

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

Recently, Alpha Mu has learned of the passing of the following Brothers into the Chapter Eternal. We thank them for their selfless gifts of time, talents, and financial contributions. They will be missed by the entire Pi Kapp family.

**Dr. John Struck Dr. '43**  
**Ray Plymyer '48**  
**Dr. Jeff Hathaway '49**  
**Robert Highton '53**  
**Paul Acone '55**  
**Donald Casciato '59**  
**Bill Simon III '59**  
**Maurice "Mo" Ranc '61**

## FEELING HAPPY IN THE VALLEY

State College is just the place for a Spring, Summer, or Fall reunion with your Pi Kapp Brothers. Check out these great events happening, and plan to attend one, or all!

### Annual Blue/White Spring Practice

**When:** April 21, 2018, Time TBD  
**Where:** Beaver Stadium, State College, PA  
For more, visit [gopsusports.com](http://gopsusports.com)

### We Are Weekend, Celebration of the class of 1968's 50th reunion, and Penn State Pioneers

**When:** June 1-3, 2018  
**Where:** Penn State, University Park Campus

The Alumni Association will host We Are Weekend, a three-day celebration that'll provide plenty of memorable moments to remind Penn Staters why the University holds a special place in their hearts.

For more, visit [news.psu.edu](http://news.psu.edu)

### Homecoming 2018

**When:** October 13, VS Michigan Stat, time TBD  
**Where:** Beaver Stadium

Join your Pi Kapp Brothers as Penn State looks to avenge last season's, last-second heartbreaker in East Lansing

# Alpha Musings

ALPHA MU CHAPTER PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY  
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY  
[www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org)



STATE COLLEGE, PA.  
**February 2018**

## ALPHA MU MEMORIAL

### Chapter Loses One Of Its Finest

"It's a huge loss to Alpha Mu, a loss of a great wealth of knowledge, and commitment that we want to make absolutely certain is remembered."

These words of praise from Alumni President **Stephen**

**DiOrio '78**, are surely echoed amongst and Alpha Mu Brother whose life Brother **Edmund Jefferries "Jeff" Hathaway '49** touched, particularly Brothers **Bill Pantle '58**, and **Bill Simon '59**.

"Those guys were very close," said DiOrio. "They were famous for tailgating, and always were certain to invite everyone by for refreshments."

Hathaway, 90, who also served as Alpha Mu Alumni President until the mid to late 00's, was known as a generous man in all phases of



life. The glue that held Alpha Mu together, he navigated the Chapter through rough waters and never wavered.

"Even in his mature status as Alumni President, he loved the Active Brothers, he had a deep desire for them to

succeed," said DiOrio. "He even had a room in the house to stay in when he came to State College. There was always something very special about him – he was a colorful man, people always remembered how he was dressed, and he was deeply devoted to Penn State."

For Brother Hathaway's full obituary, please visit <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thetimes-tribune/obituary.aspx?pid=187678468>

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Alpha Mu Leadership and Alumni Complete Audit

First and foremost, thank you to all of you that took time to participate in our alumni survey. We wanted to provide a brief summary of what we learned from the survey.

- 16 people responded to a four question survey – 560 potentials = 3% response rate
- 36 people responded to the longer survey – 560 potentials = 6% response rate
- 17 phone interviews - 62 potentials = 27% response rate

Feedback from the surveys indicates that alumni want Alpha Mu to return to campus at Penn State. They believe in the value of the experience they enjoyed and they want to pay that opportunity forward to future generations. They will support the return of the chapter if it will provide a place for young men to develop leadership skills, build life-long friendships and learn to take pride in being part of a successful organization. However, they are also deeply concerned about how Pi Kappa Phi can

move forward.

Primary concerns shared include:

- Is this the right time?
- What is Penn State's long-term commitment and vision for Greek Life?
- The value of Greek Life to the current student/generation.

