

## UPCOMING EVENT

### Homecoming October 6

Pi Kapp will be hosting a Homecoming event. Details were not yet finalized at the time of this publication, so please visit [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org) in the coming weeks to get up-dated details.

### Blue/White Weekend April 19-21

## FUNDRAISING

As Alpha Mu embarks on a new era, we must help give our home a competitive advantage in recruitment. While other campus fraternities are being renovated with computer/study areas, energy efficiencies and large, modern living quarters, Pi Kapp brothers are residing in an aging facility that's in need of a lot of TLC.

We hope to ultimately upgrade the chapter house with private showers, two-person rooms and a study room. As we organize, we are calling on you to help us fund our immediate needs, which have a price tag of approximately \$25,000:

- Replace area carpets
- Purchase new common area furnishings
- Paint the bathrooms and kitchen

Please make your annual fund gift today. You can do so:

- Online at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org)
- By calling 800-975-6699
- By mailing a check payable to "Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Corporation" to the return address on this newsletter

# Alpha Musings

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



September 2012

## ALUMNI CORPORATION REPORT

### Strengthening Alpha Mu

#### *Pi Kapp Appoints Chapter Advisor, Partners with Property Management Firm*

By Steve DiOrio '78, President, The Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Corporation  
484-318-1018; [steve@stevediorio.com](mailto:steve@stevediorio.com)

As Penn State enters a new era, Alpha Mu is following suit.

We have identified two exciting new initiatives that will help to strengthen our chapter, streamline operations and improve relations with the University, our national office and our alumni base.

The first is the appointment of a designated chapter advisor to oversee the active chapter. I am happy to introduce Matthew Osorio, a graduate of Albright College in Reading, Pa., where he served as president of the Pi Kapp chapter for two years. Matt's focus as chapter advisor will allow for more direct mentoring of actives, better alignment with the goals of the national council, and smoother chapter meetings. Read more about Matt and his plans for the chapter on page 2.

Second, we have recently partnered with Alpha Management Group (AMG), an Ann Arbor based firm recommended to us by the national office that provides services related to facility and property management, chapter culture improvement, by-laws, finances and lease agreements. AMG provides the information and training so that both undergraduate and alumni members can be more effective in their roles, and serves a safety net that protects the group's interests should a member fail in his duties.

These two initiatives will not only make an impact at the active chapter level, but will also allow our board to truly act like a board and continue strengthening Pi Kapp at Penn State. We are excited for this new plan for Alpha Mu, and for the ongoing successful growth of our active chapter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback.

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Pi Kapp and AXO Rank Fifth in THON Fundraising, Contribute \$161,000 "For the Kids"

This past spring, Alpha Mu partnered with Alpha Chi Omega to raise \$161,374.31 for THON. This amount earned us fifth overall for Greek organizations. In 2012, THON raised a record \$10,686,924.83 for the Four Diamonds Fund.

Additionally this spring, the chapter held an event benefiting our national fraternity's philanthropy, Push America. Push America benefits children with disabilities across the United States. To raise money, chapter members grilled hot dogs and sold dessert items (cookies, brownies, etc.) prepared by our cook/house mom, Sue Runkle. The event raised over \$300 for the Push America foundation.

Stay tuned for more updates from the active chapter throughout the year at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org).



## A New Direction for Leading Our Chapter

### Former National Office Consultant Matthew Osorio Appointed as Advisor to Oversee Alpha Mu

*Although he didn't graduate from Penn State, our new Chapter Advisor **Matthew Osorio** has plenty of experience – and inside knowledge – with Pi Kappa Phi. He was recently appointed by the Alpha Mu House Corporation to focus solely on strengthening our active chapter – not just on campus and with our national office, but the relationship with our alumni as well. Get to know more about Matt and his background...*

#### **Please provide some background on yourself.**

I am 23, from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. I currently work as a recruiter for Aerotek staffing. I love playing golf and watch some football.

***“Alpha Mu has some great history, and I would love to help these men use it as a tool in their future. I also hope to bridge the gap between the alumni and the active chapter to increase networking.”***

#### **What was your role in your recent employment with the Pi Kappa Phi national office? How did that position prepare you to work closely with Alpha Mu?**

Right after I graduated from college I had the opportunity to travel the country and work for Pi Kappa Phi; I really could not pass it up. I traveled across country to visit other chapters of Pi Kappa Phi. Alpha Mu was one of the chapters that I worked with last year. That is where I developed a bond with these guys. I had a two-part position with the national office. One aspect was to be a consultant for chapters, and the other was the opportunity to start new chapters across the country. For example, I started a chapter at the University of Florida. Working for the national office prepared me very well to become chapter advisor; it gave me skills that I use every day. Now, the challenge is to perform these tasks from a distance and balancing my work/personal life.

