

UPCOMING EVENT

Penn Alumni Weekend
May 16-18

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

Join the growing list of brothers who have committed to help us raise the \$500,000 needed to fund an extensive set of projects at the Phi Phi house.

Learn much more about the Centennial Capital Campaign, find a current donor list, and make your pledge at www.phiphiclub.com.

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The Phi Phi Review



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ALUMNI PROFILE

Paying it Forward

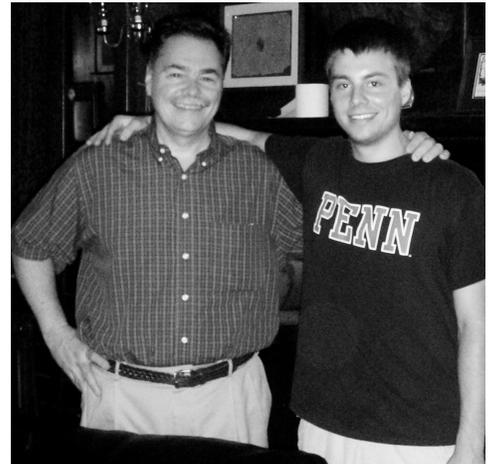
Fred Sanfilippo '70 Establishes Scholarship to Benefit Phi Phi Students in Recognition of the Great Experience He and His Son Joe Both Had at AXP

Fred Sanfilippo '70 had a great experience as a member of Alpha Chi Rho. In fact, he credits his time at Phi Phi as where he began building the skills and values necessary to launch a successful career as a physician-scientist and medical center leader.

That's why he wants to help future generations of Phi Phi brothers who have an interest in healthcare. To provide an incentive and lessen the financial burden, he recently established the Sanfilippo Phi Phi Scholarship, to be awarded annually to a full-time Phi Phi student interested in pursuing a career in any aspect of healthcare.

"I've established this scholarship to recognize the benefit my son Joe and I received from being AXP brothers in the Phi Phi Chapter, and to help future brothers," said Fred.

Yes, you read that right. Fred's son is also his fraternity brother. **Joe Sanfilippo '11**, who came to Penn as a freshman in the fall of 2007,



Fred (left) and Joe Sanfilippo at AXP in 2008.

admittedly wasn't interested in fraternity life at first. But he decided to check out AXP knowing that his father had spent so much time there, and it wound up being the right fit.

"Being able to call my dad my 'brother' is a fun connection to share," said Joe. "I imagine we had a lot of parallel experiences throughout pledgship and living in the same house for a few years. When you think about the 40 years in between our respective college days, it's neat how it all came full circle."

Both Sanfilippos say that the diversity of the brotherhood is what drew them to Phi Phi—a virtue that hasn't changed in more than 40 years.

"AXP was the most diverse fraternity at Penn in every respect: demographically, academically, and socially," said Fred. "There were brothers of virtually every race, religion, ethnicity, socio-economic background, career interest, and campus activity. It provided a great opportunity to learn from and interact with a wide range of great brothers."

About the Scholarship

The Sanfilippo Phi Phi Scholarship will be awarded annually to a full-time Phi Phi student interested in pursuing a career in the field of healthcare. The award is based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Academic achievement including grades and class rank
- ✓ Campus or community extracurricular involvement
- ✓ Fraternity involvement
- ✓ Leadership
- ✓ Work history
- ✓ Financial need
- ✓ Personal attributes
- ✓ Interest in a career in health

(Continued on Page 4)

CHAPTER REPORT

Interest in Phi Phi Continues to Climb

In a Year of Declining Fraternity Rush Numbers at Penn, AXP Recruits Largest Spring Pledge Class in Three Years

By Erik Burbulla, Chapter President

In a year where Penn fraternity recruitment is down, AXP has continued a legacy of recruiting a strong pledge class that excels in quality and quantity. With 15% fewer students rushing this year compared to last year, AXP recruited 15 new members in its spring pledge class, an increase from 14 in 2014 and 11 in 2013. Simply put, AXP is an attractive option to young men at Penn.



21 brothers strengthened their brotherly bonds on the beach during spring break in Punta Cana.

Not only is Phi Phi undergoing a major renovation to the physical facility, making it a great place for brothers to live, meet, and hang out, but AXP is expanding its presence on campus and maintains its reputation as a diverse brotherhood that boasts members from all over the world pursuing a variety of degrees.

Looking ahead to fall, Phi Phi plans to continue the tradition of recruiting a small pledge class of new members who are friends of or associated with AXP. Brothers are currently engaging their network on campus to ensure a solid fall class and ensure recruitment numbers continue to climb.

