

Omicron

An Alumni Publication of the Omicron Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity at the Pennsylvania State University
Omicron Association Inc. • P.O. Box 905 • State College, PA 16804-0905.

OMICRON LEADERS

Campaign Committee

- Robert Kaiser 1974
- Jason Birdsell 1995
- Richard Struthers 1976
- Walter Scott 1957
- Lee Olsen 1962
- Stuart Rosenberg 1986
- Dan Bicehouse 1991
- Vince Bilosky 1990
- Bill O'Neill 1973
- Mark Toniati 1973

Board of Directors

- David Lapinski 1977
- Gary McKown 1975
- Robert McHenry 1989
- Eric Tarquinio 1998
- Scott Szathmary 1998
- Jason Birdsell 1999
- Andrew Cecere 2004
- David Go 2008
- Alan Rider 2009

Board of Governors

- Edward Dudley 1991
- David Lapinski 1977

Educational Foundation Trustees

- Walt Scott 1958
- David Lapinski 1977
- Jens Thorsen 2000
- John Mountz 1992

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We recently learned about the passing of these fine Brothers:

- Robert Monahan 1950**
- John Naylor 1951**
- Stuart Rosenberg 1986**
- Manny Orfanon 1958**

Our thoughts go out to their families and friends.

ON THE WEB

Check out our new online community at
www.pktomicron.com

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

Preserving Our Tradition, Building Our Future: A Capital Campaign for Omicron Chapter is Underway!

By Robert Kaiser '74, Capital Campaign Committee

For more than 90 years, Omicron has been the home, training ground, and anchor for over 900 brothers. We lived, played, studied and learned from each other during our years at Penn State. We are proud of our Chapter, our Legacy, and our House, and look forward to another 90 years of helping young men mature into solid citizens.

We have survived – and thrived – through wars, depressions, recessions, social upheaval, and all manner of challenges. The House has been the place where young men made lifelong friendships, learned and sharpened key life skills, and set out to build their lives and careers. Our House and Brotherhood are exceptionally strong today – thanks to the contributions of our brothers. The tireless efforts of our Board of Directors and Board of Governors, who work to improve the facilities and instill Phi Kappa Tau's tenets among our undergraduates, has developed an undergraduate chapter of over 80 young men who consistently win national and local awards for campus participation, management, philanthropy, scholarship and more.

Omicron is on a high! Help us keep it moving forward by continuing to renew and rebuild our House and by establishing educational opportunities that mold the Omicrons of tomorrow.

With our eye on the future, the Omicron Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau is excited to announce the official kick-off of our Preserving Our Tradition, Building Our Future Capital Campaign. The campaign has three components, all of equal importance to the chapter's future success:

- \$1,000,000 for bricks and mortar improvements to our facilities,
- \$250,000 for leadership

development, and

- \$250,000 for undergraduate scholarships.

A brochure detailing the vision for the renovation, the case for scholarship dollars based on the ever rising cost of college tuition and leadership opportunities for our young actives will be forthcoming and we are asking each of more than 850 alumni to make a pledge to the campaign.

We are off to a great start on this effort, but are in particular need of funds for capital improvements to our Chapter House and Annex.

When you divide our goal of \$1,500,000 among the brotherhood, the math is easy. If each alumnus would contribute \$1,500 over the 3 year pledge period, we would have all the funding we need.

We know, however, that not everyone can give at that level – some of us can do much more. With that in mind, it will take each of us, giving what we can – a little more than we usually do – for the next three years to really make this campaign successful.

We are asking, and asking today, that you begin thinking about your pledge. Below are some possible pledge levels and payment options. When you receive your brochure and pledge form, take time to read it, ask questions of the leadership if you have them and then **MAKE YOUR PLEDGE**. We need every brother to give what they can – give for those who can't, just graduated or have joined

Pledge Amount	Yearly Payment	Bi-Yearly Payment	Quarterly Payment	Monthly Payment
\$25,000	\$8,333.33	\$4,166.66	\$2,083.33	\$694.44
\$10,000	\$3,333.33	\$1,666.67	\$833.33	\$277.78
\$5,000	\$1,666.67	\$833.33	\$416.67	\$138.89
\$2,500	\$833.33	\$416.67	\$208.33	\$69.44
\$1,500	\$500.00	\$250	\$125	\$41.66
\$1,000	\$333.33	\$166.67	\$83.33	\$27.78

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CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF

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chapter eternal. Give to honor your time at Omicron, your friendships and the lessons you learned under that roof. Give to ensure that the next generation of Omicrons has the same opportunities.