In the current environment, alumni did express that they would support continued alumni programming. This would include communications and events. They noted that hearing about what others from their era, and the house at large are doing is of interest to them and they enjoy spending time with both those they have built friendships with and other members of Alpha Mu. For those interviewed and surveyed, the friendships they built are the single most valuable benefit from their days at Pi Kapp.

We will keep you posted regarding next steps we are exploring with National and The University.

## Remembering a Beloved Alpha Mu Brother

By **Bill Pantle '58**

I first met **Jeff [Hathaway] '49** in the fall of 1955. Football season was starting, and I was a pledge. One of the first rules for new pledges was when a visitor came through the door the first brother or

pledge who saw him had to rush to the door with a hand extended to welcome the visitor and make them feel welcome. We were meeting and getting to know alums who were coming back to watch games. We got to know these men and learned from them. What impressed was their interest in us – the lowly pledges.

The following input from **Mo Ranc '61**, who Alpha Mu recently lost as well, really tells the story about Jeff and the meaning of brotherhood:

"I first met Jeff when I was a Pi Kapp pledge in the mid-fifties. Jeff and his college friends would arrive at the house for the Penn State football games on WEDNESDAY! We learned from socializing with these "old guys" what brotherhood was all about, what it meant to them and what it would mean to us. I am ever grateful to Jeff and the others before me for their friendship and guidance. When 409 East Fairmount got into financial trouble, Jeff stepped in on an alumni committee to help solve the problems. He was always committed to Pi Kappa Phi, its ideals and most of all its brotherhood. He was unique and will be missed."

I roomed with Stan Hopkins – Mo was our pledge roommate our junior year. He's so right about the spirit of brotherhood and how it was instilled in us by the older brothers and visiting alums

assembled all his gear. He liked to laugh and say where else can you drink gin at nine o'clock in the morning and no one gives a darn.

Jeff would plan his menus based on the kickoff time – menus were awesome and there was always plenty – there were always visiting Pi Kapps dropping by for a bite to eat, a cold Yuengling and good brotherhood.

You can see in the photo on page 1 where Jeff was wearing blue cords embroidered with Nittany Lions – I recall the last time we tailgated the blue had fades with age, but not Jeff. Some games he would don his white sport coat, the blue cords, a Penn State tie and the lapels of his jacket would be adorned with



who we got to know over time.

Many years passed during my time in the USAF. I was able to get back for some football games in the late 1980's and was able to meet up with Jeff at his legendary tailgates. We moved back to Centre County in 2006 and we were able to see more of Jeff and Lydia along with other Pi Kaps in the area as well as those in town for various events on campus.

Jeff always had a twinkle in his eye, a warm welcome and the best hospitality. Regardless of the scheduled kickoff time Jeff was first in line to get into the parking lot and set up his tailgate. He loved warm cheap gin which he drank from an old bent metal cup. He enjoyed his gin as he

game-day buttons from former tailgates.

Jeff and Lydia frequently would lead a group to the Ale Hose for post-game drinks and dinner – one of Jeff's favorite places.

As Mo mentioned earlier, Jeff was there when there was some financial issues – yes, he gave a lot of his personal funds to help the house recover from the problems, but more important was his leadership and commitment as a brother.

Jeff's wit, wisdom, friendship, and brotherhood will be missed by all who crossed paths with him.

## A House that Turned into a Home

*From fundamental to fun, Pi Kappa Phi gave **Dave Ferraro, '59**, a college experience he'll never forget*

When Dave Ferraro was a freshman at Penn State University, he found the dormitory accommodations less than ideal. In fact, it was the strong desire to move out of the dorms that jump started his interest in the Greek system. "The main thing was that I needed a place to live and I didn't want to live in the dorms!" he remembers. "A friend from the dorm had gone to a party at Pi Kappa Phi and he was invited back. So, he took me, and few other friends, and we had a great time."

Through that introduction, Dave quickly found his ideal home away from home and very quickly became interested in becoming a member. "It was a nice house, a really nice bunch of guys, and a live-in house mother, Irene Hutchinson," he recalls. "It all resonated with me and I didn't look much further than that."

