

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### See You at Homecoming!

Join us for Homecoming 2009  
October 16-17...

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday, October 16

- Parade through downtown State College - Come cheer on our Chapter as they continue to be among the top Float Builders

#### Saturday, October 17

- Annual Alumni Meeting will begin at the house at 11:00am (details online at [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org))
- Kickoff time for PSU vs Minnesota game is 3:30 EST on 10/17/2009
- BYOB Cocktail hour to begin following the game at the House
- Dinner to be served at the Chapter house - Time to be Determined

## AWARDS

The following awards were presented at the Centennial dinner...

Above and Beyond - **Bob Nelson**  
Honorable Mention: **John Thompson & Brandon Peterson**

Devotion - **Doug Kosydar**  
Honorable Mention: **Don Bain & John O'Donnell**

Overall Chapter Supporter (Non Delta Delta Brother) - **Karen Sweeney**

Honorable Mention: **Natalie Kosydar & Todd Denson** - Sigma Nu National

## ON THE WEB

### What's My Member ID?

You can find your Member ID, required for first time login at [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org), above your name and address on this newsletter.

# The Delta Delta



Sept. 2009 Sigma Nu Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University — State College, Pa.

[www.greeks.psu.edu/ifc/sn](http://www.greeks.psu.edu/ifc/sn)

[www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org)

## CENTENNIAL

### Happy 100th Birthday, Delta Delta!

Over 100 guests attended at least one of our historical events, and a big thank you goes out to the Centennial Celebration Committee, and a special thank you to Brothers **Andy Hackett** (ΔΔ 1361) and **Kris Heineman** (ΔΔ 1305) as the Overall Committee Chairs for organizing them!



*Dan Shoffner, Ken Jones and Penn State University President Graham Spanier at the Centennial dinner.*

Saturday, June 13, 2009 began with the 5th Annual Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Nu Golf Invitational, which was held on the White Course on the University Park Campus. This year we had 19 golfers take part in the event. The winning two-man team score of a one-over-par 73 was shot by "Team Dynasty", Brothers **John O'Donnell** (ΔΔ 869) and **Don Bain** (ΔΔ 817).

The Alumni Family Picnic was the second event held on Saturday, and the weather continued to be perfect for this event. Guests were treated to a Clem's Barbecue picnic with all the fixings as well as ten flavors of Creamery Ice Cream to choose from. The family style picnic, held at Sunset Park in State College, was a beautiful atmosphere for our families to relax and have some fun in an outdoor setting. We had multiple activities for all ages including the Delta Delta Chapter's own magician **Chris Handa** (ΔΔ 1223). A big thanks goes out to Kelly and **Brandon Peterson** (ΔΔ 1306), Sue and **John Thompson** (ΔΔ 1135), **John O'Donnell** (ΔΔ 869) and Karen Sweeney and **Mike Sweeney** (ΔΔ 1220) for their efforts in coordinating the Family Fun Day in the Park.

As the day progressed, we moved our Celebration to the Hintz Family Alumni Center for a memorable first class evening.

Prior to dinner, Penn State University

President Dr. Graham Spanier took some time to speak regarding our Chapter and the overall Greek System at Penn State. Guests were then treated to the songs of our Fraternity by the quartet of Brothers O'Donnell, Bain, Shincovich and Garfield. This group was then joined by all for the singing of "The

White Star of Sigma Nu."

Following a delightful dinner, Brother **Ed Sidwell** (ΔΔ 879) was presented a **Lifetime Achievement Award** from our Chapter, by Brother **Bob Nelson** (ΔΔ 916). Brother Sidwell was also awarded the **2009 House Corporation Officer of the Year Award** given by Sigma Nu National Fraternity. See the list to the left of other awards that were presented at the Centennial.

Our group was also privileged to hear inspiring speeches from our Active Chapter Commander **Mark Mixon** (ΔΔ 1446) and the Regent of Sigma Nu Joe Gilman.

Following the awards ceremony, our guests enjoyed a video presentation put together by our Alumni Worthy Commander **Doug Kosydar** (ΔΔ 1249) which included historic photos of our Chapter's first 100 years that were submitted by fellow chapter members.

Special thanks goes out to Brother **Mike Harrell** (ΔΔ 1218) for his awesome job as Emcee for our historic event.

## SCENES FROM THE CENTENNIAL

More than 100 Delta Delta brothers and guests had a great time at the centennial celebration of our chapter...



John O'Donnell, Hank Garfield and Don Bain at the Centennial dinner.