To make a Capital Campaign gift, please reach our campaign manager, Ellen Konkle, at ellen@affinityconnection.com or at 814-571-0576 and she will be happy to answer any questions you have, send you a pledge form or take your pledge over the phone.

Phi Kappa Tau, by admitting me to membership, has conferred upon me a mark of distinction in which I take just pride. I believe in the spirit of brotherhood for which it stands. I shall strive to attain its ideals, and by so doing to bring to it honor and credit. I shall be loyal to my college and my chapter and shall keep strong my ties to them that I may ever retain the spirit of youth. I shall be a good and loyal citizen. I shall try always to discharge the obligation to others which arises from the fact that I am a fraternity man.

Roland W. Maxwell, Southern California '22
National President, 1934-59
November 19, 1950

Pass the Hat...

How Many Things is Omicron Collecting For?

WHY is Omicron asking for money again? It may be a little confusing, but we've got several things going on. To clear up any possible confusion, keep reading to see what all we are doing and how you can help.

While we don't want to take away focus from the Capital Campaign to fully renovate the chapter house and provide essential scholarship funding for our active chapter, we also want you to know that our Alumni Dues Program is as important as ever and we are not putting it "on hold."

In fact, we will be communicating more frequently with alumni for the next few months, hosting a number of regional alumni events and continuing with the newsletter and other annual alumni outreach. For these reasons, it is more important than ever that alumni support the dues program.

Stated simply: The Capital Campaign will support major renovations and scholarships to our undergrads, while the

Annual Dues Program helps to fund alumni communications and events, supports the active chapter, and pays for minor repairs at the House and Annex. Both programs are vital to our success! If you have questions about the differences, please contact Dave Lapinski at 814-883-1778.

Please help us reach that goal by making your payment to the Alumni Dues Program today. You may pay online at www.pktomicron.com or call our donations hotline at 1-800-975-6699. Checks may be sent to Omicron Association Inc., P.O. Box 905, State College, PA 16804-0905.

To make a Capital Campaign gift, please reach our campaign manager, Ellen Konkle, at ellen@affinityconnection.com or at 814-571-0576 and she will be happy to answer any questions you have, send you a pledge form or take your pledge over the phone.

Whether it's for the dues program, the Capital Campaign or both – Omicron needs and appreciates your support of all our efforts!

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Looking for a Few Good Omicrons. We Want YOU!

On behalf of the Campaign Committee, The Board of Directors, The Board of Governors and The Omicron Education Foundation Board of Trustees, we would like to take a moment to ask you to serve as a Class Agent for Omicron Chapter's Capital Campaign. As you may know, we have received just over \$300,000 in pledges from about 5% of our living alumni. It is at this juncture that we ask you to assist us by offering your crucial support in helping us work towards soliciting the remaining \$1,200,000 towards our final goals.

There are two keys to our success:

- 1) **Participation** - This is the time when we need to canvas as many of our members as possible. Every contribution counts and encouraging some willingness to contribute is crucial here. Class Agents will each reach out to a

small set of people you know to inform them of the campaign and secure their participation.

- 2) **Level of Giving** - While we all realize that bigger is better in terms of the campaign, we are also very cognizant that not everyone can give in the manner that we or they would hope. Further, as these individuals we are soliciting are close contemporaries of and connected to us all, we recognize the need to refrain from making anyone uncomfortable as part of our donation request. As a Class Agent you likely have an idea of your brother's capacity to donate, and can tailor your calls accordingly. The right pledge amount to solicit is one that is more than token, slightly a stretch, worthy of a one-time effort of this nature, and not going

to break the bank for anybody. This translates into a different number for different individuals.

