

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President – **Ross Weiner '80**  
BetaPiAlumniPenn@gmail.com  
Vice President – **Bruce Wolfson '71**  
bawolfson@me.com  
Treasurer – **Joel Catania '71**  
jlcii@aol.com  
Secretary – **Mort Cohen '65**  
fishfry1201@aol.com

## REUNION

### Save The Date!



**Founders Day** has been set for **Saturday, March 25, 2017!**

Watch our monthly email communications which will have the up-to-the-minute details.

If you don't receive email from us and would like to, let our editor know by emailing [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com) so we can add you to our list.

## HELP US FIND LOST BROTHERS

We are working to collect up-to-date contact information for as many brothers as possible to keep our alumni informed about all things Beta Pi (reunions, events, achievements, alumni updates, and more)!

**Please take a minute to skim through our lost email list and lost mailing list at [www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org) to see if you recognize any names.** If you know a brother's contact information, right click his name and select "Open link in new tab," which opens an email window. Just type your message and submit it to us so we can update our records!

March 2017

# Slices of Beta Pi

[www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org)

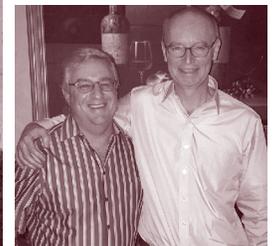
The Alumni Newsletter of the Beta Pi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

## RECENT EVENT

### NYC '80s Alumni Get Together for Annual Dinner

#### Best Hair Award Goes to One of the Few Alumni Not Yet Bald

By Ross Weiner '80



On December 7, nearly 25 Beta Pi alumni gathered at Ben & Jack's Steakhouse in New York City. Though many attendees were NYC area Pikes, there were a handful of alumni who travelled further who deserve a special shout out:

- Rob Oringer – Montreal
- Stephen Lerner – Cincinnati
- Greg Sembler – Tampa
- John Joseph and Tom Fogarty – both Philadelphia area
- Scott Rothbort – Nevada
- The mysterious A.T.F Lundy, also from the Great White North

Over the years, the Class of 1980 has tried to organize a dinner every year or so, and this year, we were able to corral a record number of attendees. A special thanks goes to Jeff Kaufman '80 for organizing this year's event.

Everyone had a great time catching up. As expected, the evening eventually devolved into story telling, and also the time honored tradition of ragging on those present, and not present, about various things that may or may not have happened over the last 35 years.

What was striking to some was how many brothers were "follically challenged." Among the few that could compete, the "best hair" award goes to Greg Sembler (he has thick hair,

like Stalin) with Steve Lerner and yours truly as runners up.

If anything was accomplished that night, no arrests were made, the restaurant proved that indeed you can cook it rare, and most importantly, a "good time was had by all."

### Who Attended?

#### Class of 1979

- Robert Oringer
- Stephen Lerner (Reverend Jim Jones)
- Rob Kramer
- Brian Finn
- Scott Rothbort
- Jeff Lehman

#### Class of 1980

- Ross Weiner
- Jeff Kaufman
- Lawrence Orans
- Buddy Altus
- John Feder
- Greg Sembler
- John Joseph
- Tony Lundy

#### Class of 1981

- Sam Weinstein
- Dave Horing
- Tom Brodie
- Tom Fogarty
- Rob Stavis
- Eric Morgenstern
- Ken Wyman
- Philip (Mongo) Veneziano
- Adam Hodes

*Also in attendance were Jerry Herman '72 and Bruce Wolfson '74.*

### Chapter Named Among Top Fundraisers for PiKA, Recognized for Outstanding Undergraduate Support

The Pi Kappa Alpha Foundation recently published the Honor Roll of Donors for January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015. Donations made to the Foundation support the undergraduate members of our fraternity with programming and services provided to the chapters and the PIKE University educational platform.

#### **Beta Pi among Top Fundraising Chapters**

We are proud to announce Beta Pi's outstanding fundraising results for the Foundation:

- Beta Pi ranked first in the category "most donors per chapter," boasting an impressive 47, which is superior to the second-ranked chapter with 38 donors.
- In the "most dollars raised per chapter" category, Beta Pi ranked second with \$190,239. The chapter in third place raised \$114,323.
- Beta Pi also finished second in "most dollars pledged per chapter." Our total of \$55,800 greatly outweighed the chapter in third place, whose total was \$27,101.

