

ANDREW GARWOOD STRONG FOUNDATION'S INAUGURAL GOLF OUTING

By Michael Dulan, Phi Rho '15 and Matthew Costantino, Phi Rho '14

Andrew Garwood, a native of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, joined the Phi Rho chapter during his freshman year fall semester in 2011. He quickly became one of the most active members in the fraternity, serving various roles and participating in many extracurriculars and philanthropies. Particularly, Andrew was most interested in raising money for Penn State's THON and loved to organize activities and participate in various weekend canning events.

His ability to lead, guide, and motivate others was truly special. He was a gifted athlete and loved to play team sports, excelling on the football field, the hardwood, and on the diamond. Andrew was beloved by his brothers and close friends for his caring personality, sense of humor, and genuine ability to connect with others.

In the Fall of 2014, Andrew was returning to State College for his senior year and second term as president of Phi Rho. That Labor Day weekend he started to experience prolonged headaches and a lack of coordination. These unusual symptoms led to a diagnosis of glioblastoma multiforme or grade IV astrocytoma, a severe form of brain cancer, which Andrew fought valiantly for 16 months.

Andrew was forced to leave the university that Fall to undergo treatment. Over time Andrew underwent three craniotomies, various chemotherapy and radiation treatments, as well as immunotherapy infusions. During this period he re-enrolled in the Spring and participated in THON 2015, as one of the few selected to stand for the entirety of our Greek community's annual dance marathon supporting pediatric cancer patients.

Those close to him were uneasy about his participation in the strenuous no-sitting, no-sleeping 46 hour event in his condition. He shared these same concerns, but refused

to let cancer dictate any facet of his life, especially his participation in THON. When battling cancer, Andrew always kept his head up and there was never a sense of self-pity or "Why did this happen to me?" He carried out this courageous attitude until the very end – as just another shining example of the way he lived.

When those close to him are asked about his battle with cancer, they always have the same response, "He didn't lose his battle to cancer, he won by the manner in which he lived." At THON 2016 Andrew was remembered for this during family hour.

The Andrew Garwood Strong Foundation was started mid-2016 after Phi Rho's first gentleman, scholar, and jolly good fellow joined the mystic circle on January 12, 2016. The foundation's purpose is to raise awareness and provide support for brain cancer research in hope of developing a cure. The foundation not only financially supports reputable brain cancer research centers, but also funds academic scholarships to undergraduate Dekes who exemplify Andrew's best traits and values. In Andrew's memory, many of Phi Rho's undergraduates and alumni are participating in the success Andrew's family has built with this charity established in his honor.

The Andrew Garwood Strong Foundation's Inaugural Golf Outing will take place on June 3rd at Mountain View Country Club near State College, PA, the home of our Phi Rho chapter. We would like to extend an invitation to all Dekes, family, and friends to join us for the event. The foursome scramble tournament has a shotgun start at 9:00 AM, with a luncheon to follow available to non-golfers as well. We are accepting gifts and other items to be used as prizes for various events and an auction, which will be conducted during the luncheon. Please contact Matthew Costantino at Matthew.Costantino.L@gmail.com for further information.



Andrew with parents Steve and Terri Garwood at THON 2015.



Geordann Weik joined Andrew in his enthusiastic participation in everything THON.