



# Omicronicle

An Alumni Publication of the Omicron Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity at the Pennsylvania State University

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Homecoming

Oct. 6

Nittany Lions vs. Northwestern Wildcats

### Omicron Activities

#### Friday

7:00 p.m. Cocktail hour

#### Saturday

7:00 p.m. Cocktails

8:00 a.m. Brunch

Noon Game

3:30 p.m. Post-Game Party

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. Alumni Bro Mo

8:30 p.m. Cocktails

Contact David Lapinski at [phiktatpsu@aol.com](mailto:phiktatpsu@aol.com) for more details.

### 2012 Nittany Lion Football

Oct. 6: Northwestern Homecoming

Oct. 20: at Iowa

Oct. 27: Ohio State

Nov. 3: at Purdue

Nov. 10: at Nebraska

Nov. 17: Indiana

Nov. 24: Wisconsin

## IN MEMORY

We recently learned of the passing of these brothers...

(Listed by initiation year)

- Leonhart Jensen 1947**
- William M. Bartels 1948**
- Ramon Saul 1948**
- Verne Willaman 1949**
- James Adams 1952**
- Stanley Jay 1955**

## HOUSE CORPORATION REPORT

### Omicron Thrives on So Many Levels

As the 2012-2013 academic year begins, the Omicron Chapter of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity finds itself poised for another successful year. Omicron starts the year with 70 active brothers and 41 in-house! That means we have a completely full Chapter House and the Cutler/Annex property. Besides great recruitment, the Chapter has been making us proud in other ways.

#### THON

THON Chair Andrew Nass, a junior studying Biobehavioral Health, led this year's record-breaking efforts. He reported that Phi Tau's main goal as a chapter was to beat our previous years' THON totals. The undergraduate chapter partnered with SNAP, the Student Nursing Association of Pennsylvania, to achieve this goal—raising more \$82,523 for THON and to help kids like our THON children, Maddie Hill and Cora Beyer. THON's support allows the Four Diamonds Fund to provide innovative cancer research and help offset the cost of treatment that insurance does not cover.

#### Chapter of Excellence

Phi Kappa Tau was recently named a "2011 Chapter of Excellence" by the staff of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. This designation is given to only a select few fraternities that meet the high standards of recognition. Some of the qualifications of this award include attendance at programming events, community service and participation in Greek events and philanthropy. Hopefully Omicron Chapter can build on this honor and use it as a springboard for future success.

#### Dues and Improvements

The Dues Program has been an integral part in supporting our Chapter and providing benefits to alumni such as the *Omicronicle*, the Room and Ticket program, Homecoming activities, and our website, [www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com).

Alumni-sponsored improvements to the Chapter House over the past few years have been a key component to successful recruitment. **This year, the BOD once again put your contributions to work into lasting improvements to our physical plant.** Among other projects, we've replaced the side patio door, added new letters to the front of the house, upgraded the internet service, and added gutter guards.



The THON gang before going on stage with Cora Beyer for the Talent Stage.

#### The Year Ahead

The work goes on as we try to maintain our home in a safe and attractive manner, and to compete as a housing option against new apartment buildings and dorms on campus. We would like to make additional significant improvements over the next few years, though we will need to find the resources to make that possible. That's where you can help.

Our goal this year is to raise \$30,000. We need your help to keep our alumni communications program running, and so that we can continue to keep Omicron a competitive option for young men to share their college experience and be a home to which we alumni can return.

# BROTHERS HONORED

## Honoring Brothers Fallen in Vietnam

During the recent '50s reunion weekend at Omicron, a plaque was unveiled to honor the two brothers who were killed while serving in Vietnam: **William Ward Nichols '58** and **John Richard Fischer '61**. Bro. Nichols was an Army Captain and a graduate of the Army Ranger School. He was killed in October 1965 by small arms fire while leading a patrol. His body was recovered and he was buried in New Jersey. Bro. Fischer was a Marine Corps First Lieutenant, and a A-4 Sky Hawk pilot.

In September 1966, Bro. Fischer crashed while providing close air support to a Marine platoon under attack by a large enemy force. His wrecked plane was found a few days later, but his body was never recovered. He was subsequently declared killed in action.

The plaque is similar to the one currently in place for the Omicrons who died in World War II and will be installed near it in the chapter house library.

In Honor of the Omicron Brothers  
who made the ultimate Sacrifice in Vietnam

William Ward Nichols '58  
Captain US Army

John Richard Fischer '61  
Lieutenant USMC

## FROM THE CHAPTER

### Meet the Seniors

This year's active chapter includes three brothers graduating in the coming year. They each took time to share their future plans and Phi Tau experiences

**Name:** Mike Friedman  
**Grad Year:** Spring 2013  
**Major:** Kinesiology  
**Hometown:** Churchville, PA

***What are your plans after graduation?***

Move to California and start changing the world.

***What was/is the best part about being involved with Phi Tau?***

The best part is the connections and bonds you make with the brotherhood. I have learned so much and met so many great people through PKT.