*"These lofty rankings are a real testament to the positive experience our members have at Beta Pi."*

These lofty rankings, and the fact that our Chapter beat out many much larger chapters, are a real testament to the positive experience our members have at Beta Pi. We are proud to have so many generous alumni among our ranks—all of whom were listed on the Honor Roll.

#### **Supporting our Undergraduates**

Beta Pi is also leading the way by supporting our undergraduates through our endowment fund and individual scholarships.

According to the Pi Kappa Alpha Annual Report 2015, we have the largest Chapter Endowment Fund (CEF) of all chapters and colonies. As of December 31, 2015, Beta Pi's CEF totaled \$141,968. The CEF is used to offset certain expenses that our undergraduate members incur when attending PiKA conferences and PIKE University, therefore, it is a critical fund to furthering the experience for our members.

Beta Pi also sponsors four individual scholarships:

- Beta Pi SMC Scholarship
- Dave Herman Memorial Scholarship
- Scott Mackler MD, PhD, True Grit Scholarship
- Gregg Ormond Fund

Jesse Debes (Beta Pi '12), recipient of the Scott Mackler MD, PhD, True Grit Scholarship awarded at Beta Pi Founders Day 2015, was quoted in the Honor Roll of Donors 2015. Jesse explained how his decision to join PiKA was "...the greatest decision of my life."

Several other scholarships are available to our undergraduates, including:

- *Scott A. Mackler, MD, PhD, Medical School Memorial Scholarship*  
Harvey Mackler (Beta Pi '72), arranged to have his family's charitable foundation, The Joseph Alexander Foundation Inc., create this

scholarship and endow it with \$100,000. It is administered by Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity, and all members of PiKA are eligible to apply. The first scholarship winner was Peter D'Amore (Florida, Alpha Eta).

- *The R. Craig Hoenshell Honor Society Scholarship*

This scholarship is administered by the Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity. Congratulations to Zachary Rosen (Beta Pi '12), who was one of the winners this year.

#### **Our Top Donors**

The Shield and Diamond, Autumn 2016 issue, acknowledged that Joseph C. Hess III (deceased) (Beta Pi '48) was admitted to the Rotunda Society for his cumulative lifetime giving to PiKA. The Rotunda Society requires cumulative lifetime gifts of \$500,000 to \$999,999 to the PIKE Foundation.

Joel Catania (Beta Pi '71) joined the Junior Founders Society that requires cumulative lifetime gifts of \$25,000 to \$49,999.

#### **Thank You**

We want to extend our sincere thanks to all Beta Pi's who made generous contributions to the various Fraternity funds in 2015. Congratulations to all recipients of Fraternity scholarships. All undergraduate members are encouraged to attend Pi Kappa Alpha conferences and PIKE University for the finest in fraternity education. PIKE University is nationally acclaimed for its successful education programs, and we encourage our undergrads to learn all that Pi Kappa Alpha offers and can do for them.

## CHAPTER UPDATE

### Expecting the Largest Pledge Class in Three Years

**As always, our undergrads have committed to many respectable goals to improve the chapter. Here's an update on the past year shared by Nico deLuna, Chapter President...**

This past year, our chapter has made an effort to improve the house by:

- Purchasing new furniture for both the living and dining room
- Investing in study tables and chairs to provide a comfortable and quiet place for brothers to complete assignments and prepare for exams

- Rebuilding the backyard fence
- Installing a new basketball hoop in the backyard

In order to maintain house cleanliness and appearance, we've also implemented a new trash policy, holding ourselves and each other accountable for the condition of the house public areas.

Rush is still ongoing, but we are expecting to start off the semester with a new class of about 20-25 new members—the largest class in over three years.

For community service, we are currently working with David Edman '73 to explore how we can assist a local church he has been involved with. We also plan to participate in a campus-wide dance-a-thon for which we would form a team and raise money to help fight pediatric cancer and support survivors.

