

## CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Grand Master  
**Pete Kizma**

Grand Procurator  
**Jake Green**

Grand Master of Ceremonies  
**Matt Pettoruto**

Grand Scribe  
**Matt Biedronski**

Grand Treasurer  
**David Bromberg**

## HOMECOMING



**September 28 through  
October 5, 2019**

**Homecoming Week at Penn State** will be September 28 through October 5, 2019, the Penn State Homecoming Executive Committee recently announced.

The annual Homecoming Parade will be held on Friday, Oct. 4 starting on the Penn State campus and continuing through downtown State College. Homecoming week activities will be crowned by a home football game with Purdue on Saturday, Oct. 5.



# Alpha-Delta News

A PUBLICATION OF KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY  
AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

[www.kappasigsu.com](http://www.kappasigsu.com)

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### Brother Col. James A. Ball (ret) '65 Discusses His Life and his Love For Kappa Sig

Brother Colonel James A. Ball, US Air Force (ret) is a member of the Penn State Kappa Sigma class of 1965 when he earned his BS in Aerospace Engineering and then an MS in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology. Col. Ball's post-college military career encompassed flight test engineering, special operations, acquisition management, testing and logistics. He served as an aircraft maintenance officer of several operational Air Force units including an Air Commando/Special Operations Squadron in Vietnam and a flight test wing.

His second career, from 1989 through 2012, was a private consultant in technology management and commercialization specializing in aerospace energy, environmental, emergency management, public safety and counter terrorism technology applications. Col. Ball and his wife Linda live in Toano, VA (Williamsburg), and together have 3 daughters and a son, all married with six Granddaughters and one Grandson. We recently got in touch with Col. Ball to ask him some questions about his time with Kappa Sigma at Penn State and why he still supports the Chapter;

**Why have you supported Kappa Sigma in the past?** Kappa Sigma helped me to grow into a much more social person than I would have been - I think others need the experience too, so I am happy to support.

**What would you like to see more of from**



**the Chapter for Alumni?** I think the newsletters are good. Keep 'em coming!

**How has Kappa Sigma made you the man you are today?** The fraternity broadened my perspective on a lot of things socially. I have many friends in our community

today and I attribute that to my outgoing personality which was developed during my fraternity experience.

Col. Ball also had this to say about his time with Kappa Sig, his personal philosophies and what brings him the most joy in life:

"I really didn't choose Kappa Sig – actually, it chose me and the Brothers were almost immediately good friends (despite Hell Week). My advice for future generations of Kappa Sigs is to maintain your integrity, serve your country, honor your family and be the best you can be. My life's mission has been to serve my country, thank God for my family and all His blessings and enjoy music and nature. I have received 31 military awards and decorations during my 24 years of Air Force duty and over 28 years of voluntary Coast Guard Auxiliary service (including the Secretary of Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal) and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from President Obama in 2016 for community service. But one of the things I am most proud of is that my oldest granddaughter is graduating Penn State. Just yesterday I was looking at all the party photos in the old House. What memories!

## THON 2019

### Kappa Sigma and Sigma Delta Tau Sorority raise \$169,125!

THON 2019 was a great success this year. It is always amazing to see our school come together and it is always an unforgettable weekend with the ladies of Sigma Delta Tau. Together we were able to raise a total of \$169,125.60 which was the **third highest total** of all the Greek

organizations. Our dancers were standing for 46 hours for the kids. We thank all of you for your constant devotion, hard work and passion for such a great cause each year. One day we will dance in celebration but until then we dance for the cure.



# THON 2019



## CHAPTER ETERNAL

### Robert Burkhart '81



Brother **Ed Gorkes '79** reports that Brother **Robert Burkhart '81** died on October 4, 2018. Bob had been struggling with endocarditis, an infection of the heart chambers.

Bob's younger brother John shared this testimonial online:

"Thursday October 4th, I received a call from one of my brother's friend, Justin Mounts and he informed me that Bob was in the hospital and that 2 other friends of Bob would

be calling me later that evening after they arrived at the hospital to see him.

I called Bill and Sharron as they had just arrived at the hospital and confirmed that they would call after their visit. Approximately 30 minutes later, they called to inform me the Bob had died at 8:30 Las Vegas Time, 11:30 Eastern Time.

All night I just could not stop thinking about so many things related to my brother and remembered that the last time I actually saw him was when he visited me last year.

It was Hockey season, and we went to All Patti's to watch a Penguins

game... Bob was 9 years younger than I and he definitely was a very wonderful individual!"

