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Alpha Musings



ALPHA MU CHAPTER PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY | THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

State College, PA

www.alphamupikap.org

NOVEMBER 2022

PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~ A Letter from Stephen DiOrio '78

Brothers,

As you will see in another article in the *Alpha Musings* prepared by brother **Tom Robinson**, a lot of work was completed over the summer thanks in large part to the generous financial support and professional guidance of **Jason Borelli, '94**, whose son **Drew** is now a brother and resident of the Alpha Mu Chapter. Jason has enabled us to complete a variety of projects that have been on the radar of the Board for several years but that have just not been possible because of the dollars needed to complete the work. This work remedies a variety of issues confronting the Chapter and provides a much better quality of life for our undergraduate brethren. It represents just the beginning of what can ultimately be accomplished at Pi Kappa Phi Penn State if we pull together the resources necessary to not just survive but to thrive at Penn State.

The future of fraternities and Greek Life at Penn State has never been better and, in fact, never more necessary than today. Opportunities for leadership training and life long friendships are identified by new students entering the University as primary goals as they come to University Park and no other type of residency offers the fulfillment of these needs like that of fraternities and sororities. The vision of the students may be a little different than those of previous eras and the societal norms and expectations those of 2022 but in the end, the desired outcomes are the same as all of us—a great education, life long friendships and a desire to succeed in our personal and professional adult lives.

To that end, please know that there will be opportunity for all of us to provide support to both our own beloved Pi Kappa Phi and to our University's mission of supporting safe living for all of our students at Penn State and more specifically, our Undergraduate Student Leaders involved in Greek Life.

In addition to all of the great work being done at the house, the Alpha Mu board entered into discussions with Stevan Veldkamp, Executive Director of the Piazza Center, to find ways for us as a chapter to lend support to Penn State's Timothy J. Piazza Center that will allow scholars to be brought together to formulate and test prevention techniques for fraternities and sororities to make them safer, healthier and life affirming so that hazardous behavior can be reduced. This purpose aligns well with the vision and goal to have fraternities identified and perhaps even credited by the University as formalized leadership training when students become involved in Greek Life.

The Board has recently voted to provide a 4 year commitment to the Piazza Center totaling \$80,000 (\$20,000/year) to come from the collective contributions of our Pi Kappa Phi alumni. You will be hearing more about this in the near future. Our individual contributions will qualify as a tax deductible contribution to the University, directed to the Piazza Center and credited collectively to the goal of the Alpha Mu Chapter. Each dollar contributed will be matched dollar for dollar by the University. Our students will benefit from this research in the form of better safety, stronger leadership skills and a thriving Greek environment.

Stay tuned as we work to build a better Pi Kappa Phi and support the needs of our undergraduate leaders, all the while helping to build life long friendships and a stronger community.

Thanks for all of your support,
For the glory,
Steve

HOUSE PROJECTS

Alpha Mu Chapter House Update

With the professional guidance and financial support of brother **Jason Borelli '94**, whose son Drew is now a member and resident, the Board embarked on the following projects over the summer. We already had in hand a long list of deferred maintenance items and a project wish list. The board began to elect some of the most pressing items that would immediately secure the building envelope and improve the environmental conditions inside the house. But first, a local architect was hired to assess the property and create "as-built" drawings and documentation.

Thus far, we have replaced the troublesome thirty-six-year-old 70% efficient cast iron boiler, with two paralleled 95% efficient Weil-McLain condensing boilers. This new system not only will save thousands of dollars in fuel costs over the years, but it also ensures the Chapter will always have some heat rather than no heat in the unlikely event of one boiler having a maintenance issue.

The next large project was the replacement of the exhaust fans for the second and third floor bathrooms. These fans and most of their respective duct work reside in the attic. The existing fans were mid 1980's vintage and one had failed. It was a steamy year on the second floor. We chose the same manufacturer as the old ones, Acme Engineering from Muskogee, Oklahoma. They are 16" diameter low rpm in-line duct fans that will hopefully last another 30+ years.

In addition, a low-profile, stainless-steel mop sink has been added to the utility room, a much-needed addition for mop cleaning.

We completed deep refinishing of the hardwood floors on the first floor. The sanding took eight workdays and the four, color and composite polyurethane coatings took another two days to complete.

Also, we are replacing all rain gutters and downspouts and having the existing wood fascia wrapped with aluminum. Six-inch commercial gutters and oversized downspouts are being installed.

The chimney repair is also underway. This will include extensive brick repointing, flashing, crown, and cap repair along with removable hard caps on all but one flue. Beyond that we hope this same contractor can begin the long and involved brick repointing, and lintel and sill repairs this fall. The completion of that monumental task will then allow us to address the water damaged interior plaster walls.

The architect secured Borough approval of the planned submission for the replacement and expansion of the parking lot. This would add about seven or eight parking spaces. The second part of the planned submission included possible expansion of the "beach" concrete patio on the Garner Street side of the house.

Landscaping bids have been secured for tree and shrub removal, slope and swale regrading and a hard pipe storm water capture and dispersion system.

Party room ceiling and light fixture replacement could happen mid academic year.

