



This Just In!

Largest Phi Kap pledge class in over 20 years initiated into the Skull Brotherhood!

We are pleased about the great job that the Brothers of the bone have done in initiating 14 new members, including two legacies. Thank you to all the Actives at 234 E. Beaver!

Chapter Eternal

The following Brothers have passed on since our last edition of Psidelights

Jacob Forney '35
Dennis Hines '41
Stanley Coville '48
Jack Grossett '48
Walter Leuzinger '49
Wolden Magann '49
David Binns '50
Cyril Sernak '50
James Davis Jr. '52
Samuel Kincaid Jr. '52
William Lauder '53
Hugh Quigley Jr. '54
Stanley Ulsh '54
James Leslie '55
Anthony Rotell '56
James Bissett '57
David Powell '57
John Albrecht '57
Nicholas Muslin Jr. '58
Alan Lees '59
David Reed '60
Warren Richards '60
Donald Jameson Jr. '63
David Ogden '63
Michael Basilio Jr. '69
Mark McCartney '71
David McHugh '77

Psidelights



Penn State Skull House

Est. 1890

www.psuskull.com

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TOGA!

Psi Brother Recalls Penn State and the Perfect Place to Grow Up

When Brother **Ron Felix '85** arrived at Penn State, he was admittedly a very shy and introverted kid. The Skull Brotherhood at 234 E. Beaver welcomed him



with open arms and provided young Felix the perfect place to grow up.

Q: Why did you join Psi Chapter in the first place?

A: I was a very shy, introverted kid when I started PSU. The Brotherhood at the house at the time made me feel very welcomed and comfortable. It was the perfect place to grow up and have a group of people push me beyond my comfort zone socially.

Q: What's your favorite memory from your time in the chapter?

A: The lasting relationship with many of the membership. Additionally, I just loved the house...and oh yes, TOGA!

Q: Do you still keep in touch with any of your fellow alums?

A: Yes - I regularly see **Rick and Jim Kerrigan '78**, as well as **Ed Celen-tano '86**. Over the last few years I've re-engaged with **John Goodhart '84**, **Mike Paul '85** and **Kirk Pyscher '82**.

Q: Tell us about your job title and what you do.

A: Today, I'm the Vice President of

In Space Propulsion for Aerojet Rocketdyne. I have the privilege to lead a division of 400+ people focused on design, manu-
facture, as-

sembly, test and certification of in-space propulsion systems for satellites, space capsules, deep space probes, and other strategic assets. My "little" division is the only business in the world that has in totality produced propulsion systems for spacecraft that have visited every planet in our solar system, inter-stellar space, the sun, an asteroid or two and the moon. Prior to joining AR, I served as President of SPX Precision Components for eight years, whose primary focus was the manufacture, assembly and overhaul of rotor heads for the Chinook and Apache helicopters. Overall, I have spent 31 years in Aerospace – and it has been a wonderful ride!

Q: How did your time in Psi Chapter help to prepare you for that role?

A: It allowed me to grow socially with a group of very special people, in particular from a communicative aspect, but even more importantly, from a human diversity aspect. Psi Chapter taught me to appreciate people of all backgrounds, and it developed and sharpened my appreciation of people for who they are, what they are, and what they can do.

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Ron Felix Profile

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Q: Tell us about your family/hobbies.

A: Big baseball fan, love my Phillies, as well as our Nittany Lion football team!! I am an avid skier and golfer. I love to travel. To date, I've had the privilege to conduct business on five continents throughout the world. I have a great wife and two sons in college (Cal Poly and Purdue). After living most of my life on the east coast, particularly the Northeast, two years ago we took on the adventure of moving West. Today, I regularly shuffle between Sacramento and Seattle, and in between, my wife and I spend time exploring the West. Our favorite Western place to decompress is Lake Tahoe.



Q: What would you say is your biggest accomplishment?

A: Easy, finding a special person who can put up with all my shortcomings to be my wife, as well as the two great sons we have raised. After that, I have had the special privilege personally to lead two great aero-

space companies who achieve tremendous technological feats every day. That said, it's the ability to get those teams to rise above their challenges and outperform their expectations that gives me the greatest amount of satisfaction.

Q: What advice would you give to future generations of Psi Chapter members?

A: Easy, never stop learning, never stop changing, and never be afraid of a challenge or something new. Push yourself into those uncomfortable situations and embrace & learn from what grows out of them. Finally, embrace the diversity of the people around you, you will be amazed what you can accomplish as a team vs. as an individual.

JAMMY'S, FOOTBALL, SOCIALIZING, AND DANCING

“These Are Great, Great Stories That I Tell My Grandchild”

“When I pledged, I loved the house,” recalls **Brother Chuck Schwambach '70**. “I loved the location to the campus and I immediately felt a strong bond with the existing Brothers. It just seemed like the right fit.

