

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21-22, 2007
Blue-White Weekend

July 11-15, 2007
Arts Festival

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IN MEMORY

Remembering Jerry Donovan '55

It is with great sympathy that we announce the death of **Jerry Donovan '55**. Read more on Jerry's life and support of Kappa Sigma in the enclosed insert.

Alpha-Delta News



— www.kappasigpsu.com —

A PUBLICATION OF THE KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY

AT THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

— December 2006 —

Alumni Celebrate Commitment of Mary Ellen Nichols, House Cook, and the Life of Jerry Donovan '55, Dedicated Brother

Please Send in Donations to Keep Kappa Sigma Connected

By Edward D. Gorkes '79, Alumni Association President

I hope this newsletter finds all of our alumni doing well in their personal and professional lives.

It is with great sadness that I inform you **Jerry E. Donovan '55** passed away on August 7, 2006. You can read more about him in the letter below and in the insert. His dedication to our chapter and the Kappa Sigma Fraternity will be remembered with honor.

This newsletter also includes a very special profile on Mary Ellen Nichols, the chapter house cook from 1990-2003 (page 2). She has been a friend, confidant and unofficial house mother to many alumni. Mary Ellen has been battling cancer for the past few years, and she handles it head-on and chooses to live life to the fullest each and every day. As an added surprise, we included notes from many alumni who knew her. Mary Ellen, on behalf of all Alpha Delta alumni, we thank you for your

dedicated service to our chapter. We wish you health and happiness for the future!

The process of selling our property is going well. We have received interest from many potential buyers and we hope to complete the process in the near future.

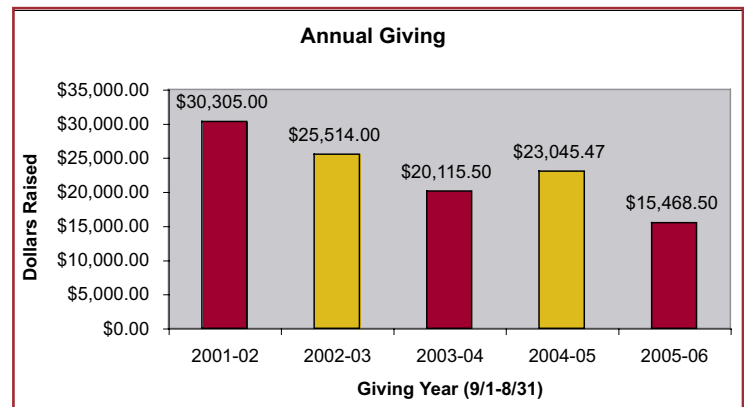
Also included is a solicitation form requesting donations, which we always need! Thank you for your support over the years. Your financial contributions are your vote to stay connected with your Kappa Sigma brothers. It is important we maintain this connection and ensure future generations enjoy the same opportunities we had. Even without an active chapter, Kappa Sigma exists in our strong alumni network. One day the Alpha Delta chapter will return to Penn State, and we will continue our rich history!

Help Us Get Our Giving Back Up!

Kick Off the Giving Year by Making a Donation Today

The Pennsylvania Alpha Delta Association would like to thank the 113 alumni members who contributed a collective \$15,468.50 to our 2005-06 annual fund. While this is a great response, we'd like to increase

our giving totals. Help us exceed what we've raised in the past by making your gift today; help us to kick off the 2006-07 annual fund. It's easy. Just visit www.kappasigpsu.com or call 800-975-6699 to make your donation.



Former House Cook Mary Ellen Nichols Weathers Any Storm with Humor and Strength

She Always Will Remember the Boys as They Looked When They Awakened in the Morning

Imagine cooking three meals a day for up to 40 still-growing young men. Now imagine cleaning up the kitchen after 40 men every morning before you start cooking. It really wasn't as bad as you imagined. Well, maybe it was. House cook for 13 years, from 1990-2003, Mary Ellen Nichols says, "even though that was my job, it was really something special because of the wonderful young men of Kappa Sigma."

