



The TauHiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Alumni Association News

In the last couple months, the alumni site has had a couple new pages added to it. One page talks about the Traditions of the house. As of the publishing of this newsletter, there are only two traditions listed there. They will continue to appear, one or two every newsletter until we run out of them.

Another page, associated with the Traditions page is one we like to call "Tauster." On this page we list the Pledge Songs from their inception to the present as well as other songs that are popular or traditionally Tau in nature. And, like its namesake, Napster, we also provide .mp3-formatted versions of the songs. The Tauster page is locked up behind the password protected section of the site so that we're only breaking the law in a small way.

Thanks to Evan Olson (50) we now have yearbook pictures from 1946 through 1950. These were the post-World War II years before the house decided to "go national" with Sigma Nu. The pictures can be found on the Alumni site's Photo Album page.

Wookiee and Plenz are working on setting up a Forums part to the website. Once this is set up (both of our schedules are rather busy so it may take a while), it will be something like a discussions board where people can post messages. One can either initiate a discussion, post follow-ups to existing discussions, post announcements, whatever. This is not expected to replace the Alumni Exploder, but to be an addition to the Alumni Association's services.

House News

The house got five pledges this spring: Ashley, Nicole (Nico), Sam, Sheena, and Colin. There were two other pledges, Rachael and Ambre, who decided during the pledge period to depledge. Perhaps they will change their mind some time in the future.

The dates for Activation and Spring Formal have been set. Activation is Friday, April 25. Formal is Saturday, April 26 and is to be held in the function rooms in The Best Western on Fond du Lac Ave.

The end of this year will mark drastic changes for the house. Ripon College will be renovating Mapes Hall over the summer.

The renovation will, among other things, cause things on walls to get painted over, such as crests and house letters and so on. The house is looking into storage options for some of the house's possessions, and some of the more "sensitive" possessions will be transferred to the keeping of an alum or an active for the summer.

One nifty element of the renovation is the new carpeting that will be placed in the house's private lounge (yes, private, no more passing through lounges to get from the atrium to middle). The carpeting will have the house letters in it.

April 2003
Volume 45

Quotable Quotes

"To become a first rate mad scientist, you'll need two important qualities: superior intelligence and mind-boggling insanity."

"I'm the one who got frightened of her for reasons other than her breasts."

- Viola (Martin) Lenz (02)

"Although... you can only fit so many people on a bed."

- Viola (Martin) Lenz (02); re: movie nights in her dorm room

"I don't see how immersing yourself in women prepares you for real life."

- Viola (Martin) Lenz (02); re: women-only colleges

"But, once done once, you get to like it and want to keep doing it! Woo hoo!"

- Pete "Plenz" Lenz (89); re: being a voting virgin

"You know the apocalypse is coming if Hans gets married before I do."

- Rick "Rico" Kimpel (97)

"Dude, I've known her her whole life. She hasn't changed, she's just taller."

- SaraH Hoffman (02); re: her sister Jennifer Hoffman (95)

"You gotta wait till it hardens before you go at it."

- SaraH Hoffman (02); re: Magic Shell ice cream topping

"Evil you have to love. *shudder*"

- Heather (Jones) Wells (90); re: children

"Brook is just eating his nuts and laughing."

- Lexie Natkin (01)

"To prevent a cold: keep healthy."

- From a State of Wisconsin health-related newsletter

"I surprise myself when I get it up."

- A co-worker of Plenz's brother talking about a computer program

"Cheerleaders are dancers who have gone retarded."

- Arrogant choreographer on the Bad Movie Breakfast movie *Bring It On*

On the Front Lines

Several of our fellow alumni are abroad with various branches of the service. We are providing their addresses so that those alumni who wish to drop them a line can do so.

Regardless of whether one supports US actions overseas, offering support to our troops, and our friends, is important... especially as they face some of the biggest challenges they may ever face.

