

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**PSU Homecoming vs. Northwestern**

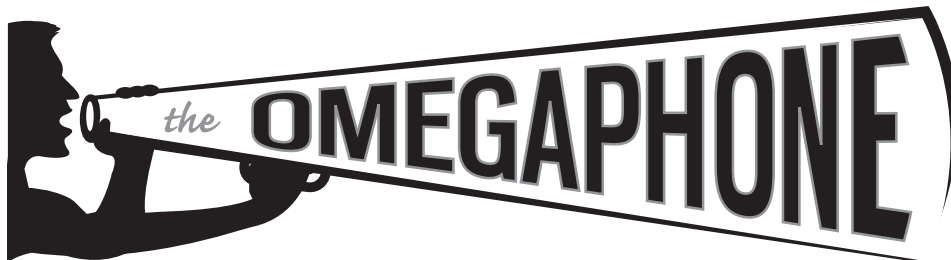
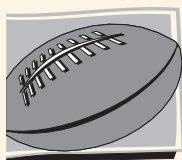
Noon Kickoff  
Saturday  
September 27, 2014  
*See details below.*

**34th Annual Theta Chi Open**

Friday  
May 1, 2015

**Make Every Weekend a Reunion Weekend with PSU Football!**

- 8/30 vs. UCF, 8:30 a.m. EDT, Ireland
- 9/6 vs. Akron (home), Noon
- 9/13 vs. Rutgers (away), 8:00 p.m.
- 9/20 vs. UMass (home), TBA
- 9/27 vs. Northwestern (HC), Noon
- 10/11 vs. Michigan (away), 7:00 p.m.
- 10/25, vs. OSU (home), 8:00 p.m.
- 11/1 vs. Maryland (home), TBA
- 11/8 vs. Indiana (away), TBA
- 11/15 vs. Temple (home), TBA
- 11/22 vs. Illinois (away), TBA
- 11/29 vs. Mich. State (home), TBA
- 12/6 Big 10 Championship



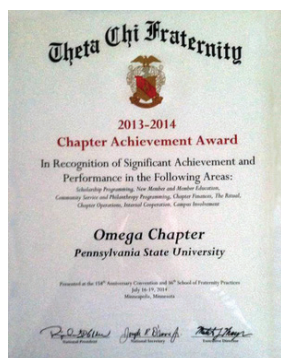
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**ALUMNI BOARD REPORT**

**National Has Decided — Omega a Top Chapter ... Again!**

*David Hartwich '09, President, Alumni Corp. Board*

It's a great way to begin the 2014-15 academic year ... with news of our undergraduates' success and recognition at this summer's 158th Theta Chi Anniversary Convention and 36th School of Fraternity Practices held in Minneapolis, Minn.



The National Convention is Theta Chi's "largest and most important gathering of undergraduates and alumni. Although the primary function of Convention is to conduct official

Fraternity business, it is also a time for alumni and undergraduates to reunite, network and celebrate Theta Chi's accomplishments with over 400 brothers."

We are pleased to announce that during the National Convention, Omega Chapter received

a 2013-14 Chapter Achievement Award in recognition of significant achievement and performance in the following areas:

- Scholarship
- New Member & Member Education
- Community Service & Philanthropy
- Chapter Finances
- The Ritual
- Chapter Operations
- Internal Cooperation
- Campus Involvement

Congratulations to our undergraduate officers and all actives for your hard work last year. We look forward to another great year!

On the heels of our 33rd Annual Theta Chi Open in May (see pictures on page 4 and at [www.thetachiomega.com](http://www.thetachiomega.com)), we are looking forward to having you all back at the house for Homecoming this fall. It is early this year, so be sure to get your lodging arranged. Kickoff is at noon, and we are all excited to help Coach Franklin usher in a new era of PSU football dominance within the Big 10. Join us at the house after the game for a barbeque and our annual meeting. *Details below.*

**CHAPTER ETERNAL**

Since our last publication, we have learned of the passing of

**Thomas B. Kinney '69**

Go to [www.thetachiomega.com](http://www.thetachiomega.com) to read the full obituary.

