

**UPCOMING EVENT****Save the Date!**

Blue-White Weekend is set for April 16-18. If you are interested in helping to organize a Phi Tau alumni reunion that weekend, please email **Scott Szathmary** at [scott\\_szathmary@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_szathmary@yahoo.com).

**CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL****Omicron Loyalty Society (\$50,000)**

Anonymous  
Mr. Richard Struthers 1976

**Brothers Society (\$25,000 - \$49,999)**

Mr. Vell Holcombe 1961  
Mr. Robert Kaiser II 1974  
Dr. Stuart Rosenberg DVM 1986

**Harvard Red Circle (\$10,000 - \$24,999)**

Mr. Ray Walker 1933  
Deacon David Lapinski 1974

**Old Gold Circle (\$5,000 - \$9,999)**

Colonel Gary McKown, USA (Ret) 1974  
Mr. Robert McHenry 1986  
Mr. Edward Dudley 1988  
Mr. Marc Foremsky 1989  
Mr. Scott Szathmary 1995

**Fairmont and Garner (\$2,500 - \$4,999)**

Mr. William Westley Jr. 1952  
Mr. G. Nelson Van Fleet 1956  
Mr. John Yaag 1956  
Mr. Walter Scott 1957  
Mr. William O'Neill 1974  
Mr. Jeffrey Dinerman 1976  
Dr. Frederick Kotalik 1979  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Holcombe 1986  
Wayne Edward Thayer 1988  
Mr. Vince Bilovsky 1990  
Mr. Eric Tarquinio 1992  
Mr. Anthony Lucadamo 1994  
Mr. Jason Birdsell 1995  
Mr. Albert Brocious 1995  
Mr. Christopher Nesselrode 1995  
Mr. Andrew Cecere 1999

# Omicronide

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.

**CAMPAIGN UPDATE****Thank You Donors For Preserving Our Tradition and Building Our Future**

By Scott Szathmary '95, Board Chairman, Omicron Association Inc.

On behalf of the Omicron Association, Inc. BOD, I want to send a sincere and heartfelt thank you to all who have worked on and contributed generously to Omicron's Capital Campaign: *Preserving Our Tradition, Building Our Future*. I want to send particular gratitude to **Bob Kaiser '74** who was the campaign chair, along with **David Lapinski '74**, **Chris Nesselrode '95**, and all members of the Campaign Committee and class agents.

We did not meet all of our ambitious goals, but thanks to your support, we have many successes to be proud of. Of the \$285,200 pledged, we collected \$233,204.77 from 54 donors. On the educational front, we now have permanent scholarships endowed for our brothers, funded largely by **Ric Struthers '76** and an anonymous donor, and a significant grant dedicated to supporting leadership training provided by **Bob Kaiser '74**. In terms of physical plant, we have completed a timeless and welcoming patio addition, and have more improvements on the way. Notably large pledges from **Ray Walker '35**, **Vell Holcomb '61**, **David Lapinski '74** and **Stuart**

**Rosenburg '86** have funded these educational and/or physical plant needs. Many others have made significant gifts. Included to the left is the honor roll of donors for the campaign who have pledged at least \$2,500. Thank you to those who pledged at all levels for stepping forward and answering the need of Omicron Chapter.

As with most nonprofit enterprises, we will continue to fundraise to meet our mission to support Omicron's past, present, and future members. I want to thank and encourage those who continue to fulfill their 3 year pledge. Going forward we will continue to rely on support through our Annual Dues Program, and will still accept pledges from any of those who would still like to contribute toward our Capital Campaign goals.

Putting the financial aspects aside, I know one of the lasting legacies of this campaign has been our ability to rekindle and forge new connections between Omicron members, which is another way we preserve our tradition and build our future together. Thank you for your continued fellowship. We continue to be brothers, now and ever.

**IN MEMORY AND HONOR****His Final Act of Generosity...**

As a final act of generosity and demonstration of his love for our Chapter, our late Brother **Stu Rosenberg '86** remembered us with a significant estate gift to Omicron Association, Inc. The Board is evaluating the best use of this gift in a way that honors his memory and meets the needs of our chapter.

