

The Delta Delta



Sigma Nu Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University — State College, Pa.

April 2001

The Best Thing You'd Never Do Again

By Jon Rudick '03

Penn State has set an unending amount of records in its history, and continues to better the lives of all who cross its path. Everyone knows about football, the growing 40,000-student enrollment, and the largest alumni association in the United States.

However, something much more influential has taken place for the last three decades. Raising an astounding \$3,609,830.07 for the Four Diamonds Fund to support kids with cancer, Penn State students put on their best sneakers, mesh shorts, and personalized T-shirts for one of the most amazing, and unique experiences of their lives.

Beginning on Friday, February 16, at 7:00 p.m., Penn State's Dance Marathon kicked off after months of hard work and planning. The countdown began as all the student dancers enjoyed their last moments of sitting on the floor of



Eight-year-old Tessa Rivera, our THON sponsor child, shows her Sigma Nu pride wearing a hat given to her by one of the brothers.

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Ted Sevick '02 and Jon Rudick '03 pose with their Alpha Gamma Delta sisters at Thon.

Commander's Message

By Donald B. Bain Jr. '65, Worthy Commander, Alumni Chapter

Another winter has come and gone (almost). Spring is in the air (at least up until it snows again this week-end in Michigan!). And in the spring, a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of ...

For old alumni, spring means time for the annual Blue-White game (April 21) and the annual alumni/undergraduate chapter officers meeting. If any of you will be in State College on the weekend of the Blue-White Game, please join the alumni officers and the undergraduate chapter for the spring meeting. The meeting is generally short (one of our goals) and gives us a chance to hear from the undergraduates, the alumni officers and to jointly develop plans for the house and alumni

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A Brother Making a Difference: Bill Brill '57

Bill Brill '57 has been involved in the effort to help Vlora Shabani, a 14-year-old Albanian from Kosovo. On April 30, 1999, Vlora witnessed the massacre of her father, mother, grandmother and younger brother by Serbian paramilitary members, before she was knocked unconscious and shot in the face and hand. After seeing her scarred face in a newspaper story, Bill tracked her down and brought her to America so surgeons could repair her injuries free of charge.

"The story sat around the house for a couple of months and then finally I decided I had to do something," Bill said.

Previously, Bill had taken in several students from Albania who had come to America in the hope of getting a better education. Bill can be reached at 236 Prince George St., Annapolis, MD 21401; billbrill@aol.com.



Top: Bill Brill and Vlora Shabani in his backyard. Bottom: Vlora after her surgery

Commander, cont.

The Best Thing You'd Never Do Again, Cont.

activities. This is an excellent opportunity to get reconnected with the house and help plan the summer and fall events. If you are able to join us for the meeting, please e-mail me at dbainjr@aol.com.

During the past year we have lost some brothers. They will be sorely missed. We have also gained some new brothers and some worthy candidates. The undergraduate chapter continues to change and evolve, as it always has.

Thanks to all alumni who continued their support of the alumni chapter in 2000. I hope you will all be able to support the alumni chapter during 2001. A contribution form is enclosed for your convenience. It is your support that keeps us strong, and enables us to keep in touch, and extend the helping hand to the chapter.

Speaking of keeping in touch ... if you have not yet had an opportunity to visit our web site, please do so at www.sigmanu-psu.org. Karen Sweeney has done a great job as our webmaster. It is a great way to share info and find out what is going on with the fraternity.

Again, thanks for your support. Look for more updates on Delta Delta plans in the fall newsletter and on the Web site. Have a great spring and summer — we are looking forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2001! For Love, Honor, and Truth!

Rec Hall for the last time for the next 48 hours. With much excitement of what was to come, the dancers stood up and cheered, knowing that they were going to suffer for two days to help alleviate the pain of children who have suffered most, if not all, of their lives from cancer. The floor was packed with over 650 volunteering dancers, and also many others (morale boosters, security and communication staff).

Much preparation went into the development of this year's event. People living in a one-hour radius of State College saw the ample presence of Penn State students canning (collecting donations in cans) outside of supermarkets, discount super stores, mall exits, and traffic intersections. Students traveled to other areas of Pennsylvania and wandered up and down the east coast to generate higher totals for their organization. Probably the only event that brings together Greeks, student government representatives, athletes, volunteers, and members of every other imaginable club, Thon puts aside all differences, and fights for one common goal.