Mary Ellen, a central PA resident, became interested in cooking for a fraternity when a friend of hers who was doing the same thing recommended she try it. She had been managing the Sunset West Restaurant and its 38 employees in Pleasant Gap for over 11



Mary Ellen created many a culinary delight and many a warm memory for the alumni of Kappa Sigma. We wish her health and happiness.

years when she applied to two fraternities as house cook—one of them was Kappa Sigma. She interviewed at both houses and was asked to work at both. She chose Kappa Sigma because the kitchen was big and had lots of storage, and because the boys who interviewed her were nice.

Monday mornings Mary Ellen would do the grocery shopping, unload back at the house and organize everything. Tuesday morning, she'd come in to reorganize and clean everything she had done the day before. Cleaning the kitchen daily after it had been misused nightly by groups of young men made this one of the most difficult jobs she ever had. "But, I'd do it again if I could," she states firmly, "I loved the guys."

The reasons she can't do it again are two-fold. The obvious one is that the chapter disbanded this past year, closing its doors and putting the house up for sale. The other reason is not so obvious: Mary Ellen has been battling cancer for four years and she just started her second round of chemotherapy. Her husband was also recently diagnosed with lung cancer. Mary Ellen was diagnosed and began treatment while she was still with Kappa Sigma. After her hair loss, she came to work in her new wig only to singe it bending over the stove the first day wearing it. She never wore her wig to work again.

The boys were very caring during her treatment. At that point there had been a decade-long relationship built between the

fraternity and Mary Ellen. "A lot of the guys were special, too many to name. Just when one would graduate, a new one would take his place." One was with her for seven years—they never thought he'd graduate. Another was a caterer who liked to help cook (caterers were brothers assigned to help with kitchen duties). Many would join her to watch "The Price is Right" or to catch up on soap opera gossip. Two alumni still e-mail her regularly to check up on her. The strangest menu request from the boys was for birds in a nest, a fancy name for an egg fried in toast. Their most adamant request: Never Serve Butter Beans!

"Even though that was my job, it was really something special because of the wonderful young men of Kappa Sigma."

Her favorite memory is a collective one of the boys coming down after first waking up, with their hair a mess, still in their sleepwear, spilling stories about the previous night's exploits or disappointments. In fact, she "often thinks of the guys and wonders if they will let their own sons live in a fraternity after what they experienced."

Mary Ellen had raised three boys of her own before working for the Kappa Sigma boys. She was used to a house filled with testosterone and dealt with much using her sense of humor. Now she spends her time breeding and raising Burnese Mountain dogs, caring for her two ponies, and enjoying her seven grandchildren. For her future, she hopes to live happily and healthfully as long as she can. She has learned to take every day seriously and to not plan anything too far in advance.

From Her Famous "Surprise" Lasagna to Her Soap-Opera Knowledge, Kappa Sigs Share their Fondest Mary Ellen Memories

Edward D. Gorkes '79 (Alumni Corporation President): Mary Ellen coordinated the majority of our alumni events. She was great to work with and her meals were always excellent. I knew all of the details would be taken care of when she was in command. On behalf of all Alpha Delta Alumni, we thank you for your years of dedicated service!

Michael Valenti '90: After a long, hard day in class, it was always nice to come home

to Kappa Sig knowing that Mary Ellen had a great meal waiting for me. Mary Ellen introduced me to slices of pepperoni in my lasagna. To this day, every time I eat lasagna I am looking for the pepperoni surprise.

Russ Glazer '91: Mary Ellen, when we hired you, you knew that you had big shoes to fill replacing the legendary Betty. But, you exceeded all of our expectations. Thank you for everything.

Dave Albrecht '92: Mary Ellen, you were absolutely terrific. You took care of us; making breakfast and lunch on the fly, person, and doing an outstanding job on large dinners like homecoming. Being somewhat of a culinary person myself, I had the pleasure of helping you out on several occasions and saw first-hand the effort it takes. Doing all the ordering and cooking for so many on a daily basis is not an easy task and I admired your ability to do so continually and with a smile. Thanks Mary Ellen, I appreciate all you did for our fraternity!

