Chi Phi Congress, Joe Kale ‘16

From June 18th – 21st, the Chi Phi Fraternity held its 150th Congress. This year, Congress was held in San Francisco at the Financial District Hilton. The Phi Lambda Theta chapter sent five active members, Will Evans ’15, John Brunner ’15, Miles Silva ’16, Joe Kale ’16, and Will Harpin ’18, in addition to three alumni, Tom Deans ’55, Adam Andersen ’10, and Davis Gallinghouse ’14.

As with every year’s Congress, this year was a celebration of fraternity at a national level. Friday evening, the delegates and attendees took a ferry ride across the bay, past Alcatraz Island to Tiburon for dinner. Following Congressional sessions on Saturday morning was the awards luncheon. This year, the Phi Lambda Theta chapter was recognized with five awards: The Bates E. Block Campus Involvement Award, the Philanthropic Achievement Award, the Outstanding Alumni Engagement Award, the Accredited with Distinction for Two Consecutive Semesters Award, and the Thomas A. Gehring award for Chapter Excellence.

Saturday evening consisted of the fraternity picture and annual banquet. The fraternity recognized its achievement in the Changing Lives capital campaign, having raised over $10 million to date. On Sunday, the

Events

- August 26-September 3: Formal Recruitment
- September 15-16: Family Weekend
- October 9-13: Fall Recess
- October 23-24: Homecoming

Active and graduated Phi Lambda Theta Brothers reuniting at Chi Phi’s 150th Congress
primary Congressional Session took place. Major resolutions were passed, including the creation of a committee to review and revise the fraternity’s Gulliard Heritage and Traditions program, and a membership review committee that will review the possible inclusion of transgender men as brothers. The Phi Lambda Theta chapter played an integral role in passing a resolution allowing colonies in good standing to purchase ritual equipment prior to receiving their charter.

Sunday afternoon, brothers returned to their respective summer residences, many at Bucknell but others elsewhere. The Phi Lambda Theta chapter attendees were happy with the mark they left on the fraternity and the relationships formed with other chapters.

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**Summer House Projects, Jon Leung, ‘17**

Although there are far fewer students at Bucknell for the summer, there is still a vibrant group participating in classes, research projects, or working in various offices on campus. The same is true for the brothers of Phi Lambda Theta. With just under 20 brothers at Bucknell for the summer, a majority of whom are living in the chapter house, various house projects have been started.

Brother Tyler Chelbowski, ‘16, acting Pi for the summer and upcoming fall semester, is overseeing a renovation to the kitchen. A walk-in freezer and refrigerator unit will be installed. Brothers William Eichhorn, ‘16, Max Ferrer, ‘17, and Addison Haxo, ‘17, are working on repainting the sign for the front of the house.

Other items include building new risers, which brothers William Harpin ‘18 and Eli Raeker-Jordan ‘17 have led. The side door on the house has been replaced by the university, and the entrance to the basement of the house was also redone to fix damage from the winter.

While it is shocking how quickly summer has gone by, there are still several projects that need to be done. An outdoor storage unit will be built near the parking lot of the house. The brothers of PLT are also considering building a set of shelves for the music room. There are even talks of building a hammock stand to be used outside. All in all, summer at Bucknell, and PLT for that matter has been a productive one. The brothers are looking forward to seeing these projects positively impact the chapter in the semesters to come.

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**Deans Named Grand Beta**

Tom Deans, ‘55, alumni advisor to the PLT Chapter, was named Grand Beta at the 150th National Congress of the Chi Phi Fraternity in San Francisco in June.

The Grand Beta functions as the vice president of the Grand Council, the governing body of the national organization. Tom was chosen for the position by incoming Grand Alpha Ron Frank. In previous Grand
Councils, Tom served as a Member at Large for nine years under Brother Frank and the retiring Grand Alpha James Soderquist. He also serves as Chair of the Accreditation Committee on which he has served since its formation in 2005.