We are pleased to announce that we will be remembering Stu with a memorial brick on the patio around the 'O', to be joined later with names of other alumni, living and deceased, who have made the biggest positive impacts on Omicron through gifts of their time, talent, or treasure.



## NEW OFFICERS

Congratulations to our new officers at Phi Kappa Tau!

*President*  
**Scott Susanin**

*Vice President*  
**Derek Wilbert**

*Treasurer*  
**Matt Rollman**

*Risk Manager*  
**Dakota Duarte**

*House Manager*  
**Isaac Andrews**

Watch for more from these new officers next year.

## IN THE NEWS

### Ray Walker '35 on Love, Life, and Academics

*Onward State* published a great profile piece on Brother Ray Walker '35 on December 11, 2014. It's a great piece of Brother Walker's trials and tribulations through the years. He offers insight into love, academics, travel, and some of the successes of his life. You can enjoy the article by going to <http://tinyurl.com/RayWalker>. Also, links to videos of different interviews with him can be found on our website at [www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com).



## GIVING BACK

### Mark Toniatti '70 Gives Back Time and Talent to Penn State Students Entering the Professional World

*We recently caught up with Mark Toniatti '70 on his way into his daughter's wedding rehearsal.*

Toniatti, a 1973 graduate, has had a lively and prosperous career. Having first joined a management consulting company, Toniatti went on to work with Towers Perrin (now Towers Watson) in the actuarial benefits department (a field analyzing risk and giving businesses an idea of how much it would cost to insure against that risk), where he remained for 37 years, eventually retiring from the actuarial field.

***"Here's the bottom line: study and get outstanding grades; most companies will not look at people without good grades."***

Using his wealth of knowledge and experience, Toniatti now lends his time and talent to undergraduates of Phi Kappa Tau, actuarial science, and accounting sciences. He volunteers as a guest speaker to a variety of on-campus groups. Most recently, Toniatti gave a presentation on November 13, 2014 on evaluating job offers. Hosted by the Penn State Actuarial Science Club, the lecture focused on the importance of using an interview as an opportunity to vet out and actively choose an employer.

Toniatti is a retired actuary with much to

offer to hopeful young undergrads.

"Well, when I retired five years ago after being in the benefits field my entire career, this new [volunteer] role gave me an opportunity to continue to mentor and interact with students. It also certainly doesn't hurt that it keeps me active and busy in my retirement. I also volunteer with the university and for various organizations around the university."

With all of his life experience and current work with undergraduates from various backgrounds and fields, Toniatti's best advice rings true for every Penn State grad:

"Here's the bottom line: study and get outstanding grades. Most companies will not look at people without good grades." Toniatti also noted that during his time in the field he interviewed and recruited many students from Penn State. Clearly, he is familiar with the students and with the hiring process. It is just a fact, he says, "in the resumes that we receive, we weed out the ones with bad grades."

Perhaps what Mark Toniatti is saying, as an actuary, is this: if you are well-equipped and disciplined, you will never encounter risk in a job interview. Use the opportunity of an interview to get to know the company and determine if this is a good match for you. Preparing students for the realities of working in the field and finding a good work environment is Toniatti's way of giving back.

## FALL HIGHLIGHTS

At Homecoming this year, **Mike Hoffacker** was elected to join the Omicron Association Inc. BOD for his first term. **Andy Cecere '99** and **Bob McHenry '86** were re-elected to 3-year terms. Also this fall, **Justin Curtis '04** was appointed to fill a vacancy left by Brother **Gary McKown '74**, who resigned after retiring and moving to Florida. We thank brothers **Jason Birdsell '95** and **McKown** for their outstanding service to us. **David Lapinski '74**, **Scott Szathmary '95**, **Eric Tarquinio '92**, **David Go '06**, and **Alan Rider '05** complete the BOD.

During the meeting, the chapter president reported that the undergraduates started the semester with 72 active members, 28 of whom will be graduating during this academic

year. They received the Order of the Star & Philanthropy Awards at National Convention this summer, maintain a house GPA over 3.0, and are in good standing with the University and Phi Kappa Tau National Fraternity. They had a large associate member class, and as the semester came to completion, they initiated 29 new members.