CPT André Cunningham (98)
acunningham@nc.rr.com

1LT George Johnson (00)
ARCENT-QA
101st Chemical Company, Attn: Box 540
APO, AE 09898

SPC Louis Sather
(friend of the house in the late 80s)
Task Force 11 AVN
HHC
APO, AE 09302-1441

Individual News Updates

Chris Antonello (92) lives in Athens, VT.

Patti Beck (98) lives in Farmingdale, NY and works for a pharmaceutical company. While her husband George Johnson (00) and fellow Tau alum André Cunningham were stationed at Ft. Bragg, NC, Patti saw a lot of both of them. Patti's chinchillas are all doing well and, in a completely unrelated topic, she is considering making chain mail as a hobby and to bring in extra cash.

Mike Cason marries Susan Crouse on September 5, 2003 in Las Vegas, NV. Mike and Susan live in Aurora, IL.

Scott Christophersen earned his MA in Psychology/Mental Health Counselling.

Dav Delikat (92) lives in Madison, WI, with his wife, Jody Tibbets Delikat and their two children. Dav and Jody are also expecting a third child in May. Dav works for US Cellular and still enjoys nerding it up on the computer.

Bill Haljun (64) is president of Big Idea Foundation, the non-profit arm of Big Idea Productions, a company dedicated to promoting Biblical values and encouraging spiritual growth. Bill has been a strong force behind Big Idea's animation series "VeggieTales," which features talking vegetables acting out Bible stories. Bill, a roommate of Harrison Ford's while a Sigma Nu at Ripon, did not complete his degree at Ripon in 1964, leaving in his junior year. In 1993, desiring to complete the long unfinished degree, he contacted the college. Due to changes in graduation requirements, his credits from 1960 - 63, plus credits taken at USC and lifetime learning credits, he was awarded Ripon's AB.

Lisa (Hansen) Graham (93) and her husband, David, welcomed their first child, Alexis Margaret, into the world on January 23, 2003. Lisa and her family live in California.

Burton Jay (59) recently earned the 2002 Jarvis F. Farley Award honoring more than three decades of volunteerism with the American Academy of Actuaries. Before retiring, Jay had worked for Mutual of Omaha since 1962, ending his service with them having been an executive vice-president and chief actuary.

Kurt Kapplinger will marry his fiancée, Leslie, on Saturday, May 3, 2003. Kurt and Leslie bought a home together last November and also purchased a bassett hound, Buddy.

Rick Lowe (96) has landed a job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, NM. This means that he and his wife, Amy (Metz) Lowe (96) have relocated to Los Alamos, NM.

Evan Olson (50) is a senior partner in Wealth Management Partners of Omaha, NE. Evan's wife, Sybil, is a top residential realtor in Omaha and they are very happy together. They work ten months of the year and spend the other two months either in Maui, HI, or Summit County, CO. Evan's son, Chris, is the medical director of the Edward Women's Center in Naperville, IL, and takes care of Evan's granddaughter, Jackie (8). Evan's son, Eric, is a graduate architect from Harvard (a Yale undergrad) and has two of Evan's grandsons: Conlan (4) and Pel (1). Evan's step-daughter, Sarah, lives in San Diego with Evan's grandson, Ian (3), and granddaughter, Ava (6 mos).

David Shogren (84) married Linda Hornby on October 26, 2002. David and Linda live in Maplewood, MO.

Laura "Niña" (Wolf) Storzer (89) is a self-employed attorney with a practice in Oshkosh, WI. Laura lives with her husband, Toby, and their two daughters, Samantha McLain and Megan Elise, in Princeton, WI. Late last year Laura had surgery on her wrists to alleviate carpal tunnel syndrome and the operation was quite a success, she's even been able to play piano again.

Nicolas Tarini (90) lives in New Bedford, MA, and has been working with children at an elementary school. He and his friend, Rhonda, will be teaching a multidisciplinary program of art and creative writing. "We'll be showing them the world beyond crayons and manila paper."

Lisa Thone (93) works for BoneCare International, Inc. in Middleton, WI. BoneCare manufactures a drug used to treat secondary hyperparathyroidism in patients with kidney disease. Lisa got engaged to Brad Kopac last summer. Lisa and Brad have been living together in Black Earth, WI, for the last few years. No date has been set for the wedding, but they are thinking of doing it in Vegas.

