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# MORRILL MESSENGER

Morrill Chapter of The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta  
Penn State • December 2005



## Alumni President's Report

### Many House Improvements Completed, but we Still Have a Way to Go. Alumni Support Needed!

By Arthur Keen '68

The slate roof and side-porch roofs and railings were replaced during the summer. The job was done by Kensing Roofing at a cost of \$86,000. Architectural fees were \$7,800. The slate roof was replaced with 50-year asphalt shingles.

Renovations and improvements at the house in recent years include demolition and preparing for the major renovation project (\$35,000), asbestos removal (\$7,000), new electrical and telecommunications (cable and telephone) wiring (\$79,000), sprinkler system (\$45,000) *see page 3*, architectural fees (\$16,000) and miscellaneous (\$8,000).

Improvements also included new bathrooms, the guest suite and plumbing (\$123,000): The old second-floor bathroom became the new guest suite, the old guest suite and the two hall closets became the new second-floor bathroom, and the third-floor bathroom was enlarged by removing the third-floor hall closet. We also bought dining-room chairs (\$4,000) and a refrigerator for the kitchen (\$2,500).

In the spring we granted the university a construction easement on the north side of our property. A covered walkway is being built from Burrowes Road to the wrestling-wing entrance of Rec Hall. This will be the new entrance to the student fitness center being built between Rec Hall and North Atherton Street. The university needs our property for access to the walkway.

At the end of May the university discovered that the current steam line to Rec Hall was inaccessible and unable to be enlarged. The most cost-effective route for the new steam line was through our property between the house and Rec Hall. After lengthy negotiations (we hired an attorney) the university agreed to pay us \$500 and expand the parking lot outside the kitchen from four cars to six in return for a 15-foot-wide easement.

But the university wasn't finished with us. In early September we were notified by the university that the return condensate line would not be able to accommodate the condensate from the house. They said it was cheaper to give us money for a new gas furnace (\$21,200) than to upgrade our steam line. As of November 6, the furnace was installed but not hooked up yet to the gas supply.

We are still unable to park outside the kitchen, and the construction easement is still being used.

Additionally, the costs of communicating with our members continue to increase. Our alumni communications program costs about \$5-\$6 per member. (We have about 1,000 members.) Approximately half of our brothers and sisters have never donated to the Morrill Chapter. The board feels that every member should contribute a minimum of \$10 per year to the chapter.

**To help control the costs of communications, we will do more e-mailing in the future. We encourage you to supply us with your current e-mail address. You may update your e-mail address by visiting our Web site at [www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com).**

If you have any questions or suggestions, you may reach me at 317 College Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603; 800-669-8795; or [bismoline@bismoline.com](mailto:bismoline@bismoline.com). ■

## Join the Party at the E-House!

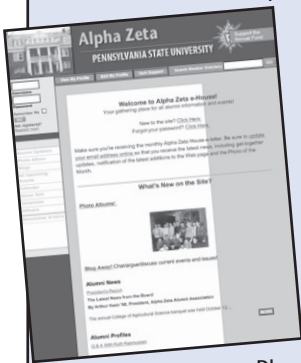
Our new and improved Web site is here! With more robust features, increased flexibility and usability, and options for adding other brand-new features to our online community, we like to call it the e-house!

**The e-house can become the Morrill Chapter's online gathering place.** Now [www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com) will be the place to find and keep old friends, and stay up to date with the latest Alpha Zeta events and happenings.

We hope you are as excited as we are about our new Web site. Regardless of how scattered everyone is around the country, this will bring everyone together in one place, one e-house.

Please log in today at [www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com), and take a tour of the e-house. Let us know what you think of the "accommodations" and if you believe we need to do any "remodeling." We want to make this Web site our virtual home. Please provide as many stories, pictures, updates and opinions as you like, so that you can help spruce up the Alpha Zeta e-house.