The '60s were a wild time for sure. Many of us would probably say it moved so fast it was a blur. However, I loved the Jammy's, the toga parties, the Saturday football games with the cocktail party afterward and then downstairs socializing and dancing. That's what I miss and think about most often. These are great, great stories that I tell my grandchild.”

Schwambach still keeps in touch with a few of his Brothers, such as **Bud Scholar, Jack Wareham '71** and **Jon D'amico '71**.

“I would love to see all of our pledge class again,” he says.

These days, Schwambach is Corporate Vice President of Marketing for Greystone Senior Living, the largest senior-living consultant in the nation assisting in Nonprofit organizations with the development, financing, and marketing from the ground up of continuing-care retirement communities throughout the nation.

“I actually received my degree in Food Service and Housing Administration and spent 30 years in corporate restaurant positions, including owning four restaurants,” said Schwambach. “However, the last 14 years have been in the senior living industry. I would



have to say that the socialization piece of being involved with Phi Kappa Sigma is something that assists you in growing as a human being and has helped me in business. Living and interacting with different personalities every day, helps to prepare you for the different personalities in the real world.

I am an active white water enthusiast even at 68. At least every two years I fly from Dallas to West

Virginia to run their Class V Rivers. I love to work out and I travel a lot with my job and for fun. Of course, the fall is dedicated to Penn State football.”

Of all his accomplishments, the Skull Brother cites his ability to develop people and recognize a person's potential value as his greatest asset.

“I find individual accomplishments fade but relationships you have formed with people is what is the most satisfying and at least for me, seeing someone succeed that I brought into an industry and was instrumental in them reaching their full potential,” says Schwambach.

The future represents a lot of challenges to the upcoming generations,” said the Skull Brother. “Don't lose sight of the importance of people skills and if you are fortunate enough to find a mentor in any industry, recognize its value and capitalize on it.”

“We Had So Much Fun, We Almost Forgot To Take Photos!”

A Football Saturday with the Hebel Crew

Saturday, October 22 started like any other, with the Penn State faithful gathering for the Saturday ritual of food, fun, and football. It’s an atmosphere that fosters Brotherhood and Psi Chapter cashed in with two wonderful tailgates, one of which was hosted by Skull Brother **Tom Hebel ’77** and family.

“The turnout was great,

said Hebel. We must have had 40 people there throughout the day. There were a lot of activities and recent graduates who stopped by – they really enjoyed the warm and comfy motor home and the top-shelf beverages. At one point, we had about 25 people inside the motor home. We had so much fun, we almost forgot to take pictures!”



Our Love For Skull House Runs Deep

Remember Psi Chapter This Holiday Season and Always

234 E. Beaver.

To all of us who have slept here, dined, laughed, and cried here, that address is more than just another dwelling on a busy State College street. It was home, no, it will ALWAYS be home. No matter how far we venture, the bright lights of Skull House will remain a beacon to guide us back to where it all began. Back to where we began our adult lives as wide-eyed, 18-year-olds. We all knew everything, yet we knew nothing of where our lives would take us once the revelry and good times at 234 E. Beaver came to a close.

What we did know however is that we were living in the greatest times of our lives. From social events, philanthropic endeavors, and screaming into a Beaver Stadium fall evening until our voices were lost in the best student-section in the country, we knew it didn’t get any better than that.

These days, the time goes faster, but the wonderful memories always remain as fresh as they were 10, 20, 30, years ago and even further. Every year we respectfully ask for your donations in support of the memories you hold dear in the hopes that those gifts will provide active Brothers with the same memories and opportunities for years to come. Keeping the Skull mystique alive is something our entire Brotherhood can rally behind.

A thought that may have slipped your mind, as you gathered around the table this Thanksgiving with family and friends is, why am I thankful for Phi Kappa Sigma?

Well, let me answer from my own perspective. I am thankful for the many talented Brothers in our group over the years



Tailgating for VICTORY—Mike Rycheck ’87, Bill Turner ’86 and Fritz Breisch ’87 partake in the Turner traditional Shot Ski during the Indiana Penn State game.

who have contributed with pledge class projects, donations, and the gift of their time and talent as Alumni. I am also thankful personally for leadership experience gained, and lifelong friends, who I can call upon any time, regardless of the reason.

I invite you all, if you haven’t done so already, to consider your contributions in the spirit of this message. We have a fine group of Undergraduate Brothers living in the house- stop by any time and see them! They Love Penn State, they love Skull House, and they take tremendous

pride in representing and upholding the values we all carry in our day-to-day lives. We are a proud group and continue to retain preeminence at Penn State.

