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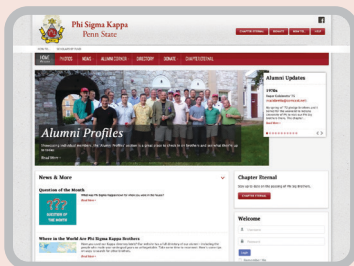
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Alumni Web Site



www.phisigpsu.com



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Kappa Chapter

Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

Spring 2022

Committed to Lifelong Learning

LETTER FOR THE NEW YEAR

First, and foremost, I hope all the best for you, for your family, and for your loved ones in this New Year. It can be odd (and arguably is) that we take the time at each calendar event of January 1 to express our sincere hopes of the best of health and success (in one's efforts, whatever those may be) in a new year for those who matter to us. Nevertheless, there are certain things in life for which we can do no more than express feelings beyond thought, which are best accepted as decisions made by people who sincerely care, with the outmost best of intentions. I ask that you kindly accept these prayerful thoughts in this light.

As we approach the second anniversary of the pandemic, I am happy to report significant positive news about Kappa.

The Brotherhood is strong, growing, and thriving

Impressively, we are a body of over 1,700 brothers. Entering our 124th year, this is indeed an impressive legacy. We are not all physically together, but we are bound by a common bond that surpasses the physical. Personally, I am beyond words to describe the joy of being part of this 1,700.

We enter this year with 1,030 living Kappa alumni. In August 2020 I reported that we had 950. Happily, we have contact information for over 80% of us. Naturally, it would be great to have information for everyone. If you haven't already provided your contact information, or if you know a brother who hasn't, please get in touch with me. It is only through this activity of communication that we can remain a unified body.

The Actives initiated a class of 15 in the fall, bringing the total number of Actives (living in or outside the house) to 62! They are also expecting to have over 30 living in the house for FY '22. This will be the first time in recent memory to have this many in the house. In Fall 2019, there were 16.

Founder's Day and Dan Stearns

At Founder's Day, which will be on March 19, 2022, the Alumni Board will present three

separate Scholarship Awards to the Actives – one for each of the Cardinal Principles. Each award will be in the amount of \$1,000 – the largest amount distributed in recent memory.

Sadly, we lost brother **Dan Stearns** ('73), who passed in November 2021. In March 2016, Dan was recognized as Man of the Year, for 33 years of dedicated service on the Alumni Board. In recognition of Dan's dedication to Kappa, the Scholarship Awards will be dedicated to Dan. His wife, Melinda, will be there to help us celebrate and to recognize Dan.

The House and Kappa Finances continue to do well.

The House looks great, thanks to the dedicated and regular efforts of Board member **David Hyland**, who serves as House Committee Chair, and to the very caring and involved Actives. Please see the article about Work Weekend on the Affinity website for photos and a story about a very successful effort to maintain and improve the House. Dave is also leading a special effort with **James Durfee** and **Dan Lourie** to identify capital improvement projects. I look forward to reporting on this soon.

The financial position is strong, thanks to the dedicated and regular efforts of Board member **Ben Jarmul**, who serves as Finance Committee Chair. As I have described before, the Board adopts two separate budgets – one for housing and a second for alumni association activities. We have been successful in running the housing P&L at a surplus, which surplus is being used to make the additional payments to principal. As a result, the mortgage debt has been reduced to about \$225,000 and we are on track to pay off the mortgage by no later than the end of 2023.

Please support our efforts to support you

The alumni association activities budget includes all communication costs (which include the Affinity website), events hosted by the alumni (Homecoming and Founders Day), and the Scholarship Awards. The alumni association activities budget for this year is \$24,000. Your donations go directly to this budget and to

Jack Sillaman '74: Where are you now?

We recently reached out to our brothers to see what they have been up to since their time at Penn State, and they had a lot to say! Thanks to **Jack Sillaman '74** for letting us in on your life! Here is what he had to say below.

Who do you still hang out with from Phi Sigma Kappa?

I don't hang out with anyone except for the reunion every few years at PSU. But I do keep in DAILY touch with **Steu Brown, Dan Stearns, Steve Yorks, Bob Kochman** and **Bob Rohrbach**. And that used to include the sadly departed **Billy May** and **Curt Steel**, as well as **Greg Puhalla**. I also keep in touch with my old roommate **Rick Stratford** and **Denny (Too Many) Hullman**. And I'd like to talk more to **Dennis Wist** and **John Fruit** who both live about an hour from me. Almost FIFTY years and we still talk about the good times at the Krapper Mansion! I've been to Philly a few years back to visit with Rick and Steu. I also plan on visiting with **Bill Glassmeyer** and **Bob Heidlebaugh** in York before too long. I've been a retired Architect for 2 years now and LOVE it.

Tell us about your family—are you married?

I have 2 sons, a daughter and 3 grandkids. My 45 yr old son Justin is a PSU grad, owns a house in Austin and has an apartment in Manhattan Beach, CA. He splits time between both places with his fiance and he's a sales rep for www.marcofinearts.com. My 41 yr old daughter Erica lives in York, Pa and married a minister. She is co-owner of an ambulance

billing business after teaching elementary ed for 10 years in Lampeter Stroudsburg. She has 3 great kids ages 4,7 and 10 and we try to visit them every month or two. My 40 yr old son Brandon is living at home & works for a company making medical devices. He loves traveling & living at home lets him do that.