If you have any questions, please e-mail us at [feedback@affinityconnection.com](mailto:feedback@affinityconnection.com). ■



## Save the Date!

Our Annual Meeting will be held Saturday April 1, 2006 at 11:30.

More details to follow

## The Nittany Lions Are Bowl Bound!

The bowl announcements took place on Sunday, December 4 at 5:00 pm and the Nittany Lions are going to the Orange Bowl to face the Florida State Seminoles. Make plans now to go to the game with your brothers! The Nittany Lions are back and there is no better way to celebrate than a reunion with your Alpha Zeta brothers.

If you are unable to see the game in person, organize a party with alums in your area and cheer on the team from your living room or local bar. You can look up your brothers by using the directory on our website [www.alphazetapsu.com](http://www.alphazetapsu.com). ■

# Results Alpha Zeta Plays Important Role in Building Integrity and Character

Some people in today's society may think it's old-fashioned to discuss morality and integrity, but the reality is that good morals, good manners and good behavior will never go out of style. On college campuses, fraternities and sororities offer a great foundation for developing these ideals.

While it must be acknowledged that some Greek organizations fall woefully short in this regard, and that many — maybe most — have experienced at least a few challenging incidents, the Greek system is still driven by values-based programs.

Learning about responsibility, honesty, courtesy, respect, justice, community service, philanthropy, academic achievement, cooperation, diversity and tolerance is simply part of what it means to go Greek. Long-standing codes of conduct are in place to uphold these cherished values, and new members are instilled with the importance of maintaining their organization's venerable traditions and good reputation.

Peer pressure of the right kind has a positive impact. Since the actions of each individual reflect on the group as a whole, members influence each other to do right. They encourage each other to strive for good grades and to contribute to the welfare of the group and the community, and they discipline those who step out of line.

In fact, far more behavioral guidance is evidenced in Greek houses than in the average dormitory or student-occupied apartment building, not just through peer pressure but also through the steadying influence of each chapter's board of directors, the codes of conduct endorsed by each organization's national office, the campus's interfraternity council and, most important, the active support of each chapter's alumni.

## The results are remarkable:

- Greeks often outperform the general student population in academics, with many Greek organizations mandating higher grade averages from their members than the averages among the rest of the student population.
- Greeks far surpass every other student demographic group when it comes to community involvement. They raise untold millions of dollars for charitable organizations and annually donate millions of hours of their time to worthy causes of all kinds, from Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Habitat for Humanity to local food banks, and so many more.
- Greek organizations are also training grounds for leadership, teamwork, problem solving and time management. Through chapter leadership positions, undergraduates develop advanced human relations skills that will be invaluable to them throughout their lives, both in business and in their personal relationships.

Statistics from the North-American Interfraternity Conference reveal that nearly half of all U.S. presidents, 30 percent of members of Congress, 40 percent of U.S. Supreme Court justices and about 30 percent of Fortune 500 executives have Greek roots. How can two percent of the overall student population have become so dominant in public life? They have their character-building experiences in fraternities and sororities to thank for that.

From national headquarters to local chapters, Greek organizations demand that their undergraduate members be accountable, involved, hard-working and caring people. By providing nurturing environments with high behavioral expectations, fraternities and sororities are shaping the leaders and responsible citizens of the future.

Greek organizations do a tremendous amount of good — for their members and for society as a whole. The ongoing support of dedicated alumni is crucial to making it possible for Alpha Zeta to continue providing these worthwhile opportunities for current and future generations of Greeks.

## What College

# Students Want

**What are today's Alpha Zeta students looking for? Chances are, not what you think.**

According to *Millennials Go to College*, published last year, the current generation of college students wants to be protected — even restricted — so they can focus on academics and community service. Believe it or not, for the first time in recent history, college students and their parents may actually want the same things out of the higher education experience! So colleges, universities and, increasingly, fraternities and sororities are scrambling to provide it.

