

# Psidelights

www.psuskull.com



Penn State Skull House • Est. 1890

December 2003

## Fraternal Walk – Phase II

We want to thank the following Brothers for their generous donations, allowing us to plant three oak trees and a beech tree in our front yard:

John Goldham '48  
Thomas Hebel '77  
Michael Rychek '87

Erick Chizmar '88  
Marti Pulli '91  
Brett Pulli '93

Next spring, we would like to complete the Fraternal Walk by planting several hemlock trees between Kappa Sigma and us. To donate a hemlock tree, please use the enclosed donation form. The cost is \$375 per tree.

To be honored on the bronze plaque, which will be placed in the foyer this upcoming February, we ask that you make your Fraternal Walk donation by January 15, 2004. You may also dedicate your tree to a class or fellow brother.



Class of 1946 tree donated by John Goldham '48

## You Make it Happen!

Help make 2003 the best year yet for our Penn State Skull House Alumni Association.

We are close to breaking last year's record of alumni dues and donations. Please help us continue our alumni program of the Psidelights, e-letters, reunions, alumni database updates and our Web site.

Just fill out the enclosed form, or call 1-800-975-6699, and put your donation on your credit card.

All Brothers supporting the alumni association will be recognized in the spring 2004 addition of Psidelights as well as on our Web page under Honor Roll.

## The Best Years Reunion

Classes of '58 – '64

Founders Day, Oct. 19, 2003

By Sam Curry '62

They came by land, they came by air, they came by boat and they came by scooter. (Well, I already had them here.) The invasion of New Bern, N.C., started on Saturday, Oct. 18, with the arrival of Judy and **Jim Craft '63**, our helpers and co-conspirators. Things were in the usual state of disarray, but amazing things happen around the Curry place during the final hours before a party.

We picked up Natalie and **Larry Gaertner '63** at the New Bern airport Saturday evening. On Sunday, the troops started rolling in all day long. At first, they seemed like strange faces, with a lot more gray hair or less hair than we remembered, but when you looked at the eyes, the faces came into focus and we were off and rolling. We had a total of 35 brothers arrive with 24 beautiful ladies along side them. Each brother was given a welcome package including a set of 2003 reunion glasses, a "PSU Skulls" church key contributed by the Alumni Corporation, an itinerary, a list of attendees, a map and a wooden nickel from the home of Pepsi Cola (New Bern).

A crew of dockhands was dispatched to the marina in the late afternoon to bring in "Friendship," captained by **Tom Getz '66** and later to be joined by his brother **Don '62**. The look on his face was priceless as he was asking docking instructions from the "dock master" and later found that he had been talking to Captain Curry who was giving him gibberish as instructions. A party of soups, sandwiches and lots of beer, wine and soft drinks kept the raucous crowd rolling as we swapped stories of what had been happening over the past 40 some years.

Some people have been in touch, others have been silent, but that silence soon disappeared, and we were back in the old days.

The Sunday night gathering — the 153rd anniversary of Phi Kappa Sigma's founding (Oct. 19, 1850 – Founders

*(Continued on Page 2)*



Best Years Reunion ... see pages 2 and 3 for our reunion photo gallery.



# The Best Years Reunion

Continued from Page 1

Day) — set the pace for the days ahead. A surprise for the evening was arrival of “Corky II” from California, transported by **Jae English '64**. Corky found his way to a place of prominence throughout the activities. Another unexpected visitor was **Dick “Lindum” Lindfors '55** who arrived unexpectedly as he was known to do in the past and departed just as mysteriously.

Monday morning came early as a few Skulls joined the regulars of The Broken Paddle Coffee Klatch, which gathers by the marina at 6:45 a.m. (before dawn). I emphasize “a few.” Golf tee times started at 8:10 a.m., and four foursomes gathered in the dew-covered grounds of the Harbour Point Golf Club. They made their way around the links, telling more lies. We took the majority of the group to town for a tour of Historic New Bern via trolley. One full trolley and eight on the second one viewed the beautiful old homes dating back to the 1700s. We even spotted a PSU #1 foam hand on one porch and several “Welcome PSU Phi Kaps” banners around town. One of our drivers was even a Penn Stater. The group dined at a variety of the restaurants for lunch, shopped and freelanced the rest of the afternoon. The golfers returned triumphantly and gathered on the deck of DeSotos Restaurant at

the marina for a few snorts under the warm Carolina sunshine.

