



the ALPHA-DELTA NEWS

A Publication of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University

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A Letter from Alumni President



Brothers of Alpha-Delta,

It's always great to see so many familiar faces as we near the end of the year, and to realize that somehow most of us still look like we could pass for undergrads... from a respectful distance... in low lighting.

As the holidays approach, it's a time to reflect on what really matters: family, friendship, and, of course, the brotherhood that somehow still finds a way to get us back to the same tailgates during football season.

When you think back on your Alpha-Delta days, a few things probably come to mind: late-night conversations that turned philosophical around 2:00 am, meals that may or may not have met FDA standards, and the unshakable belief that sleep was optional. But more than that, you remember the people: the brothers who had your back, who pushed you to do better, and who made every challenge a little easier and every victory a little sweeter.

That's the thing about Alpha-Delta. The bond doesn't fade when you graduate. Sure, the hairlines change, the responsibilities pile up, and some of us now get excited about buying a new snowblower, but the spirit stays the same. The laughter, the loyalty, and the love for this fraternity never go away.

We built something lasting here. A legacy that the next generation of Alpha-Delta men can carry forward with the same passion, the same energy, and thankfully, a little better taste in music.

Let's be proud of the friendships that time has only strengthened, the memories that still make us laugh, and the impact we've made, not just on campus, but in our lives beyond it.

Speaking of thinking back to our Alpha-Delta days, we hear from Rob Lesko, past chapter president on his days in the house. In the newsletter we have a letter from the current colony president, Sawyer Garcia. And finally, some kind words for Brother Curtis Mitchell, who recently passed away.

As we head into the holidays, take a moment to be grateful for the brothers who became family, for the lessons that shaped who we are, and for the fact that we somehow all survived our college years.

To the laughter, the legacy, and the lifelong bond that keeps us together.

Happy holidays, brothers — AEKDB

Matthew B. Weisberg

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Join Your Fellow Brothers on the Honor Roll

We are now underway into our 2025–2026 giving year! Have you made your contribution?

Each year, we recognize our brothers for their generous donations to Alpha-Delta Chapter in our honor roll, you can find it enclosed. We would like to thank those brothers who have contributed so far. Have you earned your place on the honor roll? Make your donation to the annual fund today to see your name added to the list!

Check the enclosed giving form for all the ways you can donate today!

A Letter from the Alpha-Delta Chapter President



Fellow Alpha-Delta Alumni and Friends,

It is an honor to write to you as president of Alpha-Delta. This semester marks our second back on campus since re-establishing our colony, and what a semester it has been. Last spring we stood up as a colony, and since then our undergraduate brothers have worked tirelessly to rebuild a values-driven presence at Penn State. We recruited an extraordinary group of new members last semester and currently have an active pledge class approaching 100, a testament to the dedication of our chapter.

This fall we have already begun giving back through philanthropy and community engagement. With fall rush already underway, our focus continues to be building strong accountable leadership and training for our brothers, fostering meaningful partnerships with the Penn State community and Kappa Sigma National, and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and educational experience for every member.

To our alumni: your experience, mentorship, and support are vital. Whether you can offer time to mentor a young officer, share career or life advice at an alumni panel, or assist with introductions in the State College community, your involvement will accelerate our path from colony to fully

chartered chapter. We will also be sharing opportunities to support our operating and philanthropic goals. Every contribution helps create leadership experiences for our men.

Looking ahead, our immediate priorities include completing national rechartering requirements, continuing responsible recruitment and new member education, expanding philanthropic partnerships, and strengthening our academic support systems. We are committed to building Alpha-Delta in a way that honors those who came before us and creates a legacy for those who will follow.

Thank you for your ongoing support and belief in Alpha-Delta. We are eager to reconnect with our alumni, and welcome any who would like to visit or get involved to please reach out to our Scribe at sjr6538@psu.edu or to me directly at ssg5499@psu.edu to connect or share ideas.

Fraternally,

Sawyer Garcia

President, Alpha-Delta Colony
Kappa Sigma - Pennsylvania State University

HELP US SHARE YOUR ALPHA-DELTA CHAPTER STORY

Brotherhood doesn't end at graduation, and neither should your story. We're working on building meaningful alumni profiles to highlight the incredible paths our brothers have taken after college, and we'd love to feature you.



