

PSU FOOTBALL



PennState

**It's a Championship
Atmosphere in
Happy Valley!**

10/7 - at Northwestern- Noon
10/21 - **Michigan** *Whiteout-
TBA
10/28 - at Ohio State- 3:30 PM
11/4 - at Michigan State- TBA
11/11 - **Rutgers**
****Homecoming**- TBA
11/18- **Nebraska**- TBA
11/25- at Maryland- TBA

IN MEMORIAM



Brother Enters Chapter Eternal

On a sad note, many of you knew **Gerry Sacunas '78**. We learned of the unfortunate passing of Gerry in July- he had been battling a neurological disease for many years. We are sure that all of you will pass on condolences to the family. An email we have if you wish to send your regards is sacinbgb@yahoo.com. His wife Cheryl Sacunas is on LinkedIn and works at TE.

Alpha Musings

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



STATE COLLEGE, PA.
October 2017

HOMECOMING 2017

It's Never Too Early to Plan a Pi Kapp Reunion!



It's a championship atmosphere in Happy Valley, the likes of which have not been seen to this degree since the star-studded 1994 squad. There's never been a better time to round up your Pi Kapp buddies and head to Beaver Stadium for Brotherhood and football.

This year, the Homecoming game falls November 11 against Big Ten foe, Rutgers, and we hope to be 9-0 and staring down a bowl game by then! Looking for lodging? No Problem.

Visit www.happyvalley.com for information on hotel options, and other events to participate in during Homecoming Weekend, including the famous parade Friday, November 10.

Last year, many Alpha MU Brothers returned for a Brotherhood-filled weekend to witness a Homecoming victory over Maryland. We'd like to see even more of you return this year and cheer on the Nittany Lions!

ALUMNI PROFILE

Setting Him on the Right Course

The career path of Tim Clark, '87, may have taken a much different turn had it not been for Pi Kappa Phi



Tim Clark '87, has enjoyed a career in both military and civilian life as a project manager. His path, however, may have been a very different one, had he not joined the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity in 1985. Although he majored in Electrical Engineering, his passion and talent was to lead and Pi Kappa Phi allowed him the outlet to do just that. "I gained a lot of experience in working with others to complete many initiatives at Pi Kappa Phi," he says. "I was house manager twice, social chairman, and head of tribunal. These house offices really identified what I was good at, and my Air Force counselor suggested a career in project management based on what I really liked to do – lead a group of people to achieve a common goal."

Through his leadership experience in the fraternity, Tim was able to gain the necessary skills to pursue project management and found tremendous success doing so. "After four years as an Air Force officer, I went on to lead various Systems Integration/eCommerce company groups for the next 15 years," he proudly states. "I have now found my calling to work in the Energy Efficiency/

Clean Tech sector to reduce the impact of climate change for the last 10 years."

Looking back on his college days, Tim can not only pinpoint the exact impact Pi Kappa Phi has had on his career, but he also recalls the many wonderful experiences and lifelong friendships that developed as well. "Being in Pi Kappa Phi was very enjoyable," he remembers. "Many of us lived the 'best mistake you'll ever make' mantra and my GPA may have suffered a little, but it created lasting bonds through shared experiences with a focus on having fun!"

Not knowing just how important the fraternity was going to be on his life, Tim was initially drawn to Pi Kappa Phi because of the brothers themselves. "I thought it was a good mix of down-to-earth brothers who were motivated to do well while having fun," he explains.

He quickly realized it was much more than that, developing deep connections with the brothers, some of which he remains close to today. "I keep in touch with many brothers today!" he exclaims. "**Mike 'Carebear' Wells, Phil 'Chewy' Carl, Marc**

'Leinbo' Leinbach, Eric 'Bundy' Soller, Rob 'Schiz' Colville, and Todd 'Gook' Gookin are regulars to our annual Steelers pilgrimage, and I stay in contact with another half dozen or so every couple of years." Recognizing the importance of maintaining these friendships, Tim simply feels that there have been too many good and memories and good people to ever forget.

