

## SALUTE!



### Pi Kaps Making Us Proud!

Randy Stillinger (Zeta Gamma Chapter- North Dakota), is the brother who started the traveling Pi Kapp flag which is passed between brothers in the military serving all around the world!

Our Brothers at Alpha Mu are proud of Randy for his dedication to Pi Kappa Phi!

## PSU FOOTBALL

### 2016 Penn State Schedule!

*Will we see you at Homecoming?*

**10/8- Maryland- NOON**  
**\*\*Homecoming\*\***

**10/22- Ohio State- 8 PM**  
**(Whiteout)**

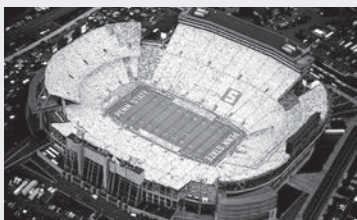
10/29- At Purdue- Time TBA

**11/5- Iowa- 7:30 PM**

11/12- At Indiana- Time TBA

11/19- At Rutgers- 8 PM

**11/26- Michigan State-**  
**Time TBA**



# Alpha Musings

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



STATE COLLEGE, PA.  
October 2016

## THE BOND OF BROTHERHOOD

### Michael Myers '78

#### *Long-Standing and Ongoing Friendships*



For **Michael Myers '78**, the memories of Pi Kapp never fade – many memories, to this day, still bring a smile to his face. For Brother Myers, Alpha Mu just felt like the right choice.

"I grew up in a small town where everyone knew each other in our community and in our high school. When I arrived at Penn State my freshman year I was overwhelmed by the size of the university and the number of students.

Joining a fraternity made that huge environment feel smaller and more comfortable for me while allowing me to establish close relationships with a group of friends that still exist today. I looked at numerous fraternities when seeking out the right one and Pi Kappa Phi just felt like the right fit for me at the time. Forty years later, I can still say it was the right choice.

I have so many good memories of my time at Pi Kapp it is impossible to single out one as a favorite. When I get together with brothers there are always memories that come up that I almost forgot about and bring a lot of laughter to all of us.

There is a core group of 15-20 brothers from our era that make the trek back to State College for homecoming every year it's possible. We pick up on our discussions and relationships like we are still living together at 409 E. Fairmount. It is a great feeling to have such bonds where we can just be ourselves.

I spent most of my career in the recreational boat business. I worked for Sea Ray boats as VP of Supply Chain, Boston Whaler as President and Bertram Yachts as President. It was a fun industry to work within and I feel very fortunate for the opportunities it provided me. I left the marine industry about 6 years ago and bought a business which I sold early this year. So for now, I'm sitting on the sidelines which feels pretty good!

My wife and I have 2 kids who are both wrapping up college (hopefully soon). I've taken up bike riding on a regular basis and I'm looking forward to a five-day ride in Maine in September."

### Ted Kraybill '75 — Refusing To Get Old

**Q: Why did you join Alpha Mu Chapter in the first place?**

**TK:** “I thought being part of the Greek system would give me more extra-curricular activities and opportunities to get involved in student government. I joined Pi Kappa Phi because **Scott Edelman '75** survived pledging and then twisted my arm to do it, too.”

**Q: What’s your favorite memory from your time in the chapter?**

**TK:** “In addition to all the “brotherhood,” I have two favorite memories. Being Social Chairman was fun and challenging as we tried new things to expand our social connections with sororities and other fraternities. The second memory was being part of the first dance marathon as an IFC committee chairman and getting other Pi Kapp brothers involved. One of my high school teachers had started a new charity organization and I lobbied hard to give some of the money we raised to support him and his wife in their fight against children’s cancer. I wasn’t successful, but now Penn State nation knows about the Four Diamonds Fund.”

**Q: Do you still keep in touch with any of your fellow alums?**

**TK:** “I haven’t done a good job staying in touch, but I’m trying to reconnect through LinkedIn and Facebook.”



*Ted Kraybill (right) and partner Dave (left)*

**Q: Tell us about your job title and what you do.**

**TK:** I’m President/founder of an HR research and consulting company I started 20 years ago to make the retail automotive business (primarily dealerships,) a better place to work. Very few high school and college graduates ever consider automotive retailing careers, so I work with most of the car manufacturers and their dealer networks to help them attract and retain talent. We also conduct an annual Dealership Workforce Study on compensation, benefits and industry hiring trends for the 17,500 members of the National Automobile Dealers Association. Not too exciting, but it’s been a rewarding experience.”

**Q: How did your time in Alpha Mu Chapter help to prepare you for that role?**

**TK:** “I guess being the house Treasurer gave

me financial management experience. I was also pretty good at recruiting new members during Rush, which is not that different from recruiting new employees. I think I had eight or nine little brothers, which is like employee orientation with a little harassment thrown in.”

**Q: Tell us about your family/hobbies.**

**TK:** “My family includes my partner Dave and our K-9 kids, Karli and Eli. My sister Candy – a Pi Kapp big sister – has two kids and still lives in PA. My niece lives here in Florida and works for my company. My hobbies are pretty boring. Outside of work, I like cooking, entertaining, a long bike ride, and spending time at the gym refusing to get old.”