Different factors will motivate your contemporaries in different ways. Some may need a simple phone call, other may need a wistful walk down memory lane, and others may benefit from some good natured guilting (kidding on this one). Whatever the motivation, we provide the Class Agent the discretion to assess the approach to each potential donor. Of course, the Capital Campaign Committee members are here to assist you, and can provide additional information to you or directly to a donor.

Again, we hope you will join us in our efforts and look forward to a successful conclusion of our campaign and the ability to put the fruits of labors to work!

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Memories of Brother Manny Orfanon (1938-2013)

Brother Emanuel "Manny" Orfanon '58 passed away on July 11, 2013, at home in Homewood, Ala., at the age of 74. He attended Penn State and graduated in 1961 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Manny had a distinguished career in consulting, culminating in the position of Partner and National Director of Health Care Client Services at Ernst & Young. Manny will be remembered for his friendliness, good-natured humor, and love for his family and friends. He took great pleasure in golfing, traveling, and supporting Penn State Football.



Visit our website at www.pktomicron.com to access Manny's full obituary.

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Manny's gone. 11 July 2013. Maybe you all knew. I didn't. The last I heard from Manny

was his note in June that some of you received in which he said he was still fighting health issues, "but working hard at getting better."

I've been thinking about Manny off and on recently and feeling a little uneasy that he had not responded to my most recent email, so tonight I googled him and found the obit. Damn!

Manny Orfanon holds a very special place in my life. We met on our first day at PSU in 1956 as next door neighbors in Nittany 42. His nickname was Munyo in those days. **Buck Wertz '58** was his roommate. The three of us were all EE students, and all eventually graduated in IE. It was Manny who introduced me to Phi Tau after **Jerry Grimm**, the other Canonsburgian, recruited him. Eventually, there were five of us from Nittany 42 in the house: Manny, Wertz, Navarra, Chervenik, and me - so you can blame us all on Jerry and Manny. Manny and I visited a few times in Canonsburg and Latrobe during Christmas and summer vacations, and I was privileged to meet his family on several occasions.

The last time Shirley and I saw Manny (and met Maria) was nine years ago when we swung down through Birmingham to visit them on the way back from one of our trailer trips across the country. We had dinner and lamented the then current dismal state of the Nittany Lions and generally had a brief but splendid reunion. How glad I am for the visit; another reminder to do it now, whatever it is, because tomorrow may be too late.

Rest well, Manny. Thank you for being part of my life. - **Bill Netzlof '58**

A Word From the Omicron Board of Directors...

Dear Brothers of Omicron,

The Board would like to extend a big "thank you" to all of the alumni that visited 408 East Fairmount Ave. during Homecoming 2013 and an even bigger "THANK YOU" to the undergraduates for being such fantastic hosts to us alumni visitors. The weekend focused on fellowship, celebration of recent chapter successes, patio dedication, and a formal kickoff of the Capital Campaign.

Homecoming Saturday started with breakfast followed by a formal ceremony to dedicate the newly constructed front patio. The ceremony included a prayer from Deacon Dave "Lap" Lapinski and some kind words related to the Capital Campaign from Brothers Bob Kaiser and Rick Struthers. Lap advertised the personalized bricks that can be purchased and installed into the side patio extension, and special pledge class bricks that surround the large Omicron "O" set into the patio. The ceremony was well attended.

