

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Feeling  
Happy  
In the Valley**

### WE ARE WEEKEND

**Celebration of the class of  
1968's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, and  
Penn State Pioneers**

**When:** June 1-3, 2018

**Where:** Penn State, University Park  
Campus

The Alumni Association will host We Are Weekend, a three-day celebration that'll provide plenty of memorable moments to remind Penn Staters why the University holds a special place in their hearts. For more, visit [news.psu.edu](http://news.psu.edu)

### HOMECOMING 2018

**When:** October 13, VS Michigan State,  
time TBD

**Where:** Beaver Stadium  
Join your fellow Alpha Zetans as Penn State looks to avenge last season's, last-second heartbreaker in East Lansing. The game will also serve as the annual Stripeout.

# MORRILL MESSENGER

*Morrill Chapter of The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta  
Penn State • [www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com)  
Spring 2018*



## BY THE NUMBERS

### Alpha Zeta Alumni Answer The Call!

This past January, Alpha Zeta sent a letter, asking alumni for help. In the midst of one of the harshest winter seasons to date, with temperatures regularly dipping below zero, the House Furnace decided it had worked hard enough for its lifetime!

That left us in quite a predicament as you would imagine. Knowing we have an Alumni base of 1000+ loyal Alumni to turn to at any time, with any problem, we did just that – and immediately saw results.

Thanks to donors just like you, our annual fund and efforts to fund and install a new, double-boiler heating system, are all humming like a well-oiled machine. This effort exemplifies the true meaning of Fraternity and sticking together through adversity.

Our donors have answered the call in a big way to help keep the house warm during the harsh, Central PA winters. You can view their names on our Alumni website at [www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com), and make a gift



if you'd like at that same address under the "Donate," tab. Furthermore, the statistics of our Furnace fundraising efforts are incredible, and show gifts at all levels, and teamwork of the highest caliber. So thank you, Alpha Zeta Alumni for continuing the spirit of Fraternity and deep connection, as well as providing a warm, comfortable house for the undergraduates! Totals below as of 4/11/18 are:

- Gifts of \$1,000+ - 5
- Gifts of \$500-\$999 – 10
- Gifts of \$250-\$499 – 21
- Gifts of \$100-\$249 – 52
- Gifts up to \$99 - 14

## ALUMNI FUNDRAISING

**Annual Fund Shows  
Giving Across All Levels!**

**145**

TOTAL DONORS

**180**

TOTAL GIFTS

**OLDEST  
DONOR**

**96**

**YOUNGEST DONOR  
(WITH BIRTHDATE ON FILE)**

**32**

**54**

LAPSED  
DONORS

**180**

FIRST-TIME  
DONORS

**\$368**

AVG. GIFT  
AMOUNT

**\$457**

AVG BY DONOR  
(SOME DONORS GAVE  
MORE THAN ONCE!)

**Thank  
You!**

Cumulative Gift Range	Number of Donors	Number of Gifts	Total Income	Percent Donors	Percent Income	Average of amount
\$1,000+	5	5	\$29,000.00	5.00%	61.23%	\$5,800.00
\$500 - \$999	10	10	\$5,100.00	10.00%	10.77%	\$510.00
\$250 - \$499	22	22	\$6,030.00	22.00%	12.73%	\$274.09
\$100 - \$249	51	51	\$6,529.40	51.00%	13.79%	\$128.03
\$0 - \$99	14	14	\$700.00	14.00%	1.48%	\$50.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>\$47,359.40</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$464.31</b>

## Alpha Zeta Alumni Member, Josh Hushon '03, Has A Question for You

For Josh Hushon, pledging Alpha Zeta was never about whether it was the right fraternity for him — it was about whether Greek life was something that he wished to pursue.

“If I was going to go Greek, [I knew] it would be at Alpha Zeta,” Hushon said.

So there was Hushon, pledging the spring of his sophomore year in 2001 and handing in his application only hours before bids were to be handed out.

“**Mark Hazelton '01** is the one who ultimately helped me decide to pledge,” Hushon explained. “[He helped] me see what joining AZ could offer beyond my stay at Penn State. I’m grateful he spent the time with me that he did.”