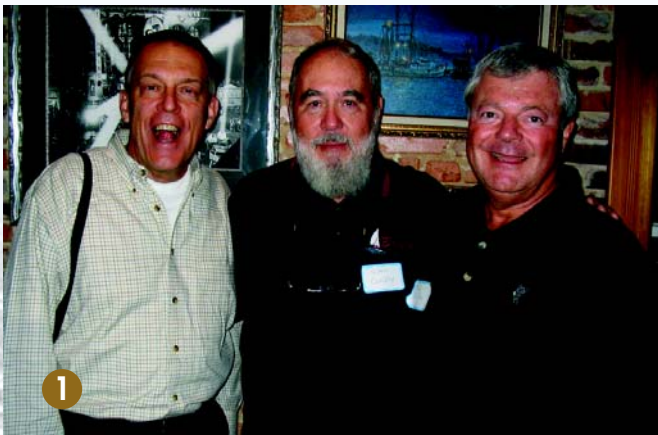
The group returned to town for dinner at Captain Ratty’s, a local restaurant and watering hole, which provided an excellent evening. Open bar for happy hour supported by several Brothers and the Alumni Corp was a wonderful raucous time. Corky was seen sitting in the corner by the piano. Prior to dinner, there were a few words said as well as a prayer for our Brothers who have gone

to the Chapter Eternal. A luscious dinner of crab cakes, shrimp and steak provided a grand conclusion to our second day of activities. Group pictures of classes were taken and, with the assistance of Senator Foghorn B. Schaal, we gave credit to the Alumni Corp., read a few letters and set the plans for the following day. It was noted that round men shouldn’t wear horizontal stripes.

Tuesday started out much as Monday had, with a light coffee gathering, and golfers teeing off shortly after 8:00 a.m., this time at the Shoreline Course. The touring on Tuesday was “See it by Boat.” The Getz brothers took a crew of 22 out for a tour of Fairfield Harbour, then up the Neuse to New Bern and up the Trent River to see some of the homes and to demonstrate their navigational skills, only finding the bottom



Friendship cruise ... 22 Skulls and spouses on board.





twice. At the same time, hearty sailors — myself along with Cynthia Parsons and daughter Julie — sailed up the river to New Bern, finding fantastic winds on the beam and giving Boosie a 6-6.5-knot run to town and back. After the golfers returned from the links, a third boat — captained by our neighbors, Bernie and Nancy Teubert — took about 12 more out for a short cruise on their 39' mainship, Bernan. They cruised around the Harbour and river and witnessed the deft maneuvering of Friendship as it rounded the 1N mark on the wrong side. An S turn at eight knots with a full crew on the upper decks is a sight to behold ... from another boat.

Evening brought another tradition: North Carolina pork barbecue and chicken with hush puppies catered by Moore's Barbecue at the nearby picnic pavilion. **Bo Terry '63** was even seen working as he hauled the big Pepsi cooler to the party. A beautiful breeze kept the skeeters away, and we witnessed another wonderful sunset amid the tales and stories, which never stopped. It was noted that people did seem to fade a bit earlier than the days at PSU, but at least one "after 10" party was held in a condo hosted by Jae English. This began the farewell process as some folks had early departures. Those who could hang around came to our home for breakfast and then said their farewells. Some tears were seen in the eyes as the good-byes were said, but it was not "good-bye" — it was "till next time."

Special thanks to all the gals who helped with the preparations, including especially hostess Delle Curry, Judy Craft, Natalie Gaertner and all the others who crowded in the kitchen. There is already talk of another gathering in several years, perhaps as a cruise. Another thing to keep in mind is the gathering at the house when recolonization takes place: **PSI Chapter – Our Heritage Continues.** Stay tuned.

Our Alumni Corporations deserves a special note of thanks for helping to make this possible through the Web-site notices, mailing lists and financial and moral support. We had an amazing turnout (almost 40 percent with 90 invitations mailed). Things can really happen when you work on it. The spirit of the Skull House IS VERY MUCH ALIVE.