**HOMECOMING 2014**  
**Saturday, September 27, 2014**

*We are loyal students and alumni for life ...*

Join us this Homecoming for a great day of football, friendship, food and fun. Here is what we have planned:



- Noon:** Kickoff against Northwestern at Beaver Stadium.
- 5:30 p.m.:** Return to the house for a barbeque. All alumni are also welcome to sit in on our annual alumni board meeting.

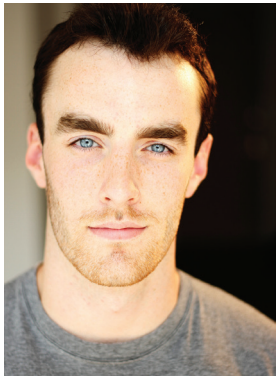
There is no charge to participate, but we would like to know how many we can expect. Email your RSVP to **David Hartwich '09** at [davidhartwich@gmail.com](mailto:davidhartwich@gmail.com).

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### He Wants Adventure in the Great Wide Somewhere

#### *Ben Cullen Walker '14 Joins National Tour of "Beauty and the Beast"*

It's a story of exploration, of reaching beyond "this poor provincial town" to find excitement in the "great wide somewhere." But it is also a story of coming to have an appreciation of home "where the heart is."



Yes, this is the story of "Beauty and the Beast," but it is also the story of Brother **Ben Cullen Walker '14** who will tour with the national production

of "Beauty and the Beast" this fall. We caught up with this Bordentown, N.J., musical theatre graduate this summer for a quick interview.

#### **What was the determining factor in deciding to pledge Theta Chi?**

I joined Theta Chi because the brothers explained to me that they actively avoided most "frat" stereotypes like hazing and trashing the house. I knew I didn't want to get treated like crap just so down the road I could do the same to

someone else. The brothers of Theta Chi showed me that there was much more to Greek life than that. I also knew that if I invited girls to a party, they would be safe; many of them told me that that's exactly how they felt at our house. Since my academic life was pretty much consumed by musical theatre, it was also nice to have a place where I could just be a dude.

#### **Did you serve as an officer at any time? If so, what and when?**

I was social chair for spring and fall of 2013.

#### **What is your favorite Theta Chi memory?**

Staying at the house for my first Arts Fest following my freshman year and immediately being welcomed back as if I'd known these guys for years.

#### **How did you get involved in theatre?**

I performed in a youth opera workshop when I was eight and was hooked from there on out. Of all the interests and hobbies that I pursued, theatre was the one that was always constant so I figured I might as well make it my career! I played the Foreman and Courfeyrac in "Les Miserables" at the Fulton Theatre earlier this summer.

#### **Where might brothers catch one of your performances?**

I'll be touring coast to coast (Canada too!) with "Beauty and the Beast" from September to May. I am a member of the ensemble and the Beast/Gaston understudy. Brothers can find the tour dates at [www.beautyandthebeastontour.com/tickets-and-tour-schedule](http://www.beautyandthebeastontour.com/tickets-and-tour-schedule). Brothers can also check out my Facebook artist page at [www.facebook.com/BenCullenWalker](http://www.facebook.com/BenCullenWalker) for updates. I'll also be sure to post on there whenever I go on for the Beast or Gaston!



*Ben Cullen Walker in a PSU production of "Guys and Dolls."*

#### **What's next for you?**

After we close, I'll probably move to New York, sign with an agent and start auditioning like crazy!

## CHAPTER ADVISOR

### Time to Show This Guy What It Means to Be a Nittany Lion!

#### *Chapter Welcomes New Advisor Eli Rymland-Kelly*

He will be arriving in Happy Valley this week, but while the Creamery, the Corner Room, a photo op at the Nittany Lion Shrine, the Skellar and Whiteout Weekends are all now on his bucket list, he is not new to the ways of Theta Chi. A 2013 business economics and politics graduate from the University of California, Santa Cruz, Eli Rymland-Kelly joined Theta Chi his freshman year and went on to hold the positions of recruitment chair, secretary and vice president at Theta Iota Chapter.

