

Phi Kappa Sigma  
Zeta

# Alumni & Parent Newsletter

Spring 2015



## Table of Contents

A Letter from the President

A Letter from the Vice President

Fall '14 & Spring '15 Rush

Looking Back with the Seniors

A Brother's Research Opportunity

A Message from the Theta

Study Abroad

Letter from the Alumni Chair

## A Letter from the President

My name is Hunter Citrin, and I am the president of Zeta Chapter. Additionally, I serve as the vice president of community relations for the college's Interfraternity Council, and I am the president of F&M's club water polo team. I am a public health major and a comparative literary studies minor.

I have been incredibly pleased with the performance of our chapter this past year. Our brothers are extremely active on campus. Among our 38 active brothers, Zeta Chapter has four club presidents, over a dozen campus employees, three varsity and over a dozen club athletes, and involvement in over 30 other teams on campus.

With the hard work from our officers, we have been able to accomplish fantastic things for our chapter. Over the summer, we were awarded with two very high honors from our National Headquarters: Zeta Chapter was awarded the Grand Chapter Distinguished Chapter Award and was named runner-up for the Philanthropy Award.



*Continued on next page*

## A Letter from the President (continued)

Our chapter has experienced strong growth this past year. With the hard work of all of our brothers, we are pleased to announce the initiation of the chapter's first fall pledge class in nearly two decades, which has strengthened our roster greatly and has further widened our influence on campus. This spring, our chapter initiated seven strong new members who show great potential and exhibit an impressive commitment to our house.

This newsletter is intended to provide a closer look into our chapter for all those who have supported and experienced and loved the chapter as much as we have. We are very excited to share the great things we have accomplished in our past year and show you all what it means to be a Phi Kap.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Citrin '16



## A Letter from the Vice President

My name is Jonathan Garza and I'm a sophomore government major from Tempe, Arizona. This year I've had the honor of serving as vice president of Zeta Chapter. I am delighted to report we are progressing through policy changes that are strengthening the quality of our events, expanding our influence on campus, uniting our brotherhood, and improving ties with both our National Fraternity and with the College. With the help of all the officers, our national standards assessment, the Mitchell

Chapter Standards report, has been coming along well. We hope to match, if not surpass, last year's accomplishments at this year's Grand Chapter meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported our chapter in the last year. Our continued success is due to the hard work of many people, including both alumni and undergraduates.



Sincerely,  
Jonathan Garza '17

## Looking Back with the Seniors



As Phi Kaps, we go beyond the stereotypical fraternity and expect excellence from each and every one of our brothers. Our brotherhood is only as strong as our weakest brother, but being a member of this unique organization allows for everyone to collaborate and help one another.

We at Phi Kappa Sigma emphasize academic rigor, personal development, and professionalism. This is why regarding my personal, scholastic, and professional career, joining Phi Kappa Sigma was the smartest thing I did in my time at Franklin & Marshall. Development was possible by taking responsibility upon yourself via an officer position. It truly was invaluable to see myself mature alongside the fraternity each and every day. Not only in my four years as a Diplomat did the fraternity develop into a completely different house, but also I was able to become the person I am currently.

The fraternity has the capability to unite those who may not have too much in common other than a mutual bond and respect for joining the same fraternal organization. It has been a privilege to become a real Man of Honor by joining this brotherhood, and I will miss everything this has given to me in these last four years of college.

Greg Pallay '15

## A Message from the Recruitment Chair

As the recruitment chair, I am very pleased with this year's results for our chapter. We added ten quality men to our brotherhood and had our first fall new member class since the early '90s. It often goes unrecognized that the whole brotherhood is responsible for the success of recruitment, and I would like to thank our members for helping with the entire process. I would also like to thank our Alumni Corp. for its continued support of our recruitment process. We hope to capitalize on our successes and learn from our mistakes for the coming year. With everyone's continued efforts, we hope to see more growth and expansion.

Jonathan Garza '17



**Fall 2014 New  
Members with  
Their Big Brothers**



**Spring 2015  
New Members**

## The State of the House

My name is Daniel Glass, and I am the house manager for Zeta Chapter. I am a junior from Margate, New Jersey, and I study government with a focus on the Middle East. Our house has shown great improvement, with the help from our Alumni Corp. and, specifically, our alumni house manager, Charlie Ridolfi. Charlie and the rest of the Alumni Corp. generously aided in a massive renovation that began over the summer and was finished through our winter break.

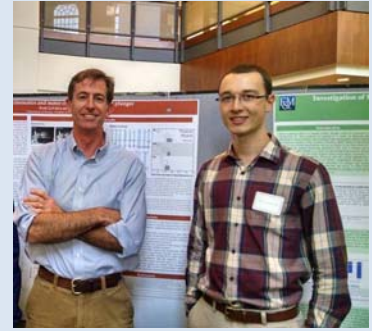
In the spring of 2013, the incoming brothers repainted the basement and turned the basement into a multipurpose space. The house has seen new flooring installed and a fresh coat of paint applied to much of the interior of the Chapter House. Old and ill working electrical systems were rewired, and more fire prevention systems were added. Custom benchwork has been added to the Brothers' Room and to the Paddle Room. A flat-screen television has been added to the front room to ensure the brothers have a common space to relax in or hang out in.

