

UPCOMING EVENTS

Founders' Day

Saturday, March 18

Catered lunch and informal chapter meeting

RSVP at www.phisigpsu.com

Blue-White Game

Saturday, April 22

7th Annual Phi Sig Golf Tournament

Friday, May 19. 1 p.m.

PSU White Course

Saturday, May 20. 11 a.m.

Mountain View Country Club

Contact: **Matt Cowen '99**,

Golf Tournament Chair

mcowen@kcftech.com

PHI SIGMA KAPPA ASSOCIATION

President

Fred DeCock '80

fred.decock@comcast.net

Vice President

David Hyland '80

Treasurer

Ben Jarmul '81

Secretary

Joe Mazziotti '15

Board Members

Stephen Handwerk '74

Bill Albertson '73

Martin Barbato '79

Matt Cowen '99

Jeff McGraw '88

Chapter President

Mike Nassry '03

Phil Stout '07

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Robert Baughman '55

Harry Jones '58

Kenneth Ishler '59

Willes Reeder '59

John Lindberg '74

***Luke Spaseff '87**

**Find a full feature story in memory of Luke at www.phisigpsu.com.*

Kappa Chapter mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

Kappa News

www.phisigpsu.com



537-275

Kappa Chapter
Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

February 2017

Committed to Lifelong Learning

ALUMNI REPORT

Still a Reason to Be Damn Proud?

By Fred DeCock, '80



Reclaim your brother status, honor your own lifelong membership, and remember the reasons that you're damn proud to be a Phi Sig.

Ten years ago, Kappa Chapter bonded together for a successful milestone effort. With your support, we raised \$1+ million to preserve our historic fraternity house, expand our longstanding legacy, and maintain a reputation of excellence for our undergraduate chapter.

Now, we're beginning to lose the momentum that has carried us for a decade. It's time for a resurgence. We have the opportunity to revitalize and reinvigorate our efforts to keep our alumni connected, grow our chapter, and position Phi Sig at Penn State for the strong future that we've worked so hard to build—one that it deserves. To start, we need to put a fresh spin on our alumni association.

That's where you come in. This time around, we don't need your financial support (well, perhaps just a little bit). Rather, we need your renewed participation. We need you to reclaim your brother status, honor your own lifelong membership, and remember the reasons that you're damn proud to be a Phi Sig.

We recently surveyed our alumni and undergraduate brothers, and we hear what you're saying. You value your Phi Sig membership. You cherish your lifelong friendships. *You want Kappa Chapter to*

prosper for generations to come.

So do we. And we need your help. Join us this year to help strengthen our alumni association. You can make a big impact by:

- Calling a long-lost brother to touch base (and letting us know the outcome).
- Attending an event, to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.
- Reliving your fraternity days by sharing your best memories for a newsletter.
- Making a gift to our annual fund to keep our yearly operations going (see the enclosed form for details).
- And, most importantly, letting us know what we can do to enhance the alumni experience for you (feel free to send me an email at the address to the left).

After all, our organization exists for you, thanks to you. We need to maintain a strong alumni brotherhood to ensure our chapter lives on at Penn State. You play an important role, as you are the link to our past and the key to our future.

Show us that you're still damn proud. *Join us with your active participation this year!*

HOUSE CORP. TREASURER'S REPORT

Behind the Budget

A Look at the Financials that Drive the Kappa Chapter House

By Ben Jarmul '81, Phi Sigma Kappa Association Treasurer

Phi Sigma Kappa Association of State College, the alumni housing corporation, has a September 30 fiscal year end. The mission of our housing corporation is to support the undergraduate fraternity house, including all activities relating to paying bills for this purpose.

We are required annually to file a Federal Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. Our Form 990 has been filed for the year ended September 30, 2015, and we anticipate filing our Form 990 for the year ended September 30, 2016 in the near future. When required, we also file a Form 990-T for taxable interest and other income.

A few years ago, our housing corporation also adopted a July 31 fiscal year end for internal reporting purposes to better coincide with the school year. This internal reporting and period provides for a better match of revenues and expenses for the fall and spring semesters. Accordingly, our housing corporation prepares an operating budget on a July 31 fiscal basis. This budget along with periodic financial statements throughout the year are reviewed and approved by the Board.

