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ON THE WEB

Alumni Website:

www.pikapp.org

Chapter Page:

www.alphamupikap.2stayconnected.com

Alpha Musings

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



STATE COLLEGE, PA.
May 2020

FISH OR CUT BAIT?

Alumni Board Member Tom Robinson '79 Reports on the Re-Charter of Pi Kappa Phi at Penn State



Four years ago when my wife Karen and I built our retirement home just outside of State College, little did I know that the rebirth of Alpha Mu would be on the horizon. With a few fits, starts and hiccups, the phoenix rose and Pi Kappa Phi at Penn State was re-chartered in the fall of 2019.

Life at Penn State is a bit different than when most of us attended. The same goes for Greek life. Earlier this past decade the idea of Brotherhood, Sisterhood, academics and philanthropy slowly morphed into unruliness, lack of respect for authority, dangerous hazing and mega partying. Bad press, injuries, hazing and finally a death forced the University and the Borough to strictly enforce much-needed new

rules and policies to save not only the Greek system but the surrounding community.

Their efforts over the past few years are working. The bad apples are gone. The students rushing Fraternities and Sororities today are looking for more social connection and purpose in their lives and our four-year absence created a unique opportunity to start with an entirely new group of young men under the new rules and policies. There was no need to unlearn the past. Total Pi Kapp membership is now close to 70 young men. Brothers, Greek life is in full swing at Penn State and Alpha Mu is back in a big way!

However, Fraternities are not exempt from the need to compete with the new and upgraded "suite" dormitories on campus, and the luxury high-rise student palaces going up on the edges of downtown. Our Chapter house is now 90 years old. But, I firmly believe, with significant investment, we can help it compete for another 50 years.

Brothers, we have almost 970 registered and breathing Alpha Mu Alumni. We need your significant financial support for our Chapter house to survive and thrive, if we want the Chapter house to survive another 50 years. We need \$500,000. Five hundred dollars from all 970 names on the list, or any other combination to get us to our goal.

Do we not invest? Do we give up on the undergraduates that brought us back? Do we give up on our beloved Chapter house? Do we give up on Pi Kapp? Do we give up on Brotherhood?

I see these young men and how hard they work. I can see Greek life thriving at Alpha Mu every day. It would crush my soul to see the Greek system survive without our Alpha Mu Chapter house at 409 East Fairmount.

So, what's it going be Brothers? Fish or cut bait? I know what I'm doing. I'm going fishing!

— Tom Robinson '79

UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER REPORT

Despite quarantine, our undergrads have had a great first year after the re-charter...

Archon's Report:

Avery Arnone

As the first Archon after our re-chartering, I have found myself in a unique situation. Unlike my predecessors, I do not have chartering looming over my head, nor do I have the direction that came with it. My new executive board and I have the opportunity to choose our next major goals as a chapter.

Our first goal is to increase chapter size. More members lowers everyone's dues and increases attendance for all events. More brothers will help us achieve many of our other ambitions, including being a top 10 fundraiser for THON next year.

Our next goal is to improve our alumni relations. I am personally thrilled whenever I get the chance to show visiting alumni around the house and let them know that Pi Kapp is back. My brothers and I are always striving to learn more about our chapter's history, and love any chance to connect with fellow Alpha Mu's.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike Matson

This semester we have worked diligently to create and execute a very detailed and encompassing budget for the Alpha Mu chapter. I had a few goals that I set out to accomplish this. These goals consisted of making improvements to our house, as well as ensuring our chapter will be financially sound in the future.

Currently, I am working with our Omegafi Financial representative to create an emergency fund. This will be an account that we can continuously fund for years to come and that we can use in case of an emergency or for unforeseen expenses that arise.

Warden's Report:

John Callaghan

As our New Member Educator, I have taken integrating our new members into the brotherhood very seriously. Our goal is to form them into fully functioning brothers, who will come to add to this house and create a legacy to leave behind.

The first step in this process is to get to know them as well as we already know each other. The best way we do this is by bringing them to our brotherhood events, and including them in an activity we call Pass



the Gavel. Each member takes a turn to talk about something good, bad or interesting going on in their life. These Pass the Gavel sessions often become very meaningful when a brother or new member is struggling with something and only has the brotherhood to reach out to.

