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Open Board Position to be appointed.



THE RANCHER

PENNSYLVANIA ALPHA ZETA, SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON • SAEPSU.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Bright New Chapter for PA Alpha Zeta

Welcome to "The Rancher" Alumni Newsletter

Dear PA Alpha Zeta Alumni,

On behalf of our Board I am thrilled to welcome you to a special edition of "The Rancher," the official alumni newsletter of the Pennsylvania Alpha Zeta House Corporation of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Penn State. Our aim is to keep you connected and informed about our chapter through monthly email newsletters, so please take a moment to update your current email contact information if necessary on the website at SAEPSU.org

Despite facing many challenges in the past, our brotherhood has emerged stronger and more dedicated than ever. Our perseverance and commitment to our core values have driven us to rebuild and strengthen the chapter.

Our journey has been marked by significant accomplishments:

- Overcoming \$100K in damages and recovering \$32K in unpaid rent and fees.
- Generating nearly \$1MM in revenue through a lease agreement with Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority National House Corporation.
- Investing \$400K in property restoration and improvements.
- Partnering with SAE National Housing Corporation for property management.

We are proud to have successfully recolonized the PA AZ chapter and initiated an amazing group of Founding Fathers in May 2022 and 30 new brothers during the Fall and Spring Semesters.

As we celebrate our Founders Days on May 13, 1892, and May 14, 2022, we



look to the future with excitement and optimism. We have several upcoming events and initiatives:

- Welcoming active members back to "The Ranch Alumni House" at 200 East Beaver Avenue for the Fall 2023 Semester.
- Hosting a Ranch Alumni House Rededication and House Corporation Annual Meeting on October 7, 2023, during Penn State football's bye week.
- Launching an engraved paver fundraiser to improve and expand the Veranda and fund additional house improvements.
- Creating an exclusive Alumni ΦA Club gathering space in the renovated carpeted 3rd floor "BA".

To enhance our chapter's success, we need your continued involvement. Please consider joining the Penn State ΣAE Alumni Association, participating in a committee and sharing your feedback on how we can exceed expectations and provide a meaningful experience for you and your family.

Together, we can write the next chapter in the proud history of the Pennsylvania Alpha Zeta House Corporation of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to keeping you informed and engaged through "The Rancher."

We hope you find *The Rancher* Newsletter informative!

ΦA in the bonds of brotherhood,

Thomas E. Chaffee '81

President, Pennsylvania Alpha Zeta House Corporation
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Penn State University

House Update from the Alumni Board

Over the past four years the Board has implemented several capital projects. In 2019, we leased our house to the Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority, which turned out to be a great move and provided the necessary cash flow to fund major renovations. These included:

- Complete renovation of the Ladies Rest Room on the 1st floor
- Renovation of the 2nd floor bathroom, addition of 2nd bathroom in the old room "R" to provide for a total of six toilets, six shower stalls and large sinks/vanities
- Repairs to all interior finishes on the 2nd and 3rd floor bedrooms and corridors
- Carpeting of the old BA area to provide for a study space in the open area
- Work on the 1st floor including painting, floor refinishing, light fixtures, curtains, etc.
- Upgraded the kitchen appliances
- Renovation of the solarium
- New water heaters and boiler
- New washers and dryers in the basement area

The Phi Sigma Sigma ladies have done an excellent job with cleaning and care of the house during our absence. In 2022, we undertook several projects on the property exterior. They included:

- Pruning and maintenance of several old, historic trees in the front and side yards including removal of a large oak tree adjacent to the front parking lot
- Complete removal and replacement of the Pugh St. parking lot and concrete curbing
- Resurfacing of the Pugh St. front driveway and Calder Alley rear parking lot
- New concrete surfacing of the carport
- Rebuilding of the damaged section of our perimeter stone wall along Pugh St. and repointing and stone replacement on the remainder of the wall
- New landscaping and flower beds



We have been fortunate with quality work from our contractors and funding from donations and income from Phi Sigma Sigma to keep upgrading the house over the past few years. We already have plans for some capital projects in 2023 and will report more soon.