***Have you held any positions? If so, what were they? Did you learn anything from your leadership position?***

I held a variety of positions for the house, and they really did teach me a lot. Most of the time I was just thrown into something, and I had no clue what I was getting into. Greek Sing was one of those things. I have also been an assistant risk management chair, rush chair with the esteemed Mike Hoffacker, philanthropy chair, and my favorite position of them all, THON chair.

I loved every moment of being a THON chair, and I have to give **Alan Rider** a lot of credit for taking me under his wing and being a great role model. Through my years

as a THON chair our total fundraising efforts continued to climb, but more importantly our relationship with our THON family grew stronger. I love teaching the younger guys all I know about THON and trying to spread the word. There were a lot of tough times and headaches, but it was all worth it at the end of the fundraising season when I got to look at our section in the BJC. Everyone stands together as brothers, uniting for a cause that is bigger than we even realize.

**Name:** Weiran (Dave) Wang  
**Grad Year:** Fall 2012  
**Major:** B.S. in Supply Chain Management;  
B.A. in Economics  
**Hometown:** Chester Springs, PA

***What are your plans after graduation?***

I'm interviewing with a bunch of companies right now.

***What was/is the best part about being involved with Phi Tau?***

It's the network. I made my best friends here, not just brothers, but also met other great friends here and it was easy to get involved with university events such as homecoming, THON, sports, and others.

**Name:** Troy Mullings  
**Grad Year:** Fall 2012  
**Major:** Accounting  
**Hometown:** Yonkers, NY

***What are your plans after graduation?***

After graduation I plan on taking the CPA exam in the summer and obtaining a job in an accounting firm in Pennsylvania.

***What was/is the best part about being involved with Phi Tau?***

The best part about being involved with Phi Tau is just participating in THON and enjoying the canning trips. Dancing in THON this year was one of the highlights on my Penn State career.

***Have you held any positions? If so, what were they? Did you learn anything from your leadership position?***

I was MOO my junior year and really enjoyed that position. It was a great experience to be a mentor to new associate members and to teach them the history of the house, the fraternity and the brotherhood. I learned that you should cherish every moment you have in life and live it to the fullest. I don't have any regrets, and if I could go back in time I'd live these past four years over and over again.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Joseph P. Roman '51

(1115 Hamilton Drive, Rockaway, NJ 07866) I am enjoying retirement with my wife Margaret. We have three children...all doing well in their lives...and we have four grandchildren. I recently visited with **Norm Alpert '51** in Florida and have been in contact with **Norm Cardinal '51** in New Jersey.

### George R. Seid '54

(7001 Riverbrook Drive, Apt. 232, Sugarland, TX 77479-6512) I am now retired and my wife of 50 years, Joanne, passed away two years ago. I recently moved into an independent living facility fairly close to my two sons and family. I stay busy and keep in pretty good condition (fighting cancer for the past seven years) and I follow most of the local sports.

### William Collier '56

(3846 Dogwood Lane, Doylestown, PA 18902) Retired life is great, and I still enjoy traveling. I am upset and angry about the NCAA sanctions, and in particular the vacating of Paterno's wins from 1998 on. I feel PSU rolled over. Any suggestions about what to do?

### Earl R. Riffle '60

(109 Peterson Lane, Brunswick, ME 04011) I am now a retired Naval Aviator. I had a great time at the '50s Reunion in June 2012... sat around after dinner for an old time songfest singing chapter room ballads of old! The house looked great! Well done! Recently, I met up with Brother **Bob Navarra '58** and his wife Carol and Louise Hammer in Uniontown, PA on August 16 for dinner and memories of old Phi Kappa Tau.

### Edward J. Kabala '64

(705 Copeland Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15232) I'm an Attorney/Partner with Fox Rothchild, LLP. I just had a reunion with some old

brothers from the Philadelphia area.

### Andrew "Dungaree Pole" Schmith '65

(158 Lowry's Lane, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010) My son is a financial planner and was recently featured in *The Wall Street Journal*. My other son is an IT Expert. My granddaughter is attending private school in London, and my 12-year-old grandson recently became a black belt in Taekwondo. I am an advertising photographer and retired navy aerospace photographer.

### George DeGroft '67

(14 Burley Street, Berlin, MD 21811) I am a retired special education teacher, and have a 2 1/2-year-old grandson (George III). My son George is a PSU grad class of 2001. I regularly stay in touch with the classes of '67/'68.

### Wayne "S" Myers, Jr. '68

(728 Moss Hill Road, Horsehead, NY 14845) I retired after 42 years in Aerospace (Piper Aircraft, Schweizer Aircraft, Sikorsky Aircraft). Since then, I've enjoyed spending more time with my family, traveling to Ireland, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountains and focusing on my latent hobbies of Genealogy and Numismatics. Last summer, I had a chance to meet up with Robert A. (Dizzy) for drinks and dinner in St. Louis. He recently had a heart attack.

