

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Blue/White Weekend**  
April 19, 2008

## 2008 PENN STATE FOOTBALL

**Aug. 30:** Coastal Carolina  
**Sept. 6:** Arkansas State  
Sept. 13: at Syracuse  
Sept. 20: TBA  
**Sept. 27:** Illinois  
Oct. 4: at Purdue  
Oct. 11: at Wisconsin  
**Oct. 18:** Michigan  
Oct. 25: at Ohio State  
Nov. 8: at Iowa  
**Nov. 15:** Indiana  
**Nov. 22:** Michigan State

## HELP WANTED!

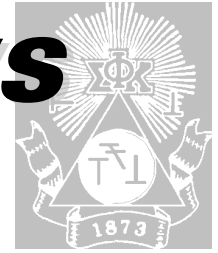
1. Brother needed to volunteer as a newsletter coordinator. This person would coordinate between Phi Sig and Affinity Connection, our alumni relations contractor, to produce *Kappa News* twice each year.

2. Brother needed to help with website and monthly e-Letter. This person would work with Affinity Connection to gather fresh content for our electronic communications. Technical experience not required.

If you would like to volunteer for one or both of the above, please contact **Dick Doherty '58** at 610-323-3888 or e-mail him at [cosdoherty@verizon.net](mailto:cosdoherty@verizon.net). The Phi Sigma Kappa Association relies on the assistance of alumni volunteers to succeed. This is a great opportunity to give back to Phi Sig!

# Kappa News

[www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com)



**Kappa Chapter**  
**Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State**

November 2007

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

### **Reason to Be Proud Campaign Project Given Green Light—Construction on New Chapter House Scheduled for January 2008**

**More Funds Needed to Ensure Complete and Successful Renovation, Reach Deep and Support the Phi Sig Active Chapter!**

**By Bill DeGrandis '77, Phi Sigma Kappa Association Board Member**

The *Reason to be Proud Campaign* is pleased to announce that the board of directors of the Phi Sigma Kappa Association recently voted to proceed with the house renovation project. Even though we have a long way to go, I want to thank all the supporters of the campaign. We would not be at this stage without your support.

We now have just slightly less than **\$950,000** in donations and pledges for the campaign, an increase of over \$200,000 since the summer. Fantastic, way to go!!!

While we fell slightly short of our \$1 million goal, the board concluded that we came very close and have a viable enough project to proceed. The board also approved seeking a \$1.2 million loan for the project. **Steve Courter '77** and the campaign finance folks are now preparing the loan application. **Dave Hyland '80** and the building committee are working with our architect on the bidding documents for the project. We intend to close the house and start construction in early January 2008, and be ready to re-open for the fall 2008 semester.

We are not out of the woods yet, though. Total project costs are likely to exceed \$1.5 million, so we have over a half-million-dollar gap between total costs (expected) and total pledges received so far. This gap may grow once we see the responses to the bidding documents that we will distribute soon. Costs can further increase once work commences and the walls and ceilings of our 80-year-old house are torn down and replaced.

Therefore, we need additional financial support to make this project successful. The more funds we raise, the more things we can

include in the project. We really do not want to pare back the proposed renovation/redesign project, because most of it really is designed to comply with life/safety requirements and to enhance the living experience at Kappa Chapter. Soon we will place drawings of the proposed redesign of the house and details of the proposed project on our website ([www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com)).

If you have not made a pledge yet, we ask you: did you benefit from your living in the house and being a member of Kappa Chapter? If so, will you help support our efforts to preserve Kappa Chapter for future generations? When we started this project, many doubted we could even raise more than \$750,000. We want to build on this success.

Do you have sons who will be attending college in the future? If they plan to attend Penn State and will consider a fraternity, Kappa

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### **Will you be our Million Dollar Man?**

If you pledge \$50,000 now and get us to the million dollar level, you will be recognized as our Million Dollar Man on the Phi Sig Hall of Fame plaque honoring all donors. If two people pledge \$25,000 each, both will be recognized as our Million Dollar Men. If we reach \$1 million through smaller contributions, no special mention will be made. The **Million Dollar Man** designation is for that person (or two people) who can hoist us over this important milestone NOW!

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Chapter may be a very good choice for them. However, in the house's present condition, I doubt many would allow their sons to live at Kappa Chapter. Our proposed renovation will provide long-lasting, improved living experiences for Kappa Chapter actives. I should point out that many members of the campaign leadership do not have sons or have

older sons who have long since graduated, yet they still are striving to preserve our fraternity for future generations. We have supporters from as far away as Alaska (one of our two top donors, **Kevin O'Leary '71**—see his profile on page 3) and Denmark (**Tom Wylonis '67**). They obviously do not live close enough to visit regularly, but they and many others have

not let geographic separation dim their love of and appreciation for Kappa Chapter.

I hope you will help support our *Reason to be Proud Campaign*. Feel free to call me and I gladly will answer your questions or direct you to someone who can (work: 202-551-1720, home: 703-450-5176).

