

April 2016
Composed by Harrison Bush, '19
Alumni Chair



1916 Phi Kappa Chapter Centennial 2016

Phi Kappa *news*

A word from our president

Phi Kappa Centennial Plans Moving Forward

Greetings Brothers of Phi Kappa Chapter of the Alpha Chi Rho Fraternity!

As I begin to write this update note, I ponder all the work that has been done and the work that remains to make the Centennial Celebration a success. Plans are moving along and we have included a registration form in this newsletter. You may print out the form and mail it back to our treasurer with your check or register and pay online. Find the form on our website:

www.axpillini.com

We have engaged Dish Passionate Cuisine for the catering of our BBQ at the House and for our formal banquet: The Feast of the Fraternity. I had the opportunity to sample their fine cooking at the Champaign Fire Department's 150th anniversary banquet last summer and it was awesome! We are in for a treat at the Feast, so don't miss out.

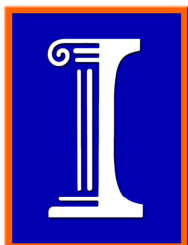
We have reserved blocks of rooms at several of the area hotels and details are in this newsletter about how to reserve a room, but do it soon. Availability for these rooms will likely become an issue and there is a

deadline for these rates. We have the most rooms blocked out at the Wyndham Garden because they had the most available, the rooms were recently remodeled and we got a good price. This hotel also has a large atrium area which may serve as a convenient gathering place.

We are planning some informal gatherings leading up to the Feast. Some final details are included in this newsletter and others will be available later on the website or in a future newsletter. Updates will also be available on our Facebook page. If you search for Phi Kappa you will find several related to our Fraternity.

I look forward to seeing everyone and I wish you all a safe and trouble free journey back to Champaign, to the University of Illinois and to our Fraternity where we all met! Let us celebrate this 100 year anniversary, renew old friendships and begin new ones.

In the Bond,
Brad LaPayne



PHI KAPPA CHAPTER CENTENNIAL
ON THE ILLINOIS CAMPUS SINCE 1916



centennial details

Check-In & Registration

Pick up your badge(s), tickets, Centennial Weekend program and Visitor Bag filled with maps, information and restaurant discount coupons.

Tickets cannot be mailed in advance of the weekend.

Thursday, June 9th

Chapter House: time to be announced

311 East Armory, Champaign, IL 61820

Friday, June 10th

Chapter House: time to be announced

311 East Armory, Champaign, IL 61820

Saturday, June 11th

Chapter House 9 am-3 pm

311 East Armory, Champaign, IL

Alice Campbell Alumni Center 5 pm-6:30 pm

601 S Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL 61801

Transportation & Parking

The Wyndham Garden Hotel, Hilton Garden Inn, and I-Hotel offer complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport, train station as well as to and from the University of Illinois campus and local attractions.



Area Hotels

We have blocked rooms at these fine area hotels. Contact them directly for reservations. All rates quoted are for double occupancy with breakfast included. As always, when you make your reservation be sure to confirm the hotel's Check-In/Out times, Cancellation, No Show, and Early Departure policies.

Wyndham Garden Hotel

1001 W Killarney Street
Urbana, IL 61801

Rate of \$119 + tax/night

Call **217-328-7900** and ask for the

"Phi Kappa/AXP Fraternity Centennial"

block by **May 8, 2016** to lock-in this room rate.

Home2 Suites by Hilton

2013 South Neil Street Champaign, IL 61820

Rate of \$99 + tax/night

Call **217-355-6468** and ask for the

"Phi Kappa/AXP Fraternity Centennial"

block (Code ACR) by **May 9, 2016** to lock-in this room rate.

Hilton Garden Inn

1501 South Neil Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Rate of \$131+ tax/night

Call **217-352-9970** and ask for the

"Alpha Chi Rho Celebration"

block (Code ALCHRH) by **May 11, 2016** to lock-in this room rate.

I-Hotel & Conference Center

1900 South First Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Rate of \$159 + tax/night

Call **855-213-0582** and ask for the

"Phi Kappa/AXP Fraternity Centennial"

block by **May 8, 2016** to lock-in this room rate.

