

UPCOMING EVENT

Homecoming 2017

November 11

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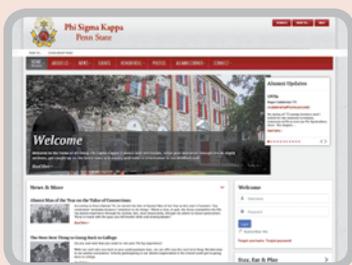
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Alumni Web Site



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

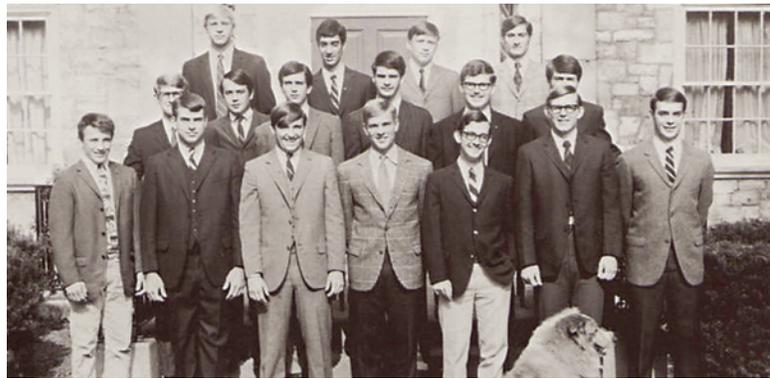
October 2017

Committed to Lifelong Learning

FEATURE PROFILE

Alumni Man of the Year on the Value of Connections

Bruce Balmat '70 Exemplifies the Lifelong Phi Sig Membership



Bruce Balmat (front row, first on left) and other Kappa Chapter brothers in 1969 (From LaVie).

According to **Bruce Balmat '70**, he earned the title of Alumni Man of the Year at this year's Founders' Day celebration "probably because I volunteer to do things." Which is true, in part. But Bruce exemplifies the Phi Sig alumni experience not only through his actions, but, most importantly, through his advice to future generations: "Keep in touch with the guys you befriended while an undergraduate."

"I still see many of my Phi Sig brothers every year even though they live or have lived in Florida, Minnesota, Arizona, Massachusetts, California, Maryland and throughout Pennsylvania," he said. "We still get together for tailgates, PSU wrestling matches, Phi Sig Golf Outings, and Work Weekend. He and his friends also take trips canoeing, and to Napa, Bermuda, and Key West. Their kids grew up knowing each other and many of them attended PSU too.

"So we also meet at weddings and for single malt scotch tastings," he said. "They are a great bunch of guys and spouses you won't often find anywhere else."

Part of the benefit of the alumni experience for Bruce is the opportunity to not only connect with these old friends, but to make

***"Reach out and
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those long-lost
brothers and renew
the Bond."***

new ones, too. His time on the Phi Sig board has allowed him to meet alumni from other eras who have formed similar lifelong connections.

"It's really humorous that we all remember the same kind of good events that we experienced so many years ago," he said. "So,

reach out and contact some of those long-lost brothers and renew the Bond."

As an undergraduate, Phi Sig gave Bruce a small community to connect with at a large university. He jokes that he gained friends, a taste for beer, and a strong sense of brotherhood thanks to the fraternity.

"It was a nicer place to live than the dorm," he added.

Today, Bruce and his wife, Ruth, moved to an active adult community near Phoenixville, Pa. after spending 38 years in Malvern, Pa. He retired in 2006 after spending 36 years as a power grid operator for PJM Interconnection. They have two children: Jeff (and spouse Sunshine and daughter Brewer) in Flagstaff, Ariz., and Ali in Wheaton, Ill.

Brothers can connect with Bruce at balmat123@gmail.com.

CHAPTER REPORT

Adapting to a New Greek Culture

Even with New Penn State Recruitment Rules, Phi Sig Welcomes Largest Spring Class in Recent Memory

Kappa Chapter welcomed the largest spring pledge class in recent memory, with 11 new members joining the brotherhood. New Penn State Greek life regulations have put restrictions on recruitment activities, including limiting rush to just students with at least 14 earned credit hours (meaning freshmen are no longer eligible for fall rush). Other houses have been “undergrounding” members to keep their numbers up, but Phi Sig is committed to following the rules and complying with the new culture of Greek life at Penn State. We have been reaching out to current freshmen, inviting them to tailgates and to football watch parties in hopes of gaining their interest in rushing next spring. We are focusing on recruiting academically-minded men with higher GPAs that understand the values of being a Phi Sig.

Philanthropically, we have raised thousands

“Philanthropically, we have raised thousands of dollars toward charity causes.”

of dollars toward charity causes. A BBQ we held in conjunction with Alpha Xi Delta raised \$1,000 for autism awareness, and we also raised \$17,000 for THON. We also held a small fundraiser at Chipotle to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and five brothers have participated in Rise Against Hunger. The brotherhood has also assisted the State College Borough in removing invasive plant species



Phi Sig brothers and sorority friends have raised \$17,000 so far for THON through canning.

and to complete beautification processes through the Rebuild U program.

At the house, we recently made much-needed improvements to the basement and the bar. The balcony had two new benches added.

