

OFFICERS

Chapter Officers

Grand Master
Chris Linnell

Grand Procurator
Levi Basom

Grand Master of Ceremonies
Tim Spencer

Grand Scribe
Ed Kruger

Grand Treasurer
Matt Schwenk

Accreditation/Risk Manager
Matt Mager

Alumni Relations
Shravan Asthana
Alexei Hooks

Apparel
Edis Lukolic

Awards/Brotherhood Development
Brett Blazejewski

Community Service
Keith Deveney
Joe Ruch

Fundraising
Keith Deveney

GAME
Sam Langman

To see the full list of current Chapter Officers, visit the Officers tab at kappasigpsu.com.

**Alumni Officers/
Housing Corporation**

President / Secretary
Edward D. Gorkes (1979)

Vice President
Michael G. Hooks (1993)

Board of Directors
Vincent A. Gaeta (1986)
Mark H. Breedlove (1978)
James Merinar (1987)
Steve Uzupis (1977)
John Murphy (1989)
Connor Kincheloe (2014)
Michael R Vough (2011)



Alpha-Delta News

A PUBLICATION OF KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY
AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

www.kappasigpsu.com

BROTHERS FOR LIFE

“Never Pitt”: How Ten High School Friends Made Kappa Sigma PSU Home

Ten teens became friends at their Pittsburgh high school, and thanks to Kappa Sigma, they are still tight nearly 60 years later.



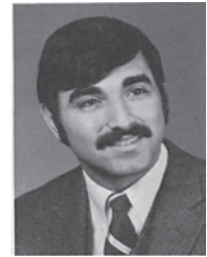
Rich Mascaro '67



Ed Seppi '67



Bill Driscoll '68



Ray Royko '69



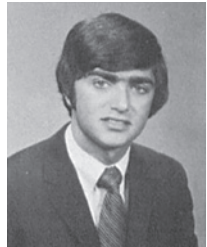
Rick Kelly '70



John McEnery '70



Tony Buzzelli '71



Tony Gasbarro '71

Rich Mascaro '67 took a mental snapshot of his first view of Penn State. He and high school buddy **Ed Seppi '67** drove from Pittsburgh to see Ed's older brother Albert, who was studying on campus. They drove on Route 22, then Route 45, making their way on a narrow two-lane road with no guide rails keeping them from the cliff that dropped off beside their car. They drove under the railroad tracks and then 20 minutes later Penn State appeared in front of them.

The campus was everything he'd imagined—easy to navigate on foot, big red brick buildings, lots to do.

“This is my place,” he remembers saying. “I never applied anywhere else.”

He and Ed were in their final years at Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School. It was two blocks from the University of Pittsburgh and the Cathedral of Learning's silhouette loomed



Frank Giglio '71

Photo of John O'Brien '70 unavailable.

over their high school's outdoor patio. They'd both already decided that they never, ever wanted to go to school at Pitt, and now it was clear where they did want to go.

Both applied to Penn State and started their freshman year in 1963, rooming together in the Walnut House of Thompson Hall. “It was everything I thought it would be,” Rich says.

Little did he know that it was about to get even better.

He and Ed both rushed in winter of 1963, and after much searching, decided on the Alpha-Delta Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Penn State. They pledged in the spring, and by the fall of their sophomore year, they were living in the house.

For Rich, an only child, the brothers in the

—Continued on page 2

BROTHERS FOR LIFE

—Continued from page 1

house became an instant, close-knit family, giving him siblings he never had. He and Ed soon made quick friends with **Ron Abbruzzese '70**, **Tony Tarantino '67**, **Andy Palermo '68**, **John Edgar Pearson '68**, **Roger Judge '67**, **Dave Garrick '67**, **Tom Kuhn '68**, **Bob Strunk '68**, **Jim Clark '67** and **Pete Sutton '67**.

He loved his experience as a Kappa Sigma brother and wanted to make sure his high school pals got to have the same experience. **Ray Royko '69** was one of those friends. Rich drove from State College to Pittsburgh for Ray's high school graduation, put Ray in his car the next day, and got back to campus before classes started. "I knew once he saw the house, he'd want to be here," Rich remembers. Ray got sidetracked for a while, Rich says. But he eventually "found the right path" and joined the house.

As their high school friends started coming to Penn State, Rich and Ed made sure to tell them about Kappa Sigma. "You have to come over and rush the house," they would tell them. "Come meet the guys."

The following year **Bill Driscoll '68** pledged Kappa Sigma. **John McEnery '70**, **Rick Kelly '70** and **John O'Brien '70** joined in 1966. A third wave arrived in 1967 that brought in **Tony Buzzelli '71**, **Tony Gasbarro '71** and **Frank Giglio '71**.