I still live in Latrobe with my wife Kathy of 47 years. But in my mind, I live in the 70's. Phi Sig gave me some of the best times EVER along with some of the best friends one could ask for. The characters I lived with and the character of the guys I met is truly astounding. I'm blown away by the how many extremely successful individuals came out of Phi Sig and that I've been privileged to have known and lived with. The parties and fun with all of those crazy, funny brothers were the BEST! We relive those times at every reunion and I relive them every time I look at multitude of photos, I took in my 5 years at PSU: 1 in North Halls, 3 in Phi Sig and 1 in an apartment.

Are you advancing your education or working in your dream career?

Living with all of those unique personalities certainly helped me deal with employers, fellow employees and clients in my 45 yr architecture career. Probably the thing that helped me most was developing and maintaining a sense of humor in even the most stressful situations. I tried to not take myself too seriously and I think many clients appreciated not dealing with an arrogant

architect. I worked for small firms, medium sized firms and for a large firm with my last 17 years spent commuting 1-1/2 hr each way to Pittsburgh. So, you can see why I enjoy retirement so much. I don't golf, hunt, fish or even play tennis anymore. But I do have a Honda Shadow 1100 motorcycle I enjoy riding. I've been kept busy up-grading our house, doing maintenance and traveling to see my kids and grandkids.

...I try to get up to PSU once a year and walk that beautiful campus: truly Happy Valley.

I try to get up to PSU once a year and walk that beautiful campus: truly Happy Valley. I've only been back to the house during the reunions but I really should stop in to check it and the brothers out. Enjoy every minute at Phi Sig and PSU. Blink and those days will be gone. But the memories and the friendships will last the rest of your life. It's funny: 3 of my Phi Sig brothers will be living in Austin and 3 of us will have kids living in Austin! So, you never know where those friends and times at Phi Sig will lead you. 'Party on dudes!'

ALUMNI BROTHER AWARDED PENN STATE'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



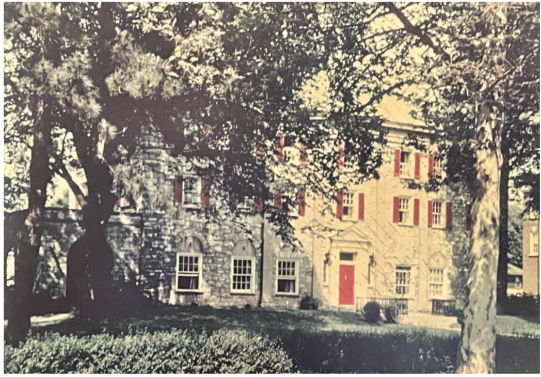
Congratulations to **Naren Gursahaney '83**. He was one of eight alumni who were selected by the Penn State Board of Trustees to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award, which is the University's highest honor presented to its alumni.

Gursahaney is a non-executive chair of the board, Terminix. He earned his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the College of Engineering in 1983.

You can read the full story at <https://www.psu.edu/news/alumni/story/eight-will-receive-distinguished-alumni-awards-2022/>

THROWBACK TO THE GOOD OLE DAYS

Who doesn't love a good throwback photo? Well, we sure do have some throwbacks for you! Check out these photos **Paul Church '71** recently sent in of Phi Sigma Kappa from back in the day. Here is what Paul had to say about the photos



The house 1968



The "poling" of brother **Bruce Wyatt '71** after "getting pinned"



Partying in "the cork room" (third floor corner) Brothers

Rich Weaver '71, Michael Skehan '71, Scott's Thomas '72, and Jeff Schneider '73....and "yes" smoking was permitted in the house and common.



Grave Diggers Ball in party room Brothers **Paul Robertson '71, Bill Warfel '71, and Evie Warfel TriDelt '71**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

...continued from page 1...

these activities. Your support of the Board's efforts is needed and greatly appreciated. Any support that you can give would be greatly appreciated.

We also need your help in communicating with you. The Phi Sigma Kappa alumni total about 1,030. Of these, we have current contact information (either a mailing address, an email address, or both) for 788. Of these, we have emails for 541 – an increase of nearly 100! It is hugely helpful to have email addresses. There are just two regular mailings per year – the Fall Letter and the Spring Letter. In contrast, an email newsletter goes out monthly.

Please consider providing your email address (or updating your email address, if applicable) so that we can keep you more current on what is happening at Kappa. You can send your email address to any of us:

Martin Barbato –
mfbarbato@gmail.com
Fred DeCock -
fred.decock@comcast.net
Emily O'Neill –
emily@affinityconnection.com

As I close out this letter, allow me to repeat a previous offer - to be available for your input. The Alumni Board is very interested in identifying and implementing steps to improve communications with alumni and to provide activities and events for alumni. Our Alumni Communications Chair, **Fred DeCock**, who recently retired, is ready to hear from you. So am I. Please feel free to contact either of us.

