

ALUMNI RELATIONS

Alumni Officers

President
Bruce Rothermund '90

Vice President
Keith Davis '76

HOUSE CORPORATION

Ohio Zeta House Leadership

President
Scott Armstrong '85

Vice President
Keith Davis '76

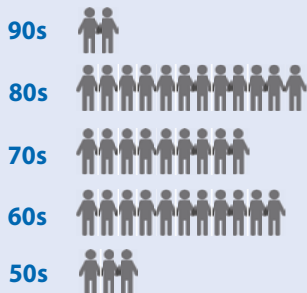
Secretary
Cortland Schaefer '09

Treasurer
Dick James '68



DONORS BY DECADE

80s Brothers Lead the Way



A special shout out to **Cortland Schaefer '09** and **Paul Warnick '27** as the only brothers representing their decades so far this year! Want to show why your decade is the best? Visit page three of this issue for ways to support the Ohio Zeta annual fund.

Central Ohio Alumni Association of Phi Delta Theta

BUCKEYE PHI

www.ohiozeta.com

Summer 2021

Ohio Zeta Chapter • The Ohio State University

HOUSE UPDATE

The Phoenix Rising

In the last issue of *The Buckeye Phi* we asked for your feedback as we plan the future of our House, and in this issue, we would be remiss to not open with a THANK YOU!

Thank you to the brothers who have continued to support Ohio Zeta and thank you to those who took the time to complete our survey and to provide input on the future of our property. (If you have not yet completed our brief survey, additional feedback continues to be welcomed at bit.ly/ohiozetasurvey.)

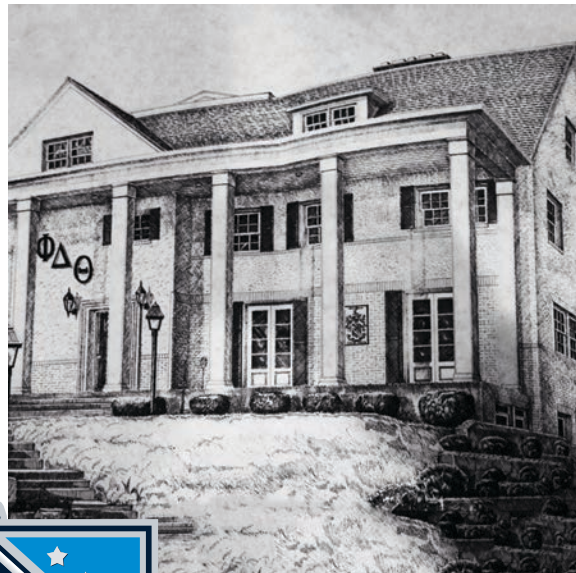
One of the most pressing questions asked in the survey was regarding your opinions on transferring ownership of our House to General Headquarters. If we were to do so, GHQ would pay the ongoing expenses associated with the house (including property taxes, debt repayments, minimal utilities, etc.) and would retain ownership of the property, leasing it back to Ohio Zeta when operations resume.

That question was met with varied feedback, with brothers voting on both sides of the decision. With that in mind, and in wanting what is ultimately best for our chapter, we have continued to look for additional options, and we are now in negotiations for a new alternative.

A new chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon was founded at Ohio State this spring, and, with the new chapter in need of housing and our House presently available, the idea of leasing our house to DKE presented itself as a beneficial option for both parties.

Such an arrangement would allow us to retain ownership of the House, while offsetting the ongoing operating costs and helping us to avoid the annual loss of \$15k to \$20k mentioned in our last newsletter.

With that said, the need for support from our alumni brothers remains high. Because of



your support thus far, the future looks bright for Phi Delta Theta at Ohio State, and we aim to keep it that way!

Because of your support thus far, the future looks bright for Phi Delta Theta at Ohio State, and we aim to keep it that way!

To learn more about contributing financially to our annual fund and operating expenses, visit page three of this issue. In addition to financial support, maintaining the strength of our brotherhood remains of the utmost importance to Ohio Zeta. As you flip through this newsletter, you'll also find ways to stay connected with your brothers, and we encourage you to do so today!

Haven't completed the survey yet? YOUR feedback is still welcome! Visit bit.ly/ohiozetasurvey

FINDING LOVE AT PHI DELTA THETA

For many brothers, the stories of their relationships and marriages are closely intertwined with those of their Phi Delta Theta experience. **Jim Phipps '72** and **Bob Laughhunn '74** are two of those brothers.

Thank you to Jim and Bob for sharing your stories!

Jim Phipps '72 and His Phi Delt Dream Girl

I began dating Deedee Boulton in 1966, after moving to Sylvania, Ohio, from Southern California. We were together through high school, and she was my senior prom date. We both began our freshman year at OSU in 1968. Deedee was a Delta Gamma and was part of the Phi Delt Dream Girl Court in



1970 Spring Break in Fort Lauderdale. From left to right: Maryann Mollenkanp, Tom Budiscak '71, Deedee Boulton, Jim Phipps '72, Debbie Zacradelli, Gary Kay '72.