They shared life together at Penn State and stayed close when they went back to Pittsburgh for breaks. For the ten of them, it was a



continuation of the good time they'd had in high school. And as they lived together in the house, their brotherhood was cemented for life.

After graduation, life scattered the Pittsburgh friends, but their bonds have kept them close. Today they live all across the United States, from Phoenix to Washington, D.C. Their careers have diverged: **Tony Buzzelli '71** became vice chairman of Deloitte & Touche; **Rick Kelly '70** became a 3-star general in the Marine Corps; **Rich Mascaro '67** spent his career in Human Resources; **Ray Royko '69** became General Counsel for AstroTech; **John McEnery '70** became a private lawyer before moving into the finance world; **Tony Gasbarro '71** worked as an engineer running major production facilities; **Ed Seppi '67** worked in the pharmaceutical industry before joining the family business Seppi Landscaping and Construction; **Bill Driscoll '68** had a long career in Hotel Management running hotels around the country and **Frank Giglio '71** worked in engineering for Goodrich Corporation (we were unable to connect with **John O'Brien '70** about his career path after Penn State). Even though their lives took them far away from each other, their friendship started in the shadow of Pitt and cemented at Penn State is still going strong. Today they get together for golf outings and reunions, making new memories to join the host of memories they share.

"Brothers in heart through life" describes us perfectly," Rich says.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: BOB DOVICHAK '69'

"Poker Bob" Reflects on Memories, Regrets and Helping Hands

When **Bob Dovichak '69** was a student and had to get his wisdom teeth out, for some reason, he decided to get it done in State College rather than in his hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania. He had surgery the day after classes ended and most everyone had returned home for the break. Of course, after surgery, he couldn't drive five hours home, so he went back to the house to rest and recuperate before making the trek home the next day. A couple of brothers were in the house when he returned. Understanding that he wouldn't be able to leave until the following day, they stuck around the house to make sure Bob recovered well enough to drive home in the morning. They postponed their own breaks in order to help a brother.

"One of the greatest times of my life," Dovichak says. "Everyone, without exception, got along and helped each other."

Bob highlights the helpfulness of his brothers in several memories. Well before he got his wisdom teeth out, when he first came to campus, he found camaraderie with the brothers of Kappa Sigma who helped him find his bearings on campus, and eventually became treasured friends.

Those friendships led to ten-hour poker



nights with **Mike Griffith '69** ("Griffy") and **James Clark '67** ("Clarkey") along with a couple of other regulars. Those nights hold a lot of memories for Dovichak. Three nights a week they gathered at Futura Bar where he was a bartender. It's where he earned the nickname "Poker Bob."

Dovichak wasn't just a bartender in school. He was a hard worker. He paid his way through Penn State by working three jobs over the summers and on breaks. While he arrived at Penn State self-sufficient and self-assured, it was the fraternity that gave him personal relationships and lasting memories.

His work ethic also helped him excel in his school work. As a communications major, he developed a mentorship relationship with Art Hungerford, the head of the communications

department at Penn State, who was also one of his professors. Hungerford set him up with some interviews after graduation and helped him get a job with Forward Communications where he worked for 13 years.

After graduation, Dovichak only returned once—in the early '70s—to the Penn State campus. He spent the last 35 years in Wilmington, N.C. just eight miles from the beach. While it was a small town when he arrived, it has changed immensely—much like he imagines Penn State has.

We were saddened to hear that Dovichak was diagnosed with stage four cancer. He regrets not being able to make it back for more events or stay in touch with his brothers, and he would love to hear from some of the guys who were also there 1965-1969. He keeps up with the newsletters and enjoys reading about the current state of fraternity.

We'd like to encourage anyone with words of encouragement or support for Bob to reach out to him. We offer our deepest sympathies to Bob and his family as they navigate this challenging season.

If you want to reach out to Bob, you can email him at rdovichak@yahoo.com.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Share Your Alumni Update Today!

Thanks to these brothers for responding to our recent alumni email survey! If you'd like to submit an update of your own for publication in an upcoming eLetter or a future edition of *Alpha-Delta News*, head over to our alumni website at kappasigpsu.com and visit the "Submit an Update" page, or email it to alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

Earle Ryba '56

Favorite PSU Activity: "Studying, teaching, and doing research in crystallography—still active in this."

Life Update: "Not new, but... we're watching our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow; I'm still teaching at the university; I've been training in Tang Soo Do for the last twenty years, and am now working on my 3rd-degree black belt; I've been managing our 480-acre forest, and we designed and built our own home here from 1999-2004; I'm dog training; and I'm in the midst of restoring a 1962 Jaguar Saloon."