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RAISING AWARENESS

#NoHairDontCare #FTK



Phi Sig brothers aren't just committed to raising money for philanthropy; they're dedicated to raising awareness too. In February, three brothers joined the **#cancercannot** campaign by shaving their heads for THON—in honor of the pediatric cancer patients that THON benefits.



Phi Sig brothers at THON 2017.

As the 2016 Greek Sing winners, Phi Sig brothers performed at THON 2017

ALUMNI PROFILE

The Brother Behind the Brews

Lou Romano '96 Makes a Career Out of Beer as National Sales Manager for Oskar Blues

Have you ever had a can of Dale's Pale Ale, or seen it on the shelves at your distributor? It's pretty likely, since the popular brew is now sold in all 50 states. But did you know that one of your Phi Sig brothers is behind its production?

Lou Romano '96 is National Sales Manager of Oskar Blues Brewery, a Colorado-based craft brewing company known for pioneering the practice of canning craft beer.

"I came to Oskar Blues in October 2013," Lou says. "I saw an up-and-coming craft brewery where I thought my experience could help bring the organization to a national level."

And he was right. Oskar Blues has expanded to open two additional locations in Texas and North Carolina, as well as acquire two craft breweries in Michigan and Florida. Lou's sales team alone is now made up of nearly 100 employees.

Lou got his start in the beer industry even before attending Penn State, as he had already worked at a retail distributor. He continued at Nittany Beverage while in school, working at the retail store and



Lou Romano '96 (right) with Phi Sig brother Jeff Klein '96

loading delivery trucks.

"I also brought a lot of Stroh's 36-packs back to Phi Sig," he adds.

Not long after graduation, Lou landed a job as a sales representative at an Anheuser-Busch wholesaler. He eventually made his way to the supplier side of Yuengling, working first in sales, and then running

Yuengling's marketing department for about six years before heading to Oskar Blues.

"It's certainly not been without challenges, but [they've happened] in a gratifying way," says Lou.

Today, Lou connects frequently with **Jeff Klein '96** and **Jeremy Frank '97**.

"Both seem to do a much better job at keeping up with everyone else," he says. "So I get my updates on **Tim Leister '96**, **Hunter Grossman '95**, **Kwi Brennan '96**, **Doug Graham '95**, **Vince Calvanese '95**, **Jason Ralph '95**, **Jason Babik '96**, **Pete Adams '96**, and the rest of the gang through Jeff and Jeremy, and with the help of Fantasy Football and social media."

But time and distance have done nothing to diminish the bond Lou will always feel with his brothers.

"Phi Sig provided me with a group of lifelong friends," he says. "Although I don't see them all nearly as much as I'd like, I know they'd be there for me if I needed them, and that feeling is mutual."

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank You, Donors!

We'd like to thank the following alumni who have made their annual fund contributions to kick off our 2017-18 giving year, which began September 1, 2017.

\$250 - \$499.99

Robert M. Galloway	1955
Joseph C. Peden	1956
Robert G Warrington	1991

Up to \$50.99

Richard D. Lash	1957
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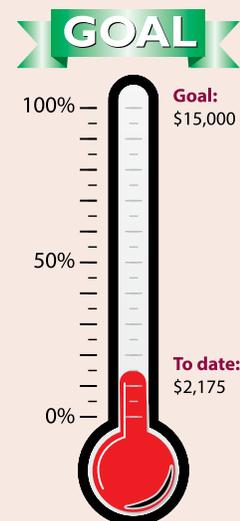
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Edward J. Baranski	1955
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Thomas A. Tylman	1975
Brian C. Trapani	1987
Joel P. Miller	1997

Reflects gifts received as of October 9, 2017.

We'd also like to recognize **John Duda '87**, whose 2016-17 donation was processed after our 2016-17 Honor Roll of Donors was published. John, thank you for making your gift at the close of the giving year last year.

2017-18 ANNUAL FUND



Make Your Gift

- Donate online at www.phisigpsu.com.
- Call 800-975-6699.
- Mail a check payable to "Phi Sigma Kappa Association" to the return address on this newsletter.



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The Value of Lifelong Connections How Phi Sig Makes Them Possible...



A LIFELONG BROTHERHOOD

Phi Sigs Hit the Links at 7th Annual Golf Tourney



Twenty alumni came back to Penn State to participate in the 7th Annual Phi Sig Golf Tournament May 19-20. Alumni took part in a fun-filled weekend, with events at Penn State Golf Course, Toftrees, the new downtown Champs, the Phi Sig Mansion, and Rothrock State Forest.

The 2017 tournament winner was **Keith Whitman '80**, pictured here (at right) receiving his green jacket from last year's winner **Bobby Thompson '01**. Our Alumni Man of the Year, **Bruce Balmat '70**, received his plaque during Saturday night's dinner at the Phi Sig Mansion.

Work Weekend Isn't Just about Work

Special thanks to the alumni and actives who came back to Happy Valley this summer to participate in Work Weekend. Improvement projects at the house included landscaping and building and painting new furniture from the basement. The group also enjoyed dinner at Letterman's in State College.

Find many more pictures from
the alumni experience

at

www.phisigpsu.com



A group of alumni and actives took a break from house projects to enjoy dinner at Letterman's.