



Phi Psi Rag

An Occasional Correspondence
of the South Plains Alumni Association
Spring, 2005 www.texastechhipsi.org

Cabo 2005: The Ruff is Up!



Get on board with the Captain and join our festive crew for a 6th vacation adventure in Cabo San Lucas. Texas Beta members are fired up and Dan Ruff (Tx. Beta '64) announces, "The Ruff is Up!", as he calls out to every year of our great chapter to go.

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. The dates are not yet precisely set but will be during the first or second week of June.

We expect to have 25 to 40 people going and you need to act now if you are thinking about going. 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. If you are interested please go to the web site and read further at www.texastechhipsi.org/cabo.htm. If you have questions please contact either Brian Carr (bha@wiredbrush.com 806-794-6460 home) or Cliff Watt (cliffbwatt@aol.com 806-797-3231 office).

Founder's Day Set for Dallas

Date: February 19, 2005
Location: Royal Oaks Country Club
7915 Greenville Ave, Dallas
Time: 6 to 7:00 Reception/Social
7:00 Dinner
8:30 Presentations
9:00 More Socializing
Dress: Coat and Tie
Price: \$40 per person for Alumni
\$20 per person for Undergraduates
RSVP and Mail Checks to: (please include your email address)
Don Weldon
305 Bennett Road
Bristol, Texas 75119
972-846-9929 dweldon@azonemail.net



Don Weldon has a special weekend of events celebrating the 153rd anniversary of our beloved fraternity. Our founding fathers would be proud to see the fun we have as our bonds are re-affirmed. In addition to the events Saturday evening there will be an afternoon social starting at 1 p.m. Details for this will be provided when you receive your confirmation. Let's make this the best reunion ever. Even if you do not plan to attend Brother Weldon asks that brothers send him updates about themselves and a "sketch of your life" since college. Direct those to Don at his email above.



House Corp & Alumni Association Meets January 29th

All alumni and undergraduates of the Texas Beta chapter are invited to attend the House Corporation and Alumni Association meetings, to be held at the house on Saturday, January 29, 2005. The day will feature the election of new officers and a discussion of what new challenges lay ahead. The meeting will start at 8:30 and end by 11:30 ensuring that we will be able to attend the basketball game against Nebraska at noon. Lunch will be served for those who are able to stay.

There are many challenges for 2005. HC President Cliff Watt has set the campaign goal of retiring the remaining \$88,000 mortgage as well as providing funds for the construction of a concrete basketball court/patio in the backyard. It is exciting to see the impact that the alumni have on the chapter and we will continue to be a force for positive change.



Goals for 2005

by Cliff Watt (Texas Beta '64)

"A Simple Wish"

One day four years ago Brother H.A. Sessions made a simple wish..."I wish we could raise the money and build Phi Psi a house" and I added, "and name it in honor

of two of our deceased fraternity brothers Robert and William Whiteside."

Our house connects us with our pledge brothers, those brothers that we knew in our fraternity while at Tech, generations of brothers in the past and those that came later and, of course, the fine young men in the chapter now. And it is working. The chapter membership has tripled in two years. The last three years they have been in the top 10% scholarship. Success has come in athletics and the men have pulled together as one.

However, it has been anything but simple. The building had to be designed and built, funding and loans secured, furniture donated and purchased, appliances brought, the alumni association and house corporation organized and re-organized, meetings planned, so now we have a house and can mow the grass, pay real estate taxes and insurance and utilities (now being paid by the chapter), pay on our loan and, hopefully, add improvements to the house. That day we had no idea how our simple wish would turn out.

I have come to recognize there is little we can do about our operating expenses which we are funding with our sustaining member pledges but our loan and interest payments can be eliminated. Since our membership is bell-shaped with a large number of our alumni in their 50's to 70's, I feel we need to raise the funds now and leave a legacy of a free and clear house to our growing young chapter.

Our current debt is \$88,000 and the chapter has put forth the need of a basketball court which doubles for an outdoor patio, dance floor, etc... to stay competitive with the other fraternities. This would cost another \$7,000 for a goal this year of raising \$95,000 to retire the mortgage and pour the court.

We realize this again is not a simple goal, but we have raised \$300,000 so far with only 10% of all alumni giving. To reach our goal this year the money pledged will not be tax deductible so such gifts will come from the heart and represent our memories. I ask each of you to first become or continue to be a sustaining member of the Alumni Association and, two, to give an extra gift to free the debt and add the court. If all of our alumni gave an extra \$100 we could do so but only 10% has given and even with my goal to get that to 20%...well you do the math. A number of the present House board have signed on to the wish and as of now we have pledges of \$12,500. We need your help! Donations will be recognized with bricks and plaques and whatever, but the best reward is what has and is happening to the chapter. It is another simple wish.

Question? Comment?

Let Us Know! Go to www.texastechhipsi.com and click on "Personal Profile" located under the Alumni menu.

Or Call Brian Carr at (806) 795-3911 office
(806) 794-6460 home

Sign up to be a Sustaining Brother

With almost 900 men initiated into Texas Beta it is clear that there is a large pool of financial power available to accomplish our 2005 goals.

As America faces tough challenges can you find a way to help us in preparing the men who will lead our country someday. The goal of bettering the chapter through academic scholarships, house projects, and support for alumni association events is possible. While about 79 brothers have made their annual donation many have not been heard from. Included in this letter is a pledge form that you can complete and return as a sign of your support for what we are trying to do.



News and Notes

*35 bronze plaques have been hung around the fireplace at the chapter house. Each one honors a brother who donated \$2500 or more to the house construction.

*Centaur and Phi Psi Brother Bill McMillan donated a massive moose head to hang over the fireplace. Additional animal trophies are to be hung around the house.

*The chapter initiated 11 men during the Fall semester bringing their numbers up to 38. They have been preparing for the Spring rush and have twenty prospective men lined up.

*Undergraduate brothers have been volunteering at the Boys and Girls Club of Lubbock and have been helping out with various community programs.

*Although several other lodges were burglerized over the holidays our house was untouched. It might be due to our state-of-the-art video surveillance.

*Innovation in fund-raising shines in Brother Chuck Lokey's donation of music and movie posters from his music store in Austin. The chapter will be periodically collecting the marketing material and selling them on Ebay. Chuck reported that a group that he had previously donated the items to had raised several thousand dollars.

*Brother Walt Huffman shoveled dirt to break ground on a major building project for the law school. Under his direction the school has been growing. Walt makes it happen!

*The Texas Beta web site opening page has changed and other modifications are on-going to simplify the navigation and enhance visits.

ROI: Return on Investment, Join Us Today!

January: House Corp/Alumni Assoc., Lubbock
February: Founder's Day, Dallas
March: Spring Break, Chapter to Cabo San Lucas
April: Spring Formal, Chapter
June: 5th Alumni Retreat, Cabo



You Give and Receive with Phi Psi