1970. We were “pinned” in 1969. Following my undergraduate experience at PDT, I entered dental school at OSU in 1972. In 1973, I married my Phi Delt pin mate, Deedee Boulton. We are still married after 48 years!

Tom Budiscak '71 was my best man and **Dave Marker '72** and **Gary Kay '72** were also in the wedding. I graduated from dental school in 1975 and began a hospital residency in Toledo the same year. In 1976, I set up a general practice in Bowling Green, Ohio, providing dental services for 44 years. My partners and I were the team dentists for all men's and women's athletic teams at Bowling

Green State University during that time. Dee and I raised three wonderful children in Bowling Green and now also have five grandchildren. We still have a home in Bowl Green, but since retiring due to the pandemic, spend most of the year in Naples, FL.

Phi Delta Theta was one of the best experiences of my life. It taught me the value of teamwork and cooperation in order to accomplish goals. My term as Chapter President in 1970 gave me leadership skills that proved invaluable going forward. Living in close quarters with 70 very “diverse” personalities, taught me tolerance and acceptance of opposing viewpoints. It also was a hell of a lot of fun! Some of my most memorable moments would include the privilege of being able to

associate with a large group of guys that I enjoyed spending time with. The parties (Toga and Shipwreck), sorority mixers, late-night MAC runs, road trips, and spring break travels were way too much fun! I also remember the “all-nighters” in preparation for mid-terms and finals, and Hell week (but not as fondly). They say “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy,” and the Phi Deltos of my era were anything but dull! I do still stay in frequent contact with **Tom Budiscak** and **Dan Dorshiemer '72**. We encourage any of the brothers visiting northwest Ohio or southwest Florida to look us up and drop by!

– **Jim Phipps '72**

47 Years of Marriage Bob Laughhunn and '74 Dream Girl

I started dating my future wife, Karen, our senior year in high school. She was the Phi Delt dream girl our senior year at Ohio State in 1974. We married that summer and had several brothers in the wedding. We raised two great kids, and my son Andy was also a Phi Delt. Karen and I have been married for 47 years now!! Where did the time go!?

– **Bob Laughhunn '74**

Do you or one of your brothers have a love story that's connected to Phi Delta Theta?

Email

alumninews@affinityconnection.com to share your story and to have the opportunity to be featured in our next newsletter!

The Benefits of Brotherhood

Being a part of a fraternity offers more than just a social experience. As active Brothers, we gained a sense of community, a place to call home, preparation for post-grad life, and the life-changing, lifelong benefits of friendship, leadership, and shared values.

What do 85% of the executives of Fortune 500 companies and 80% of United States Presidents since 1900 have in common? According to Fraternity Advisor, they were all members of Greek organizations during college.

Fraternity and sorority membership helps young men and women cultivate leadership skills, gain a sense of social identity, and learn to work well with others. Fraternities and sororities not only offer the context to develop these skills but, just as importantly, can often help students work toward future internships and job opportunities. Employers like seeing the documented leadership experience that fraternity life can provide.

Networking is an integral part of the college experience and Greek life provides

one of the strongest foundations for social interfacing with a network of peers. Greek organizations help build networks that often prove beneficial to students when looking for internships, employment, recommendations, or employees.

“Phi Delta Theta takes young men and shapes them into functioning adults through leadership in the fraternity, charity work within the community, and networking for post-grad life. Greek life is an essential part of any collegiate system.”

HONOR ROLL

Thank You, Donors!

Thank you to the 39 brothers listed below that have already contributed to our 2020-2021 annual fund!

Ohio Zeta Legacy Society (\$1,000+)

Jonathan Pavey 1961
Jack Sperry 1985

Founder's Circle (\$500 - \$999.99)

Thomas Eyerman 1961
Michael Westendorf 1972
Richard Moody 1976
Craig Grant 1990

1848 Society (\$250 - \$499.99)

A Smith 1952
Frederick Blesi 1959
John Zettler 1960
John Schoedinger 1964
David Priestley 1978
Darren Hissong 1984
Robert Sperry 1984
Rob Anderson 1989

1942 Iuka Ave Society (\$194.20)

Paul Warnick 1927
Nicholas Zettler 1961
Theodore Mock 1963
J. Mullen 1976
Jeffrey Dahl 1982
John Jacobs 1984
Brian Bandi 1986
Glenn Alban 1988
David Ross 1989

Azure Club (\$100 - \$194.19)

Christopher Lohnes 1958
Walter Wyatt 1962
John Thomas 1962
Thomas McFadden 1967
Jeffrey Shoemaker 1968
Lawrence Hilditch 1969
Ronald Brown 1970

Patrick Fahey 1971
Mark Mesec 1978
David Baehren 1982
William Harlow 1985
Christopher Ward 1986
David Lawrence Straub 1990
Cortland Schafer 2009

Argent Club (\$50-\$99.99)

Mark Bernsdorf 1977

Other

Tom Backhus 1970

*Reflects gifts received
September 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021.*

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

A Call to Action!

Contributions from our alumni brothers are at the heart of everything we do and are vital to the future of Ohio Zeta.

