

# The Elms Club Editoralist

April 2004  
Volume 49

*Theta Sigma Tau / Sigma Nu Alumni Association*



The house has its new letters mounted on the side of East Mapes. Thanks go out to all of those alumni who helped the house pay for them. They have also replaced the crest from the stairway, the key over the missing fireplace, and the letters from the lounge now adorn the south wall.

Spring Formal was held on March 27 this year at the Best Western of Ripon. There was a chicken dinner catered by Kristina's Café followed by music and dancing and a great deal of socializing. Quite a few alumni showed up from as far as North Carolina, Alaska, and Oregon.

## House Doings

This spring the house had four people pledge the day of Pref party: Gretchen Cuthbert, Jessica Fuoco, Kali Jankovich, and Amanda Piccirillo. Heather Breest pledged a couple weeks later. All of them were successfully activated on March 26.

Activation was a bit special this year: Paul Bernheimer (80) was in attendance. Paul was the first pledge the house had in 1977 when Tau reformed as a local fraternity. Paul was able to add details to some of the activation stories that are told every semester, and told a couple stories of his own from "back in the day."

## Alumni Doings

Alumni Weekend this year is from May 27 – 29. It's the anniversary year for the classes of 1999, 1994, 1989, 1984, 1979 ... you get the idea.

If a sufficient number of Taus and Nus are going to be in attendance, we should attempt to arrange a reunion, perhaps on Saturday afternoon. We could congregate outside of Mapes, or in the lounge. Perhaps we could arrange a cookout, using either the grill near the sundial or perhaps one we bring ourselves.



If there is interest in arranging such an alumni weekend reunion, we could use the alumni site forums and exploder to get organized.

## Nus of the Weird

Andy Beswick (06) and Jessica Fuoco (07) are engaged.

Jim Bourn (87) announces that he and Toni (Goebel) Bourn (88) have permanently parted ways. Their divorce was finalized at the beginning of March. Jim lives in Wonder Lake, IL. Toni lives in Milwaukee, WI. The Original Micro-Taus live in Milwaukee, but spend a good deal of time in Wonder Lake with their dad.

CPT. André Cunningham (98) is back from Afghanistan. For the last couple months he has been at Ft. Gordon, GA, but in about two months he and his wife, Donna, and their kids will be moving back to Ft. Bragg, NC. André and Donna were married in November of last year.

Julie (Tillema) Hernandez (93) and her husband, George, welcome their son, James Daniel to their family. James was born September 9, 2003. They live in Rockford, IL.

Burton Jay (59) is vice-president of the Financial Reporting Council for the American Academy of Actuaries, a 15,000-member professional association based in Washington, DC. Burton lives in Omaha, NE.

Tammy Johnson (04) will be student-teaching in Lodi, WI, this fall. Tammy is also a starter on the Edgewood College softball team, positioned at third base and batting 0.350.

Collins and Kim (Oxman) Kaholo (01/00) were delayed a day returning from formal. On their way out of Milwaukee, a clinically depressed seagull decided to make a suicide dive on their jet's engine, forcing the plane to be grounded and causing them to spend an extra night in Milwaukee. Not necessarily noteworthy, except that it's just darn amusing.

Kurt "Uncle Flipper" Kapplinger (94) and his wife, Leslie, are expecting their first child in December of this year.

Bryan Kuhn (00) has taken a management position with Three Rivers Outdoors in LaCrosse, WI. In July Bryan is planning to climb the Kautz glacier route of Mt. Rainier.

Peter and Viola (Martin) Lenz (89/02) moved in April into their first home, located in Fredonia, WI (north of Milwaukee about 25 minutes, just west of Port Washington). Viola is a Pharmacy Technician at Columbia Hospital in Milwaukee and Pete is a Lecturer and Research Associate at the UW-Milwaukee Psychology Dept.

