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Kappa Chapter
Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

November 2016

Committed to Lifelong Learning

GOLF WEEKEND REUNION

Brothers Renew Friendships And Remember Why They're Damn Proud!

By Bruce Balmat '70

Nearly 30 people gathered in State College on the weekend of June 24-26 for the Sixth Annual Phi Sig Golf weekend. A lot of entertaining events took place over these three days. Just behind "renewing friendships and remembering past experiences," in the rankings were the golfing events. Thanks to **Matt Cowen '05** who organized and pulled off a great series of activities to keep people active, interested, and well-fed. A round of golf at one of the PSU courses was followed by Happy Hour at Local Whiskey, a restaurant above the Phyrst.

Some folks didn't feel like getting up the

next day, but they managed to find their way to Mountain View Country Club (the former Elks Club) for a great buffet luncheon and the official tournament. That was followed up by a reception, dinner and awards presentation at the House. Thanks to **Doug Arnold '70** and **Tom Petka '70** for serving up a delicious steak dinner under the big-top tent in the side yard. **Bobby Thompson '01** took the top prize as the overall golf winner.

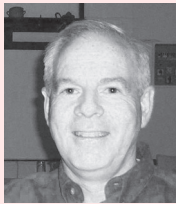
The camaraderie and weather were great and we hope to see more of you at the 7th Annual event next year!

VOLUNTEERING

Kappa Wants You!

Be a Captain For Your Era!

Remember the Brothers from your era, how much fun you all had as undergraduates?



Phi Sigma Kappa, through our recent stakeholder survey, understands that many of you would like to become volunteers for your era. You might think, that sounds time consuming. It doesn't have to be!

Getting together with your Brothers doesn't necessarily mean a trip back to State College and the Chapter House.

Have you ever thought of:

- Catching a baseball game with Brothers in your hometown
- Happy Hour after work at the local watering hole

These things can be easily planned for pockets of Kappa Chapter Brothers living all over the United States. In addition and best of all, they don't require an agenda, just a day, evening, or weekend of fun with your Kappa Brothers! Contact Kappa Chapter Alumni President **Fred DeCock '80** at fred.decock@comcast.net if you'd like to be a captain for your era! Eras can even be split for example, brother from '85-'89, or '60-'65, etc.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

“Tradition Never Dies, I Have No Favorite, I Cherish Them All.”

Ben McLure '62, was a professional scout for the Milwaukee Brewers for the past eight years. He's a Phi Sig for life.

“I joined Phi Sig, influenced by a recommendation from **Tom Campbell '57**, a friend from my hometown of Butler, Pa,” says McLure. “Tom was a Kappa a few years before me. I shopped other fraternities at Penn State but Phi Sig was my first choice because of the people I met during rush, both those who were rushing at the time and pledges of Kappa.”

As McLure recollects, the Brothers shared similar interests and backgrounds both academically and socially. Those backgrounds led to a treasure bank full of memories; of those, McLure is hard-pressed to pick just one.

“In a flood of memories, It is hard to pick a favorite,” he recalls. “I was at the first Grave Digger's Ball, my pledge trip to West Virginia, road trips to football games, the weekend festivities of all types from formal attire to different attire.”

“I am still Damn Proud because of the people I met, the traditions I helped maintain, the lasting friendships gained,” he recalls. “It is the people at Kappa I recall most fondly. I was there to hear many of Bear Kohler's dissertations on life, he made us appreciate

“I am still Damn Proud because of the people I met, the traditions I helped maintain, and the lasting friendships gained”

gourmet dining, martinis and wing tips. He was truly one of the greatest people I ever met.

He was Phi Sig!”

“Mrs. G. Haven Dawson, our house mother, and her attempts to teach table manners to the “barbarians,” were good memories as well,” recalls McLure. “The ‘D,’ taught us to respect the social amenities. The Bove in the kitchen “Eggs Today?”

As a testament to the importance of keeping in touch, McLure shares that he lost a roommate without knowing because he did not keep in touch.

