

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

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#### President

Martin Barbato '79

#### Vice President

Dave Hyland '80

#### Treasurer

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#### Advisors

Fred DeCock '80

Mike Nassry '03

#### Chapter Advisor

Matt Flynn '01

## CONNECT

Are you getting our monthly eLetters from Kappa? If not, you're missing out!

To sign up, just send a quick note to [connect@affinityconnection.com](mailto:connect@affinityconnection.com) and let us know to add you to the Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State alumni emailing list!

## LOST BROTHERS



### No Brother Left Behind.

We're missing contact information of alumni brothers, and need your help to find them. Head to our website to see a current copy of our lost mailing and email lists. Do you see a brother you know? Email your updates to [connect@affinityconnection.com](mailto:connect@affinityconnection.com).

# Kappa News

[www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com)



Kappa Chapter

Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

Summer 2019

Committed to Lifelong Learning

## WORK WEEKEND



Our 2019 Phi Sig Work Weekend will be held the weekend of July 26-28th. This is a great opportunity to spend quality time with other alumni and more importantly, the active brotherhood.

Every summer, a group of dedicated alumni and actives meet at 501 S. Allen to get the chapter house ready for the upcoming school

year. We have a good size group each summer and this year we will also be reinventing the Card Room into a room for Kappa Chapter history with things like composites and pledge paddles.

Keep an eye on our website and emails for pictures from Work Weekend coming soon!

## FALL FOOTBALL IN THE VALLEY

The rumble of the stands, the sea of blue and white, and the hum of Sweet Caroline: there's nothing quite like Penn State football in Happy Valley.

A good ole' football game in Beaver Stadium is an experience that we brothers remember so fondly from our college days. Join your Kappa brothers in reliving those memories by coming back to Happy Valley to root for the Nittany Lions this 2019 season.

One weekend you won't want to miss is **Homecoming in Happy Valley!** Enjoy the Best of Penn State Carnival with your family, tailgate with your brothers, watch the parade and of course enjoy seeing the Nittany Lions take on Purdue.

Also be sure to mark your calendars for October 19th for our Whiteout game against Michigan. Go ahead, find brothers in the directory on our website ([phisigpsu.com](http://phisigpsu.com)), give them a call and make plans to come home to Happy Valley for the football season!

### 2019 Season Game Schedule

Aug. 31	3:30 pm	Idaho
Sept. 7	7:30 pm	Buffalo
Sept. 14	12:00 pm	Pittsburgh
Sept. 27	8:00 pm	at Maryland
Oct. 5	12:00 pm	Purdue
Oct. 12	TBA	at Iowa
Oct. 19	TBA	Michigan
Oct. 26	TBA	at Michigan State
Nov. 9	TBA	at Minnesota
Nov. 16	TBA	Indiana
Nov. 23	TBA	at Ohio State
Nov. 30	TBA	Rutgers
Dec. 7	<b>8:00 pm</b>	
	<b>Big Ten</b>	Lucas Oil
	<b>Championship</b>	Stadium,
	<b>Game</b>	Indianapolis

We look forward to seeing you brothers back home at Penn State this fall!

## Brother Jeremy Frank '97 and the Journey to KCF Technologies

For Brother **Jeremy Frank '97**, it's all about not getting carried away. The president and co-founder of KCF Technologies in State College, Pa., knows that the success of a business is dependent on the ability of the leadership team to stay focused ... on finding customers. From there, it will all just fall into place.

"My dad had an unconventional job," he says. "He is a lawyer and an engineer, but he started a company specializing in forensic accident investigations. He became a subject matter expert ... that was his niche. So he had a very stable and profitable business. I grew up watching this. He had formerly worked at Grove Crane, and it was a big risk for him to start his own company. I worked for him during high school and early college, and from that point on, he has been a valuable mentor to me."

Another mentor for Jeremy was Penn State Professor of Accounting **Robert "Bear" Koehler '58**. An advisor to undergraduates at the Kappa Chapter, Bear helped several Phi Sigs find direction and focus as they navigated towards adult life and a professional career. "Bear Koehler was an amazing character. He was just so involved ... in everything. And even though we lost him in 2007, his advice has been quite valuable to me in life and in business. And there are others I can add to that list: Gary Koopmann is a given. And all of the people at Ben Franklin Technology Partners, including former Director of Business Development Roger Dagen."

In 2001, Jeremy graduated from Penn State with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering. While completing his doctorate, he worked under the tutelage of Dr. Gary Koopmann, professor emeritus of mechanical engineering and the founder of Penn State's Center for Acoustics and Vibration (CAV).

