



# Alpha-Delta News

A PUBLICATION OF THE KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY  
AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

STATE COLLEGE, PA.

JUNE 1999

## FINANCIAL SETBACK ON THE MEND THANKS TO GENEROUS ALUMNI

By Doug Byler '90, Alumni Association Treasurer

### WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Over the past several months I have truly been amazed at how well most of you keep in touch with each other. As most of you know from the last newsletter, there is now a listserv (it's an e-mail thing) for Alpha-Delta alumni (there are even a couple of undergraduates who are on it). After it was revealed that the undergraduates were having financial problems over the past two semesters, the rumor mill began to churn. Alumni from Florida, California, South Dakota as well as good old Pennsylvania, were calling me asking if it was true the house had been closed, and we were insolvent!

I am here to tell you that we are solvent, and the undergrads are doing much better. For those of you who were not in this loop, let me explain. For the past three semesters, and especially the past two, the undergrads have experienced some setbacks financially. Over this time, many brothers were graduating, leaving for internships, etc. This rapid exodus, combined with a semester of low rush turnout, left the chapter with low numbers. This past semester, the number of brothers living in the house fell to the lowest it has been for years (maybe ever?). Only 16 brothers were living in the chapter house.

It does not take a math major to figure out that 16 is not enough to run the house. By April, the money was gone, but the bills kept coming. Overdue notices kept arriving too, until the "big one" arrived. State College was going to shut off the water in a week if the bill was not paid in full! Panic ensued. Fortunately, John Hannah (the property manager) could pull some strings at the water works, allowing us to the end of April to pay the bill. The problem still existed; where would the money come from?

Naturally everyone looked to the Alumni Corporation to come to the rescue, as apparently it had been done in the past. However, with the low numbers, the chapter had been unable to pay most of the rent over the past two semesters. Including spring '99, they owe the Corporation \$30,000 in current and past rent (they currently are charged \$15,000 per semester, or \$30,000 per year). This put the Corporation in a position of being unable to rescue or help the undergrads, except for a \$2,000 emergency loan to pay the water bill. No water means no store tenants, and that would be a disaster!

All our strength is in our union, and that proved to be the case this time too. As word spread among the alumni, donations began to come in. Many were sent directly to the chapter house to help keep the lights burning and the water hot. Many were sent to me at my home. Many of them were large donations, some not so large,

but so many people helped. All the money was needed. It is important to note that at no time were we (the Corporation) unable to pay the mortgage or to make the needed repairs. The rent from the commercial spaces covered those costs.

So where does that leave us now? Well, the undergrads are beginning to make a comeback. To help with costs and rushing, most of the brothers have agreed to remain at the chapter house over the summer. This is a way to help raise more money to cover their fixed costs, plus continue to pay the outstanding bills (which include gas, electric and a \$5,000 FPA bill). Also they are free to rush throughout the summer, and in the fall have a big jump during the formal rush. They have had two fairly successful rushes, and of those, most will be moving into the house this fall. After graduations and additions there will be 26 living in the house, still not good, but compared to 16, it is super—a net gain of 10!

So, I can assure you that although there were some rough spots, both the Corporation and the undergraduate chapter are still here, and plan to be for another hundred years! The worst seems to be over, but they still have long way to go. A special thanks to everyone who stepped up to the plate and quickly provided some much-needed help.

As a quick personal note, please do not feel as though we need to be in crisis before you call me. It was great to hear from so many people. Feel free to call me any time at home (717-291-5866)!

### STATE OF THE CORPORATION

#### **BOILER REPLACEMENT DEPLETES CASH RESERVE SUMMER RENT WILL HELP WITH TAXES**

The House Corporation remains in a relatively secure state financially. The money that the undergrads owe the Corporation has left us a bit vulnerable. Although our budget allows for shortfalls by the chapter, their outstanding debt to us (now at \$30,000) could hardly come at a worse time. As most of you know, we recently had to replace the boiler, to the tune of \$24,000. This huge unexpected expenditure virtually depleted our cash reserves (expenditures such as this are why we have reserves!).

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## ALPHA-DELTA SETS GOALS FOR FALL

By Merritt Sweeney '00, Grand Master

As another school year comes to a close, I am happy to inform you that the Alpha-Delta chapter has weathered the storms this past semester. Our chapter faced some financial problems; to ensure that we do not face problems like this again, I have appointed an ad hoc fund-raising committee to suggest ways to augment our income. However, everything is now under control, and we are looking forward to the fall when we will have a total of 32 brothers, with 26 living in the chapter house.

During this past year, we initiated 17 men into our chapter, and we are hoping to increase that number significantly. During a goal-setting session with our chapter consultant, Andy Diric, we decided that we would aim at pledging 20 quality men in the fall semester, an increase of five from last fall. We are preparing to achieve this number by having a rush seminar at the beginning of the fall semester and taking other steps that will help us obtain our goal. I feel confident that we, as a chapter, can see this goal accomplished and that Alpha-Delta will continue to grow and prosper.