Frederick Baesman '64

Favorite PSU Activity: "Friday night parties in our fraternity house."

Life Update: "I retired from Boeing in 2000. Now I'm active in the Lopez Island Lions Club."



Warren Hartenstine '67

Favorite PSU Activity: I was a member of the football team, IFC President and Lions Paw. I'm an active member of the Penn State Football Letterman's Club and with Coach Paterno's first team.

Anthony Gasbarro '71

Favorite PSU Activity: "Anything at the house."

William Vitori '73

Favorite PSU Activity: "Have to say that my favorite event during my college years was when the brothers did some Christmas caroling outside JoePa's house with him inviting us in for the caroling to continue. Of course, we tossed in a few PSU fight songs in with the Christmas carols. A close second was the two

"Jammies" where the "Leroy Taylor Explosion" played at the house. An outstanding time!! "Take off your shirt."

Life Update: "Now that we have purchased a home in Bellefonte, we have become a part of the Timmy B's Friday afternoon 'Cocktail Hour' group."

Michael Fiffik '89

Life Update: "I've got three beautiful daughters. The oldest graduated from the University of Missouri Journalism School and is living/working in Chicago, my middle daughter is a sophomore marketing major at Duquesne University, and my youngest (13) is still at home and playing fastpitch softball like crazy. I bought my law partners out at the end of 2019 and renamed my firm of 40 attorneys and staff as the Fiffik Law Group, P.C. located in Greentree (just outside of downtown Pittsburgh)."

Lawrence Faison '11

Favorite PSU Activity: "Tailgating was my favorite. It was always a great time at a Kappa Sig tailgate."

Life Update: "I work at EY and I was recently married."

WHY ALPHA-DELTA?

Brothers Share How Being Kappa Sigma PSU Men Changed Their Lives

"The most valuable part of my Kappa Sig experience was just having close brothers."

— Earle Ryba '56

"Kappa Sig was valuable to me because I'm still in contact in contact with several members of my pledge class."

— Frederick Baesman '64

"As an alum, I continue to have strong friendships with brothers then, and with many initiates over the following +/-5 years."

— Warren Hartenstine '67

"Alpha-Delta helped me learn to get along with people of different backgrounds."

— Anthony Gasbarro '71

"As corny as it may sound, it was the brotherhood at the house that set it apart from

all of the other houses. While rushing, you could tell that the brothers were 'genuine.' They were always razzing on each other, always in a friendly, brotherly manner. They didn't try to impress the rushees with phony attitudes and phony personalities like a lot of the other fraternities. When I think back to my rushing and pledging days, I can remember some of the great senior brothers that made Kappa Sig so special. There was Timmy, Ike, Buzzy, Hooch, Jim Chuck, Java, Calvin, Spuds, Bone (who can forget the group 'Watchtower'), Yonko, Bobbo, Spanky, Smooth, Derf, Gus, Pork, and so many more that I am probably forgetting. These brothers were the reason that I accepted my bid from Kappa Sig. I can honestly say that the years spent with these brothers, my pledge brothers (Turtle, Pie, Gunner, Wheel, Hampy, Carl, etc.), and the Carretta brothers (Hoot and Larry) were some of the best times

in my life. The most valuable part of my Kappa Sigma experience is that these brothers helped to influence my years as a high school teacher and definitely helped me to successfully deal with the variety of teenagers that I encountered during my teaching career."

— William Vitori '73

"Kappa Sig at Penn State helped me make great friends; we had lots of really fun experiences together. Being part of a self-sustaining organization that had its roles and responsibilities was also valuable. It was a good introduction to being part of something larger than myself."

— Michael Fiffik '89

"Alpha-Delta made my time at PSU enjoyable and I met great people."

— Lawrence Faison '11

State of the Chapter

To say this semester has been an entirely new frontier for the actives would be an understatement. With almost every brother adapting to remote learning through Zoom, it has been a tough endeavor for all. However, this has not affected our commitment and resilience, as we brothers bring a positive mindset and set our sights on strengthening our already tight-knit group. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we continue to take steps forward, developing our life-long friendships along the way.



challenges of COVID-19.