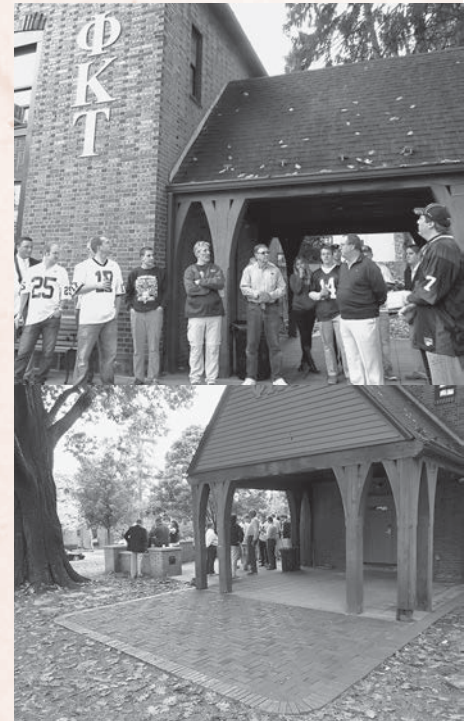
One could say that the annual House Corporation (Omicron Association, Inc.) meeting had something to do with the victory over Michigan later that day. Brother Chris Nesselrode predicted such a win in front of the entire attending membership before any business could even start. It was as if JoePa was with us in the basement. The brothers meeting topics included updates from the Undergraduate Council, Treasurer's report (we're financially very sound), Undergraduate THON Chair, and Physical Plant. Brother Bob Kaiser and Ellen Konkle (Affinity Connection) provided a more detailed kickoff of the \$1.5 Million Omicron Capital Campaign that has already raised over \$305,000 in pledges towards scholarship, educational foundation, and capital improvement projects. Brother Rick Struthers announced the scholarship he created for Omicron undergraduates that is now available through the University. Lastly, but not least, the membership voted to establish a \$1,000 scholarship to any graduating senior who is enlisting into the military, the purpose of which is to help offset initial uniform and traveling expenses.

Gary McKown, Jason Birdsell, and Eric Tarquinio were each re-elected to three (3) year terms to the 9-member Board of Directors for Omicron Association.

The 2013-2014 goals the Board will consider are options and plans for the next big capital improvement projects, continued support for the Capital Campaign Committee, assistance to the undergraduates to maintain high membership numbers and quality, and for the Omicron Educational Foundation (OEF), create goals and secure a full complement of leaders and participants. With the Capital Campaign funds designated for OEF (scholarships, leadership development and related educational activities), there is a big role to be played by the Board and other participants. Please email me (acecere@davisconstruction.com) if you are interested in helping with the OEF.

Now is the time that your support is more important than ever! Please continue to support the 2013/2014 Dues Program and the Capital Campaign. Thank you to those brothers that have already made a contribution to either fund. If you haven't yet, please consider supporting both programs with a financial contribution.

In Phi,
Andy Cecere '99
Vice-Chairman, Omicron Association



Phi Tau Brothers came home to dedicate the newly constructed front porch.

ALUMNI Q&A

Sciambi '72 Reflects on Harv, Chico, and the Regular Guys of Phi Tau

A special thanks goes out to **John J. Sciambi '72** for participating in this semester's alumni Q&A.

What is your favorite Nittany Lion football memory?

Watching Lydell Mitchell rack up points and yards every game our senior year in '71-72.

How do you think Bill O'Brien is doing as Paterno's successor?

He's doing an outstanding job. He's really separated the team from all of the issues that got the university into trouble and the team looks pretty good, too!

In what ways are the skills and values you learned at Phi Tau still relevant in your life today?

At every sit down meal, I know where to place my utensils when finished. :) Seriously, teamwork was important there and has been a major part of the successes I've had in my business.

In the spirit of recruitment, share a story from your own experience from joining Phi Tau and some advice for a new member this fall.

The best I can say is I was treated as if I were already a member. The guys made me feel extremely at home ... no barriers ... no elitism at all. It was a regular bunch of guys and they made us feel right at home right away. That, I found, was a Phi Tau tradition that I hope still lives on.

Which brother had the greatest influence on your life?

Two guys: **Jeff Holowiak** (a/k/a "Harv") and **Mark Molino** (a/k/a "Chico"). They both had a real sense of brotherhood. I learned what it meant to "have someone's back" because they always had mine and the rest of the brothers. They had pride in the place during a time when our generation questioned everything. Really taught me a sense of brotherhood and TEAM!

What role does leadership play in a man's life?

It's his role every day, in some way...as a manager...as a father...as a husband.

How was Phi Tau unique or different from other fraternities?

The difference...they were just a bunch of regular guys!

John reports "It's been great to catch up to some of my alumni brethren on Facebook!"

Reconnect with John at jshomby@eagle97.com.

We had numerous responses to this semester's alumni outreach. We plan to publish many more stories and interviews online at www.pktomicron.com.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Robert E. Stackhouse, Jr. '84

(7605 Spring Ave., Elkins Park, PA 19027-3057; rstackhouse@shire.com) I'm living in Elkins Park, Pa., outside Philly, with my wife and three kids ages 14, 13 and 10. I have been working in the IT department for Shire Pharmaceuticals for the past eight years. I recently took my kids to the UCF game and we had a great time. Not realizing it was a late game, "Lap" hooked us up with a room.

