

UPCOMING EVENT

Founders' Day
Saturday, March 27, 2010
Details to follow.

Alumni Association Officers

President

Joel Catania '71
Jlclii@aol.com

Vice-President

Ross Weiner '80
gemsco1rw@aol.com

Treasurer

Gregg Ormond '74
gjo@ormondlaw.com

Chapter Officers

President

Andy Katz
katzac@sas.upenn.edu

External VP

Dan Keefe
jdkeefe@gmail.com

Internal VP

Reid Fletcher
reidnf@gmail.com

Alumni Relations Chair

Vinny Sessa
vsessa408@yahoo.com

ON THE WEB

What the Heck is My Member ID?

We require all alumni to log in to have full access to our web site. Why? Because your privacy and security is important to us.

If you haven't yet logged into the site, you'll need your Member ID for first-time login. You can find your Member ID above your name and address on this newsletter.

October 2009

Slices of Beta Pi

www.pika-upenn.org

The Alumni Newsletter of the Beta Pi Chapter of
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

ALUMNI EVENTS

Honoring Julia

On Saturday, March 30, 2009, 35 alumni joined over 50 undergraduate brothers at the Inn At Penn to celebrate Founders' Day. Alums came from great distances (including California, Florida, Canada and even Switzerland) to celebrate the 141st anniversary of Pi Kappa Alpha and to pay tribute to Beta Pi's chef emeritus, Julia Wellons.

Richard Myers '69 gave the welcoming remarks and introduced the various speakers during the course of the evening. **Bruce Wolfson '71** gave a surprisingly brief update on the International Fraternity. The chapter's External VP/Alumni Relations Chairman, **Dan Keefe**, introduced the 23 recently-initiated new brothers. SMC **Andy Katz** provided an overview of the chapter's progress in the areas of academics, community service and fraternity awards. He then introduced the chapter's annual SLAG (Scholar, Leader, Athlete and Gentleman) award winners. **Joel Levine '70** presented the annual Dave Herman award to undergraduate **Andrew Ruben**.

"Julia was more than a cook – she was a house mother, a caretaker and a great supporter to all the boys she fed over the years. Indeed, she was the 'Queen Bee of Beta Pi.'"

Following dinner, alumni association president **Joel Catania '71** gave a membership update and invoked some executive privilege by calling for an on-the-spot election of officers for the next two years. Joel, Vice-President **Ross Weiner '80** and Treasurer **Gregg Ormond '74** were unanimously re-elected. Joel then went on to present 40-year anniversary certificates to Class of '69 initiates **Don Horowitz**, **Mark Mancini**, **Rich Myers** and **Paul Zaentz**.

Jerry Herman then hosted the highlight portion of the program – our salute to Julia Wellons, Beta Pi's chef from 1969 to 1989.



Jerry Herman, Joel Catania, Bruce Wolfson and Dave Edman with Julia Wellons seated in front of us and don't leave out the PKA banner!

Jerry provided an enlightening history of Julia's life and described her place in the annals of Beta Pi history. On the twentieth anniversary of Julia's retirement, the alumni association presented her with some special gifts to show its appreciation for the work she put into enabling hundreds of brothers to enjoy a collective dining experience over two decades.

Julia was more than a cook – she was a house mother, a caretaker and a great supporter to all the boys she fed over the years. Indeed, she was the "Queen Bee of Beta Pi." **Dave Edman '73** presented her with a microwave oven, **Bruce Wolfson '74** presented her with an engraved clock with the Fraternity's insignia and Joel Catania presented her with a gift collected from 39 of her "Boys" – a check in the amount of \$7,000. A grateful Julia and her son, Ronald, who accompanied her to the dinner as our guest, were genuinely touched by this show of affection.

Read the full article and share your stories in honor of Julia online at www.pika-upenn.org.

CHAPTER AWARDS

Congratulations to our undergraduates for winning the following awards...

2009 Raymond L. Orians Chapter Excellence Awards

The Raymond L. Orians Chapter Excellence Award recognizes overall chapter excellence. The chapters that win this award are amongst the best on their campus and Pi Kappa Alpha's most competitive chapters.