"Gary suggested that we think about commercializing our expertise. It just seemed like the natural step. Along with Dr. Weicheng Chen — a major contributor to the success of the CAV — we put in a little money to get the business started. While Gary continued at Penn State, I set up our office and



***"Bear Koehler was an amazing character. He was just so involved ... in everything."***

started to bid on consulting contracts."

And, thus, in the fall of 2001, KCF Technologies was born. "The consulting contracts enabled the business to get off the ground, and started our process of solving challenging industrial problems within our field of expertise: mechanical vibrations and noise. But it was pure consulting. It's not scalable or repeatable." With a goal to expand the capability more quickly, the company set out to win R&D contracts to solve technological challenges of the Department of Energy and DoD. After a series of failures, they celebrated their first contract win in 2002.

Since that win, KCF has had an extremely strong track record of winning follow-on Phase 2 or 3 contracts, and nearly all of KCF's Phase

2 projects have advanced into Phase 3 funding or commercial product sales.

Their first product hit the market in 2008. Developed through a Navy Small Business Technology Transfer project, the Smart Tether™ was originally designed "to create a tether-based underwater positioning system for a variety of underwater applications including positioning vehicles in mine countermeasure applications." Once integrated with VideoRay underwater remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) and robots, commercialization of the Smart Tether™ project was funded by Ben Franklin Technology Partners at Penn State's Innovation Park.

In 2011, KCF embarked on its second major transformation ... a return to its founding focus on vibration technology and design.

As quoted on the KCF website, "reactive maintenance processes inherently lead to unplanned downtime and lost production, inefficiencies that cost the U.S. economy as much as \$2.5 trillion per year (as estimated by the Department of Energy Industrial Technologies Program)." In response to this opportunity, KCF developed Smart Diagnostics®, to "Give Machines a Voice™".

SmartDiagnostics® is a predictive maintenance system of wireless sensors designed to extend the life and heighten the performance of industrial pumps, motors and other commercial equipment. Since the launch of Smart Diagnostics®, KCF has seen the application reach into a sequence of industries including oil and gas, power generation, pulp and paper, HVAC/R and food/beverage.

And the cycle continues ... the cycle of finding profitable applications for technologies that "make the things you work with smarter." Since the founding of KCF, Jeremy has seen the company grow at over 60% per year.

Jeremy and his wife, Amy, live in State College along with their four children. "We definitely have a constant flurry of activity. Jobs and careers can be difficult. But it helps me to know that I have a family that is incredibly supportive of what I do."



**Do you know of a Phi Sig alum who would make a good profile subject? If so, contact our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) (mention "Kappa News" in the subject line).**

## DONORS BY DECADE

### Thank you for paying it forward!

We want to take a moment to thank our brothers on the all-time donor list for the annual fund and campaign pledges. The all-time donor list includes any brother who has given back at some point since leaving campus. If you're interested in how your decade has performed in all-time giving, here's a breakdown:

#### All-Time Giving by Decade (Annual Fund & Campaigns)

Decade	# Donors	Amount Donated
1950s	51	\$286,143.26
1960s	74	\$162,083.50
1970s	79	\$505,821.00
1980s	70	\$269,690.01
1990s	64	\$61,186.00
2000s	50	\$37,216.00
2010s	3	\$1,060.00

We'd also like to extend an extra special thanks to brothers who gave a voluntary gift THIS giving year. If you're an all-time donor and have

yet to make a gift during the current giving year, we'd love to see you give again. If you've never given before, consider making your first donation today.

For those of you interested in how your decade performed in this current giving year, here is a breakdown. Congrats to the '70s decade—you're currently leading the pack!

#### Current Giving Year by Decade (Annual Fund & Campaigns)

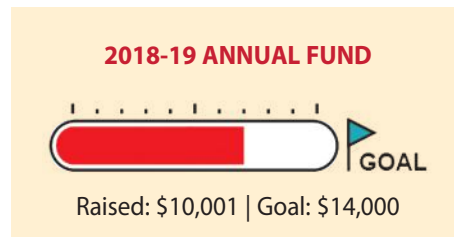
Decade	# Donors	(out of) # Addressable Alumni	Amount Donated
1950s	10	85	\$1,660.00
1960s	13	134	\$1,350.00
1970s	24	176	\$4,000.00
1980s	12	173	\$1,941.00
1990s	4	178	\$700.00
2000s	2	135	\$350.00
2010s	0	70	\$0.00

## ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

### Can We Reach Our Goal?

There are two months of the 2018-19 giving year left, brothers! We are so close to our goal of \$14,000, with \$10,001 raised so far. We want to thank the 65 brothers who have contributed so far this year. You can find them under the Honor Roll tab on our website.

