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# Alpha-Delta News



— [www.kappasigpsu.com](http://www.kappasigpsu.com) —

A PUBLICATION OF THE KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY

AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

— April 2006 —

## Closing of the Chapter Is Opportunity for Alpha-Delta to Return to PSU in a Few Years Much Stronger than Before

### Special Meeting Will Be Scheduled for Alumni to Vote on the Future of the Chapter House

Dear Alpha-Delta Alumni,

As all of you know, our chapter experienced many challenges this past semester, with more to follow. The undergraduate chapter violated several alcohol regulations, ultimately resulting in the charter being revoked. I wanted to provide everybody with an update on what is currently taking place.

The chapter house is now officially closed, except for our commercial tenants on East Beaver Avenue. I am still working on the many details of closing down the house. All the fraternity's assets have been secured and will be properly packed up and stored in the near future. The house has been cleared of all old furniture, trash, etc. (This filled more than seven flatbed construction dumpsters!) We have a local maintenance man who performs house maintenance and ensures the facility is secure, doing several onsite inspections per week.

I am still working with a church group that is interested in renting the building. If this works out, it would give us more time to make a decision on the future of our property. After talking with many alumni, I have found it is the opinion of most that the property should be sold. The board generally agrees with that assessment. However, as per the bylaws, any final decision will be made by a vote at a special meeting for all Alpha-Delta alumni.

In the near future, the board will meet to formally review our options for the house. We will then arrange the special meeting for all alumni. At that meeting we will present the options available to us. We will then have an open discussion for all interested alumni to talk about their questions and concerns. The goal for this meeting will be the final vote on the future of 255 Highland Avenue. Prior to the meeting, a letter will be sent to all alumni with the meeting's details, so that travel arrangements can be made.

Although these are difficult times for all, I also see the great opportunity of having Alpha-Delta return to PSU at some point better than ever. We now have the chance to set our own direction with a new chapter and a new house.

Many chapters around the country have been closed down only to return a few years later much stronger than before. I choose to view our current situation as a great opportunity to have Alpha-Delta return as a premier fraternity in a few years.

It is also important to stress that the lifeblood of our chapter is its alumni. Our alumni communications and events will continue. We will still send out newsletters, have football tailgates and arrange homecoming events. Alpha-Delta has always enjoyed very strong and loyal support from its alumni. That same loyal support will be even more important going forward, in order to ensure we have the necessary resources to continue our work.

Please enjoy our first all-alumni newsletter, which is highlighted with a profile of **David Payne '81**. Dave has clearly enjoyed an exciting career path that has taken him all over the world, including to this year's Super Bowl!

**“The lifeblood of our chapter is its alumni. Our alumni communications and events will continue.”**

Also check out our new Web site at [www.KappaSigPSU.com](http://www.KappaSigPSU.com). Please take the time to register and update your personal profile. You can now even upload a photograph of yourself to your profile page. So get out your digital camera, and post your photo to let your fraternity buddies know how you look today!

I hope this newsletter finds all our alumni doing well in their personal and professional lives. Please send us an update for our Alumni Updates section, and include your e-mail address. We also send out monthly e-newsletters, but we'll need to know how to reach you by e-mail!

A.E.K.D.B.,

Edward D. Gorkes '79  
President, Housing Corporation

## From Trinidad to Borneo to Bangkok and Beyond, David Payne Sees the Exotic Corners of the World

### Globe-Trotting Businessman Is Specialist in Drilling Oil and Gas Wells

David Payne '81 is a "practical adventurer." He says his goal is to see as much of the world as possible, and he's well on his way. Now in Thailand, he has also lived in California, Louisiana, Trinidad, Borneo, Vietnam and Bangkok. He's not just out exploring, however. He's a husband and father, and it's his job as a driller of oil and gas wells that brought him to exotic locales.

