherhood gave him a basketball signed by Penn State men's basketball coach, Patrick Chambers, and also presented him with tickets to the Penn State/Ohio State football game.

To date, Psi Chapter has raised \$8,000 toward its \$20,000 THON fundraising goal. To contribute toward Phi Kap's efforts, go to [www.thon.org](http://www.thon.org) and click "Donate Now". Be sure to select Phi Kappa Sigma to designate your contribution to Psi Chapter.

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## Alumni Profile

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### Once a Phi Kap, Always a Phi Kap

#### New Alumni President Sets His Sights on Building a Better Phi Kap

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**Mark Bokelman '82** has big shoes to fill, stepping in as president of Penn State Skull House after Otto Grupp's 12-year term. But Mark, a resident of Collegeville, Pa., has his sights set on finishing what we've set out to do and building a better Phi Kap at Penn State.

***Why did you decide to run for election to lead the alumni association?***

That's an easy one - because Otto asked me if I would be interested in placing my name on the ballot. How could I say no?

***What are some challenges you face, and how do you plan to overcome them?***

The only real challenge I foresee is following Otto Grupp. Otto's vision and leadership have proved invaluable in re-colonizing the Chapter and raising monies towards the Capital Campaign. I hope I can do him proud.

***What are your goals as president, and how do you plan to achieve them?***

One goal is to finish what we started and reach our goal of raising \$1,000,000 for the Capital Campaign. Thanks to the generosity of about 25% our alumni base, we've raised almost \$800,000 to date. I don't see why we can't raise another

\$200,000 or more. I believe it's a worthy cause - thinking back, unbeknownst to me when I rushed the house, the house may not have existed in 1978 without J. Orvis Keller's generosity during the Depression. Thinking about that, I probably wouldn't have the same life-long friends that I have today. I recognize that everyone has different priorities, but if you have not yet made a pledge and have the means to give, I ask that you give it some strong consideration.

Another goal of equal importance, is working with the Board and the actives to increase the number of brothers living in the House. We're trending in the right direction, and I'd like to see us back to full capacity in the near future. I welcome ideas on how to get there.

Also, I've been kicking around the idea of organizing some informal get-togethers with the alums in Philly, the Burgh, etc., along with some hosted events at the House.

***Why would you encourage brothers to get involved in their alumni years?***

I encourage everyone to get involved. Frankly, the easiest way is to write a check towards the capital campaign. Stop by the House when you are in State College and talk to the actives. Add or update your

profile on [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com) to stay informed and keep in touch. Volunteer to lend a hand when we conduct work weekends at the House. Take pride in your brotherhood. Remember, once a Phi Kap, always a Phi Kap.

***What are your impressions of the current active chapter?***

I think we have a great bunch of guys in the house. They remind me of many of the brothers I pledged and lived with at the House; a mix of scholars, athletes, leaders, and all around good guys. I am truly impressed with their enthusiasm and look forward to working with them in the future. They want to build and expand the chapter, so let's give them a hand.

***What do you do for a living?***

I have spent my professional career working in the pharmaceutical industry. My focus is on regulatory policy, i.e. identifying and analyzing shifts/changes in the regulatory environment to better understand the strategic implications of such changes with regards to developing new drugs.

***Connect with Mark at 610-506-0921 or [bokelman.mark@gmail.com](mailto:bokelman.mark@gmail.com).***

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## Chapter Report

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### A Busy Semester for Psi Chapter

#### Brothers Recruit a New Class, Achieve a High GPA and Make Improvements at the House

It's been a busy semester for Psi Chapter. After a packed recruitment schedule, we recruited eight new members. Our pledge brothers have varied interests and will bring a different dimension to our chapter. This pledge class genuinely wants to advance the fraternity.

Academically, Psi Chapter brothers achieved a cumulative 3.05 GPA. There has been an overall greater emphasis on study hours for all brothers, and access to

the study closet of classes taken by former brothers.

At the house, we now have a vending machine located in the dining room, as well as new red carpets courtesy of our house advisor, **Eric Friberg '91**. We will repaint the second and third floor hallways, and also replace tile or install carpet on the third floor. We have placed composites throughout the house in the hallways, plan to purchase a coffee table for the club

room and will place our letters on the front of the house.

We held our first annual Phi Kappa Sigma Alumni Career Fair Event on October 27. Thanks to Earl Winterbottom '11 for speaking to the chapter about his job, what he did in preparation for his interviews and how he tied specific Penn State experiences he had at Penn State into landing his job. Stay tuned for details of our next career fair event.

# News From the Bone

## Robert Brown '70

(7313 Lattice Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46217; brownreb@yahoo.com) I retired as VP of Sales from Healthcare Uniforms, Inc. and got married last October to Julie Robinson. I meet with **Bill Gaul '69** (Houston) and **Jim Clark '68** (San Juan Capistrano) regularly to play golf and/or see Penn State football at away games.

## John Hellmann '77

(2419 Chatham Ct., State College, PA 16803-2400; jrj3@ems.psu.edu) I have been living in the State College area since 1986, after a brief stint at Sandia National Labs in Albuquerque, NM. I am a professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and Associate Dean for Graduate Education and Research in the College of Earth and Minerals Science at Penn State. My wife Kathy (Penn State '76) and I have three sons (Dan, age 31, Penn State '08 and a brother at Sigma Nu), Michael (age 28, Penn State '08 and recently wedded to Kathryn Clark Hellmann, Penn State '11), and Jonathan (age 21 and currently a student in Kinesiology at PSU and prop on the Penn State rugby team). We stay in touch with numerous Phi Kaps and their families, enjoy tailgating with the clan and watching all the kids (and in some cases grandchildren!) grow up.

