

## PHI PHI CLUB

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## AT THE HOUSE

### "Nice to Have" List

Following the recent flood, we have compiled a list of items and projects that we would like to have for the basement that likely won't be covered by insurance payments. They include:

- A new bar with a functioning sink and mini fridge
- Renovating the laundry area
- Purchase of additional:
  - Washer and dryer
  - Sink
  - Folding table

If you are interesting one of these items or projects, please contact **Jordan Gushurst '95** at [jordan@gushurst.com](mailto:jordan@gushurst.com).



# The Phi Phi Review



[www.PhiPhiClub.com](http://www.PhiPhiClub.com)

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

## FLOOD UPDATE

### Cleanup at Phi Phi

### Capital Campaign Takes an Unexpected Turn Following Flood at Chapter House, Needs Your Support to Help Rebuild

By Jordan Gushurst '95

Over the holiday break, an awful disaster occurred at the chapter house. While the undergraduates were away and the polar vortex hit Philly, the boiler broke down and, as a result, a sprinkler pipe burst, flooding the first floor and filling the basement. Fortunately, we have very responsible undergraduate brothers who were there immediately, just in time to prevent the three feet of water in the basement from getting to the fuse box. Had that happened, the house probably would not have survived.

As we continue to wait for quotes for the basement project work and to get a final determination from the insurance company about how much reimbursement will be provided, we are calling on you, our alumni, to follow us on this unexpected detour during our capital campaign. We now face the need to rebuild our basement while simultaneously raising funds to stay on pace with the other critically necessary projects throughout the house, as outlined in the campaign brochure you received last fall (find a copy at [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com)).

***"Remember, as an alum you are a stakeholder in our chapter house and one of our greatest assets. Please do your part to preserve your home at Penn and help us to overcome this challenge while preserving the chapter house for its next 100 years."***

We will not have sufficient funds available to begin renovating the basement until insurance money is received. I am calling on you to make your commitment to the Centennial Capital Campaign *today* to help us overcome



*A burst sprinkler pipe caused three feet of water to flood the Phi Phi basement during the holiday break. This shows the damage to the ceiling. Find more pictures of the damage in the photo albums on our web site.*

this major hurdle. We are hopeful that insurance payments will cover the majority of repairs, but we recognize that certain cosmetic and "nice to have" upgrades and replacements will need to be funded by Phi Phi (find a list of our "nice to have" items and projects to the left).

In addition to helping us to finish repairs in the basement, your capital campaign commitment will help us to continue with the next steps of our house renovations. Up first is renovation of the first floor bathroom. We have recently signed a general contractor to manage the project, and ordered a new vanity to be installed. The undergraduates have been hired to do the demolition work, and the contractor will do all of the rebuilding work. Once that project is complete, we will replace the carpet in the coatroom just outside the bathroom.

Remember, as an alum you are a stakeholder in our chapter house and one of our greatest assets. Please do your part to preserve your home at Penn and help us to overcome this challenge while preserving the chapter house for its next 100 years. Find more information on page 3 on how to make your gift to the capital campaign.

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Brothers Bond Together to Overcome Adversity

#### Chapter Unites to Clean Up Basement and Make Necessary Repairs in Time for Rush

We'd like to send major kudos to our undergraduate chapter for their hard work and commitment in response to the recent flood at Phi Phi – especially to House Manager **Eric Murray** and **Mahamad Charawi**, who were the only two brothers on campus at the time, for their immediate action. Thanks to Eric for providing us with more insight into activities in the aftermath of the flood, and for the testament to how strong our brotherhood truly is.

#### What all was involved with the cleanup?

Before cleanup could start, we had to get the water to stop leaking. After consulting a plumber who couldn't help due to electrical risk, we had to call 911 and then the Fire and Water



Department shut off the water to the house. While we were dealing with stopping the leak, **Jordan Gurhurst '95** was on his way with a rented water pump from Home Depot.

After a few hours, the water was almost all

gone from the basement. The next morning, Jordan, Chapter President **Michael Reynolds**, **Kevin Burke**, Mahamad Charawi and I began the process of clearing out all of the soaked materials in the basement. This included speakers, couches, books, fallen drywall from the ceiling, and countless other things. Once everything was emptied out, we set up as many space heaters and fans in the basement to dry everything and keep air moving to prevent mold growth. Over the next few days, more and more brothers began returning to campus to help.