Alan Rider '05

(45 Riverview Drive, Middletown, PA 17057; arr195@gmail.com) I've been living in Center City Philadelphia for the past four years, most recently with alumni brothers **Dan Heinitsh '09** and **Tom Piarulli**. It's been great to have best friends from the fraternity around in my post collegiate life and I look forward to seeing more and more Phi Tau's move into the area.

Jason Sohnen '05

(789 Simmons Dr, Toms River, NJ 08753-4752; jsohnen1@gmail.com) My name is Jason Sohnen, "Flex" from the pledge class of 2001. Since graduation, I've been working in financial services but decided to open my own tax practice this January. I currently live in Beachwood, N.J., with my wife, Jessica, and 16 month old son, Ryan.

PATIO DEDICATION

Welcome Home ... to the Brother's Veranda

On what turned out to be a sunny Homecoming weekend in Happy Valley with a tremendous football game that saw the Nittany Lions defeat Michigan in four overtime periods, another major milestone occurred.



Our beloved Chapter House got a facelift this summer in the form of a front porch and side patio that has become a popular spot for the chapter and alumni alike.

The porch, part of our Capital Campaign renovation plan, was dedicated by Deacon **Dave Lapinski '74** on Homecoming weekend and was put to good use all day.

Financing for this improvement is through a contribution from the undergraduate's Capital Campaign pledges, alumni purchases of bricks for the patio, Omicron Association, and Capital Campaign funds. Bricks are available for

individuals and groups, such as pledge classes. See the form on our website at www.pktomicron.com.



SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

First Endowed Omicron Scholarships Awarded



Kenneth David Surano



Ryan Thomas Weaver

The first scholarships funded through Omicron's Capital Campaign have been awarded. Through the generosity of **Ric Struthers '77**, who established the *Struthers Family Phi Kappa Tau Resident Scholarship*, scholarships were awarded to Omicron undergraduates Kenneth David Surano and

Ryan Thomas Weaver. Kenny is a junior majoring in bioengineering from Greenville, Pa. Ryan is a junior majoring in petroleum and natural gas engineering from Burgettstown, Pa. Each was awarded \$1,260 from this fund.

The *Struthers Family Phi Kappa Tau Resident Scholarship* is an endowed scholarship in conjunction with Penn State and Omicron. Ric's initial endowment allowed these scholarship awards. Additional contributions, including a one-to-one match for contributions from Brothers who were Omicron members during the 1970s, are welcome. Future awards of this and other scholarships funded through the Omicron Educational Foundation and the Phi Kappa Tau Foundation will be made on an annual basis.

Giving Back

The Omicron Capital Campaign seeks to create an endowment of \$250,000 to support scholarships to our undergraduates. Multiple giving opportunities are available, and all contributions are welcome. Please contact **Bob Kaiser '77** at Backupking1977@gmail.com for additional information on scholarship and other giving opportunities and details.

FOR THE KIDS

Chapter is Fundraising Powerhouse Supporting THON

What is THON?

The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon is a year-long fundraising and awareness campaign for the fight against pediatric cancer. More than 350 student organizations participate in THON. These organizations include fraternities, sororities, clubs, and other student organizations. The campaign culminates with a 46 hour no-sitting, no-sleeping dance marathon known as THON Weekend. In 2013, THON raised a record-breaking **\$12.37 million** and was able to donate 96% of funds raised directly to the Four Diamonds Fund.

The Rise of Omicron in THON

In recent years, Phi Kappa Tau Omicron has become a powerhouse in THON fundraising, raising over **\$124,000** (or in other words, **1% of total THON funds**) during the THON in the 2012-2013 season. This not only makes Omicron a highly respected organization in both the THON institution and university, but also draws accolades from our Phi Kappa Tau national fraternity, where we have been the best philanthropic fundraisers for each of the last 5 years. This success reflects both the consistent dedication of our undergraduate brotherhood and generosity of our alumni base.