*"The Milwaukee
Cradlerobbers
Association:
Feel a kid again!"*

Individual News Updates (continued)

Ted Tickler (05, active) was named to the Ripon College Alumni Board. Ted is a business administration major with a PoGo minor. Ted is also treasurer for the house.

Sarah Tsymbalov (95, social) is a clinical studies manager at Takeda Pharmaceuticals. Sarah lives in Evanston, IL.

K. Patrick Yarbrough (83) is a member of the state attorney's office in Winnebago County, IL. He supervises the narcotics unit there. He has been a member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the YMCA of Rock River Valley for more than ten years and is currently vice-president of the board of directors. While at Ripon, Patrick was a history and psychology major and a member of Tau. He and his wife, Tamba, live in Rockford, IL.

Obituaries

Howard Horsford (43) of Coralville, IA, died August 2, 2002. Howard served in World War Two as a first lieutenant in the US Signal Corps in the South Pacific. In 1957 he received the Distinguished Alumni Citation from Ripon College. Howard was professor emeritus of English at the University of Rochester in New York. He also taught at Ripon College, Bryn Mawr College, Bread Loaf School of English, and Princeton University. He was the author of several articles and a consultant on 19th and 20th century American literature and was an environmentalist with an interest in assisting the Indian Nations of the southwest with health and education projects. Survivors include a sister, Genevieve Horsford Thompson (47), and two cousins, Dorothy Graham Jackson (47) and Marian Graham Moore (41).

Jack C. Plano (49) of Kalamazoo, MI, died on November 21, 2002. Jack was a retired professor of political science emeritus at Western Michigan University. Jack served in World War Two in the European Theater. Jack was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received the WMU Outstanding Emeritus Scholar Award in 1997. Jack authored, co-authored, edited, and published a number of books, the best known being *The American Political Dictionary* and *The United Nations*. Jack is survived by his wife, Ellen, two sons and a daughter.

Traditions

Traditions have to have a beginning somewhere and at Live-In this spring there might have been the start of a new one: Story Time.

It has been a tradition in the house, since at least the early 80s, to tell the newly activated members secret stories of the house. It's fun, it sort of indoctrinates the new actives, and it recalls the house's past. But there are so many stories that don't get told!

The current membership thought that it would be a fun and group bonding (not bondage, you pervs) experience if the alumni that attended Live-In related some tales of their exploits while at Tau. And that's what they did: telling stories, answering questions, bouncing memories off of each other.

Most attendees seemed to enjoy it – pledges, alumni, and actives alike. This year it was held the night after Tau Trivia, but in the future it will probably be held the night before... maybe the pledges can manage to learn a few answers before they get put in the hot seat.

Perhaps Story Time will catch on and become another in a long line of traditions that the members find to be enjoyable, rewarding, and unifying.

More of The Adventures of God

By
Viola Martin Lenz



Report from the Front: Qatar

05-Mar-03

(email from 1LT George Johnson (00))

When I was a kid I wanted to be a soldier, a fireman and an astronaut. Now I only have one left. As if decontamination of the largest camp in Qatar was not a big enough mission, 3rd Platoon 101st Chemical Company is now the Camp As Sayliah Fire/Rescue team.

After three days of training on hoses, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus, searches, extinguishers, principles of fire and a number of other subjects we seem to be firemen. I get a hat and everything.

Since we assumed the mission on march 1st we have gotten called out almost everyday. So far no fire, just malfunctioning alarms and covering generals when their helicopters land. But we await the day when we battle the flames. In a way it is nice to have another mission, it is a fun diversion. It makes us feel important and lets us blast around post with flashing lights. I just hope it does not distract us from training for decontamination.

I know that at the end of the day, The Dirty Third will accomplish the mission. When we get some good pictures of us in all our cool Backdraft fire gear I will post it on line.