#### What support did you receive from alumni?

Alumni have been incredibly supportive throughout this entire situation. As soon as Jordan Gurhurst found out about the burst pipe, he let me know that he was already on his way to help out. He was at the house for the next couple days to aid with the cleanup efforts. **John Hawkins '93** was also extremely supportive in guiding us on how to handle each step of the repair process. **Jared Miller '95** was also a huge help primarily dealing with the insurance company. Whether driving to the house or holding conference calls, the alumni were constantly engaged with every step of the cleanup.

I would like to personally thank each brother who has helped out in any way (through time or

donations). No one could foresee such a disaster occurring, but our dedicated brotherhood persevered and is stronger than ever.

#### How was the chapter impacted during the cleanup process?

Since the flood occurred a few days before rush, we had to act quickly to get the house ready for interested freshmen and livable for brothers. We immediately pushed our rush schedule a day later so we had an extra day to repair the house, and the morning of rush the new boiler and hot water heater were fully functional. We were a bit nervous about how rush would turn out, but this crisis actually united our chapter. Whether carrying stuff out of the basement, sweeping debris, or trying to schedule various repairmen to come out, each brother contributed in his own way. As a result, we have a strong pledge class of 14 underclassmen who are also eager to help with repairs.



## CHAPTER REPORT

### Phi Phi Continues Earning Top Grades, Stresses Utmost Importance of Academics

By **Michael Reynolds**, Chapter President

Phi Phi achieved a collective GPA of 3.329 for the fall of 2013, which was significantly higher than our spring 2013 average of 3.292. This ranks us 22nd out of 33 total chapters at Penn, just below the IFC average of 3.3812. However, it places us at the top of GPA rankings for all chapters of AXP.

We continue to stress academics with the utmost importance and sincerity here at Phi Phi. Right from the get-go, we communicate this to our new Postulants. We institute a program to promote better, more effective study habits, as many students may struggle to acclimate to the college workload. We are

confident that our Postulants cross over into brotherhood with a strong sense of pride in their commitment to academics.

Philanthropically, we've had many brothers sign up to volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Philadelphia. We, as a chapter, are all looking forward to spend an hour each week at a local West Philadelphia school to spend time with a few youngsters in need of tutors and friends.

Finally, we'd like to thank **Bill Loller '93** for his generous donation of a brand new pool table before Christmas break. With its beautiful wood finish, it is a tremendous upgrade from

the aging table we previously had. Stop by to see it the next time you're in Philly!



## CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

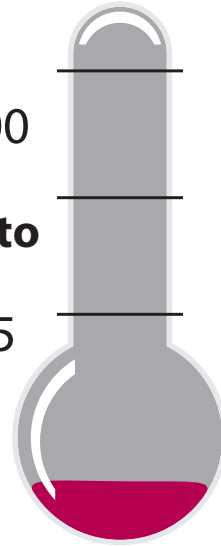
## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### Thank You to the Following Brothers for Helping to Preserve Our House for Its Next Century

Thank you to the following alumni and friends for their gifts and pledges since October 2013, which have been earmarked to the Centennial Capital Campaign. To learn more about how you can help us raise the \$500,000 needed to fund an extensive set of projects, and to add your name to this list, go to [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com).

**Goal!**  
**\$500,000**

**Pledged to  
date:**  
**\$44,135**



#### Sen. Hugh Scott Club (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Robert Grohol	1954
Michael Linn	1998
Tavis Cannell	1999
Cameron Coles	2008

#### Rev. Paul Ziegler Club (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Peter Sigmund	1951
Henry Inman Jr.	1954
Robert Gaudian	1955
Harry J. Stuart	1965
Thomas M. Osborn	1966
Fred P. Sanfilippo MD	1970
Steven Arkin	1977
David Beik	1981
Mark Coogan	1983
Wayne S. Firsty	1985
Daniel Greenberg	1986
Brian Harris	1986
Christopher Albani	1987
Dr. Russell Blumer MD	1992
William C. Loller	1993
Jared Miller	1995
Matthew Gilroy Esq.	1996
William Doyle	2012

