



Cabo 2004: Boarding Call



Get on board with the Captain and join our festive crew for a 5th vacation adventure in Cabo San Lucas. Already signed up for the trip are 16 alumni and their guests as well as 9 undergraduates.

With Texas Beta enjoying favored status with our host Jerry Nelson we will be staying at his fabulous estate. Five pools combined with celebration at the "Turtle Bar" set the tone for world class golf, marlin fishing, and late night excitement.

ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE but you need to act quickly. Brother Nelson provides his estate to you at NO COST! Airfare is your responsibility as well as evening activities in Los Cabos but you won't find a less expensive and fun-filled time for your vacation.

Cliff Watt and David Norman are co-captains for the trip. Brian Carr is serving as messenger if you have questions (his email address is bha@wiredbrush.com; telephone is (806) 794-6460 home). A registration fee of \$120 should be forwarded to Cliff Watt at 4415-71st St., Suite 12, Lubbock, 79424. Find out more at www.texastechhipsi.com/cabo.htm

Memories and Academics Highlighted at Founder's Day

by Frank Bray (Texas Beta '61)

On February 21 Texas Beta held its Founder's Day celebration in Dallas at the Royal Oaks Country Club. A total of 49 folks attended the dinner and festivities, including three brothers from other chapters (Oklahoma, Texas and Arizona). It was great to see eight undergraduates make the trip from Lubbock to join in the activities. Many thanks to Don Weldon for organizing the Founder's Day events and calling so many brothers as a reminder of the occasion.



One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of scholarships to active brothers for academic achievement during the semester last fall. Three brothers achieved outstanding grades and were chosen by the chapter for scholarship awards. **Mike Magee**, with a GPA of 3.8, **Andy Meyer**, GPA of 3.67 and **Taylor Kulovitz**, GPA of 3.6, were the selected actives. An award of \$500 was presented to each brother by Frank Bray, Alumni Scholarship Committee Chairman. Not only did these three brothers excel in grades, the chapter as a whole achieved an average of 3.2 GPA. I don't think too many of the alums can remember when the entire chapter achieved such a high average.

Outstanding academic achievement is becoming a norm for today's Texas Beta Phi Psis. Going back to the spring of 2002, Texas Beta finished dead last in grades for all the Greek social organizations. In the fall of 2002, they surged to second place among fraternities, and in the spring of 2003 finished at the top of the heap – **first place**. This past Fall grade report was unavailable due to a computing error but rough calculations suggested a ranking within the top three.

Texas Beta has changed drastically since the days of the late 90s that many alums remember distastefully. You have all heard many times about the completion of the new house and the ramifications it will have on rush and growth of the chapter. The key, which many of you have not had the opportunity to witness firsthand, is the growth of the chapter with a quality group of men. The brothers initiated in the last three years that I have met and been in contact with are fine young men, all of which I am proud to call brother. Quality attracts and demands quality, so I have confidence the caliber of brothers in the future will continue this trend.

Those of you that have not seen the new house, have not attended recent alumni functions or have not been in contact with brothers in many years, it's time you got out of your shell. We're not getting younger, and if many of you are honest with yourselves, I believe you will admit that some of the best times of your life were Phi Psi functions and the camaraderie with other brothers, both while at Tech and shortly thereafter. Recently, a brother who I was at Tech with and have not seen in over 25 years, called me out of the blue. Realizing he was not getting younger, and remembering



"Brotherhood" is our number one goal this year! We want to continue to have functions where we can renew friendships, make new ones, catch up on each other's past, share successes and failures, good times and bad, and simply say "hello" again. This includes the summer trip to Cabo San

Lucas at Brother Jerry Nelson's estate, Homecoming in Lubbock, and Founder's Day in Dallas.

To help achieve this goal, we want to update our database with names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of lost brothers, and encourage brothers to look up their old friends and give them a call. The directors believe that renewing old friendships has been their most rewarding experience over the past two years. Also, it would be helpful for alums to pitch in during rush time. When recruits see an active alum group, it does make a difference in their interest level in the fraternity!

At this time, 10% of the alums have donated to the House or Association; 90% have not, for a variety of reasons. Regardless, we will continue to update everyone on the needs and progress of the Chapter. If you wish to participate, know that it is for a good cause; however, we want YOU, foremost! The house and all functions are open to all brothers and their families, regardless of their level of giving.

Our second goal is to provide scholarships for deserving undergraduates. Not only does providing scholarships help our current actives, it also helps in the recruiting process for new members. Donations to National for scholarships (which should be sent to Cliff Watt who will forward it to the National office) are tax deductible. Three brothers have committed to donate \$15,000 per year, and that, along with many other gifts from \$25 and up, should allow us to continue providing scholarships each year.

Our third goal is to sustain alum memberships and pledges by brothers of \$100 or more per year. We have added nine members since the first of the year, which brings the total to 74. These commitments provide us with the most stable supply of funds to pay for mail outs, taxes, insurance, and maintenance on the house. We will continue to offer bricks and plaques, but these annual pledges are our "bread and butter."

Lastly, our dream is to completely pay off our debt on the house. As I am sure you would all agree, nothing is better than being debt free. Also, any interest we make on money received to pay off the debt, goes back to the chapter in the form of scholarships. If you are interested in helping the chapter to accomplish this goal, send your donation to the Texas Beta Housing Corporation.

These are our goals, but remember that #1 is just getting Phi Psi brothers together again! Hope you agree!

Question? Comment?

Let Us Know! Go to www.texastechhipsi.com and

Brotherhood is our number one goal

At the recent House Corporation meeting in March Cliff Watt ('64) related that 72 brothers had signed up to be "Sustaining Brothers" and pledged an annual \$100 donation to the HC.

With 850+ initiates it is clear that many brothers still need to commit to the goal of bettering the chapter through academic scholarships, house projects, and support for alumni association events. While 27 brothers have made their annual donation many have not been heard from. Confusion over the billing cycle (starts anew each January) and invoicing problems may have contributed to this. If you receive an invoice with this letter then we have not received your 2004 gift. If there is an error please contact Brian Carr.

All of us need to do what we can to help in continuing to support Phi Psi and maintain the superior ratings that past giving has realized. If you wish to be added to the Sustaining Brother list please let Brian know.



News and Notes

*35 bronze plaques will be hung this month around the fireplace at the chapter house. Each one honors a brother who donated \$2500 or more to the house construction. Dedicated room plaques honoring the largest contributors are already in place in their respective rooms.

*Our dedicated account with the Endowment Fund has grown to over \$27,000, an increase of \$17,000 since the first of the year. We were 4.3% alumni giving to the Endowment Fund and continued giving to the Bill Collins account is encouraged.

*The chapter initiated four men in April. This brings the membership to over 30 men. Two men will be sponsored by private donation to attend the upcoming national convention in San Diego in July.

*Dan and Linda Ruff ('64) enjoyed a recent visit to Cabo and refreshed they pledged an annual \$1000 sponsorship for undergraduates who desire to attend the educational leadership program there held over Spring Break.



ROI Alumni Program

The "ROI" (return on investment) program is designed to offer continuing education of value to undergraduates and alumni of the chapter utilizing our advanced computer lab. There is no registration cost but seating is limited to first come first serve. Times and Dates are found on the Texas Beta Web site. It is hoped that classes will be offered quarterly. Call or Email Brian at 806 795-3911 or bha@wiredbrush.com if you want to know more or have a request for a class topic.

Topic: Travel and the Internet

Topic: Intro to Computers