We try to get the new members as involved in philanthropy as much as possible. We incorporated them into THON as quickly as we could. One new member raised upwards of \$1,000 in only a week.

We also help the new members with things outside the fraternity. As such, we have begun to implement study hours. New members are required to come to the house for a specified number of hours each week to work on school assignments.

House Manager's Report:

Hunter Krywicki

After three long years, the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi are residing in 409 East Fairmount Avenue again. Currently, 21 brothers reside in the house that many of you called home. When we first moved into the house in late August, we didn't realize we were making one of the best decisions of our lives. Having a functional house has helped our recently developed brotherhood grow so

much closer.

The first week back in the fall, many brothers helped make improvements to the bedrooms. Improvements included cleaning, installing new flooring, painting walls and hanging decorations. Once individual rooms were completed, brothers focused on the common areas. Within the past year, brothers have repainted the basement, repainted the front of the bar and installed a television in the living room.

Our brotherhood is very proud of the cleanliness of the entire house. During spring rush, many potential rushes commented that they chose our house because it was much cleaner and nicer than other houses around campus.

In the near future, I believe our house has the potential to be one of the nicest houses on campus.

Philanthropy Chair's Report:

Trevor Lamelza

This year, all of our brothers worked hard to fundraise, from the beginning of July until THON weekend, Feb. 21. During this time, with the help of our donors, we were able to raise \$34,490.70.

This year, we were also lucky enough to get our previous THON family, the

UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER REPORT

Hamman's, back with our organization. Throughout the year, we have supported them and held multiple events, such as Clay's birthday party and a small Christmas celebration before winter break. We will continue to support them hopefully for many years to follow!

Our brotherhood worked with our paired sorority Delta Phi Epsilon to support the Hamman's and raise money. After just one year of fundraising for THON, we were able to get a sorority pair and a THON family, something that typically takes years. Next year we are looking to raise \$50,000 for THON and potentially become one of the top 10 Greek fundraising organizations.

We also do events with Best Buddies throughout the year. Best Buddies is a program that benefits mentally challenged adults.

We also had one brother, Aidan O'Brien, participate in Pi Kapp National's Journey of Hope last summer as a crew member.

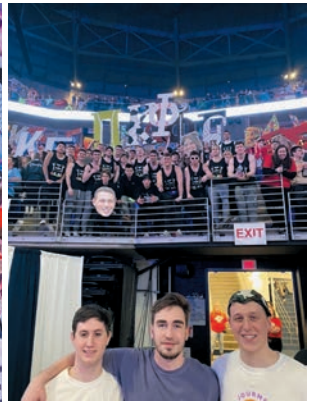
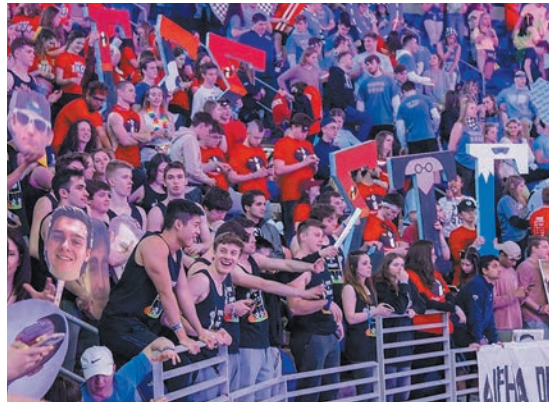


This year, John Callaghan will be biking in Journey of Hope and we will be supporting his fundraising efforts as he bikes all the way

across the country. We are looking to raise over \$5,000 throughout the year.

UNDERGRAD HIGHLIGHTS

As we look forward to the time when our undergraduates can return to the House, we look back on all the great times and great events that happened in 2019-20, including our re-chartering, bid dinner, super bowl party and, of course, THON!



