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ON THE WEB

Alumni Website

www.phisigpsu.com



Active Chapter
X (formerly Twitter)
@phisigpsu



Alumni Facebook
www.facebook.com/phisigpsu

Kappa News

Kappa Chapter

Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

www.phisigpsu.com

Winter 2026



Committed to Lifelong Learning

A LETTER FROM MARTIN BARBATO '79

Dear Brother,

I hope and trust that this letter finds you well.

Special Meeting Called

I start with an important notice. The board has voted to hold a special meeting on March 21, 2026, at the Founders Day 2026 Celebration. Please hold the date and plan to attend.

The purpose of the special meeting is to amend Article IV, Section 1 of the bylaws, to change the date of the annual general membership meeting from PSU's Homecoming to ΦΣΚ's annual Founders Day Celebration. Please plan to attend. Pursuant to article XVI, the members may, by a majority of the members who are present and who vote, amend the bylaws. (For your reference, the bylaws are on our website at phisigpsu.com.)

Other Board Action Taken

Now, an executive summary of other points of interest (I hope!).

The board voted to create three special committees (pursuant to Article X, Section 2, of the bylaws): the Alumni-Active Relations; Capital Investment Planning; and Historical Preservation. I will explore these below. For the special committees, the board is looking for volunteers to get involved in these special purposes.

The board voted to provide an annual report. ΦΣΚ's fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 30th. The annual report will be issued contemporaneously with the filing of the tax form 990 each year. For the annual report for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, please see the board's Homecoming 2025 PowerPoint presentation, which is on our website. Please review the presentation to see all that has been and is going on.

The board is exploring engaging a property management firm for all management of the house operations, including contract and finance arrangements with the Actives.

Details on the Board's Action

The proposed change in the date of the general membership meeting came up quite spontaneously and hit us all as so wise and valuable that it quickly gathered support. In a conversation I

had at Homecoming with **Ron Manning '69**, who has just joined the board as an adviser, he questioned why the general membership meeting is at Homecoming. He noted the complaints that we have all heard about the logistical challenges of attending Homecoming (e.g., getting a hotel room, the expense of a hotel room), let alone coming to the house for a general membership meeting. I said to Ron that the meeting date is set in our bylaws. He said that we should consider changing the bylaws. That is all it took. At the board's monthly meeting, we decided to go down this path.

This conversation with Ron is an example of how just input from more Alumni can lead to an improved organization. Please, keep your input coming. It would help if you participated in the survey previously sent to you. However, if you prefer, just send your opinions and skip the survey. We will figure out what to do with your opinions and ideas.

There is too much work to do. As I have noted before, and using the 80/20 rule, the board is spending 80% of its time on operations (e.g., the house, the finances), and only 20% of its time on the grand purposes of Phi Sigma Kappa: to sustain Kappa, to advance the cardinal principles in the lives of the Actives and of the Alumni, and to advance the connections between Kappa Brothers. We need to flip this ratio. To this end, we are still working to get to turnkey operations (and hence the investigation of a property management firm), so that, in the future, the board can focus on the ΦΣΚ value propositions, which are of value for recruitment, for the Actives, and for Alumni.

Here is the work for the special committees that we need to do.

Alumni-Active Relations: A key goal here is mentoring. Actives are looking for mentors. This is also a key to recruitment. This work involves, among other things, modifications to phisigpsu.com, so that Alumni can easily update their profiles and Actives can contact Alumni to get guidance, advice, and assistance in their post-PSU planning.

Capital Investment Planning. We could use a long-term capital plan, with scheduled investment.

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A LETTER FROM REGIS CAPOFERRI '22

As Alumni-Active Chair, my role has been focused on ensuring our Actives see Phi Sigma Kappa as more than just their college experience; it's a lifelong network that opens doors and creates opportunities.

We've launched two key initiatives to help expand the connection. First, we've created an Alumni mentorship e-mail dropbox where Actives can request help with resumes, interview prep, job searches, and career advice. Within 48 hours, we connect them with an Alumni who can help. Second, we're encouraging both Actives and Alumni to build profiles on phisigpsu.com, making it easier for Actives to find and connect with Alumni in their fields of interest.

All I ask of the Alumni is to be open to networking from the Actives and help them as they look to enter the professional workforce. As many know, the job market is ever evolving and is significantly different than, say, 30 years ago. A 20-minute conversation, a resume review, or a LinkedIn connection can be a big help for an upcoming graduate. As an alumnus, I feel it is our duty to help the Actives as they graduate, just as Alumni may have helped you when you graduated.