Alumni brothers at the Sigma Nu Golf Invitational. Left to right are Keith Twigger, Dave Wittmann, Stan Stroup, and Doug Kosydar



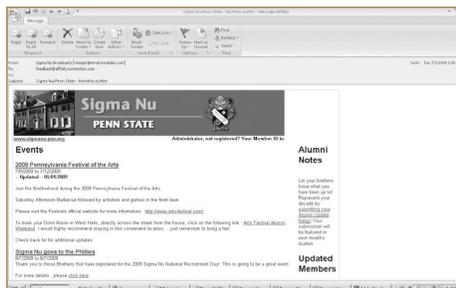
Brothers at the Alumni Family Picnic. Left to right are Don Bain, Keith Twigger, John O'donnell, Jim Shincovich, Andy Hackett, Joe Gilman, and Steve Rodrigo

Find many more photos at [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org).

## ON THE WEB

### Do We Have Your Email Address?

Hey...it's the 21st century, right? Then why do we have email addresses for only 57% of you? In a day and age of emails, Facebook posts and tweets, we want to keep in touch with you more frequently via email too (not to mention save a little money on paper, printing and postage).



So, if you haven't been receiving our monthly e-Letters, go to [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org) and update your email address today. Just log in, then click on Edit Info at the top of the page.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Which Era had the Most Fun?



We love coming across great pictures from our chapter's history, including this one from the 1975 edition of *LaVie*. There are so many great pictures to see and stories to tell from all eras of our history that it makes us wonder...which era had the most fun?

Share the best stories, pictures and memories from your

Sigma Nu days with our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) (mention Sigma Nu at PSU in the subject). Your submissions may be chosen to appear in the next issue of our newsletter or monthly e-Letter.

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### “Proud to be a Part of the Brotherhood that is Uniquely Sigma Nu”

#### *Steve Rodrigo (ΔΔ 1160) tells how Delta Delta Remains a Part of His Daily Life*

Love, truth and honor: three words that define what it means to be a brother in Sigma Nu but also represent much more. These are the principles that **Steve Rodrigo** (ΔΔ 1160) prides himself upon even after his active days are nothing more than memories. “One of the reasons I liked Sigma Nu was that their core beliefs are so simple to understand and implement in a person’s daily life,” Steve said.

Dating back to the pledge period, Steve can recall many unforgettable moments on his journey to becoming a brother. “Our pledge bolt up to Toronto was quite a memorable experience and how we got past the customs check point still amazes me,” he said. It was events like this that brought Steve closer into the bonds of brotherhood, which he defines as “a collection of men banding together to accomplish certain goals based on certain beliefs they hold.”

That bond that remains strong today dates back to the completion of the initiation period. Having a conversation with his big brother **Sam Hodgson** (ΔΔ 1146) and **Frank Marsh** (ΔΔ 1143) put Steve on track to be one of the most dedicated alumni to the fraternity. “[They] told me that the best thing I could do as a brother was stay in touch with the brotherhood and take care of the house. That has stuck with me over the years,” Steve said, adding, “I continue to support the house financially and have had the privilege of serving as a member of the Board of Directors which allows me to keep abreast of house related activities.”

One major contribution that can only be attributed to Steve and his passion for Sigma Nu is the replacement of the outside walkway. Ever modest about his donations, Steve recalled coming up for a spring budget meeting where then eminent commander **Michael Delo** was looking for a solution to fix the walkway despite tight funds. “I was struck by Mike’s candor on the subject and thought this was an opportunity to step up as a brother,” Steve said. “I asked **Ed Sidwell** to get me a quote on the sidewalk and the rest is history.” Never one to seek recognition for his generosity, Steve requested that his gift



*Steve Rodrigo in Baghdad, Iraq.*

remain anonymous, but Ed would hear nothing of the sort.

Thanks to modern technology such as Facebook, Steve is able to still communicate with some fellow brothers who have become great friends to him. “I stay in touch with brothers **Johnathan Thompson** (ΔΔ1135), **Doug Kosydar** (ΔΔ1249), **Andy Hackett** (ΔΔ1361) and **Sam Hodgson** (ΔΔ1146). I also make it a priority to visit brother **Scott Sheader** (ΔΔ1203) at the Brewery every time I’m in town,” he said.

**“...the best thing I could do as a brother was stay in touch with the brotherhood and take care of the house”**

Today Steve is living in Manassas, VA with his “wonderful” wife, Christine, with whom he will celebrate their twentieth anniversary next year. They met while in meteorology class at Penn State Altoona and, according to Steve, “she’s put up with me ever since.”