Although the chapter is not active on campus right now, Tim sees the potential Pi Kappa Phi has to be great once again at Penn State. "I hope they fill the house with good brothers and find balance with having fun and following the University rules," he shares.

In the hopes that future generations will be able to enjoy the benefits of being part of the Pi Kappa Phi family, Tim continues to support the chapter financially. In fact, he hasn't missed a chance to donate in two decades! "Pi Kappa Phi gave me such good memories and it really helped shape the person that I became. I think it is an important institution and I hope that it continues at PSU for a long time."

CHAPTER ETERNAL

John Struck '43, Led State's Vocational School Expansion



John W. Struck, who led the creation of Pennsylvania's modern vocational-technical school system and put a vo-tech school in every county, died at his home in Mechanicsburg on Sunday, June 29, 2017. He was 93. Dr. Struck grew the system of vo-tech schools from 5 to 79 during his tenure from 1962 to 1980, and gave thousands

of young students and adults the opportunity to be trained in vocations ranging from plumbing to electronics to hairdressing.

A longtime resident of Camp Hill, he is survived by his wife Nancy at Bethany Village, his brother Robert, three sons, and two grandchildren.

The Permanent Impact of an Alpha Mu Brother

When Brother **Ken Hong '89** started at Penn State, joining a fraternity was the last thing he ever planned on. After immigrating to the U.S. in first grade and growing up in rural Bucks County, Ken thought of himself as the polar opposite of the Greek stereotype. But after getting to know the brothers of Pi Kapp, he learned firsthand that fraternities can be much more than what they seem—and that he could help make them even better.

“I’m not your typical Caucasian Midwest Penn State student,” says Ken. “I don’t think there was anyone as ‘un-Greek’ as someone like me. I had no intentions of being part of that.”

But when **Dave “Smitty” Smith '87** and several other brothers started actively recruiting Ken in his sophomore year, he was won over, and decided to give it a shot. And over many semesters, he says, Pi Kapp continuously dispelled his belief in the myth that fraternities were just for one type of college student.

Ken also served on the IFC at Penn State, which gave him a unique perspective on issues that fraternities had as a whole—one of which was particularly important to him. Both from inside Pi Kapp and through the IFC, he was able to advocate for more diversity in fraternities.

“Being the non-traditional, non-stereotypical Greek back then, I was very committed to seeing some change—or pushing through change a little faster than people were maybe comfortable with,” says Ken.

While many of the houses were strongly reluctant to change their mindsets, he recalls, Pi Kappa Phi rose to the occasion. And Ken saw real change because of it.



Ken Hong and Jackie Chan.



“I saw guys who were totally open to the idea and the need to be more reflective of the student body, and that makes me proud,” says Ken. “I saw guys in that house—who, two years earlier, didn’t even give it a thought—think that it was something they needed to do.”

Several more minority pledges came to Pi Kapp in the years to follow, and along with the support of his brothers, Ken was able to say that he was part of the reason for that change.

After Penn State, it was the desire for change that led Ken to take his career to Asia, where there was an explosion of growth and action in the mid-90s. He worked for

several ad agencies before moving to a position at LG Electronics in South Korea. He is now LG’s Senior Director of Global Communications.

Looking back, Ken credits many Pi Kapp experiences with helping him to get to where he is today: everything from learning how to work within a larger organization to create change, to trying things that weren’t in his comfort zone—something that certainly comes in handy when moving to the other side of the world knowing very few people.

Today, Ken still lives in Korea with his wife and daughter, but he prides himself on the fact that he has stayed deeply connected to the U.S. system. He sends an absentee vote for every election, constantly keeps up with the news, and can even jump in on any Twitter meme. He also gets to visit his parents—who still live in Montgomery County, PA—every other year, and visits his wife’s family in Hawaii the other years.