The undergraduates also reminded us that the chapter raised over \$160,000 for THON last year, (9th overall) and asked that you please write in 'Phi Kappa Tau' with your donations so your gift for the kids can be credited to their total. If you have a connection for corporate or matching gifts they would love to hear from you. THON is Feb 20-22 this year.

# ANNUAL FUND HONOR ROLL

## Thank You Donors!

Thank you to the following donors who have supported the annual fund so far this giving year, which started July 1, 2014. The annual fund is a separate, but equally important, fundraising effort from the capital campaign. And we greatly appreciate the continuous support from our alumni who help make Phi Tau one of the best fraternities at Penn State.

### The Hintz Fellows (\$1,000+)

Ray S. Walker 1933  
Robert Y. Murray 1954  
Francis A. Gansz 1957  
Richard Struthers 1976

### The 408 Club (\$408)

Vell H. Holcombe 1961  
Robert G. Kaiser II 1974  
Drew B. Kuruc 1977  
Marc Edward Foremsky 1989

### The Omicron Order (\$250-\$407.99)

William C. Westley Jr. 1952  
James R. Griffiths 1954  
Ronald G. Wertz 1958  
Robert E. Miller 1973  
Deacon David Lapinski 1974  
William J. O'Neill 1974  
Keith A. Sikora 1975  
Lee F. Burkett 1976  
Barry E. Messner 1984  
Nelson R. Fairchild Jr. 1985  
John Isaac Messner 1986

Brian Patrick Haley 1987  
Jason Birdsell 1995

### The Brothers Circle (\$100-\$249.99)

John C. Schmidt 1949  
John E. Werner 1952  
Bill Heath 1954  
Leroy W. Varettoni 1954  
Theodore E. Frask 1955  
Barry G. Pifer 1955  
Richard D. Strickler 1956  
William H. Gauger 1957  
Robert C. Edgar 1959  
John E. Francis Jr. 1959  
John P. Sweeney 1960  
Richard C. Bosserman 1961  
Michael E. Orlic 1961  
Edward S. Boger 1962  
Philip J. Marrie Jr. 1962  
David F. Campbell 1965  
Dexter V. Hancock 1965  
H. Michael Boyd 1966  
George W. DeGroft Jr. 1966  
Bruce V. Pettersen 1967

Robert E. Byrd 1969  
Neal Halbe 1969  
Robert C. Folwell 1974  
Brian Chodrow 1976  
Jeffrey Dinerman 1976  
James E. Kremmel Jr. 1976  
Gregory L. Zink 1976  
Thomas J. Haulik 1978  
Frederick Kotalik 1979  
Ludwig Patrick Sharek 1980  
Michael A. Baldassarre 1981  
Mark W. Sergeant 1985  
Philip J. Marrie III 1987  
Dan Bicehouse 1991  
Michael McGuire 1991  
Christopher Reid 1995  
Jason Harrison 1996  
Jonathan Philip Hazen 1996  
Brian McWilliams 2000  
Jason Cook 2005  
David Go 2006

### Delta Tau Omega (\$50-\$99.99)

Christian L. Siebert Jr. 1934

Lloyd G. Young 1950  
Charles H. Naginey 1951  
Henry W. Johnson III 1952  
Robert B. Watson 1952  
Robert O. Bryson 1961  
Clifford W. Freed 1961  
Joseph T. Hogan 1966  
Benjamin T. Hudson 1974  
Lawrence I. Reitars 1974  
John Hawkins 1976  
John Allison Jacobs 1976  
Edward V. Smarsh Jr. 1981  
Philip A. Iannuzzi Jr., Col, USAF (Ret.) 1982  
Michael Gillespie 1986  
Francis J. Hoffman 1989  
Andrew Shur 1992  
Patrick Walker 1992

### Other

Samuel Q. Schaeffer 1963

*Reflects gifts received as of December 17, 2014.*

To add your name to the annual fund honor roll, go to [www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com) and click DONATE. Or you can call 1-800-975-6699 to make your donation over the phone. Thank you!