Please take a few minutes to complete our quick online survey. Your insights will help us strengthen and share alumni connections, celebrate your achievements, and preserve the legacy of Kappa Sigma for generations to come. Scan the QR code below to take the survey

Alumni Profile: Rob Lesko '04

Thank you to Brother Rob Lesko '04 for taking the time to complete this alumni profile! Your fellow Alpha-Delta brothers will be very interested in your story!

If you're interested in being featured in an alumni profile, we'd love to hear from you. Go to kappasigpsu.com/alumni/share-alumni-news to let us know!



Rob Lesko '04 and Rob Drelich '04 in their sophomore year at the fraternity house.



Rob Lesko '04 with his wife Sarah.

What impacted your decision to pledge to Kappa Sigma?

I knew a few brothers (specifically Nate Wurst and Dan Gruscavage) at Kappa Sig when I came to PSU in the fall of 2000. I visited the house the first weekend of my freshman year and had a great time. I knew right away that I would be pledging.

Tell us about the house when you were at Penn State?

255 Highland was not the prettiest house at Penn State, but it was a great place to live. Alpha-Delta had a good mix of brothers with lots of different interests. On any given night you could watch *The Sopranos* in one brother's room, play PS2 in another, or play a game of pong down in the party room. The house felt like a hotel where all your friends were staying for a couple of years.

What sets Kappa Sigma apart on campus?

Like I said, Kappa Sig had a solid setup. As an undergrad, I was lucky enough to hang out with different groups of brothers and have a lot of great times. On top of that, Kappa Sigma had the best deck in State College, perfect for people-watching. We also had Mary Ellen, whom I had many great conversations with almost every morning and afternoon, while having a quick meal.

Lastly, I was impressed with the alumni involvement. They brought a lot of energy and antics during football weekends. I never felt more responsible, as an 18-yr old college student, than when Tatum came back from the bars on a Saturday night while in for a football weekend. And of course, meeting the legend Wes Link, at my first tailgate. Even as a pledge, he was happy to see me and talk PSU football and Kappa Sig.

What was one of your best memories?

I don't think I can name just one thing. Football weekends, luaus, road trips, and late-night parties were always fun, but I think my best memories were just spending time at the house on a random night. There was always something to do and someone was always up to hang out, watch some TV, and make a stop to the kitchen for some late-night food.

Below are some random memories that hopefully some of you will remember:

Picking up Phil from getting his wisdom teeth out on April 20, the Peck & Coffey incident, "stairwelling" stuff, bobcat from grillers, hanging out on the roof, mowing the second deck, ordering takeout on Sunday in Eric Zottola's room, Bob McClune's very detailed drawings on the kitchen whiteboard, watching the big screen with everyone during lunch or after dinner, experiencing the sights and sounds of the late night Acme pizza line from Frank Zottola's room, to name just a few.

What impact did Kappa Sigma have on your life after graduation? How did it prepare you for life?

You learn to live with and deal with a lot of different personalities. Additionally, I was on the EC for a few semesters, and it helped me understand how to run a household/business and, maybe more importantly, what doesn't work and how to learn from mistakes.

Why is giving back to Kappa Sigma so crucial?

I give to Alpha-Delta in hopes it will allow others to have a good college experience like I did. Although I don't get back for football games nearly enough since I had kids, I hope when I do, that I have an opportunity to meet up with other alums.

Finish this sentence: Without Kappa Sigma, I wouldn't _____.

Have enjoyed my time at PSU nearly as much. I was lucky to have a great college experience and Kappa Sigma was integral to that.

Since graduation I have _____.

I was one of many Alpha-Deltas that graduated with a business logistics degree (BLOG) and since graduating in 2004, I have put it to good use in multiple supply chain roles across several industries in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and New York. I lived in NYC for about 10 years where I married my wife, Sarah. About 4 years ago we moved back to Pennsylvania where our two girls (Avery-age 7 and Cassidy-age 4) keep us very busy.

In memory of **Curtis Edward Mitchell '87**

A BIG DOG AMONG BROTHERS

If you were lucky enough to pledge Kappa Sigma in the spring of 1987, you knew Curtis Edward Mitchell. And if you didn't know him, you probably heard him blurt out "Big Dog... walking down the street!" for no apparent reason, stopping conversations cold and leaving everyone in stitches. It was classic Curt: spontaneous, hilarious, and always the spark in the room.

