

Upcoming Events

- **Homecoming 2004**
October 22-23
- **Blue White Weekend 2005**
April 23
- **Golf Outing** — June 2005
- **Arts Fest 2005**
July 13-17, 2005

See You at Homecoming 2004

The brothers of Sigma Nu invite you to return to the house during the weekend of October 23, 2004, to celebrate homecoming.

Here's a schedule of our activities:

Friday, October 22

8:00 p.m. — Alumni reception and open house following the homecoming parade

Saturday, October 23

Time TBD — Alumni meeting

Time TBD — PSU vs. Iowa game at Beaver Stadium

6:00 p.m. — Alumni dinner and reception

Please RSVP for homecoming to **Mike Sweeney '92** at SigmaNuAlumni@comcast.net or 724-746-6644. ■

2004 Football Schedule

Sept. 4 ~ Akron, W 48-10

Sept. 11 ~ at Boston College,
L 7-21

Sept. 18 ~ University of
Central Florida, W 37-13

Sept. 25 ~ at Wisconsin

Oct. 2 ~ at Minnesota,
8:00 p.m.

Oct. 9 ~ Purdue, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 23 ~ Iowa

(Homecoming)

Oct. 30 ~ at Ohio State

Nov. 6 ~ Northwestern

Nov. 13 ~ at Indiana

Nov. 20 ~ Michigan State

* Home games are in bold.

www.greeks.psu.edu/ifc/sn

<http://sigmanu-psu.org>

The Delta Delta



October 2004 — Sigma Nu Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University — State College, Pa.

Alumni

Report

Strong Alumni Leadership Turned the Undergraduate Chapter Around

About two months ago, I was approached to help pick up a few responsibilities for the alumni association. Our current president, **Sam Hodgson '87**, had been traveling heavily on business and needed assistance putting together plans for the coming year.

It had been nearly two years since I had been involved with the inner workings of our fraternity. When I left office, Sigma Nu was coming out of one of the most difficult times we had faced in our history at Penn State. The fraternity house had been empty for the 2001-02 academic year, and the house was surviving on alumni donations until a mortgage loan was obtained by the property association to cover the operating expenses.

Looking back now at the challenges we faced at that time makes the progress our fraternity has achieved even more impressive.

Strong donations from our alumni brothers (\$13,800 in 2001-02 and \$12,000 in 2002-03) allowed the fraternity to remain solvent during our financial crisis. The support each of you gave to the fraternity during this time provided the property association and the undergraduate chapter the time to get recovery plans underway.

Strong alumni leadership, especially from **Bob Nelson '72** and **Ed Sidwell '58**, was responsible for engineering the turnaround of the chapter. These men led an alumni board that planned and implemented measures to balance the chapter budget and achieve financial recovery for the house.

Strong undergraduate leaders have set the tone and direction for the undergraduate chapter by maintaining a balanced budget, excelling in the Sigma Nu LEAD program, and taking leadership roles in the IFC and our national fraternity.

In addition, the house corporation has conducted a strategic assessment of the operation and management of our fraternity at Penn State. The assessment benchmarks every aspect of the operation and management of our fraternity against other fraternities nationwide. The findings and recommendations of this study will help us improve our candidate recruitment, house management and alumni relations in the coming years. Plans are now being made to act upon these recommendations and position Delta Delta for success throughout the next 100 years.

Fraternally,

Michael Sweeney '92

Sigma Nu Alumni Association

Former Alumni President (2001-02) ■

Golf

Outing

First Annual Delta Delta Open

The alumni association is organizing a golf tournament for all brothers and alumni of the Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Nu. The First Annual Sigma Nu Delta Delta Open is being planned for June 2005 and will include brunch, a round of golf at one of the Penn State courses and a ceremony in the evening. Plans are being made for group accommodations as well.

An additional mailing will be sent with the event details once our plans have been finalized. ■

House Report

Many Important Actions Taken by the Property Association

In August 2003, the property association received a disbursement from the estate of brother **Joseph J. Colone '49**, in the amount of \$6,460.00. Brother Colone was initiated in 1947 and passed to the Chapter Eternal in 2002. The funds were placed in our House Mother's Suite Renovation Account.

A significant action taken by the association this year was the replacement of our casualty insurance carrier. Faced with a 30-percent premium increase from our then-current carrier, brother **Ed Sidwell '58** investigated other options. We switched carriers effective April 1, 2004. The new carrier specializes in casualty insurance for fraternities and sororities, and offers significant discounts for sprinkler systems.

We initiated the first planning step of a major fund-raising campaign. We contracted with Pennington & Company to conduct a strategic assessment of the chapter. The purpose of the assessment is to objectively evaluate the organization and operations in order to prioritize specific risks, needs and opportunities. The results of the assessment will help us determine our readiness to initiate a major fund-raising activity (hereinafter referred to

as a capital campaign). We will be eligible for a five-percent discount on our property insurance upon completion of the assessment. The strategic assessment report will be discussed at our next homecoming meeting.

