

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Homecoming 2015**  
**November 7**  
vs. Princeton

**Centennial Celebration of the  
Phi Phi House**  
**2017, Details TBD**



# The Phi Phi Review



www.PhiPhiClub.com

Phi Phi Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho • University of Pennsylvania • Philadelphia, Pa. • Fall 2014

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### 7 Great Reasons to Support the Centennial Capital Campaign!

As renovation work continues, so must our fundraising efforts. We'd like to thank the brothers who have already contributed to the *Centennial Capital Campaign*, and encourage those brothers who have not yet made a gift to get involved. If you are on the fence about making a commitment, here are 7 great reasons to make your pledge.

#### 1. We have a prime location on campus.

Now, as the chapter house approaches 100 years of age, it is in need of a major facelift to shine in comparison with neighboring fraternities. Our campaign will ensure that the house remains a safe, competitive place that enables AXP be an attractive living option for undergraduates and potential recruits.

#### 2. We've kept a house standing for 100 years and have made a lot of memories there, too.

We know that 219 S. 36th St. has been as much a place to party as it has a place to study, and it's served as a great living or meeting space for all of us for nearly a century. Now, we need to ensure it exists for our next generation to make memories of times like we all enjoyed.

**3. AXP is your lifelong home at Penn.** From activities like our Homecoming celebrations to smaller era-specific reunions, the house serves as a central gathering place for our alumni during major Phi Phi and Penn events.

**4. We're in a unique position.** Mark Coogan '83 says it best, as found in our archives: "Ours is one of the last, maybe the very last, independently-owned fraternity houses at Penn. As an undergraduate, maintaining our independence was important to me and today, as an alumnus, it remains important to me. Without alumni support, Phi Phi's continued independence would be in peril. To lose that would be to lose something precious.

We owe it to current and future undergraduate brothers to give what we can to maintain the unique Phi Phi experience at Penn."

#### 5. We're a more than generous group.

To date, we have raised \$106,015 toward the campaign from 180+ alumni, friends, and parents.

**6. We offer plenty of ways for you to reconnect with old friends and with the Phi Phi Chapter.** From our alumni events, this newsletter, and our online community, there are great and fun ways to find old friends and make new ones.

**7. You're the key to our past, and the link to our future.** As an alumni association more than 700 strong, we boast generations of brothers that have contributed to our rich history. We have collectively preserved traditions, enriched lives of young men, and kept a great organization going strong at Penn for nearly 120 years. You have a unique place in that history, and are asked to make a commitment to pay it forward for future generations.

We've got a strong alumni association, a revitalized active chapter, and a 118-year legacy at Penn. If you haven't been involved in the past few years, we personally invite you to get involved in the *Centennial Capital Campaign*. As you can see, there are plenty of great reasons to make a commitment.



## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### Phi Phi Club Board Members

**Joe Moloznik '54**, Chair  
Emeritus

**Dave Mudge '73**, Emeritus  
**Dr. Rob Rosenbaum '90**,  
Emeritus

**John Hawkins '93**, President  
**John Richards '93**, Vice  
President

**Jared Miller '95**, Treasurer  
**Manuel Calero '98**, Secretary

**Byron Connell '63**  
**Jordan Gushurst '95**  
**Tom McCarthy '78**  
**Pete Sigmund '51**  
**Suresh Swaminathan '04**  
**Bob Warring '02**

### Centennial Campaign Committee

**Jordan Gushurst '95**  
**Pete Sigmund '51**  
**Suresh Swaminathan '04**

**Chapter President**  
**Bryan Manning '15**

## FALL 2014 PLEDGES

Welcome to our newest members!

**Robleh Farah**  
Stevenson Ranch, CA

**Noah Marinelli**  
Freehold, NJ

**Chris Lai**  
Vacaville, CA

**Grant Steiger**  
Needham, MA

## EVENTS & RENOVATIONS

### A First-Hand Look at the Latest Improvement Projects at Homecoming 2014

Homecoming this year was one for the record books, as it was a great opportunity for alumni to see the preliminary renovations that have been made at the chapter house, including the new bar in the basement! Attendees enjoyed a day reconnecting with fellow alumni, meeting the active chapter, and congratulating this year's recipients of the Rappaport scholarship, undergraduates **Eric Murray** and **Mike Reynolds**.



*Above: Recent alums outside AXP at Homecoming.*

*Top right: Byron Connell '63 presents Eric Murray with the Rappaport Scholarship. Photo by Tina Connell.*

*Bottom right: Rappaport scholarship 2: Previous winner Will Doyle '12 presents Mike Reynolds with the Rappaport Scholarship. Photo by Tina Connell.*



*Right: The new pool table, donated by Bill Loller '93. The inscription reads "No sex on this table!"*



*Find many more pictures from Homecoming and of the recent renovations, and share your own, at [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com) and on our Facebook page.*

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Leading the Way for Our Future

#### Capital Campaign Jordan Gushurst '95 Shares Why We Need to All Bond Together to Preserve AXP and Enjoy the Lifelong Benefits It Offers

**Jordan Gushurst '95** has played a big role in leading Phi Phi in his alumni years. He is co-chair of the Centennial Campaign, a graduate board member, and project manager on the basement renovations. When he's not volunteering for AXP, he works as an independent software consultant for the energy industry, focusing on energy trading and risk management. In this Q&A, he shares a bit more about himself and why he is giving back to Phi Phi in such a big way.