**Q: What would you say is your biggest accomplishment?**

**TK:** “I have had many unique opportunities and accomplishments in my life, so it’s difficult to pick one. Recent accomplishments included surviving and thriving after the Great Recession hit the auto industry, and building a great retirement home without killing our general contractor and burying him under the swimming pool.”

**Q: What advice would you give to future generations of Pi Kappa Phi Chapter members?**

**TK:** “Embrace challenge, pursue dreams, have fun, but be smart.”

## A WINNING FORMULA

### Neil Lebovits '85: “I Got Straight A’s And Had More Fun Than Most”

**Q: Why did you join Alpha Mu Chapter in the first place?**

**NL:** “A friend of a friend was a brother and recruited me directly for the mixer and I had a blast and the rest was history.”

**Q: What’s your favorite memory from your time in the chapter?**

**NL:** “I loved the meals together, the nonstop laughter and, of course, mastering Tales.”

**Q: Do you still keep in touch with any of your fellow alums? Who?**

**NL:** “**Dan Bennett '85, Chris J. Kelly '85.**”



**Q: Tell us about your job title and what you do.**

**NL:** “I was Global president for Adecco, the worlds largest HR firm. I now train, consult and provide funding services for smaller firms in that industry who don’t have the cash flow.”

**Q: How did your time in Alpha Mu Chapter help to prepare you for that role?**

**NL:** “I had many leadership roles in the chapter and also volunteered for many (i.e. Chaplain, Greek week skits, float chairman) and always placed. This gave me the confidence I needed as a leader.”

*Visit us at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org) to read Neil’s full Q&A*

### Gordon Studer '80, Paints a Picture of His Career

*In an interview written by Melissa Walker of impactmania.com, Studer shared his passion for art.*

**Can you briefly share a key moment in your education or career that pushed your work to another level?**

“I moved out to California from the East Coast to try and get work in the newspaper business as an illustrator – that was one of the few places an illustrator could get an actual salaried job. While at the *San Francisco Examiner* the introduction of the Apple computer and the first computer drawing programs came along, and I started to use it as a drawing tool. I was one of the first illustrators to have digital illustrations published – this was during the late 80’s early 90’s. It catapulted my illustration career and soon I went out on my own as a freelancer. Twenty-five years later the illustration market has taken a big hit with the decline of publications. My solution was to diversify, and now I’m a painter, designer, and illustrator. Each informs the other creatively and I gather three sources of income to make it all work. It keeps me very, very busy!”

**There are so many technical aspects to drawing and art. Are there any primary skills that you’d recommend as an early focus to someone starting off?**

“I look at a lot of art and go to museums. Design and value are the most important elements in a work of art. Color and texture come next, but the first two will make or break a piece. I think there is a tendency to try and save a painting with color and textures when what really needs to be addressed is the design and overall values. When I say values I’m referring to darks and lights. I think this has been ingrained in me over years of trial and error and illustration work, but was made clear in my fine art work while working with painter and teacher, Nicholas Wilton.”

**Your career has shifted from an illustration focus in editorial and advertising to include more of a fine art aspect. Have you always painted?**

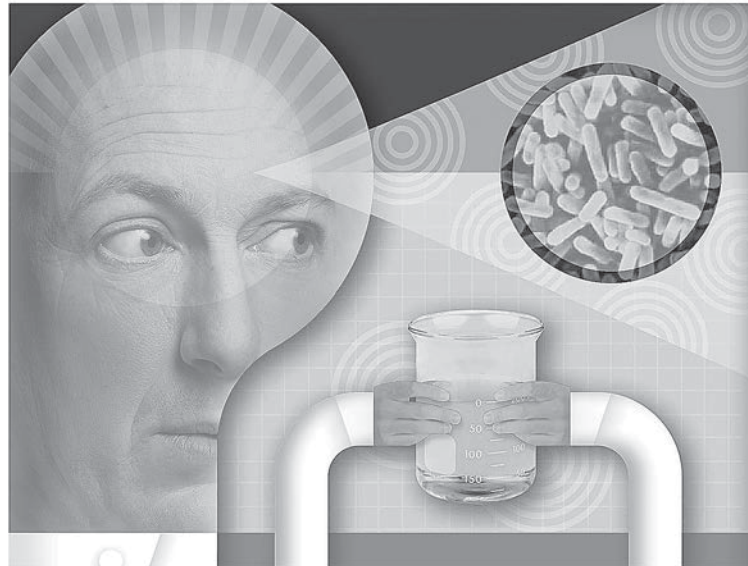
“I was a Fine Arts major at Penn State



enjoy the technical part of teaching computer programs.

Today, I enjoy teaching painting to kids and adults. It’s rewarding to help guide students work, but I really try and stay clear to let them find their own artistic voice. Showing techniques always gets the biggest reaction from students, but what’s great is when I start to see them get the principles of composition and individual creativity.”

