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IN MEMORY

We have recently learned of the passing of the following brothers:

Harold Ogram Jr. '51
Franklin Heiss Jr. '53
Dennis McGlone '77

Alumni Association Officers

President

Joel Catania '71
jlcli@aol.com

Vice President

Ross Weiner '80
gemsco1rw@aol.com

Treasurer

Gregg Ormond '74
gjo@ormondlaw.com

Chapter Officers

President

Will Hayes
hayesw@sas.upenn.edu

External VP

Yasha Shahidi
yshahidi@sas.upenn.edu

Internal VP

Jake Ferber
frenchjacq@yahoo.com

Alumni Relations Chair

Justin Curhan
jncn1183@gmail.com

November 2010

Slices of Beta Pi

www.pika-upenn.org

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

UPCOMING EVENT

See You at Founders' Day 2011 on March 26th

Our next Founders' Day event has been scheduled for Saturday, March 26, 2011. We have reserved the Restaurant School at Walnut



Mort Cohen '65, Bill Bates '66, Dan Darkes '68, Mark Mancini '69 and Steve Leventhal '67 at Founders' Day 2010.

Hill, the venue that received rave reviews for the 2010 event.

The Beta Pi Alumni Association is hoping that a contingent of brothers who helped the chapter win four consecutive Smythe Awards from 1982 – 1985 will make an effort to attend and relate to our undergraduate brothers the experiences and efforts that led to achieving Pi Kappa Alpha's highest level of chapter recognition.

Any brothers from that era who are willing to help organize the effort to encourage their contemporaries to attend and to plan the evening are asked to contact **Joel Catania '74** at jlcli@aol.com

CHAPTER REPORT

A Great Start to a Great Semester!

By Will Hayes

After a long summer of preparation and reorganization, the Beta Pi Chapter has started off the semester on a very positive note. Building off our success last year, which included a record 3.45 GPA, we streamlined many of our operations through the use of the Internet to make it easier for brothers to check the chapter calendar, their financial commitments and other important resources.

A number of successful social events have generated very good publicity which should help amplify PKA recruitment efforts in the spring. We have a great relationship with our very supportive alumni base, and are currently working with chapter advisors/alumni **Glenn Goldstein '00** and **Alex Brodsky '03** on improving our internal operations and pledge education process. We are also in good standing with the Interfraternity Council, and have voluntarily appointed an "Eco-Rep" to participate in their energy conservation efforts.



Our intramural football team has repped the Garnet and Gold colors with pride this season. We also participated in our annual fundraising effort, the "Mackler Run 5K" in support of ALS research the day after homecoming. As always, brothers are leaders on campus in ways outside of Pike. We have a kicker on the varsity football team, a Wharton TA, multiple "West Philly Tutors" and members in the "1 in 4" rape prevention group, among other efforts.

Pike Brother Helps Raise Awareness and Promote Research for ALS

Like many brothers, **Harvey Mackler '72** looks fondly on his time as an active part of the Beta Pi Chapter. However, his connection to Pike is stronger than ever in his dedication to working with the fraternity alumni association and benefiting Pikes and sufferers of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressive, neurodegenerative disease.

Harvey pledged Pike in 1972, when he was a sophomore earning his Bachelor of Science in Economics from the Wharton School of Business at U Penn. His motivations were social but also practical in nature.

"There were a group of ten or fifteen of us who had gravitated together and were all rushing together. We knew each other from the Freshman dorms and we were all trying to figure out where we wanted to pledge, not only because of the desire to join a fraternity but because we needed to figure out where we were going to live by November," Harvey said. "Back then there was no guarantee of staying in the dorms and we would need to get our situation figured out or start to look for an apartment to rent in West Philadelphia."

As is often the case with brothers, the decision came down to a matter of a personality fit with the brothers. Harvey was impressed with the diversity and attitudes of the membership.

"One of the guys in our group was from Chicago and he knew **Bruce Wolfson '71**, a Pike brother who was also from Chicago. Back then all the fraternities had open parties, so we got to know all of the major possibilities, but we found we had the best fit with Beta Pi. It was a great mix of brothers – athletes, scholars, and people like me who were in between. It was a diverse group."