Tom has been engaged in PLT alumni activities since his graduation in 1955, when he became Secretary of the then local chapter. Now serving as alumni advisor to the active chapter, Tom has also held the post of vice president, and president of the Alumni Association. He became active at the national level following the PLT Chapter’s affiliation with Chi Phi in 1984. This spring the Chapter celebrated its 30th anniversary as a member of the Chi Phi National Fraternity with a banquet attended by Grand Alpha Elect Ron Frank and National Executive Director Michael Azarian.

“I didn’t realize when I stepped in to help Biff Hoffman with his secretarial duties and chapter advising that I would be serving PLT and the national fraternity 60 years later,” Tom said. “I was amazed that Biff had dedicated almost 55 years to his beloved fraternity, and it was his example that inspired me to serve for such a sustained period,” Tom added. The undergraduates have kept life interesting to say the least and as alumni their support is a main reason for our continued success, he added.

A Journey to Share Aviation with Youth, Colin Hassel, ‘15

Inspiration

The idea for flying across the country came to me in March of 2015, when I was looking for a way to having meaningful summer before starting my full time job in August. As a child, my father used to take me to Newark Airport in New Jersey to watch the jets land. Although I was young at the time, I knew then that I wanted to be a pilot. It was not until I arriving at Bucknell that I actually achieved my skyward ambitions by obtaining my Private Pilot’s License at the Penn Valley Airport in Selinsgrove. As I reflected on my journey with aviation, I wanted to find a way to provide young people across the United States with an opportunity to experience flight firsthand and realize that their dreams of flight are achievable.

Planning

With two big aviation organizations on my side, I approached fellow Chi Phi and Pilot, Zach Ross about the trip. Zach quickly came onboard and we began working out the logistics of the trip through various meetings and brainstorming sessions. I also spoke extensively with Chi Phi Alumni Advisor, Tom Deans, who provided a great deal of guidance for the trip by helping us hone our mission and expose youth to aviation. Tom also very generously pledged financial support on behalf of Chi Phi alumni to make this trip possible. After several conversations with both Tom and Zach, the trip began to gain depth: The journey would be an outreach trip around the Eastern Corridor of the United States, covering close to 3,000 nautical miles. Along the way we would meet with youth from various walks of life to expose them to aviation through events at airports along our flight path.

With the mission solidified, we began to work out the specific details of the trip. The planning included the routing of the trip, and also event planning for each of the stops along the way. The itinerary is listed below:

- Meet with YMCA group at Mansfield Municipal Airport (Massachusetts)
- Meet with Boys and Girls Club at Norfolk International Airport (Virginia)
- Ice cream social with Young Eagles at Jim Hamilton- LB Owens Field (South Carolina)
- Meet with Piper Aircraft at Vero Beach factory (Florida)

Group picture with the YMCA crew in Mansfield, MA
Meeting with the Boys and Girls club in Nashville

Trip

On June 12, 2015, I departed Boston, heading South bound to Mansfield Municipal Airport, where I would meet with a group from the local YMCA.

We then took the children from the Hockomock Area YMCA out to the tarmac and talked aviation, showing them how the plane worked, answering questions, and giving one on one cockpit tours.

The next day, I flew down to Norfolk International Airport, where I was to meet up with Zach and a group from the local Boys and Girls Club. The impending thunderstorm did not rain on our parade at Norfolk International Airport. Shortly after landing, thunderheads appeared west of the field, causing us to slightly alter our plans. The folks at Landmark Aviation were very accommodating and kindly moved our plane into a hangar and provided a bus to carry the group from the Southside Boys and Girls Club across the airfield. It turned out to be quiet a treat, as there was a Phenom jet and a King Air (very nice twin engine airplanes) in the hangar too. Using a mock cross section of an airfoil, the group learned how lift was generated and allows a plane to take off into the air. We also made the most of the indoor location by turning on all the exterior lights to the aircraft, illuminating the hangar.

