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Alumni Web Site



www.phisigpsu.com



**Active Chapter
Twitter**

[@phisigpsu](https://twitter.com/phisigpsu)



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Kappa News

Kappa Chapter
Phi Sigma Kappa at Penn State

www.phisigpsu.com
Spring 2024



Committed to Lifelong Learning

Founder's Day 2024

Our Founder's Day celebration will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024! Make some plans to reunite with your pledge brothers at Founders Day!

The meeting starts at 12pm and will include virtual participation. Lunch will be served for those who are in person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2295453647?pwd=SnRqQnFoUjYzVTlSQmdoSjBkTlZlU09>

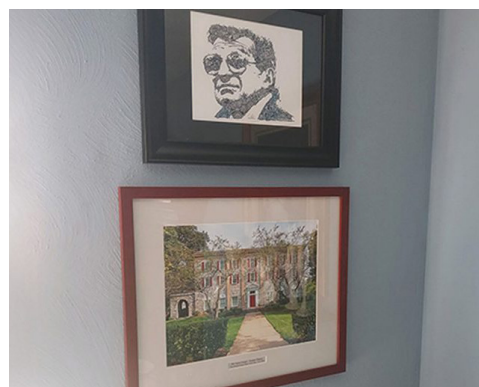
PS: Time is of the essence! The campaign is set to complete on Saturday, March 16, which will also be the day we celebrate Founder's Day! We need your commitments by March 15th in order to get the work done this summer! Plus, once your contribution is made, you will receive a beautiful lithograph of the Phi Sig house.

EXCLUSIVE CAMPAIGN GIFT

Kappa Brothers love the Lithograph of Phi Sig House!



Brothers Bob Romeiser '81, Fred DeCock '80, and Kevin Courter '80 pose with the exclusive campaign gift following a round of golf.



Brother Mike Bache '78 shared this photo of his new lithograph, sharing a wall with JoePa.

Supporters of the Damn Proud campaign are raving about the special gift exclusively available to brothers who contribute to it. In addition to being recognized on a plaque that will hang permanently on the first floor of the house, every donor receives this framed keepsake watercolor of 501 South Allen Street.

This token of gratitude was developed specially for this campaign, with work and materials sourced right from State College, and it is only available to our generous campaign donors.

Want one of these beauties to display in your home or office? It's easy. Simply make a contribution or pledge in support of the Damn Proud campaign, and we'll ship one out to you right away!

Your gift funds critical improvements to the house and innovative efforts to connect the brotherhood using technology, and you get a beautiful, unique way to always remember your home away from home in Happy Valley, no matter where you are.

The Damn Proud Campaign is wrapping up at Founder's Day, we need an additional \$160,000 in pledges and gifts to complete the kitchen project. See the pledge form enclosed for details.

CAMPAIGN PROJECTS

Projects Completed Over Work Weekend in August

The tradition of housework weekend continued this past year as alumni representing multiple decades, along with several of the undergraduates, all convened in State College in early August to clean and prep the property for the fall semester. In addition to the usual work, significant progress was made on some key projects funded by proceeds from the ongoing Damn Proud capital campaign.

Around a dozen alumni and 18 undergrads joined for the annual event, which brings current and alumni brothers together, working toward the common goal of maintaining the house.

For the first time, the alumni offered a virtual meeting to discuss the upcoming year, the budget, plans for year, and other topics. This meeting was requested by the undergrads, and is a sign of the high level of engagement from the current undergrads, and with many brothers away on summer jobs and internships, it allowed for around 24 additional students to attend virtually. The chapter currently enjoys strong leadership from the student officer positions, and Ryan, the house manager, did an excellent job throughout the weekend.

This year's work weekend saw a lot accomplished:

- Per usual, there was general cleaning and organization, outdoor landscaping (hedges, mulching), checking infrastructure systems, and getting ready for move-in (kitchen, bathrooms, first floor, etc.). The outside front-door frame was also repainted.

- Another project was improving the Alumni Room (the former card room). In addition to general tidying and displaying



more composites and other historical items, a closet door was installed to allow storage of records and other memorabilia not displayed under lock and key, along with the virtual meeting equipment and corporate records (e.g., architectural documents from the last campaign).

Even more exciting, two projects supported by the Damn Proud campaign were completed over the weekend.

- A new HVAC system was installed to bring air conditioning to the basement. This addition will greatly improve quality of life for residents throughout the warmest months of the year and will also allow parties and socials to be held comfortably on the basement level instead of spilling out onto the first floor of the house. The basement AC will dovetail perfectly with the installation of the new outdoor space; the patio area will be accessible through the basement, creating a new and vibrant social area for the house.

- The long-awaited installation of the new Triple T's crest in the living room was also completed over work weekend. The Phi Sigma Kappa crest had long hung over the fireplace until it was lost during renovations that happened during the last campaign. Thanks to our Damn Proud donors, a striking new crest was obtained and now once again adorns the wall above the mantle.