“I have so many great memories of the Brotherhood, I might be able to write a book about them,” he says.

McLure went on to add that Brothers should give back in appreciation for their experiences at Kappa, the Brotherhood and social and scholarship experiences that could not be found in any other setting.

“Phi Sig gave me three years of wonderful

experiences,” he says proudly. “I owe them financially and in any other way that I can possibly support the group.”

“I retired last year after a 35-year career in professional baseball,” he says. “I have two children. My daughter Jill is a Buckeye and following in my father's footsteps and my son Michael is a PSU alum as is my “honey and my sweetie,” Susan, a PSU Delta Gamma, and has tolerated my efforts, travels, etc. for the last 27 years.”

“I have been truly blessed by them,” says the former scout. “I encouraged my children to join a fraternity/sorority, but neither chose that path for various reasons.”

According to Ben, Phi Sig taught him to lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way. He cites Phi Sig as his teacher of learning to read people and develop relationships accordingly.

“I have no use for the pretentious, self-important people created by today's climate,” says Ben. “As a Phi Sig, I was one of a group, my opinions mattered, whether people agreed or not. I learned to listen to both sides even if I knew I was right and at times changed my opinion. I learned to understand that not all people are of the same mind and when to speak up or shut up.”

PHOTO FLASHBACK

What Was The Hilton Thinking?!

Check out these suave Phi Sigs, attending the “First, and last formal at the Atherton Hilton.”

The photo was correctly identified by **Rick Derrickson '91**, via our Facebook page, found by searching “Kappa” in your Facebook search bar. He wrote:

“This is the Road Dogs. **Tim Finn '92, Mike Pries '94, Marc Hourvitz '91, and Sean Babik '91** across the top. **Rob Carter '91, Bill Garomen, Troy Thornton '91, Rick Derrickson '91 and Dave Gray '91** across the bottom. **Chris Schaffer** came later. The first and last Fraternity event hosted by the Atherton Hilton. What was Hilton thinking?

Michael Vereb '91 also weighed in.

“This was the beginning of a great run at Phi Sig. I still vacation each fall with four of these guys and it is my favorite weekend of the year.”

Pete Adams '96 writes “That's a famous photo. Can't recall where I saw it, but the Road Dogs were house royalty as seniors in the fall of 1990 when I pledged as a freshman and eventually became a Lugie. **Bob Hughes '94**, is that how we spelled it?”



To see more great photos (and banter between the Brothers), check us out on Facebook by entering “Kappa,” in the search bar!

ALUMNI WORK WEEKEND

Third Annual Alumni Work Weekend a Great Success!

About 20 Phi Sigs met at the House between Thursday, July 21st and Sunday, July 24th to give 501 S. Allen Street a facelift. There were seven or eight Actives who chipped in and did a wonderful job helping the Alums spruce things up. Several contractors contributed technical support. Here's a small sample of the tasks that were completed.

The living room, dining room and foyer walls have been washed, touched-up and painted. The dining room ceiling was washed. The furniture has been cleaned, repaired,

and refinished. The kitchen was completely emptied, cleaned, walls and ceiling washed and then repainted. New tables and chairs have been purchased for the dining room. The basement walls, ceiling and woodwork have been prepped for refinishing and repainting. This will be done by a contractor. The bar area was cleaned and a new cabinet and countertop were installed. A new refrigerator is on order. Both water heaters are running and we purchased a back-up unit for when the second original unit dies. The AC is being repaired to

resolve problems on two cooling zones. The shed and several storage closets were cleaned out and look great. Bushes were trimmed, the rear of the house was power washed and the yard was cleaned up.

Once again, the camaraderie of getting new and old friends together to make something happen was very gratifying for all, even in the 90 degree heat. Congratulations to the Actives who helped and really did an outstanding job on some less than desirable jobs.





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In this Issue...