The number of ritually proficient brothers in our chapter is continuing to rise, in part, to a new bylaw that was passed earlier this year. This bylaw gives higher seniority in the house to ritually proficient brothers and was designed as an incentive to raise our chapter's overall proficiency percentage. We commend Adam Henry '99, Frank Wurst '99 and John Gambill '99, whose foresight was instrumental in the construction of this bylaw.

Overall, this past year has been a trying one for the Alpha-Delta chapter. However, we have faced the problems and they are now mostly in the past. I personally feel that we are at a huge turning point in our chapter's history and I remain very optimistic about the future and potential of Alpha-Delta.

## BLUE-WHITE WEEKEND ANOTHER SUCCESS!

By Chris Peck '00, Chairman

On April 24, familiar faces appeared once again at Alpha-Delta's annual Blue-White celebration. The festivities commenced Friday night with only a few alumni present. Saturday began with a traditional tailgate. The weather was beautiful for the game, without a cloud in the sky. Kickoff was at 1:30, and the game ended with the Blue team winning 31-9. We are all looking forward to a great Nittany Lion season in the fall.

Back at the chapter house, it was a day to remember. Not only was State College full of Lion pride, but it was full of people too! Students, alumni, parents, friends, and townies were, for a fleeting moment in time, filling her streets. As usual, the Kappa Sig deck was the place to be. Thanks to Ben Scaff for again doing a great job as grill man!

Later on Saturday, the Trustees from the Star and Crescent Foundation held a brief ceremony in front of the brotherhood to award the annual scholarships. This year's winner was Jeff Coffey '01. Congratulations, Jeff, and keep up the good work! During this ceremony, Grand Master Merritt Sweeney '00 gave an update on the house — followed by a short question-and-answer session — which was very informative for all present. Also, the Star and Crescent Trustees as well as some alumni made some good suggestions for house improvements.

Thanks also go out to the band Good Brother Earl, who played free of charge to a decent crowd in our basement. The band was led by a brother of Wes Fitzsimmons '95.

Overall, Blue-White '99 was a great success. Thanks to everyone who came and to everyone who helped.

## FINANCIAL SETBACK ...

### STATE OF THE CORPORATION

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When fall semester begins, the chapter will then owe us \$41,000! Obviously, we cannot hope to recover all of this lost revenue. Spring taxes are now due, and school taxes are due out in a matter of weeks, so we certainly find ourselves strapped. Usually there is no rent charged for the summer, but this year, with so many brothers in the house, we are charging rent. With that money, spring taxes will be paid. The semester rent in the fall will pay the school taxes (even if they can't pay the full \$15,000). We then owe a couple thousand for printing (of the newsletter you are holding), and \$3,000 yet to the boiler guy, all of which should be paid by the end of the summer. Then we can concentrate on rebuilding our reserves!

As always, donations are appreciated, and would be especially useful at this time, so please take a few minutes and mail your donation. A form and envelope are provided for your convenience.

### FALL 1999 CHAPTER OFFICERS

Grand Master  
**MERRITT SWEENEY '00**  
Erie, Pa.  
Political Science

Grand Procurator  
**JEFFREY V. COFFEY '01**  
Paoli, Pa.  
Chemical Engineering

Grand Master of Ceremonies  
**CHRIS W. PECK '02**  
Malvern, Pa.  
Business Administration

Grand Scribe  
**ROBERT S. HICKMAN '01**  
DUS

Grand Treasurer  
**MATTHEW T. HELLSTERN '01**  
Scotch Plains, N.J.  
International Business  
Logistics

### SPRING INITIATES

**BRANDON S. ADE '04**  
Avon, Ohio  
Hotel/Restaurant  
Management

**JEFFREY R. KOBELAK '04**  
Bethel Park, Pa.  
Engineering Science

**TIMOTHY F. VIDAL '03**  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Computer Science

**NATHAN J. WURST '02**  
Mountaintop, Pa.  
Labor and Industrial  
Relations

**FRANK J. ZOTTOLA '02**  
Valencia, Pa.  
Civil Engineering

## FAREWELL!

By John Gambil '99, Grand Procurator

I'm writing this on the Thursday before the last social function I will attend as an undergraduate Kappa Sig. I can hardly believe this will be my last Luau. I remember the first Luau I attended as a freshman. (I guess you could have called me a prospective rush at that point because I pledged my sophomore year — my loss.) The house enchanted me on that day. The friendly, laid-back atmosphere was a welcome change from the often impersonal and attitude-filled climate of many fraternity parties. I had attended Luau with my roommate at the time, Ben Scaff, who, incidentally, is also a brother about to graduate. We were impressed at how the brothers accepted us and treated us as equals and friends. I was also taken by the relationship the house seemed to have with the alumni, including John Meyers '89 and Wes Link '55, whom I had met that day.