SPRING 2020 PLEDGES

Joe Saglimbeni – Freshman from Armonk, NY; Architectural Engineering major

George Tomko – Freshman from Pittsburgh, PA; Biology major

Nick Vaughn – Freshman from Pittsburgh, PA; Accounting major

Andrew Kuzemchak – Freshman from Ligonier, PA; Finance major

Matt Fagan – Sophomore from Yonkers, NY. International Relations major

Edsel Trowery – Freshman from Pittsburgh, PA; Currently DUS, but leaning toward becoming a Cyber Security major

Jack Howard – Freshman from Chicago, IL; Biology major

Jacob Noethiger – Freshman from Pittsburgh, PA; Data Science major

Seth Connors – Freshman from Newtown, PA; Currently DUS, but leaning toward becoming a Finance major

Sean Barron – Freshman from Downingtown, PA; Broadcast Journalism major

Alex Baker – Freshman from Ashburn, VA; Finance major

Paul Zabloutney – Junior from Dallas, PA; Economics major

Ben Russell – Freshman from Manhasset, NY; Journalism major

Kyle Gurzynski – Sophomore from Dallas, PA; Architectural Engineering major

ALUMNI UPDATES

Alumni Brothers Fill Us in on Careers, Family and Other Accomplishments

Plus, donors share why they choose to give back to Pi Kapp

Check out where your alumni Brothers are today! Full updates with photos and more can be read on the website at www.alphamupikap.2stayconnected.com, where you can also use the searchable directory to reach out to Brothers personally, reconnect and get their full stories.

Harry Barfoot III '77

Update: “I retired about two and a half years ago after working for 40-plus years. I am fortunate to be married to my wife of 38 years, Sally, who is a Syracuse graduate. We have two adult kids, and both are Penn State graduates, so we share our experiences in Happy Valley. I now volunteer for our local township on a planning commission and an environmental advisory council and I am a formal mentor for students in the Smeal College of Business. These volunteer activities keep me connected to both my local community as well as with the students at Penn State.”

Why I Give: “I try to provide some funding annually. I realize much of this goes toward the communications from our alumni board and updates on Alpha Mu via Alpha Musings. It helps us all stay connected. I enjoy hearing about our fraternity, the latest news from the undergraduates and updates on our progress as a chapter. Our recent recolonization efforts have allowed many of us to donate more as we re-open the Chapter House and re-establish Pi Kappa Phi at Penn State. Our Alumni Board has been active to reach out to the Alumni for help. The most valuable part of my Pi Kapp experience is the continued relationships I have with other Alumni. Each August, a large group (35-40) of us meet to play golf in State College, stay at the Nittany Lion Inn and enjoy the camaraderie of the Brotherhood. We share old “war stories” as well as provide our own updates on family, life and retirement.”

John Turchek '68

Update: “I retired Dec. 31, 2019. I bought a place in Boca Raton, Florida, sold one home in Pittsburgh, and still kept our place in Worcester, Massachusetts, near our two grandchildren.”

Why I Give: “My fraternity experience was a very positive one that, coupled with my educational experience, set the foundation for a successful career. I am happy to say that I am still friends with many of the brothers who lived in the house at that time. Besides seeing some

of the brothers at our Winter Golf Outing in Naples every year, as well as at our annual Pi Kappa Phi golf outing at Penn State every August, I also have been able to see four or five other brothers on a more frequent basis over the years. In my lifetime, we have never experienced a threat such as what the pandemic does today. Almost everything that we have done in the past has to be changed in some form or another... and this is just the first wave. The House could be without tenants for a long period of time. This got me thinking a little. What are we doing to help with communications among the current Brothers and Alums at this time? Have we looked at podcasts, conference calls etc...? The Alums may have to kick in additional funding to keep the House going.”

George Herold '50

Update: “I had a good career as a chemical engineer, with an MBA degree from Drexel, first on the technical side and later on the business side at Rohm and Haas, a large chemical specialty company. This included about 15 years in the international division, when I helped set up many of the company's overseas plants and visited them regularly. I retired in 1992...”*

Why I Give: “Gratitude for a good college experience [of which] Pi Kapp was a key factor...”*

David Kearney '69

Update: “I am retired. My main hobby is golf, and I have shot my age several times.”

Why I Give: “I was hoping to assist the fraternity in its re-chartering effort. Being a Pi Kapp did help me transition from a youth to an adult, I think, much better than had I stayed in the dorms.”

Earl Graham III '88

Update: “My daughter is currently a Junior at Penn State. Stay strong through these tough times! I would like to reconnect with everyone in the House from 1986-1987. A great time to be a Pi Kapp!”

Don't forget to send us your updates at

alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

**Read full updates at www.alphamupikap.2stayconnected.com.*