For the next three years, Dave found comfort, friendship, and created many memories within the walls of the Pi Kappa Phi house. "Living there was the highlight of my fraternity membership," he shares. "The intramural activities were always a lot of fun, and of course, the big weekend dances were fantastic!"

Separating Dave from many of his Brothers, was the fact that he had a serious long-distance girlfriend from high school that continued into college. Each dance weekend was made that much more special for Dave, since Barbara Ann would come to Penn State for them, often bringing some friends with her. "We used to set up some of the Brothers with dates!" he laughs. And always the gentlemen, the Brothers of Pi Kappa Phi would graciously offer up their rooms to the young ladies for the weekend, often giving them the entire second floor.

As a student, Dave wasn't a stand-out, but managed to maintain his grades. "I was an Engineering major at first, but then switched to the Business School with a major in Accounting. I was an average student, one of my great regrets in life," he admits. With the help and support of his Brothers, Dave stayed out of trouble with the fraternity, avoiding academic probation. "If you were having trouble with a course, there was a lot of support and advice from Brothers who had already taken that class," he explains. "There were also blue book files available to help prepare for tests."

But even though he wasn't the best



student in the fraternity, Dave took on plenty of leadership roles, which helped him in ways that the classroom couldn't prepare him for. "Pi Kappa Phi gave me the opportunity to run things. I served the fraternity as Rush Chairman, Pledge Master, and Arcon. During my last semester, I was also head of the finance committee," he proudly states. "This helped give me good management experience."

Taking that experience into his post-college career served Dave well. As a member of the Navy during college, Dave completed a three-year post-college obligation. After the three years, he submitted his resignation, but the Navy declined. "I protested, but that didn't fly," he laughs. So, instead, Dave requested his additional two-year terms of service to take place at the Naval Academy, where he taught and received his graduate degree from George Washington University. "The best time when I was there was definitely when I had Roger Staubach as my student. I had told him, 'don't flunk out and ruin my career!'" and he ended up receiving a good grade!" he laughs. Not forgetting his experience at Penn State, Dave felt that getting his Master's degree was an important addition to his resume. "I was motivated to get my Master's degree to show employees I'm not an idiot!"

After his additional two years of service, Dave resigned again. This time, the Navy accepted, and he began his civilian life career at Proctor & Gamble, which ended up taking him to Memphis, TN. "I was transferred to Memphis in 1973 to work for a subsidiary company, Buckeye Technologies Inc." he explains. "When they wanted to sell in 1993, myself, my partner, and a venture capital firm bought it."

From 1993 until his retirement in 2006, Dave spent his career at Buckeye, serving

as CEO and Chairman of the Board. After his retirement, Dave was very active in serving on various boards. Although he isn't actively serving on any boards today, Dave will never forget how his post-college life and Pi Kappa Phi connections led to a once-in-a-lifetime conversation. "I was on the board of the American Paper Institute. At an event, I sat at a table with Colin Powell. My Pi Kappa Phi Brother, John Yeosock, was a Commanding General that had served under Powel and we had fun swapping stories about him!" he comments.

Today, Dave prefers to spend time with his wife of 58 years, and his high school sweetheart, Barbara Ann (Bobby), whom he married just one week after graduation. Together, they have three children and four grandchildren. Each year, Dave and Bobby take their entire family on vacation. When not spending time with his family, Dave is also very interested in the arts and supporting education.

Although he hasn't remained in contact with his Brothers, time and distance made it very difficult, Dave does value each opportunity to connect, no matter how infrequent. "A good number of years ago, I was invited back to Penn State to present for the Business School and stopped by the house. There, I ran into Dick Wall and William Simon. It was nice to run into them and reminisce about old times!" he says.

