

UPCOMING EVENTS

Founders' Day
March 2012 (TBA)

Blue-White Weekend
April 20-22

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Kappa News

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Kappa Chapter
Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

November 2011

ALUMNI REPORT

Send Your Nominations for "Alumnus and Active of the Year"

By Jeff Hudak '09

The Alumni Board of Directors of Kappa Chapter is continuing an annual award to recognize an alumnus of Kappa who has distinguished himself in service to the country, his profession, community and/or fraternity, including alumni functions, assistance with the *Reason to be Proud* campaign, mentoring actives, or assisting the Phi Sig National chapter. We will also be awarding an active brother of Kappa whose leadership, scholarship, and dedication to the chapter has improved life in the fraternity.

The individual selected will be one who exemplifies the Cardinal Principles of Brotherhood, Scholarship and Character by exercising leadership among his peers, neighbors and Kappa brothers to affect positive changes to his areas of attention.

To make your nomination, fill out the online form at www.phisigpsu.com, or mail your name, the name of the brother you're nominating, and the reasons you're nominating him to our alumni relations firm:

Phi Sigma Kappa/Penn State
c/o Melissa Gummo
2160 Sandy Drive, Ste. D
State College, PA 16804

Nominations must be received by March 1, 2012. It is expected that the awardees will be honored at the Founders' Day celebration in State College in March 2012. Questions about the award or application process can be directed to me through email at hudakjeff@gmail.com.

CHAPTER REPORT

Sights Set on Being a "Chapter of Excellence" Once Again

Kappa Chapter welcomed its largest spring class in recent history last semester, as six new members were initiated. Even more impressive is this fall's pledge class of 21 prospective members who are eager to join the brotherhood and share in our experiences. Brothers greatly enjoyed the

events we participated in last spring, including the AIDS Walk, Greek Week, THON, and our very own philanthropy, Super Stars.

Last fall, the IFC rewarded Phi Sig with a Chapter of Excellence award, which we are actively working toward achieving once again this semester. The award signifies our hard work in maintaining a good reputation while participating in various social activities with the school. We will continue to excel in philanthropies, safety programming, and campus interaction in order to prove our worth once again. This year we are partnered with the Sigma Alpha sorority for Homecoming and expect to do great things and build an amazing float. The motto of this year's Homecoming is "Forever Lions, Endless Pride" and our personal theme was Wall-E. Thank you to all alumni who came back to celebrate with us!



Phi Sigma Kappa members participate in the AIDS Walk

There are Many Great Ways to Stay Connected as an Alum!

A Great Homecoming 2011 in Happy Valley

By Dick Doherty '58

It was a great Homecoming weekend in Happy Valley. The weather was good, the Lions won the game and everyone had a good time. As you can see from the pictures we had a good turnout at the tailgate. And a great big thank you to Cathy and **Dave Hyland '80** for hosting brothers and their guests at the tailgate. I ran into **Brian Auman '79** again and sat in the same area with him. We met last month at the tailgate **Matt Hilbert '81** hosted at the Temple game.

Great to see so many brothers, some I met for the first time. **Craig Wilson '78** was there again this year with his daughter, and shared a lot of good memories about the house. He said how much it had meant to him and how it had helped him.

Saturday evening's social hour and buffet was greatly enjoyed. A big thanks to the house cook Jen and all the brothers who helped. I enjoyed seeing everyone, and hope to see you in March for Founders' Day.



Plaque Unveiled and Brothers of the Year Announced at Founders' Day Last Spring

On March 19, Kappa Chapter celebrated Founders' Day at the chapter house. A large group of actives and alums attended, to celebrate Kappa Chapter's rich legacy and history and to renew our fraternity bonds and friendships.



Dick Doherty '58 (Board President) and **Bill DeGrandis '77** (Board Vice President and *Reason to be Proud* Campaign Chairman) unveiled the Reason to be Proud Campaign plaque, which honors and thanks our campaign donors for all their generous support of our successful \$1.7 million renovation of the chapter house and revitalize Kappa Chapter. The campaign started in 2004 and raised money to finance a complete basement to top floor renovation of the chapter house, so it is up to 21st century standards.