Be well, and I hope to see you soon.
Fraternally,

Martin Barbato '79
President
Phi Sigma Kappa Association of State College
732-742-0066

CHAPTER ETERNAL

A Sad Farewell to Brothers Scott Hatton '89 and Dan Stearns '73



Scott Hatton

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Scott Hatton '89** into Chapter Eternal. We want to extend our deepest sympathies to Scott's family, friends, and loved ones. He will be greatly missed. View his obituary below.

Scott Patrick Hatton, 54, of State College, PA, passed away suddenly November 17, 2021.

Born January 29, 1967 in Long Branch, NJ, he was a son of Edward T. and Ruth (nee Pizzulli) Hatton.

Scott attended both Conestoga High School and State College High School where he played on both varsity tennis teams. He also marched with the State College High School band. He attended Penn State University as an electrical engineering student for two years. After college he worked in various restaurants from Massachusetts to Florida, spending the majority of his time in Pennsylvania. He then returned to his beloved State College in pursuit of his degree from Penn State.

He was an amateur historian and enjoyed tracing his family roots and corresponding with family members. He was a musician, DJ, and master of trivia, often hosting his own trivia contests. Scott loved animals, PSU football, and was a great mechanic; having rebuilt the engine in his Le Mans. He will be dearly missed.

In addition to his parents, Scott is survived by his siblings: Todd Hatton (Matthew Buzzard) and Eric Hatton (Tracy); and his nephews: Owen, Carter, and Blake.

Relatives and friends are invited to his Visitation 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Monday, November 22, 2021 at St. Issac Jogues Church, 50 Walker Rd., Wayne, PA 19087, followed by his Funeral Mass at 10:00 AM. Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to either the Brandywine Valley SPCA, 1212 Phoenixville Pike, West Chester, PA 19380, <https://bvspca.org/form/Give.html> or to Main Line Animal Rescue, 1149 Pike Springs Rd., Chester Springs, PA 19425, <https://www.mlar.org/donate>



Dan Stearns

We are sad to inform you of the passing of Dan Stearns into Chapter Eternal. We wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Dan's family friends and loved ones. View his obituary below.

Dan T. Stearns left this world on November 6, 2021. His battle with cancer ended peacefully at his home, while surrounded by his loving family. Born October 1, 1951, he was the son of Dan W. (deceased) and Anna Stearns. A native

of State College, he spent wonderful years building his career in New York, North Carolina and Massachusetts as a Landscape Architect, US Forest Service Administrator, and successful business owner. Dan is survived by his wife, Melinda Morgan, whom he married in 1977 and sons Andrew (Lindsey) in Salida CO and Evan (Kellie) in State College. His biggest smiles in the last 5 years had been reserved for his beloved grandchildren Hannah, Reid, Quinn, and Sydney. He is also survived by sister Diane Stearns, niece Julie, and nephew Matthew.

Dan is Penn State Professor Emeritus of Plant Science and he was honored to be the J. Franklin Steyer Professor of Horticultural Botany. He helped to build the successful and well-respected Landscape Contracting program beginning in 1989. He received his degrees from Penn State and North Carolina State. He influenced hundreds of Landscape Contracting graduates who have continued to reach out to him for advice and friendship many years beyond graduation. His philosophy about teaching was simple; "Teaching is a partnership. The role of the teacher is to help students explore and to teach them to learn, to get them excited about learning". While Dan won numerous Penn State and national awards including the Milton S. Eisenhower Award for Distinguished Teaching and the Educator of the Year Award from the National Landscape Association, his most treasured accomplishment was raising loving and successful sons who have become wonderful fathers. His son Evan, a former student of Dan's, recently stated "The size of heart required to care so much about his students and still have so much love for his family is a very rare thing. To view the entire obituary head to the link <https://tinyurl.com/mwdnuecb>

COMMITTED TO SERVE PHI SIG FOR A LIFETIME

Steve Handwerk '74 says that deciding to become a Phi Sig was an easy decision. "It was a great group of guys, excellent academic and athletic associations, nice house, and great parties!"

"The house was truly our home," he says. "Dinner time was always a highlight, with card games before dinner, and then all the brothers eating together every night. On many occasions, our dinner guests included our Little Sisters and rushees. And more times than not, Bear Koehler joined us as well. My best memories include Homecoming and Spring Week!"

Handwerk, a geography major and Navy



Steve Handwerk

learned responsibilities that carried us through school and throughout life."

After graduation and five years in the Navy, he worked as a physical scientist for the

ROTC member, served as Inductor and Chapter President during his time in the house. He says that Phi Sig made an impact on his future. "Living in the house allowed us to grow socially, and we

National Geospatial - Intelligence Agency. Today, he's on the faculty of the Penn State Geospatial Intelligence graduate program. He and his wife Molly reside near Harrisburg, PA, and they have three children and six grandchildren.

He says that giving back to Phi Sig is critical. "Without alumni involvement, we would not have our house as it is today. And remember, our Third-Degree commitment at graduation was to serve Phi Sig throughout our lifetimes."

"Without my fraternity, I would not have so many lifelong friends," Handwerk says. "When we gather for reunions, we just pick up where we left off from the last time."