George

20-Mar-03

1LT George Johnson (00) was interviewed live on MSNBC's *Today Show* this morning. George gave a run down of the safety procedures involved in dealing with contaminated chemical protection suits.

George was in Dahu, Qatar, at the time, sounding good, sounding confident.

The interview was available on the MSNBC the day of the interview, but it was a streaming video and we weren't able to capture it for purposes of putting it on the alumni site for our members to view. Sorry, folks!



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**No matter where
you go, there we
are...
stalking you.**

**Visit the Alumni
Association on the web**

Alumni.ThetaSigmaTau.org

Report from the Front: Afghanistan

Emails from CPT André Cunningham (98)

18-Jan-2003

I left FT Bragg on 11 JAN 03 for Afghanistan for a 6 month deployment. Currently I'm the Signal Officer (Computers and Communications Manager) for the 229th Aviation Regiment. I left with a small advanced party in order to start the transition for the unit we are replacing.

After we departed FT Bragg we flew into Rhein Main Air Force Base in Frankfurt Germany. We came in on a C-5, which was interesting because the passenger seats all face the tail of the aircraft. It's a very odd sensation taking off and landing facing the "wrong" way.

From Rhein Main we headed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, on a C-17. It's quite a bit smaller than the C-5 and does not have airline type seats. Instead, it has web harnesses kinda like a lawn chair. Not too bad for short trips but it was very grueling after the 8 hour flight.

We arrived in Kandahar in the middle of the night and were met by the Brigade Commander that we were replacing. A short motivational speech and a little time standing in line in-processing and we were off to our billeting. Rather than the standard tents that I'm used to they have built wooden shells and placed tents over them. The shells are about 2' off the ground and have fully functional lights, power, and heat. Very plush, by Army standards.

My group stayed there for a day and a half. Half of us split and flew into Bagrahm, our final destination, on Blackhawks. This was a two-hour flight with a 45-minute stop at one of the forward operating bases. Not too bad and a good chance to take a look at the countryside. It looks a lot like the Mojave Desert in California.

We arrived in Bagrahm and it has taken three days for the remainder of our party to get up here from Kandahar, as well as the rest of my bags. YEAH...I can finally change out my uniforms and my pillow and blanket are here ... It may seem small but when sleeping on a cot it makes all the difference.

The other exciting thing that has happened is that every Friday they have a Bazaar right off post that we are allowed to go to. There are amazing rugs, jewelry, fur, silver items, wooden chests and semi-precious stones.

-André

4-Feb-2003

Since we last spoke I have spent numerous hours building a web page for my unit. All of our daily operations over here handled through web reports and daily briefings that are all on the military web. Since, I haven't done any major web publishing since College. I have had to teach my re-teach myself Front-Page all over again. The other main thing that has been occupying my time has been trying to get all of the communications requirements for my unit documented and placed into a usable format. It's amazing how much the unit that was here before me didn't do. Sometimes I wonder if my standards are a little too high, I have been spending at least 5 hours a day recreating and reorganizing what was left.

We had our first 'battle drill' the other day. It sounds impressive but mostly it consists of throwing on helmets and flack jackets and running to our battle positions and taking roll to make sure everyone is accounted for. Really breaks up one's ability to do work but it's one of those 'better safe than sorry' situations.

Last Friday I had to move again. From one set of temporary billets to another. This one is quite a bit closer than the last to where I'm working. It looks like I'll be able to move into my permanent tent here on the 7th. I'm so looking forward to being able to set up my stuff and stop living out of bags and boxes.

Day to day it's a strange combination of boredom and work. I'll spend an hour or two working on some computer stuff. Followed by an hour of idle time while someone else gets on the computer, then I'll repeat the cycle. Meals seem to be the main highlights of the day so far. Other than Sundays it's like one really long Groundhog Day. Sundays are not too bad. Operations ramp down and we get to wear PTs rather than BDUs. This last Sunday my soldiers and myself spent the day building a desk out of some scrap lumber. It came out pretty nice and I'd forgotten how much I enjoy working with wood.

- André