His career path has taken him in many different directions and locations such as Honolulu, Hawaii; Rota, Spain; and more recently Baghdad, Iraq. He served in the Navy for twelve years in the field of Naval Intelligence before moving on to work as a defense contractor supporting several government agencies. One of Steve’s most notable accomplishments was working in support of the Chief Information Officer for the Director of National Intelligence as a contract representative. He and his

colleagues from the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Standards and Technology participated in the development of a Risk Management framework for federal information technology systems, which is soon to become a landmark for all federal systems. (For more information, visit <http://csrc.nist.gov>.)

Another interesting career note is Steve’s assistance with friend and colleague Susan Hansche on her book, “The Official CISSP-ISSEP Study Guide.” At the time it was written, this was the only published study guide for this increasingly important security certification which is well known within the information security industry.

It is clear that Steve has been more than successful since graduating from Penn State and enjoys being an active alumnus in Sigma Nu. However, even as time as passed, it is obvious that he has not forgotten his roots and the role that the fraternity played in shaping the person he is today.

“I think my biggest takeaway from my experience at Sigma Nu that has served me well in my current position is to be truthful with my customers and colleagues and to call things as I see them,” Steve said. “I’ve learned that everyone brings a different perspective to different problems or situations and it’s important to at least recognize that person’s position before either accepting or rejecting it.”

Citing his fraternity experience as “rewarding,” Steve remains ever grateful for the lessons he learned while in the fraternity. “Delta Delta is a great house and I am proud to be a part of the brotherhood that is uniquely Sigma Nu,” he said.

#### Chapter Eternal

The following brothers have passed into the chapter eternal since our last publication. We offer condolences to their family and friends.

**Delmont Barbor** (ΔΔ 324)  
**Robert Stockdale** (ΔΔ 455)  
**George Ralston** (ΔΔ 560)  
**David Barney** (ΔΔ 663)  
**John Rostosky** (ΔΔ 953)

## ALUMNI REPORT

### Board of Directors Assesses Funds Required for Capital Improvements

By **Robert A. (Nellie) Nelson '72 (ΔΔ916)**, President

In our last newsletter, I reported that our Board of Directors had developed a capital improvement plan. This plan calls for replacement of the hardwood floors in the dining room, foyer, and library as the initial project. This project was selected because the floors can not be refinished and the highly visible nature of this improvement. We completed the bid solicitation process and the Board was evaluating these. The bid process took much longer than expected because the initial bids were significantly in excess of our scoping estimate.

This caused a refinement of our specifications, rebidding, and soliciting bids from additional contractors. Unfortunately, actual campaign donations are lagging behind pledge commitments in the amount of \$22,600. This delinquency has grown from \$7,000 in June of 2008. Clearly, this is a disappointing development and one that we had not anticipated. This situation, combined with not meeting our campaign

goal, has caused us to pause and reassess our overall financial situation before committing any funds from the campaign. I know that many of you have been expecting some noticeable and immediate improvements as a result of your financial support for the campaign. Please continue to bear with us as we reassess the most effective use of the limited funds available in these difficult financial times.

Since my last report, we completed a number of improvements funded from our operating budget including the installation of an expansion tank and relief valve for the water heating system, new curtains and curtain rods for the first floor, painting of the dining room, installation of outdoor speakers, and extensive landscaping in the front of the Chapter House.

Brother **Edwin Sidwell (ΔΔ 879)** was recently recognized by the General Fraternity as House Corporation Officer of the Year. The award was presented to

Brother Sidwell by Regent Joe Gilman at our centennial dinner.

The Association hosted a buffet-style dinner following the Blue/White game on April 25 and a cook-out luncheon on Saturday of Arts Fest (July 12). We held our annual "kick-off" meeting with the Collegiate Chapter on September 6 and we hope to have a retreat with the Collegiate Chapter in late January or early February in conjunction with our annual planning and budgeting meeting.

I hope that you can attend Homecoming this year on October 17. Our annual alumni meeting will be held at the Chapter House beginning at 11 AM. We'll end the meeting in plenty of time to get the 3:30 kickoff of the football game versus Minnesota.

If you have any questions regarding the Property Association or if you want a copy of our annual report or capital improvement plan, please send an e-mail to [nelsonnittany@aol.com](mailto:nelsonnittany@aol.com).

*More than 100 Sigma Nus and guests celebrated our centennial, including PSU President Graham Spanier. More pictures and the full story inside...*



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Sigma Nu



*Delta Delta Turns 100! Read Inside for How We Celebrated...*

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