“I feel very American in the sense that I never really left,” says Ken. “I’ve been able to stay connected over the years without losing touch, and I’m really happy about that because it’s so easy to lose touch with your past.”

Ken also says that he stays in touch with Pi Kapp brothers on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, including his closest pledge brother **George Dabney '88**.

And for someone who never planned to join a fraternity at all, a lifetime of fond memories and meaningful experiences is the perfect happy ending.

Don't miss out on your opportunity to see old friends. Reconnect using the online directory at www.alphamupikap.org.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with Tim Matson '89

Tim Matson '89 says that Pi Kappa Phi helped him get to where he is today—Senior Director of Manufacturing for Gatorade at PepsiCo—more than all of his class work. But his memories like Jellyfish language, Nancy the cook, Cat Man, the brotherhood room, and Whale's Tails have stuck with him just as much. In this Q&A, Tim explains what makes Pi Kapp so special to be a part of.

What are your favorite memories of Pi Kappa Phi?

The memories are so many and are never far from my mind. It's the little things that bring me the biggest laughs. I always spoke in Jellyfish language when my kids needed a smile. I can't count the times I smelled bacon cooking and thought of our cook, Nancy. Every time I walk on a beach, I am reminded of our beach parties, and my wife still marvels at my bathroom cleaning skills. I occasionally will demonstrate my Ogre dance moves and when I see a walking "stick", I can hear Cat Man's voice. No one plays Whale's Tails in my town, and I never converted an old corner of my basement to a "brotherhood room", but the feelings, thoughts and memories will be with me forever. I know those who came before, and those who came after have different ones, but that is my quick tribute to those from 1986 – 1989.

Do you still keep in touch with any brothers?

I haven't done a great job in keeping in touch with folks from college; however, I think though that is one of the things that I appreciate most about brotherhood. When you see a brother that you haven't seen in 10 or 15 years, and you get the opportunity



to catch up, it's like time has stood still. The friendships made at the fraternity not only span the test of time but also distance. Over Labor Day, I got to see brothers **John Giordano '89**, **Casey Moore '89** and **Kevin Donlon '90**. It was awesome to catch up with them on their lives.

It's pretty impressive when you think about the impact that our fraternity brothers have had on the world. Military careers, artist, actors, corporations, our own businesses, government service, scientists... the list goes on and on and each has made a difference. It's very humbling and a blessing to say that I am part of that group!

You work for Gatorade at PepsiCo—tell us a little about that.

I have been fortunate to work for PepsiCo since I graduated from Penn State. I've always worked in operations and recently moved to lead our Gatorade/Hot Fill manufacturing group.

How did Pi Kappa Phi contribute to your success?

My experiences at Pi Kappa Phi truly helped prepare me for all the roles I have had in the professional world. The leadership and



interpersonal skills learned at the fraternity were absolutely critical. If you can live in a house with 60 individuals and work together as a team to be successful in Dance Marathon, intramurals, Greek events, etc., then you can do the same in any company. The skills I learned at Pi Kappa Phi have benefited me more than all of my class work.

What advice would you give to young brothers today?

Save more money! It's amazing, when you're 25 years old, the future looks so far out. You turn around and blink and it's been 27 years since you graduated and you are thinking about retirement! I tell my kids all the time that you need to save and the more you save the better off you will be!

What are you up to these days? Any news you'd like to share?

Time has flown. I'll celebrate my 25th Anniversary with my wife Melissa next year, and if all goes as planned, both of my kids—Lauren and Michael—will be in college. I hope to connect with more of my Pi Kapp brethren as I become an empty nester.

GET INVOLVED

Send Us Your Photos and Updates!

Alpha Mu hopes you enjoyed reading the stories of several of our successful Brothers in this edition. We'd like to feature more in upcoming communications. If you'd like to be featured, please send any updates to marc@affinityconnection.com to have them published! In addition, we're always looking for photos to add to our website

archive, so dust those off and send them to marc@affinityconnection.com as well! We look forward to reading and viewing your submissions.

