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Alpha-Delta News

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www.kappasigpsu.com

DAVID PAYNE '81

Living together and learning to make it work

Since departing Happy Valley, **David Payne's** career in the energy sector has taken him across the country and around the world, including stints with some of the largest companies in the industry. After working at Texaco in California for his first few years following graduation, he ended up living internationally (Trinidad, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand) for several years while employed at Unocal, a company that was purchased by Chevron in 2005. He then moved to Houston in 2006 as Chevron's VP of Drilling Completions before eventually returning to California to serve as the company's VP of Health Safety Environment, until he retired last April.

He traces that journey back to his time at Penn State and many of the lessons learned as a Greek. He and two floormates from West Halls pledged together, and one characteristic made Kappa Sigma stand out: "What I liked about Kappa Sig was the diversity of the brothers. A lot of the fraternities, they had a look, you know? You go to Beta, they're all one kind of guy. At ATO, it's a whole other kind of guy. But they're all the same. There seemed to be a lot of diversity at Kappa Sig, and I really appreciated that. They were really open and welcoming to different people."

That diversity served as a source of strength, but also tension. "We had this whole range of people that came from very different backgrounds and different perspectives. They're all living together and having to make it all work. 'So where are we going to spend the very small amount of resources that we have in the house, what's important to all of us?' That's not an easy thing. It was a tough conversation sometimes.

"I think the thing that a lot of people forget is that when you are in a fraternity, you're not just hanging out. You're running a pretty good-sized business, right? You have to run a house. So I learned a lot of responsibility. I learned a lot about leadership. I learned a lot about how

to get things done and how to deal with people that don't necessarily agree with you."

David remembers many late-night card games and bull sessions in the refurbished house dining room or in the TV room; he also recalls some of the favorite evening hangout spots Downtown. In addition to the Rathskeller (gone in name, but still alive in spirit as Doggie's Pub), and the Shandygaff (still going strong), he recounts having his first legal drinks at The Saloon (RIP).

"Halfway through the evening, this new bartender shows up, and the other bartender, when they changed out, says, 'Hey, it's this guy's 21st birthday.' She looks at me and says, 'You've been in here before.' And I said, 'Yeah, I hang out here all the time! Now you can't throw me out.'"

College road trips with his brothers provide another rich source of fond memories.

"We went on a pledge trip with a different class to Cornell. We had a great time up there, but on the way, the tailpipe broke off my old Mustang. It was really loud, so I stopped and had a welder kind of patch it up. Then on the way home on Sunday, my radiator blew and they couldn't fix it until Monday. We ended up sleeping in junked cars at a gas station waiting for Monday to get it fixed. We went to New Orleans twice for Spring Break. Those trips were great. We stopped at other Kappa Sigma houses on the way down. People were friendly, no matter where it was — Tennessee, LSU, University of Georgia. They really embraced the fact that we were part of the Brotherhood."

David still gets back to campus, returning often while with Chevron as the company's executive sponsor for Penn State, but frequent moves during his career made it difficult to keep in close touch with his brothers. In retirement, he looks forward to reconnecting with people by setting up his first-ever Facebook account.

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ROBERT "LEO" DESROCHERS '72

"Pulling together for a common goal"

Leo Desrochers pledged Kappa Sig in the Spring 1969, "courtesy of meeting **Tom Hall '72** and **Bruce Hofmann '72** in East Halls."

He remembers that "Kappa Sig was a well-balanced house with at least one varsity athlete, campus leaders from IFC, Skull & Bones, and Parmi Nous, solid academics, very strong IM teams, and a very active social life, working with numerous sororities on Spring Week, Homecoming etc."

Leo's favorite hangout spots in the house were "the bar and party room, unless we had a band in the LR/DR." Although he says funny stories from his Kappa Sig days are too numerous to single out, he recalls fun times

and valuable perspective from his class pledge bolt to Kent State in the Fall of 1969. "**Tom Pirosko '70** was our pledge master, and we kidnapped him. Visiting another campus made me realize how blessed we were to be at Penn State."

Reflecting on his fraternity experience, he deeply value the relationships formed and lessons learned through the Kappa Sig. "Group living taught me a lot, pulling together for a common goal. Tom Hall became my best man. Tom, **Bruce Claflin '73** and I have remained in contact for over 50 years! Other brothers that were very impressive and great leaders were Ike,

Gremlin, and Buzzy."