You can read more from John at <https://shutupjohn.blog/2018/10/07/in-memory-of-my-brother-bob/>

### Brother Robert Vrablik



A tragic accident has taken the life of one of our young Kappa Sigma brothers. **Robert Vrablik**, a 22-year old volunteer firefighter from Floram Park, New Jersey, was skiing with his sister, when he fell and suffered a cardiac contusion. He died shortly thereafter at the hospital. Brother Rob graduated from PSU with a degree in criminology and was planning a career in law

enforcement. Those closest to him remember him as someone who "embodied endless goodness and the capacity to bring happiness to others. He was a kind, charismatic, exuberant and amazing young man." Rob's brothers at Kappa Sigma also noted his passing, "Rob was the most selfless person and became a friend to everyone he met," the post says. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Vrablik family. Rest easy Rob, we love you and you will be missed dearly. AEKDB."



## CHAPTER UPDATE

### Spring Rush, Grades and Philanthropy

We are very proud of the current Chapter and excited for our new Spring Pledge Class. So far, as totals go for the Chapter, we have a 3.21 GPA which is well-above the All Men's Average at Penn State and 5<sup>th</sup> highest among all IFC chapters. There are 108 actives and we got 31 pledges during this academic year. We have 89% level 1 proficiency and 33% level 2.

We also have 51 greater cause hours per Brother, \$1,600 greater cause dollars per Brother and a Jackson week of giving of \$3,270. Our THON total with our THON partner SDT was just under \$170,000. This along with \$520 so far in Military Heroes Campaign donations.

"As Rush Chairs we looked to recruit quality over quantity this semester and believe we had a successful rush because all of the recruited men will be fantastic Brothers who will contribute to the Brotherhood," said Rush Chair Graham Van Benthuisen. Congratulations to our current and incoming Brothers!



*Parents Weekend was well-attended*



*Things got nippy for a while*



*Sturdy young men on a (fortunately) sturdy dock*

## HONOR ROLL

### Thank You!

Congratulations to the following brothers who have already shown their support for Alpha Delta this year!  
Please join them in supporting Kappa Sigma by making your contribution today!

#### **President's Club**

(\$1,001-\$2,500)  
Thomas Hilbert . . . . . 1963  
R. Brad Lawrence . . . . . 1969

#### **Star & Crescent Club**

(\$251-\$500)  
H. Wesley Link . . . . . 1955  
Kenneth Hinkle . . . . . 1968  
John Kennon . . . . . 1968  
Thomas McNulty . . . . . 1968  
Louis Koehler . . . . . 1969  
Michael High . . . . . 1970  
George Strachan . . . . . 1970  
Kim Chapman . . . . . 1977  
Mark Rippey . . . . . 1981  
Gary Thompson . . . . . 1985  
David Albrecht . . . . . 1991  
Matthew Bennett . . . . . 1994

#### **Crest Club (\$101 - \$250)**

William Davis . . . . . 1965  
Vincent Di Loreto . . . . . 1965  
David Ludwig . . . . . 1965  
Harold Schrader . . . . . 1965  
Thomas Stuart . . . . . 1967  
Gary Agostini . . . . . 1968  
Willard Martin . . . . . 1968  
Kenneth Ewing . . . . . 1969  
Raymond Royko . . . . . 1969  
Richard Kelly . . . . . 1970  
Charles Mazza . . . . . 1970  
Ted Perry . . . . . 1970  
Gary Wert . . . . . 1970  
V. Paul O'Brien . . . . . 1971  
Robert Hampton . . . . . 1973  
Ronald Derzak . . . . . 1974  
David Dick . . . . . 1974  
James Leax . . . . . 1974

Geoffrey Wright . . . . . 1974  
Richard Fisher . . . . . 1975  
Rich Skowronski . . . . . 1976  
Paul Fox . . . . . 1983  
Christopher Bostaph . . . . . 1989  
John Murphy . . . . . 1989  
Shawn Huber . . . . . 1996

#### **Blue & White Club**

(\$51-\$100)  
Theodore Lesko . . . . . 1940  
George Bortle . . . . . 1954  
R. Madden . . . . . 1963  
John Rogers . . . . . 1963  
F Baesman . . . . . 1964  
John Rosnick . . . . . 1970  
Richard Chamberlain . . . . . 1971  
Robert Hannegan . . . . . 1972  
Carl Crouse . . . . . 1973

William Murdoch . . . . . 1973  
Michael Demoise . . . . . 1974  
Ralph Tolino . . . . . 1975  
Thomas Nyquist . . . . . 1977  
Leland Thaete . . . . . 1979  
Linda McCann . . . . . 1984  
Jeffrey Reymos . . . . . 1991  
Jason Striker . . . . . 1996  
Eric Easton . . . . . 1998  
Matthew Wurst . . . . . 2006