#### **Why do you choose to donate your time and volunteer as an alum?**

Because I am insane (just kidding!). Perhaps I decided to get involved in my middle age instead of buying a motorcycle. I also happened to meet my wife at an AXP-Chi Omega mixer at the chapter house.

#### **You are a long-time supporter of Phi Phi Club. Why do you financially support the alumni chapter?**

I enjoy my memories of my years at Penn and living in the fraternity. If you treasure something you should be willing to help

maintain and improve it.

#### **Why is it important for other alumni to get involved in giving back through time, talent, and treasure?**

Primarily because it is a lot of fun (except for that flooding thing). Let's face it; the "real world" is a lot more work than college was.

#### **What is your best memory from your alumni years?**

Our class has a tradition of getting together for most five-year reunion dates. We generally participate in the university events during the day, and **TJ Zane '95** has helped to organize an evening dinner in a private room at a nice restaurant in Philly. It's hard to believe, but we've got a 20th anniversary coming next year and I'm hoping we can make it happen again. I would strongly encourage all other classes to do the same, because it's just a heck of a good time.

#### **What could be the negative ramifications if the capital campaign fundraising goals are not met?**

I think the safety improvements (e.g. electrical

system replacement) are essential and we will complete those improvements regardless of the total amount raised. Meeting our financial goals will allow us to do the kinds of projects that really make our house and back yard stand out, and will also make it a much more affordable place to live. High quality, affordable facilities will help enable us to recruit and retain the best new brothers, and that is part of our mission.

#### **What would you like to say to your fellow alumni?**

I want to say a big "thank you!" to all those who have made contributions to our campaign so far. We hope you come back and see the improvements and continue to give as the campaign moves forward. Better yet, plan an event with your class for a 5/10/15/etc. reunion, and find a project your class can sponsor.

**Brothers can reconnect with Jordan at [jordan@gushurst.com](mailto:jordan@gushurst.com). Read the full Q&A at [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com).**

### Daniel G. D'Imperio '53

(4001 Broadway, Allentown, PA 18104-5256; dimperio@verizon.net) My license plate AXP53UP is still in use after many years. On November 1, we had a get together of Phi Phis from the classes 1951-56. In attendance were Brothers Moloznik, Grohol, Norcross, Sigmund, D'Imperio, Bater, and Ford, along with their wives.

### Robert Grohol '54

(263 Woodland Rd., Madison, NJ, 07940; rmgrohol@aol.com) Following graduation, I enjoyed a satisfying 41-year management career with Beneficial Corporation and retired at the end of 1994. My wife, Bernadette (aka Bernie), and I will be celebrating our 60th wedding anniversary next June. So far our partnership has yielded four grown sons, three daughters in law, seven grandchildren and one great grandson. Since retiring, Bernie and I have remained physically active and have been able to travel extensively. With our proximity to NYC, we also enjoy theater, music, and everything else the city has to offer. We purchased a lake home in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia shortly after retiring and it has been a magnet for our family where they can play with all of the usual water "toys." Importantly, we also gather in Philadelphia biannually with many of our Crow brothers and spouses, taking in football, visits to the house, and an evening of great food, libations, and fine fellowship. I'm always looking forward to our next reunion.

### John Jamieson '67

(1111 Lakeside Dr., Egg Harbor Twp., NJ 08234; jjamie594@gmail.com) I retired in 2011 after 24 years with the AtlantiCare Health System, having served as Director of Pastoral Care and Director of Patient Support. I have continued my ministry at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Chapel in Ocean City, NJ and as Associate Regional Director of the Federation of Fire Chaplains. I am also serving as clinical director of the local Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team and continue to publish articles on this subject, and teach Comprehensive Acute Traumatic Stress Management. When not otherwise engaged, my wife and I enjoy traveling around the US.

### Don Ehre '77

(2512 Edgewood Rd., Utica, NY 13501; don.ehre@gmail.com) Recently, I rode my Harley Davidson 450 miles on an exceptionally warm late October day. I rode through Albany, across Vermont, and through portions of Massachusetts and New Hampshire. There was still plenty of color in the fall leaves, so it was a pleasant ride. Who says 65 is old? I am the director of the Erie Canal Chapter of the Harley Owner's Group (HOG), and I am still running my small Civil Engineering Consulting business in New Hartford, NY. I am looking to retire in five years, so if anyone is a licensed Professional Engineer and is looking to move to a smaller upstate New York location, I know a guy... My wife passed away five years ago from cancer, so I've been

working in my wood shop and catching up on some of my other hobbies to stay busy. The basement repairs at AXP look very good and should serve you guys well in the future.