Phi Alpha
Michael "Gibby" Miller
 Board Member

See Many More Photos from Inside the House at SAEPSU.org



Recently, the Board formally engaged with SAE Financial & Housing Corporation for property management. Their services (delivered by subsidiary Greek Housing Management) focus on safe and healthy chapter housing, including a year-round, live-in house director, weekly professional housekeeping, a Monday-Friday meal plan, and cloud-based management software. Learn more at: SAEhousing.net

“Give people opportunities to be their best selves”

State College native **Kerry Small '87** has served as a stabilizing influence for Sigma Alpha Epsilon through our most challenging moments, and today, he brings that same energy, optimism, and sense of service to leading Penn State's Name-Image-Likeness (NIL) collective Success With Honor as the group's executive director.

But how close did he come to following a different path? According to Kerry, his lifelong connection to SAE began with an 11th-hour twist of fate.

“I was rushing. I'd narrowed it down to two (other) fraternities, and I was pretty sure I was going to commit to one of them. But at the last second, a friend said, ‘Listen, can you please just come to dinner at SAE?’ So, I went out for dinner. It was more formal, and at the end, they sang, which caught me off guard. But I found that I connected with the guys. I felt at home,” he remembers.

“There were fewer brothers than at the other fraternities, and because it was a smaller house, it was easier to be connected. There were a lot of different personalities that just seemed fairly cohesive. There was a true adherence to the True Gentleman.”

Kerry remained in the area after college and kept tabs on his old fraternity. Following the sale of his business, he found himself with free time just as SAE entered a difficult period that called for alumni mentorship. Fortunately, he was able to step into the role of chapter advisor and help the fraternity bridge into a new era.

“I walked in on a weekend morning and met with a couple of brothers, and I got the feeling that they had some issues, so I got involved. Guys from the '70s and '80s and '90s, even some other older guys, became very active. They provided support, and it started to change the house.

“I think **Tom Chaffee '81** and **Doug Beatty '88** have made it their own with this current group of brothers. I think they've done a tremendous job. I met the current guys during initiation and was blown away with how I felt like they were a great representation of the tradition,” he said.



Reflecting on what motivated his decision to invest so much of himself back into SAE after graduation, he refers to his newest role here in Happy Valley: “It's probably the same reason why I'm working with the student-athletes through Success With Honor. I believe that if you give people opportunities to be their best selves, a lot of people will grow.”

He acknowledges that misconceptions and a general lack of understanding remain challenges for Penn State three years into the “NIL era” of college sports. Consistently educating alumni and fans about a values-centered approach offers a path forward.

“We can navigate NIL in a way that reflects what Penn Staters want,” he says. “Knowing how many Penn Staters there are out there, not just alumni, but fans,

we're going to tell that story to as many as possible. In that group, you're going to have the \$50 subscriber and the six-figure supporter, and we need both for NIL to be successful at Penn State. We want to show everyone how Success With Honor is different because the general impression of NIL is not positive. Once they see that it can be positive – how it's helping our athletes become the people we want them to be – then I think that broad support will happen.”

He said that the experiences that molded him at SAE now impact his leadership with Success With Honor. “Our student-athletes want opportunities to do good things. We had 15 football players do a camp with kids from the Lehigh Valley for the benefit of a charity, and 14 of them asked to come back and do another. This belief that they just want the money doesn't give them credit.”

Service and gratitude are running themes that underpin Kerry's ongoing commitment to SAE as a source of invaluable life lessons and irreplaceable friendships.

“SAE gave me such tremendous opportunity and I feel a responsibility to help the next generation. The fraternity made me even more conscious of my obligations to other people, and my time in the house was such a magical time.

“The friends we make, so many of them are friends for life. You don't often find relationships as strong as that.”

PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT!