Dave calls Shippensburg, Pa., his hometown, but it was two early years (1968-70) he spent in State College that made up his mind he would attend Penn State. "It was the only university I applied to," he says.

He joined Kappa Sig because he was impressed with the diversity of the men living in the house. "There were a lot of guys I was impressed with personally and, as a group, they could not be put in a mold like with the other fraternities I had visited," he says. His former roommates and Kappa Sig friends include **Bob Burkhart '81, Pete Giuliani '82, Jim France '82, Mark Rippey '81, Jeff Berdis '81 and Tom Enagonio '84**. Despite the distances, he's tried to stay in touch with most.

"The friends I made in the fraternity are still the best I will ever have," he says. "I can make contact with them after years and years, and it's like we never missed a day."

He recalls fondly the nights of playing pinochle after dinner, bouncing kegs across Beaver Avenue and all the road trips. "I will never forget spending a night in a gas station in New York after my car broke down on the way home from a pledge trip to Cornell," he says. "And how could I forget how much fun we had playing Tales? We won the Tales tournament at ATO one year."

Dave spent 12 years in California after graduating from Penn State. When he left, with a wife and three kids, he moved to Trinidad for two years. "That was one of the best places I have ever lived," he says. "Lots of fun, great people, beaches, fishing, hiking — just about anything you could ask for."

From Trinidad, it was off to Lafayette, La., for four months, and then to Balikpapan, Indonesia, on the east coast of Borneo. "Borneo was a pretty cool place to live when my kids were small," he says. The family lived in a camp and got out a lot to go fishing, diving and mountain biking.

He landed his first management job in 1999 with Unocal in Vietnam, where he stayed for three years. "The Vietnamese are great people and the hardest workers I have ever seen," Dave says.

In 2002, Unocal sent him to Bangkok, where he remains today. "I went from managing five people and a \$12 million budget to 150 people and a \$350 million budget," he says. "It scared the hell out of me!"

"We produce gas to support about 25 percent of Thailand's

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**"The friends I made in the fraternity are still the best I will ever have. I can make contact with them after years and years, and it's like we never missed a day."**

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electricity needs," Dave explains. "It is really cool to work somewhere and know that what you do really matters to the people around you." He also derives satisfaction from the knowledge that he is able to train local engineers in ways the Thai companies could not.

Dave enjoys living in Thailand outside the office as well. "There is great golf,

fishing and diving," he notes. "Just last weekend I was offshore in the Andaman Sea, swimming with huge manta rays close enough to touch. The islands are spectacular, and the people are absolutely wonderful. Thailand truly is the land of smiles."

Dave also tries to give back to the Thai community he loves so much. "I have participated in Habitat for Humanity projects in central Thailand and helped rebuild a community north of Phuket after the tsunami," he says. "My son raised money to build two long-tail boats to give to fishermen who lost theirs in the tsunami. I've also been coaching a girls' fast-pitch softball team for four years that includes local girls who speak no English. That is always quite an experience!"

Dave stays active and has a love of trying new things. During his time in Asia, he has learned to dive and mountain bike, and he's improved his golf game "from an almost infinite number," he says, to a 12 handicap.

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**"I learned a lot about people, organization and management from my three years in Kappa Sig. I have had some tough jobs but none as tough as being the house caterer and the GM."**

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He's setting his sights on Africa next, and he'd like to work somewhere in South America before he retires, in a little under 10 years. "I don't plan to fully stop working but hopefully will be able to consult when there are no college football games to go see," he says.

Dave notes that his travels have given him perspectives that he would not have had otherwise — something he also gained from his Kappa Sigma experience. "I learned a lot about people, organization and management from my three years in Kappa Sig," he says. "What I learned there has helped me in my career. I have had some tough jobs but none as tough as being the house caterer and the GM."