### Wayne Firsty '85

(1124 Bent Dr., Campbell, CA 95008; wayneok@sprintmail.com) After 30 years of non-stop working (albeit a lot of it was fun), I've decided to take an "open-ended" sabbatical. I am looking forward spending this time with my two kids (Shay, 13 and Ally, 10), exercising a bit more, volunteering at local organizations, and catching up on projects around the house. I also managed to plan a few upcoming vacation trips, including Puerto Rico, New York, Lake Tahoe, and Israel. If any fellow brothers plan on coming out to Northern California anytime soon, let me know.

### Mike Viola '86

(908 Mountain St., Philadelphia, PA 19148; michaelviola@verizon.net) For the past four years, in addition to maintaining my private legal practice, I have been the Family Law Staff Attorney at Philadelphia VIP, a non-profit legal service agency that connects low-income Philadelphians with volunteer attorneys. On November 12, 2013, I married Phil Cohen; we had been together for 14 years prior. Lastly, on October 15, 2014, I was one of the 2014 recipients of the Shepherds of Peace award from the Good Shepherd Mediation Program.

### Geoffrey Hess '91

(265 E. 66th St., Apt. 8G, New York, NY 10065; geoffrey.hess@hotmail.com) After a long career working with former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, I was asked to run Ivanka Trump's jewelry company and I accepted the position of president in June 2012. I very much enjoy working for Ivanka and I happily continue to live in Manhattan.

### Peter Chase '99

(506 Railway Ave., Apt. 122, Campbell, CA 95008; pbc69stang@yahoo.com) I moved to San Francisco in October to take a job at Anki (anki.com) as their Senior Accounting Manager. So far I'm loving the city and the new job!

### Andrew Mandelbaum '01

(2 Grace Court, Apt. 5H, Brooklyn, NY 11201; mandeldrew@hotmail.com) Tracie and I are very pleased to announce the birth of Zachary Ethan Mandelbaum, born May 10, 2014.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Your AXP Brothers are There During Life's Most Important Moments

This photo wasn't taken during college, but it includes guys from the pledge class of '89 holding **Russ Blumer '92** at his wedding in September 2007. Pictured (L to R) are **Neil Seethaler '92**, **Andrew Edelsberg '91**, **Jeff Bernardo '92**, **Jason Fortin '92**, and **Brian Study '92**.

We know that the friendships you made at AXP have lasted much longer than your college years. In fact, for many of us, our brothers are there during life's most important moments, like these guys were there for Russ. Upload YOUR best alumni photos at [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com) or on our Facebook page.





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*Inside: 7 Great Reasons to Get Involved with the Centennial Capital Campaign!*

**CHAPTER REPORT**

**Something New for Fall Rush**

***AXP Pairs with Penn Sorority to Welcome Potential Recruits***

The active chapter continues to recruit on pace with previous years while making renovations at the house. This fall, we welcome four new members in our pledge class. While we

typically hold a rush BBQ, we changed things up this year and paired with a sorority, Alpha Delta Pi, to co-host an event for potential rushes and any transfer students interested in Greek life. Our goal is to recruit 15-20 more young men next semester, as the spring is typically the more active rush period. We are working to finalize our spring rush schedule by the end of November.

donors. Additionally, we held an event, Treats for Treatments, to sell cookies and dog treats to raise money and awareness for the Philadelphia Animal Welfare Society. We raised about \$200 from the bake sale, and donated more than 100 hours this semester to community service activities.

We'd like to congratulate **George Li**, who won the Paul K. Addams Scholarship from the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation, Inc. The \$4,000 award is given to one Alpha Chi Rho junior or senior each year. We are also pleased to announce that we won the intramural fraternity Ultimate Frisbee league.

Philanthropically, we again hosted the IFC Red Cross blood drive and collected blood from more than 40



***AXP brothers and ADPi sisters at their joint rush event this fall.***

**GET INVOLVED**

**Imagine: Your Name on the New Bar**

***Sponsorship Opportunities Available for Contributing Brothers or Classes***

The recent basement flood means our insurance is paying to renovate it, but the bar area needed a significant upgrade above and beyond what insurance will cover. We are hoping that a graduating class will chip in to give at least \$5,000 to have the bar area dedicated to their class and cover the vastly-improved setup.

Email Centennial Campaign

Co-Chair **Jordan Gushurst** at [jordan@gushurst.com](mailto:jordan@gushurst.com) to make your donation or to coordinate class efforts. We will honor the sponsoring class with a plaque above the bar. For lesser amounts you can sponsor the new back bar, bar fridge, or bar stools. We're looking forward to brothers and/or classes getting involved with this important part of the Centennial Campaign!