He also found more than brotherhood while at Penn State: "I met my wife of 49 years in the dining hall in 1969, and we dated mostly exclusively for three years. I proposed while in basic training after a 20-mile march and was delirious [sarcasm]."

Leo served in the Army from 1972-74, stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany. Then from 1974-1995, he worked in various divisions of GE. From 1995 until his retirement in 2018, he worked in CFO or other financial leadership roles with Fortune 500, private, or private equity companies.

VINCENT DILORETO '65

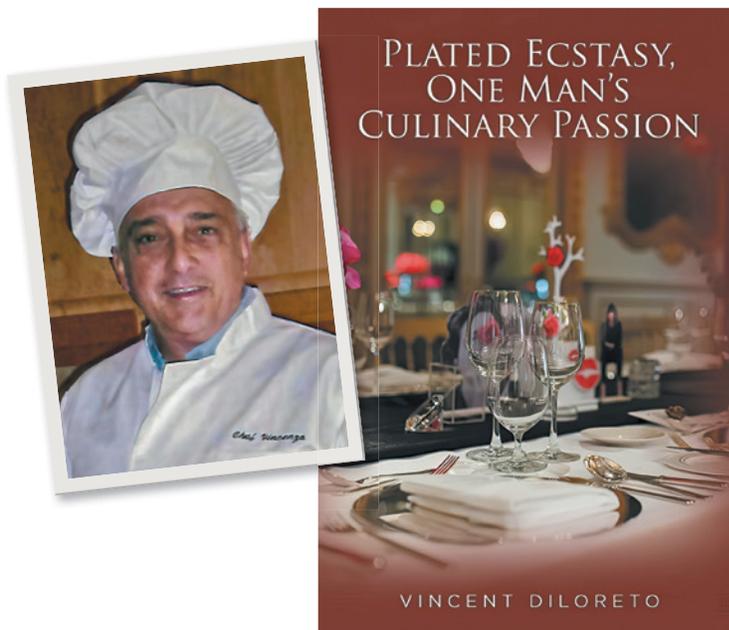
Published book on life's passion

In March of 2022, Brother Vincent DiLoreto published "Plated Ecstasy, One Man's Culinary Passion," a chronicle of his worldwide tour of global food and wine in pursuit of his life's passion. He shared this excerpt from the book's promotional materials:

The mantra of "dine, wine, and travel" is the framework for this memoir. Vincent DiLoreto had two professional careers: retiring from the first after twenty years as an officer in military service and retiring from the second after another twenty years in the Aerospace and Defense industry where he ultimately served as president of a high-tech

company. However, after his retirement, he transitioned to his soul-searing, unbridled passion for gourmet food and fine wine. He pursued formal training as a chef and a sommelier. Extensive world travel enriched his exposure to exotic cuisine and exceptional wine. His wife of over fifty years, Donna Lee, has enthusiastically shared and contributed to his passion to "dine, wine, and travel." Share their lifetime adventure in Plated Ecstasy.

The book is available in paperback or digital through Amazon: www.amazon.com/Plated-Ecstasy-Mans-Culinary-Passion-ebook/dp/B09W47J1JC/



Alpha-Delta Alumni Connect at 2023 Triumphant Rose Bowl Penn State (35) – Utah (21)

This was Bunny's and my first Rose Bowl and we had an awesome time. We connected with **brother Mike High** and his wife, Candy. We went to a local Penn State establishment in LA, attended the PSU pep rally, took in the Rose Bowl parade, and then the Rose Bowl. Speaking of the Rose Bowl, **brother Ming** invited us to an outstanding tailgate. A big Thank You to Ming for all the food and adult beverages.

The attached picture, from left to right, include **Brother Bill (Ace) Vitori (1973)**, **Brother Mike High (1970)**, **Brother Michael (Ming) DeNapoli, D.C. (1985)**, **Brother Brad Lawrence (1969)**, and Ming's son Keto.)

AEKDB

Bill Vitori (Ace)

RICHARD (WALLY) ARMSTRONG '81

"It was easy to feel a part of the organization"

Richard (Wally) Armstrong '81 (workra@yahoo.com) was a junior and a transfer when he pledged to Kappa Sigma, but he felt no less integrated and at home with his brothers in the house. Here's a look into his time at Kappa Sigma and why he gives back.

