

ONLINE

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AWARDS AND HONORS**Richard Maltz Century Award**

Ian Maxwell

Citation of Honor

Kevin Trippel

Theta Chi Carnation Award

Mrs. Jean Bartnik

Golden Guard

George Chapman Jr. '49
Richard "Dick" Jones '60
Robert Zedelis '62

Silver Legion

Chris Bartnik '91
Ed Brown '87
Hugh Cadzow '83
Jeff Damcott '91
Alan Lauder '90
Richard Maltz '90
Rodney Miller '89
Dave Noll '86
Kurt Rohrbach '79
Michael Stein '91
James Smith '89
James Stuhltrager '89
Leo Sugg '88
Dan Tsurtsuris '82
Alan Vladimir '85
John Weiss '70

WORK WEEKEND**Work Weekend 2014**

March 22nd, 2014 is the 7th Annual Alumni Work Weekend
- More Information to follow shortly



OMEGA CHAPTER OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY • THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY • WWW.THETACHIOmega.COM

ALUMNI EVENT**October Gala Celebrates a Decade of Omega Accomplishments**

On October 19, for the first time since March 26, 1994 (the 75th Anniversary), Omega chapter and its friends gathered at the historic Nittany Lion Inn to celebrate Omega chapter and all it has accomplished over the last 10 years. 120 brothers and guests enjoyed a black tie dinner with Keynote speaker, Penn State Board of Trustee, Anthony Lubrano followed

by dinner and dancing.

The evening was hosted by Gala Chairman **Edward Brown '87** (who also served as the master of ceremonies), **George Chapman Jr. '49**, and **Dick Jones '60**. The group enjoyed stories (and impressions) of Joe Paterno and other current events from Anthony Lubrano and speeches from Dr. Roy Baker, director of fraternity and sorority life at Penn State, and National's David May, former president of the Theta Chi Foundation Chapter.



L to R: Edward M. Brown, Hugh Cadzow, Richard Maltz, Leo Sugg and Rodney D. Miller

Along with the celebration of Theta Chi, was the recognition and celebration of some of our members. Undergraduate brother Kevin Trippel was honored with the Citation of Honor for all the hard work and dedication to the fraternity, Mrs. Jean Bartnik (wife and mother of two Omega Brothers) received the Theta Chi Carnation Award for all her care and

Continued on page 4

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**Porch Renovation Nears Completion**

As you are receiving this edition of the *Omegaphone*, the porch renovation project is nearing completion. The following work was accomplished in this project:

- Installation of steel lintels over glass block windows
- Replacement of all glass block
- Repair of loose bricks and mortar on stair retaining wall
- Replacement of all railings to code standards
- Addition of integrated gutters into fascia of roofline
- Addition of downspouts to roof
- New industrial roof membrane
- Replace stairs to porch from patio
- Repair of concrete edge deterioration
- Epoxy coating of porch slab
- Repair of lights and installation of new spotlight

- Replace doors from dining room to parking lot
- Replace bar doors *and much more*

This project was the second step in the master plan for the repairs and upgrade to the chapter house. As you are all aware, the windows were replaced in the summer of 2012 and, with the installation of the doors in this phase, the house is now more energy efficient and secure.

We would again like to thank **David Schrader '91** for his architectural expertise and planning and **Mark Franz '91** for his engineering review. We would be remiss in not thanking our contractor, Chris Kunes, and his crew for their quality work. The construction has gone extremely smoothly due to their communication and flexibility.

A photo log of the work has been posted on the Theta Chi of Penn State website at www.thetachiomega.com/sideporch.

RECOGNITION & AWARDS

Inaugural Maltz Century Award Honors Service, Leadership, Academics

At the beginning of this century, the Omega Chapter of Theta Chi at Penn State University was non-functional. What had been a vibrant and thriving chapter for over 85 years, had no active brothers, a boarded up house at 523 S. Allen Street, no money, unfunded-required modifications to the house and a board of directors without the capacity to fight for survival.

Leadership at Theta Chi National Headquarters knew the Chapter's history and was prepared to fight for Omega's survival, but someone from Omega's alumni needed to step up, take the lead, and reform the chapter.

A little more than seven years ago, **Rich Maltz '90** became that someone. He encouraged alumni brothers to join him on a new board of directors, worked with senior Penn State officials as well as the leaders of the National Theta Chi organization, and in effect, gave new birth to Omega.

Since then, the Chapter has thrived. Not only has the financial health of the Corporation been restored, this capital campaign been successful, but equally important, the active chapter has grown and thrived to once again become a successful, essential part of the Penn State University Greek system.

On October 19 at the alumni corporation meeting, Rich Maltz stepped down from his position as president of the alumni corporation. While heartfelt thanks reflect the appreciation for all that he has done, some form

of memorialization is well deserved. The option chosen will annually remind everyone what Rich's efforts have meant to this chapter.