The following is a summary of our assets, liabilities, and net assets as of January 31, 2017 and September 30, 2016, 2015, and 2014, and revenues and expenses for the years then ended (annual budgeted amounts shown for 2017):

	2017	2016	2015	2014
ASSETS, LIABILITIES, ...				
Cash and investments	\$ 309,447	\$ 302,988	\$ 295,075	\$ 118,437
Property and equipment	1,142,624	1,142,624	1,195,297	1,232,670
Other assets	4,723	4,723	14,291	39,788
Mortgage payable	623,878	637,642	677,922	716,798
Net assets - unrestricted	719,921	699,698	717,695	579,942
Net assets - restricted	112,995	112,995	109,046	94,155
REVENUES AND EXPENSES				
Rental income	\$ 141,750	\$ 180,157	\$ 228,830	\$ 134,730
Contributions and other	18,000	14,251	21,261	23,298
Building expenses	97,300	125,724	120,485	118,187
Building repairs	25,000	55,614	27,672	18,818
Other expenses	37,000	27,606	33,488	26,369
Net income (loss)	450	(14,536)	68,446	(5,346)

Note: Budgeted building expenses for 2017 includes full mortgage payments due and excludes depreciation.

Our cash balance has improved over the years and represents approximately 50% of our mortgage payable. Our mortgage note matures in December 2018 with a balloon payment due at that time of approximately \$545,000. While we had a record year in occupancy of near capacity of between 35 to 40 Actives for the 2015 to 2016 school year, our occupancy has since returned back to historic, lower levels of between 25 to 30 Actives for the 2016 to 2017 school year. While building repairs have steadily increased over the years, our house is well maintained compared to prior years and other fraternity houses.

Our Board has established a Finance Committee that consists of myself as Treasurer, Fred DeCock as President, and Steve Handwerk. No doubt we also work with the Actives, in particular, their Treasurer and President, and most recently have hired a Financial Advisor, Tom Harner, to oversee their

activities.

While we believe we have adequate internal controls regarding the activities of our alumni housing corporation, our Finance Committee is focused on the following:

1. Continued improvements with our leasing activities with the Actives
2. Continued improvements with our oversight of the financial affairs of the Actives
3. The refinancing of our mortgage note as previously noted

Please contact me at ben.jarmul@bakertilly.com if you desire any tax returns and financial information. We truly appreciate your contributions and support over the years!

CHAPTER REPORT

Phi Sig Wins Greek Sing 2016, Raises Funds and Awareness through Philanthropy

By Joe McDonald, Chapter President

Phi Sigma Kappa took home the title of one of the biggest Greek events on campus. Along with Sigma Kappa and Pi Lambda Phi, the chapter won Greek Sing 2016. Our team was recognized for best costumes (read: togas) and best overall performance for our rendition of Hercules.

Off stage, the chapter has been busy advancing our presence on campus. The Cardinal Principles of Phi Sigma Kappa are to promote brotherhood, to stimulate scholarship, and to develop character. Our commitment to character in the form of philanthropy and leadership, as well as our commitment to scholarship, is unwavering.

Our philanthropic efforts so far this year have included:

- An event at the mansion to benefit Centre County PAWS, an organization committed to finding permanent homes for cats and



Kappa Chapter at the 2016 formal.

dogs. Partnering with Omega Phi Alpha, we welcomed well over 100 people at this event, including 10 Greek organizations, and raised more than \$1,400.

- Participation in events that raised money for the American Red Cross and the Children's Miracle Network
- We spent weekends canning and canvassing (going door-to-door soliciting for donations) for THON with our partners, Phi Sigma Rho. Kappa brothers George Filippatos and Darren Dasilva represented Phi Sigma Kappa in this year's 46-hour Dance Marathon toward the fight against pediatric cancer.
- We are planning a 3v3 soccer tournament in late March to benefit our national philanthropy, The Special Olympics, and our annual Superstars event in early April to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in honor of the late Brother Sandoe.

- At the time of this writing, we were planning a blood drive to benefit the American Red Cross on February 28.

PHI SIG SURVEY

What You're Saying (and We're Listening)...

Last summer, we conducted an extensive survey of our alumni and active membership in an effort to revitalize our organization. Thank you to the brothers who provided their candid feedback on the current status of the active and alumni chapters, and their thoughts for the future of our organization.