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### '60

#### **Donald Schnure '64**

(50 Beverly Dr., Lewisburg, PA 17837-8841; daschnure@gmail.com) I retired in June 2007 and now am living in Lewisburg, PA: 50 miles east of State College. On football weekends, I tailgate with Donna and **John Diercks '63**, who are retired and living in State College. I plan to spend August fishing in Montana and about six weeks this winter visiting my older daughter and her husband in Burleigh Heads, Queensland, Australia. They live in their house near the beach "managing their investments." My other three children live in NJ.

### '70

#### **John Sillaman '74**

(1107 Princeton St., Latrobe, PA 15650; jsillaman@msn.com) STILL living in Latrobe; STILL an architect; STILL don't know what

I want to be when I grow up; STILL happily married to Kathy (33 years in August); STILL want more hair on my head; STILL miss the good 'ol days; STILL have three kids; STILL no grandkids yet; STILL commuting to Pittsburgh everyday; STILL a big Steelers fan; STILL have lots of incriminating photos... no, wait, Otis stole 'em; STILL keep in touch with **Ralph Kordiak** (who lost his job with Enron, but now works for Halliburton); STILL keep in touch with a lucky few of the boys; STILL want to see an up-to-date photo of Tony Tri-Delt; STILL remember cleaning the women's toilet after Jo Broom (who then proceeded to make potato salad, which all of you guys ate).

#### **Gary Best '78**

(3892 Clifton Manor Pl., Haymarket, VA 20169-2400; gbest@maidbrigade.com) Married in 1986 to Barbara. We have two sons: Alex, 17, and Eric, 14. We have been living in Virginia since 1988. I have memories of tails, tailgating, football games, cold beer and egg rolls at the Brewery, swirlies, ponding, big Earl, scream, backgammon, the Pounds

brothers, hell night, Zoom, Warren the cook, and the Halloween hayride.

### '80

#### **William Stanell '87**

(127 Heather Dr., New Hope, PA 18938-5749; wpstanell@comcast.net) All well at Stanell home. I am senior partner of Lawrence Ob/Gyn Assoc. P.C. Offices in Lawrenceville, NJ; Hamilton, NJ; and Yardley, PA. My wife, Karen, and I have two sons: Sam, 7, and Ben, 4. We live outside of New Hope, PA

### '90

#### **Christopher Bristol '96**

(293 Elm St., New Canaan, CT 06840; cdb@gtlslaw.com) I have been living in Connecticut for 10 years, married a local girl, and became a commercial real estate/land use attorney working in Greenwich. I rarely see the light of day, but the work is interesting. Apparently, all Penn State Phi Sigs move south immediately upon graduation. Anyone coming up north?

## Phi Sig Brothers Still Remember Robert "Bear" Koehler '42 Nearly a Year After His Death

*Enjoy These Kind Words from Alumni Who Learned from Bear*

#### **Jason Babik**

(1033 Country Club Dr, Harrison City, PA 15644 United States; jbabik@yahoo.com) Bear always was there to give advice if it was sought after but let brothers learn from their own mistakes, which let us grow as men. He led by example, and the lessons he passed on are useful in every aspect of life. I'll never forget them. Most of all, Bear was a most endearing gentleman who lived life on his own terms. We'll never forget him.

#### **Curtis G Hepler '64**

(R.D. 2, Box 2228, Hallstead, PA 18822-9802) I was struck with much sadness when I received notification of the untimely passing of a very dear Phi Sig brother. In my book, Bear was, and still is "Mr. Phi Sig!" It is such a time when one reflects on the many experiences of the past and of the days gone by at Penn State, and the brothers of the chapter house. We certainly will miss "Bear" Koehler.

*Visit [www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com) to read more tributes to Bear.*

### Kevin O'Leary '71, Alaskan Fisherman and Businessman Extraordinaire, Recently Honored by the Penn State Alumni Association as an Alumni Fellow for His Significant Contributions to World

#### *Kevin Combines Trip Back to Happy Valley with a Surprise Visit to Brothers' Tailgate*

**Q. Why did you join the fraternity?**

A. Penn State was a big school, so during my freshman year I began looking for a small social milieu of which I could be part. I knew some people that I liked from Phi Sigma Kappa and that's why I chose to join the fraternity.

***"The current brothers don't have the means at this point in their lives, so the alumni must assume the responsibility if the house is going to continue."***

**Q. What was your favorite memory of the fraternity?**

A. My favorite memory comes from sitting down to dinner, all of us together, every night. It was a formal dinner where we were civilized, and observed good manners—families did that back then.

**Q. What kind of influence has this had on your life?**

A. Nothing profound, but it has provided me with friendships and relationships that I've maintained over the years.

**Q. With whom do you stay in contact?**

A. **Rich Weaver '72, Paul Church '71** and **Bill Warfel '71** from my pledge class; and **Tom Saltarelli '69, Steve Brose '69** and **Tom Renehan '69**. The people in my pledge class see each other socially two or three times a year, but I live so far away that I cannot participate. However, I did just visit with them recently at the Penn State vs. Wisconsin game on October 13<sup>th</sup>. I showed up unannounced at their tailgate when I was back in State College to receive the 2007 Penn State Alumni Fellows Award.