Dave has been married for 21 years. One of his sons is a sophomore at California State at Monterey Bay, and the other is a freshman at Penn State in The Behrend College. His daughter is a senior at the International School in Bangkok. Dave is hoping she will attend Penn State.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### '60s

#### Wayne E. Hocking '62

(599 Ellis Ave., Newtown Square, PA 19073-3214; ellisave@hotmail.com) My wife Sandra and I are getting ready to travel to the Old Country (England, Scotland and Wales). We have been married for 42 years and still no kids. How can that be? We aren't even that old. Oh well, we must be having fun because time is flying.

#### Thomas C. Hilbert '63

(414 Sunfish St., Lakeway, TX 78734; thomashilbert@sbcglobal.net) Anne and I are going to Africa for three weeks at year's end. This is the trip she has been looking forward to since she was a little girl. We will be in Kenya and Tanzania. There are two couples on the trip so we should see a lot without dealing with van loads of tourists. Family update: The grandchildren now number nine, with two on the way.

#### David B. Ludwig '65

(117 Iron Mountain Blvd., Lake Oswego, OR 97034-2823; ludwigdb@aol.com) Have a great year. I hope to visit sometime soon.

### '70s

#### Charles J. Fey '71

(3951 White Rose Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042; cfey@umbc.edu) I've been elected to the executive committee of the Council of Student Affairs for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC). This committee supports and advises the Council of Presidents for NASULGC, the major organization for large public universities like Penn State. My term is for three years.

#### Lawrence Carretta '77

(1110 E. End Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15218-1308; larry@holtramsey.com) I would like brother **John Surma '76** to make my company the exclusive supplier of pumps to United States Steel.

### '80s

#### John S. Schoenenberger '85

(2032 Meadow Tree Ct., Cooksville, MD 21723-9515; affinity.inc@verizon.net) We celebrated the 40th birthday of brother **Eric Goodhard '87** last summer down in Gainesville, Fla.

#### Robert J. Bowsher '86

(4188 Fifth Ave., #13, San Diego, CA 92103-7419; rbowsher3@cox.net) I am now the accounting manager for Yellow Cab of San Diego. I had a great time recently on my second trip to Australia, where I climbed to the top of Sydney's Harbour Bridge. I say 'hi' to my fraternal big brother **Richard "Rick" Rowland '86** and my fraternal little brothers **Robert "Bob" Roxbrough '86** and **Steven "Steve" Frauenheim '87**.

#### Michael W. Carrell '86

(64 Offutt Rd., Hanscom AFB, MA 01731; carrellx4@aol.com) I moved from Canada to Boston in July. I am attending a National Security post-graduate fellowship at Harvard's JFK School of Government. If anyone is in Boston, look us up!

### '90s

#### Mark Pollard M.D. '95

(1205 Bienville Ln., Birmingham, AL 35213; markp43@hotmail.com) I finished my orthopaedic surgery residency in June and am now in Birmingham, completing a sports medicine fellowship. My wife and young son are enjoying the weather down here and are doing well.

#### Darin C. Stump '97

(1262 N. Boundary Rd., Bernville, PA 19547; KuShBuD69@aol.com) Well, it's been a little while since I last updated my bio here, so I decided to bring everyone up to speed as to what's been going on with me since my last post. The biggest change has been my recent move back to my hometown area of Oley, Pa. The seven years in I spent in Tampa, Fla., were awesome, but my family

and friends from home were so far away and it just wasn't enough to see them a handful of times per year. As luck would have it, a position opened up in the New York metro region allowing me to transfer back home. I bought an old farmette and am currently working on bringing it back around. It is a true fixer-upper! My plan is to continue at my current job at United Medical Systems, but I am venturing into a side business as well. I am going to run a goat farm: goat milk, goat cheese and my secret money-making weapon, goat milk ice cream! I will still remember the little people when I am filthy rich, so don't worry. I won't let success go to my head. There is so much more to say but so little time, so I'll wrap it up here. I hope everyone is well, and if anyone is ever in the Pennsylvania Dutch heartland, you've always got a place to visit. Five dollars admittance to Goat's View Farm...