Centennial Weekend Scheduled Events

Join us on June 11th, 2016 in Champaign to celebrate the Centennial of the Phi Kappa Chapter's founding on the University of Illinois campus on May 30, 1916. Rekindle the bonds of fraternal Brotherhood and reconnect with AXP Brothers of all ages and every era. Come on home to see how the Chapter House and the campus have evolved, and to witness firsthand how important Alpha Chi Rho remains.

Thursday, June 9th

Free time to explore campus and note all the changes. Dinner and the evening on your own. Revisit old haunts or explore what new spots Champaign-Urbana has to offer. Classes/decades are encouraged to organize informal dinner-on-your-own outings.

Friday, June 10th

Free time to explore campus and note all the changes. Dinner and the evening on your own. Revisit old haunts or explore what new spots Champaign-Urbana has to offer. Classes/decades are encouraged to organize informal dinner-on-your-own outings.

The Classes of 1970-1982 already plan to gather about 6:00 pm at Papa Del's Pizza, 1201 South Neil Street, (call or email Carl Amrhein at griffer723@aol.com or 630-390-9824 or 630-985-0675). Others plan to meet at Guido's (email Sean Rohan at sgrohan@gmail.com or call 847-347-1337 for details).

Join your Brothers at the 2 pm AXP Centennial Golf Outing on the Illini Orange Course. Contact Neil P. Kilcoyne at nkilcoyne24@gmail.com or call 773-908-4566 for more information and costs.

Saturday, June 11th

Chapter Open House 9 am-3 pm

Coffee and donuts available for the early risers. Tour the house as it is today, visit your old room and perhaps, reminisce about sleeping in a cold dorm, meals in the dining room and Sachem Sing practice around the living room piano. Take a moment to meet the current Phi Kappa Building Association officers.

BBQ Lunch on the Lawn 11:30-2 pm

Enjoy delicious BBQ in the shade of our big tent. Then lounge on the lawn as you greet old friends and meet new ones. Feel free to bring a lawn chair. Water, iced tea, lemonade provided, soft drinks and beer will be available for purchase.

Welcoming Reception at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center 5:00-6:30 pm

Greet your classmates and meet Brothers from every era while enjoying delicious hors d'oeuvres and your favorite beverage (cash bar). View memorabilia spanning the entire century. Connect with new and old friends from all the generations of our Phi Kappa history. How many brothers are back from your lineage? Your century? Who lived in your room? Which brother traveled the farthest? Who is the oldest brother back? We will share fun facts like these at dinner.

Feast of the Fraternity at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center 6:30-9:30 pm

A buffet dinner featuring chicken, beef, pasta and all the trimmings, capped by a wonderful desert. The dress for the evening is coat and tie and your AXP Badge. After dinner you'll enjoy a video history of Phi Kappa and its Brothers through the decades, plus greeting from Alpha Chi Rho National Headquarters and an outline of Phi Kappa's Second Hundred Years.

Sunday, June 12th

Chapter House Tours 10 am-noon.

You're on your own for breakfast or brunch, but you're encouraged to make arrangements with your classmates before departing.

Brother Phil Benefiel '41, Phi Kappa of AXP

by Brian R. Bland, Phi Kappa '63

It isn't easy remembering what life was like at the Phi Kappa chapter of AXP some 70-plus years ago, even if you live in Champaign and the house still sits at 311 E. Armory.

But like many another Phi Kappa alum, retired Judge Philip Benefiel, who turns 93 in June, will never forget bunking down every night in the large, unheated third story, which was set up much like a military barracks.

"I slept in the dorm and remember it was freezing in the winter," Benefiel said. On the other hand, he also remembers that "the food was good."

After high school, the Lawrence County native applied for and won a college scholarship the county offered, and began his freshman year at U of I in the fall of 1941. "I chose U of I because it was a good engineering school and civil engineering was my choice for a major," Benefiel said.

As for choosing to become a Crow, "I had some friends in the Fraternity, so I wanted to be with them," he said.

Other memories include in-house

dances and, interestingly, a House Mother, which seems to have been a rarity for much of Phi Kappa's existence. But "I don't remember her name," Benefiel said.

He does, however, recall that the Crows had a pet. "After I had pledged, we got a house dog. I think it was a Doberman, named Tosca," Benefiel said. (Crows in the late 1950's and early 1960's had a German Shepherd named Ace, so pets may have been more of a tradition than House Mothers).

