

HOMECOMING

***Penn State vs.
Northwestern***
Sept. 26-28, 2014

Saturday, Sept. 27

Noon: Kickoff at Beaver
Stadium

5:00 p.m.: Cocktail hour at the
house

***We want you back home!
Register at
www.alphamupikap.org
so we know how many to
expect.***

PSU FOOTBALL

***Make Every Weekend a
Reunion Weekend with
PSU Football!***

8/30 vs. UCF, 8:30 a.m., Ireland

9/6 vs. Akron, Noon

9/13 at Rutgers, 8:00 p.m.

9/20 vs. UMass, TBA

9/27 vs. Northwestern, Noon*

10/11 at Michigan, 7:00 p.m.

10/25 vs. OSU, 8:00 p.m.

11/1 vs. Maryland, TBA

11/8 at Indiana, TBA

11/15 vs. Temple, TBA

11/22 at Illinois, TBA

11/29 vs. Mich. State, TBA

12/6 Big 10 Championship

* Homecoming

Note: home games in **bold**.

ON THE WEB

***Catch all of our alumni news
and share your own stories
on our website:***

www.alphamupikap.org

Alpha Musings

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



STATE COLLEGE, PA.
September 2014

ALUMNI REPORT

Protecting Our Investment at 409 E. Fairmount

By Steve DiOrio '78, President, Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Corporation

This fall, we are very excited about the upcoming football season and the group of men we have in the house. The house is nearly at capacity for occupancy. We are fortunate that a lot of great leaders in the house have provided stability.

Within the last year, we have undertaken some important projects at the house. In total, our alumni brotherhood has spent over \$70,000 on maintenance, upgrades and repairs to the house. This summer, many rooms were painted and all move-out repairs were completed. Most importantly, new security cameras were installed



Security cameras have been installed outside the house ...

This is an area separate from our traditional kitchen. It provides brothers a place where they can prepare food and snacks during the evenings and on weekends.

Last fall, we replaced the front slope of the roof. Early this fall, we will launch an additional \$12,000 roofing project for the west house. Additionally, in order to help protect the undergraduates' new big-screen TV, alumni constructed a new cabinet. This, along with the new security system and new furniture in the living room and library, will provide our brothers with a secure common space on the first floor which can be focused on study and party-free entertainment.

Thanks to all of the alumni who have helped ready the house for the upcoming semester and fall rush. We hope to see you at the house over Homecoming. Be sure to register at www.alphamupikap.org so we know to expect you.



... and inside the house.

at a cost of \$15,000. These are designed to 1) provide greater exterior visibility for the security of occupants inside the house and 2) provide greater interior visibility to all common areas of the house, ensuring the proper treatment and care of our house and its furnishings. The goal is to encourage good stewardship of the investments we have made, and we feel the new security system will be one large step in that direction.

A new kitchen project is in its early stages — a project which we hope will offer a more flexible living environment for our actives. Specifically, architectural drawings have been completed for an undergraduate kitchen suite.



House Manager and Head of the Standards Board Jimmy Walker enjoys a seat on the new first-floor furniture.

8 Tips for Your Return to Happy Valley

Are you ready for some football!?! The countdown is on for the 2014 Penn State football season!! That hopefully means your return trip to Happy Valley is around the corner! We've put together a checklist of things to watch for when you come back this fall:

For the Family. The Penn State Arboretum already featured more than 17,000 plants over 35 wandering acres, ponds with lily pads, fountains, and always-free admission. But this spring's addition of their children's garden has rendered it utterly magical. Kids are thrilled with the limestone cave (where they were encouraged to create chalk cave drawings) and wading path they can follow around the garden, ankle deep in water. Everything is larger than life in this area of the arboretum, from



the giant climbable caterpillar to the flow-erbeds and water pump where kids can help water flowers to their hearts' delight. Aptly called a place to 'wander and wonder,' this destination is close and free, so you have time to just be and explore.

For the Grown-Ups. Big Spring Distillery is big news! Any place whose website starts with a tall tale of a local statesman with a questionable past and shady diplomacy skill already has our full attention, but Big Spring Distillery has more than that: a boutique distillery located in a match factory building in the heart of Bellefonte that uses "Pennsylvania's best tasting water" and the finest ingredients from local farmers to craft something truly remarkable. Open Thursday-Sunday, stop in for taste or tour. Or both. (www.bigspringspirits.com).

While you are in Bellefonte, grab a bite at The Gamble Mill. They have awesome burgers! And don't miss Otto's – they brew their beer onsite with picks like Apricot Wheat,

Spring Creek and Spruce Creek Lagers, Mt. Nittany Pale Ale. They tailor their menus to feature their beers as the centerpiece.

