

2012 PLEDGES

Zachary Bandes

Oldsmar, FL

Theodore Brochu

Allentown, PA

Anthony Terracciano

Cold Spring Harbor, NY

Conor Hails

Kings Park, NY

Trenton Rivera

North Royalton, OH

Jack Alvarez

Trabuco Canyon, CA

Forrest Benton

Signal Mountain, TN

Bruce Chanenchuk

Natick, MA

John Bergantino

Lexington, MA

Harry Holroyd

Chevy Chase, MD

Dara Alizadeh

Brookline, MA

Cody Dillabough

Calgary, AB

Matthew McKinnon

Missouri City, TX

Ian Kukowski

Katy, TX

Daniel Gautieri III

Roseland, NJ

Robert Bernhard

Memphis, TN

ON THE WEB

Are you registered at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org? If not, be sure to do so today to have full access to the online directory, photo albums, message boards and much more! You can create a profile and get in touch with old friends. And best of all, it's free! If you haven't yet registered, use your Member ID (found above your name and address on this newsletter) to follow the First Time Login instructions on the home page.



Philadelphia, Pa.

www.phiphi-sigmachi.org

February 2012

ALUMNI REPORT

Awards Given and Projects Announced at Phi Phi Annual Meeting

The Phi Phi Chapter's Alumni House Corporation held its annual meeting on November 5, 2011 and discussed their accomplishments, finances, and areas of improvement. Here are the abbreviated meeting minutes:

Board Elections

The following slate of candidates was proposed for another one-year term and the motion passed:

Mark Kocent '82 - President

Gerald Knorr '82 - Vice President and Treasurer

Maury Nunes '70 - Legal Counsel

Steven Adler '82

Jon Greenawalt Jr. '91

Paul Hertel III '88

Dhananjay Pai '83

Tom Valenti '00

Reed Werner '01

Ronald Woodmansee '82

Nicholas Rhodes '12 - Undergraduate Consul (to be replaced mid-year by newly-elected consul, **Kevin Gramza '13**)



The restored bay window in the dining room.

bedrooms: In an effort to spruce up some of the bedrooms prior to a larger renovation effort, we expended revenues for this task from our 2010-2011 rent carryover.

- New black out roller shades in all first floor commons areas.
- New refrigerated cooler in the basement recreation area.

Vice President and Treasurer Jerry Knorr also provided a detailed assessment of the alumni chapter's strong financial position. He concluded his report by noting the challenge we face regarding improved engagement of recent alumni in the fiscal support of the chapter.

Planned Improvements

- New coffee table for Blue Room – to be donated
- New TV for basement Rec area – Undergrad social budget
- Thermostat repair to manage three-zoned heating system – CIF

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ANNUAL MEETING

Awards Given and Projects Announced... *Continued from page 1*

Risk Management

The board is reviewing proposed changes by the University to our risk management policy

Awards

The following awards were presented at a ceremony following the Board meeting:

- **Gilmore Scholars:** **Kirk Hayes '13** and **Mitchell Stein '13** were presented \$500 scholarship checks in acknowledgment of their academic achievement over the past



2010-11 Gilmore Scholar for Academic Excellence **Mitchell Stein '13** poses with the new plaque listing all recipients to be displayed in the chapter house's Gilmore Library.

year. A new plaque has been installed in the Library which lists all past winners as well as slots for future awardees.

- **Most Improved Chapter:** The undergraduate chapter received the James F. Bash Significant Chapter Improvement Award for their progress in 2010-2011.
- **Significant Sig:** **Mark McMorris '90** received his official citation on Nov 4, 2011.
- **50 Year Sigs:** The House Corp is seeking an appropriate opportunity to bestow this



2010-11 Gilmore Scholar for Academic Excellence **Kirk Hayes '13** poses with **Mark Kocent '82**, Phi Phi House Corp President.

award to many of our most committed alumni.

Stay up to date on the active chapter and fellow alumni by registering on line @ www.phiphi-sigmachi.org



Before renovations to the volleyball court (above), and after (below).



Mark McMorris '90 (center) was presented with the Significant Sig Award this fall by two previous recipients, **L. John Clark '63** and **Alvin V. Shoemaker '60**. Also on hand were **Bobby Alexander '14** and **Consul Nick Rhodes '12**.