**Q. Tell us about your family.**

A. I married my college sweetheart, Susan Opal O'Leary, 35 years ago. She became a teacher and retired from the Kodiak Borough School District, Alaska, in 1998. We have two sons: Timothy, 29, and Brian, 21. Timothy

has been involved in commercial fishing in Alaska, and now he is helping me develop 143 acres near Kodiak. Brain is a student at the Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. He is a business/marketing major.

**Q. What other activities or organizations were you involved with during your college days?**

A. I played lacrosse my first two years at Penn State, then got too busy academically and had to stop.

**Q. Did you live at the house? If so, who were your roommates?**

A. I lived at the house my sophomore and junior years, and then in an apartment by myself my senior year. Tom Saltarelli was my sophomore year roommate, and I had a private room my junior year.

**Q. What do you do for a living? Tell us about your career.**

A. I spent a couple years bartending at resorts across the US after graduation. While bartending in Aspen, a friend who was living in Alaska called and told me I had to come north to see it for myself. I began bartending on Kodiak Island, but the second time a gun went off in the bar where I worked, I decided I'd rather die doing something else, not be shot bartending. That's when I started fishing—that's really the only thing to do there. I fell in love with fishing as a lifestyle.

I fished on dangerous, derelict boats at first as this was a small community where I was an outsider and I had to prove myself. Then I began working on a good boat and saving money. I was in a place where the fishing industry was starting to grow and become a substantial economic opportunity. We were just beginning to scratch the surface of its potential.

It wasn't long before I became a captain. A year later, an owner/operator offered to partner with me to buy a boat and we began our own business. After three years, I bought him out and added another boat five years later.

I eventually got another partner and began a factory boat fishing business, all the while still going to sea myself. In 1995, I had to get off the sea to spend more time managing the business. I am still active in the management of Sunrunner Alaska Corp. and Alaskan Leader Fisheries, though my wife and I live in Arizona during the winter now. We still have three factory boats, and I am the sole owner of a halibut, sole, cod boat that fishes off Kodiak.

My focus now is to develop a 143-acre tract of wilderness I own near Kodiak. My son and I will be opening a fishing and hunting lodge there within a year or two.

**Q. What affiliations do you currently have and/or public service do you participate in?**

A. I spent six years on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and have stepped away from that. I support certain charities in the communities.

**Q. What hobbies do you enjoy?**

A. Most of time during the summer I'm working on the property development: there is a lot of work to do building the infrastructure for the lodge. While I'm out there, I hunt and fish. In the winter, I live in Fountain Hills, AZ, where I play golf and travel.

**Q. What are your goals for the next few years?**

A. To get the lodge up and running by end of next summer, and complete my new home in Arizona.

**Q. Why do you think it is important to support the chapter as an alumnus?**

I have supported the chapter over the years because I feel I personally benefited from my experience in the fraternity, and I want to see the tradition that is Phi Sig continue. The current brothers don't have the means at this point in their lives, so the alumni must assume the responsibility if the house is going to continue.

## HOMECOMING REPORT

**Penn State Homecoming 2007 Provides Perfect Venue for Alumni Brunch and Annual Meeting of Phi Sigma Kappa Association of State College**  
**Official Business Included Board Elections and a Report on Reason To Be Proud Campaign**

By Dick Doherty '58

On Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> we celebrated homecoming at the Kappa Chapter House. With a late start for the game, we had a 10 a.m. brunch at the house. Thanks to **Matt Hilbert '81** for putting the brunch together. Several alumni stopped by to meet and greet, and hear the news that the chapter recruited 26 new men. Way to go actives!

This is also the time we are required to hold the annual meeting of the Phi Sigma Kappa Association of State College, the incorporated entity that owns the house and the umbrella organization for the alumni, commonly known as the house corporation. The meeting got underway at 11 a.m. and Bill DeGrandis gave an update on the *Reason To Be Proud Campaign*. See the full report on page 1.

Board elections were held. **Ben Jarmul '81** and **Barry Atkinson '62** were re-elected to three-year terms And **Bill Albertson '73** was elected to a new three-year term to fill a vacancy. All the present officers were returned to their present positions for another year. And, of course, the game was a fitting end to a great homecoming weekend.

## UNDERGRADUATES

**Fall Rush Yields one of Largest Pledge Classes in Kappa Chapter History**

By Jeff Marchozzi

The Pennsylvania State University Kappa Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa had one of the most successful rush periods in our history this fall. Twenty-seven accepted their bids, however illness and other factors have caused two of them to hold out and pledge in the spring:

Jerry Azarwicz	Matthew Millison
Nick Boscia	Tom Morse
Eric Fife	Trey Morris
Harry Guarino	Justin Napierkowski
Anthony Hilfiger	Josh Rifkin
Justin Kauffman	John Rinaldo
Ryan Kirsh	Dave Scanlon
Jared Korchok	Neel Shah
Steve Lacrosse	Jack Surma
Nelson Mack	Jordan Thompson
Josh Mayo	Adam Wicks

*House renovations to begin January 2008: See page 1 for update on the Reason to be Proud Campaign.*

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**PHI SIGMA KAPPA AT PENN STATE**

**Kappa Chapter of**