In a matter of about two weeks, I will be an alumnus. I have grown to love the house that I was just becoming acquainted with at my first Luau on that day in late April three years ago. I could never have imagined what Alpha-Delta would mean to me today. Being a Kappa Sig has definitely been the most rewarding experience of my college career. It will be hard to leave all my friends and brothers, and it will be difficult to leave the house that taught me how to work with a group of men. At times I have led and at times I have followed and supported. I have always tried to follow the ideals set forth in the ritual and to act in the best interest of the house. I think most of all, Kappa Sigma has taught me how to stay committed to something, even when times are tough and I have felt like quitting.

I would like to thank all the brothers for three great years. I will miss all of you!

## NOTES AND PHOTOS REQUESTED!

For the next issue of the newsletter, we would like to publish different information — accounts and stories about recent gatherings of brothers. Perhaps you looked someone up while traveling on business, or arranged a golf game with pledge brothers. Maybe it is an annual event, maybe you made a special effort to go visit your old roommate or your little brother. If you don't have a story, call your travel agent (there are some killer airfares out there now!), get a ticket to wherever, and go visit someone! Catch up on old times, talk about current times, make new times. The economy is great and the weather is warm, so take a long weekend, have some fun with your brother(s). If you travel on business, take along your *Alpha-Delta Directory*, and look up a brother; chances are there is one close to where you are going. Make a new friendship, talk to one of those "old school guys" or a recent grad.

Then write to us at the address below and tell us about it. Send pictures, too! Time goes by so quickly; time to reconnect!

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*Alpha-Delta News* is published for the members and friends of the Alpha-Delta Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University. Address changes, news items and photographs are always welcome and may be sent in the enclosed envelope or mailed to

**Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Alumni Records Office,  
P.O. Box 296, State College, PA 16804-0296.**

# Alumni News

**Warburton Miller '42** (The Warburton House, 6836 Palm Ave., Highland, CA 92346) has served as president of the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce for 1998-99.

**Gardner E. Lindzey '43** (75 Alta Rd., Stanford, CA 94305) is director emeritus of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences.

Last fall, **John W. Godayte Jr. '57** (503 Cameron Bridge Way, Alpharetta, GA 30022) moved from St. Petersburg, Fla., to the Atlanta area to be closer to his daughters and their families. Now it will be easier for him to "spoil" his grandchildren. John returns to Penn State every Homecoming. "Still as proud of being a Kappa Sig as I was on the day I was brotherized!"

Working with Prudential Securities Inc., **Phillip Xanthopoulos '66** (3876 Woodmere Park Blvd., #9-B, Venice, FL 34293; drx@ix.netcom.com) spent several years at the home office in Manhattan. In January 1999, he relocated to the Sunshine State to become branch manager at the firm's Venice office. "It's nice to be warm! Come visit."

**Robert L. Desrochers '72** (15113 21st Dr. S.E., Mill Creek, WA 98012; desrochersbobbindy@msn.com) is vice president of finance at Bayliner Marine Corp. He played golf with **Brad Lawrence '69** last summer and has maintained contact with **Bruce Clafin '73**.

**Kim T. Chapman '77** (8414 Sweet Pine Ct., Springfield, VA

22153) retired from the Army this spring after more than 21 years of service. He is, however, still connected to the military since his wife, Karen, is an Army major. The Chapman family is moving to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where Karen is assigned for the next year.

**Edward D. Gorkes '79** (1200 New Church Ct., Ambler, PA 19002; egorkes@aol.com) wrote to us early in the year. He and his wife were looking forward to the arrival of triplets. "I am hopeful that my wife will still let me attend next season's home football games. Anybody know a good nanny?"

**John M. Pribula '83** (16 Silver Gate Ct., Perry Hall, MD 21128; prib2@aol.com) is a network manager at a software development site for UPS in Timonium, Md. "If you have development or QA/test experience and are looking for a good job, call me at 410-560-4133."

When he joined the University of Idaho in 1998 as an assistant professor in the Animal and Veterinary Science Department, **Troy L. Ott '84** (2121 Vandal Dr., Moscow, ID 83843; tott@uidaho.edu) moved to the Northwest. Enjoying the outdoors, he's had close encounters with a variety of wild animals and caught many trout. Last October, Troy welcomed the arrival of a daughter, Katherine.

**Timothy C. Parkinson '85** (28 Fairview Rd., Springfield, PA 19064; tcparkinson@

hotmail.com) is a guidance

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# More News

counselor in the Avon Grove School District. He and his wife, Linda, were planning to build a new home this summer.