"I was a transfer student from Ogontz now known as PS Abington," said Armstrong, "so I was in my junior year looking at fraternities. Kappa Sigma did not seem to mind and it was easy to feel a part of the organization."

"The house at that time was large and more modern than most. You could drive a small car down the hallways (and rumor had it that a VW bug may have tried)."

One of Armstrong's best memories was a project that forged friendships and a handy house feature. "Our pledge class was one of the largest at the time and we added the Not So Portable bar to the house - it remained for a long time, weighed a ton, and provided much enjoyment. With over two hundred and fifty screws, two-by-four and plywood construction mostly donated by a local construction project, it took many hours of construction and many days of complaining about how heavy it was to move."



"All that said - the parties, the tailgates, the swims at the quarry, the late nights on a couch, the food - okay, maybe not the food, but it was life with little care and the time to enjoy just being young (and stupid)!"

His time at Kappa Sigma gave him "leadership roles and interaction with a cross-section of people" as well as "a reason to explore towers in Italy shortly after graduation while stationed in Germany."

Armstrong gives back because he wants to use his position to support the place that means so much to

him. "You never know how your actions may affect others, but they do in good and bad ways. We hope and pray our actions always provide positive outcomes. I like to think contributing is a good thing and I am glad to be in a position to do it (much better than when attending and hardly being able to buy a beer at the corner room)!"

"No donations means the total decline and disappearance of KS forever - that does not seem like a good option!"

Without Kappa Sigma, I wouldn't know the people I know, have the memories I have, touched who I touched, or impacted someone else.

BROTHERHOOD

Looking for New Alpha-Delta Leadership

Mark Breedlove (Star & Crescent Foundation Trustee) and **Edward Gorkes** (Alumni Corporation President) have reached a time in their lives where a transition to new leadership is desired. Both have spent many years in their respective positions and desire to step down and pass the baton to new alumni volunteers.

Please seriously consider volunteering for these two important assignments as we move closer to the date when a new colony can be chartered in pursuit of establishing an active chapter on campus.

The Pennsylvania Alpha-Delta Corporation, commonly referred to as the housing corporation, is governed by a volunteer board that looks after the housing needs of the active chapter. Originally, it was chartered with responsibility for maintaining the chapter house until the sale of 255 Highland Avenue. Since that time, it has husbanded the considerable proceeds from that sale while working with the active chapter to meet its needs for rental housing and furnishings. It is still the vision to own a chapter house one day. The members of the housing corporation board have been serving in some cases for decades. It is apparent that new board members, and someday soon new board leadership, will be required. Please contact Ed Gorkes if you

have an interest in learning more about the responsibilities of this non-profit corporation and its board members.

The Star and Crescent Foundation is the charitable non-profit corporation that owns the fund from which \$300,000 in scholarships have been awarded to Alpha-Delta active members since 1992. Alpha-Delta alumni serve as trustees of the Foundation. Their charter is to look after the assets of the fund, set scholarship award criteria, solicit scholarship applications, and make awards to deserving undergraduate members of Alpha-Delta. The Foundation has brought on new trustees every couple of years. Four trustees, however, have served continuously since 2007, and there is a need to bring on new trustees and plan for succession of current board leadership. This is a great opportunity for past scholarship recipients to pay forward the scholarship support they were given as undergrads. Please contact Mark Breedlove if you want to learn more about this volunteer opportunity.

Mark and Ed will provide all the necessary training and guidance to ensure the transition to these positions is easy and seamless. In addition, they will both be available for ongoing consultation.

Please contact Ed or Mark for further information:

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Mark Breedlove
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DAVID PAYNE

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He credits the experience of living, studying, and managing life with a diverse group of housemates as essential to his growth and development. He gives back as a token of gratitude. "I send them money pretty regularly, because I feel like I have a debt. I owe them and the house a debt." He also views his time with Kappa Sigma as representative of all the Greek system continues to offer college-aged students.

"I think it takes a bad rap. Kids are kids. They do stupid stuff. But it comes with a lot of positive things, particularly if you're somebody who has to help run the place. Leadership opportunities are really good for kids at that age. I think having a diverse group of guys is very important. You learn a lot from each other. It was really formative for me."