## Russell Hatton '78

(940 Kilduff Circle, West Chester, PA 19382-7405; hattonuser@verizon.net) After 31 years, I am still employed by Wawa, Inc. in the corporate offices. I am now responsible for all Information Technology Department Resource Management, as well as overall Contract Management and Release Management, after many years managing the SAP Development team. There's a lot of managing going on; a new team and many new responsibilities.

I still live in West Chester with the



*Psi Brothers Russ Hatton, Evan Fox, Scott Thomas, Terry McDevitt, Ralph Van Horne, Tom Hebel, John Hellmann, Jon Apple, Mark Denkowski, Joe Van Leer, Sean Lacey, Steve Rowe, with guests Mike Hellmann, Jon Hellmann, Adam ?, Greg Hebel, and Andy Friel at the inaugural Winter Weekend at Wounded Knee. Brother Van Horn wore his toga most of the weekend and was the proud recipient of the Full Throttle Award at the conclusion (see more photos at [www.puskull.com](http://www.puskull.com)).*

family. My wife Shirley is librarian at the newest West Chester area high school, Bayard Rustin, which is also attended by my now senior step-daughter, Jennica and my exchange daughter from Brazil, Eloiza. Jennica has submitted college applications to Harvard and Shippensburg (can you get any two different schools?) and wishes to study physics. Melissa, the oldest, now 27, has been working for New View in Media as a category manager for women's fashion accessories after graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City a few years ago.

This summer was a trip on the trail of family history with the family traveling to Sweden and Denmark to visit long-lost cousins and see where my maternal family immigrated. After returning from that trip, we traveled to Virginia to attend my paternal family's 87th reunion and connect more with family members. In August, I attended the wedding of Michael Hellmann, son of **John Hellmann '77**.

## Tom Albertson '85

(159 Picket Post Ln., Phoenixville, PA 19460-5619; albertsont@synthes.com) I got to visit with Tommy Jr. and his buddy AJ this summer; hopefully future Skulls! Pilz - they changed the code!

## Lance Kandler '89

(123 Midway Dr., Phoenixville, PA 19460-2020; lkpsu@hotmail.com) I am still working two jobs and 70-hour weeks. My daughter Madeleine just turned five years old.

## Are we missing your email address?

We are for 62% of our alumni. If you haven't been receiving emails from us, please update your contact info at [www.puskull.com](http://www.puskull.com) or send your full name and email address to [feedback@affinityconnection.com](mailto:feedback@affinityconnection.com) (mention Phi Kap PSU).

*What's new with you? Share your news, updates, photos and more at [www.puskull.com](http://www.puskull.com) or by emailing our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) (mention Phi Kap PSU). You can also find many more updates and stories from your alumni brothers on our site and in upcoming monthly eLetters.*



## Annual Fund

### Kick Off the New Year with Your Support of the Annual Fund

Each year, Penn State Skull House maintains an alumni relations program to keep brothers connected with Psi Chapter and the friends they met there. Your annual donations enable us to:

- Print, mail and distribute Psidelights to all alumni
- Maintain our web site, [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com), and monthly eLetters
- Upkeep our database of more than 900 brothers
- Host frequent alumni reunions

Please make a gift this year of \$35, \$135, or \$350.

*There are three ways to donate:*

- Online at [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com)
- By calling 800-975-6699
- By mailing your check, payable to "Penn State Skull House", to the return address on this newsletter

*Thank you for your help to keep us going year after year!*

## Alumni Reunions

### Still Getting Together after Nearly 50 Years

*Thank you to Lt. **Robert Then '65** for sharing this story of a recent reunion enjoyed by the brothers from the '60s.*

A fabulous time was had at the recent reunion in the Philadelphia area for the PSU Phi Kappa Sigma classes of 1965-1968, with 15 brothers and 11 wives attending. Those in attendance were: Cindy and **Jeff King**, Becky and **Joe Groff**, Penny and **John Hunt**, and Bev **Joe Milroy**, Joan and **John Leach**, Suanne and **Robert Then**, Colleen and **Tom Marshall**, Joanny and **Don Dieter**, Pam and **George Baker**,

Merrile and **Chris Mansuy**, **Don Marshall**, **Joe Koltar** and **Toby Mack**.

Besides the usual golf and sightseeing, the Kings, Groffs and Hunts graciously opened their homes during the three days



for wonderful food, drinks and fellowship.

This was the fourth reunion in a row with previous ones being held in State College, Baltimore and Gettysburg, and everyone agreed that they keep getting better each year. It was especially gratifying to see brothers who hadn't been to these reunions in the past. Our reunion next year is tentatively scheduled for the Pittsburgh area.

*Have you recently reunited with Phi Kap brothers? Email your story and photos to our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com).*

*In this Issue of Psidelights...  
- Otto Grupp '51 Steps Down from Leadership Role  
- Psi Chapter Finds First THON Partner Since Re-Colonizing  
- Getting to Know Our New Board President*

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