(Continued on Page 3)

Fondest Mary Ellen Memories... (Continued from Page 2)

Kevin Coppins '92: Mary Ellen, it's taken me 15 years to take off the pounds I put on in two years with you at the helm of the kitchen. Breakfast menus, Kappa Sig Burgers, and homemade lasagna... all cooked up with a great attitude (along with necessary grief) and a smile. Great memories, thanks for all of them!

Ed Hibbert '92: Thank you, Mary Ellen! You made living in the house more comfortable.

Jason Striker '92: You were like having a second mom for so many of us. No matter how bad things may have seemed for any of us at the time... roof leaks, bad grades or horrible hangovers... waking up at the crack of noon and hearing the words "Hi Striker, what can I make ya?" always made it better.

Mike Hooks '93: Mary Ellen was ALWAYS there to greet me with a smile and make my mornings a little bit better. I definitely miss the "gooey" brownies!

Chris Foster '94: I was Grand Caterer for several years when Mary Ellen was our cook. Her cooking was awesome (no one lost weight while they lived in the house) and she was really great to work with. She also served as an informal house mother and kept tabs on us to make sure that we were not skipping classes. I more fully appreciated her fine culinary skills after I graduated and had to start cooking for myself!

Mark Pollard '95: Mary Ellen was always bright and cheerful, even if I wasn't. I could

always count on a, "Hi, Mark! What can I make ya?" She always made sure everyone was well fed and happy. If I remember correctly, she was the resident authority on "Days of Our Lives" and always had it on her tiny television.

Shawn "Clanny" Connaghan '96: Mary Ellen was always a constant at Kappa Sig. Regardless of any/every situation, she was always there, happy and willing to help. I think back and try to put myself in her shoes, and I am amazed that she showed up everyday. Even more amazing is that she did it with such vigor and passion that we all came from love.

Colby Neidig '96: Simply stated, Mary Ellen, you're the greatest. Nothing will ever beat one of your western omelets at 6:00 a.m. after pulling an all-nighter (studying, of course).

Bryan Roth '97: Hey Mary Ellen, thanks for all of the great meals, and great talks. My experience in the house would not have been the same without you. You'll always be as big a part of Kappa Sigma, Alpha Delta as the Star and Crescent. Thanks for everything.

Matt "Gooch" Weisberg '97: Mary Ellen, thanks for not only being the best cook and caterer Kappa Sig had to offer, but also being the best listener, advisor, therapist and friend to all of us!

Frank Wurst '99: Mary Ellen, I hope all is well with you. I miss you, and I'm sure you

remember my little dog S.A., she misses you too! I'm pretty convinced you were sneaking her food, but that's okay. Whenever I would let her out of my room she made a line for the kitchen.

Jeff Coffey '02: Mary Ellen's omelets single-handedly got me through my sophomore year of college. Thanks for being the best, ME!

Nate Wurst '02: Mary Ellen was the best cook ever. My lunch order was always bigger than most and Mary Ellen always found a way to fit all of the food on one plate.

Rob "Dre" Drelich '04: Mary Ellen, you were great! I still have my cat, Jack, who you helped me find. He's grown up now and part of the family. He's just a small example that proves how you cared and took care of us. Thank you for everything.

Rob Lesko '04: I always looked forward to coming down to the kitchen to see Mary Ellen and catching a little of "The Price is Right." Mary Ellen knew exactly what I liked for lunch and the food was always excellent. I do miss lunch at Kappa Sig.

EXCLUSIVE On the Web!

Go to www.kappasigpsu.com for these Mary Ellen stories in their entirety and to submit your own!

ALUMNI UPDATES

50s

Joseph T. Simone '53
(637 Custis Rd., Glenside, PA 19038-2013; joseph_t_simone@comcast.net) Thank you, **Ed Gorkes '79**, and all you other gentlemen who are taking care of Alpha Delta business. We all appreciate it because Alpha Delta means a great deal to all of us.