## Harvey Mackler '72 Discovers True Power of Brotherhood

### How PIKE Brothers Continue to Help Him in His Fight Against ALS

*Harvey Mackler's fundraising work to support ALS patients—as well as his commitment to PiKA—is a well-known story, but we recently caught up with him to learn about his most recent progress and how Beta Pi brothers are contributing to his success.*

*If you haven't been keeping up with Harvey's work, now is your chance to learn more and find out how you can make an impact.*

“He’s all our brother, I just happen to be a biological brother,” says Harvey Mackler '72. He’s talking about Scott Mackler M.D., Ph.D, '77, a physician-scientist at UPenn’s Pearlman School of Medicine who died in 2013 from complications of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease.

Both brothers were embraced by the Pike community after Scott’s diagnosis. “It did help resurrect a lot of old friendships,” Harvey says, noting that many of the alumni were connected through a Yahoo group organized by Joel Catania '71. Harvey leaned on that support to help establish the Scott Mackler 5K Run/Walk. Scott was a serious athlete prior to his diagnosis—he played soccer at Penn and participated in both the Boston Marathon and the New York City Marathon. Harvey established the event to raise funds for the ALS Association of Greater Philadelphia’s Scott A. Mackler Assistive Technology Program, which provides patients with the necessary tools to live independently.

“We’ve had unbelievable participation from the brothers,” Harvey says. “The first year, I went

out to alumni brothers who were interested in Scott and asked if they’d pledge a certain amount for every kilometer that a Pike walked.”

After receiving an enthusiastic response for pledges, Harvey directly invited the entire membership of two local undergraduate chapters to the walk, resulting in more than 100 Pikes that first year. Close to \$19,000 was raised, and the brothers who pledged without expecting such a response made good on their donations. “It reaffirmed my belief and partnership with the fraternity,” Harvey says.

The memorial walk/run has become somewhat of a reunion for Penn Pikes, with several alumni traveling from the New York and Virginia areas to attend with current members of the Beta Pi chapter, who charter a bus from campus for the event. Harvey gets checks from alumni going back several decades who want to contribute in Scott’s memory.

While much of Harvey’s philanthropic work is focused on ALS-related funds, he’s made sure that Scott’s legacy lives on at Pi Kappa Alpha through two recently-established scholarships. The Scott A. Mackler Medical School Memorial Scholarship provides a \$3,000 per year award to any Pike who is already attending or plans to attend medical school. The Scott Mackler True Grit Award is specific to Beta Pi and provides an undergraduate “who gives 110 percent,” in Harvey’s words, a \$750 award. Both awards are administered by PiKA national, which promotes and reviews applications for the recognition. The first awards for both funds were made during the past years.



Harvey Mackler '72

“It was important to have these scholarships through PIKE because we were both firmly committed to it,” Harvey says. “One of my goals is to encourage others to do the same.”

Looking back on the brotherhood, Harvey believes that the lasting friendships of the fraternity are its most valuable benefit. It’s something that he’s learned both during his time at Beta Pi and, more importantly, in his experience as an alumnus who’s gained so much from his brothers, both Greek and biological.

**If you have a story about how Beta Pi has impacted your life, please share it with us by emailing [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com). Be sure to mention Beta Pi Chapter.**

## John Feder '80 Shares How Beta Pi Helped Him Make It as an MD

### Interpersonal Skills and Exposure to Other Areas of Study Played a Hand in His Success

Though John Feder’s college and PiKA years account for only 10% of his adult life, he says they still account for 30% of the stories.

Some of his favorite memories include:

- **Bobby Ball '78** thwarting his class pledge prank to remove the front door
- Penn basketball games and grabbing the Princeton mascot costume head
- Monday Night Football hot dogs and “beverages”



John Feder '80

- Comedy Night Fundraiser featuring Henny Youngman, Richie Minervini, and Bobby Nelson
- Road trip to University of Delaware
- Returning to the house the night of the Jim Jones golf tournament

After graduating from the University of Penn in 1983 with a degree in Biological Basis of Behavior, John received his M.D. from New York Medical College in 1987.