Andrew Rich (03) will be studying for his master's degree in Classical Archaeology this fall at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

Tom Rinker (95) is engaged to his high school sweetheart, Missy Rice. The marriage is likely to be held in Los Alamos on June 1, 2005. The marriage also makes Tom an instant father... well, step-father, to Missy's six year old daughter, Samantha.

Nancy (Williams) Ryan (90) and her husband, Roland, welcomed their son, Connor Sean to their family on February 21, 2004. Mother and baby are doing just fine.

Jharick Shields (06) and his teammate, Matt Mangerson, made it to the quarter-finals at the national Forensics competition, taking 10th place out of 157 teams.

Dave Shogren (84) is spending his free time playing bass guitar for a band called Barefoot Jones. The band plays a mixture of blues, country, folk, and rock. Dave lives in Maplewood, MO.

Torii Swader (98) is engaged to Gloria Pavlovic, with a wedding date that should be in late summer or early fall of 2005. Torii works for Edgestrom Industries of Waterford, WI, as a software tester. Gloria is a first year medical resident at Froedert Hospital in Wauwatosa, WI.

Cat Wood (00) is marrying Josh Travis in May of this year.

Lt. Matthew Woodard (03) is a platoon leader with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division of Ft. Hood, TX. He was deployed in March to take part in the peace-keeping work in Iraq. Matt says the house is now known "around the world" because he occasionally puts the house letters here and there in Iraq.

---

*All right... last night, when we were rolling around doing submission moves on each other..."*

*- Paul Karp (99);  
overheard in passing*

---

*"K-Y dries out too quickly."*

*'It's not, like, hand lotion!'"*

*- Ken Dillon (03) &  
Sarah Hoffman (02)*

---

*"I can handle that he has sex, but he can't."*

*- Emily Dillon (05) about  
her brother, Ken Dillon  
(03)*

## House Traditions: Scavenger Hunt

Live-In Weekend is a scaled down, more sedate version of the "Hell Week" held by other fraternities and sororities. It consists of a large number of activities designed to get the house members doing things together and spending time together.

One of the activities that has been a tradition for a long, long time is the Scavenger Hunt. Held on Saturday afternoon, each pledge, along with their big brother or sister, is asked to collect as many of the items on the scavenger hunt list as possible in the time allotted.

Members without Littles become the judges and rate the items collected by the various teams. Scores are based upon how closely an item matches what was asked for on the list and how creative the teams' items were.

For example, one item often asked for is a "ring of fire". A map of the volcanic region of the Pacific Ocean (known as "The Ring of Fire") would do, as would a paper plate with the middle cut out, then set aflame. Of course, the former is, perhaps, more creative than the latter.

Several of the items on the scavenger hunt are clues that should lead the teams to various house members. Each of these house members has a section of the Creed and the pledges need to get all the different parts of the Creed. At the judging they recite the Creed to the judges, from memory earns more points, but if they have to read from the scraps, that's okay.

There's usually not any specific prize for the winners, just the knowledge that they kicked the other teams' collective butts.

---

## House Traditions: Tau Trivia

Another tradition that takes place during Live-In Weekend is **Tau Trivia**. This is held Saturday night, after Pledge Dinner has been digested (or otherwise disposed of... we're looking at you, pledges of spring 99... with your burnt pizza and raw brownies!). Tau Trivia is one of the most popular events of Live\_in Weekend, drawing many alumni to attend.

During Tau Trivia, a pledge sits in a chair atop the round coffee table, with their Big on the table with them (and any other members of their lineage who wish to participate). The Big and other family members all must have drinks; the pledge can have one if they want to but it is not required (this is to ensure that pledges are not being hazed).

The active members and alumni in attendance then call out trivia questions about people, places, activities, and anything else that relates to the the House, its members, or its history. If the pledge gets an answer wrong, their Big has to drink (the pledge can drink, too, if they wish to). If the pledge gets an answer correct, everyone in the room EXCEPT the pledge and their Big has to drink.

Many of the questions involve tales of people whom the pledges have never met, some of whom

they have not even heard of. Other questions relate to more general house historic questions. As one might guess, some of these questions can border on the impossible for a pledge to answer.