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or if you're interested in helping build the Alumni-Active connection.

Thank you,

Regis Capoferri '22

Alumni-Active Chair

A Letter from Martin Barbato '79
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Historical Preservation. Projects include the digitization of records. We have made progress in preserving photos and certain artifacts, but there is more to do. We need to catalog historical documents, including meeting minutes. We need to get the composites on the website (including ordering past composites). We should create and maintain a wall of honor for Alumni who exemplify the cardinal principles in life, which could be both virtual (on phisigpsu.com) and in physical form at the House. Finally, we need to work on a celebration of the upcoming one hundredth anniversary of our house (in 2027).

We Have the Foundation Blocks

We have foundation blocks for the preservation of Kappa and for its growth. One Thousand Alumni. A house with no mortgage and, according to Nittany Co-op, one of the better-conditioned houses. Actives are top tier with THON, showing the cardinal principle of character. We have the beginnings of the Alumni room, a better name for which would be the Kappa Chapter Room, to reflect its primary purpose of preserving Kappa history.

We can build on this foundation, but only with a positive perspective. As an example, the shed on the right side of the house is in bad shape; we should replace or remove it. But if we focus solely on it, we will miss the mansion sitting next to the shed. If we first see the mansion and then see the shed not as a symbol of decay but as an opportunity to improve, we have the perspective needed to build on the foundation.

I am entering my last year as president. As of Homecoming 2025, I have served as president for seven years. Together, we have done much. Now, it is time to pass the baton to the next leader, who needs to continue the works of preservation and of growth. After this year, I will stay as an adviser. But since no alum wants to wake up to the news that Kappa and/or the house are no more, let us all do what we can. Give your time, talent, or treasure. Our cardinal principles are a great purpose for the $\Phi\Sigma K$ members and for the community at large. They are worth preserving, strengthening, and growing.

In Brotherhood,

Martin Barbato '79



SAVE THE DATE: Founders Day Celebration

We are excited to share that the board has approved a special meeting at our upcoming Founders Day celebration, which is slated for March 21, 2026. At this meeting, we will be voting to change the date of the Annual Meeting, from the date of PSU's Homecoming to the date of celebration of $\Phi\Sigma K$'s Founders Day, and on a proposed change to the bylaws.

The Phi Sigma Kappa Alumni Association is guided by a set of bylaws that outline how we operate, make decisions, and support our Brotherhood. These bylaws serve as the foundation of our organization, ensuring structure, transparency, and a continued commitment to the values of Phi Sigma Kappa.

We invite you to review the bylaws so that you can better understand the framework that helps our Association thrive and remain connected to generations of Brothers. You can view those bylaws at the link below.
phisigpsu.com/bylaws-of-the-phi-sigma-kappa-Alumni-association/

Save the date and plan to attend either in person or virtually.

More details will be shared closer to the event!

MARTIN BARBATO '79: FRIENDSHIPS ENDURING "FOR OVER 40 YEARS"

Like many Nittany Lions, **Martin Barbato '79** loved spending time in a State College staple. "My favorite hangout was Rathskeller."

Merriment and shenanigans likely followed time at the historic bar, but Martin claimed ignorance and offered up a possible solution. "The fact that I can't recall one story, or even the details, indicates to me that we need a way to store stories as they occur," he said. "In the cloud, perhaps?"

A brush with Phi Sig stardom while in college did make an impact on Martin, however. "One good road trip story I have is going to West Virginia University, where we saw Brother **Don Knotts'** room."

During his time at Penn State and in the years since, Martin made strong connections with Brothers in the chapter. "There are a few Brothers who made the most impact on my life, including, but not limited to, pledge Brothers **Bill DeGrandis '77, Craig Wilson '78, and Pat Kiger '79**," he said. "It would take a while to describe."

Martin was able to eloquently describe the meaning of his friendships acquired through the fraternity. "It is of so much value to me to have the Phi Sigma Kappa friendships I have, which have endured for over 40 years."

Help Us Share Your Kappa Chapter Story

Brotherhood doesn't end at graduation, and neither should your story. We're working on building meaningful Alumni profiles to highlight the incredible paths our Brothers have taken after college, and we'd love to feature you.