#### **What is your impression of the current Alpha Mu chapter.**

As many of you know, Alpha Mu has had some issues with the national office in recent years. However, if you get down to it, these guys are some of the smartest men in the country. They just haven't had the support and hands-on guidance they need. My primary goal is to help with this.

#### **What are your goals for Alpha Mu as chapter advisor?**

I want to make sure men join Alpha Mu for the right reason, I also want the men to use this fraternity as a learning experience and as something they can grow from. Alpha Mu has some great history, and I would love to help these men use it as a tool in their future. I also hope to bridge the gap between the alumni and the active chapter to increase networking.

#### **What are some positive highlights surrounding the active chapter?**

Being around the guys for a short period of time I could see that they are truly best friends.

#### **What are some challenges the current chapter faces, and how do you plan to overcome them?**

They have to get more organized in every aspect. This will help any college student become a better leader and to be prepared for the life after college. I know it helped me.

#### **In what ways will your involvement serve to improve the active chapter?**

I was in their shoes just two years ago and I am hoping to be that person that they can relate to and bounce ideas off of.

#### **Tell us about your own fraternity experience. Why did you join Pi Kapp as an undergraduate? How did it prepare you for life after graduation?**

I went to Albright College in Reading, PA. Albright is a very small, liberal arts school but I love the fraternity. I served as president of my chapter for two years, so I understand

the ins and outs of being in a leadership role. I really loved just hanging out with brothers from the fraternity--whether it was a 50-year-old alum or my roommate in the house. I joined Pi Kappa Phi to be part of something bigger at my school and to take a leadership role (and to have a little fun as well).

#### **What are the benefits to Alpha Mu Chapter to having you serve as advisor (which takes those responsibilities off of the board to allow them to focus on other things)?**

I have an advantage: I know more about the national office coming right off of the national staff. I have an understanding of what the brothers are looking for and the national office's vision and, like I said previously, I can handle the everyday little things that the board doesn't really have time for.

#### **What is the best part of your alumni experience? Why would you encourage Alpha Mu alumni to stay connected with their chapter at Penn State?**

Pi Kappa Phi gave me a lot during my undergraduate experience. I owe it to the Fraternity help out and I hope I can make a current student's experience the same as mine. It is always great to give back.

#### **From the Chapter President**

“Matt has worked closely with the chapter over the last two years as our National Leadership Consultant and is very knowledgeable of both the National Organization, as well as the culture of Penn State and our chapter. I feel that Matt's appointment will have a positive impact on the function of our chapter's executive board, as well as to assist our Alumni Board in their responsibility of overseeing the undergraduate members.”

- Chapter President Joe Forcina

**Do you have question or feedback for Matt? Brothers can reach him directly at 856-373-8576 or [matthew.osorio8@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.osorio8@gmail.com).**

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

### Alpha Management Group Selected to Assist Alpha Mu with Facility and Finances

*By Allan Lutes, Alpha Management Group*

Beginning this fall, the Alpha Mu Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi will be working with Alpha Management Group, a company that specializes in assisting fraternities with managing their facilities and finances, and in creating successful cultures and experiences within their chapters. Alpha Management Group is excited to begin this relationship with Alpha Mu as it marks the first group we are working with on the Penn State campus. AMG currently also serves fraternities on 12 other campuses across the country, and Alpha Mu will be the fifth Pi Kappa Phi chapter with its program.

AMG and the local alumni leaders started planning for this transition early this summer. Initially, the program will focus on developing the documents, policies and procedures that will result in improved operation of the facility, proper financial management and controls, and improved occupancy of the fraternity house.

The lease agreement will be revised to better communicate the expectations of living in the Alpha Mu house. Lease signing will take place much earlier in the academic year than has been the recent practice. These changes will help promote a facility that is

better maintained, has higher occupancy levels and is financially stable.

We also will work with the chapter and alumni leaders to develop membership agreements that will set expectations for academic performance, requirements for members to live in the facility, and the financial accountability of the members.

***“It is our goal to make annual improvements to the property so it can stay in a condition that all Pi Kapps can be proud of. As part of this process, AMG will also develop an ongoing preventative maintenance program for the facility so that its systems and structure will be properly maintained and operate efficiently.”***

Additionally, AMG will work with the chapter officers, house managers, and kitchen steward to institute programs related house jobs, kitchen sanitation, and increasing the general level of cleanliness and organization of the Alpha Mu property. In the future, AMG will work to improve the move-in and move-

out process for the members.