### Jason Birdsell '99

(102 Bobtail Drive, Phoenixville, PA 19460) We moved to Phoenixville a year and a half ago and still seem to be settling in. I spend most of my time working (as a Project Manager) or with my two kids. I do manage to golf very early on Sundays if anyone in the area wants to join. Most recently, I got together for a BBQ with **Jason Harrison '96** and **Aaron Bodenshatz**, who just moved back

towards Philly. What advice would I give to alum? Right now, I'd like to see more alumni involvement. The chapter is so big and strong at the undergrad level, but it needs more alumni to come back to teach about traditions and share stories.

### Michael "Chops" Stanzione '05

(34 Main Street Apt. 2A, Toms River, NJ 08753) I graduated from Widener Law School in Delaware in December of 2011. I passed the NJ and PA Bar exams and am currently a Judicial Law Clerk.

### David "Grimace/Oddjob" Go '05

(340 Fifth Street, Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660) I was promoted to Sales Manager in September 2011. I'm still in contact with several fellow alums in the North Jersey area. I'd like to see more alumni events at the chapter house throughout the year and regional alumni fundraising events, if possible. In recent years, I attended the weddings of **Steve Detwiler '06** and **Todd Davis '08**. It is great that the website and admin keep it fresh and allow users to add content and feedback.

### Patrick "Fozzy Bear" Shore '09

(212 Lafayette Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066) I am a grad student in Entertainment Technology and will graduate in the spring; recently had the lead in a film for the 48-hour Film Project in Pittsburgh. I came back to ArtsFest 2012 to see **Nick Lewis '09** and Andrew Palicin. We stumbled upon Tim Breswick's dead guinea pig trying to sleep in his room.

*Notes: Initiation years were often used if a brother's graduation year was unavailable.*

## ON THE WEB

### Email Crisis! We're Missing Addresses for 30% of Our Brothers

Our alumni association sends an email newsletter on the first Tuesday of each month with news, updates, and event details in between issues of *The Omicronicle*.

We currently have active email addresses for barely 70% of our living alumni. If you have not been receiving these monthly eletters, please update your email address today by logging onto

[www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com) or by email our alumni office at [feedback@affinityconnection.com](mailto:feedback@affinityconnection.com) (mention Phi Tau @ Penn State).

Thanks for helping us to stay connected with you more frequently and cost effectively!

## REUNIONS

### The '50s Return to Omicron

On the weekend of June 15-16, 2012, a total of 26 brothers of Omicron Chapter who graduated in the '50s gathered in State College for their third reunion. The event was organized



by **Walt Scott '57** and supported by long time Chapter Advisor **Dave Lapinski '77**. The Old Phi Taus spent Friday night getting acquainted and reviewing pictures as well as retelling some great experiences. They were joined by some undergrads, led by Chapter President, **Andrew Turner**.

As part of the evening's program, **Robert Kaiser '77** gave a very comprehensive presentation on the current status of Omicron and the plans to insure our competitiveness as one of the best fraternities at PSU.

On Saturday morning, Ruth Bast sponsored a wonderful brunch at her home.

Later that night, we had a reception and dinner that included a humorous appeal/gift by **Bob Murray '56** to assist the hearing impaired. Dave Lapinski also displayed a new memorial plaque honoring the two Omicrons who were killed while serving in Vietnam: **William Ward Nichols '58** and **John Richard Fischer '61**. This was a particularly poignant moment for the brothers present, especially for **Bill Netzlof** who was a pledge brother of Nichols and also lived in the house with Fischer.

Everyone had a great time and agreed that we should meet again in 2015!

## HISTORY

### Perserving our Heritage and Storied Legacy Online

Thanks to the efforts of David Lapinski, Omicron is launching on new web-series highlighting the storied legacy of Phi Kappa Tau at Penn State. And so our early history goes...

*"The chapter moved into a house owned by Charles Foster at 234 S. Fraser Street...Brothers' monthly fees included rent at \$12.00, food program at \$16.00, dues of \$1.00 whether living in the house or not and special assessments ranging from \$0.75 to \$5.00 to cover*

*'social activities'...*

*The social calendar consisted of 'house parties', smokers, dances, a formal dinner dance and a stag banquet. The chapter often had to rent space at a local hall to host its larger functions. In many cases 'dates' had to be recruited from hometowns for the dances. When this occurred, the brothers would move out of the chapter house and the 'dates' moved in for the weekend...*

*From the beginning, Omicron wanted a home of its own. It was the*

*'Dad's Association' that made a down payment on three lots located on Garner Street. The total land cost was \$2,717.00 and construction started in early 1929..."*

*Please visit our website at [www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com) to read the first full installation recapping the '20s. The link is on our homepage.*

*In this Issue of Omicronicle...  
- Active Chapter Continues to Thrive  
- Honoring Omicron Brothers Fallen in Vietnam  
- BOD Makes Improvements to Physical Plant*

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