- What Was The Hilton Thinking?!*
- Tons Of Photos From Recent Reunions!*
- Some Of The Best Phi Sig Traditions Revealed...*

ALUMNI UPDATES

See What These Phi Sigs Have Been Up To!

Bill Kopco '82

- Kidnapped To Go On A Pledge Trip

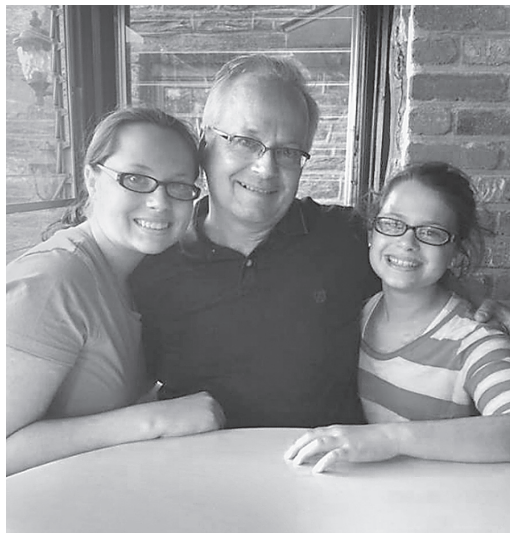
"I was kidnapped to go on a pledge trip to Susquehanna University in the dead of winter. There were probably a dozen of us that went on the trip. **John Schaub '82**, was one of the other Brothers that went. After considerable drinks and a not-so-inviting Brotherhood at Susquehanna, we realized it was probably best to leave.

Brother Schaub (in a drunken stupor), was on a mission to find his coat and nothing was turning up. Rather than weathering 10-degree temperatures, John opted to take a coat – or eight; convinced that his had been stolen.

Two hours later we arrived back at the Phi Sig house, only to find John's coat back in his room. Yep, we hopped back in the car, and put the stolen coats in a box with a note.

I keep in touch with several Brothers on Facebook and I have worked in Advertising and Marketing since graduation. I've worked for agencies in Philadelphia and Minneapolis; I've been on the client side in North Jersey, Boston, and all over Philadelphia.

Currently, I am an Advertising Consultant working for an agency in Wilmington, DE (Ironically, I took over my wife's job when she left). I've worked on tons of different products and services – from Freschetta Pizza, David's Bridal, Armstrong Ceilings, Bank of America and some very funky niche things.



Bill Kopco and his daughters

And for those who ask – no, the industry is not like "Mad Men," by the time I got into the business, the martini lunches were a thing of the past.

I currently live in Philadelphia and am enjoying all that the city has to offer. I have two girls, a 14 and 12-year-old, so I am bracing myself for the dating years! I have been married to an equally funny wife for 17 years and she also works in the business.

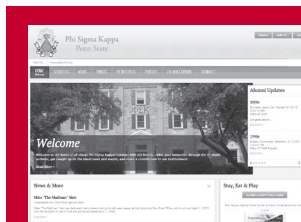
An Update From Ben McLure '62

-Hard To Retire If You Never Really Worked

"My favorite memory is the great flagpole erection – putting up a since-departed flagpole in front of the house.

I still keep in touch regularly with **Fred Warman '60**, and sometimes with **John Lloyd '62**. **Fred DeCock '80**, has become my partner in crime at Hershey Med.

After graduation I went to Lower Dauphin HS for a 15 year career in education. I went from teaching history to becoming the Dean of Gasoline (Driver's Ed). I also established myself as a "semi legend" in baseball coaching circles, helping build one of Mid Penn's best programs. This led to 34 years in professional baseball in various positions in scouting and player development. I got three World Series rings, one with St. Louis and two with Toronto. I "retired" following the 2015 season. Hard to retire if you never really worked. I live in Hummelstown, PA with my wife of 28 years, my honey and my sweetie, Susan, a Delta Gamma and also a PSU alumna.



*Check us out on the web at
www.phisigpsu.com
for all the latest
Phi Sig news!*