"While holding these positions," he explains, "I attended Initiative Academy, Deranian Presidents Conference and National Convention, all of which are events that I correlate to my success and enjoyment during my undergraduate education. These, along with brotherhood road trips, are among the fondest of my memories as an undergraduate member. I look forward to meeting every undergraduate brother and helping your chapter with its daily endeavors and growth."

Eli was born and raised in Northern California. He will begin his studies at Penn State Law this fall semester. We wish Eli the best of luck in this new chapter of his life. Feel free to send your own note of welcome to Eli at [elirkelly@gmail.com](mailto:elirkelly@gmail.com).



## 8 Tips for Your Return to Happy Valley This Fall

The countdown is on for the 2014 Penn State football season with kickoff just a few short weeks away! That hopefully means your return trip to Happy Valley is around the corner! We've put together a checklist of things to watch for when you come back this fall:

**For the Family.** The Penn State Arboretum already featured more than 17,000 plants

over 35 wandering acres, ponds with lily pads, fountains, and always-free admission. But this spring's addition of their children's garden has rendered it utterly magical. Kids are thrilled with the limestone cave (where they were encouraged to create chalk cave drawings) and wading path they can follow around the garden, ankle deep in water. Everything is larger than life in this area of the arboretum, from the giant climbable caterpillar to the flowerbeds and water pump where kids can help water flowers to their hearts' delight. Aply called a place to 'wander and wonder,' this destination is close and free, so you have time to just be and explore.



Image: Patrick Mansell

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**For the Grown-Ups.** Big Spring Distillery is big news! Any place whose website starts with a tall tale of a local statesman with a questionable past and shady diplomacy skill already has our full attention, but Big Spring Distillery has more than that: a boutique distillery located in a match factory building in the heart of Bellefonte that uses "Pennsylvania's best tasting water" and the finest ingredients from local farmers to craft something truly remarkable. Open Thursday-Sunday, stop in for taste or tour. Or both. ([www.bigspringspirits.com](http://www.bigspringspirits.com)).

While you are in Bellefonte, grab a bite at The Gamble Mill. They have awesome burgers! And don't miss Otto's – they

brew their beer onsite with picks like Apricot Wheat, Spring Creek and Spruce Creek Lagers, Mt. Nittany Pale Ale. They tailor their menus to feature their beers as the centerpiece.

**Get Some Gear.** New coach equals new catchy t-shirts. You need to update your blue and white wardrobe! Get your Nittany Lion supplies at one of many downtown retailers (we recommend The Family Clothesline or Lions Pride on College Avenue, or the Penn State Bookstore on campus). Do you have a student following in your

footsteps? Don't listen if they say it's embarrassing to buy a "Penn State Mom" or "Penn State Dad" shirt. You earned it, and how else can you tell the world? Get a sticker for the back of your car, too. Your Penn Stater will love it. If you're planning to be here for the October 25 for the game against Ohio State, it's Whiteout Weekend – pick up a shirt, too!

**Hit the Links.** You can play a round on one of the University's two 18 hole courses — Blue and White — or an array of practice facilities where the men's and women's golf teams call home ([pennstategolfcourses.com](http://pennstategolfcourses.com)). Or, check out Toftrees Golf Club, which has been awarded 4 1/2 stars as one of Golf Digest magazine's best places to play ([toftreesgolf.com](http://toftreesgolf.com)). Mountain View Country Club is offering 9 holes and dinner for two for just \$59 any day after 3:30! ([mtviewcountryclub.com](http://mtviewcountryclub.com))

**Eat.** In addition to world-class sports and entertainment, Happy Valley has carved out a niche in local food, wine, beer, and even spirits. Check out a few now and put the rest on the bucket list for the next time you come to town. This time: treat the family to an upscale dinner at

Zola New Wold Bistro, located downtown on College Avenue (we recommend the crispy whole red snapper; zolabistro.com). If you want more casual fare head to Rotelli, voted best Italian restaurant for three years running, or old-time favorite, the Deli!!