Longer term, we need still to replace all the windows and doors in the house.

Again, a big thank you to brother **Jason Borelli '94** for his financial support and project guidance!

Benefits of giving back to the Alpha Mu Chapter

It is no secret that being part of a group like Pi Kappa Phi is impactful throughout the remainder of our lives. We have heard from our brothers about the influence that the Alpha Mu Chapter has had on our futures, but what happens when we give back? This is what your brothers have to say about the benefits of giving back:

Stephen says that even more could be done with more donations. *"We could impact more young lives in a positive way and provide a living environment that is clean, contemporary and purposeful."* – **Stephen J. DiOrio '78**

"I had a great experience at Pi Kappa Phi while an undergrad and I want to help support the opportunity for others to have the same meaningful time." If more alumni give back, it would *"help with having more resources for the current students."* – **Paul Rudoy '83**

"I think the alumni would develop an even stronger bond with each other if they could see the house continue to provide what we had to new groups of men. There would be a shared sense of pride in seeing that what we experienced could continue for others."
– **Stephen K Ferguson '78**



NEW BROTHERS FROM 2022 PLEDGE CLASS

Hello Pi Kappa Phi Alumni!

Listed below are the new members of the Fall 2022 Pledge Class, also known as Eta 7. We are very excited to continue to bond with these young men and show them what Pi Kappa Phi is all about! If you would like to be connected to any of these gentlemen, please reach out to [Joseph Saglimbeni](mailto:jks6196@psu.edu) at jks6196@psu.edu.



Name: Tommy Gallucci
Year: Sophomore
Major: Accounting
Hometown: Point Lookout, NY



Name: Jamys Solosky
Year: Junior
Major: Social Data Analytics
Hometown: Winchester, VA



Name: Kevin Roney
Year: Sophomore
Major: Accounting
Hometown: Springfield, PA



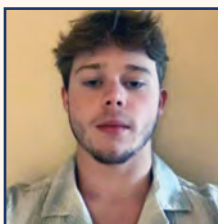
Name: Elvis Hartman
Year: Sophomore
Major: Finance
Hometown: Seattle, WA



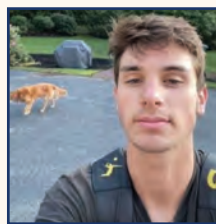
Name: Andrew Brown
Year: Sophomore
Major: Actuarial Science
Hometown: Erie, PA



Name: Nick Brown
Year: Junior
Major: Finance
Hometown: Mountain Top, PA



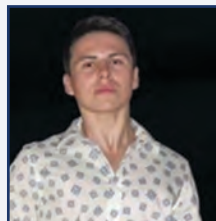
Name: Davis Jensen
Year: Sophomore
Major: Civil Engineering
Hometown: Houston, TX



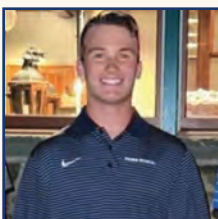
Name: Brady Lemen
Year: Sophomore
Major: Biobehavioral Health
Hometown: York, PA



Name: Braden Kravitz
Year: Sophomore
Major: Business - Undecided
Hometown: Cinnaminson, NJ



Name: Drew Blodgett
Year: Sophomore
Major: Marketing
Hometown: Pittsburgh PA



Name: Nate Kryzan
Year: Sophomore
Major: Finance
Hometown: Scranton, PA



Name: Zach Holthaus
Year: Junior
Major: Actuarial Science
Hometown: Dallas, PA



PI KAPPA PHI Penn State

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In this edition of Alpha Musings...

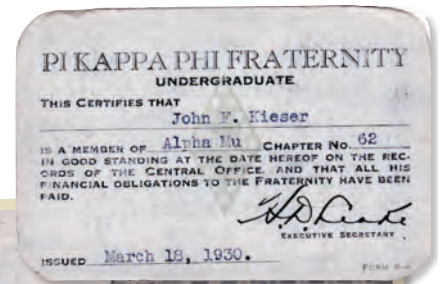
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JOHN KIESER '70 ~ "Why I Pledged Pi Kappa Phi"

"My father was an Alpha Mu Pi Kapp in the early 30's, per the above flicks. He and his future wife, my mother, attended a number of house parties. He always talked to me about Pi Kappa Phi and Penn State. I always thought I might want to go to college there and see what Pi Kappa Phi was like. After I did my preadmission visit to Penn State my father and mother took me out to the Chapter House. It was a Wednesday afternoon. T Burns greeted us at the door and took us around. I was really impressed with the house, the brothers I met and T Burns. We visited the Rod Room. After T's tour and my visit to Penn State there was only one university and one fraternity where I wanted to go. I immediately knew that I was going to Penn State and that I was going to pledge Pi Kappa Phi. It was a decision I never regretted and one of the best decisions I have ever made. I have made so many life time friends from Pi Kappa Phi. What an incredible experience. The morning I was made a brother, there was my father, in front of me, congratulating me for being a brother."

~ John Kieser, 1970



John & Anne Kieser, standing, 1933 Spring House Party



In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of John Schmucker '58 into Chapter Eternal. Please visit the website to view his obituary.

<https://alhamupikap.org/>