"Millennials" is the term the book's authors, Neil Howe and William Strauss, give to the generation who hit adulthood at the start of the third millennium. Research cited in the book indicates that today's students are:

- Confident, team-oriented and focused on grades and performance.
- Emotionally close to their parents and in agreement with their values.
- Respectful of social conventions and institutions.

- Committed to community service.
- Demanding of a secure environment.
- Technologically savvy and interested in pursuing careers in the sciences, math and technology.

In short, everything a college administrator could ask for and everything other generations — like the infamous group called Generation X — were not.

Change on campus is coming in the form of tighter security, stricter rules and higher expectations for student behavior and academic performance. Campus security has become an issue, even a marketing point for some colleges. Security for the first time is now being actively marketed by campuses as being as much of a priority for today's students as it has always been for parents.

For a generation raised with metal detectors in public schools, personal rights are less of an issue; security cameras and stricter rules of behavior are simply standard operating procedures.

Some of the likely new rules — particularly those concerning alcohol — may have been funny to earlier generations. Millennials, however, are likely to accept new restrictions as reasonable and in their best interests (even when they defy them) rather than see them as violations of their personal freedoms.

This group is defined as being trusting and demanding, adaptable yet focused and poised to do great things while still dependent on their parents.

Today's students trust the adults and institutions in their lives to protect them. Colleges and fraternal organizations are now acting on this attitude of acceptance by implementing higher standards and more rules regarding dangerous behaviors such as underage and binge drinking, and hazing.

As millennials take over the campus, they will become the future of organizations like Alpha Zeta. ■

## Sprinkler Mandate May Close Some PSU Fraternity Houses: Alpha Zeta One of Eight That Have Already Installed Sprinkler Systems

A fact sheet from the Center for Campus Fire Safety states that 75 students have died nationwide in fires since 2000, and that 75 percent of student deaths occurred in off-campus housing. Of these, 11 percent were in fraternity and sorority houses. The fire in a student residence in State College last April took the life of Penn State student Christopher Raspanti. This tragedy is one of many prompting calls for change in the region's property maintenance practices.

David Felice, the Centre Region's code administration chief inspector, said PSU fraternities have been given five years to install sprinkler systems, and that those in violation beyond September 1, 2008, will be shut down.

IFC president Brian Bertges said fraternities have begun taking out loans and raising money to cover the costs, which could range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Many fraternities have also turned to professional fundraising organizations. Bertges said he has no reason to believe that each fraternity doesn't have the means to adapt to the mandate, particularly by looking to their alumni.

The costs of bringing the houses up to code will vary depending upon the square footage, the layout of the property and whether the pipes are inside or outside the walls.

According to Jay Sletson, the Fraternity Purchasing Association's executive director, a number of fraternity houses still need sprinkler systems installed, and some houses already have them. He says the alumni favor having sprinklers but that paying for the systems will be a challenge.

Sletson said the fraternities have three summers left to meet the requirements, and there are a limited number of contractors who have the time and ability to do the work.

State College Borough manager Tom Fountaine said many schools have developed similar fire-safety procedures, and it is important for Penn State to comply with the sprinkler mandate to keep students safe. For the various chapters to remain open, code compliance programs have to begin now for those not yet in compliance, before it is too late.

*Note: Some facts are from the Daily Collegian's November 11, 2005, issue. ■*

By Daryl D. Maulfair

This fall semester has been going very well here at the Morrill Chapter. We have kept scholastics a high priority, and were again third in the IFC's ranking for GPA, with an average of 3.23. Our pledge class from last spring had an average GPA of 3.22.

We are gearing up for Thon 2006. We are again going to have a fun auction to help raise money, and we hope to have two members dance this year.

We were not able to pull together a pledge class this semester, but there is a lot of interest and we expect to have a very large pledge class in the spring.

Finally, we congratulate our two graduating seniors, **Jake Hushon** and **Nate Jarrett**. ■

## Updates

### John Cairns '44

(Warm Hearth Village, 1060 Showalter Dr., Apt. 202, Blacksburg, VA 24060-6298; jcairns@vt.edu) My home page is <http://johncairns.net>.