At Founders' Day, we also honored our Phi Sig Alum of the Year, **Henry Nixon '35**. Henry supported the campaign and has been

very active in his community, was active in state government and hosted this year's Roger Barton Memorial Golf Tournament at the golf course that he co-owns.

Matt McLelland '10 was awarded the Phi Sig Active of the Year. Matt graduated at the end of fall semester 2010 and is currently in Law School. Matt has served as Chapter President and was active in the IFC while at Penn State.

Our Phi Sig Men of the Year honorees this year graduated over 75 years apart, but they – together with all of our brothers – share our Phi Sigma Kappa, Kappa Chapter bond.

Find more photos from Founders' Day online at www.phisigpsu.com.

Playing a Round for Roger

Brothers Return for Phi Sig Golf Outing, in Memory of Roger Barton after His Sudden Passing

By Dick Doherty '57

On Sunday, May 22nd, Phi Sigs and friends gathered at the Manada Golf Course for a great day of golf and brotherhood with a bit of rain thrown in. This year's outing was in honor of Brother **Roger Barton '69** who was organizing the outing until his sudden passing on March 22nd.

Many thanks to **Fred DeCock '80** for picking up the lead on this event. Also thanks to **Keith Whitman '80**, **Henry Nixon '35**, co-owner of the course, and **Dick Richardson '70** for

their assistance.

Twenty-one golfers took to the course,



plus Brothers Newell, Lloyd and Richardson played a ball for Roger with his clubs. I was told that Roger did quite well. I am sure he would have been pleased.

Awards for closest-to-the-pin and longest drive were won by **Jack Lloyd '68** and Dick Richardson, respectively. Everyone had a great time, and plans are in the works to hold a similar outing next Spring. We hope that more Phi Sigs living in the mid-Atlantic area will attend next year.

A Legacy of Leadership Profiling Father and Son Kappa Brothers

*A good leader is a dime a dozen, so we're lucky to have two qualified brothers leading us at the alumni and active chapter levels. Maybe it runs in the blood, because these two individuals are more than just brothers – they're father and son! Thank you to **Fred DeCock '80** and **Chris DeCock '13** for participating in this Then & Now profile to highlight their Phi Sig experiences and to show how much has changed (or stayed the same) at Kappa and on campus in the last 30+ years.*

Describe a nightly dinner at the house.

Fred: Every weeknight at 5:30, 25 to 30 of us ate together in the dining room. We truly looked forward to having that time together. While the food may not have been great, the company and camaraderie more than made up for it. Sunday night dinners were served by the pledge class, who had free reign in their post-meal skits to mock the brothers for things that happened during the week. I still smile when I remember some of the skits we put on as pledges. It's something we need to bring back to Kappa.

Chris: Depends on my schedule, but usually it consists of eating with a handful of guys that happen to be hungry at the same time as me. There is no official dinner time so it's usually a bunch of guys coming and going from the kitchen and dining room.

What was the best party?

Fred: The best party was the one you were at, whether in one of the guy's rooms or in the basement. GraveDiggers probably topped the list. We had a Beach Party that was fantastic, but the tons of sand we hauled into the basement turned out to be an incredible problem to clean out. But it sure made it feel like a party on the beach. And there was at least one toga party as a tribute to "Animal House" which was released while we were living in the house.

Chris: GraveDiggers is one of the most fun party's to be at and is certainly the best costume party during Halloween. People always have hilarious costumes and all the brothers really get involved with preparing for it. This is one event that every brother looks forward to during the fall semester.

What is your favorite Phi Sig memory?

Fred: My true favorite memory is attending my son's initiation ceremony. It was surreal to watch that as it unfolded. Prior to that, it would be winning Homecoming two years in a row working with Kappa Delta. Working together during those times to do our best work and make a name for Phi Sig was a great motivator. Every memory has a great deal of laughter associated with it. When each brother reads this, regardless of when they lived at the house, they will know exactly what I mean and smile.