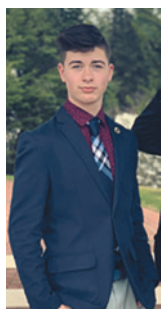
Ed Kruger
Grand Scribe

emphasized our focus on brotherhood this semester. While gatherings have been virtually eliminated, all of us, both in and out of the house, have recognized the importance of coming together as a brotherhood. Our events today, such as hosting barbeques, watching sporting events together, and other bonding events are working to bridge the gap between pledge classes and has been an extremely positive silver lining amidst the

Our new executive board as well as our social chairs have

New Initiates

Another positive amidst the pandemic has been the initiation of our Spring '20 pledge class. This class has been one of our most diverse yet, with guys from Maryland, Virginia, Texas, New York, New Jersey, and of course Pennsylvania. These brothers have all brought something new and unique to the existing brotherhood and have assimilated really well into our ranks. Their ambition to one day run the fraternity has provided a welcome breath of fresh air.



“The Spring pledge class came together as a unit better than we ever expected, especially after we were sent home during our pledging last semester. We kept in touch throughout the summer and the anticipation of seeing my pledge brothers

this fall was a special experience I hadn't been exposed to in my college career thus far.” —**Alexei Hooks**

Kappa Sigma wishes to congratulate and welcome the following new initiates into the brotherhood:

Aiden Berry, Garnet Valley, PA, Sophomore, Undecided
 Alexei Hooks, Pittsburgh, PA, Sophomore, Cybersecurity Operations and Analytics
 Brett Biletsky, Queens, NY, Sophomore, Finance
 Brian Maszczak, South Plainfield, NJ, Sophomore, Chemical Engineering
 Chris Price, Pittsburgh, PA, Sophomore, Biobehavioral Health
 Donovan Wood, Austin, TX, Sophomore, Industrial Engineering
 Eli Biniasz, Chester County, PA, Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering
 Gabriel Pena, Cali, Columbia, Sophomore, Industrial Engineering
 Hugh Dickinson, Great Falls, VA, Sophomore, Undecided
 James Kyriakodis, Hatboro, PA, Sophomore, Finance
 Jon McLaughlin, Mountainside, NJ,

Sophomore, Risk Management
 Liam Kent, Cincinnati, OH, Sophomore, Data Science
 Luke Oppenheim, Long Island, NY, Sophomore, Supply Chain Management
 Matt Ely, Long Island, NY, Sophomore, Marketing
 Matt Mager, Bucks County, PA, Sophomore, Political Science and Philosophy
 Michael Lahey, Red Bank, NJ, Junior, Cybersecurity Operations and Analytics
 Mitchell Fisher, South Brunswick, NJ, Sophomore, Risk Management
 Nick Fierro, Marlboro, NJ, Sophomore, Computer Science
 Nick Rigole, Long Island, NY, Junior, Economics
 Ryan Ierubino, Houston, TX, Sophomore, Supply Chain Management
 Sam Johnson, Columbia, MD, Sophomore, Supply Chain Management
 Shane Gregan, Waldorf, MD, Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering

THON Update

On Sunday, October 18th, THON launched the Dream Forward Campaign. This initiative is a 13-day awareness campaign with a goal of connecting the THON community to our mission and raising \$500,000 in the fight against childhood cancer. Within the next few weeks, activities will be rolling out, including virtual fundraisers and engaging the student body in social media awareness for THON.

We are continuing to put our best effort into fundraising and THON participation in light of the current circumstances which limit us but also encourage us to think outside the box. Please consider contributing to our THON efforts to help us reach our goal at bit.ly/AlphaDeltaFTK. As always, FTK!

Jon McLaughlin
THON Finance and Fundraising Chair



Alpha-Delta Mentorship Program

Bridging the age gap and building a lasting brotherhood

The Mentorship Program officially launched in May 2020, with 13 mentor-active relationships. Professional development focuses range from accounting, supply chain, and law to environmental and computer science. These foundations are in place to improve alumni-active communications, accelerate actives' career paths and trajectories, develop lasting big brother/little brother relationships, and expand the Alpha-Delta network.

Becoming a mentor for an active brother in your field is an amazing opportunity to give back to our chapter and fraternity. Developing this big brother/little brother relationship is not only rewarding for both parties; it's also the key to unlocking the potential of an engaged and robust brotherhood.

As a mentor, you lend your experiences—pitfalls, and successes—to an attentive active. The mentorship program is selective of both actives and alumni into the program to ensure the best matches and outcomes. The actives

demonstrate a keen interest in the program and are willing to learn from their brothers in their respective fields.

The selection process for the mentorship program features a brief online application. Once selected, mentors and mentees are matched holistically by a committee made up of both actives and alumni. Matches are highly tailored for both the mentor and active. Once matched, pairs cooperate to establish a working schedule and communication framework according to their availability to accomplish individual goals. Guidance by the alumni engagement committee will ensure goals are being met according to the established timelines.