Those memories persist despite Benefiel's college career being interrupted by the turmoil of World War II.

In his third year of ROTC, Benefiel – an honor student – had a choice: join a special Army unit or get drafted and have even less input on his fate. Benefiel opted to go into the Army Specialized Training Program in Commerce, Texas, where, in addition to studying, he went through basic training.



Phil & Wife, Mary Benefiel

Next stop – Europe. Brother Benefiel saw combat during the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944 and the crossing of the Rhine at Remagen, Germany, a few months later.

"I returned from service in Europe and returned to U. of I. and switched my major from civil engineering to law," Benefiel said, adding that he was allowed to go directly into Law School without an undergraduate degree. "I enrolled in Law School under the GI Bill and earned my law degree," he said.

In the decades that followed, Benefiel went on to become a State Senator and then a Circuit Judge – "among other things," he added, modestly. Those other things included marrying Mary and parenting five children. Now, he says, he has "many" grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

It's been a long, happy and successful road that led the Benefiels back to Champaign after years in Lawrence County. "I visited (the Chapter House) several times" over the years, Benefiel said, "but only kept in touch with one friend, Bruce Pinkstaff, who is deceased."

Noting Phi Kappa's upcoming centennial, the Benefiels said: "We hope to be able to join you in June."

Please make your check payable to: **Phi Kappa of AXP Centennial** and mail along with this hard copy Registration Form to:

**Phi Kappa Building Association,
PO Box 103, Westmont, IL 60559**

Registration Cancellations must be received in writing no later than **June 1st** or your Registration Fees will be forfeited.

Registration Form or Sign Up at axpillini.com

Brother: Your Name as you want it printed on your Name Badge. Your Class will be automatically added.			
Included in each Centennial Weekend Program will be a list of the Brothers expected to attend, their class and a cell phone number they can be contacted at to make personal arrangements. If you'd like your number listed, please enter it below:			
Area Code	Number		
Your Guest's Name(s) as you want it printed on the Name Badge(s)			
Individual Tickets	Cost/Person	Number	
BBQ at the Chapter House	\$25		\$
Welcoming Reception and Feast of the Fraternity	\$60		\$
Combination Tickets			
Saturday's BBQ, Welcoming Reception and Feast of the Fraternity	\$75		\$
Total			\$

Call For Commemorative Items

The Phi Kappa chapter of Alpha Chi Rho Fraternity located on the University of Illinois campus is now 100 years old and has over 1,100 Brothers. Our collective “attics” must be overflowing with keepsakes, souvenirs, and trophies of Greek Life and our times as undergraduate Brothers.

As we prepare for our Centennial Celebration Weekend in June, we're collecting memorabilia documenting the century of Phi Kappa activities. **We're looking to collect any of the following items and we sure could use your help:**

Digital or Paper:

- Photographs and Photo Albums
- Films, Audio and Video tapes
- Group House Photos
- Scrapbooks, Postcards and Newspaper
- Articles
- Rush Booklets, Pledge Manuals and Handbooks
- Diaries, Journals, Letters, and Programs
- Chapter Newsletters, Booklets
- Dance Cards, Invitations, Event Programs and Flyers
- Architectural Drawings and Artifacts
- Song Books, Music and Lyrics

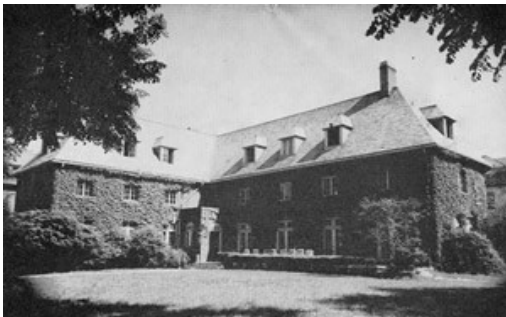
Physical Keepsakes:

- Banners, Pennants and Flags Beansies, Hats, Scarves, etc.
- Plaques and Paddles
- Monogrammed Card and Cigarette Cases
- Tickets and Buttons from Homecoming and Other Events
- Monogrammed Blankets and Throws
- Prom or Dance Cards
- Dance Favors and Souvenirs
- AXP College Apparel
- Cuff Links, Key Chains, Tie Tacks and Clips

Let's not lose these memories. Consider donating your piece of AXP history for display on the Centennial Weekend. Afterwards, we expect many items will become part of a rotating display in the Card Room. All submissions will become property of the Phi Kappa Building Association. We will endeavor to make digital photos of each item donated and they will become part of the Chapter's permanent collection. Most paper photos and duplicate objects will then be donated to the University's Student Life and Culture Archives for conservation, cataloging and housing where they may be placed on display or used on the University's website or in print publications, classrooms, workshops, and special programs.

