

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 4

Bear Koehler Retirement Dinner

Noon: Tailgate and reception at house - PSU v. Wisconsin on the Big Screen

6:00: Cocktails - Atherton Hotel

7:30: Dinner

April 21-22, 2007

Blue-White Weekend

Chapter Executive Officers

President

Taylor Dubois

Tld5002@psu.edu

Vice President

Keith Galanaugh

Kmg284@psu.edu

Treasurer

Travis Howell

Tlh275@psu.edu

Secretary

Jeff Marchozzi

Jym5013@psu.edu

House Manager

Amos Hutchinson

Akh155@psu.edu

Risk Manager

Nick Rivadeneira

Nxr160@psu.edu

Congratulations, Fall 2006 New Members!

Wes Bolton

Scott Braun

Dan Dunsmore

Adam Faiella

Jason Forman

Justin Malstrow

Victor Mankovsky

Jay Napoli

Connor O'Brien

Mike Palmer

Dennis Pasternak

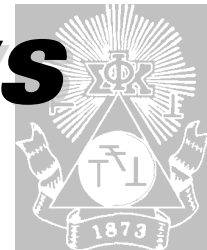
Jon Ross

Brett Schultz

Dan Weingarten

Kappa News

www.phisigpsu.com



Kappa Chapter

Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

November 2006

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A Reason to be Proud: Nearly \$650,000 Raised for Campaign!

Your Support Needed to Raise Final Pledges in \$1.5 Million House Renovation Project

By Bill DeGrandis '77 and Dave Hyland '80

On Saturday, September 9, the Phi Sigma Kappa Association unveiled its plans to undertake a \$1.5 million fundraising project to renovate 501 South Allen Street. More than 30 Phi Sig brothers were in attendance to learn more about this exciting project and the future of Kappa Chapter at Penn State.

We have to renovate the house now, and we don't have the luxury of waiting. The house is simply not up to code and 21st century standards. It becomes more decrepit and less safe each month. We need to rebuild the house to make it more attractive to rushees, desirable and safe for the actives and a nice place for alumni to want to visit their brothers.

Due to the State College mandate, sprinklers must be installed by September 2008. This requirement helped propel our project, as it requires us to rip out the walls

and ceilings. So, we decided the timing was right to do a more complete renovation.

Our architect, Anna Childe, who manages the State College office of Weber, Murphy and Fox, has determined that our foundation and outside walls are strong and the walls are square. Our basement has been impervious to water intrusion. So the money raised will go almost completely to renovating the inside and updating the plumbing, electrical and heating systems.

The campaign leadership committees include brothers from every decade since the '50s. We have discussed our project with brothers from every decade since the '20s, and these efforts have resulted in nearly \$570,000 in pledges made during our "quiet phase," bringing our total fundraising efforts to \$649,904 to date.

To complete a decent renovation that will make a difference, we need at least \$1.2

FUNDRAISING 101

What's The Difference?

Many alumni might think that their past support of our annual fund should "do the trick" to cover the upcoming renovation expenses. While past support of our annual fund is much appreciated, please note the difference between these two separate yet equally important entities:

A Reason to be Proud Capital Campaign

- Support physical plant renovations
- Purchase supplies
- Pay for goods and services related to the capital campaign

Annual Fund

- Supports continuation of communications program, including *Kappa News*

- Maintains alumni website at www.phisigpsu.com
- Funds annual alumni events and activities

The Association encourages you to support our temporary capital project while still maintaining your annual gift, as both causes are funded solely through alumni donations.

What's Next?

For the latest campaign news and information and for more details and photos from our campaign kickoff event, log on to our website at www.phisigpsu.com. If you have not yet been approached for your support, please make time for a brother-to-brother phone call in the coming weeks.

He Was “So Lucky” To Have Lived at Phi Sig

After More Than 50 Years, Bear Hangs His Hat and Retires from Kappa Chapter

On November 4, Penn State Phi Sigs will gather to celebrate a life dedicated to Phi Sigma Kappa. After 50 years of volunteer service to the fraternity he loves, **Robert W. “Bear” Koehler ’58** retired this year as adviser and treasurer of the alumni board. On the 4th, friends and fellow alumni will honor him with a dinner at the Atherton Hotel in State College.

How much does Bear love our fraternity? Here’s what he had to say about his days as an active: “I can remember waking up in the morning and feeling so lucky that I lived at Phi Sig.”