The qualifications for this award are:

- A year-end overall awards score of at least a 3.0 (out of 4.0)
- An active membership of at least 50 initiates

- An accredited chapter advisor
- Chapter representation at all Pike University events (including at least one Leadership Summit)

This was our first time winning this award in almost 20 years. This is the 2nd highest award a chapter can be given.

2009 Recruitment: Level II Recognition

Recognizing chapters that achieved a thirty percent increase in initiations from the previous academic year while initiating at least twenty men and maintaining a zero balance.

2009 Scholarship Plate

For chapters maintaining a 3.0 GPA or better. The Penn Pike Chapter has won this award five years in a row.

Penn Greek Community Service Tally

Penn Pikes are proud to announce that in the 2008-2009 academic year they donated close to 800 community service hours and were the third amongst Greek Houses in total amount of money raised.

ON THE WEB

Don't be Left out of the Loop

Send Us Your Email Address!

With the cost of a postage stamp now at 44 cents, your email address is just as valuable to us as your financial contribution.

By providing us with or updating your email address, you are helping us to save money by building our email database for future electronic publications. You'll also be sure to stay informed of the latest Beta Pi news and events. Update your email address

and other contact information online at www.pika-upenn.org. Your email address will be used solely for PiKA communications, and won't be traded or sold.

While you're at it, help us to track down the email addresses of the 74% of brothers for whom we're missing them. If you are in touch with any other alumni electronically,

please send us their email addresses so they can be added to our email list. You can email updates to us at feedback@affinityconnection.com (mention PiKA at Penn in the subject).

We won't SPAM you...we promise!

FROM THE ARCHIVES...

Some Things Never Change!

We love coming across great old photos from our chapter's history, including this one from the 1950 edition of *The Record*. Help us to continue publishing archived pictures in our publications! Send the best photos and stories from your era to us at content@affinityconnection.com (mention PiKA at Penn). Your submissions may be chosen to appear in the next issue of *Slices of Beta Pi*.

Note to '80s grads: There are a TON of photos from your era in our online photo albums at www.pika-upenn.org. Thanks to Ira Horowitz for submitting all of these classic pictures.



From Switzerland: Steve Leventhal '67 Never Misses Founders' Day

As a young boy from New York, **Stephen Leventhal '67** always knew he wanted to go to an Ivy League school. So when it came time to choose which school he wanted to attend, he found it quite easy to make his choice: the University of Pennsylvania.

Some of his friends had starting looking at fraternities on campus, and there was just something about Pi Kappa Alpha that Steve says drew him in.

"At that time, in the '60s, fraternities were stereotyped," he said. "There were the athletic ones, the religious ones; Pi Kap was a mixture, full of all kinds of people. That was the [winning] touch."

After being initiated into PiKA, Steve and the other brothers spent half of a year in temporary housing while the new fraternity house was being built. They referred to their new quarters simply as "The Slum."

"[I] feel a real bond with these guys, the bonds remain very strong. My hope is that the fraternity will continue, it should continue, and I'm counting on the new guys to keep it going."

"I can't remember my specific first fraternity party experience, there were so many over those years," he said. "[But] I do remember we had good parties at 'The Slum.'"

But his most memorable times in PiKA were spent just hanging out at the house. Just being among his brothers at the time, whether they were studying or just relaxing, was enough of an experience in itself.

Steve also says that the spirit of the "brotherhood" has helped him in so many different ways and shaped him throughout his career outside of Penn.

"[The fraternity] helped me deal honestly with people, getting along with people who have different personalities," he said. "I learned to have amicable relationships, which help in the business

world. You have to accept people for who they are. Just as we kept the house going together [as a fraternity], I have to bring people together in teamwork."

While at Penn, Steve acquired his bachelor's degree in Biology before attending the Penn Medical School program. He continued to visit the PiKA house and brothers all eight years he was there, strengthening his bond with brothers from the late '60s to the early '70s.

After an internship and his residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, he went back to the Wharton school at Penn where he received his MBA in Business.

He began his work in New Jersey as the head of marketing with Novartis Pharmaceuticals Company. But with their headquarters in Switzerland, Steve soon found out that he had quite the transition ahead of him.

