

PSK

Homecoming 2024

President's Comments

September 28, 2024

Our fraternity alumni would be upset if Penn State closed. No one wants their history to simply vanish.

The same is true of the fraternity house. In addition to the house, we have fraternal bonds that enable communication with others across the country, even if for no more than an ability to share a burger and a beer with someone with whom there is a shared association. This association and the house are assets of Kappa Chapter of PSK that need maintenance and investment.

We are in a strong financial position now – the strongest since I started as President at the 2018 Homecoming. We now have no mortgage, and we have made nice investments in the house: the crest over the fireplace, air conditioning in the basement, the outdoor space. We plan to install new flooring for the second and third floors during Work Weekend 2025. We are still working on the planning for the kitchen.

We have also invested in connecting alumni, with technology at the house that enables this virtual annual meeting.

We will be celebrating one hundred years of this house in a little over two years.

I had a lengthy career as an attorney in the power industry. A staple of the power industry is regular maintenance, which includes preventative investment. It would not be possible for power plants to simply perform ad hoc, reactive maintenance.

Our house needs to take a similar approach. We are in a better position now to do so. For this upcoming year, I hope that the Board can find the time and energy to create and implement a regular capital investment plan.

But there is another investment I hope we can make. We should invest in our connection. We can do this in these important ways:

1. **We need all your contact information**, including approval to accept text messaging.
2. **We need your profiles on the website**. With the profiles, we can improve our ability to find and to connect with each other. Your part is to create your profile and to provide updates.
3. **We can be an easy source of information**. We could be an easy source of current life information - on pledge brothers, on brothers you lived with, and brothers who may be in your area who you did not know were there. With this information, you could get help in finding new employment or finding info about an area in which you are thinking to move.

4. **We can invest in how we push information out to you.** We can improve on how we get information to you. Through the website, email, or text messaging, we can keep you current on the state of the physical house and on the state of Kappa. Individually we are sources of information to each other and there is more that we can do to enable the movement of that information, to leverage that information amongst ourselves. This would take investment with our communications partner Elevate.
5. **We can improve on our mentorship.** Actives need your experience, your wisdom. Create profiles to enable Actives to connect with Alumni.
6. **We need to survey Alumni on what you want.** We will be talking with Elevate about this survey – please watch for it.

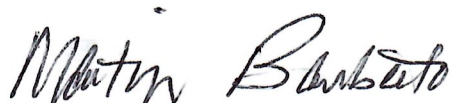
One last point. You can support us and the alumni in one more way. Become an adviser to the Board. You do not need to be on the board. You can get involved in projects or subject areas of interests. Be an adviser on the investment in and maintenance of the house. Be an adviser on financial matters. Be an adviser on alumni connecting and socializing matters.

It is a particularly opportunistic time to get involved, financially speaking. It is the first time in approximately 15 years that we do not have a mortgage, thus enabling us to make smart, focused investments. It would be helpful to have people who are interested in the finances to help us in developing business models that maximize the experience for the Actives and the condition of the physical house. We could even look at other things such as giving support to Actives facing economic challenges.

Please contact us and we can collaborate with you to find a place for you. Note that we do not have all time periods at PSK covered. So, consider volunteering. You can do so virtually. We just need your expertise and time.

Thank you for your continuing support of Kappa.

Fraternally yours,



Martin Barbato, '79

President, The Phi Sigma Kappa Association of State College

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