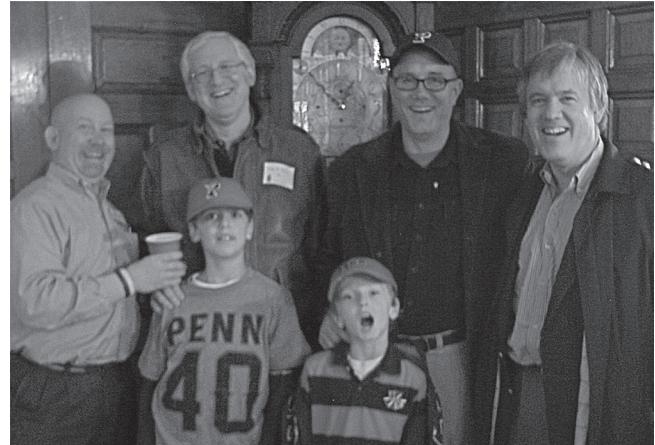
The Phi Phi Chapter received the James F. Bash Significant Improvement Award by the International Fraternity for its continued progress in 2010-11 regarding all aspects of chapter management and leadership. Undergraduate brothers posing with the award are (L to R): **Charles Walker '12**, **Mitchell Stein '13**, **Blake Winston '13**, **Nick Rhodes '12**, and **Mason Rippey '12**.

ALUMNI PHOTOS

Send us pictures from the past or present and they could be featured in an upcoming newsletter. You can email your pictures to content@affinityconnection.com (mention Sigma Chi at Penn) or mail them using the enclosed form and envelope. You can also upload pictures to a personal album at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org.



Sigs in Australia. (L to R): **Dhan Pai '83, Brad Bowton '83 and Arjun Pai '12.**



Past and future Phi Phi's gathered on Homecoming to relive their days at 3809 Locust. (L to R): **Ron Woodmansee '82, John Halpern '80, Bob Mazurkiewicz '81 and Jerry Knorr '82... joining them were Dan Halpern and Blaise Mazurkiewicz.**

ALUMNI Q&A

"Sigma Chi Gave Us All a Terrific Home Base"

Thank you to Jacques Gordon '78 for participating in this Q&A. (Jacques was presented with the Significant Sig award in November 2009).

Why did you join Sigma Chi as an undergraduate? Undergraduate brothers recruited me from my hometown, St Louis, and a group of freshmen friends from the Quad were also important in my decision to pledge. I had no previous knowledge of fraternities in general or of Sigma Chi.

What is the funniest memory from your Sigma Chi days? The funniest memory I have is the freshman skit we put on as pledges. It featured a guy who was wrestler in high school (he shall go nameless). He knew how to lose his lunch on command (a trick he used to make his wrestling weight). He performed this feat with wondrous skill during the last act of our skit. It was amazing, revolting and hilarious at the same time.

What is the single fondest memory you have shared/will share with your children and grandchildren? My kids have heard me tell the story of how a couple of us invited women to eat dinner at the Chapter House a couple of days a week. It had a civilizing effect on our dining habits, brought down the cost per person of our dining arrangements, and was a lot of fun because the young women we

invited were all really good-natured people. I am also very proud of my year as Rush Chairman, which resulted in the Phi Phi Class of 1980—a very strong group of talented young men.

How do you stay connected with your brothers as an alumnus? I stop by the House whenever I am back in town for the Wharton Real Estate Center meetings (generally once a year). I enjoy reading the *Quaker Sig* and especially appreciate it when brothers from the '70s and '80s write in.

Have you visited Penn since graduation? I have been back many times and I have gotten to know brothers from the '90s and '00s, who are really a great bunch of guys. The Penn campus continues to improve each year. I am looking forward to seeing how the University has re-developed the 24-acre Postal Lands down by the River on my next visit. It is also encouraging to see that our historic Chapter House is in such good shape, with many improvements added over the years. **Mark Kocent '82 and Jerry Knorr '82** deserve the gratitude of all brothers for the fabulous, time-consuming work they have done with the Chapter House and with the University to keep Phi Phi's position strong.

What about your membership in Sigma Chi makes you the most proud? For a relatively modest-sized house on campus, Phi Phi alumni have done some outstanding things. We have had many illustrious and highly-accomplished members. When I meet Sigma Chis from huge schools here in the Midwest or speak to people at the National HQ in Evanston, they know our chapter because of the high caliber of members that have come from Phi Phi.

Why would you encourage other brothers to engage with Sigma Chi in their alumni years? It makes sense to give back to the Chapter that supported us in our undergraduate years. Sigma Chi gave us all a terrific home base on a crowded, urban campus. The brotherhood appreciates sharing leadership experiences as undergrads, in business and in life.