It's great to know that there is a great place all this money and effort is going toward, but the physical representation of this goal is what keeps the dancers going. During the 48 hours of the no-sitting-no-sleep event, the families of the children with cancer are allowed onto the main floor to visit with the Penn State students.

The family we are supporting, the Riveras, have three children — Olivia, 10; Elijah, 2; and our Thon child, Tessa, who is 8 years old. No matter how much pain our legs, feet, and backs felt, or how delusional and tired we got, seeing little Tessa and her family always brightened our faces, and helped us remember the reason we were bearing this small burden.

From about 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, the energy in Rec Hall surpassed even that of a Penn State football game. Emotions flowed on the floor, and cheers echoed throughout the audience, which packed every seat in the room. The countdown to sitting back down was more exciting than the countdown to stand up. Upon hearing the top organizations, we grew more excited as the final total was soon approaching. Although we had been standing for longer than we ever will again, the entire crowd stood up and showed extreme excitement when the final amount was announced. Knowing that Sigma Nu and Alpha Gamma Delta raised over \$20,000 to contribute to this incredible sum made the entire effort of canning and collecting pledges, and dancing totally worth it. Thon is one of the most amazing experiences to bring people together, help people in need, feel good about yourself, and just do good.



Top: Our fearless dancers at Thon: Jon Rudick '03, Ted Sevick '02, Chris Scott '01 and Joel Gladfelter '01.

Far Left: Ted Sevick '02 and Lauren Del Valle.

Left: Jon Ruick '03 and Michelle Lieb.

House Improvement and a Successful Spring Rush Bring the Chapter Closer Together

By Christopher Cekot '03, Eminent Commander

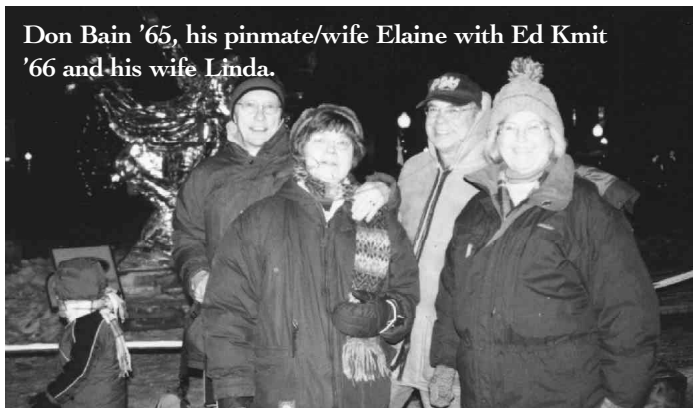
With our spring semester underway, I am proud to report on the successes of the Delta Delta Chapter. I am happy to announce that our spring rush has been quite successful — we have invited six fine young men to pledge our house. The candidate class as a whole has been a good one, fulfilling their obligations and duties to the fraternity.

We participated in the annual Penn State Dance Marathon this past February. Four brothers danced in order to raise money to help cure pediatric cancer. The entire chapter contributed by collecting donations to sponsor our dancers.

As commander, I have set an agenda for the brotherhood that involves two fundamental goals: brotherhood unity and house improvement. I have emphasized these two goals throughout my term in office. I am proud to report that our brotherhood is very closely linked, resembling an extension of family life. After all, without unity, we would be living in an apartment complex rather than a fraternity house. By advocating house improvement, I have encouraged our undergraduates to take the initiative and make improvements throughout the house.

Within the past year, we have painted the foyer, dining room, kitchen, back stairwell, and front stairwell. A number of brothers have painted their rooms, installed carpet, and new furniture. These improvements reflect Sigma Nu pride in both the public and private areas of our house. I have taken a special interest in renovating the housemother's suite. I've been working with Bob Leyburn '52, property association president, to get the ball rolling with this project. We are planning to install a ladies' restroom as well as a comfortable study lounge. Hopefully, construction will begin as soon as this summer.

I invite you to visit Happy Valley and Sigma Nu so that you can see for yourself the increased sense of pride and brotherhood unity in our fraternity. By continuing in this positive direction, we will most certainly appeal to more fine young men, recruiting them to join our fraternity. In our pursuit of love, truth, and honor, we are not only improving the fraternity, but also the individual lives of each brother.