Please take a few minutes to complete our quick online survey. Your insights will help us strengthen and share Alumni connections, celebrate your achievements, and preserve the legacy of Kappa for generations to come. Scan the QR Code to take the survey now!



Highlights from the Alumni Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Annual Alumni Meeting! It was a great opportunity to share updates, discuss ongoing projects, and connect with Brothers about the future of the chapter.

If you were unable to attend, please see the link below for the PowerPoint presentation, the Zoom recording of the meeting, and an additional report from Alumni President Martin.

We appreciate your continued support and engagement; your involvement makes a lasting difference. We look forward to connecting again next year!

phisigpsu.com/highlights-from-the-alumni-meeting

The Season of Giving

The holiday season is a time to pause, reflect, and feel gratitude for the memories made, the lessons learned, and the lifelong bonds formed with your Brothers. It's a chance to celebrate the spirit of fraternity, appreciate the impact it's had on your life, and come together in support of the chapter that continues to shape future generations.

Fraternities offer more than just friendships—they're a launchpad for personal growth, leadership, and lifelong memories. By giving back, you ensure future Brothers experience the same opportunities. Your support helps maintain the chapter house, fund chapter activities, and keep the fraternity competitive during recruitment.

The holidays remind us of the power of community, and your contribution, whether through donations, mentorship, or participation, makes a lasting impact. This season, show your gratitude by investing in the future of your Brotherhood.



A Sad Goodbye to Our Brothers



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Brother Robert O. Eck '61 Engineering, from Moorestown, New Jersey, into Chapter Eternal on July 5, 2025.

Mentoring Matters: Pay it Forward to our Phi Sigma Kappa Actives

Phi Sigma Kappa is a student-run, living-learning society that advances leadership skills, cultivates innovation, and promotes social responsibility by engaging the Phi Sigma Kappa community and its resources through projects, events, and mentorship.

While Active Brothers can learn and develop through our traditions and amongst each other, it is evident that Alumni involvement and connections are far more important now than ever. Brothers of all ages can pay it forward to our Actives by choosing to mentor the younger generations.



Mentoring:

- Provides students with experiences and knowledge so they can explore their potential outside of their core coursework
- Prepares students to be future leaders through innovation, collaboration, and networking
- Assists with finding internships and first jobs, as well as a network to assist in mid-career support
- Enables Actives to gain unique, meaningful, practical, **resume-enhancing experience**
- Develops **leadership skills** by starting a new organization that can have a meaningful impact on the Phi Sigma Kappa community and college life across the nation
- Establishes a **network of relationships with students, Alumni, faculty, and the administration** that will support Actives while at Phi Sigma Kappa and throughout their careers
- Builds **life-long relationships** gained through a living learning organization that goes beyond the years spent at Penn State
- Enhances **personal and professional development** through a structured mentoring program that includes students, Alumni, and faculty
- Phi Sigma Kappa aims to create an environment that promotes mentorship at various levels throughout the Penn State community, assisting Brothers in their personal, academic, and professional development, bringing together students, Alumni, and faculty.

Join Your Fellow Brothers on the Honor Roll

We are now three months into our 2025–2026 giving year! Have you made your contribution yet?

Each year, we recognize our Brothers for their generous donations to the Kappa Chapter in our honor roll. We would like to thank those Brothers who have contributed last year. Have you earned your place on the honor roll this year? Make your donation to the annual fund today to see your name added to the next printed list! You can use the enclosed giving form to make your donation.

Alumni News

John R. Lesar '64: Wife (Becky), who was serenaded at the house, passed away in 2017. New wife, Dianne, married in August 2019. We visited Alaska in 2019 to complete all 50 states. I spent most of my career with Heinz/Starkist in various engineering positions in USA locations, Puerto Rico, Canada, and American Samoa. Now, I am just cutting and splitting trees for firewood and exercise. I will be 83 in August 2025, Lord willing.

Stephen E. Courter '77: My son graduated from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) in July 2025. I'm still a business professor at the University of Texas, Austin.

LOOKING FOR MORE KAPPA NEWS?

Have you misplaced a newsletter, are you looking for a particular one, or are you trying to find the newsletter you were featured in? Don't worry! We have you covered! If you are looking for a specific newsletter, head to our newsletter page at phisigpsu.com/news/newsletters to view our past editions. We have archives that date back all the way to Winter 2001, so head to the newsletter page and read through what our brothers were writing about back then!