It's the responsibility of the Big to make sure their Little has learned at least some small amount of Tau Trivia, although if a Big wants to get trashed, they often don't teach their Little too much! And, if the pledge is doing too well, the actives and alumni will begin asking more obscure questions to compensate.

Correct answers are only announced (if not answered correctly previously by a pledge) at the end of the evening. This permits questions to be recycled if an earlier pledge couldn't answer it.

To assist the actives in keeping older, more obscure Tau Trivia from being forgotten, the Alumni Association gave a gift, *Tau-Opoly*, to the House last year. One of the features of *Tau-Opoly* (based upon the Parker Brother's game, *Monopoly*) is the deck of Tau Trivia cards. Replacing the Community Chest, Tau Trivia cards ask questions similar to those asked during Tau Trivia during Live-In. Correct responses usually earn a monetary reward, incorrect responses usually get the player nothing at all.

## The Adventures of God... in Ripon



## Quotable Quotes in Perception Research

---

*"My pants are vibrating... oh, excuse me, it's my mom."*  
- Ken Dillon (03)

---

*"Women's Suffrage is a great thing, it gives every married man another vote."*  
- Pete Lenz (89)

---

*"I'm really a fruity kind of guy."*  
- Paul Karp (99);  
re: wine

In Pete Lenz's (89) research into Auditory Perception, research participants are often presented with "common everyday sentences" that have been modified in ways that reduce their intelligibility a great deal. The subjects then do their best to make sense out of the sentences, reporting what they think they heard. On occasion, the subjects will come up with responses that are rather amusing or just very curious. Below is a selection of some of the best.

The sentence was originally: "Walking is my favorite exercise." A subject heard "Smoking is my favorite exercise."

What should have been "If we don't get rain soon, we'll have no grass" was reported as "If we don't get rain soon, we'll smoke some grass."

One young woman, when she heard what was actually "You'll get fat eating candy" must have been feeling a bit frisky. She reported hearing "You'll get slapped eating Randy."

"Here's a nice place to rest" became "The man's possessed" for one young woman.

A young man, upon hearing what was originally "Fishing in a mountain stream is

my idea of a good time," confidently announced "I am thinking about destroying the idea of time." Another heard "Pissing in a mountain stream is my idea of a good time."

A guy with a possibly kinky nature heard "Do you want to wash up?" as "Do you like forceps?"

That same guy also misheard "You can catch the bus across the street" as "You can kick my balls across the street." Something I don't imagine most people would say...

Upon hearing "I'll see you right after lunch," a student announced loudly "Forsooth! He knows too much!"

If a subject wants to disturb a researcher, reporting "This afternoon I'm going to kill you" will work. The actual sentence was "The morning paper didn't say anything about rain this afternoon or tonight."

One that sounds like someone being brutally honest: the sentence was "What are you hiding under your coat" but a subject reported hearing "Why are we fighting? I think you're ugly!"

In this final one, the subject got it nearly correct when they reported "Weeds are spoiling the yard" as "Weeds are storming the yard."



# The Elms Club Editorialist

THETA SIGMA TAU /  
SIGMA NU  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

118 S. Wilson St.  
Fredonia, WI 53021

E-MAIL:  
taumagi@ThetaSigmaTau.org

## Donation, Donation, Donation

Just like PBS and NPR, we provide the alumni site and the web-ified version of the newsletter free of charge.

But the website generates costs, estimated at \$800/year (see the website for a detailed breakdown of expenses). We use this space to remind users that, if you find the website and services useful, valuable, or fun, you might consider

donating a bit of moolah towards its upkeep. We suggest \$1/month (\$12/year) but any amount, larger or smaller, is helpful.

Donations can be snail mailed to Pete Lenz at the address to the left, or you can find PayPal donation buttons scattered about the site.

And a big thank-you to those who have already donated! - Plenz

## The Adventures of Twitchy the Cat