Several weeks ago, the brotherhood participated in a spring cleaning marathon where the entire house was cleaned from top to bottom. We were happy and proud to relieve the Chapter House of more than 500 pounds of trash.

As warm weather approaches, our brotherhood will shift our focus to the outside of the property, focusing on landscaping and strengthening security in our backyard. Aside from landscaping, our future projects include adding fencing to our backyard and remodeling our side porch. With help from the alumni, Housing Association, and the Parents Association, we hope to accomplish these and many other projects in the near future.

Fraternally,

Daniel Glass '16



### Brother Loiacono's Research Opportunity

For my senior independent research project, I'm working with a professor in the biology department to develop a predictive model of squash bee populations. These bees, like honey bees, are the primary pollinators of squash and are thus an important part of squash agriculture.

My project is a small piece of a much larger, multi-institution project known as the Integrated Crop Pollination Project (Project ICP). In January, my professor, co-director of Project ICP, and I went to the University of California-Davis to attend the annual research meeting. Working with collaborators from UC-Davis as well as Michigan State University, we used our model to analyze real world squash bee data. The end goal of this project is to create a decision-support tool that can aid farmers in planning crop rotations that will maximize squash bee populations, thus increasing pollination rates and crop yields.

Matthew Loiacono '15





### Brother Harkins' Study Abroad

My name is Alec Harkins and I am a junior business major and economics minor. During the fall semester of 2014, I studied abroad in Vienna, Austria. While there, I had the opportunity to take psychology and philosophy courses related to European culture. Additionally, I interned with INITS, a business incubator that provides startups with mentoring, networking, and funding resources.

In addition to my terrific classroom and work experiences, I travelled to amazing destinations such as Budapest, Prague, Madrid and Istanbul. Last but not least, I enjoyed some terrific recreational activities, such as skiing in the Austrian Alps and wakeboarding along the Danube River.

It was tough being away from friends and family for those months, but the experience to travel and study abroad was well worth it.

Alec Harkins '16

## A Letter from the Alumni Chair

As the newest alumni chair, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Avery Brown, and I am a sophomore business major from New York, New York. After becoming a brother in the spring of last year, I was elected both the alumni and fundraising chair for Zeta Chapter.

First, I am grateful for the opportunity to communicate with you, as I believe strong communication is very important for the growth of our fraternity, and I am sure that all of you will appreciate updates from our brotherhood.

One of the newest and most exciting developments in this past year has been the creation of the Zeta Parents Association, which gets parents more involved with the fraternity by providing a source of communication on the development of the chapter and keeping them more informed about our community events.

My role as alumni chair is focused on Zeta Chapter alumni. At Zeta Chapter, we recognize the value of engaging our alumni constituency. We see our alumni as key investors, terrific advocates, and loyal partners, all with the mutual goal of supporting the success of a place we all have had the pleasure of calling home.

With this in mind, we seek to engage the alumni who have shared in our organization's rich and diverse history. In an effort to develop a relationship with our many talented alumni, we are also establishing a mentorship program as a means of helping current brothers learn more about career opportunities in their desired field of study. You can read more about this program on the next page.

Again, thank you for all your support in the past, and I look forward to hearing from and seeing you all in the future.

Fraternally,

Avery Brown '17



## A Letter from the Academic Chair

I'm pleased to announce the creation and installation of a brotherhood library in the Chapter House. This library will contain textbooks donated by brothers at the end of each semester with the purpose of loaning them out to other brothers who may enroll in the same courses.

With the cost of textbooks on the rise, this is just one way our chapter hopes to keep costs low for our brothers. The only cost involved in the creation of the library is the cost of installing a door in the room so as to make it a formal library. Any donations to help offset this cost would be most welcome, and donors who contribute will receive recognition in the form of a plaque that will be displayed in our Brothers Room.

All questions and comments can be sent to our alumni chair, Avery Brown, at [abrown@phikappasigmazeta.com](mailto:abrown@phikappasigmazeta.com).



Davis Narwold '15  
Academic Chair

## Building Brighter Futures

As briefly mentioned earlier, Zeta Chapter is reaching out to alumni about getting a mentorship program off the ground. This program would encourage alumni to reach out to the many talented brothers within our chapter and provide them with the tools necessary to cultivate a stronger professional portfolio.

If you have an interest in participating in this program, please contact our vice president, Jonathan Garza, at [jgarza@phikappasigmazeta.com](mailto:jgarza@phikappasigmazeta.com).

Thank you, and we look forward hearing from you!

On behalf of our brotherhood, we thank you all for the hard work and time our alumni and parents have put into making our chapter and our house the best it can be.