

Alpha Mu by the Numbers

How does Pi Kappa Phi fare this year?

- 15th out of 58 Penn State social fraternities in terms of GPA
- 3.1 GPA
- \$220,000 raised for THON in spring 2006, placing us 2nd overall in terms of donations raised
- 16 new members in fall 2006, keeping us well on track with our goal of 22-28 new members per year
- One of only 4 social fraternities that has not been on probation with either IFC, the University or the Borough

Laugh So Hard Your Guts Hurt

What Is the Memory that Makes You Laugh Hardest Today?



"The Saturday night a bat entered the living room, causing about ten spirit-filled brothers swinging brooms to knock it down."
- George O. Herold '50

"Seeing Jon Solan asleep in the dumpster on a cold, frosty fall morning! Or was it seeing Senator Dingel perform magic on a plastic cup of beer? Or could it be the pledge trip to NYC in Skip's van?"
- Harry Barfoot '77

Read more hilarious stories and submit your own at www.alphamupikap.org!

Alpha Musings

ALPHA MU CHAPTER PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY
THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
www.alphamupikap.org



STATE COLLEGE, PA.

November 2006

In Today's World, Achieving the Mission of Alpha Mu Requires the Presence of Bricks and Mortar

*Together, Let's Create Our Own World within Our Home.
Let's Make a Difference.*

By Stephen J. DiOrio '78

Homecoming 2006 saw a return to campus of many excited and somewhat nostalgic Pi Kapp Alumni. Opening the weekend festivities Friday evening was a beautiful cocktail party at the Nittany Lion Inn that welcomed our returning Brothers and their guests. Over drinks and hors d'oeuvres, a discussion of current challenges to Alpha Mu took place as well as a presentation of an outline and vision for the future.

The spirit of our brotherhood does not necessarily require bricks and mortar. However, to achieve the mission of Alpha Mu, to bring the lessons of leadership, of responsibility, of self-governance, of good citizenship and of a sense of purpose and place within the context of a large, sometimes overwhelming University setting, I think it does. What brought most of us together was not just a chance to see each other in a social setting, but a chance to create our own world within our own home - together. It's also what tends to bring the generations of brothers back to the University

and to Pi Kappa Phi. It is the magnet that tends to secure the brotherhood over many years. Our House, our magnet needs work. Our magnet needs modernization.

The wear and tear of the years has taken its toll. Improved housing from newly constructed University dorms, newly constructed, state of the art apartment buildings, technological

(Continued on Page 3)

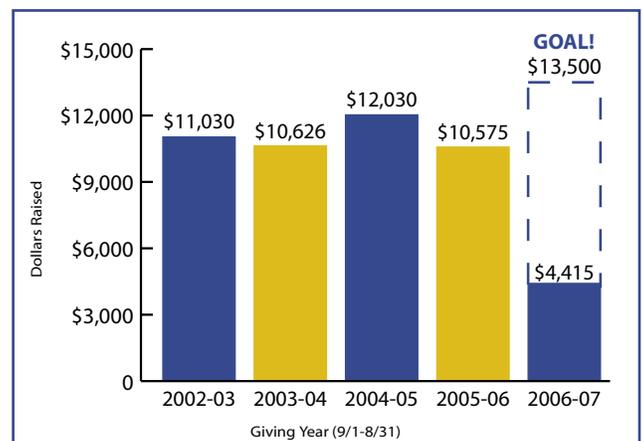


Brothers and guests enjoy sharing stories of old and new.

Help Our Giving Grow!

Your Support Needed to Reach Annual Fund Goal

The Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Corporation would like to thank the 159 donors who contributed a collective \$10,575 to the 2005-06 annual fund. While we appreciate this great response, we'd like to get back to higher totals we've seen in years past. Help us reach our 2006-07 goal of \$13,500 by making your gift today! It's easy. Just call **800-975-6699** or visit www.alphamupikap.org to show your support.



Exploring the Skies: Bill Simon '59 Soars to Great Heights as a Navigator in the U.S. Air Force

After 26 Years in the Service, Bill Returns to PSU to Teach Pi Kappas

Bill had a connection to Pi Kappa Phi from an early age.



His father was a member of the alumni governing board and Bill often accompanied him to the house on visits and for homecoming events. When it came time for Bill to apply to colleges, he only sent one application—to Penn State.

