

Psidelights



Penn State Skull House

Est. 1890

www.psuskull.com

Fall 2014

Upcoming Events

PSU Homecoming vs. Northwestern

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014

Noon kickoff

Watch upcoming eLetters for more details!

Psi Chapter 125th Anniversary

In 2015, we celebrate 125 years of brotherhood on the Penn State campus. Over the next year, we will be planning for your return with a full schedule of events. If you are interested in helping organize this event, please contact **Mike Rycheck '87** at mrycheck@aol.com.

Make Every Weekend a Reunion Weekend with PSU Football!

9/6 vs. Akron, Noon

9/13 at Rutgers, 8:00 p.m.

9/20 vs. UMass, TBA

9/27 vs. Northwestern, Noon*

10/11 at Michigan, 7:00 p.m.

10/25 vs. OSU, 8:00 p.m.

11/1 vs. Maryland, TBA

11/8 at Indiana, TBA

11/15 vs. Temple, TBA

11/22 at Illinois, TBA

11/29 vs. Mich. State, TBA

12/6 Big 10 Championship

* Homecoming

Note: home games in **bold**.



Don't Stop Believin'. We Haven't. Chapter Makes Headlines, Celebrates Awards.

Michael Rycheck '87, Vice President, Penn State Skull House

You may be wondering where we have been over the past 12 months. Well, the good news is that we have been very focused on returning to the core values of our fraternity: trust, honor, respect, knowledge, wisdom, responsibility and integrity. We think you will be very pleased with our results!

In addition to several awards we have received from the Phi Kappa Sigma International Fraternity, members of both our alumni and undergraduate Brotherhood have been selected to fill key leadership positions supporting the chapter and the Phi Kappa Sigma National. We congratulate them on these achievements.

Other good news includes the launch of our new website design which you can read about inside. Additionally, we

- ★ Recipient of 2013-14 and 2012-13 Chapter Excellence Awards at Grand Chapter
- ★ Recipient of 2012-13 Community Service Award at Grand Chapter
- ★ Election of Brother Kevin Olsavsky '86 to Grand Theta on National Exec. Comm.
- ★ 2nd Place Overall in 2014 Greek Week
- ★ Election of Brother Keith Taylor '15 to IFC Exec. Board as VP of Sustainability

completed two work days at the house last month in preparation for the return of students and alumni.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Homecoming, Sept. 27. We will be hosting an event at the house following this

year's matchup against Northwestern. Watch for details in our next eLetter. We encourage you to return to Happy Valley, reconnect with your Brothers and cheer on the Nittany Lions as Coach Franklin ushers in a new era of PSU football at Beaver Stadium. We want you back home!



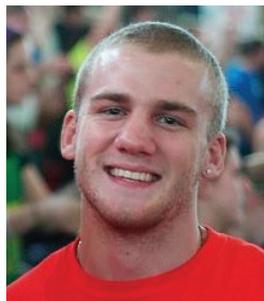
Brothers admire some of the chapter's most recent awards.

Check Out Our New Site! Find out more inside! www.psuskull.com

Alumni Profile

Putting the Pieces Back Together After Hurricane Sandy Brother Ryan King '14 Helps Bring Rockaway Back to Life

Past: He's managed one of Penn State's most successful (and fun!) Greek philanthropic events. Present: He's rebuilding the



boardwalk in Far Rockaway, N.Y. Future: He would like to build bridges. Meet **Ryan King '14**, a new alum who knows first-hand the value

of brotherhood, hard work and showing up on time!

What was the biggest impact your involvement in the fraternity had on you?

The biggest impact that the fraternity had on me was the need to be punctual. When I participated in Greek Sing, the amount of practices held was extensive. Balancing my time between school work, extra curriculars and the practices was difficult, and I needed to be on my "A" game. The following year, I took on the role of Greek Sing Chair, and manag-

ing my time was even harder than the previous year. Through these two years, I learned the importance of punctuality, and it has carried through to my career today.

What else did you learn?

Other things I have learned from being a member of this fraternity is that your brothers will always be your brothers and will be there for you through thick and thin. Sure, I have gotten into arguments with some of my brothers, even some of my pledge brothers. But you can always lean on them when you need it. Arguments are forgotten, and the meaning of brotherhood really comes to light. These guys would drop anything for me if I asked them to, and I would drop anything for them as well. They truly have become some of my greatest friends.

If you could go back and do it again, would you do anything differently?

Maybe my major. My senior design project was brutal. But regarding the fraternity, I would change nothing.

Where are you working currently?

I am currently a civil engineer and assistant project manager for American Pile and Foundation, LLC. We are a specialized subcontractor that installs piles, foundations and retaining walls. The main project I am working on at the moment is located in Far Rockaway, N.Y. During Hurricane Sandy, the Rockaway Boardwalk was destroyed. We are working on restoring it for the Rockaway community and tourists.

What's your dream job and why is that your dream job?

I would love to be involved in the construction of a new bridge where I am in the field for a majority of the project. As a civil engineer who specializes in structural design, I absolutely love bridges, especially their aesthetics. The ability to design and oversee the construction of a structure that allows access to another piece of land is extremely rewarding and can provide a positive impact on the community.

You can connect with Ryan at rcking008@gmail.com.

Visit Our New Website!

A significant part of our alumni communications program is our online community. Here are a few ways you can make sure you are getting the most from our interactive website, www.psuskull.com.

Login and Password Information

When we first launched our new website last year, you should have received an email with your login and password information. If you no longer have that information, please contact our communications partners at feedback@affinityconnection.com.