70s

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 brother **Eric Goodhard's '87** 40th birthday this summer down in Gainesville, FL.

90s

John Myers '95
(720 N. Bodine St., Philadelphia, PA 19123-2914; jmyersmail@gmail.com) My wife, Megin, and I are expecting our first child in late Jan./early Feb. 2007.

Mark Pollard M.D. '95

(15 Heron Pointe Court, Evesham, NJ 08053; markp43@hotmail.com) I finished my Orthopedic Surgery residency in June and am now in Birmingham, AL completing a sports medicine fellowship. My wife and young son are enjoying the weather down here and are doing well.

Where Have You Been?

Log on to the website at www.kappasigpsu.com to submit your update, and read up on your old friends.

Laugh So Hard Your Guts Hurt

Boring day? These hilarious memories will put a smile on your face and take you back to your days as an undergrad.

What is the memory that makes you laugh hardest today?

"Howie, Honer T Honer, Izzy, Big Jim, Myron, Terry, David, the Falcon, and everyone I missed at one of the really big house Parties. And 'Hell Week,' of course. Howie and I still can remember: It is the lifeless, lowest, most insignificant..."

- Philip Xanthopoulos '66

"Jolly John Rogers stealing the State College Santa Claus."

- George M. Middlemas '68

"Remembering Paul O'Brien sneaking a pony keg into Beaver Stadium between his legs under a long coat."
- Charles J. Fey '71

"Hampy taking a leak in the ashtray stand in the foyer while totally wasted because he thought he was in the first floor head."

- Carl Samuel Crouse Jr. '73

"One of my favorites is the trip to National when Pebs peed out of the bus window. It was a hot day, and all of the bus windows were open. Another brother was in



the seat behind Pebs, and the pee blew right back in onto him. Later on we took over Poe's Bar. We were running around on the bartop singing the BeeBee song. Still later, our bus mysteriously rolled down the driveway in the middle of the night and crashed through a stone wall hanging halfway over. It took two large wreckers to pull it back onto the yard. Our picture made the Caduceus with the headline of something to the effect that "Alpha Delta Invades National." - Lawrence F. Carretta '77

"The memory that I will never forget is the night where Colby absolutely beat one of the brothers all over the chapter house. He wrestled him in the living room, threw trash on him and dragged his butt all over the place. He was covered in trash and all kinds of assorted mung. Hysterical."

- Michael L. Reinert '97

"Penn State Dad t-shirt."

- Tyler Orwig '99

Describe the best party

"The luaus during spring week. Every spring for the last 33 years I have thought about making the 'jungle juice' and drinking it out of fresh coconut shells. Of course the girls were a huge part of it.

Little grass skirts and skimpy tops."
- Carl Samuel Crouse Jr. '73

"Strawberry Jam, Fall 1995. Biggest, best party I've seen in our house. Was a big reason I pledged the house."
- Tyler Orwig, '99

Describe your favorite/best road trip

"Harrisburg to see James Brown."
- George M. Middlemas '68

"The night when Beard, me, Wes Fine, and Fedesco traveled to Pittsburgh for Game #3 of the Stanley Cup quarterfinals at the Igloo. The Flyers won the game and the series. 'We are pilgrims in an unholy land...'"
- Michael L. Reinert '97

"Bolt to Pittsburgh (can't remember the year). 'Say my name!'"
- Tyler Orwig '99

Want to relive the best memories from your era? Share your stories and photos online at www.kappasigpsu.com!

ON THE WEB

e-Newsletters Make Sure Your Address is Current!

We send out monthly e-newsletters, however we need your e-mail address for you to receive them! Please log-in to the website and make sure we have your current e-mail address, or you can write it on the "Membership Update" form included with this newsletter.

Why let your Kappa Sig photos collect dust in your attic...



Alpha Delta Chapter, Spring 1971

...when you can share them with the brotherhood at www.kappasigpsu.com?
Upload photos from your era today!