

## Undergraduate Officers

John Czarnecki  
**Archon**

Liam O'Donohue  
**Vice Archon**

Cole Frischman  
**Treasurer**

Ben Ross  
**Secretary**

Connor Price  
**Warden**

Mike Cerenzia  
**Philanthropy Chair**

Virgil Minnick  
**Chaplain**

Joe Saglimbeni  
**Historian**

Robert Ritter  
**Risk Manager**

Jack Roe  
**Standards Board**

Thomas Grgurovic  
**House Manager**

Anthony "Jack" Gallis  
**Social Chair**

## Alumni Board

Stephen J. DiOrio  
**President**

John Miller  
**Treasurer**

Stephen R. DiOrio  
**Secretary**

Steven Earhart  
Skip Parks  
Thomas Robinson

## ALUMNI WEBSITE

[www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org)



## CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE

[@alphamupikap](https://www.facebook.com/alphamupikap)



# Alpha Musings



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

State College, PA

[www.alphamupikap.org](http://www.alphamupikap.org)

FEBRUARY 2023

## Introducing the Tom Robinson Mr. Alpha Mu Award

On January 15, 2023, the undergraduate brothers of the Alpha Mu Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi created and presented the "Tom Robinson Mr. Alpha Mu Award" to the man for whom they have named this new recognition award, Alumnus Tom Robinson. The award will be given by the undergraduates periodically to an active or an alumnus who display the "above and beyond" work and efforts to the Chapter and the brotherhood manifested by brother Robinson.

In attendance at this event held on this Sunday evening in honor of Tom were over 100 active members of the Chapter, Tom's wife Karen, son TJ and his fiancée, and approximately a dozen alumni members, including members of the Board of the Alpha Mu Housing Corporation on which Tom serves, and several of Tom's closest brotherhood friends who Tom and Karen invite into their home to stay for at least one football weekend each year. Son Connor paid tributes from his home as he prepared for a new position at 4:30AM Monday morning.

Tom's love for the undergraduates and their respect and affection for him were clearly apparent on this special night. In addition to Tom's involvement as a Board member of the Housing Corporation, Tom visits the house almost daily outside of this Board member role, acting as a virtual volunteer caretaker of the property, making numerous repairs and improvements to the facility along the way. He attends Chapter meetings virtually every week, talks to each pledge class at the beginning

of their education period and probably most importantly to the young men, stands ready

to be there for them in the highs and lows of each academic semester. He lives the mission of the fraternity and the Chapter and helps to mold young men into great leaders of tomorrow. In many ways, the creation of this award is an example of those leadership lessons Tom has taught the undergraduates by his actions. This award, in Tom's name, will help to encourage present and future generations of Pi Kappa Phi members to act selflessly to benefit not just the Chapter, not just the University, but the community as a whole.

In Tom's honor and on his behalf, members of the Board and Tom's

closest brotherhood friends, contributed in excess of \$10000 to the Chapter so that Tom could determine a project to improve living conditions at the Chapter house for the benefit of our undergraduate leaders. I ask you to join the tribute to our brother, our 2023 Tom Robinson Mr. Alpha Mu Award winner himself, brother Tom Robinson, **with your own contribution to the 409 Club** in his honor—and in honor of this special group of undergraduate brothers.

Nothing shall tear us asunder,

Stephen J. DiOrio, President

Alpha Mu Housing Corporation

*See more photos from the weekend by visiting the photo albums on the website.*



## Stephen DiOrio

### “Without Pi Kappa Phi, I wouldn’t be the person I am today”

**Stephen DiOrio '78** ([stephen.diorio.bus7@statefarm.com](mailto:stephen.diorio.bus7@statefarm.com)) graduated from Penn State University with a degree in political science and a dream of going to law school. At a time when THON was in its infancy, DiOrio and other Greek members were delivering a check to Hershey Medical Center when a tragic accident claimed the lives of some of those on the trip. It was during that time that he decided not to pursue law school, but to pursue the career path of his father in the insurance industry.

In September 1978, DiOrio married the love of his life, Susan and two months later opened his own State Farm Agency in Wayne, Pennsylvania. In addition to his wife, he also has three children and six grandchildren. Two of his children, Stephen and Christina were involved in the Greek system as well. Stephen is also an alumnus of Pi Kappa Phi and Christina enjoyed her time as a Pi Phi.

DiOrio said that many of his accomplishments can be attributed to his time as an active Pi Kappa Phi member. “The leadership experience I gained is unlike what most college students are able to receive. We were self-governed and had to learn how to run a house, hold ourselves and each other accountable and make decisions that were in the best interest of the chapter,” he said. “We learned that you don’t always get your way, you have to listen to each other and come to a consensus.”