Since our 2020-2021 giving year began in September, the 39 brothers listed on our Honor Roll have contributed \$9,884 toward our goal of \$20,000.

If you have not yet made your gift, help us raise the second half of our goal and add your name to the Honor Roll by using any of the following methods.

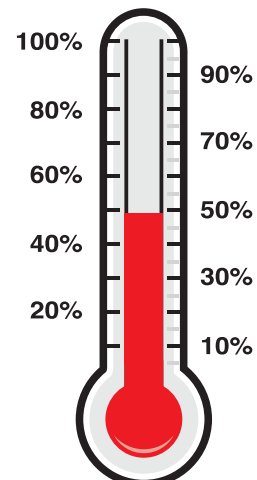
There are three ways to donate:

- Visit our website to donate online at OhioZeta.com.
- Call our toll-free Donation Hotline at **1-800-975-6699**;
- Mail a check to our donation processing center listed below.
Phi Delta Theta
Ohio State University
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

2020 - 2021 Annual Fund

Raised as of 7/2/21
\$9,884

GOAL: \$20,000



Brothers Share How Being a Phi Delt Changed Their Lives

John Anderson '63

I graduated from a small rural high school in Licking County, OH. My graduating class was 22 students, and I was one of the 10 percent of my class that went to college. Needless to say, entering Ohio State was a real culture and academic shock for me!

Since that first year was such a struggle for me, I didn't pledge a fraternity until my sophomore year, and I'm so happy it was Phi Delta Theta. I think the most important lesson I learned while being an active Phi Delt was how to live and work with a diverse group of men.

Other than living with a great group of guys, some of my fondest memories were going to Buckeyes football games, Phi Delt social functions and going to dinner at Reebes restaurant with **Professor Wilson Dumble**. Guys in my age group will remember Wilson, who was a Phi Delt himself and lived in the house.

"I think the most important lesson I learned while being an active Phi Delt was how to live and work with a diverse group of men."

After graduating from Ohio State in 1963 with my bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering, I started working for Pratt & Whitney (an aerospace engine manufacturer) and was with them for 42+ years. My original base was in Palm Beach County, Florida.

During my career, I worked in quite a few different departments and several field assignments, including stints in Long Island, NY; Tokyo, Japan; Munich, Germany; and at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In 2000, I was transferred to East Hartford, CT, where I retired.

Liz (my wife of 57 years) and I are now snowbirds, spending winters in Tequesta, FL, and summers in Higganum, CT. We enjoy visits with our four children and eight grandchildren, although we don't get to see some of them very often since they are spread out in Florida, Boston, Cleveland and Zushi, Japan. We are active in our churches both in Tequesta and in Connecticut where we sing in the choirs.

The Buckeye Phi

Phillip Cobb '65

Where has life taken you since you graduated?

After leaving OSU, I took a job with International Paper Co. that got me to Dallas where I met a guy named Gene Street that wanted, like me, to get into the bar/restaurant business. So, in 1971 we opened a bar named J Alfreds. I got the name from my Toledo buddies that reminded me about a bar at Bowling Green State University called J Alfred Prufrock's.

Since I ran the PDT kitchen at OSU for three years – as did my older Phil brother **Dave Cobb** – I knew I would eventually get into the food and beverage business. Over the next 17 years, our company built a chain of down-home cooking places known as the Black-Eyed Pea, as well as the Dixie House restaurants. We ultimately sold our 45 units to a British firm in 1986.

From 1986- 2004, I did six more restaurants with my second wife, Janet, and finally semi-retired in 2004.

On the non-profit side, I decided in 1983 to bring back a historic trolley system to the Dallas area, and we opened in 1989. Today, 32 years later, we are still operating a seven-car system with 600,000 riders per year, and we are the third largest historic system in America (after San Francisco and New Orleans).

Other notable ventures that I've been involved in over the years include being the majority owner of the Dallas Sidekicks indoor professional soccer team for two years, the Chairman of the USA Film Festival for two years, the Founder and Chairman of the Uptown (Dallas) Neighborhood Association, and a board member of The Dallas Arboretum.

As for my family, I have two daughters, Savannah and Sierra; two stepsons, Brian and Blair; and four grandchildren. Janet and I have been married 26 years.

What are the most important lessons you learned because of Phi Delta Theta?

Whether it's playing intramural sports, running the kitchen, or just getting through



Phillip Cobb '65

Hell Week, you have to work things out together as a team. That has guided me throughout my business and personal career.

"Whether it's playing intramural sports, running the kitchen, or just getting through Hell Week, you have to work things out together as a team. That has guided me throughout my business and personal career."

When you look back on your time in Phi Delta Theta, what moments do you tend to remember most?

The really good times with my roomie **Doug Wahl**, who is also from Toledo, having beers at the Char Bar or Don's on the weekends, going to Buckeyes sporting events, and living at the house over two years.

Share Your Story

To share your own update or story, simply email us at alumninews@affinityconnection.com or head to OhioZeta.com to submit your news online. While you're there, be sure to update your contact information and enjoy reading other alumni updates!