Bear Koehler ’58 and current active Evan Enyeart at the house during the PSU/Notre Dame game this fall

And about his willingness to devote so much time to the chapter: “It seems to have been my calling. The years went by ‘in swiftness fleet’ and it doesn’t seem very long since I was a pledge. The actives have always accepted me and, even now when I am the age of their grandparents, they seem happy to have me at the house.”

His love for all things Phi Sig is returned ten-fold. We’re *all* happy to have Bear at the house. In addition to his warm presence, the house benefits from his experience. “While many of us on the board have to deal with the issues of the day that are new to us, we often found that Bear had already experienced the same issue with a previous generation of young Phi Sigs,” says alumni board member **Matthew Hilbert ’81**. “His experience has been invaluable in getting us through some tough issues.”

Bear was first elected treasurer of the alumni association after his graduation from Penn State in 1958. He has served almost continuously until last fall, when he decided

it was time to retire. For 45 years he served Phi Sig as advisor, including three years when he was a PhD candidate at Michigan State University. Bear has attended most of the national fraternity’s conclaves, leadership schools and conventions since his first one in 1958 in French Lick, Indiana.

Bear’s love affair with Phi Sig began as an undergrad, when he found the house to be the “ideal place” to grow up. “We all sensed that we were held in suspension, somewhere between childhood and manhood,” he says. “We could operate without supervision, but we were not financially independent. While most of us...realized that this was the time to ‘break away.’”

Bear says he had an excellent group of people to grow up with. “We all had different abilities which we could use for the benefit of the fraternity,” he explains. “I was an accounting major and really enjoying practicing my trade as treasurer.”

Bear shared a few of his favorite memories from his days as an undergrad. Bear remembers...

- “Having to awaken recalcitrant brothers (especially **Joe Peden ’56**) for 8 and 9 o’clock classes.”
- “Raking leaves onto sheets, putting them in a 1931 Ford pick up and taking them to the local dump about seven miles out of town.”
- “Our cook, ‘The Bove,’ cooked breakfast five mornings a week. She would ask how we wanted our eggs and we would sit around a large kitchen table to eat them.”
- “Alumni coming to the house on Friday night on Homecoming weekend and again after the game on Saturday for cocktails and dinner. The alumni blended in well and served as mentors (before this was a word) quite naturally.”

The memories don’t end at graduation. During his years as an advisor, Bear has “happily observed” many Phi Sig brothers develop their leadership skills through their active involvement with the fraternity. He enjoys watching as each young man learns more about himself and grows in confidence and skill. “Some who were very nervous about the thought of public speaking learned to express themselves rather eloquently in chapter meetings, often when supporting one

side of a controversial issue,” he notes as an example.

Bear is ready for retirement. He retired from his teaching position in the accounting department at Penn State four years ago and

“[Bear’s] experience has been invaluable in getting us through some tough issues.”

– Matthew Hilbert ’81

is already learning the joys of more free time. “I have been able to go to Europe off season, to the beach in September, and to stay in Acapulco for longer than the spring break week,” he reports.

Bear still uses his office at Penn State to advise an honorary fraternity and a professional fraternity. He is also the chairman of our departmental Undergraduate Policy Committee and the liaison with recruiters of accounting graduates. Bear also evaluates applications for the Schreyer Honors College. Outside of Penn State, Bear is a liturgist and serves on the Finance Committee for St. Paul’s United Methodist Church. “When I awaken, I have something to do,” Bear says. “But my busyness does not preclude me from lingering over morning coffee or from taking two hour lunches with other retired friends.”

Bear sums up his 50+ year involvement with Phi Sigma Kappa: “I am proud to have been associated with such a fine group of men,” he says. “Everyone who has passed through the chapter has left his mark. Everyone has a worthy story to tell.”

On November 4th, all the stories will be about Bear.



Robert “Bear” Koehler in the early ’80s.

Through the Years: The Legend of Bear

Alumni Share Their Most Memorable Stories of Bear Koehler

“Phi Sig was an important part of my college experience and Bear was an important part of Phi Sig. Whenever I talk with my Phi Sig friends, we mention Bear, he is a legend. I don’t have any specific stories, I remember playing racquet ball with him and hitting him in the back of the head with the ball.”