“Part of it was a family thing,” Bill says. “I didn’t want to go anywhere else.”

Bill wanted to join a fraternity because he’d witnessed the fun his father experienced. “I rushed at a number of different places,” Bill says. “I just liked the way the [Pi Kapp] guys were...it seemed like a good place. I just had a good feeling about it.”

That good feeling proved true. There are a million memories, Bill says of his undergrad days, but he remembers one time when he and **Dave Ferraro '60** were sent on a pledge trip with only \$2.10 between the two of them. They had to fend for themselves for 48 hours, with strict instructions to return with the \$2 in hand (the 10 cents was for a phone call). They were given a list of things they had to see and do, all while wearing a coat and tie and hitchhiking their way from place to place. But Bill admits they cheated a little. “We got a buddy’s car and used the car to get around,” he says.

A large chunk of his time was devoted to ROTC. In those days, all men except veterans or the disabled had to participate in the organization for their first two years at PSU. His exposure during his freshman year sparked an interest in various activities. “I was a Pi Kapp, but almost at an equal level I was involved in ROTC,” Bill says. He was a member of the drill team for the first two years, and then advanced into the Arnold Air Society during his junior and senior years.

Bill graduated with a degree in science and mathematics under liberal arts. He joined the Air Force, spent a year in navigator training

in Waco, Texas and his first assignment was at a California base, where he flew KC-135 tankers. It was while stationed there that he and his wife had their three kids—Christine, Barbara, and Bill IV. Bill spent almost seven years there and was promoted twice.

He then volunteered to fly RC-135s in Okinawa, which were reconnaissance aircrafts. It was a dangerous time; all their flying was done in the Vietnam combat zone. “The war went on below us, sometimes next to us, when they’d try to chase us out,” Bill remembers. Each flight mission lasted 18½ hours, and the crew of about 24 people was totally unarmed.

After leaving Okinawa, Bill was stationed in Omaha, Nebraska, flying RC-135s all over the world. He volunteered to go to Ramstein Air Base in West Germany, where he was the chief of an operation that flew C-130s for reconnaissance missions. “My operation flew to Berlin every day... because to do so they were able to fly over East Germany and take pictures. We weren’t supposed to, but we did.” These flights introduced him to Berlin, which he found to be a fascinating city. When a position opened up, he became the Director of Operations at Tempelhof Air Base in West Berlin. “That was the best job in the entire

universe,” he says. “[Berlin] is an incredible place; it’s beyond description.”

He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in August 1985, but opted to stay on in Berlin because of his love for the city. “I’d go crazy if I’d never lived anywhere else,” Bill says. “I rather like variety.” From 1985 to 1992, he taught Computer Programming, Data Systems Analysis, and Programming for the University of Maryland’s overseas program.

He finally returned to the states after the Berlin Wall came down. A year after returning home to State College, Bill started teaching Computer Science part-time for PSU, which he continues to do. Aside from teaching, Bill keeps busy with a number of pastimes. He is the president of a Porsche club, of which he has two. He loves photography and travel, and although he has traveled all over the world, he would still like to visit Australia and New Zealand.

Bill is also an appointed member of the Board at Pi Kappa Phi, a position he’s held for the past year. Because he lives locally, he enjoys being able to assist when he can, such as helping to close the house at the end of the spring semester. He hopes the alumni will support the house renovations campaign.

OLD PHOTO ALBUM

Memorabilia Needed from Your Days at Penn State

Alpha Mu Chapter is looking to rebuild its legacy by collecting old photographs and other items you may have saved from your years at Penn State. Specifically, we are looking for photographs to represent each decade of our history! Group shots of parties, mixers, dances, etc. are also wanted. Please submit photos from your era online at www.alphamupikap.org.



In Today's World... (Continued from page 1)

developments and successful renovation projects among many other PSU fraternities has served to make the ol' house look even more tired and in need of work. The competition for students is fierce. New local, state and federal laws have created challenges and a demanding University "presence" has underscored the need for modernization and renovation.

Local ordinances are requiring sprinklers by October 2008. Local officials currently inspect the house for life safety issues twice a year. As part of any renovation and upgrade to the Chapter house, life safety issues will be addressed first. Beyond the essentials,

focus will be on the modernization of the kitchen, bathrooms, bedrooms, library, chapter rooms, furnishings and computer and internet systems.