**Rediscover Campus.** Have you seen the renovated Nittany Lion Shrine? Stop by and get this year's picture taken. And don't miss the new Pegula Ice Arena across from the Bryce Jordan Center. It is one of the finest facilities of its kind in the nation. Make plans to go to an open skate or watch the ice hockey team in action!

**Remember the Nightlife.** Coming back, it seems like so much has changed ... or has it? There's still a seat for you at the Skellar, the oldest continuously operating bar in the state and recently picked as one of the top 10 college bars. And don't forget about Zeno's! Located 'directly above the center of the earth,' you probably have an undergrad story to tell, but this year you need to add the sequel! Meet up with friends in the places where it all started, and catch up. It's time. ([zenospub.com](http://zenospub.com))

**Become a VIP.** Over the next several years, Happy Valley will become something like a second home to you. You'll have a favorite place to stay, a favorite restaurant (and even know their best brew and dish) and an insider's guide to all the hot spots in town. And as a HappyValleyVIP, you can do it all for less. Just go to [HappyValleyVIP.com](http://HappyValleyVIP.com) and sign up, then use the membership card to get discounts on favorite hotels, restaurants, even massages! Signing up only takes a minute. You'll be glad you did.





## ALUMNI UPDATES

**George W. Chapman Jr. '49** (Bethlehem, PA; bygeorge718@rcn.com) Marion and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary on June 18, 2014. Marion was KKG at Penn State ('49).

**George E. Groninger '54** (Derwood, MD; george020@comcast.net) At 81+ years, I am still able to be active with caring for my home and yard, working at my church, travelling annually overseas with friends and attending occasional sporting events at PSU, Baltimore Orioles

and Baltimore Ravens games. In addition, I always enjoy visits with my four children and four grandchildren!

**Thomas A. Eyerly Jr. '59** (Orlando, FL; teyerly@cfl.rr.com) Anne and I are celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary this year by going to Ireland in late August for an eight-day tour topped off with the PSU/UCF



game in Dublin on August 30. Since we live in Orlando and have since 1968, it is a bit tougher choice of which team to support, but I'll stay with the Lions all the way. We have two sons in Atlanta, and daughter Susan Caray lives 10 miles from us in Maitland, Fla., with her four children. So, we enjoy a lot of grandparenting, especially when their dad, Chip Caray, is away for six months in the summer as the TV voice of the Atlanta Braves. Anne and I have been enjoying retirement and good health for the past 15 years.

**Fall rush is quickly approaching. If you know of any PSU students interested in Theta Chi, please contact Recruitment Chair Ryan Gattoni at (908) 963-9459 or rwg5253@psu.edu.**

### Theta Chi Open Crowns New Champ

*Congratulations to This Year's Winner, Michael Dalesio '73*

On May 2, 2014, more than 20 Omega alumni brothers joined together at the Shore Gate Golf Club in Ocean View, N.J., for the 33rd Annual Theta Chi Open. Following the day of golf, brothers met for a post-game dinner and



awards banquet at their traditional Avalon/Stone Harbor house.



Be sure to mark your calendars for next year's open scheduled for Friday, May 1, 2015. Details to follow later this year.

For more pictures of this year's open, go to our website at [www.thetachiomega.com](http://www.thetachiomega.com).

*Congratulations to this year's winner, Brother Michael Dalesio '73 from West Chester, Pa.*

- *Active Awarded for Scholarship, Ritual & Service*
  - *Omega Welcomes New Chapter Advisor*
  - *New Grad Joins National Tour of "Beauty and the Beast"*
- Inside:**

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