Don Bain '65, his pinmate/wife Elaine with Ed Kmit '66 and his wife Linda.

April 21-22 is the annual Snakes in the Sand weekend and also Blue and White Weekend. All are welcome to attend. We will once again have the sand volleyball pit in the back of the house and will be barbecuing on Saturday. It will be a great time for all!

Three Diamonds Award Given

By Kevin W. Smith '02

We recently received the Three Diamonds Award, which is presented to organizations who raise \$10,000-\$24,999 for Thon and is awarded by the Children's Hospital at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. Sigma Nu and their Thon partner sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta, raised a grand total of \$13,185.89 this year. We are very proud of our dancers, our sisters, and everyone who helped to make Thon possible for us this year. We are looking forward to next year and plan to double our efforts...“for the kids.”

Delta Delta “On Ice”

Pictured at the Plymouth, Michigan Winter Ice Spectacular (below at left) are Delta Delta Alumni Don Bain '65 and his pinmate/wife Elaine (PSU '66), with Ed Kmit '66 and his wife Linda. While they were at Penn State from 1963-65, Ed was chapter EC and Don was LC. They both now reside in southeastern Michigan (in the shadow of U of M). Sigma Nu get-togethers include the annual Plymouth Ice Spectacular and various Michigan Chapter of Penn State Alumni events.

The Plymouth Ice Spectacular is listed as one of the top 100 events in the United States, featuring ice carvers from around the world. If you are ever in Michigan in the depth of winter (and you have your warm coat with you), give them a call and join the “Sigma Nu on Ice.” *See photo below at left!*

Alumni News

WILLIAM E. YODER '40 (341 Highland Ave., Kutztown, PA 19530) is the owner of WEY Shropshires. At the 85th Pennsylvania State Farm Show, WEY exhibited the champion ram and champion ewe and was named premier breeder and exhibitor. WEY entries were also first in numerous other categories.

Golf and travel keep WILLIAM H. ONDICK '51 (20 Beth Dr., Richboro, PA 18954) active these days. He spends the winter months in Holden Beach, N.C.

Working in the field of magazine publishing, ROBERT LEYBURN JR. '52 (Lime Spring Farm, 115 Maple Ave., Asbury, NJ 08802) is a regional manager for Carnegie Communications Inc. He's been elected president of the Delta Delta Property Association.

As an attorney with Wharton Levin Klein & Nash, JAMES T. WHARTON '52 (116 Terrapin Ln., Cove Creek Club, Stevensville, MD 21666) specializes in the defense of product liability and medical malpractice trials. He lives on the eastern shore of Maryland, across the Chesapeake Bay from Annapolis.

Alumni News

"You've gotta be sure before offering a girl your Sigma Nu pin!" notes **GRANT F. BREINING '53** (PMB249, 1133 Bal Harbor Blvd., #1139, Punta Gorda, FL; capn_grant@hotmail.com). After 21 years of marriage, Grant finally pinned his wife, Astaar, in February 2001. Courtesy of a tape from Sigma Nu headquarters, Astaar was serenaded with "The White Star of Sigma Nu" and "Sigma Nu Girl." Congratulations were received via telephone and e-mail from **SAM MARINO '53**, **DICK MORAN '53** and **TOM RICE '52**. The Breinings now reside in Punta Gorda after spending 12 years living aboard and cruising on their trawler *Carinya*.



RICHARD C. MEEK '56 (6416 Meadowcrest Ln., Flower Mound, TX 75022; dickm123@aol.com) is a sales manager for Mabesa, a Mexican diaper company that exports to U.S. markets. He's in touch by e-mail with **STEVE HAKY '56**.

DANIEL W. LAND '57 (1881 Gregory Pl., Hellertown, PA 18055; dland0827@aol.com) has made several trips to Africa, including two safaris and a trip to Swaziland on church missions. Dan traveled to Israel and England last year. He sees **BOB SCHRADER '57** a couple of times a year for golf and ran into **DICK GOLDBECK '55** last fall.

You can write to **JOHN W. MILLER JR. '57** at 2610 Old Orchard Rd., Lancaster, PA 17601; cgm1648@aol.com. He'd like to hear from his contemporaries.