Curt passed away August 9, 2025, and while the news hit hard, it also stirred up a flood of memories from a time when life was simpler, louder, and full of promise. He was more than a pledge brother. He was the kind of guy who made the grind bearable and the good times unforgettable.

We pledged together in the trenches of spring '87, our pledge crew quickly became inseparable. Our bond was forged in the fire of party room cleanups, house chores, Friday-night case-studies at the Skellar, and the occasional "what-were-we-thinking" road trip like our infamous bolt to West Virginia. There was a big hill. There was a flag. There was a Phi Sig party. The rest is classified.

Curt and I once loaded 13 kegs into my beat-up El Camino from Nittany Beverage, a feat of engineering and optimism that defied both physics and Pennsylvania driving laws. He wasn't afraid of hard work and was always in the middle of different Kappa Sig activities. Whether it was the Dance Marathon, the Phi Si 500, or tailgating before a Penn State football game, Curt showed up with energy, heart, and usually some kind of gadget or toy he was excited to show off.

I remember one Friday afternoon as we were making our way to Cafe 210, Curt found a \$100 bill on the sidewalk. Most of us would've pocketed it and kept quiet. Not Curt. He turned it into the first few rounds of drinks for the whole crew, laughing like we'd all won the lottery. Curt was generous to a fault, always ready to celebrate life, and never too busy to lift someone else's spirits.

To be clear though, it wasn't all parties and punchlines. Curt was a solid student, a loyal friend, and someone who genuinely cared about the future. He'd drop whatever he was doing to help a brother out, and he approached every task, no matter how grimy or difficult, with a kind of joy that made you want to pitch in too. He found excitement in the work, pride in the effort, and meaning in the friendships we built. Everyone remembers his smile because it was contagious.

Curt loved his toys, but more than that, he loved the people around him. He lived with curiosity, humor, and a quiet courage that made you feel lucky to know him. He was the guy who made the hard stuff easier and the good stuff even better. We'll miss him deeply, but we'll remember the laughter, the loyalty, and the legacy of a brother who walked through life with heart, humor, and a hell of a stride.

Here's to you, Curt. You set a great example for all of us to follow.

AEKΔB

Brent, Spring '87
Pledge Class

ALUMNI *News*

Donald H. Carretta '75: We continue to tailgate at our normal spot (Forestry Research Building C on Hastings) and often see Brothers Vitori (1973), Bonawitz (1971) and Strachan (1970) among others from time to time. My wife, Donna, and I are living the dream in retirement and often spend time with our four children (all PSU Alumni) and ten grandchildren. We are truly blessed and welcome any visiting alumni to join us at a future tailgate if you are in Happy Valley for a football game.

David C. Will '84: Recently retired from Soergel Garden Center & Greenhouses where I served as the manager for many years. In Wexford, Pennsylvania, my wife Polly and I celebrated 37 years of marriage by cruising on the Rhine River. I joined a bowling league a few months ago. I haven't bowled since my days at Kappa Sigma where we won the fraternity championship two times. I'm by far the oldest guy on the team and rolled a 245, I should quit while I'm ahead!

Gary E. Thompson '85: The/My initiation date is correct, however HQ (in the upcoming release of the 2026 registry) will not deviate in listing Gamma Phi (WVU) as my lone alma mater much to my dissatisfaction.

Connect with Alpha Delta on Social Media



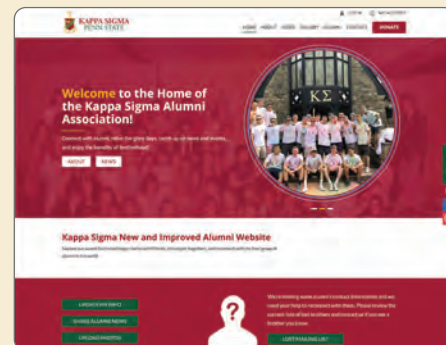
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what the actives are up to!*

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ARE YOU ON OUR LOST LIST?

Are you getting our monthly emails, packed with news, memories and more, straight in your inbox? If not, you're missing out!

Help us fill in the blanks and add your missing contact information to our database. You'll get great stories and updates like the ones featured in each Alpha-Delta News newsletter.

To sign up, just send a quick note to eoneill@elevateims.com and let our alumni partners know to add you the Kappa Sigma at Penn State alumni emailing list!

Don't forget to make
your online gift today
to support
Alpha-Delta's annual fund.

www.kappasigpsu.com

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