#### Curley Walden Club (\$500 - \$999)

Arthur W. Tawes	1947
Allen Staib	1955
David H. Morton	1957
Kenneth Rothermel	1959
Byron and Christine Connell	1963
Stephen R. Cunningham	1970
Michael Farmer	1971
John G. Kelly	1971
Robert Goodwin	1972

Frank P. Homburger	1974
Eric Robbins	1976
Wayne Levy	1999

#### Bob Detweiler Club (up to \$499)

John Chase	1947
John Leferovich Jr.	1953
Howard Perley	1953
Kyle Thomas	1954
John Seksinsky	1960
James Benjamin	1962
Brian J. Heisler	1965
John Kramer	1967
G. Donald Allen	1970
Michael J. Karpinski Jr.	1970
Juan S. Cockburn	1971
Donald Dinan Esq.	1971
Howard Ellis	1972
W. John Coats	1975
Steven M. Seide	1976
Scott Calisti	1977
Donald Ehre	1977
Stephen Gross	1977
William C. Latour	1977
Thomas W. Little III	1979
Arthur K. Feldman	1980
Vincent Keenan Jr.	1980
Laurence Longtin	1986
Peter Stevens	1988
J. Brian Pope	1989
Todd Springer	1989
Eduardo Briceno	1998
Dominic Mangiardi	2000
Robert Warring	2002
Gregory Bobich	2006
Adam Meeks	2007
Kevin Boreen	
Thomas Philipose	

#### President

Michael Reynolds '15  
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Wharton, NJ  
Finance, Wharton School

#### Vice President

Bryan Manning '15  
Lowell, MA  
Biology, College of Arts and  
Sciences

#### Treasurer

George Li '15  
Cheshire, CT  
Finance, Wharton School

#### House Manager

Eric Murray '15  
Philadelphia, PA  
Science, Technology, & Society,  
College of Arts and Sciences

#### Postulant Educator

Charles Gress '14  
Philadelphia, PA  
Business Economics and Public  
Policy, Wharton School

#### Secretary

Sean Reidy '15  
Gaithersburg, MD  
Mechanical Engineering,  
Engineering School

#### Ritual Chairman

Kevin Burke '14  
Landsdale, PA  
Mechanical Engineering,  
Engineering School

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Emanuel Hermosillo '15  
Pasadena, CA  
Biochemistry, College of Arts and  
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#### Rush Chairman

Abhishek Mishra '15  
Golden, CO  
Operations Research and  
Information Management,  
Wharton School

#### Social Chairman

Drew Becker '14  
Brooklyn, NY  
Economics, College of Arts and  
Sciences

## BY THE NUMBERS

### Counting On Your Involvement to Keep Our Database Clean

Phi Phi Club works in partnership with a third party alumni relations firm to maintain a clean database of our brothers to ensure we're reaching as many alumni as possible through our print and electronic communications.

As brothers move and change jobs, we sometimes lose touch of their current mailing and email addresses. This chart represents a

snapshot of our database to date. Visit [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com) to view full lists of our lost brothers and help us to update their contact information (or update your own if you haven't been receiving our email publications).

Our database is used solely for AXP communications and will never be traded or sold.

<b>*Total graduates:</b>	1,148
<b>Valid mailing addresses:</b>	748
<b>Valid email addresses:</b> (56% of living alumni)	463
<b>Lost brothers:</b> (no current mailing list on file)	74
<b>All-time donors:</b> (26% of all alumni)	302

*\*Includes 318 deceased*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Nearly 100 Years at 219 South 36th Street

As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of our chapter house in 2017, we are seeking great historical photos of the facility itself and the countless memories that have been made within its walls in the last 100 years. Please send photos from your era to our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) or mail them to the return address on this newsletter (include your name and "AXP Penn" in your correspondence). You can also share photos at [www.phiphiclub.com](http://www.phiphiclub.com), where you can also view and comment on others' submissions.



**In this photo:** The dining room in the 1920s.

*Phi Phi Brothers Bond Together to Clean Up After the Flood! Detail Inside...*

*Address Service Requested*



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