*"I am a senior majoring in Management Information Systems and aspire to enter law school after graduation. By working with my mentor, Brother **Matthew Weisberg***

'97, I have gained personalized insight into the law school admission process. Through this program, I've been able to orient my strategy and improve my application. I look forward to continuing this relationship."

—Matthew Tantum

To learn more about this program, apply to be a mentor, or learn how to get more involved, contact our alumni relations chairmen (below) or visit bit.ly/AlphaDeltaMentor.

Shravan Asthana, Alumni Relations Chair | shravanasthana@gmail.com

Alexei Hooks, Alumni Relations Co-Chair | ahooks1872@gmail.com

Michael Hooks, Alumni Relations Committee | hoox8111@comcast.net

Shravan Asthana
Alumni Relations Chair

Kappa Sigma Wins 2020 Distinguished Chapter Community Service Award



On September 11, 2020, brothers **Nick Fierro, Shane Gegan, Ryan Irubino, and Jon McLaughlin** delivered donuts to the local State College fire department in observance of First Responders Day. Kappa Sigma PSU would like to thank all first responders who make daily sacrifices for the well-being of their communities.

Each year, the Penn State Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life recognizes a deserving chapter with the Distinguished Chapter Community Service Award, bestowed on organizations that strive to make a meaningful impact on the University, State College, and Centre County communities through service.

Kappa Sigma has excelled at transforming the area around the chapter house into a space for community and trust. Through community outreach, actives have

reassured their neighbors that if they ever need help, Kappa Sigma should be the first neighbor they call to lend a hand.

Furthermore, efforts such as Alpha-Delta's act of service on First Responders Day and fundraising for THON are at the forefront of each active brother's mind. These acts of altruism have sent a loud and clear message to those who need it most: you can always find a friend in a Kappa Sigma man.

Alpha-Delta Chapter Academics

Spring 2020 House GPA:
3.65 (4th Overall, All Fraternities)

96.55% of brothers achieved a 3.0 or higher



HAPPY VALLEY HAUNTS AND HANGOUTS

We Asked Kappa Sig Alums about Your Favorite Spots near PSU

Here's what you said...

"Home, because my wife and children were there. Also, the university. It's fun teaching and working with students, and doing research."

— Earle Ryba '56

"The Cave... cheap beer and a friendly pinball machine."

— Frederick Baesman '64

"The house, the Futura across Beaver Avenue, and the Skeller."

— Warren Hartenstine '67



The Rathskeller today.



The Creamery in the '60s.

"The house."

— Anthony Gasbarro '71

"Besides the Kappa Sig party room (where there was always a Friday game of 'tails'), there were always good times at The Gaff. Great music and a great crowd! Continued going there as an alumnus when in town for a PSU football game."

— William Vitori '73

"The Shandy Gaff. The music was great, there were lots of girls and dancing, and the beer was cheap. I have many vague memories..."

— Michael Fiffik '89

"I lived at The Creamery; it had the best ice cream."

— Lawrence Faison '11



WE ARE... REMEMBERING PSU TRADITIONS

Three Traditions That Make Coming Back to Happy Valley Feel Like Coming Home

In 2020, the only certainty seems to be uncertainty. This fall, many of our favorite campus activities have been postponed, moved online, or even canceled altogether. While we're missing out on many of the things we love about the Penn State experience this year, we're striving to look back on better days, as well as hope for better days yet to come. We're taking time to remember our favorite traditions while reassuring ourselves that someday they will return, for us and future generations of Nittany Lions to enjoy.

We invite you to join us in remembering better days by sharing with us your favorite Penn State traditions! Did we miss your favorites? Email us at alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

Here are three traditions that make coming back to campus feel like coming home.



White Out

The first White Out game didn't take place until 2004—against Purdue, if you can believe it—but it was solidified as a hallowed tradition after the 2005 game against Ohio State. After two disappointing seasons in '03 and '04, the Lions made a legendary comeback at 17-10, re-establishing themselves on the national stage. The fans were also looking to make a name for themselves, and they

did, when they rushed the field and created an atmosphere that Kirk Herbstreit called the best in the country.

THON

The Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, or THON, is the largest student-run philanthropy event in the world. The goal is to provide emotional and financial support, spread awareness, and ensure funding for critical research—all in pursuit of a cure for childhood cancer. For The Kids!



"We Are"

The popular version of the "We Are" origin story involves the Nittany Lions taking a stand against racism in the 1940s by refusing to travel to the Cotton Bowl without their two African-American players. While the story is true, the iconic cheer came into wider use when cheerleaders began using it in the late '70s. It was inspired by similar Ohio State and USC cheers. Either way, the chant is as loud and proud as any in the nation, and there's no better sound than hearing the crowd roar "WE ARE" at Beaver Stadium.