**Robert J. Senda '85** (6899 Kimberly Ter., Fort Myers, FL 33919), a national account manager at Accudata America, has married. He and his wife were expecting their first child this year.

Air Force officer **Michael W. Carrell '86** (2809A Falcon St., Tyndall AFB, FL 32403; mcarrell@aol.com) has been promoted to major and is moving to Newport, R.I., this July to attend Naval Command and Staff College as an exchange officer. He and his wife, the former **Ruth Westover**, have two children. Ruth would like news of **Pam Shue McCoy**. (We would too! If anyone has an address for Pam, please send it our way.)

In January of this year, **Matthew J. Roddy '88** (P.O. Box 10213, Austin, TX 78766) graduated from The Restaurant School in Philadelphia. He relocated to the Lone Star State in March and is now a line cook at Zoot Modern American Cuisine.

As a senior systems engineer for Lockheed Martin, **Charles R.**

**Roth '88** (1757 Reliance Cir., Superior, CO 80027; chuckroth@aol.com) is working on the Space Based Infrared Project. He and wife Kim have two children. Chuck sends a "howdy" to his big brother, **Doug Byler '90**.

Gerry and **Russell S. Glazer '91** (132 Chester Ct., Downingtown, PA 19335) announce the birth in March 1999 of their daughter, Rachel.

**Mark J. Dougherty '92** (6 Northwood Dr., Downingtown, PA 19335; stashdoc@aol.com) has graduated from the Moore College of Art with a perfect grade-point average. He earned a certificate in desk-top publishing and has a new job as an IBM technician at Michael Type & Graphics Inc.

**Christopher J. Foster '94** (1000 Scofield Dr., Cordova, TN 38018; chris\_foster@cargill.com), a plant environmental engineer at Cargill Inc., has transferred with the company from Dayton, Ohio, to the Memphis area. He is living with **Don Bradford '94**. Chris invites anyone traveling his way to stop by for some Memphis barbecue. He had a great time at the Outback Bowl with classmates **Chris Piontko** and **Brian Roakes**.

In a new job, **Shawn J. Connaghan '96** (517 Arbordale Rd., Wayne, PA 19087; clanny2@webtv.net) is an analytical chemist at Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Research Services Inc. He spent New Year's with many brothers at the Outback Bowl.

"Clanny" sends best wishes to his pledge brothers from the fall of 1992.

When he's not on the job as a programmer/analyst at J.D. Edwards, **Colin S. McGinnis '97** (8300 E. Yale Ave., Apt. 3-205, Denver, CO 80231; colin\_mcginnis@jdedwards.com) is busy with church activities, taking Tai Chi classes and pursuing professional certification in production and inventory management. He keeps in contact with **Andrew Pfeiffer '94**.

**Jim Pries '97** (3000 Swallow Hill Rd., Apt. 205, Pittsburgh, PA 15220; jppries@aol.com) is a marketing engineer at Alstom. He and Lil Kerman have become engaged. Jim sends regards to the fall 1992 pledge class and suggests a reunion sometime.

Civil engineer **Michael L. Reinert '97** is now working at Technicon Enterprises Inc. and has moved from Baltimore, Md., to 601 S. 19th St., Apt. A304, Reading, PA 19606. He is coaching a youth baseball team this summer. Michael and Patti Diguardi are planning to be married in October 1999 and to honeymoon in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

## CHAPTER CELESTIAL

**Henry E. Nickey '30** (4/8/98)  
**Frank P. Maxwell '37** (11/97)

Kappa Sigma mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

*Space did not permit us to print this note from Timothy M. Madden '89 (P.O. Box 2303, Glenwood Springs, CO 81602) in the January issue. It was received in June 1998.*

By now everyone has heard of the death of **Curt Huber '89** [May 1998]. "Cruiser" was my roommate for three years at Alpha-Delta and one of the best friends I've ever had. He was one of those guys that, if you met him, you loved him. He lived life to the fullest, worked hard, played hard, and even managed to play at his work for the past several years as the owner/operator of Saba Reef Divers in the Caribbean. I've never heard anyone say anything even remotely unkind about Curt and, though he lives in our hearts and our memories, this world is a sadder place without him.

Cruiser was truly one of the greatest men I've ever met. He helped me through many tough times while an undergrad, giving me a shoulder to lean on when I needed it and a kick in the pants when I deserved it. He was always a friend to count on through good times and bad. I will miss him for the rest of my life.

Curt was preparing to be married in September 1998. I'd like to express my deepest and sincerest condolences and sympathy to his family and his fiancée, Kathy.

AEKΔB Curtis. I will never forget you. God speed.



**Robert Hickman '01, Adam Henry '99 and Craig Pozsyonyi '00** relax after the spring '99 Bid Acceptance Dinner.

**HOMECOMING 1999 • NOVEMBER 6**  
**PENN STATE VS MINNESOTA**  
**WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR DETAILS!**