The success of our campaign is dependent upon the willingness of each of our brothers to make a difference--in any way possible. At this writing, the actives have pledged almost \$10,000 and that number is growing. Their "skin is in the game." Now we need yours.

The Brothers attending this milestone event were excited about the future. The actives and your Alumni Board are equally excited. I hope you are as well.

Want to Get Involved in the Future of Pi Kapp at Penn State?

Contact **Steve Diorio '78**
(215-647-0278;
steve@stevediorio.com)
or Loni Fultz (570-837-0468;
loni@affinityconnection.com)
for more information.



IN MEMORY

Lewis E. Shemery Jr. '58 died August 29, 2006. He is survived by Cindy, his wife, a son, Lew III, a daughter, Wendy, and two grandchildren.

Lew graduated from Penn State with a degree in Business Administration. He was in the PSU Naval ROTC, and served as a naval officer after graduation. For many years after his service, he operated an auto detailing business.

Lew's dad, Lew Sr., was a member of Pi Kappa Phi's predecessor local fraternity, Chi Lambda Zeta, but graduated before Alpha Mu was chartered.

Dr. Paul J. Wuest '58 died on September 5, 2006. Paul is survived by his wife, Janet, one brother, two sons, two daughters, and nine grandchildren.

Paul graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in Horticulture and again in 1963 with a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology. He was in the PSU Army and served as an Army Captain (1963-1964) at the US Army Biological Lab in Frederick, MD. He then returned to Penn State as Professor of Plant Pathology, retiring in 1999 as Professor Emeritus.

Don't Miss Out On Important Communications!

The next issue of *Alpha Musings* will be distributed electronically (slated for early January). Be sure you receive this issue, along with all other Pi Kapp communications, by updating your contact information online at www.alphamupikap.org.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'30s

Grant Colton '34

(P.O. Box 1283, Mars, PA 16046-1283) I still continue to work every day.

'40s

Robert Olds '41

(P.O. Box 917, Johnstown, NY 12095-0917) Sold my business and retired 23 years ago.

'60s

Anthony J. Zeme Jr. '66

(R.R. 2, Box 2744, 90 State St., Nicholson, PA 18446-9672) Our son, Christian, is presently a freshman at Penn State. He resides in Hamilton Hall in West Halls. He is a history major in the College of Education.

Robert Wenner '62

(3700 S. Westport Ave., # 2893, Sioux Falls, SD 57106; bgwenr@yahoo.com) We posted here three years ago that we were "hitting the road" fulltime in our RV. WOW, what a wonderful life we have been having

traveling the country. The only part on the continental U.S. we have not yet visited is the Pacific Northwest, but that is scheduled for 2008. As this update is being posted, we are visiting family and friends at our "home" in Harrisburg, PA. and will be departing shortly for Boston. After a month in Boston, we will head south and winter in Florida (Orlando & Bradenton). Stay tuned and stay in touch.

'80s

Gerry C. Yantis, Jr. '82

(13005 Cockerill Court, Herndon, VA 20171; gcyantis2@yahoo.com) As of July 2006, the adventure of living in UK for 3 years ended as Amy headed back home to Virginia with Colin (18), Kyle (15) and Kelsey (15). I will continue in UK until a transition to Capgemini U.S.; the sooner, the better. Colin was accepted to Penn State but has chosen to attend Washington & Lee in the fall. I am looking forward to a fall visit to State College.

Bert Baloga '88

(2300 Brandermill Place, Charlotte, NC 28226; bert.baloga@hotmail.com) Hello to everyone from Charlotte, NC. We need a reunion... I am in my mid-life crisis- I hit 40 this year. **Chewy**- when are we going

to Wisconsin? Where are **Fox, Dopey, Braindead, Poop, Kurt Schlimme '88, Smoothie, Party Marty, Louie, Edward "Hass" Hassiepen '88, Leeceenbach, Costello, and Ray Behmhhoohoo??** Updates please....

Did You Miss Our Milestone Event During Homecoming?



Get the inside scoop on Pi Kapp's future on page 1!

Homecoming 2006 great time for all who came home; strong annual giving from alumni; chapter welcomes 16 new members and more... details inside!

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PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY



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