#### Matthew B. Weisberg '97

(7901 Henry Ave., Apt. F-205, Philadelphia, PA 19128-3084; goochweisb@aol.com) On January 10, 2005, I joined and became the managing principal of Prochniak Poet & Weisberg P.C. I was also elected chairman of Matrix Mortgage Corporation and Alternative Abstract Inc. Prochniak Poet & Weisberg practices tort litigation (personal injury), criminal defense, real estate litigation, secured debt collection (mortgage foreclosure, confessions of judgment, etc.) and unsecured debt collection, and lenders' and creditors' rights litigation, and handles matters involving consumer fraud. Additionally, I am available through Matrix and Alternative to provide mortgage brokerage and title insurance services. We welcome all referrals! E-mail me at [mweisberg@ppwlaw.com](mailto:mweisberg@ppwlaw.com), or call me via my cell phone at 215-370-7500.



Kevin Coppins '92, Clint Burks '93, Darby Neidig '93 and Ed Hibbert '93 with girlfriends. Have you ever seen a happier group of people?

## Frank Wurst Ties the Knot in the Sunny Florida Keys at a Wedding Attended by Numerous Alpha-Delta Alumni

Earlier Postponed Due to Hurricane Wilma, Ceremony Was Followed by Reggae Party on the Beach

On December 10, 2005, **Frank Wurst '99** married longtime girlfriend Amy Ward at a ceremony in Key Largo, Fla. The wedding was attended by many Alpha-Delta alumni. Best man **Nate Wurst '02** and groomsman **Matt Wurst** stood up for their family and fraternity brother during the ceremony. Other Alpha-Deltas were members of the wedding party as well: **Adam Henry '99**, **Jeff Rebernak '99**, **Ryan Millan '99** and **Craig Pozsonyi '00** were ushers.

A great time was had by all during this wonderful weekend! Originally scheduled for October 29, the wedding had to be postponed due to Hurricane Wilma. When all the guests finally made it down to the Keys in December, they were rewarded with beautiful sunshine and perfect ocean temperatures.

The rehearsal dinner was attended by all guests on Friday night. Hosted by Frank's parents, the guests ate a delicious meal and enjoyed an open bar at a restaurant alongside the Florida Bay.

On Saturday, Frank and his Kappa Sig brothers chilled out at the pool while Amy spent the day getting ready. The ceremony was at sunset, and afterward everyone partied on the beach to the sounds of a reggae band. There was a lot of dancing and boozing, and the party continued late into the night in the hotel's sports bar. On Sunday the guests enjoyed brunch and nursed their hangovers!

After all the celebrations, Amy and Frank spent their honeymoon in Negril, Jamaica, relaxing on the beach.

Amy and Frank live in Franklin Park, N.J. They are less than an hour from Philly and NYC, and just north of Princeton, N.J. If anyone is in the area and needs a place to stay or just wants to hang out, give Frank a call at 908-872-7287. All brothers are welcome!



The groom (center) and some of the Alpha-Delta brothers who were in the wedding party.



To have and to hold: Amy Ward and **Frank Wurst '99** say their "I do's."

## Are you one of these people?

We hope that you enjoy this issue of *The Alpha-Delta News*. This newsletter, along with our other annual alumni communications and our website, are funded solely by the contributions of our readers. If you're one of the brothers on the honor roll on the back of the enclosed form who has donated so far this year, please accept our appreciation. **It is because of you that all of our brothers can keep up-to-date on the latest news!**

If you have not donated, please consider making a gift to Kappa Sigma, so that we can ensure that publication of our alumni news continues.

You can make a donation through our secure website [www.kappasigpsu.com](http://www.kappasigpsu.com) or by filling out and returning the enclosed form. **The success of our alumni program depends on YOU!**

*Thank you to the Donors who have supported our annual fund so far this year!*



This chart shows the progress of Kappa Sigma's annual giving last year vs. this year.