## — 2003 Reunion Attendees —

Dick Lindfors '55	Ken Louis '61
Bill Schaal '58	Bill Swisshelm '61
Tom Schneider '58	Dave Allison '62
Jake Shook '58	Sam Curry '62
Gip Bonar '59	Don Getz '62
Chet Buckenmaier '59	Ron Parsons '62
Noel DeCavalcante '59	Steve Burke '63
Jim Eckert '59	Les Carl '63
Jack Javens '59	Jim Craft '63
Jack LaBue '59	Larry Gaertner '63
Nick Molloy '59	Jon Hoffman '63
Greg Bean '60	Don Jameson '63
Al Davidson '60	Bill Moses '63
John Howe '60	Jim Terry '63
Jim Mason '60	Bob Peace '63
Paul Sheckler '60	Jae English '64
Dick Solt '60	Tom Getz '66
Bob Bellas '61	



**1:** Pledge Brothers: Al Davidson '60, Sam Curry '62 and Bob Bellas '61. **2:** Back row (L-R): Jack Javens '59, Bill Schaal '58, Jim Eckert '59, Dave Allison '62 and Noel DeCavalcante '59. Front row (L-R): Nick Molloy '59, Jon Hoffman '63, Gip Bonar '59 and Jack LaBue '59. **3:** Class of 1963. Back row (L-R): Bob Peace, Steve Burke, Larry Gaertner, Jim Craft and Bill Moses. Front row (L-R): Les Carl, Jim Terry, "Corky" and Don Jameson. **4:** Dick Solt '60, Ken Louis '61, Bob Bellas '61, Sam Curry '62, Bill Moses '63 and some beautiful ladies. **5:** Gip Bonar '59, Chet Buckenmaier '59, Jake Shook '58 and Jack LaBue '59 on the tee. **6:** On the trolley tour through New Bern, N.C. **7:** Noel DeCavalcante '59, Jon Hoffman '63, Greg Bean '60 and Dick Solt '60 reviewing old party pictures.



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*We were proud of our House, proud of each other and proud to be a part of Phi Kap history.*

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from the same hometown, Perkasio, Pa. (as is **Joe VanLeer '75**), and we were in the same major, landscape architecture. My first visit to the house was to study for an upcoming test with Jon, and I believe it was on a Wednesday night. As many of you know, Wednesday night meant rush taps and lets just say it was the most fun study night I had ever had. I met a bunch of really great guys and had a super time. The rest is history.

### What is your favorite fraternity memory?

I have a bunch of favorite memories of the house like Slip 'n Slide with Faye in trash bags on the first floor, awards on Friday night and Tommy D for Mental Health ... "How did they get that shark to do that?" and midnight drives on campus in the VW ... in boxers. The best ones, however, came later like apple crisp, the immaculate reception, the mud dance at the Denkfest, the wrong car at Weege's wedding and the honeymoon cruise to Cozomel.

### What influence has the fraternity had on your life since graduation?

We had a great time at Phi Kappa ... sometimes too good of a time. But we learned some important lesson, too. That's where I learned about responsibility, cooperation, leadership, relationships, tolerance and the value of friendship. We were proud of our House, proud of each other and proud to be a part of Phi Kap history. As I look back today, I am more sure than ever we all owe a big part of who we are today to that place, that time and that group of guys. I hope my children can say the same thing some day.

### Who do I stay in contact with?

I stay in contact with Jon Apple, **John Hellmann '77**, **Steve Rowe '78**, **Sean Lacey '78**, **Scott Thomas '77**, **Mike Friel '77**, **Ralph VanHorne '75**, **Joe VanLeer**, **Mark Denkowski '77**, **Joe Gill '77**, **Joe Patonetz '76**, **Terry McDevitt '76**, **Evan Fox '79**, **Russ Hatton '78**, **Jeff Long '80**, **Gary Grant '77**, **Jack Bender '78** and some others I'm forgetting to mention. My very best friends are the same ones I've had since my Penn State days in the '70s.

### Who would I like to find?

I am wondering where **Frank Lynch '81** is these days.

### Tell us about your family.

Many of you know my Phi Kap girl, Barb. We dated on and off in college (she was at the University of Miami while I was at PSU) and hooked up for good on Oct. 31, 1981. Barb is the human resource director for Doylestown Hospital and its 1,800 employees. We have two sons — Gregory, a freshman at PSU Abington, and Ryan, a freshman at Pennridge High School. Both have been Penn Staters since birth and enjoy hangin' out with all of the Phi Kap gang at PSU football games and local parties. Gregory plans to be at the main campus next fall, majoring in landscape contracting. Ryan hopes to get through high school without allowing academics to interfere with his social schedule. I think he will make an excellent fraternity president

**Why did I join Phi Kappa Sigma?**  
People! My best friend, **Jon Apple '77**, was a Brother. Jon and I are both

someday as he has already mastered the art of persuasion and group leadership.