So, the alumni corporation board approved the creation of the **Richard Maltz Century Award**. This award will be given to the active brother who meets stringent requirements as developed by our current active brothers. The selection will take into account service, leadership, grade point average, among other criteria.

The Maltz award winner will be nominated by his active chapter brothers, selected



Richard Maltz (L) and Ian Maxwell, our first recipient of the Richard Maltz Century Award

by the alumni board, and presented annually at the homecoming corporation meeting.

To highlight the importance of this award in the Omega Chapter hierarchy, the recipient's name will be inscribed on a permanent plaque, and will receive an award in the amount of \$1,000. The Richard Maltz Century Award is the single monetary award given to an active member.

The inaugural winner of the Richard Maltz Century Award, announced at the October 19 Gala, was undergraduate Ian Maxwell.

HELPING HAND

New Scholarship Memorializes Robert Scavello '88

We are thrilled to announce the **Rob Scavello '88 Memorial Scholarship**. Rob was passionate about education and loved Theta Chi. In memory of Rob, whom we lost to cancer in 2007, we are starting a scholarship to benefit the brothers of Omega chapter. Details on the official launch and kickoff fundraising events will be coming

soon. In the meantime, you can e-mail scavellofoundation@gmail.com or visit www.scavellofoundation.org for more information about how you can lend a helping hand towards supporting our brothers and honoring Rob.

- **Alan Lauder '90, Dave Yohannan '88,** and Kate Scavello

OFFICERS

Meet the 2013 – 2015 Alumni Corporation Board of Directors

Dave Hartwich '09, '11 – President, Dave currently works as a research and development engineer for ANH Refractories in Pittsburgh, PA. He has served as treasurer of the undergraduate chapter for two years and had acted as a graduate student advisor. Dave has served on the alumni board as secretary the past two years.

Chris Burke '93 – Treasurer, Chris worked for Bear Stearns, Morgan Stanley, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. He is a licensed CPA. Chris is currently the CEO of the Maxus Group, and has been a Theta Chi Board Member and Treasurer since 2008 and was responsible for securing the new loan on the chapter house.

Jeremy Railing '11 – Assistant Treasurer, Jeremy is currently working as a supply planning analyst for The Hershey Company and continuing his education toward an MBA from Penn State Harrisburg. Jeremy has acted as the undergraduate treasurer, vice president, and president. This is Jeremy's first term on the alumni board.

Timothy Uhrich '09 – Secretary, After working as a Leadership and Education Consultant for Theta Chi Fraternity IHQ, Tim completed a Masters of Education in College Student Affairs at Rutgers University in 2012. He is currently employed as a residence hall director at Iona College. As an undergraduate, Tim served as a recruitment

chair, social chair, marshal, and campus involvement chair and lived in the chapter house for three memorable years. This is also Tim's first term on the alumni board.

Jeff Damcott '91, '94 – Board Member, Jeff has been in the golf course construction and management industry for over 20 years, most recently the superintendent of a public golf course in Yardley, PA. He has actively supported of the fraternity since his graduation. Jeff currently serves on the capital campaign committee and is the alumni on-site project liaison for the side porch renovation project.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Theta Chi for Life ... May the Brotherhood Live On

Theta Chi is a special place that holds many great memories for us all. We have been working on the capital campaign for a number of years now and we are making slow but steady progress. It was wonderful to reconnect with many of you at the gala and tell the old stories, look through the archives and albums and just spend some time together. That's what Omega is really about and that's the goal of the Theta Chi for Life campaign... to ensure that brotherhood lives on.

In this issue of the *Omegaphone*, you've read about the renovation of the porch, last year we did the windows and there are still many projects on the "waiting list":

- Replace doors on the first and second floor
- Update the electrical system in the basement, first floor and second floor
- Renovate the second floor bedrooms
- Repair/replace the entry roof from the

- parking lot to the kitchen
- Paint, repoint and clean the exterior of the house
- Renovate the first floor walls and floors
- Replace the water damaged concrete floor in the kitchen
- Renovate the basement bathroom
- Rebuild the bathroom on the first floor
- Renovate the stairs from first floor to 2nd and 3rd floors
- Investigate and repair water leaks from the 1st floor
- Install radiator thermostats
- Bring to ADA compliance

Below is a table that shows how different payment options can easily result in a sizeable contribution towards our \$500,000 goal. **Please make your pledge at the highest level you are able; we need you to dig deep.** With

your help, we can make all the needed renovations to the house as well as keep our chapter and the brotherhood strong. If you can't give at one of the levels below – give what you can – more or less, every penny helps us get closer to the goal.

We're passing the hat brothers, and we need you to make your pledge today!

You can complete your pledge form online at www.thetachiomega.com/pledge, by phone at 1-800-975-6699, or by requesting a pledge form from any member of our campaign committee.

We need your support, please consider making your pledge part of your year-end giving.