The brothers who were in the house at that time made the decision to pledge Pi Kappa Phi easy. “The house was in its hay day, so it was easy to love. But the brothers were the most important,” DiOrio shared. “They wanted to get to know me and who I was, they were all very welcoming and engaging wanting me to be a part of the brotherhood. My best friends now were my brothers then.”



“Being a member of Pi Kappa Phi taught me to give back to the community. My first position of leadership in the house was as Chairman of our Annual Turkey Drive. We went around the community gathering canned goods to donate to a food pantry,” he said. “That principle has stuck with me. Today I continue to give back. I have served on YMCA boards and local Chambers of Commerce. I was able to do these things well because of my involvement in the Greek System.”

Volunteering and giving back to Pi Kappa Phi remains an anchor for DiOrio even after all these years. “I enjoy working with the undergraduates. I have a responsibility to help, and I enjoyed it so much that I wanted to make sure I could continue to share my experience and value in the Greek system with the students,” he said. DiOrio has

served on the Board of the Housing Corporation since 2003 and currently serves as President.

In addition to serving on the board, DiOrio has been striving to help build a solid foundation not just for Pi Kappa Phi but for the entire Greek system. “We have been making great strides and we are laying a great foundation, internally, for the future where the chapter can grow and prosper, but for the Chapter to truly thrive, the entire system needs to be strengthened and branded differently” he said. “My biggest hope for current and future undergraduates is that they will have the same life-long relationships leadership experiences I have had, and I think we are giving them the tools to do that.”

***Without Pi Kappa Phi, I wouldn't be the person I am today—I wouldn't have the skillset that I have to run a business, be an entrepreneur, contribute in a valuable way, I wouldn't be the father and husband I am.***

## Pi Kappa Phi is grateful to you



Whether it be through donations or time spent volunteering, we are thankful for your support in more ways than one. As Pi Kappa Phi brothers, we share a passion for the brotherhood that contributed to our personal development, our relationships, and our lives as students and far beyond to our roles

as husbands, fathers, professionals, volunteers, neighbors, and friends.

We can't overestimate the true meaning of adding your name to the ranks of our alumni donors. We want to share our continued gratitude to those brothers listed on the honor roll located on the appeal who have graciously given back to Pi Kappa Phi.

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

### A Sad Goodbye to Brother George Fasic '57

It is with great sadness that we have been informed **George Fasic '57** has passed into Chapter Eternal. Our sympathies go out to all friends and family.

*Obituary and photo courtesy of Donohue Funeral Home.*

George Wilson Fasic, 90, of West Chester, PA, passed away September 29, 2021.

Born February 18, 1931 in Lewistown, PA, he was the son of the late George Gardner and Esther M. (Edwards) Fasic (Walley).

George was a 1949 graduate of Mt. Penn High School in Reading, PA. He graduated from Penn State University (B.S. Geography) in 1957 and received his Master's Degree from Columbia University (Urban Planning) in 1962.

He served as a Military Police Officer in the United States Army during the Korean War (stateside), attaining the rank of Corporal.

George retired from the Chester County Planning Commission (PA) in 1995, having served as the Executive Director since 1976. Previously, he served in similar roles for the Bucknell University Institute for Regional Affairs, Berks County Planning Commission (PA), and Rockland County Planning Commission (NY). After retiring from Chester County, George taught at West



Chester University, retiring from that role in 2015. In addition, he taught at various times for Bucknell University, Susquehanna University, Penn State University, Albright College, the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, the Pennsylvania Boroughs Association, and the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Education Institute.

George maintained a private consulting practice as well and served on a number of boards, task forces, and commissions and volunteered his time with many organizations related to his role as a Professional Planner.

Professional affiliations included the American Planning Association, the American Institute of Certified Planners, the Community Association Institute, the Urban Land Institute, and the Philadelphia Geographical Society. George authored and co-authored numerous County and Municipal Comprehensive Plans, Regional Transportation Plans, Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances, instructional materials, and research reports.

George was a member and Trustee of First Presbyterian Church in West Chester where he was active with the Building and Maintenance Committee, the "Dinosaurs" Group of retired planning directors, Chester County 2020, and Coniston Residential Association "Keep Coniston Beautiful."