**Do you passionately follow the art world either in the Bay Area or beyond, following new and emerging artists and trends? Or is the fine art aspect of your work a release from the more rigid world of client directed work?**



“I use Facebook as a way of following current artists whose work I love, and I try to make it to as many art openings around the Bay Area as I can. I keep folders of inspirational art I see out there and refer to it from time to time. I will also include my own work in these folders. It gives me perspective on how my work relates to others. It’s funny, but just reviewing past work of my own helps inspire me and provides direction for what’s next.”

**Do you have any plans for an upcoming gallery show? What’s next?**

“I paint abstractly and figuratively, but the two seem unrelated sometimes. I’m in the process of working on a series of paintings combining the two – abstract figurative work. I’m very excited about what’s developing and hope to present the series in the near future. I will also be teaching kids art summer camp, and I have plans for an adult weekend painting workshop this fall.”

**Who is your impact maker, and why?**

“Recently, it’s been Northern California painter, Nicholas Wilton. His simple message of how to create art really resonates with me. Three years ago I took one of his workshops and it really reignited my love for painting.”

University, so I was painting in college. Once I hit the real world I needed to find work, so I took the path of commercial art – illustration and design.

It wasn’t until recently, over the past several years, that I started painting seriously again.”

Who are some of the schools or organizations where you’ve taught? Can you share what it is that draws you to teach and share your experiences with aspiring artists and designers?

“I taught Digital Illustration at California College of Arts (CCA), where I enjoyed teaching the basics of design, composition and developing metaphors for editorial illustration solutions. But, I didn’t really

## ALUMNI CORNER

### Mark Singel '74

#### Former Lieutenant Gov. of PA Shares His Story

##### Q: Why did you join Alpha Mu Chapter in the first place?

**Mark:** "I was lucky to establish close friendships with the guys on my dorm floor in my freshman year. Several of us came as a group to Pi Kapp."

##### Q: What's your favorite memory from your time in the chapter?

**Mark:** "The most enjoyable moments for me involved beer and brotherhood – usually in the wee hours of the morning."

##### Q: Do you still keep in touch with any of your fellow alums?

**Mark:** "Yes. Close friends from my era still socialize occasionally and we are all proud to be a part of the "older and wiser" golf reunions."

##### Q: Tell us about your job title and what you do.

**Mark:** President and CEO of The Winter Group, a government relations firm located in Harrisburg, PA.

##### Excerpt from Biography:

Mark Singel served as Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania from 1987 through 1995 and, for a period of time, Acting Governor of the Commonwealth. The only person in



Official Portrait of Lt. Governor Mark S. Singel  
by Garth Herrick

Pennsylvania history to serve an extended time as Acting Governor, Singel received high marks for his stewardship. He led the state by enacting the first modern workers' compensation reform package, refinanced the state's park system through the "Key 93" program, and helped launch the high-tech era with landmark telecommunications legislation. He was also instrumental in reducing state

and local taxes, the implementation of a statewide 911 emergency phone system, and the creation of thousands of new jobs in recycling and environmental technologies. He was the original author of the state's mortgage assistance bill that has saved 50,000 Pennsylvania homes.

Prior to his terms as Lieutenant Governor, Singel served six years in the Pennsylvania State Senate and was chief of staff to two members of the U.S. Congress. Singel ran for U.S. Senate in 1992 and for Governor in 1994. He served as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Democratic Party from 1995-1998 and was the President of Pennsylvania's Electoral College in January, 1997. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention five times from 1992 through 2016.

Singel founded The Winter Group in February, 2005 and has developed it into one of the most effective and prestigious government relations firms in the state. He continues to provide consulting services to clients in retail, hospitality and gaming, manufacturing, technology, energy, non-profits, and health care fields. Recent successes include a ban on public smoking, legislation to address child sexual abuse, and consumer protection in health care settings.

For the full story on Singel and his book, visit us at [www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org)

## STATE COLLEGE NEWS

### 2017 Blue-White Weekend Set- With Changes

Blue-White weekend is set for April 21-23 in 2017, with the Blue-White game scheduled for Saturday the 22.

Citing expenses associated with Penn State's annual Blue-White weekend, the university's athletic department announced on Thursday that it will charge some to park in the lots surrounding Beaver Stadium for the 2017 Blue-White game.

Season ticket holders who also have a parking pass will still be able to park for free, which is how it has been for years for all fans attending the Lions' April spring practice finale.

That will change next year; for those without a season parking permit from the prior season, a \$20 cash-only fee will be charged.

Overnight RV parking for fans arriving on Friday night will still be \$60, while RVs arriving on Saturday will park in the overnight lot and will be charged \$20.



"Blue-White is a great example of Athletics serving as a conduit for our Penn State family connectedness," Director of Athletics Sandy Barbour said in a release. But the costs associated

with that connectedness have started to add up. According to Penn State:

The athletic department spends over \$500,000 annually on the weekend, which also includes other sports events and activities.

It spends \$60,000 for clean-up outside of the stadium after the Blue-White Game, and approximately \$9,000 for clean-up inside the stadium. It puts in 3,000 hours of preparation for the weekend, not including hours recorded by 650 game-day personnel.

Over 65,000 fans attended the Blue-White game, according to a Penn State estimate, in 2016.

\*\*From pennlive