Sincerely,

The Theta Chi for Life Campaign Committee

Pledge Payment Schedule over 3-Year Pledge Period *Pledges of \$5,000 and greater are 100% tax deductible.

Pledge Amount	Yearly Payment	Bi-Yearly Payment	Quarterly Payment	Monthly Payment
\$10,000	\$3,333.33	\$1,666.67	\$833.33	\$277.78
\$5,000	\$1,666.67	\$833.33	\$416.67	\$138.89
\$2,500	\$833.33	\$416.67	\$208.33	\$69.44
\$1,000	\$333.33	\$166.67	\$83.33	\$27.78
\$500	\$166.67	\$83.33	\$41.67	\$13.89

ALUMNI PROFILE

One Alum Discovers the Sweet Song of Success

New grad **Liam Fennecken '13** is no stranger to the limelight. This brother was a standout performer in PSU's a cappella group, The Statesmen. Now, he's picked up a new gig in the touring company of the Broadway musical *American Idiot*. Despite the busy schedule, Liam still had time to check in:

This has been an incredible experience in my life. Auditioning for this show was a journey in itself. I started by going to an open call in March of 2012 and after multiple callbacks, I finally made it to final callbacks for the show. I ended up not getting it that round but they said they would love to see me again in the future. So I kept emailing once a month to ask when they would be recasting. Finally, I got a response in June of this year and was asked to come in for final callbacks of the next leg of the tour and ended up being casted!

The best opportunity I have is working with the creative team for this show. The director, choreographer, and all the designers are Broadway veterans. These are amazing connections that I now have for the development of my career. My life is completely different than



Liam Fennecken - 2nd from bottom left (with his back to camera)

anything before. Every day during tech week, we'd wake up and have 12-hour rehearsals. When performances start we will be traveling most days and then performing almost every single night. So it's exhausting but it is incredibly exciting and rewarding.

I'll be touring all over the U.S. so I'd love to see some brothers. You can find all the dates at americanidiotthemusical.com.

Liam and The Statesmen

Want to see Liam on the day he launched into the national spotlight? You can watch him as the featured performer of The Statesmen when they appeared on *Today Show* last May at www.thetachiomega.com/todayshow.

ALUMNI EVENT... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Tyler Doppelheuer, Dave Stoltzfus, Anthony Lubrano, Peter Blasco and Ian Maxwell

dedication to the chapter and current undergraduate president Ian Maxwell was presented with the 1st Annual Richard Maltz Century Award for his service, leadership and grade point average. **George Chapman Jr. '49**, **Richard "Dick" Jones '60** and **Robert Zedelis '62** were awarded the Golden Guard for membership of 50+ years in the fraternity. The Silver Legion (25+ years as a brother) was also bestowed on **Chris Bartnik '91**, **Ed Brown '87**, **Hugh Cadzow '83**, **Jeff Damcott '91**, **Alan Lauder '90**, **Richard Maltz '90**, **Rodney**

Miller '89, **Dave Noll '86**, **Kurt Rohrbach '79**, **Michael Stein '91**, **James Smith '89**, **James Stuhltrager '89**, **Leo Sugg '88**, **Dan Tsurtsuris '82**, **Alan Vladimir '85** and **John Weiss '70**.

If you weren't able to attend, or even if you want to relive it again, there are videos of all the speakers and awards online (www.thetachiomega.com/gala), as well as photos from the evening.

Mark your calendars (well figuratively speaking) as our 100th Anniversary is February 2019 and I hope we all will be gathering at the Nittany Lion Inn to celebrate.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

New Alumni Leader Takes the Helm, Seeks to Continue the Maltz Legacy

Greetings brothers,

I'm honored to be elected onto the alumni board of directors and selected as the President of the alumni corporation of this great chapter of Theta Chi. I am also humbled to be following in the footsteps of the past president, **Richard Maltz '90**, who has done so much for the Omega chapter over the last years. It wasn't that long ago when I was the undergraduate treasurer and **Jason Chottiner '09** was the undergraduate president. We worked with Rich and National to save the chapter house. Rich led the board, and rallied the alumni, and

today we are in the midst of a successful capital campaign that is helping us to remodel the house.

"I plan to continue Rich's work, building a stronger and ever more present alumni base."

I plan to continue Rich's work, building a stronger and ever more present alumni base. Along with continuing the capital campaign, I look forward to working with the undergraduates providing resources to them so they can continue the legacy of Omega Chapter

at Penn State. I also hope to foster more interaction between the alumni and undergraduates on a professional level.

Please feel to contact me or any member of the board if you have questions about the active chapter, recent renovations, or if you are trying to reconnect with brothers from your era. Thank you for your support and I look forward to serving you and the undergraduate chapter in the years to come.

Fraternally,

Dave Hartwich '09, '11

davidhartwich@gmail.com

- *Accolades and Awards for Omega at 2013 Gala*
- *Porch Benefits from Alumni Support*
- *Campaign Makes Steady Progress as 100th Anniversary Approaches*

Inside:

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