– Rich “Bruno” Nonini '69

“[Bear] is certainly one of the most unforgettable characters I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. I’ll never forget the

extravagant dinner he prepared for my group of graduating seniors. Notable were the steak tar-tar and sweetened beer. Near the end of the evening, there was a particular fellow who could not handle another drink and yet could not refuse such a gracious host when offered a cordial of his best liquor. I wonder if Bear ever found it on the floor under his sofa?”

– Fatty Arbuckle '81

“My favorite Bear memories include: 1) During my Junior year, the officer’s dinner

at Bear’s apartment. After several rounds of martinis, JJ fell through Bear’s prized glass bar; 2) Anytime Bear tells the ‘Balls of the Bull’ joke; and 3) The ‘martinis are like breasts’ joke.”

– Chris Kane '91

Want to share your memories of Bear? Email content@phisigpsu.com with your best stories and photos!

Kappa Chapter Kicks Off School Year with 14 New Members

Fall Rush Results Set the Stage for Year’s Recruitment Goals

By Taylor Dubois, Kappa Chapter President

This is a very exciting time for Kappa Chapter! The hard work of our recruitment chairs and of the brotherhood as a whole has really paid off with this semester’s rush. We changed our recruitment tactics a little this semester by getting away from the strictly “party scene” of previous years, and focused more on the real benefits of joining Phi Sigma Kappa. When talking to the prospective members, we focused on our dedication to scholarship and explained the great potential of being involved in a brotherhood.

We finished this rush period with a total of 14 new members. Although we are always aiming for more, our goals for the year were 12 in the fall and 12 in the spring. Having the 14 new members as recruiters in the spring will certainly make it easy to accomplish those goals!

More important than the number of men we recruited is the quality of their character. I have personally talked to each of them, and they are all hard-working, intelligent individuals, and will certainly be a great asset

to this fraternity. Through the process of our new-member education, they are learning our ideals and principles.

I am very pleased with how things are going and am excited to see where we are

“We changed our recruitment tactics a little this semester by getting away from the strictly “party scene” of previous years, and focused more on the real benefits of joining Phi Sigma Kappa.”

headed. We are setting goals and following through on them, and the future is looking bright.

With a Renovated House Comes a Renovated Chapter

Assessment Plans Activated to Improve Direction of Kappa Chapter Operations

By Dick Doherty '58

As you probably know, the board performed an assessment of the active and the alumni chapters. The report covered nine areas of

“Their first two tasks are to review chapter leases with the alumni corporation and a code of conduct for the members.”

operation of the active chapter and four areas of the alumni chapter.

The findings are now being processed into action items by an Assessment Working Group, made up of alumni volunteers. Their first two tasks are to review chapter leases with the alumni corporation and a code of conduct for the members. We hope to have the first drafts soon.

This effort is being pursued in order to obtain a better focus on the fraternity experience, improve communications, tighten organization, improve housekeeping and address other important areas. In short,

we intend to give improved direction to the operation of the total fraternity, a renovated physical plant and a rejuvenated chapter.

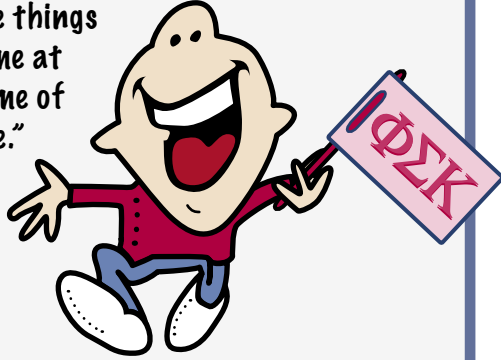


Laugh So Hard Your Guts Hurt

One [of my best memories] had to do with a hay ride. Julie Matheson wasn't watching where she was stepping and managed to find the emergency exit out of the wagon. I never saw Jeff Grubb '84 move that fast before or after. Luckily, Julie was none the worse for her unexpected trip and came up giggling.

It was one of those things that made my time at PSU and Phi Sig some of the best I had there."

- Luke Spaseff '86



To read more hilarious stories and to submit your own, visit www.phisigpsu.com!

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

A Reason To Be Proud!

Kappa Chapter is getting a facelift, which is being spearheaded by the campaign building committee.

Read the story on page 1 for full details.



A Reason to be Proud Leadership Committee

A Strong Fall New Member Class, a Legend Retires and a \$1.5 Million Renovation Project in the Works... Details Inside!

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