Key trends from the survey include:

- More than **70%** of you maintain friendships with your brothers in your adult years.
- **64%** of you return to Happy Valley regularly for Penn State events, but only **30%** attend Phi Sig events. *(For those of you who haven't been back to the chapter house, let us know what would attract you to join us for a fraternity event. Email Fred DeCock at fred.decock@comcast.net).*
- **90%** of you want to hear from Kappa Chapter on a monthly or quarterly basis, and email is the preferred method of communication.

(If you haven't been receiving our monthly eLetters, log on to www.phisigpsu.com to update your email address, or send a message to our alumni office at alumninews@affinityconnection.com).

What you're saying:

"Phi Sigma Kappa has given me an incredible network post college."

"The friendships have remained since I left college. A lot of the brothers from my era have remained best friends."

"Many of my closest friends are my fraternity brothers."

"I give because I want to see the house continue to exist and be there for the young guys, to have the experience of the fraternity and have the same brotherhood that I have."

We want you to know that we hear you! We are actively working to revitalize our alumni association and plan some great opportunities for you to reconnect. Stay tuned for updates.

Please don't hesitate to share your questions, concerns, or feedback at any time. Email Fred DeCock at fred.decock@comcast.net.

ALUMNI STORIES

Lifelong Connections Developed and Maintained, Thanks to Phi Sig

Cross-Chapter Whales Tales Scheme Leads to Alumni Connection



Roger Calabretta's senior picture, from the 1975 *La Vie*.

"My spring of '72 pledge brothers and I bolted for the weekend to Indiana University of PA to visit our Phi Sig brothers there. The chapter was hosting a party in an empty cinder block building, which they called the Block House. My pledge brothers and I were very accomplished at playing Whales Tales due to our pledge duties at Kappa. We always left cleaning the taps for last so we could play Whales Tales. This practice made us very good as a team.

The IUofP brothers asked if we knew how to play Whales Tales. We said we just learned it pledging. The older brothers thought they had some young patsies to pick on. A few hours later we were the last men standing.

A few years after I graduated, my wife and I were walking through a store and ran into a high school friend of hers with her husband Ron. We talked and decided to meet for dinner a few days later. At dinner Ron and I started talking to get to know each other, when I found out he was a Phi Sig from IUofP who graduated a year before I did. He mentioned that he remembered a group of Penn State Phi Sig pledges visiting his chapter. I finished the story by saying that they took the pledges to the Block House to party and play Tales. His eyes spread wide open. He was one of the brothers who learnt a lesson in playing Tales that night. Small world but Phi Sig has opened doors. Ron and his wife have become some of our closest friends."

– Roger Calabretta '75
(rcalabretta@comcast.net)

A Chance Meeting at a Fellow Phi Sig's Wedding Leads to a Lifetime of Love

"The most important thing I gained through Phi Sig was my lifelong friendship with fellow Kappa **Dr. Dave Morris '79**. At his wedding years later, I met my future wife Martha, who was a high school friend of his. I also learned a lot about life from my roommate and pledge brother, **Ron Hummer '79**.

I don't know whether our era (the mid-to-late 1970s) was the best or not, but it was a time when the world seemed full of promise and potential experiences. I remember early one Sunday morning, I stumbled downstairs to be greeted by a group of Hare Krishna devotees in orange robes, who'd been invited over by some of my more open-minded brothers who hadn't been to bed yet after a night of partying.



Patrick Kiger, bottom row, second from right, along with other Phi Sigs in 1979. (From *La Vie*).

These days, I'm living in the Washington, DC area, where I work as a freelance writer for the National Geographic Channel, HowStuffWorks, *Urban Land* magazine, and other media outlets. My wife and I have a 17-year-old son. I haven't been back to PSU or the house in several decades, but I keep telling myself that I'll shock everyone by showing up at Homecoming one of these days."

– Patrick J. Kiger '79
(patrickjkiger@gmail.com)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Celebrating Our Alumni in Milestone Years



1957



1967



1977

Whether you graduated last year, or 60+ years ago, you are part of a brotherhood more than 1,000 strong. Our lifelong connections span the generations, linking us to 1,000+ Kappa men we can be proud to call our brothers.

We'd especially like to recognize our classes celebrating their milestone years this year, including the graduating classes of 1957, 1967, and 1977.

We invite brothers from all eras to share their best stories, memories, and photos for future publication! Submit your content online or by emailing alumninews@affinityconnection.com.