Hushon only lived at the actual house his senior year, but that very year marked his best of the four at Penn State.

“Alpha Zeta helped me make lifelong friends — my best memories from school were made with guys from the house, especially on warm spring days spent on the porch outside of Suite 6,” Hushon revealed. **“There is no better time in State College than when the spring weather gets nice.”**

Hushon spent those afternoons talking with his fellow Alpha Zetans out on that porch — subjects ranging from farm animals to Penn State football.

“If I could go back and do it now for a



day, I would in a heartbeat,” Hushon said.

This Alpha Zeta Alum was and is so proud of his fraternity — he invested a lot of time in helping recruit new members, one of which was his brother, **Jacob Hushon '05**.

Hushon also felt that the lessons and experiences he gained at Alpha Zeta then, translated into his professional career in the present.

“Alpha Zeta gave me leadership opportunities that I grew through as a person. The semester I spent as Censor was challenging, but an important lesson in peer leadership, for sure,” he said. “Having the courage to confront your friends for the good of the house was not easy, but it helped me prepare for managing people today.”

Hushon values those instrumental leadership skills being a member of AZ provided, but also the vast network he can tap into at any moment.

“Alpha Zeta gave me an incredible alumni network — especially in the dairy industry,” Hushon said. “It was one of the aspects of pledging that appealed to me when I decided to join, and has proved to be beneficial.”

Hushon graduated

in the spring of 2003, with a degree in Agriculture Business Management.

“I landed what was my dream job at the time — becoming an editor at Hoard’s Dairyman magazine,” Hushon said. “I was the first editor the company had hired from the East Coast in its 125-year history and I relocated to Wisconsin following graduation.”

The dedicated and in every way impressive Alpha Zetan chose to move to Wisconsin, as part of his “three to five year plan”.

Hushon still lives there today, now working for Cargill Animal Nutrition.

“I am the U.S. beef and dairy marketing communications lead — I like to tell people that I work at the intersection of where the technical side of nutrition needs to meet the emotional side of marketing to be effective,” Hushon explained. “My job is to ensure all our communications are engaging and consistent for Cargill customers and prospects.”

One recent project of Hushon’s is called “Feed Your Dreams,” a dairy campaign that was quickly recognized as Best of Show by the National Agri-Marketing Association in 2015.

Hushon and his wife, Casey, also own a small hobby farm near North Prairie, Wisconsin.

“There, we raise a few show heifers in addition to being involved in a number of activities,” Hushon said.

When it comes to the alumni network, Hushon finds that he is ever-present within the community thanks to his working at Cargill.

“I work with dozens of Penn State Alpha Zeta alums. This includes my boss, Justin Howes and my marketing teammate, Rebecca Shaw,” he said. “I work with both of them on a daily basis. Rebecca and I have even worked together at two companies now, and she and Steve Shaw helped me find the role at Cargill and apply.”





Hushon feels so grateful to be able to work with fellow Greek life members, but socially keeps in contact with the very guys who shared stories and warm days on that Suite 6 porch back in the days of 2003.

"I don't get to see **Bryant Hlavaty '04**, **Jeremiah Fearnley '04**, or **Matt Pavelski** as often as I would like, but when I do, it feels like no time has passed," Hushon said. "I have gone years at times without seeing some of them, but it seems like we reconnect immediately when we get together. It's a deeper connection that is hard to explain, but I know I have it because of the experiences we all had together."

If Hushon were to connect with his fellow AZ Alums now, he would tell them all about his exciting new experience in the realm of "trying something new."

"Last year, I was challenged by a former mentor who asked me, 'When was the last time you did something for the first time? And if you can't remember,

it's been too long,'" Hushon recalled. "I couldn't remember, so I decided to take an improvisation comedy class to help me with public speaking, thinking on my feet and so forth."

Hushon felt the eight-week experience was "intense, but really fun" as the final stage ended with a public show under the lights in front of about 80 people.

From those weeks, he gained a reminder he wants to share with his fellow Alpha Zetans.

"I can't recommend improv comedy for everyone, but I would challenge everyone with that same question [my mentor asked me]," Hushon said.

So Hushon is asking:

"When was the last time you did something for the first time? If you can't remember, do something that will challenge you," Hushon repeated, inspiringly. "[It might] even scare you a little, but the



[experience you'll have will definitely] help you grow."