Have you done your part yet, brother? Can we raise the other 29% of our goal before the end of August? Who will be the next to join our Honor Roll?



You can donate online by simply going to our website, [phisigpsu.com](http://phisigpsu.com), and selecting

the Donate button at the top of the page. Donations can also be made through our tollfree Donation Hotline at 1-800-975-6699, or by sending a check made payable to Phi Sigma Kappa—Kappa Chapter to:

Phi Sigma Kappa  
Penn State University  
Alumni Relations Processing Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

## WHY WOULD ANYONE VOLUNTEER TO OVERSEE OUR FRATERNITY?

### Could volunteering with your brothers really lead to a longer life?

According to a recent article by the *Wall Street Journal*, volunteering could be good for your health – particularly once you're retired. A study, "involving more than 64,000 subjects age 60 and older from 1998 to 2010 has found results suggesting that volunteering slows the cognitive decline of aging."

Still not convinced by the science behind volunteering and its role in preventing the aging process? How about this: a study proving that friendship also prolongs life. A Harvard study that tracked 268 men for nearly 80 years found that "close relationships, more than money or fame, are what keep people happy throughout their lives."

Is that surprising to you? Apparently, it surprised the researchers



too. "When the study began, nobody cared about empathy or attachment. But the key to healthy aging is relationships, relationships, relationships." Keep your bond of brotherhood strong. Volunteer with your Kappa brothers today.

Let's all take a minute to thank the guys for donating not only their precious time, but their talent and treasure as well. Why do they do it? Well, it's all tied to science! You can see who our

volunteer officers are in the sidebar on the front page.

Want to get involved by volunteering with us? Contact one of us on the alumni board! Or if you don't have hours to give and you'd rather give your dollars, consider donating to the annual fund today.

## FLASHBACK TO THE '70S



1977 Spring Formal



1977 Spring Formal



1979 Fall Free-For-All



1978 Pledge Formal



1979 Fall Free-For-All

Thanks to brother **David Hyland '80** who provided us with this look back in time, and to brother **Fred DeCock '80** who uploaded these gems to our alumni site. Here's a flashback to Phi Sigma Kappa in the late '70s! Enjoy these groovy facts about the era:

### 1977

- The Top Song was "You Light Up My Life" by Debby Boone
- The Movies to Watch include *Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope*, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *Smokey and the Bandit*
- Price of a Vacation at Walt Disney World, 8 days/7 nights, including airfare from Phila in 1977: \$233 to \$377 per person
- The Hotties and Fashion Icons:
- Barbara Bach, Adrienne Barbeau, Valerie Bertinelli, Jacqueline Bisset, Lynda Carter, Charo, Farrah Fawcett, Carrie Fisher, Kate Jackson, Lena Kansbod, Cheryl Ladd,

Dolly Parton, Bernadette Peters, Diana Ross, Jane Seymour, Jacquelyn Smith, Suzanne Somers, Donna Summer, Lindsay Wagner, Mary Woronov

### 1978

- The Top Song was "Night Fever" by The Bee Gees
- The Movies to Watch include *Grease*, *Every Which Way But Loose*, *Superman* and *Heaven Can Wait*
- The Most Famous Person in America was probably Muhammad Ali
- Most Popular TV shows:
  1. Laverne & Shirley
  2. Happy Days
  3. Mork & Mindy
  4. Three's Company
  5. Angie
  6. 60 Minutes
  7. M\*A\*S\*H
  8. The Ropers

9. All In The Family
10. Taxi

### 1979

- World Changing Event: The introduction of the Sony Walkman
- The Top Song was *My Sharona* by The Knack
- The Movies to Watch include *Alien*, *Rocky 2*, *The Muppet Movie*, *Apocalypse Now* and *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* and *The Life of Brian*
- Minimum Wage in 1979: \$2.90 per hour
- ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network) began broadcasting on September 7.
- The McDonalds Happy Meal first went on sale in 1979.
- World Series Champions: Pittsburgh Pirates
- Superbowl XIII Champions: Pittsburgh Steelers

## STAY CONNECTED

**Online Donations are Safer and Simpler than you Might Think!**



"Understand that friends come and go, but with a precious few you should hold on. Work hard to bridge the gaps in geography and lifestyle, because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young."

— Mary Smich, "Wear sunscreen."

Stay connected with your Kappa brothers. Because the older you get, the more you need the people who knew you when you were young. Let us know what's going on in your life! Email your updates and pictures to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com), visit [www.phisigpsu.com](http://www.phisigpsu.com) for news and events, and strengthen your bond of brotherhood today.