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*(Continued from Page 3)*

He then did two years of surgical training at (then) Cornell Medical/New York Hospital, one year of research in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Albert Einstein/Montpelier Medical Center, and then four years of Orthopedic Surgery Residency, graduating in 1994.

Those years were followed by a one year fellowship in Foot and Ankle Surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery.

Today, John is in private practice at Orlin and Cohen Orthopedic Associates. Having been there since 1995, he's an original partner in the group that has grown to eight offices in Long Island, NY. He's also been able to share his knowledge, having held teaching positions at Northwell Health, New York Hospital Queens, South Nassau Communities Hospital, and St. John's Hospital.

Though his studies are what got him where he is today, John's success is also due, in part, to his PiKA experience. That's why he still gives back to Beta Pi.

"My fraternity experience enriched the academics at college," he says. "The social aspect of living and working in a group helps develop interpersonal skills that are valuable in all real life situations."

*"I have tried to duplicate the comradery, organization, and competition from my PIKA experience in my practice."*

He also attributes his success to exposure to other brothers' areas of study. If it weren't for the fraternity, John may not have been surrounded by such a unique group of individuals with different skills, which taught him valuable lessons outside of the medical world.

"My non pre-med classes were concentrated in business courses in the Wharton School and my roommates at PiKA, **David Berkman '80** and **Greg Sembler '80**, are both successful businessmen," he says. "That background and exposure has been invaluable in growing an

Orthopedic Surgery practice in a challenging healthcare landscape. I have tried to duplicate the comradery, organization, and competition from my PIKA experience in my practice."

John stays in touch with the brotherhood through Slices of Beta Pi and emails. He's also grateful for the efforts of Jeff Kaufman and Ross Weiner, who organized the annual dinner in NYC for '80s brothers.

"Several of my brothers also live in Westchester where I grew up and have overlapped with some childhood friends," he says.

John's also passed on a passion for the fraternity experience to his children, likely because they've accompanied him to homecoming football weekends and had opportunities to visit the fraternity house in the past.

"Currently, my oldest son is a sophomore at Duke and is in a fraternity too," he says. "My youngest son is a junior at Syosset High school and will be applying to college in the fall. U of Penn is high on his list."

## BETA PI LEADS JERRY GOLDBERG '74 TO FUTURE WIFE

*"I am forever grateful to PiKA for introducing me to my beautiful wife."*

In honor of Valentine's Day, we asked all brothers who met their spouses or significant others at a PiKA event or through a brother to share their story with us.

**Jerry Goldberg '74** was one of those lucky men and he kindly shared his story:

"If not for Pi Kappa Alpha, or more specifically brother **Jerry Herman '72**, I would not have met my wife of 37 years.

Sharon was visiting her cousin Jerry at Penn just prior to the Thanksgiving break. They were returning to their homes in Rockland County by train. A group of eight of us from the fraternity decided to take the same train to New York City. However, due to the huge crowd at the railroad station, we got separated trying to board the train. Only Jerry, Sharon, and I managed to find a seat together in the club car. Unfortunately after a good time on the train, Sharon was met at the New York station by her boyfriend.

I next met Sharon about four months later when Jerry invited me to his house for the Passover holiday. I was strategically placed next to Sharon at the seder table, but her boyfriend sat next to her on the other side.

We hit it off well, but that boyfriend was a definite problem!

In the beginning of the next semester, Sharon once again came to visit Jerry at Penn. This time, he gave me the welcome news that Sharon had broken up with her boyfriend and was available. I asked her out to a movie that weekend and our long distance relationship began.

After three years of an on-again, off-again relationship, we became serious eventually leading to marriage. At the wedding, one of my closest brothers from the fraternity became my official cousin.

I am forever grateful to PiKA for introducing me to my beautiful wife. We have two children and are about to become grandparents for the first time."

**Thanks again to Jerry for sharing his story. If you met the love of your life at a Pi Kappa Alpha event or through a brother, send your photo and a description of how you met to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com). We'll share your story on the alumni website.**