What was to be a three-year stint of time eventually turned into his permanent family residency. With three small children and his wife, the family had to pull together for a big move to the suburbs of Basel, Switzerland.

"It wasn't easy, and I give my wife a lot of credit" said Steve. "We all had to learn German, which took hard work. It took many years, but we tried to assimilate as much as we could. We also tried to do as much 'Swiss' stuff as possible." Though Steve admits no matter how hard you try, as an American you can never really become part of the Swiss society.

Currently, Steve is a partner in a small investment bank in Zürich, Switzerland, Bank am Bellevue, where he specializes in healthcare.

When he finds spare time, he enjoys skiing in the Alps, indulging in Swiss chocolates, and taking weekend trips with his wife all over Europe. They also enjoy visiting their children.

When thinking of the current brothers of PiKA, he wants them to know how important their own educations, and even



Steve Leventhal '67 with his family.

higher educations, can be for the future.

It's tough times out there, and having a specialized degree really helped me," he said. "Being able to fall back on some sort of technical knowledge is indispensable. It is a very good idea to have a specific skill in this world."

Steve also holds that it is important for brothers and alumni to keep close financial ties with the fraternity. He is a valued contributor to the Wellons Fund of PiKA, being that Julia Wellons was the house cook while he was there.

Steve still feels a tremendous connection to the fraternity today, even being thousands of miles away. He loves to attend the Founders' Day Reunion this spring held every year at the fraternity. Steve hasn't missed one since he's graduated.

"[I] feel a real bond with these guys, the bonds remains very strong," he said. "My hope is that the fraternity will continue, it should continue, and I'm counting on the new guys to keep it going."

***Originally published at
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***When was the last time
YOU came to Founders'
Day? Get a group together
and make plans to come
back in 2010.***

MEMORIES

The Origin of *Slices of Beta Pi*

Thanks to **Howard Marks '67** for cluing us in to the history of our newsletter...

“When I rushed in 1963, the preceding classes were really small, as the house had fallen on hard times – classes as small as four guys at the low, as I recall. But the upper classmen were great guys and lot of fun: **Jeff Sacco**, **John Correa** and his cousin Miles Pineda (both from Curacao), **Conrad Bosley**, **Frank Furey** and **Steve Bretschneider**, among others. Jeff Sacco was Mr. Spirit and always could be counted on to produce a good time. It was Jeff’s idea to start a newsletter around 1964,

and the name was probably his idea as well. We prepared the issues in those days and had a great time doing it. I spent a lot of time with **Jeff Lieberman** and **Michael Selib** (class of '66). Mike’s father ran a clothing store and he critiqued our attire daily.

The leaders of my class were John Bocciabella, Joe Persichetti, Anthony “Stag” Stagliano, Stacy Notopolous, Steve Cooper, Aris Sevag, Jim Eubanks, Norman Ladov and many more. We probably had a pledge class of 25-30, and the house was on a huge upward trajectory. Our parties were terrific, featuring Big D and the Redcoats (when we

could afford him). I was bar chairman; since I didn’t drink, I could be trusted to safeguard the liquor from one party to the next. We had “blue movies” in the basement a couple of times a year -- out of focus, and nothing you can’t see on TV these days, but we thought they were hot.

The house was a great place to be. One card game or another was popular each semester, and we played it all afternoon: hearts, casino, bid whist, tonk or cribbage. Then there was a poker games every night plus frequent bridge games. We were very busy.”

FOUNDERS' DAY 2009

Eighty-five Beta Pi brothers celebrated Founders’ Day in March 2009. Read the full story on page 1, and see more photos at www.pika-upenn.org.



2005 initiates Dane Joella, Jeremy Rosenman, Justin Levine and Eric Hoffman.



Joel Catania '71, Dave Edman '73 and Paul Newman '73 enjoying the cocktail hour.



Craig Kline '70, Don Horowitz '69, Fred Bailey '70, Dan Darkes '68, Steve Leventhal '67 and Joel Levine '70.

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In this Issue...
 - Honoring Julia
 - You'll Never Guess How Far this Alum Traveled for Founders' Day
 - The Origin of Slices of Beta Pi

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