I wish you and your family the happiest and warmest of holiday wishes and a prosperous new year, with those you love near. I am sure as you gather with your loved ones, memories of Skull house will abound. I hope to see you all soon, whether it be at the annual Blue-White game, a Homecoming tailgate, or even a social event at the house.

If you would like to get involved with Psi Chapter, please let me know. We can always use the talented minds and hands of our Brothers.

The Brothers listed on the accompanying solicitation form have made their contribution(s) in 2016. ***Will you be next?***

Fraternally,

Michael Rycheck ’87

Alumni Vice President
mrycheck@aol.com

—PSI MAKING A DIFFERENCE—

THON Child, Now THON Chair Impacts Lives of Others

Betsy Slagel did some paperwork, took a swab of her mouth, and registered as a bone marrow donor.

Those 15 minutes could save someone's life.

Slagel, the Penn State Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania Thon chair, researched how a bone marrow drive worked after **Brady Lucas** called her in August of this year. He is a Penn State student, Thon child, and Psi Chapter Brother who received a bone marrow transplant from his brother.

"After getting more involved, I became really passionate about it," she said. "It's not scary at all."

The two worked together daily to get to this point. They kicked off a four-day bone marrow drive for Be The Match, a nationwide nonprofit that helps match donors to patients.

"Think of us as a library," Be The Match Community Engagement Representative Aimee Haskew said. "Instead of thousands of libraries there's one library. When doc-



tors need a match for a patient they walk in through our front doors, use our desk, our computer and our algorithm to search and find the best match."

It all sounds simple, but matching a patient to a donor is complicated.

While there are 13.5 million registered donors in the United States and 29 million worldwide, less than half of the 14,000 patients who need a bone marrow transplant won't find a match. Only 30 percent of patients have a match in their family.

"When a patient needs a transplant it means chemotherapy has failed, radiation has failed, every other alternative treatment has failed," Haskew said. "This is the last option. It's the end of the road."

"A lot of people think matches are made on blood type, but that is not the case at all. Matches are made on something called your tissue type. Those are the proteins that live on your cells and help identify you as you and everything else as other. That's how your body knows to fight off infections and

bacteria. In transplants we try to match those tissue types as close as possible that way the patient's body does not reject the new cells."

The bone marrow drive registered 70 donors on the first day.

Organizers in Phi Kappa Sigma and SNAP hope there will be a groundswell of support in response to the drive. College-aged donors, they said, are ideal.

"It's extremely important within our student community to participate," Slagel said. "We are the healthiest people in America for bone marrow and blood drives. That's why we want to target this community because we can help the most."

Story Credit to Shawn Annarelli - Centre Daily Times, State College, PA

THON 2017 will be the weekend of Feb. 17-19, 2017. Please donate through Phi Kappa Sigma by visiting www.thon.org and click "donate now" on the top menu. From there you will be able to select "**Greek Organizations**" and donate through Phi Kappa Sigma!

"Psi Chapter Was, and Still Is, Warm and Friendly"**John D. Unangst '72- A Symbol of Service For Country and Business Success**

"Before leading Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union to its current prowess, Brother Unangst spent three years in the hostile jungles of Vietnam where he served as a Captain. Awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, the Air Medal for Valor, and the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Unangst is a natural leader.



"I returned from Vietnam and re-started college at age 22," said Unangst. "I have a penchant for getting involved, and joining a fraternity seemed like the best way to round out the college experience that I wanted. I was still young enough to enjoy the experience yet mature enough to know that the fraternity offered more than just a house- It was a home away from home. Unlike a dorm or apartment, I knew as an alumnus I would always be able to return to my fraternity. Psi Chapter was, and still is, warm and friendly.

"Because of my age, I was immediately nicknamed 'pop,' recalls Unangst." "I didn't look my age or act older but the name was better than some. Like one brother who put his foot through the ceiling in the attic and got the nickname "LightFoot." Pop

worked. My favorite memory, though, was dinner time. I really can't remember eating breakfast or lunch in the house but I will never forget that we gathered as a family around the large dining room tables each evening. Just like dinner at home with a large family gathering but now with Fraternity Brothers. It was a time to laugh, learn, commiserate sometimes, and grow (Harass the pledges). Since I was one of few with a car, I had the privilege of driving our house mother/chef home each night. I'm not quite sure how much of our conversations she heard. Although she had the opportunity, she never brought them up during our car rides, and that taught me a lot about maturity, and life, too.

Regardless of what Fraternity you join, the experience is generally universal. In the house next to Psi Chapter were many guys from my hometown. So, it is geographically convenient to keep in touch. My Psi Chapter Brothers came from different parts of the state and many have moved out of state since graduation. So, we may not keep in touch as regularly, but it's as if no time has passed when we reunite at PSU events."