### What were your nicknames?

There were many great nicknames for lots of us at Phi Kap like "Skid," "Hellpig," "Stench," "Weege," "Grunt," "Porno," "Zap," "Joker," "Smelly" and many more. Mine was "Barney" or "Rubble" or "Q", all of which I assume are derivatives of or associations with my last name, Hebel.

### Did you live in the House?

I moved into the house as a pledge in fall of 1975. I pulled a famous "power play" room pick without even knowing what one was. **Mike Whitesell '76**, a senior with a very high room pick, was a bit short on cash at the time, so short in fact that he was in jeopardy of loosing his pick if he didn't pay his delinquent house bill from the previous term. I had some spare change as was often the case and a generous spirit (some call it naïve) and was happy to help Mike out of his jam in trade for sharing the back "Icebox." **John Hellmann**, **Mike Friel**, **Steve Rowe**, **Mike** and I shared that suite and, yes, **Mike** did pay me back before the year was over.

### What do you do for a living?

I own a landscape design and build company and a garden and home center, Bucks Country Gardens, located in Doylestown, Pa. Most of my time is spent designing, selling, and overseeing the installation of mid-size residential landscape projects. The garden center, greenhouse, nursery, gift shop and casual furniture shop are managed by a group of excellent employees who allow me to spend my fall weekends in Happy Valley. Whenever absolutely necessary, I get involved in general business management and attempt to keep our gang focused, motivated and content. Both of our boys work at the garden center, and come spring, Gregory will move to one of the landscape installation crews. If nothing changes their minds, they will be paying me to stay away within a few short years.

### What affiliations do you currently have and/or public service do you participate in?

For many years following graduation, I was an active member of the Phi Kap Alumni Board. I am currently an active participant in the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce where I serve on the board and as past president of Bucks Beautiful, a program of the chamber devoted to beautifying Bucks County with public gardens. I am also very active in our local Lutheran church where I have served as a council member and president.

### What hobbies do you enjoy?

Penn State Football and tailgating is my favorite hobby. I play a little golf, do a little traveling, collect a little art and attend far too many non-profit fund-raising events. This year, we sold our membership in a local golf club and bought a motor home. Haven't missed the country club scene at all and am just having a ball with the home on wheels. Can't wait for the football team to catch up! We are planning a couple trips next year and may even pull off a "Denkfest" resurrection at Smith Mountain Lake in late July or early August.

Brothers can contact Tom at [thebel@buckscountrygardens.com](mailto:thebel@buckscountrygardens.com).



## House Update

We are pleased that we have been able to make some noticeable upgrades this summer to the House. These include:



A new oak door ...

- A new oak front door, with a new crosshead and keyless entry system.
- New flagpoles over the front door.
- Newly repaired stonework on the front porch and stairs.
- Addition of a new fire escape door in the basement and a new sewer line.
- The purchase of new sconces for the clubroom and dining room, matching the chandeliers.
- Continued improvements to the privacy and looks of the House with the planting of the Fraternal Walk.

We also again thank Kappa Alpha for maintaining the House and



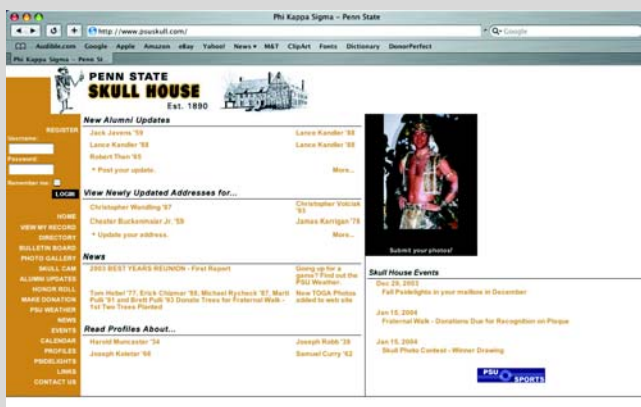
and a restored stone porch welcome visitors to the Skull House.

keeping the numbers up. We currently have 43 brothers living in the House this semester, and KA has recruited a new pledge class of 13 for this fall.

## www.psuskull.com Update

Several new features have been added to our Web site:

- SKULL CAM — Just click on the SKULLCAM menu option and see a live picture of the HUB lawn and our House. Simply click Refresh to get an updated view.
- PSU WEATHER — Get the latest 10-day forecast for State College and the House. Just click on the menu option PSU WEATHER.
- Fall 1954 issue of Psidelights — Click on the PSIDELIGHTS menu option and choose from any of the previous Psidelights.
- Toga 71 photos — Browse the PHOTO GALLERY and see if you recognize the faces.
- Update your mailing and e-mail address — Just click on VIEW MY RECORD, make the changes and click SUBMIT.