Get Some Gear. New coach equals new catchy t-shirts. You need to update your blue and white wardrobe! Get your Nittany Lion supplies at one of many downtown retailers (we recommend The Family Clothesline or Lions Pride on College Avenue, or the Penn State Bookstore on campus). Do you have a student following in your footsteps? Don't listen if they say it's embarrassing to buy a "Penn State Mom" or "Penn State Dad" shirt. You earned it, and how else can you tell the world? Get a sticker for the back of your car, too. Your Penn Stater will love it. If you're planning to be here for the October 25 for the game against Ohio State, it's Whiteout Weekend – pick up a shirt, too!

Hit the Links. You can play a round on one of the University's two 18 hole courses—Blue and White—or an array of practice facilities where the men's and women's golf teams call home (pennstategolfcourses.com). Or, check out Toftrees Golf Club, which has been awarded 4 1/2 stars as one of Golf Digest magazine's best places to play (toftreesgolf.com). Mountain View Country Club is offering 9 holes and dinner for two for just \$59 any day after 3:30! (mtviewcountryclub.com)

Eat. In addition to world-class sports and entertainment, Happy Valley has carved out a niche in local food, wine, beer, and even spirits. Check out a few now and put the rest on the bucket list for the next time you come to town. This time: treat the family to an upscale dinner at Zola New Wold Bistro, located downtown on College Avenue (we recommend the crispy whole red snapper; zolabistro.com). If you want more casual fare head to Rotelli, voted best Italian restaurant for three

years running, or old-time favorite, the Deli!!

Rediscover Campus. Have you seen the renovated Nittany Lion Shrine? Stop by and get this year's picture taken. And don't miss the new Pegula Ice Arena across from the Bryce Jordan Center. It is one of the finest facilities of its kind in the nation. Make plans to go to an open skate or watch the ice hockey team in action!

Remember the Nightlife. Coming back, it seems like so much has changed ... or has it? There's still a seat for you at the Skellar, the oldest continuously operating bar in the state and recently picked as one of the top 10 college bars. And don't forget about Zeno's! Located 'directly above the center of the earth,' you probably have an undergrad story to tell, but this year you need to add the sequel! Meet up with friends in the places where it all started, and catch up. It's time. (zenospub.com)

Become a VIP. When you arrived in State College at the pure and innocent age that you were, Happy Valley became your second home. Hopefully, you still feel that way! You probably have a favorite place to stay, a favorite restaurant (and even know their best brew and dish), and an insider's guide to all the hot spots in town. Now, as a Happy Valley VIP, you can do it all for less. Go to HappyValleyVIP.com to sign up (it's free and only takes a few minutes!), then use the membership card to get discounts on your favorite hotels, restaurants, even messages for when you are back in town!



ALUMNI PROFILE

Pi Kapp Told Him to Lead: He Did (and Became a PSU Trustee)

Walt Rakowich '79 Lives His Dream

If you were in Happy Valley anytime this spring, you couldn't miss the signs strategically placed at intersections and along the roadside. With 32 candidates (31 after one withdrew) vying for three spots on the PSU Board of Trustees,



you couldn't ignore the messages appealing for your vote. But not all trustee candidates were campaigning. Two new trustees were selected by the board based on their endeavors in business and industry. One of those is our own Pi Kapp alumni brother, **Walt Rakowich '79**.

A Penn State honors graduate in accounting, Walt went to work as a senior audit and tax consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Pittsburgh. After obtaining his M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School, he left PwC to become a partner and principal with Trammell Crow Company, one of the leading developers and investors in commercial real estate. In 1994, Walt joined Prologis, a multibillion-dollar provider of distribution facilities and services operating in North America, Europe and Asia.

From 1994 to his retirement from Prologis in 2011, Walt progressed from senior vice

president and director of the company's Mid-Atlantic region to CFO, then President, COO and member of the Board of Trustees. After retiring (for the first time) in 2008, Walt was asked by the Prologis board of directors to return as CEO and take on the turnaround of a company only one quarter away from bankruptcy. He answered their call, and through a diligent focus on transparency, governance and financial stewardship, he returned Prologis to profitability and recognition by the Wall Street Journal as "one of the commercial property turnaround stories to come out of the downturn." Reaching this goal with Prologis in 2011, he retired (a second time) at the age of 55. In 2010, the Penn State Alumni Association named Walt a Penn State Alumni Fellow.

As Walt reflects on his new responsibility as a board trustee, he draws a parallel between his previous experience and the value he can add. "Certainly, the specific vision of the board will be set by the new president," he says. "My own observation is that the board desperately needs reasonable thinkers focused on long-term outcomes. Anyone with governance expertise ... with a focus on integrity and transparency ... will be very important in moving the university forward, and I believe I can help in that effort. It is in the times of

adversity that we gain our greatest strength. We are where we are. Now, the question is this: How can we use that adversity to become an even greater university?"

During his many returns back to the Penn State University Park campus, Walt is often reminded of the days when he was an undergraduate, trying to find his way and always hoping he would have an impact. By joining Alpha Mu, he quickly began to understand the importance of Pi Kapp's vision: "Leadership is the very root of our organization, and it is the concept of leadership that shall guide us for the future."