Looking ahead at the future of Pi Kappa Phi, Dave has high hopes and expectations for the fraternity and the Brothers. "I hope they can clean up their act, fix up the house, and make it once again an attractive place that young men want to live. I would like to see all Brothers living in the house and being proud of their role in the fraternity," he explains. "Each year, I send a donation to help this cause. I think it is something worth perpetuating and if a little money helps, I'm happy to do it."

Regarding the Greek System overall, Dave also has high hopes for it to return to its roots and glory once again. "I think the Greek System can fulfill a valuable role on college campuses. Like anything worthwhile, maintaining it takes work and we need people to do it."

If you would like to reconnect with Dave, you can email him at [dbferraro1@gmail.com](mailto:dbferraro1@gmail.com).

## A BALANCING ACT

### How Pi Kappa Phi helped Jason Borrelli, '94, stay focused

The rigors of an Engineering major at Penn State often results in students spending hours in computer labs and frequent visitors to the basement of the Hammond Building. For Jason Borrelli, '94, it was no different. Thankfully, however, Jason found a way to offset the solitude by finding Pi Kappa Phi. "PKP provided a social outlet to help balance the academic rigors of the PSU engineering curriculum and provide a well-rounded college experience," he explains.

Making the choice to join Pi Kappa Phi, Jason knew he was going to have to go all in, not wanting to lessen his experience one bit. "When you join a fraternity, you make a decision to become part of a larger group," he says. "The best way to feel connected to that group, and to contribute, is to immerse yourself."

One way to do that was to move into the PKP house, which Jason did for his junior and senior years. It was during that time where he truly was able to soak up all that the fraternity had to offer, the good and the bad. "Living in the house helped me forge lifelong relationships. You got to know everything, and I mean everything, about the other guys in the house!"

The lifelong friendships that were created, from the earliest introductions as a freshman to graduation, are quite possibly Jason's proudest part of PKP, and he has no plans to lose touch now. "The friendships I created have remained just as strong today as they were 23 years ago," he shares. "When I talk with others about their college experience and how they keep in touch, I have yet to come across anyone



*Back Row (Left to Right) - Mike Scheel, Howard Pope, Jesse Schlegel  
Front Row (Left to Right) - Steve Wydman, Jason Borrelli, Steve Huang*



*Back Row (Left to Right) - Steve Huang, Steve Valahovic, Howard Pope, Chad Helmer, Dan Duffrin, Jesse Schlegel, Chris Swarr  
Middle Row (Left to Right) - Mark Elwell (non-PKP), Jason Borrelli, Andy Kelso  
Front Kneeling - Steve Wydman*

that invested the time and energy to stay connected as the group of PKPs that were in the house in the early 1990s."

In fact, each spring about 16-20 Brothers get together for a PKP golf weekend, as well as at least one tailgate during each football season. This year, more than a dozen PKP Brothers and their families joined together to root on the football team against Georgia State on September 16.

Today, Jason works in real estate where he often utilizes skills learned during his time in the fraternity. "Although I have an undergraduate degree in engineering, I have worked in commercial real estate since 1997," he shares. "This entails frequent meetings with institutional buyers, sellers, shareholders – all smart and sophisticated people. The social aspect of being in a fraternity helps me stay comfortable and confident in virtually any professional situation."

In addition to his career, Jason is married to his wife, Julie, a Kappa Kappa Gamma from Penn State herself. Together, they have two children, Drew (16) and Sophie (13). Jason is confident that both of his children will follow in their footsteps and attend Penn State. "After a few PSU football games and tailgates, both kids are fully committed to attending PSU for college!" he laughs.

By then, Jason is hopeful that Pi Kappa Phi will be active at Penn State once again. "I really hope that PKP is able to recolonize at Penn State," he comments. "While I was there, we were a very strong chapter – socially, philanthropically, and academically. It will certainly take some time, but hopefully with the support of alumni, we will see it happen in the next few years."

And Jason is making sure to do his part to ensure the return of a once-great fraternity to State College. "I take pride in financially supporting the cause," he says. "My college experience would not have been the same, and I am sure that I would not be in the same place, without my time at Pi Kappa Phi."