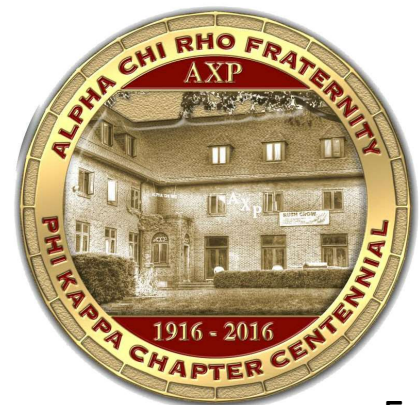
So, here's an opportunity to clean out your attic, basement, garage, and closets. First, share and show your treasures to your family, then share them with your Brothers.

It will take us some time to “curate” and prepare the Centennial presentation, so please act soon. Turn to Page 6 for more information.



Left: Can you identify the year this photo was taken?

Right: See the reverse side of this coin on the next page



Here's How To Contribute Memorabilia

Your Name (Please Print)		
Your Address		
City	State	Zip
E-Mail	Phone	
Whose name should we recognize?		<input type="checkbox"/> Anonymous
<p>Items submitted will not be returned and by submitting materials for the Phi Kappa Centennial Weekend and inclusion in the Chapter Archives, you grant the Phi Kappa Building Association (Chapter) and its assigns, a non-exclusive, worldwide, perpetual license to store, reproduce, publicly display, disseminate and distribute the work in any medium or format now existing or developed in the future for any purpose related to the preservation of the work or operation of the Archive and without any additional consideration, payment or royalty, so long as Chapter refrains from making a material alteration to the creative content of the work. You also represent and warrant that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• you are the sole owner or one of the copyright owners, acting with their permission, or;• you own the materials submitted;• that the materials do not, to the best of your knowledge, infringe upon any copyright or any right of confidentiality, patent, trademark, trade secret, publicity, privacy or other proprietary right, and;• you understand that this License does not limit any copyright owners' rights to submit the work elsewhere; and;• you agree to hold the Chapter and its assigns harmless for any liability arising from any breach of the above warranties and representations and any claim of infringement arising from the exercise of this License.		

For digital photos and documents:

- We prefer photos to be at the highest resolution available and in the .jpg format. For most other documents the .pdf format is suggested. **Please include a copy of this form and, whenever possible, include a note identifying the approximate date of each photo or document and who is depicted.**
- E-Mail images to: illinicrows@gmail.com; or
- Mail a CD to: **AXP Centennial, 15806 Sorawater Drive, Lithia, FL 33547.**

For Physical Items:

Mail or ship items to: **Brad LaPayne, Phi Kappa Building Association President, 816 Dennison Drive, Champaign, IL 61820.** If cost or packaging poses a problem, please call Brad at: **217-390-8962.**

- **Please include a copy of the completed form.**
- **Put your name on a Post-It on the back of items you contribute**
- **Whenever possible, note the approximate date of the photo, document or item and who is depicted.**

Commemorative Centennial Coins



In honor of the Phi Kappa Chapter's Centennial, a limited number of Commemorative Centennial Coins have been commissioned. Each coin is over 2" in diameter and features the full color Crest on the front and an embossed image of the Chapter House on the reverse. One of these colorful coins is included in your Registration and promises to become a treasured memento of the Centennial Weekend. If you are unable to join your Brothers on Centennial Weekend but would like a coin to mark the occasion, or you just want another coin or two to share, you may order additional coins to be shipped via 1st Class mail. First coin mailed to a single address: \$20 Additional coins to same address: \$12.

You can order and pay on-line at axpillini.com Or, make your check payable to **Phi Kappa of AXP Centennial** and mail to **Coins, Phi Kappa Building Association, PO Box 103, Westmont, IL 60559.**