Academically, our grades are improving, as we jumped from having the 28th ranked GPA to 18th ranked this semester. With a chapter average GPA of 3.36, we recognize that we have room for improvement in brothers' grades. We recently created new duties and responsibilities for the academic chair, **Nikita Lisenko**. He is now in charge of maintaining a test/notes bank of materials to brothers to

study from, and refers brothers to tutoring services as they need them. Most importantly, he runs weekly study hours with pledges, and has worked with the Weingarten Learning Resources Center to host a time management workshop that pledges were required to attend.

While the brotherhood is continually striving to expand and improve our presence on campus and in the community, we like to have fun too. We have recently held a few fun social activities to, like a bodybuilding competition which crowned **Mike Reynolds** as champion. A group of 21 brothers also recently returned from Punta Cana, where we spent spring break. Finally, **Jason Lau** runs a dinner club and cooked dinner for the brotherhood at a Bistro AXP event. Each brother invited a date to have a good meal in a formal setting before we all left for spring break. We are continually looking for new, fun ways to come together as a brotherhood and strengthen our bond.

UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE

New Academic Chair Strives to Balance Chapter's Academic and Social Interests

Nikita Lisenko Serves as a Mentor and Voice of Support for Brothers Trying to Improve Their Grades

Nikita Lisenko could talk for hours about the positive benefits of Penn and fraternity life, but he sums it up with one simple phrase: "I absolutely enjoy it."

A Russian national, Nik's family moved to Uzbekistan before the fall of the Soviet Union. After participating in an IB program at an international high school, Nik came to the United States to study Physics and Materials Science at Penn as part of VIPER (Vagelos Integrated Program in Energy Research).

"I'm part of something more than just a group of guys; we are a part of history."

"I was initially unsure about what Greek life was like, but when I got to know the brothers of AXP, I realized that this is the place where I would love to be," he said. "It is more about being in brotherly relations

and helping each other out than it is about nonstop partying."

In addition to contributing to Phi Phi's great reputation for being a diverse brotherhood, Nik also carries the task of improving the chapter's academic position as Academic Chairman, a new position for Phi Phi.

"I am trying to take small steps by finding relevant study materials or connecting brothers with academic tutoring resources," he said. "But most of the time it is just about playing the role of someone who cares about your academics. People need the voice of conscience when they are deciding whether they should study or party, or the voice of support when they need to get over the stress."

Nik sees the value in maintaining a strong legacy at Phi Phi—academic and otherwise—and ensuring that the chapter exists for generations to come, especially after the most recent alumni reunion.

"An 80-year-old brother told us that our chapter was already great when he was studying at Penn," he said. "It really made me realize that I'm part of something more than just a group of guys; we are a part of history."

"I am also proud of the strong presence of alumni support in our chapter," he added.

As Academic Chair, Nik looks forward to balancing the academic and social interests of brothers and contributing to the development of the fraternity. In his spare time, Nik enjoys drawing, playing the piano, and playing computer games. He spends his summers in the US working for an on-campus lab, contributing to research alternative energy sources.



Nikita Lisenko

ALUMNI UPDATES

Daniel G. D'Imperio '53

(4001 Broadway, Allentown, PA 18104-5256; dimperiod@verizon.net) On my most recent birthday, February 2nd, I was 30,317 days old. Most of those days, since 1949, have been associated with Phi Phi brothers. I like to believe that we are "Brothers, 4ever", no matter where we might be.

The most memorable AXP event, for me, was the Centennial dinner at the Penn Tower Hotel on November 2, 1996. I continue to visit the Phi Phi Chapter several times each year. I was completely surprised to learn that the previous owner of the house I currently

live in was a Phi Phi brother, J.T. Butz, who graduated in 1898.

John Glenn Richards, II, Esq. '93

(13317 Coachford Ave, Rosemount, MN 55068-6169; bcoxford@yahoo.com) It's hard to believe, but this April marks four years since my move to Minnesota and three years at U.S. Bank. As a postulate at Phi Phi, I learned how creatively extricate myself from some interesting situations. One of those efforts earned me a strict talking-to from then-president **Stephen Henkenmeier '91**. I wonder if he remembers that episode?

Your Updates: The Best News We Publish!

You've told us time and time again that alumni updates are your favorite part of *Phi Phi Review*. We thank the brothers who submitted news for this issue, and encourage more of you to share your updates for future publication. Share your news, memories, stories, and photos at www.phiphiclub.com.

IN MEMORY

Eric Vandercar '83 Joins Chapter Eternal Following NY Commuter Rail Train Crash

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of **Eric Vandercar '83**. Eric was a passenger on a commuter rail train that crashed in Westchester County, NY in February. We are shocked and distressed by this tragic loss and offer our sympathies to Eric's family and friends.