What is the best thing about your alumni experience? The Sigma Chi network here in Chicago is incredibly strong. It's been fun getting to know some of the brothers from the Big Ten schools, as well as helping re-start a chapter at the University of Chicago.

Reconnect with Jacques at Jacques.Gordon@lasalle.com.

View the full Q&A and other brothers on our website at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org!

CHAPTER UPDATE

Phi Phi Chapter Welcomes Sixteen New Sigs

By Andrew Weinstock '13, Alumni Chairman

The past few months have seen exciting transitions in the Phi Phi Chapter. November elections saw a new set of officers elected to lead the chapter for the rest of this year and into the first semester of the next school year. **Kevin Gramza '13** was elected Consul and looks to build on the leadership previous Consul, **Nick Rhodes '12**, provided to the

chapter. Juniors Mike Bergstrom and Jake Hennessey step into the roles of Pro Consul and Quaestor, respectively.

We just recently executed a successful rush program led by Rush Chairmen **Bobby Alexander, Tommy Eggleston, Mitch Stein, Brad Presant** and **Alec Smith**. The Phi Phi Chapter is proud to welcome 16 new member

candidates to the fraternity and with guidance from New Member Educators, **Charles Walker** and **Ryan Becker**, we look forward to having them join the chapter later this semester. See a list of our newest pledges on page one.

If you have any questions, contact me at 973-222-3684 or awein@wharton.upenn.edu.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

Murray McComas '58

(1600 N. Main St., Russell, PA 16345; mkmquakersig@penn.com) **Pete Wang '00** (aka Wanger) and his wife Angie welcomed baby Alexandra to the world on July 29, 2011 in Los Angeles. Baby Alex checked in at 8 lbs, 13 oz and 22 inches, taking the title of "Big Baby" from older brother, Wyatt (19 mos). Daddy and Mama Wanger will have their hands full with the two little giants!

'80s

Norman Scharpf '84

(5105 34th St. NW, Washington, DC 20008; ThatcherScharpf@yahoo.com) After two years in DC, I've been selected to be Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Bratislava, Slovakia, starting in the summer 2012. My wife and I started full-time Slovak language training last fall.

'90s

Jason Weisstein '91

(17 Dominion Court, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270; aqualmarine@yahoo.com) I have relocated to southern California after almost 25 years. Orthopedic practice is excellent, I'm taking care of all of the retirees. If you make it to Palm Desert or the Palm Springs area, please look me up.

Share YOUR news at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

A. Parker Sharron '71

(deceased May 27, 2011 – San Diego, CA) Parker received a BS in Economics in 1964 and an MBA in 1971 from the Wharton School. He worked for both the Calgon division of Merck Drugs and General Foods corporations in product management before moving to Syracuse in 1975 to expand the family food brokerage business. For the next 20 years he worked across central and western New York for the Arthur V. Sharron Co., and later Seaway Marketing and Bratt-Foster Advantage Sales as a food broker. He served for many years as the President of the secondary school committee for the Syracuse area alumni association of the University of Pennsylvania, encouraging countless students to apply and attend his alma mater.

Parker frequently returned to Penn and to Sigma Chi for Homecoming and always brought a warm smile, cheery disposition and generous heart. He is survived by his wife of

47 years, Marilyn Sharron, son **Matt Sharron '95**, daughter Meghan Sharron, and brother **Mark Sharron '68**.

Cornelius E. Smyth '46

(deceased November 8, 2011 – Syracuse, NY) Neil was a graduate of the Wharton School and served as Assistant Naval Attaché, being the youngest officer in the history of the Navy to hold that office. Neil was the Executive Vice President of Caesars World, Intl. and held several other executive positions in the industry.

He was the co-founder of the U.S. National Table Tennis Championships and is enshrined in both the U.S.A. and California Table Tennis Halls of Fame. He was the U.S. National over-50 Doubles Champion in 1985 and was the silver medalist in the U.S. National Senior Olympics singles over 65 in 1995. In addition, he won the over-80

North American singles championship in 2006 and 2007. In honor of his career achievements, Neil was awarded the Significant Sig Medal. Neil generously contributed a championship quality ping pong table to the Phi Phi Chapter House several years ago, and it has held up well, hosting many a competitive game. Neil continued his enthusiasm for Sigma Chi beyond Penn, providing assistance to the chartering of the Zeta Chi Chapter at UNLV.

We have also recently learned of the deaths of the following brothers:

Lyman Gridley '42

Edmund Auer '54

Neil Estabrook Jr. '54