Everyone then had a chance for a cockpit tour and received Flight Training Magazines courtesy of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association. The next morning, Zach and I hopped in the plane for a 3.5 hour flight to Columbia, S.C. After our flight from Norfolk, we arrived at Jim Hamilton-LB Owens Airport in Columbia, South Carolina. For this event, we met with a teenaged audience, which allowed us to have more in depth conversations about aviation and their aeronautical aspirations. Overall it was great to be around people who love aviation and want to ensure others have the opportunity to find a similar passion.

We then headed up to Nashville, Tennessee to meet with a group from the local Boys and Girls club. It was quite a busy day at the airport, so in addition to our cockpit tours and aircraft talk, the kids were able to see a few take offs and landings, including one by a United States Army Blackhawk helicopter. All the activity at the airport sparked a lot of questions, leading to some really interesting conversations about aviation and how aircraft operate.
By the time we returned to Bedford on June 19, we had logged more than 30 hours of flying time and met more than 100 young people.

One of the most enthusiastic was a boy I met in Norfolk, Va., who asked about the intricate details of how the aircraft controls and instruments functioned. After we stepped from the aircraft, he asked to shake my hand as the group picture was taken.

Seeing his excitement made me feel like a kid again, back at the airport with my dad. I remembered that moment 15 years ago when my admiration for the pilots in the sky was just beginning.

Looking back at this trip, I am really amazed at what we were able to accomplish. This trip started out as a crazy idea that was only a dream, but with the help and guidance of so many individuals, turned into an adventure with so many levels of depth and meaning. I am incredibly grateful for the support of Chi Phi for this trip, as it not only provided me with a way to share a passion with a fellow pilot and brother, but also to give back to youth across America (many of which have not been to an airport or in a plane before). It was extremely rewarding to be able to share my passions with other young people and see the awe faces.

This trip served as the perfect culminating experience to my time at Bucknell and was a great way to give back to the aviation community along the way.

Senior Dinner, Ben Gordon, ‘16

As is tradition, Tom Deans treated the Chi Phi seniors to a dinner in downtown Lewisburg. Historically, the dinner has been hosted at the Brasserie Louis, but this year it was held at the Lewisburg Hotel. The twenty-eight brothers arrived and were treated to a full meal with entrees, drinks, and desserts.

As their final year of college came to an end, the brothers went around the room regaling their favorite memories in the fraternity, letting no brother go un-roasted.

Tom, Joe, and Ben also took time to recognize some of the seniors who had gone above and beyond the expectations of brotherhood and made major contributions to the fraternity.

Chris Capecci won the Woodward Award, recognizing his success as President, having helped the fraternity win the Gehring Award twice under his leadership. Brett Walter won the Hoffman-Giannetti-Hess Award for his impressive balance of fraternal and extra-curricular activities, having been Public Relation Chair, Vice President, Tour Guide Coordinator, and Orientation Coordinator, among other accomplishments. John
Brunner won the McConnell Award for his versatility and continued dedication to the fraternity. Zac and Justin Westdyke both won the Girsten Award for their unabating commitment to the fraternity and its values.

Tom also introduced two new awards for academic and social excellence, given to Sam Robinson and JT Engels respectively. Sam maintained the highest GPA of all the seniors in Chi Phi, and JT always brought an energy that got everyone around him excited for any event.

In addition to their plaques, every award came with a bonus $100 from Tom himself.

After their stomachs were pleasantly stuffed and their livers sufficiently worked, the seniors returned to campus to reflect on how their time at Bucknell had been so positively affected by their brothers and membership at Chi Phi, Phi Lambda Theta.

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**Senior Week, Brett Walter, ‘15**

On Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, twenty-six PLT brothers began the annual post-finals pilgrimage to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina for senior week. Equipped with plenty of burgers, eggs, and snacks, our sheer excitement made the thirteen-hour car ride fly by. I can speak for all of us when I say that nothing sounded like a better end to our senior year then lying on a warm sunny beach with all of our friends and a nice cold beer, celebrating our accomplishments.

When we actually got to Myrtle however, what greeted us was a tropical storm—not the blue sunny skies we were hoping for. Spirits remained high as we used this less-than-ideal weather to rest inside after our long drives, striking up some highly competitive games of Super Smash Bros. and Monopoly. The rest of the week was spent soaking up the sun on the beach, playing football in the sand, and reminiscing on a great four years.