RAY E. MYERS '57 (6732 Congressional Ter., Fayetteville, PA 17222) is enjoying retired life in the Penn National Golf Community, about 20 minutes west of Gettysburg.

JOSEPH E. HYSON '58 (14 Berkshire Dr., Kinderhook, NY 12106; kingfishjh@altavista.com) is a financial adviser with American Express Financial Advisors. Last year, he and **WOODY GRIFFITHS '58** attended the wedding of the daughter of **DICK KELLY '58**. At a Penn State game in Happy Valley, Joe was a guest of Jesse Arnell, a member of the PSU Board of Trustees. Dick and Woody met with Joe and Jesse after the game and joined them for dinner at the Nittany Lion Inn.

In January 2000, **GARY F. PAULINE '60** (P.O. Box 695, Saint Marys, PA 15857) retired as director of international business at Windfall Products Inc.

Bond salesman **J. GREGORY O'MEARA '73** (8 Fox Ridge Dr., Malvern, PA 19355; gomeara@starboardcapital) is a principal in Starboard Capital. He has spoken with **FRED D'ANGELO '72** and reports that **MIKE MEEHAN '72** turned 50 in 2000.

After being downsized out of a 14-year sales position with American Cyanamid Co., **JERRY L. HEATH '74** worked in several short-term contract positions in the agricultural chemical industry in western New York, then relocated to Grove City, Pa., to work in the seed business. Unfortunately, the seed company went bankrupt soon after Jerry's move. Jerry is now an area manager for The Industrial

Fumigant Co. and living at 2060 Johnston Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017. "The Lehigh Valley looks like a nice place to stay for a while," he writes. You can drop him an e-mail at jheath4857@aol.com.

RANDALL J. HYLEK '76 (4 Ryder Ln., Lexington, MA 02421; rhylek@ctcnet.com) is now vice president of finance at CTC Communications Corp. Inc. and enjoying life in the Boston area.

LYLE R. POTASH '78 (201 E. 79th St., Apt. 9G, New York, NY 10021; lp1005@aol.com), a consultant with Zulfo Cooper LLC, would like to hear from **MARK SEMPFF '78** and **JACK PANAS '76**.

"The fraternity will always represent my home away from home, a constant through the majority of my college years," writes **JEFFREY E. YORK '82** (905 Grover Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789; jyork@cfl.rr.com), a commercial real estate broker and vice president at Gerrity Equity Advisors. He and his wife, Gail, were expecting the arrival of their first child in March of this year.

With his new job as an engineer in system planning at Allegheny Power, **JAMES T. KARCHER '85** (4846 Bayfield Rd., Allison Park, PA 15101; jkarche@alleghenypower.com) relocated with his family to the Pittsburgh area in March 2000. He's attended numerous Pirates games with **TOM WAIGAND '85**, **ERIC RAPHAEL '85** and **JOE O'KEEFFE '84**. (Joe is on our "lost" list. If you have an address for him, please send it our way.)

WILLIAM A. SNYDER '85 (R.R. 1, Box 208, Hazleton, PA 18201; topgun63@ptdprolog.net) moved back to the Keystone State in November 2000 to cover the eastern part of the state for Physician Diagnostic Services and to be closer to friends and family. Bill would love to hear from brothers in the area. He visited Sigma Nu headquarters in Lexington over Thanksgiving and highly recommends the experience.

RICHARD P. COFFEE JR. '95 (2050 W. Byron St., #3, Chicago, IL 60618; richard.coffee@ogilvy.com) is now an account supervisor for Ogilvy & Mather, an advertising agency. He moved to the Windy City last summer. He sees **LANE KINTIGH '89** on occasion and is always looking for a poker game and golf partners in Chicagoland.

"Homecoming was great again last year and I can't wait to see everyone again," notes **DANIEL A. STELLJES '96** (924 Chester Pike, Prospect Park, PA 19076). He's still living in the Philadelphia area and working for IBC.

Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the death of **ROBERT W. CROMIE '29** (1/6/01), **FRANK L. HAY '48** (3/31/00) and **RONALD J. QUINN '57** (8/13/00). Sigma Nu mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

The Delta Delta is published for the alumni and friends of the Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and may be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to Sigma Nu Fraternity, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 296, State College, PA 16804-0296.