Eric graduated from Penn and M&T in 1983, having studied Computer Science, Systems Science, Finance, and Decision Sciences. In addition to AXP, he was a member of the Amorphous Juggling Club and the Decision Science Club.

After graduation, Eric joined Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, then Kidder Peabody, in New York, and later Comcast in Bala Cynwyd, Pa. He eventually moved to Morgan Stanley as a municipal bond arbitrage

trader and a municipal and treasury portfolio strategist. He was named Executive Director of Municipal Funding and Liquidity at the firm and went on to work there for 27 years. He joined Mesirow Financial one year ago as Senior Managing Director and Head of Municipal Funding.

Eric was a long-time member of the Penn Alumni Interview Program, interviewing a number of Penn and M&T applicants in his area. He enjoyed skiing and whitewater



Eric Vandercar '83

rafting, and was passionate about live music, following a number of bands including moe. and Phish. Members of the band moe. released a statement expressing their grief.

Eric is survived by his wife Jill and two children.

We have also recently learned of the deaths of the following Phi Phi alumni...

Arthur Tawes '47
Arthur Staib Jr. '51
John Haner Esq. '64
Michael Lower Esq. '71

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Preserve Your Piece of Phi Phi History

Preserve your piece of Phi Phi history by sharing the best pictures from your fraternity days. We'll archive the best submissions in our online photo albums, and publish the best pictures in upcoming alumni communications.

You can submit your pictures by mailing them to the return address on this newsletter, or by uploading them to our alumni web site or Facebook page.

In this photo: *The pledge class of 1990 after the Fosters party.*





PHI PHI CLUB ^{401-104 FN} OF AXP AT PENN

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In this Issue...

- Legacy Family Establishes Scholarship for Future Phi Phis
- New Academic Chair Poised to Balance Brothers' Scholarship and Social Interests
- Which Alum Lives in a House Previously Owned by an 1898 Graduate of Phi Phi?



A lifelong Phi Phi membership makes it easy to preserve old memories and make many new ones. Find more information on how to share your old pictures and form new connections in this issue of the Phi Phi Review!

AT THE HOUSE

Save the Composites!

Alumni Asked to Step Up to Restore Class Photos from Their Eras

The class composites in the chapter house merge our history with our present. Unfortunately, over the years many composites have been lost or irreparably damaged. That is why Phi Phi Club Board Member **Byron Connell '63** recently took it upon himself to have his class composite completely restored. A number of the composites from that decade hang in the dining room and are not doing well at all. In particular, if you are a member of the Classes of 1962, 1965, 1967, 1968, or 1970, we urge you to follow in Byron's steps and organize before your composite is no more.

Contact Chapter President **Erik Burbulla** at frikburbulla@gmail.com for information on how to restore your class composite.

A side-by-side comparison of the two halves of the 1963 composite. The left is the original composite, the right shows the composite after restoration.



PAYING IT FORWARD... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Joe echoed, "I discovered an appreciation for learning about other people who were very different from me. This has helped me in my professional life, and also in getting to know myself better. Everybody has a different story, and I enjoyed hearing a lot of them at Phi Phi."

While Fred says he didn't influence Joe's decision to join AXP, he says he is proud that when Joe came to Penn the fraternity was still the same one he knew and loved 40 years earlier, and that his son found it to be a good match for him, too.

"Joe knew how much I got out of my experience at Phi Phi, which was a key focus of our visits for parents' weekends and

Homecomings while he was at Penn," said Fred. "He had heard a lot of my stories, and when he arrived at Penn he saw for himself how unique of a fraternity it was and joined. That told me what a great place it still was."

Fred exemplifies the phrase "paying it forward" by giving back to Phi Phi for the strong impact the fraternity made on his family. He encourages his fellow brothers to think about how they benefited from the generosity of others and find a way to pay it forward, too.

"AXP is the home that you and your friends—your brothers—grew up in," Fred said. "It's also a place to remember the past with them, as well as to meet a younger

generation of brothers that connect you to the present and future of Penn and AXP."

"Giving back is a way of saying thanks and giving forward is a way of ensuring future brothers will benefit in the way we did from the generosity of our past brothers," he added.

After Penn, Fred attended Duke University's MD-PhD program and has been a physician-scientist chairman, dean, and CEO at Duke, Johns Hopkins, Ohio State, and currently Emory. His wife, Janet, is an MBA university administrator, and his daughter Lisa is a nurse at NYU. Joe is a healthcare consultant at Huron Living in Chicago. Both Joe and Lisa plan to be married this year.