#### **Supporting Club (\$1-\$50)**

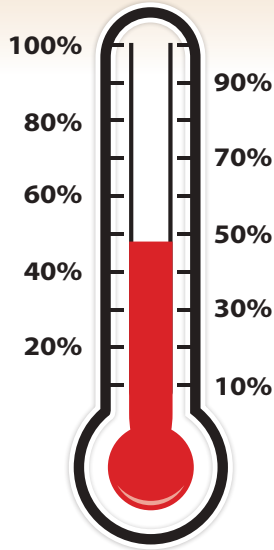
Harry Koch . . . . . 1962  
Christopher Longwill . . . . . 1973  
Robert Berk . . . . . 1976  
Thomas Schaffner . . . . . 1985  
Curtis Mitchell . . . . . 1988  
David Falchek . . . . . 1991

# ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

## A Call to Action

Help Us Make the 2018-19 Giving Year Strong

**GOAL: \$20,000**



*"Because those before me gave and allowed me to benefit from the Kappa Sigma experience – Give Forward."*

Our 2018/2019 giving year, which began on September 1, is half over with \$11,588 collected from 65 brothers. We want to thank those 65 brothers (you can find them under the Honor Roll tab at our website) who have already made a contribution to Alpha-Delta so far this giving year!

Our 2018-19 giving year goal was for \$20,000.00. Last year only 90 out of 1,027 alumni chose to make a voluntary gift. We still have the potential to meet our goal—but we need your *immediate* help. **Who will be next to join our 2018-2019 Honor Roll?**

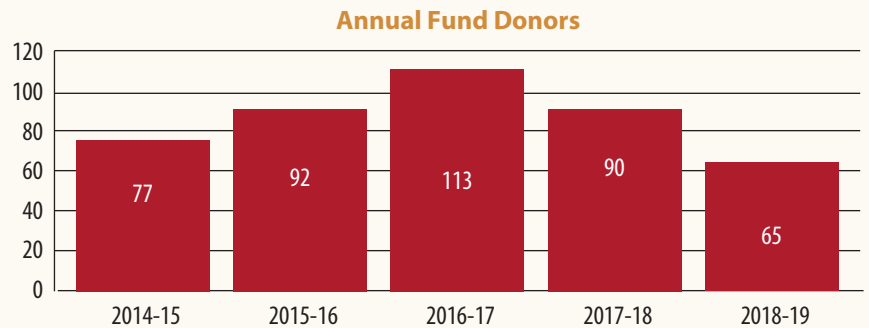
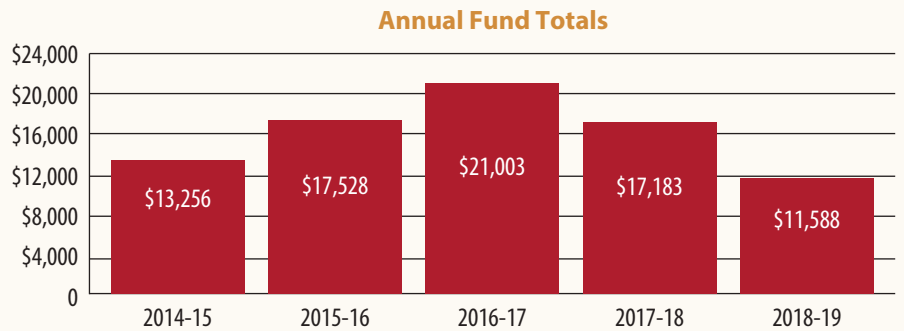
### Giving Online is Easy!

You can donate online by simply going to our website, [kappasigsu.com](http://kappasigsu.com) and selecting the **Donate** button at the top of the page. Donations can also be made through our toll-free Donation Hotline at **1-800-975-6699**, or by sending a check made payable to **Kappa Sigma—Alpha-Delta Chapter** to:

Kappa Sigma  
Penn State University  
Alumni Relations Processing Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Our college days came and went, but the real Morrill experience never ends. If you cherish those lasting friendships, if you appreciate the values that shaped your life, make your annual gift **Today!**

*"My becoming a Kappa Sig was a major positive experience in my life. That's why I give."*



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Why Did You Choose Kappa Sig?



#### Brother Bill Murdoch '73

I chose Kappa Sig over the others because the Brothers were all so funny. My rush time went fast as they were laughing at and with each other. It was a relaxed, "be yourself" atmosphere that I liked. Life is short. Faith, Family and Friends. My Kappa Sig Brothers helped shape me (good and bad maybe) and remain some of my dearest friends.



**To Get Current News,  
Share Memories,  
See the Honor Roll,  
AND TO DONATE!**

**Visit Our Website:  
[www.kappasigsu.com](http://www.kappasigsu.com)**