"To my Pi Kapp brothers — both undergraduate and alumni — I say, 'Keep the faith!' We are all part of one of the greatest institutions in the world. I intend to do my best to ensure it stays that way. Perhaps I am an optimist, but I really believe that the university, because of adversity, will be that much stronger and governed in a better way. Keep the faith!"

If you would like to reach Brother Rakowich to send him your congratulations, you can reach him at wtrakowich@gmail.com.

Read Walt's full alumni profile at www.alphamupikap.org.

GOLF OUTING

Some Say It Was About Golf, But We Know Better

As brothers from the '60s and '70s, spouses and others gathered over the weekend of Aug. 15-17 for golf, beer and their annual boisterous "awards" ceremony, one theme persisted: a truly beautiful picture of a lifetime of friendships that has resulted from our association with Pi Kappa Phi.

In attendance for the awards dinner was Dr. Roger Williams, the executive director of the PSU Alumni Association. "It was fascinating to listen as the Pi Kapp alumni brothers went around the table and told their personal stories," he explains. "Their love for each other, for their fraternity, and for Penn State — and the good humor that was laced throughout — was overwhelming. I was moved by the experience and came away with a deep respect and liking for the alumni of Pi Kappa Phi."

More than 30 brothers traveled to State College — some from as far away as Missouri, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Ohio and Massachusetts — to enjoy State College and Penn State during one of the last weekends before students returned. Two undergraduates also joined in the activities to provide the perspective of our active brotherhood.

Brothers **Mark Singel '74**, **Ed Korecky '69** and **Chuck Ferraro '68** helped organize the weekend and were impressed with the welcome they received in State College. "The folks at the Nittany Lion Inn could not have been nicer or more accommodating," says Brother Singel. "The same can be said for the PSU Golf Course

management and the good folks at Toftrees."

Thank you to the weekend's "historian" and photographer, Brother Ferraro. To see more photos from the weekend, go to the Photos tab on our website, www.alphamupikap.org.



An impressive gathering of Pi Kapp brothers attended our '60s and '70s reunion this summer. For more photos, go to the Photos section of our website, www.alphamupikap.org.



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In this Issue...

- *Is Homecoming 2014 on Your Radar?*
- *How Are We Protecting Your Investment?*
- *Was the '60s & '70s Reunion Really About Golf?*

ANNUAL FUND

Is Pi Kapp On Your List of Responsibilities?

It's part of our creed: "... the ideal chapter is made up of men who are bound together in a common loyalty which transcends any personal selfishness." But just as a "like" on Facebook means we can support something from a distance without completely becoming engaged or invested, we are wondering what "common loyalty" means to you. Does it actually mean anything, or is it just a feel-good notion that rests in your mind as you hope that others are taking the reigns and doing what needs to be done to produce a high-potential generation of Pi Kapp undergrads?

The good news is that we can assure you that the Creed of Pi Kappa Phi is alive and well. Just take a few minutes to read the story of the '60s and '70s golf outing in this newsletter.

Remember, we are men "who realize that membership means personal responsibility in bearing our share of the financial burden of the chapter and the national organization." During our 2013-14 giving year, 114 brothers stepped forward and assumed that personal responsibility. They have been recognized in our Honor Roll of donors which can be viewed on our website.

So, can we count on your continuing support for Pi Kapp at PSU with a new or renewed contribution? As we kick off our 2014-15 Annual Fund giving year, all we ask is one contribution. To make your gift today, go to www.alphamupikap.org and click on "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner. We appreciate gifts at all levels.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Since the publication of our last *Alpha Musings*, we have learned of the passing of:

John Yeosock '59 (2/15/2012)

**S. Gill Krepps V '63
(7/29/2013)**

Pi Kappa Phi sends our condolences to their families and friends. You can find links to their full obituaries on our website,
www.alphamupikap.org.



CHAPTER REPORT

Eyes on the Prize ... Rush, IM and THON

By Ryan Barth, Archon, and Matt Sweetser, Vice Archon

As we look ahead to fall rush, our eyes are set on September 6 — the official beginning of the fall rush season at PSU. We currently have a rough outline of events we have planned for rush. Look for more information in our upcoming eLetters as we formalize each of our rush events. Bid extension takes place on September 16 followed by bid acceptance on the 18th. We will report the results of rush later in September. Additionally, we expect to be very competitive in IM sports this fall.

Specifically, our eye is set on football and softball. And, as the new semester begins, we will begin thinking about THON 2014 and how we top our record-breaking total earlier this year. Our first canning weekend is October 17-19. If you have any questions about the chapter, please contact us directly at rbarth@comcast.net and msweetser2@gmail.com.

PSU PKP State of the Chapter:

- ✓ 85 current undergraduate brothers
- ✓ 3.23 GPA chapterwide
- ✓ Ranked #17 among 50 IFC chapters at PSU