THON Partnerships

For the past six fundraising seasons, Phi Tau has had the pleasure of partnering with the Student Nursing Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) for THON. Since the start of the partnership in 2008, Phi Tau and SNAP together raised a total of over **\$457,000** and were ranked among the **top 15 Greek organizations** at THON last year.

In 2013, the undergraduate brothers made a difficult, but strategic decision to split from SNAP and pair with the sisters of Phi Mu, to engage in a more accountable partnership. To date, the paring is already showing signs of great success, **raising nearly \$50,000** in canning trips alone. This is a \$13,000 increase from the previous year to date. This year the Phi Kappa Tau **THON 2014 fundraising goal is \$150,000**. Our THON chairs remind us regularly,

that our barrier to move into the top 10 fundraiser group is the need for corporate sponsorships, which the chapter is actively pursuing.

Family Relations

The undergraduate brothers know amidst the competitive environment of fundraising,



the most important part of THON is the relationships that we cultivate with our THON families. Our undergrads, and specifically our THON chairs, have been extremely proactive in

engaging our sponsored families by making sure they feel welcome as part of our fraternal family. We were very excited to hear that the Beyer's and our THON child Cora would stay with us as one of our sponsored families following the split with SNAP. This was certainly a testament to our unwavering commitment to family relations. Phi Tau looks forward to continuing a strong relationship with ours and our partner's THON families for years to come.

How Can I Donate?

Donations to support Phi Kappa Tau and Phi Mu can be made in cash or check mailed to the Chapter Residence at 408 E Fairmount Ave State College, PA 16801. Checks should be made out to 'Penn State Dance Marathon (THON)' with Phi Kappa Tau written in the memo line. Donations can also be made online at www.thon.org. Be sure to select Phi Kappa Tau as the organization you wish to support. Any support regardless of the amount is greatly appreciated!

RECENT GRAD Q&A

Miller '10 on Work Ethic and the Big 409

A special thanks to **Matthew Miller '10** for participating in this semester's alumni Q&A.

What is your favorite football memory?

My favorite Nittany Lion football memory was being at the freak snowstorm game against Illinois. I was with my father through the entire game. This was also Joe Pa's 409 win, and last game in Beaver



Stadium. Illinois missed a last second field goal to lose the game.

How did your time at Omicron impact your life?

Living in the house and being a part of Phi Tau was a great experience that I will forever treasure. I had a lot of great memories but aside from the good times, Phi Tau prepared me for the world. Holding the positions I did taught me how to organize, manage, and lead. I work hard every day, Phi Tau is the reason why.

What's new in your life?

After graduation I accepted a job in Chicago, Ill., working for a Logistics Provider called Coyote Logistics. It seems like yesterday I was waking up from a long night at the chapter house, but have been here for almost 2 years now. I was able to make it back for Homecoming and I have to say, the new porch is great!

Reconnect with Matt at mbm5098@gmail.com.

ACTIVE CHAPTER REPORT

Brotherhood Resume Banks and THON Updates

By Ryan Weaver, Omicron Active Chapter Alumni Relations Chair

For the past few weeks, I have been compiling resumes from current brothers in the hopes of carrying on what we did last year. Many of the undergraduate brothers would love the opportunity to intern or start a career with a fellow Omicron alum. We will post a list of members seeking internships and full-time employment to the Omicron alumni website and Facebook pages.

This past fall, we have participated in at least two canning weekends for the THON 2014 season. Along with our new THON partner, Phi Mu, we were able to raise \$19,423.45 on our first outing. This is

a phenomenal mark with which to start the year off and we are extremely excited to move forward and hopefully crack top ten. We had a second canning trip the weekend of October 19. I will be sure to send out locations of brothers hosting trips in the hopes that some of you live around the areas and can go donate to a fantastic cause.

I want to thank all of those alumni Brothers who attended Homecoming 2013.



As usual, we had a great time playing Whale Tails with the alumni. The win against Michigan will go down in history!

In this Issue of Omichronicle...
- Campaign Launched to Pave the Future for Omicron
- Omicron, a Philanthropic THON Powerhouse
- First Endowed Scholarship Winners Announced

PHI KAPPA TAU
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