Update Your Information

Once you are able to log in to the site, go to the top menu, select

"Home." Go to "Connect" and then click "Profile" in the drop-down menu. Under "Profile," find the link that says "Edit profile."

Post Photos

On the top menu, visit the "Photo Albums" button. Once logged in, you can create a new album and then add photos to the album. You can create public or friends-only albums.

Connect With Facebook

Log in to the site with your username and password. Under the "Home" tab, click the "Connect" tab and select "Sign in with Facebook." This will import your user status and avatar from Facebook.

Make a Donation Online

In the top right-hand corner of the home page, select "Donate" and follow the instructions.



Fall 2014 Work Day

Helping Hands Ready House for Undergrads & Alumni

On August 21-22, Brother **Tom Hebel '77** — president of Bucks County Gardens in Doylestown, Pa. — led our work day initiative to landscape and beautify the house in preparation for the return of students, fall rush, visits from alumni during the upcoming PSU football season and next

year's 125th anniversary. Both alumni and active brothers participated in planting shrubs, spreading topsoil, laying sod, wheeling mulch, planting ground cover, extending downspouts, removing the deck and grill pit and generally cleaning up the entire grounds.



Project organizer, Brother Hebel, waters some of the ground cover planted during the work days.



Brother John Apple '77 takes the wheel to dig out old stumps and roots in preparation for planting and mulch.



Current IFC vice president of sustainability and undergraduate brother Keith Taylor (left) and Brother Ralph Van Horne '75 prepare the ground for new shrubs.



The Beaver Avenue entrance is impressive!



Brothers extend downspouts to improve drainage.



Undergraduate brothers spread mulch around new plants and shrubs.

We extend our gratitude to Brother Hebel for organizing and overseeing this effort which will have both a short- and long-term impact for our chapter. And thank you to all of the alumni and undergraduate brothers who pitched in to help over these two days. Be one of the first to enjoy this by returning for Homecoming this fall. Watch for our upcoming eLetters for details on Homecoming and our 125th Anniversary celebration.



Kenneth Dolman '94

(Alta, WY; dolmankh@mac.com) As Ken Dolman gets ready to return to Happy Valley this fall (he'll be in town on Sept. 9-10) and then move his family to Berlin, Germany, for a new adventure, he shared a few thoughts with us on his Skull House experience. **Any advice for new Skull House recruits?** Be strong and brave. Man up. Stop being a soft weakling. Live in the now. You're not as cool as you think you are. **If you had to go back and do college all over again, how would it be different?** That would suck to do college all over again. I would have to hire people to do my school work. I still have can't-find-the-final-exam nightmares. Parties would be fun but the kids would be like, "Who brought their dad to this thing?" They also wouldn't get any of my pop culture references from the '80s. And with all the new social media and camera phones, I'd have some cyber-embarrassment to deal with.

Thanks, Ken, for sharing this update with us. We wish you safe travels and all the best in this new chapter of your life.

In Memoriam

Since the last *Psidelights*, we have learned of the following deaths:

Jacob Forney '35
 Samuel Crabtree '41
 Clarence Stappenbeck '44
 Norman Marlin '48
 Capt. Robert Schuster Sr. '50
 Thomas Woolaway '54
 Earl Woolaston '56
 John Koenig '65

Psi Chapter mourns the loss of our Brothers and extends our sympathy to their family and friends. Please inform us of any Brothers who have passed away.

Annual Fund Wonder How We Do It?

Have you ever stopped to think about how we do it? Certainly, a Homecoming or Arts Fest drive-by of the house reminds you of the memories you have of your Skull House days. But, do you ever stop to think about what it takes to run the day-to-day operations of a Greek fraternity with 45 active brothers?

We are a little more than half way through our 2014 giving year which supports our daily operations — including routine repairs at the house, academic/scholarship programs and alumni relations efforts. These funds help us maintain a competitive position on the Penn State campus while allowing us to keep our alumni engaged in events at Penn State and across Happy Valley.

For example, your gift helps us:

- Print, mail and distribute *Psidelights* to all alumni
- Maintain our website, www.psuskull.com, and monthly eLetters
- Upkeep our database of more than 900 brothers
- Host alumni reunions

Please take a few minutes to review the enclosed appeal letter.

Now is your chance to get a jumpstart on your giving for our 2014 giving year. We ask only one financial gift per year (a gift of \$35, \$50, \$100, or a designated lifetime gift of \$350). We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you during Homecoming 2014!

Psi THON Child Brady Lucas Joins PSU Class of '18

Jack Reed '17, Delta (Recruitment) and Upsilon (Alumni Relations)

Psi Chapter is excited to welcome Brady Lucas to the Penn State campus this fall. However, this time it is not just as a THON child. It is also as an official Penn State student.

Brady is a member of LEAP (Learning Edge Academic Program) as he works towards studies in biobehavioral health with plans to become a hematologist after graduating from Penn State. The Psi undergraduate Brothers welcome Brady and hope they see him on their doorstep during fall rush. Nothing would be more exciting than to welcome Brady into the Phi Kap brotherhood later this year!

And speaking of rush, our brotherhood plans to recruit with power we have never seen before. With the exception of academics, rush will be the single most important responsibility for each Brother. We expect everyone to be involved in recruitment. Our exceptional occupancy rate in the House will surely attract many potential new members.

If you know of any new (or existing) Penn State students who would complement our Phi Kap brotherhood, contact me at jpr5311@psu.edu.



What's new with you? Share your news, updates, photos and more at www.psuskull.com or by emailing our editors at 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.