Chris: My most memorable experience would most likely be my pledge class trip to West Virginia. On the way to the cabin, we had for the weekend we stopped in Morgantown, WV in an effort to visit the Delta chapter and ended up in one of the downtown clubs. The drive to the cabin was just over seven hours, which we hadn't anticipated, but it was well worth the drive. The cabin was brand new, sat at the top of a mountain with an awesome view of the surroundings and didn't have any other houses or buildings in sight. It was a great time and provided a great opportunity to bond with my pledge brothers.

What about your membership in Phi Sig makes you the most proud?

Fred: I'm truly blessed to have made lifelong friendships that are as strong today as they were 35 years ago, and will be for the rest of our lives. I'm proud that my son got to know my brothers as he was growing up, and decided that he'd like

to have the same kind of relationships in his own life. I never pressured him to join, at least not consciously. I told his pledge class at their initiation that they would not know the true meaning of what they were about to join until many years from now. The bonds they are creating will appear forever in their lives. Having Chris make the choice on his own to join is my greatest source of Phi Sig pride. Sharing the role of chapter president is pretty cool as well, especially since my younger brother Gary served as president too. **Bill DeGrandis '77** remarked we are like the "Bush family of Phi Sig."

Chris: I would have to say carrying on a family 'tradition' makes me extremely proud to be a part of Phi Sigma Kappa. Being able to share similar experiences with my father and uncle is very meaningful to me. Not everyone has a full understanding of making our organization a better place for the generations of men to come further down the road in addition to those that are here now.

What motivated you to pursue a leadership role for Phi Sig?

Fred: I felt that I needed that "education" my dad told me about. Learning to work with a team of men who wanted to make things as good as possible was full of ups and downs, giving all of us the experience which has helped us in our careers and our personal lives over the years. You can't get that living in a dorm or an apartment to the same degree. Everyone who serves as a Kappa leader is fortunate beyond measure.

Chris: I have held leadership roles in other organizations before so I had some prior experience. Someone has to do it, and knowing that the work I do is making sure all of my friends are having the experience of a lifetime is well worth the effort put in to being a president.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'50s

Earnest Larson '59

(108 Glacier Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650-2510; eelarson@yahoo.com) Back in the late 50s we had quite a lot of sporty brothers. One was a Golden Gloves boxer and, if I remember correctly, he won in Altoona. He coached the Phi Sig pledges with one 6 footer dropping down to 127 and losing because he drew a LEFTY as his opponent and couldn't handle the change. However we had some in-house sporting events. Particularly remember one brother who loved to bowl in the third floor hall and practice his golf swing on the porch.

'60s

John Caspero '61

(142 Alpine Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017-1012; jfcaspero@verizon.net) One of my favorite memories: a few fraternities at PSU had dogs as mascots. Kappa Chapter joined the elite few in the early '60s with a boxer named "Dugger." He was not known for his intelligence, never missed a party and was

known to swill beer with the best of them. If he was attending dog obedience school, he would have flunked out in a week!

Leonard Pasquini '66

(25814 Bristlecone Court, Golden, CO 80401-8083; PsqnLn@aol.com) I have three married children, seven grandchildren, 12 nieces and nephews, three weddings and nine to go. My hope is to live to see all of my grandchildren graduate from college and attend their weddings. I'd be in my '90s, if I'm so blessed. Hopefully, there is a future Penn Stater among them.

'00s

Jason Brunetto '05

(412 E 9th Ave., Apt 1, Conshohocken, PA 19428; jasonbrunetto@gmail.com) A bunch of brothers met up for a weeklong trip to Avalon last summer. This included

the annual Tour de Shore, in which the brothers represented this great country with an American theme (except for brother Marchozzi who decided to represent his native Cuba with a classic cutoff). Pictured: **Ward Williams, Mike Janosik, Tom Marchozzi, Eric Johnson, Dave Chapracki, Jay Brunetto, Chris Loftus, Scott Fedan, Rick Flail, Mike Cavanaugh and Adam Parnes.**



We want to know what's new with you too! Share your news and photos at www.phisigpsu.com.

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