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers,

We have an excellent main alumni profile from Brother **Dave Payne '81** in this newsletter. Great stories and insight from Dave with his fraternity experiences at Alpha-Delta! Thanks Dave!

We also have several mini-alumni updates from Brothers **Desrochers '72, Armstrong '81, Vitori '73** and a new book from Brother **Diloretto '65**. Brothers, thanks for sharing your stories!

Brother Breedlove and I are also looking to transition away from our respective positions. We have been in our positions for many years. We both feel it is important to recruit new leadership, to keep both organizations strong and viable now and in the future. Read our notice in this newsletter and contact us for more information.



AEKDB,

Ed Gorke
President

Chapter Update: We have about 2 more years of our suspension remaining at Penn State. I have made initial conversations with Nationals on getting our chapter back on campus. Stay tuned for more information!

As you read this newsletter take the time to send in a little update about yourself. Alumni updates are immensely popular. Your brothers like to see what others are up to in their lives. Make sure we also have your current email address and contact information.

CHAPTER CELESTIAL

A sad goodbye to a brother

Source Courtesy of **Tribute Archive**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Richard Schilpp '58**. Read on to view his obituary below.

Retired radio executive Richard L. "Dick" Schilpp, 93, of Reading, passed away Saturday, October 8, 2022, in the care of Reading Hospital. Born in Reading, Dick was the son of the late Fridl (Haag) Schilpp Hepler and the stepson of Ralph Hepler. Dick is survived by his wife, Doris (Reed) Breneman Schilpp, whom he married in 1972. Also surviving are: a daughter, Liane, wife of Douglas Petras of Paxtonia, PA; stepson, Reed Breneman, husband of Stephanie, of Maineville, Ohio; three grandsons, Jacob and Evan Petras and Connor Breneman; several cousins and their families, mostly in Germany. A stepson, Ryan Breneman, died in 2006.

Dick was a 1947 graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy where he achieved the rank of cadet captain and was among the recipients of the academy's highest award, The Order of Anthony Wayne. He was on the varsity swim team and Secretary of the senior class. Dick joined the Air Force in 1950, serving four years as a weather observer which included one year at Barter Island in the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska.

A 1958 graduate of the Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Journalism/Advertising, Dick was President of Kappa Sigma Fraternity and was Student Manager of the campus radio station WDFM, and was also a member of the men's honorary hat society, Parmi Nous.



Following graduation, he joined the broadcasting staff of Radio Station WEEU, Reading, and for the next 34 years served the station in various professional roles. He moved from announcer to sales, and in 1977 he was appointed VP/General manager of the station. He retired in 1993. He continued to serve on the station's Board of Directors until 1999. In 1993 Dick was named "Broadcaster of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters, and in 2005 he was inducted into that organization's Hall of Fame. In retirement he was employed part-time at the Greater Reading Visitors Bureau and, more recently, by the Goggleworks.

Dick's community activities included

President of the Mohnton Lions Club, President of the Reading Rotary Club, President of the Flying Dutchman Ski Club, and President of the Penn State Club of Berks County. Schilpp had served on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Berks County, Community General Hospital and the Berks Literacy Coalition. He was a former trustee of the Reading YMCA and Director Emeritus of the Reading AAA. Dick had served on the vestry of Christ Episcopal Church, Reading, where he was a longtime member of the choir.

In 1977 he was the first recipient of the Berks Campus of Penn State's Loyal Penn Stater Award. Dick and his family regularly attended Penn State football games for decades. He was a certified scuba diver, an avid skier, and enthusiastic photographer, and appreciated all types of music. He enjoyed being able to attend many of his three grandsons' varied sporting events.

Dick's dying wish was to support the education of his grandsons. Contributions may be made payable to Doris B. Schilpp and mailed in care of Kuhn Funeral Home 739 Penn Ave. West Reading, PA 19611.

A Celebration of Life for Dick will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 22, 2022, at Christ Episcopal Church, 435 Court Street, Reading PA 19601. Edward J. Kuhn Funeral Home, Inc, is entrusted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed at kuhnfuneralhomes.com.

—Wayne E. Hocking (1962) (12-31-2021)