Add Your Name to the Honor Roll of Donors at SAEPSU.org

Strengthen our alumni communications and support for Alpha Zeta.
Visit SAEPSU.org to make your contribution today! ΦΑ

Updates from the Student Officers



*The Fall 2022 Ritual Initiation Team. L-R: Eminent Herald Jeremy Shultz, Eminent Deputy Archon Lucas Koczent, Former Eminent Warden Conrad Suppes, Chapter Advisor **Greg Edwards '91**, Former Eminent Archon Michael Smerek, Highest Brother in Badge Order Thaddeus Kolb, Former Alumni Relations Chairman Jack Cross, Former Eminent Treasurer J.D. King.*

Jesse Kolb, Eminent Archon

Greetings Brothers of Pennsylvania Alpha-Zeta,

Since I have joined Sigma Alpha Epsilon, we have made tremendous strides in the growth of our chapter, and now having been elected Eminent Archon, I plan to continue our progress to establish a culture that will form true gentlemen for years to come. The chapter has grown to 78 members following a successful spring rush of 19 new initiates who are all eager to contribute to the chapter.

This semester we have also reestablished our philanthropic efforts in the community. Together with Alpha Delta Pi, we raised over \$120,000 for THON and hosted events with Be the Match and the Nix Cancer Foundation. Following THON, Paddy Murphy Week was reestablished during the week after THON, and it was a great success.

For the future, we look forward to reconnecting with all the alumni that have waited for the chapter to return to its historic home with golf outings and events to elevate the brotherhood. Thank you to all the alumni that have supported us through our rechartering and rebuilding thus far, and I hope to

bring the chapter alumnus back home to reunite as one family and one unit.

ΦΑ,
Jesse Kolb.

Demetri Mesogitis, Scholarship Chairman

The chapter placed in the top 5 in GPA for 2022, and academic progress this semester has gone spectacularly. Most brothers within GPA ranges of 2.8-3.49 must attend weekly in-person study hours at our house. I'm pleased to say that a good portion of our brotherhood has exceeded the GPA requirement and has been eligible for independent study throughout the semester! We are excited for the final grade push this semester and are expecting to once again place highly amongst Penn State Greek life!

Shea Grouke, Alumni Relations Chairman

Happy spring brothers and Phi Alpha. While it is always great to look back on the many organizational advances our fraternity went through this year, it's also important to look forward to upcoming events in the future. Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 8-10th for a ceremonial

ribbon-cutting event followed by other festivities at The Ranch. Follow us on our Instagram, @sae_psu, and join the active brother Facebook, Sigma Alpha Epsilon – Pennsylvania Alpha Zeta. If you have any questions or concerns about the fraternity, feel free to email me at sjgrouke@gmail.com.

Sean Corr, Philanthropy Chairman

This year we started what will hopefully become a Pennsylvania Alpha-Zeta Chapter tradition in Paddy Murphy week. Among other things, this week consisted of two main philanthropy events: a pie-in-the-face fundraiser and a watermelon eating contest. Between these two events, we raised \$481 for the Nix Cancer Foundation, a charity organization many of our brothers hold dear.

Jack Cross, THON Chairman

THON 2023 was extremely successful. Last year, the 17 active brothers of PA AZ managed to raise just around \$6000, with limited donations and no sorority pair. At the time we were busy with recruitment and preparing the chartering packet and application but were still pleased to raise something

– Continued on Page 5

Gregory L. Devigne Memorial Leadership Award



The Sigma Alpha Epsilon Gregory L. Devigne Memorial Leadership Award.

A tribute to the memory of Gregory L. Devigne '92, member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Penn State University. This annual award recognizes outstanding full-time undergraduate students who have completed at least two semesters of study, demonstrated academic leadership or promise, and actively supported university activities. Through financial assistance, this award honors and memorializes Greg's dedication to Penn State and Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The award plaque will bear the names of past recipients who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and involvement at Penn State. This award serves as a reminder to all students to use their talents and abilities to make a difference in the world, just as Greg did during his time at Penn State.

**The Pennsylvania Alpha Zeta Association
of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Penn State University
is pleased to announce the 2023 Awardees:**

Brice Boas '23

Kyle Emerson '24

From Lloyd Devigne:

Over twenty five years ago I established a scholarship endowment at Penn State in memory of my son, Gregory Lloyd Devigne, class of 1992. Each year an award was given to a deserving brother who was nominated by his peers and approved by the Board and sent on to the University.

I have maintained this scholarship despite the misfortunes of the chapter of recent years. It is at the point where an award of several thousand dollars each year can be disbursed. At some point in time I am hoping that the colony/chapter will be in the position to once again receive this award.