Funds from our annual operating budget were used for the following maintenance and repairs: installation of an iron safety railing on the house mother's suite roof, replacement of faucets in both bathroom showers, a mandatory upgrade of the kitchen fire-suppression system, tightening the joints in the dining room tables, replacement of a portion of the dining room floor, electrical repairs, minor code-inspection-related repairs and repairs to leaking kitchen plumbing.

Dedicated funds that had been raised by brother **Robert Leyburn '52** were used to replace the roof on the suite. Funds remain in the dedicated account for renovating the suite, but they are insufficient to complete the renovation. The next stage involves the development of a detailed design. After the design is developed and approved, there may be sufficient funds to do some exterior work (e.g., doors and windows). The interior renovation will have to be delayed until

funds are raised as part of our anticipated capital campaign.

The undergraduate chapter wants to upgrade the condition of the first floor to improve its appearance for rush and social events, and to make it more accommodating for visitors and guests. The first room to be addressed will be the library, which the undergraduate chapter worked on during summer 2004. We've asked the undergraduate chapter to restore the locked chapter room to its original use — an accessible living room. To do so, we need to acquire a lockable storage cabinet to contain ritual materials so the room can serve a dual purpose while remaining unlocked.

If you'd like more information on these and other property association activities, please contact me for a copy of my full annual report including financial statements. I can be reached at **nelsonnittany@aol.com**.

Fraternally,

Robert A. (Nellie) Nelson '72
President, Delta Delta Property Association ■

Chapter Report

Building Upon Our Successes

The undergraduate Delta Delta Chapter is looking forward to a very solid recruitment period this fall. Last semester, we initiated four strong candidates into the bonds of brotherhood. Currently, the undergraduates are implementing new, proven techniques to help recruitment this fall reach our goal of at least 15-18 quality candidates.

I'd like to send out a congratulations to **Andy Hackett** for not only continuing success with his role as IFC president but also for recently being selected as one of four Collegiate Grand Councilmen to sit on Sigma Nu's High Council during the 2004-05 academic year.

I would also like to pass along **that at Grand Chapter this summer, Delta Delta brought home the All Chapter LEAD Programming Excellence Award**. This award is given only to the chapters that excel in all three modules of the All Chapter phase of LEAD and reinforces the fact that the undergraduate chapter is continuing to be committed to excelling with honor. More information about the LEAD program can be

found at **www.sigmanu.org/lead**.

Personally, I would like to encourage all alumni to stop by the house whenever you are in town, be it for a home football game or Homecoming 2004 (October 23) to see firsthand the great progress that the undergraduate Delta Delta Chapter is making in all aspects of our fraternity.

In closing, I'd like to pass along to you the Web address of the undergraduate chapter, **www.greeks.psu.edu/ifc/sn**, as a means for you to not only be up to date with the events occurring at Delta Delta this year, but also as a way for you to contact me or any other undergraduate or alumni officer for any questions or comments that you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Fraternally,
Jonathan Stavinski
Eminent Commander ■

Penn State Commits to Helping to Rebuild Greek System

For several years Penn State neglected the Greek System fearing legal issues and the system deteriorated. However, the University discovered that they could not avoid legal problems. Recognizing that many fund raising dollars are donated by Greek alumni, the trustees began to encourage Penn State to support and help rebuild the system they had neglected. We first witnessed Penn State's commitment to the Greek system when Vicky Triponey was hired from UCONN in the fall of 2003 as the new Vice-President for Student Affairs. Vicky is a super addition to our Penn State administration!

Vicky and Penn State immediately launched a movement called "Greek Pride, A Return to Glory." This movement has been propelled by a process called "Appreciative Inquiry," a program that has brought together a wide variety of stakeholders in a series of summits, retreats, and bold action team sessions that have produced a vision and plan that will begin to guide the relationship between Penn State and the University. "Appreciative Inquiry" is a process used at other schools for creating sustainable change, developing visioning for the future that focuses on what is positive from our past and current experience and builds on that to provide the goals and structure for the future. It's been a very interesting and educational process. I have never witnessed this kind of Greek Life support by Penn State.

I am pleased to report that we had several Sigma Nu's involved in the A.i. process. Some of you alumni were interviewed. Brother Andy Hackett, our Past Commander and present IFC President, has played a major role in the overall process, and has been outstanding with his input and guidance. Andy also serves on the core committee that guides the effort. Erik Tomalis, our consultant from National, who covers 50 chapters on the east coast,

spent two days with us at the summits, a reflection of the interest of our National Headquarters in the Return to Glory project. Our Chapter Commander, Jon Stavinski, attended. We had other brothers involved. I am currently serving on the Financial Bold Action Team and the Steering Committee for the process. I am very proud of our Sigma Nu participation.