## Skull Photo Contest

Win a \$75 certificate to the Student Book Store.

Help build our photo gallery at [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com) while earning a chance to win a \$75 gift certificate to the Student Book Store.

Just e-mail your photos of your days at PSU or any recent photos to [news@2stayconnected.com](mailto:news@2stayconnected.com) or, mail them to our alumni relations office at Penn State Skull House, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 296, State College, PA 16804-0296. All photos mailed in will be returned to you.

On Jan. 15, 2004, a drawing will be held from all those brothers who have sent in photos. The winner will be called and his name posted on the Web site.



## Discount Flowers to Skulls

We thank **Thomas Salinsky '69** for his offer (see News From the Bone). Just call him at DJ's Florist, **1-800-331-8313**.

*PSIDELIGHTS is published for the members and friends of Psi Chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity, 234 E. Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801. Address changes, news items, photos and contributions are always welcome and may be mailed to Phi Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 296, State College, PA 16804-0296 or log on to [www.psuskull.com](http://www.psuskull.com).*



# News From the Bone

**John W. Mitchell '49**  
(79308 Montego Bay Dr., Bermuda Dunes,  
CA 92201; weavermitch2000@yahoo.com) I  
would like to hear from my old roommate,

**William B. Anderson '48** — former WWII Marine Corp, former FBI agent, and last I heard, a professor at some small college in eastern Pennsylvania. I went through PSU on the GI Bill which paid just enough to pay the house bill. To earn beer money for Doggie Alexander, I sold sandwiches every night at all 52 fraternity houses. I almost flunked out doing all this but prided myself in knowing the Greek name and location of every fraternity house on and off campus. My main success as a pledge was being the pledge master when we pledge **Dick Schweiker '50**. We had a couple of brothers in the House who knew Dick from high school. When I met him, I knew he was a superior person. I had dinner with Dick and Clair a couple of years ago, and they looked great!



**James W. Davis '52**  
(9 Quail Lake Rd. East, Pinehurst, NC  
28374-8337; watson82@aol.com) My wife  
(Marilyn Jones Davis, Alpha Chi Omega

PSU 1952) and I moved to Pinehurst, N.C., in July 2003. We have bought a home on Pinehurst CC course #3, hole #6. Golf had nothing to do with it. Yeah, right. We have dreamed about this for years. We will be close to children and grandchildren who live in Raleigh.

**Jack R. Javens '59**  
(1433 Corporation St., Beaver, PA 15009)  
After being an active home brewer (beer) for 10 years, I now am the reigning king of mead in Beaver County. Mead is wine made from honey. I make five gallons (10 six-packs) a month.

**Thomas W. Salinsky '69**  
(15540 Redington Dr., Redington Beach,  
FL 33708-1738; buyty@aol.com) Our shop, DJ's Florist, sends flowers worldwide. We give discounts to all Phi Kappas. Save money and call us at 1-800-331-8313.

**Thomas D. Darlington '87**  
(1800 W. Roscoe St., Apt. 504, Chicago,  
IL 60657-1074; tddarli@us.ibm.com)  
What's up? Still in Chicago; still with IBM. Keep in touch at 312-245-5121.

**Brett F. Pulli '93**  
(1008 Cedar Rd., Ambler, PA 19002-  
4935; Pullrock@aol.com) I have visited  
State College a few times in '02-'03. I'm

working for Puma Footwear as a regional manager. I cover Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, D.C., and Virginia. We have a great retailer in State College — Barefoot Shoes on College Ave. — if anyone wants to check out my work. Also, my brother, **Martin Pulli '92**, has his own fine jewelry store in Manayunk, Pa. If any Skull Brothers happen to be looking for us, Martin's store number is 215-508-4610.

**Lincoln M. Taylor '93**  
(2411 Freetown Dr., Reston, VA 20191;  
krislinc@aol.com) Editor's note:  
Congratulations to Linc and his wife,  
Kristin, on the birth of their daughter,  
Teagan.

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We regret to inform you of the death of

Frank A Sinon '32 (3/28/03)  
George V. Dayton '36  
**John E. McHugh, Jr. '41** (4/27/03)  
**John D. Thomas '50** (6/18/02)  
**Paul Winslow '60** (5/1/03)

Skull House mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

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*Reunion Photos Inside ...  
The Best Years*

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