He was an active and enthusiastic outdoorsman who loved hiking, birding, and spending time in nature. He enjoyed playing and watching sports, including being an avid tennis player and member of the Chester County Planning Commission softball team. One of his greatest joys was driving his Farmall Cub tractor around the grounds of Fox Hollow, the cabin and property he and Nancy owned in Snyder County, PA. (412)

*To finish reading the obituary, head to the website.*

### A sad goodbye to Brother John G. Schmucker III '58

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **John Schmucker '58** into Chapter Eternal. Read on to view his obituary.

*Source Courtesy of Snyder Funeral Home*

**John G. Schmucker III, 86**

**October 29, 2022**

John G. Schmucker III, 86, died at Homestead Village on Saturday, October 29, 2022, leaving his faithful wife of 57 years, Susanne ("Sue").

He was born in Pittsburgh, PA, the second son of the late Rolland and Wilma ("Billie") Schmucker of Pittsburgh. He attended Perry High School in Pittsburgh, Penn State (mathematics) and the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business. He proudly served his country as an aircraft commander and instructor



pilot in the US Air Force and Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

John pursued a business career as a bond trader and institutional portfolio manager for several Wall Street firms before retiring in 2003.

He was a member of Calvary Church in Lancaster and was involved in a variety of activities in the Lancaster chapter of the Military Officers Assoc. of America (MOAA) and in his over-55 community. John was an encourager to neighbors and friends, readily bringing scripture references and words of comfort to those in need.

*To finish reading the obituary, head to the*

*website: <https://www.snyderfuneralhome.com>*

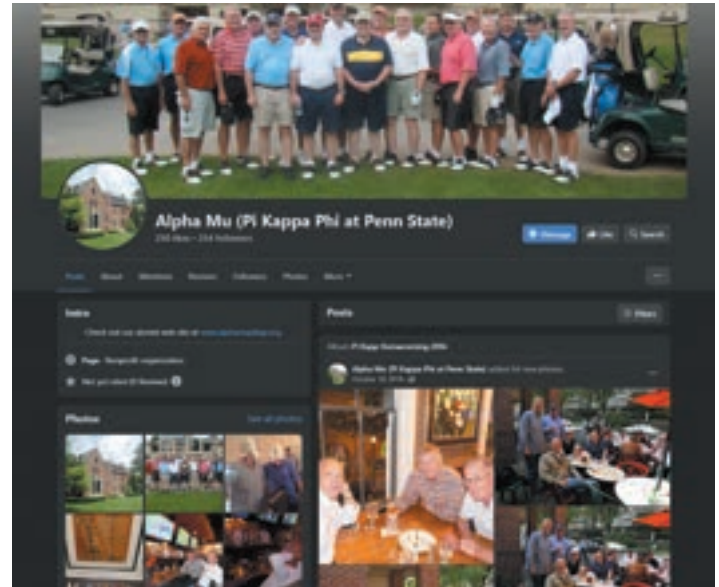


## Pi Kapp Christmas



Was anyone lucky enough to make it to PSU this holiday season and check out the Christmas lights. If not, you are in luck, we snapped a photo of the Pi Kapp house, and we have to say, our active brothers outdid themselves this year! Check it out!

## Alpha Mu Chapter on the Web



Are you plugged in to our Pi Kappa Phi Penn State social media pages? Follow us to reconnect with your Alpha Mu Chapter alumni buddies online, find out about upcoming virtual and in-person events, and keep up with the latest news from the chapter.

**Facebook Page:** [www.facebook.com/alphamupikap/](http://www.facebook.com/alphamupikap/)

**Chapter Instagram:** [@pikapp\\_pennstate](https://www.instagram.com/pikapp_pennstate)

## Mark your calendars now

### PSU announces Blue-White Game and fall football schedule!

Start planning your next visit to State College now, because Penn State has announced the dates for the Blue-White Game and fall football schedule. With the Blue-White game falling on **April 15th**, there is plenty of time to reach out to your old college buddies and plan your next get-together.

April 15 Blue-White Game (2 p.m.)

Sept. 2 vs. West Virginia

Sept. 9 vs. Delaware

Sept. 16 at Illinois

Sept. 23 vs. Iowa

Sept. 30 at Northwestern

Oct. 7 Idle

Oct. 14 vs. UMass

Oct. 21 at Ohio State

Oct. 28 vs. Indiana

Nov. 4 at Maryland

Nov. 11 vs. Michigan

Nov. 18 vs. Rutgers

Nov. 25 at Michigan State



Already have something planned? Share the word by emailing [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com), and we can include it in the next communication to your fellow alumni!

**You can also view the schedule at [gopsusports.com/sports/football/schedule/2023](http://gopsusports.com/sports/football/schedule/2023)**