As part of this transition, there will be a shift in the financial management. AMG will work closely with the alumni leaders to oversee the operating funds and budgeting of the fraternity. This removes a large burden off the chapter officers and helps ensure that funds are being properly managed and accounted.

In the upcoming months, AMG will be working with the alumni group to develop a long-term strategic plan for the continued improvement of the property and the replacement of older fixtures and finishes. It is our goal to make annual improvements to the property so it can stay in a condition that all Pi Kapps can be proud of. As part of this process, AMG will also develop an ongoing preventative maintenance program for the facility so that its systems and structure will be properly maintained and operate efficiently.

This new program will be fully implemented by the end of the fall semester. We believe that through our program, the members will have a better and safer housing experience, and that the day-to-day operational burdens of overseeing the property will ease substantially.

## IN THE WORDS OF OUR BROTHERS

### Don't Miss an Opportunity to Hang Out with Old Friends

#### *Brother Recalls a Pi Kapp Reunion that Comes Too Late*

“Don't miss an opportunity to hang out with old friends” is the greatest piece of advice **Bill Pantle '58** can pass on to younger generations of Pi Kap brothers. Unfortunately, Bill had to learn that message the hard way. Thank you to Bill for sharing this story about his good friend, the late **Stan Hopkins '58**.

He writes: “I attended Stan's funeral on May 30th. I had not seen Stan since the fall of 1959 when he was in vet school at Penn and Connie was teaching; they had a small apartment in what is now called the University City area of Philadelphia. It was

quite an experience. It was obvious the way that the cancer had ravished his body, I barely recognized him. I dug out a Pi Kapp lapel pin from my 'jewelry box,' the one with all the tie tacks and old uniform brass. I fastened the pin to his lapel. I first met Stan aka “Hoppy, animal, and mule,” in the fall of 1954 when we were in the same dorm. My roommate was somewhat of a loner so I hung out with Stan and his buddies, and we pledged Pi Kapp together and shared 3 ½ left in our junior and senior years.

It was a long day, but well worth the trip.

I never realized how close Stan and I had become until I saw him in his casket.

I think about the number of times I've been driving cross country and been only an hour or so from Meadville, but was always in a hurry – I said I would stop by on the next trip. Don't save your good underwear for a special occasion; don't leave that bottle of good scotch for a special occasion. Don't miss an opportunity to hang out with old friends... don't wait to see them in their casket.

RIP good friend.”

***Don't miss out on your opportunity to see old friends. Reconnect using the online directory at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org).***

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### '60s

#### James "Bear" Munro '63

(21 Algonquin Ct., Chesterbrook, PA 19087; pcipenn@verizon.net) After two years of planning, my firm is about to launch the National Association of Singles (NAS). NAS is essentially a clone of the AARP for the 106+ million single adults in the U.S. It will offer affordable health and other insurances, plus content and ultimately lobbying. I would love to have feedback from Alpha Mu alums... particularly you single guys, like me.

#### William Simpson '63

(1 Westminster Dr., Annadale, NJ 08801; ws-bsimpson@comcast.net) Brenda (Tri-Delt 1962) and I live in Annandale, NJ where I continue to work each day as a substitute at North Hunterdon High School. We attend Penn State football games frequently, and have three grandchildren ages four and under to keep us busy.

### '00s

#### Lou Lombardo '01

(3013 Peacock Dr., Audubon, PA 19403; loulombardo@yahoo.com) My wife Jenelle and I had our first child, a little girl named Whitney in March 2011. She turned one this year and we couldn't be more proud.

*What's new with you? Share your updates at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org).*

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Brothers Take a Road Trip to South Florida for an Early '60s Spring Break

Thank you to **John Williamson '61** for sharing this photo and memory!

He writes, "In 1960, Fort Lauderdale was the spring break destination where some Pi Kapp brothers got together with some Zeta Tau Alpha friends. The Zetas had an apartment overlooking the beach, while the Pi Kapp accommodation was more like an oversized dog house. Pictured (L to R): **Bill Grimm '62**, Judy Long, **Nelson Mattern '61**, **Hal Miller '61**, Gail Buchannan, **John Yamulla '62**, a non Pi Kapp, and Deni Furlough. John's '58 Impala forms the background.

*You can find many more great archived photos like this one in the photo albums at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org), and share your own!*



*In this Issue...*  
 - Alpha Mu Partners with Property Management Firm  
 - Meet Our New Chapter Advisor  
 - Why It's Important to Connect with Brothers Now

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