Once Harvey became a brother, he quickly found that Pike was a major part of his life at Penn.

"I was a very active member though I



Harvey Mackler '72

didn't hold any major offices. I was involved in the Dance Marathon supporting Cystic Fibrosis research that the chapter supported in 1974. I remember we had the dancers sleep at our house and we did raise a sizable sum of money. We were committed to the community."

Harvey recalled lots of great road trips but particularly bringing brothers home for Jewish holidays regardless of their own religions, a unique opportunity to share across borders of background and religion.

"There was a spirit of togetherness and strong fraternal bonds that I find are very still as strong today as they were when we were at U Penn," Harvey said.

Forming New Bonds through Brotherhood

In the past decade, Harvey has found a new bond with his fraternity through his efforts to support a charitable cause and his younger brother, and fellow Pike, **Scott A. Mackler**, who suffers from ALS. Harvey helped to found and continues to head the Scott A Mackler MD PhD 5K Walk/Run, which is now going into its 11th year. The fraternity has been an important part of supporting the event from the very beginning.

"We were blessed to have talented leaders from my time as an active Pike," Harvey said. "Around the year 2000, one of those brothers, **Joel Catania '71**, had started a Yahoo Group to reconnect the brothers. We were sharing our stories and eventually I brought up the idea of putting together an event to support ALS and my own brother and straight out of the shoot there was tremendous support."

The event takes place in October every year in Newark, DE. Harvey helps to charter buses to transport participants and Pike brothers show their support by participating and by making a pledge for each kilometer. The local Pike chapter in Delaware also helps with set up and logistics.

Harvey's remains a very active alumnus and has recently helped to found the Tampa Bay Pi Kappa Alpha Alum Association, a group for Pike brothers regardless of the school they attended. He also continues to donate financially to the fraternity.

"I believe alumni should donate their time but should donate money as well," Harvey said. "It's a circle of life – you don't want to be the one to break the circle. People who came before us were there for us and that money helps do a lot of good things for undergrads. I choose to support it and believe everyone should within their ability."

Harvey runs a business providing emblematic jewelry including many of the specialty items used by the national fraternity. He has grown daughters, Jessica and Hillary.

Reconnect with Harvey at harvey@gempire.com.

We Need Your Email Address!

Help us help you to reconnect with long-lost brothers by updating your email address.

We are currently missing email addresses for 64% of our alumni!

By updating your email address, we can:

- Post your contact information in our password-protected online directory for other brothers to find.
- Enable you to log in to our web site.
- Communicate with you more often, keeping you informed of the latest Beta Pi news and events.
- Save money on the costs of printing, paper and postage.

Note that your privacy is important to us. Your email address and other information is used solely for Beta Pi communications.

Update your email address online at www.pika-upenn.org or email it to feedback@affinityconnection.com (mention PKA at Penn).

Remembering Julia

It is with deep regret and sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved chef emeritus, Julia Wellons, on July 11, 2010. Julia served “her boys” from 1969 to 1989, providing hearty lunches and dinners as well as motherly advice to the hundreds of Beta Pi brothers who were fortunate enough to be active members during her tenure. She was fondly known as the “Queen Bee” of Beta Pi.

During her 20-year tenure, Beta Pi

won eight Smythe Awards. This was no coincidence. The bonds and camaraderie that were formed when the brothers ate meals together provided the foundation for an active brotherhood that achieved high levels of success. Julia’s leadership in the kitchen and as counsel to the undergraduates she served played a significant role in the success of the chapter.

Julia’s presence, wit and guidance will remain in our hearts forever.



Jerry Herman, Joel Catania, Bruce Wolfson and Dave Edman with Julia Wellons at Founders’ Day 2009.

In the Words of Our Brothers...

“In 1966 or 1967, SMC **John Boccabella** and I were waiters at the SDT Sorority, where Julia was the cook and our boss. She was a hard worker and loved the girls, much like she’d love the brothers when she later moved to Beta Pi. One night John and I learned that the alumni were to be guests at dinner, and the kitchen staff got clean, fresh whites, the girls all looked their best, and we were to serve on silver trays, under the eyes of the house mother.