We have now worked with Vicky Triponey for several months and are continually impressed with her drive, enthusiasm, leadership, and personality. The Trustees, President Graham Spanier, Vicky, fraternity and sorority actives, the community, and we alumni, are dedicated to defining a plan that will provide a working foundation of respect and understanding thus returning our Penn State Greek System to the glory experienced in the past.

To keep the momentum rolling, several "Bold Action Teams" have been formed based on concepts developed by the process to date. The teams consist of many of the involved stakeholders. We are looking for interested local people (because of meetings) who might like to join the teams. The teams are "Standards and Rewards for Excellence," Leadership Training and Organizational Development, "Cultivating Partnerships with the University," "Community Service," Greek Marketing: In Pursuit of Excellence, "Financial and Facility Resources," "Alumni, Advisor and National Office Engagement," and "Fun + Traditions = Greek Unity." Please let Ed Sidwell know at mredsid@adelphia.net if you would like to help keep the Greek Pride process moving.

To learn more about the Appreciative Inquiry process, you can click on the web site at: <http://www.sa.psu.edu/greekpride> Read "What's This All About" and also click on "What is A.i.?"

Brother Ed Sidwell ■

2004-2005

Chapter Officers

Delta Delta Chapter Officers

Commander

Jonathan Stavinski
jd426@psu.edu

Lt. Commander

Marc Samuels
mls412@psu.edu

Pledge Marshal

Brian O'Neill
bjo123@psu.edu

Chaplain

Matthew McTigue
mdm325@psu.edu

Treasurer

Jeff Ewing
jae188@psu.edu

Recorder

Michael Delo
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Sentinel, House Manager

Adam Jaroh
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Alumni Relations

Anthony Roberts
aer171@psu.edu

Social

Todd Nowlin
mtn118@psu.edu

Risk Reduction

Jon Kamide
jwk183@psu.edu

Webmaster

Andrew Hackett
aph127@psu.edu



Filling in the History ...

In 2008, the Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Nu will be celebrating 100 years at Penn State University. In preparation for this event, the alumni association is looking for stories, pictures, old issues of newsletters, newspaper clippings, etc., of our history. This information will be shared during our 100-year anniversary celebration.

If you have anything you would like to contribute about your experience with Sigma Nu over the years, please contact **Mike Sweeney '92** of the Sigma Nu Alumni Association at 329 Bridlewood Court, Canonsburg, PA 15317, or by e-mail at SigmaNuAlumni@comcast.net or phone at 724-746-6644. ■

Alumni UpDates

William H. Ondick '51

(952 Wyndfall Dr., Sunset Beach, NC 28468) Still enjoying the beach and climate here in Sunset Beach. Both cancers (lymphoma and myeloma) are fine. I am now suffering from shingles and stenosis of the spine, and I'm in physical therapy to get my strength back in my right leg. I hope to be golfing soon.

Frederick Bigony '52

(194 Spyglass Ct., Jupiter, FL 33477; bigonyfred@aol.com) Kit and I just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We're both doing pretty good healthwise and enjoy our home in Jupiter, Florida — boating, golfing and traveling. I'm still involved with management of the com-

pany I founded (with a partner) in 1961; the business is an American dream. We just bought a summer home on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire. We're still in touch with **Dick Moran '53, Jim Diehl '53, Sam Marino '53, Sam Lemon '53, Grant Breining '53, Jack Fraser '53, Tom Rice '52, Mike Kirshner '53, Owen Wilkinson '52, Dave Bischoff '52 and Bob Blum '38** (my neighbor), mostly by e-mail.

Samuel E. Griffiths '58

(5608 Quail Dr., Doylestown, PA 18901) I see **Dick Kelly '58, Joe Hyson '58 and Ed Palmer '58** occasionally. I'm playing golf regularly with work fitted in and traveling yearly to Scotland. I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary in Bermuda in June

2004 with Ginger, I spend several weeks yearly at our camp in Maine and go to PSU home football games. We have three sons and seven grandchildren. I hope to hear from other brothers from the class of '58.

Edward W. Kmit '66

(3877 Peabody Dr., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302-4035; dkmit@aol.com) My daughter, Kathy, is to marry Rob Ammann this year.

Richard W. Saylor '68

(79901 Overseas Hwy., #202, Islamorada, FL 33036; dicksaylor@bellsouth.net) Andi and I are moving to our condo on the ocean in the Florida Keys. ■

Blue/White Weekend 2004



Ed Sidwell and Bob Nelson work to balance the budget.



Mike Sweeny, Andy Hackett, Dave Campbell and Doug Kosydar



Mechanical Bull Riding on the front lawn during Blue/White Weekend

546-26

Address Service Requested

State College, PA 16804-0296

P.O. Box 296

Alumni Relations Office

Sigma Nu Fraternity
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY



*We're looking forward to seeing you at
Homecoming, October 22-23!*