What made this trip memorable for me (yes I still remember it, despite finishing a keg per day) was the overwhelming sense of brotherhood that pervaded not only our house, but also the entire senior class. This spirit of togetherness culminated in a big beach blowout on the last night, for which several fraternities allocate their funds to provide beer and music. Leaving Myrtle Beach, we were exhausted and sunburnt, but mostly we were content knowing that our time at Bucknell was best it could be.

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**Summer Paintballing Trip, Jason Hammett, ‘17**

On June 28th, the summer residents of the house celebrated Brother Nick Frediani’s birthday by going to Skirmish Paintball in Jim Thorpe, PA for half-price student admission day. Brothers John Brunner, Tyler Chlebowski, Eli Raeker-Jordan, Will Eichorn, Zach Ross, and Jason Hammett attended. The trip provided a much needed outlet for the brothers who had been cooped up with only each other as company for months.

The weather was hot and rainy, leading to muddy fields and foggy woods at the course. While the day was fun it was also painful. Very painful. Some brothers left with welts to nurse over the following week, and others gloating over their temporary badges of victory. Frediani said "It was the perfect way to celebrate my birthday: a simulated war."

In addition to their paintballing trip, the summer residents also have a final brotherhood trip for the end of the summer to celebrate their successes and to get ready for the coming academic year.
The Brothers of Phi Lambda Theta are mixing excitement and confidence with a bit of uncontrollable uncertainty this fall as they prepare for a newly reformed formal recruitment process. Over the past year, Bucknell University's Inter-Fraternity Council has worked with representatives from each chapter to develop a committee that created many of the changes we will see this August.

Rather than the traditional Open House - Meal Bid Format, the newly refined process will include two extra rounds. As a four round process, the 9 day schedule will include 3 days of open house, 2 days of invitation only based on top 6 preferences, 2 more days of invitation only based on top 4 preferences, and finally 2 days of "open bidding" based on top 2 preferences. The discussion and voting process for the chapters internally will remain the same. Among the removal of the requirement to visit all chapter houses during open houses and the shift from 3-2 preference to 6-4-2, perhaps the most significant change this year will be in the way official bids of membership offers are given out. The "open bidding" process will encourage chapters to offer bids in the last two days of rush verbally to potential new members, rather than sending bid cards in the mail box as before. This will create a new, more personal dynamic to the interaction between the chapter and the potential new member.

The chapter is also quite excited that all recruitment events are now open to chapter interpretation, meeting that there are no restrictions on the types of events that you have, as long as they meet the IFC-Panhellenic regulations. With this said, the chapter is excited to feature several themed nights of entertainment, including outdoor activities, live music, and plenty of delicious and diverse local fare.

Although the impacts of a large scale such as this are often unknown until experienced firsthand, our Chapter's leadership feels extremely confident that the new system will give us an even better competitive advantage as we seek to continue are strong and exemplary presence on campus.

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**Chapter Eternal**

Timothy (Tim) Daniels, Class of ’67, passed away in February of this year. A resident of West Chester, Tim had a most active and consequential career as an educator. At Bucknell he was a member of the Band, Chapel Choir, and the education honor society. Tim earned a masters from Harvard and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania prior to joining the Upper Darby School system where he became a principal and then assistant superintendent. Later, Tim worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Education helping to start Charter Schools in the Commonwealth and later starting Achievement House Cyber Charter School. Tim was the originator of the PA Coalition of Charter Schools.

Bruce Scott, Class of ’79, passed away in April of this year. An Electrical Engineering major at Bucknell, Bruce earned a masters from Florida Technical University and later worked for three large American firms: Frito Lay, the Harris Corporation, and Lockheed Martin.

Jeffrey Kiener, Class of ’84 passed away in February of this year. A resident of Erie, Pennsylvania, Jeff worked for Better Baked Foods in North East, PA, but he was also able to express his first love by working as a guitarist and music teacher in the Erie area.