I picked up a full tray by the outer edges and held it in front of myself, just above the waist. ‘No no, child,’ said Julia, ‘that ain’t gonna cut it.’ She showed me how to balance the tray on my shoulder, we practiced a few times.

As I was leaving the kitchen with the loaded tray, Julia said, ‘Here, Marty, for good luck!’ and gave me a brisk circular rub in a spot that we’ll leave to your imagination. The house mother, when she heard me cackling, sent me an icy stare, and when I returned to the kitchen later with the empty tray, Julia was humming and doing a little 2-step in front of the range top.”

- **Martin Goldfine ’64**

“When Julia was hired at the new house, **Nick Chimicles** and I were the first crew to work in the kitchen with her. She was always a friend and let us know where some leftovers or coffee might be found if we were studying late that night. Later on when I was sharing a room with Mark Perna at the back of the second floor and I had no Friday classes, Julia knew which door to bang on Friday AMs to get deliveries brought up from the back door of the house. She will always be a part of my memories of Beta Pi and I cherish the times that I was able to see her at Founders’ Day activities.”

- **Dan Darkes ’68**

“**Bruce Wolfson, Rich Myers, Ed Shamy** and I attended Julia’s funeral. It was quite a celebration of her life.”

- **Dave Edman ’73**

“I hired Julia in the fall of 1977.

To be a bit more precise, I re-hired her. Julia had of course been with Beta Pi for many years before I had ever set foot at 3916 Spruce Street. In the 1976-77 I served as Steward, officially becoming one of Julia’s special boys, and usually wondering who was managing whom.

Shortly after we all got back to campus in the fall of ’77, our then SMC, the intrepid **James Grant Keck**, got the outlandish idea that he was running the house, not Julia. To prove it, he decided to dismiss her. Then, for unrelated reasons, he resigned, and I, as IMC succeeded him and became SMC in a special election. Julia was quickly hired by Sigma Nu, and we hired a new cook.

After several weeks of turmoil, I convinced the Sigma Nu leadership to agree to a trade—we would take Julia back and they would take our interim cook. I’ll never forget my next conversation: convincing Julia that she should come back to Beta Pi. With that unforgettable sly smile and twinkle in her eye she said, “Well, Paul, if you’re sure the boys all want me back, I guess I’ll come.” There was just one small detail for me to take care of. Since I hadn’t really told anyone that I had negotiated a deal to bring her back, I needed to present it to the Brotherhood for a vote. The debate in the Chapter meeting was one of our most raucous, and the vote was excruciatingly close.

But we officially welcomed Julia back and she gave us many more years of memories.”

- **Paul J. Reszutek ’76**

ALUMNI UPDATES

'60s

Morton Cohen '68

(133 Woodlake Dr. E., Woodbury, NY 11797; fishfry1201@aol.com) I have given up all my interests in the olive oil business and am now an Administrative Law Judge for New York State Department of Motor Vehicles Traffic Violations Bureau.

'70s

Isaac Benator '77

(594 Hilltop Ln., Berkeley Lake, GA 30096; mben8r@aol.com) I am still married to my best friend and true love, Carol. We celebrated 26 years this past August. We have two sons, Ryan (21) and Keith (18). Both are at the University of Georgia in Athens. Ryan is a senior; Keith, a freshman. About two years ago, Carol and I moved into our dream house on a 90-acre lake in Berkeley Lake in the suburbs of Atlanta, just three blocks from where we had been living for the previous 15 years. I am president and run the day-to-day operations of a manufacturing company that specializes in artist canvas.

What's new with you? Share your news, stories, updates and photos online at www.pika-upenn.org.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Love Old Photos?

So do we! That's why we need your help to preserve the best moments from our chapter history that have been captured on film.

Send the best pictures from your era to our editors at content@affinityconnection.com (mention PKA at Penn) or upload them to our web site or Facebook page.

In this photo: Alan Katz, Scott Mackler, an unidentified brother and Rob Stavis in the early 1980s. Thank you to Ira Horowitz for submitting this picture. See many more pictures that Ira has shared at www.pika-upenn.org.



Details of our 2011 Founders' Day celebration inside!

A Tribute to Julia!

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