Phi Alpha,
Lloyd Devigne '65

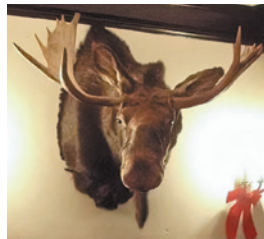
UPDATES – Continued from Page 4

for THON. This year, however, had a much different outcome. We contributed approximately \$45,000 as a chapter, adding to a total nearing \$120,000 with our new sorority pair Alpha Delta Pi. As important as the numbers are to us, there was much more that happened involving THON. In September, we began our relationship with ADPI, which only improved with time. We and the sisters held multiple fundraisers throughout the year! From grilled cheese to an SAE Brother Date Auction, there were lots of laughs, good moments, and of course, money raised for the fight against childhood cancer. With the new pairing, came new THON families to meet and interact with. These families impacted by childhood cancer are paired up with different organizations, and we had the privilege to have several. One of my favorite moments from THON weekend was when our brothers and sisters were all together in the stands, along with our families, smiling and dancing enjoying the time all as one. Thank you to all who donated this past year!

RETURN TO THE RANCH



1970s



2008



2012

Pierre Rides Again



Many will fondly recall Pierre's comforting, watchful presence as a constant throughout the decades – a few theft-related replacements notwithstanding. After some online haggling and a rain-soaked road trip to Ohio, we are happy to announce that the tradition continues. When Actives return to the Ranch this Autumn, Pierre IV will be waiting to welcome them.



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In This Issue...

- *Return to the Ranch is Upon Us*
- *House and Chapter Updates*
- *Pierre Makes a Comeback & more...*

SAVE THE DATE



Chapter retreat to kick off the Fall semester. Alumni invited to participate.

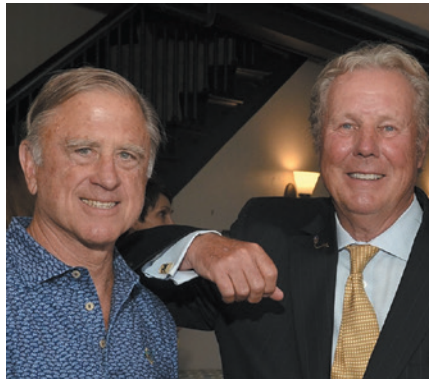
The Fraternity Service Center will host a Redevelopment Retreat with the chapter during the weekend of August 25 - 27.

The Redevelopment Retreat will be led by Seth Crawford, Director of Chapter Services; Adam Lippy, Coordinator of Chapter Service; John Garrido, Assistant Director of Accountability; and Steadman Boston, Director of Accountability. During the Redevelopment Retreat, the chapter will participate in workshops on accountability, Phoenix Member Education, Health and Safety, and overall chapter operations. There will be various activities this weekend, including a cookout/ brotherhood event. As the retreat approaches, more details will be released, including how alumni can participate.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Update Your Contact Info, Submit Life Updates at SAEPSU.org

We want to hear from you! Make sure you receive all our communications, and let your brothers know what you're up to. Update your info: SAEPSU.org



Dick Campbell '64 and Board member Jan Sockel '69 at the May 14, 2022 Rechartering/Initiation. Dick provides the Board with valuable legal counsel.



Rick Guida '69 chronicling history at the rechartering. Rick's support has been invaluable for years.

SAVE THE DATE

2023 Home Football Schedule & BYE WEEK Special Event

SAVE THE DATE - **OCTOBER 6-8:** Mark Your Calendar & Make Your Plans for a grand celebration of SAE's triumphant return to The Ranch. Please join us in Happy Valley over the Nittany Lions' Bye Week as we gather to ring in the start of new era!

- September 2 - West Virginia
- September 9 - Delaware
- September 23 - Iowa
- October 7 - BYE (No Game): SAE Chapter House Ribbon-Cutting & Annual House Corp Board Meeting
- October 14 - Umass (Homecoming)
- October 28 - Indiana
- November 11 - Michigan
- November 18 - Rutgers