Remember that we had already finished a related project: installation of a drop-down screen and projector to be used during house watch parties, for games, and for virtual meetings on Homecoming, Founders Day, and other events.

Following a day of hard work, the alums shared a dinner with the undergrads at the Penn Stater Conference Center and Hotel. It was a great chance for alumni to reconnect and spend some time in the old house, along with an opportunity to teach and mentor the undergrads as they learn the responsibilities of property ownership. These are the days that remind us of the unique value the fraternity experience brings to college life.



KITCHEN RENOVATION PLAN

Brothers, we are truly in the final stretch of this campaign together, but we must complete the final project: the kitchen renovation. The mansion is at the heart of the Phi Sigma Kappa experience, and maintaining the house as a competitive residential option for modern Penn State students requires providing high-quality, in-house dining options. A fully renovated kitchen, which was identified as an important future investment in the last capital campaign, is the primary project for this campaign. The kitchen upgrade will modernize and optimize the house's dining facilities, which will enable better daily meal delivery and catering-level service for major functions, such as Homecoming.

Upgrade to Full Commercial Kitchen

Phi Sigma Kappa currently has a below-market house kitchen. We will upgrade the current facility to a full commercial kitchen in which cooks can prepare meals for a full-occupancy house. This plan was developed after consultation with our cook and the undergraduates to pinpoint the top priorities. The renovation will optimize workflow within the room and increase storage space. In addition to replacement of all main appliances, this project will require installation of a costly ventilation system to comply with code.

Add a Brothers Kitchen for Quick Meals and Snacks

We will add a small pantry near the dining room with a fridge, dry-goods storage, and basic appliances specifically for use by our undergraduate brothers outside of mealtime. This will keep our professional kitchen a separate, designated space. This new addition will have a minimal footprint and can be secured with a pull-down door during social functions.

Delivery and Storage

We will also renovate the back delivery area of the house to replace the current stairs and add space for dry storage. This will enhance logistics, functionality, and aesthetics while also improving ease and safety of making the frequent deliveries that arrive to the house on a regular basis.

DINING ROOM DOOR, CORNER



STAIRWAY DOOR, CORNER



WINDOW, CORNER



OUTSIDE DOOR, CORNER



WHAT DOES THE CAMPAIGN MEAN TO YOU?

Hear from the Undergraduates on What it Means to Them

We thank all our alumni brothers for their continued support to the capital campaign! You have heard time and time again from the alumni just how important this effort is to us.

But, what does the campaign mean to the undergraduates, the brothers who will be able to utilize the new amenities every day? These are the people we are doing this for! We took a snip from the meeting we held over Homecoming weekend, from the comments from Andrew, and we think this sums it up best. To view this video, please head to:

www.phisigpsu.com/news/hear-from-the-actives-on-what-the-capital-campaign-means-to-them/

Leave a comment, and let us know what the campaign means to you, our alumni!

EARLY '70s REUNION

About 25 brothers attended a reunion, with grad years ranging from the classes of 1970 to 1976. At least a dozen wives were also in attendance. We had a special toast for all of us there and those unable to attend. Toastmaster was Brother Denny "Too Many" Hullmann '73. Special shot glasses were made, and we enjoyed 58-year-old Jim Beam whiskey from the Phi Sig 100th anniversary decanter.

Seen in the picture from left are Steve "Sky" Yorks, Craig "Mello" Melidosian, Steve "Jobber" Handwerk, Jeff Schneider, Dennis "Otis" Wist, Ed "Bucky" Buchan, Steu "Gar" Brown, Bruce Balmat, Jeff Brugler, Bruce Best, John Wall, John Eisley, Rick "WAX" Jillaba, Bill "Giant" Albertson, Tim Edinger, Denny "Too Many" Hullmann, and Tom "Staz" Staszewski. Not seen are John Flinchbaugh, Bill Warfel, John "Bison" Robison, Jack Johns, Tom "Big Daddy" Rohrbach, Bob "Pele" Withrow, Randy "Kulpy" Kulp, and Lee "Little Buddy" Bellinger. Unable to attend were Bob "Little Daddy" Rohrbach, Ed "Pesky" Pescatore, and Jim Durfee.



ALUMNI INTERVIEW

In his latest Phi Sigma Kappa alumni interview, President Martin Barbato '79 interviews his pledge instructor Stephen Courter '77 about his time in the house, life after Penn State, and lessons and benefits from being in the fraternity that carried forward after graduation. To view the video of a condensed version of their one-hour conversation, head to -

www.phisigpsu.com/news/kappa-alumni-interview-series-stephen-courter-77.

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

Do you know of a Phi Sig alum who would make a good profile subject? If so, contact our editors at honeill@elevateims.com (mention "Kappa News" in the subject line).