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Joe Roman '56

(Rockaway, N.J.; [roman.j@verizon.net](mailto:roman.j@verizon.net)) – Still moving around but slowing down a lot. Sad to say that of those in my pledge class, many have gone to the Eternal Rest. Latest contact have been with Brothers **Norm Cardinali** and **Norm Alpert**, and this is on a sporadic basis. Have been retired for 30 years now, and my wife, Marge, and our three children are well.

### William Gauger '59

(Cary, N.C.; [wgauger@aol.com](mailto:wgauger@aol.com)) – Maryann and I bought this fifth wheel and truck and plan

to travel the country the next few years visiting friends seldom seen and places never seen.

### George DeGroft '67

(Berlin, Md.; [degroft@verizon.net](mailto:degroft@verizon.net)) – I retired from school after teaching after 44 years. I currently do some substituting from time to time. We are enjoying our four-year-old grandson. I have not been able to return to Phi Tau this fall but would like to see my brick on my next visit. I stay in touch with some of the brothers from the classes of '67

*Continued on page 4*

### Alumni News

We are already in the process of collecting news and updates for the next edition and the eLetter. Go to [www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com), Alumni Updates, and Submit an Update for the next edition or future eLetter. We are looking for news of weddings, babies, career changes, professional accomplishments, alumni reunions, you name it.



# Phi Kappa Tau

## PENN STATE

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### *In this Issue of Omichronicle...*

- *How one alum is giving back to the Penn State community*
- *An inspiring story on Ray Walker '35, Phi Tau and Penn State's oldest alum*
- *Thank you to our donors, both annual fund and capital campaign*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Whether we admit it or not, we all enjoy taking a walk now and then down memory lane – the fashions, the hairdos, and all the fond memories. We are working to preserve those memories from eras through pictures on our website.

If you have some good photos laying around from your days in the house, old or recent alumni reunions, weddings, etc., please upload them to our website. Go to [www.pktomicron.com](http://www.pktomicron.com), login, and then go to Home > Connect > Photos. You can create your own photo album or upload to an existing one.

*Picture taken from our Facebook group [facebook.com/groups/pktomicron](https://www.facebook.com/groups/pktomicron).*



## ALUMNI UPDATES...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and '68. We are looking forward to our 50th reunion in a couple years.

### **Neal Halbe '71**

(Chalfont, Pa.; [nealfhalbe@comcast.net](mailto:nealfhalbe@comcast.net)) – Hard to believe that I have been retired for almost 10 years. However, until recently, I worked just as many hours as a consultant. Now completely done. Pat and I have nine fabulous grandkids that keep her very busy. We spend about half of the year in the Villages, Fla. So if you are old enough to live there, look me up, and we will play Tails.

### **Philip A. Iannuzzi, Jr., Col, USAF (Ret.), '82**

(Doylestown, Pa.; [philip.a.iannuzzi-jr@boeing.com](mailto:philip.a.iannuzzi-jr@boeing.com)) Retired Colonel USAF.

### **Will Rogers '05**

(Mundelein, Ill.; [wtnrogers@yahoo.com](mailto:wtnrogers@yahoo.com)) – I am an assistant athletic trainer for the Chicago Bears in the NFL. This is my third season with the Bears. Previously, I worked four seasons as an assistant athletic trainer for the San Diego Chargers. I am a Fall 2000 Alter Egos brother of Phi Kappa Tau at Penn State. I studied kinesiology at Penn State, then went on to graduate school in athletic training

at the University of Kentucky. Following graduate school, I did a season-long internship with the Chicago Bears for the 2007 season. I met my wife Kristin while she was interning with the Bears in the marketing department that season. Following my internship, I took the full-time position with the Chargers. My wife and I dated long distance for four years before I returned back to the Bears in 2012. She and I were married in July of 2013. She continues to work in the marketing department for the Bears, and we are happily living in Mundelein, Ill., a northern suburb of Chicago. It's been six years since I've been to the fraternity house ... I think another return trip is due!