## GRATEFUL ALUM GIVES BACK AND STAYS CONNECTED

### Picking Right Back Up Where You Left Off

With the recent downturn in the state of the furnace at the Alpha Zeta house, alumni have been making generous donations in an effort to help the current undergraduates replace it. **Shawn Beam '11** is one such alum. He recalls how cold the house could get when the furnace would go out for a few hours and can't imagine how bad it is when the furnace stops altogether.

When he was an undergraduate, Beam joined Alpha Zeta in his junior year. Beam was attracted to the "outstanding reputation" of the fraternity, and he saw the brothers as people he genuinely wanted to be around.

"It was pretty clear to me that the type of people who joined Alpha Zeta were the same ones who would be the future managers of those who associated with other Greek cultures," Beam said.

He added that his experience with the fraternity was "condensed," but it "helped put the final touches on [his] Penn State experience."

After graduation, Beam became a sales representative for Syngenta in the Finger Lake region of New York, where he still lives. Through his connections

with Alpha Zeta, he became acquainted with Gil Strader at the Penn State Career Fair. Strader is a UNC Alpha Zeta alum and originally hired Beam as an intern for Syngenta.

"That was the foot in the door that resulted in the full-time position that I have now," Beam said.

To Beam, meeting Strader was a preview of what the connections being part of Alpha Zeta provide. Beam still feels connected to the fraternity because he meets countless Alpha Zeta alumni in his industry. He even explains that, on some level, he feels that he has a strong connection with anyone who has participated in Greek life.

"Before you know it, you're exchanging stories and acting like you've known each other for years."

Beam still stays in contact with other alumni, some even on a daily basis. He plans weekend "experiences" with the brothers he spent the most time with as a student. These "experiences" can be as simple as meeting up at the brewery or as elaborate as renting a boathouse. Regardless, they always find a way to meet up with each other.

"One thing I find with this group of guys is no matter how many days have passed since your last conversation, you can always pick right back up where you left off like it was nothing," Beam explained.





# ALPHA ZETA Penn State

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- *Celebrating Our Annual Fund – By The Numbers*
- *There's Never Been a Better Time to Visit Happy Valley!*

[www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com)

## BEST WISHES TO ALL

### Ken Curtis Has Some Advice for Alpha Zeta Alumni and Active Members



In 1988, Ken Curtis graduated Penn State University with a degree in Animal Bioscience, yet his education was not the only root he had in the university when it came to environmental sciences.

Curtis was also a member of Alpha Zeta, where he felt right at home due to the honorary agricultural fraternity

aligning with his GPA and common interests.

The Alpha Zeta Alum truly feels that he learned more from the fraternity and his fellow Fraternity Members than from any seminar or lecture he attended.

“You can only get so much knowledge from a book,” Curtis said. “Social experiences are way more practical for winning in life.”

Some of Ken’s greatest memories included the jungle themed pledge party and the “great pledge class” that he got to experience his earliest fraternity experiences with.

Those were the days that taught him instrumental life lessons and perspectives.

Being social chairman, for example, taught Curtis to “get along with others in a group” as well as “manage a budget that balances various needs and wants.”

Curtis just recently opened his fifth chiropractic and medical office and has taken on many new partnerships, but he’ll always look back to the times of Alpha Zeta.

“[My advice for today’s active members] is that teamwork makes the dream work,” Curtis said. “Work hard and play hard!”

Curtis wishes only the best for today’s Alpha Zetans as well as future members, but hopes that Alumni will help upkeep the tradition of Fraternity and support.

“Students have enough of a financial burden and don’t need that added stress,” he said. “[It’s our job] to keep the fraternity alive and well.”

If there’s one quality Curtis wants the members to leave Alpha Zeta with — a skill he feels is vital for life — it’s this:

“Tenacity.”

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Steve Snyder '73 Is Giving Back To The Ag Community

“I retired from 40 years at PA Farm Bureau at the end of 2016. We moved to Florida to take up a position curating web content for ECHO, Inc. ECHO is a Christian non-profit providing agricultural training and knowledge resources for development workers around the world, focusing on tropical agriculture.”