### David W. Warner '46

(27 Community Ct., Palmyra, PA 17078-3610; davew2322@msn.com) After leaving Penn State in 1946, I spent four years in forestry (Washington state, on the Yakima Indian Reservation) and then 33 years in the trucking business. I retired to Hershey, Pa., in 1983 (my wife's hometown). We are both in reasonable health, considering we have reached that proverbial "four score" in age. The only AZs I have seen are **Tom Church '46** (deceased as of a couple of years ago) and **Fred Fleishman**. We had several visits with Tom and Polly when they lived in Quarryville, Pa. The past 22 years of retirement have gone by quickly. I love to volunteer. The library and our township parks keep me busy year-round. I got to use some of that forestry background in

establishing a two-mile nature trail and encouraging a tree-planting program in Derry Township. I tried to contact **Johnny Cairns '44** via e-mail but haven't had a reply yet. Any other 1940s AZs out there who would like to reminisce?

### Horace D. Jackson '48

(1825 Summit Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906-2231) I enjoy car traveling and staying healthy.

### Norman H. Gnagey '49

(11 Tourin Ln., Jericho, VT 05465-9626) Amazing how our campus has changed since 1940. My wife Dorothy and I have become world travelers, having been on all the continents of the globe. Recently we circumnavigated Newfoundland. The South Pacific was my favorite! I'm looking forward to our AZ reunion!

### Stanley A. Walton '51

(1092 Cocklin St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-3956) Joanne and I moved in March to a townhome about four miles

from our home of 38 years in Mechanicsburg. **John Cope '52** is a neighbor.

### Richard S. Adams '54

(445 W. Ridge Ave., State College, PA 16803) I just gave up playing trumpet in three bands at age 77, including my Bavarian Stompers group, which played at many fraternities for 20 years. One of our most memorable gigs was at AZ for the graduates' party. I serve as a volunteer manager of the Eighth Maine Living Museum and Lodge, 15 minutes by ferry from Portland, from May through September.

### Edgar E. Fehnel '54

(4939 88th St. E., Bradenton, FL 34211; edfehnel@comcast.net) I joined the Alpha Zeta Foundation Board two years ago and was elected chairman at the National Conclave in Ames, Iowa, where 150 AZs from 23 chapters participated in three days of leadership development programs. You can get updates via [e-news@alphazeta.org](mailto:e-news@alphazeta.org) and stay connected nationwide.

### Russell P. Neff '55

(271 Nieto Ave., Long Beach, CA 90803; neffrussell@hotmail.com)

I am spending eight or nine months per year in Chiang Mai, Thailand, my second home.

### Darwin G. Braund '56

(Nittany Garden Apartments, #L-16, 445 Waupelani Dr., State College, PA 16801) I'm now in my eighth year as volunteer curator for Penn State's Pasto Agricultural Museum, located on the Ag Progress Days site at Rock Spring, nine miles west of campus. I invite the Morrill Chapter undergraduates (and alumni) to arrange for tours and/or social events.

### John D. Sink '56

(112 Las Brisas Way, Eastpoint, FL 32328-3230; jsink@spsu.edu) I just retired as professor and chair of the Department of Biology, Chemistry and Physics at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Ga., and moved to the Florida Gulf Coast.

### Roy E. Prescott '58

(2 Creekside Ln., Camp Hill, PA 17011-1304; rprescott@verizon.net) A submitted update in the last newsletter was not from **William R. Prescott '79** but from me.

(Continued on Page 4)

## Alumni

## Updates

(Continued from Page 3)

**Alan D. Wood '71**

(713 Alberta Ave., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-2272; woodyh2owood@verizon.net) While I was considering retirement after 33 years with the USDA, they made me an offer (I could have refused!): six months in sunny Afghanistan! From July through January, I'm in Kandahar as part of the USDA's assistance with the reconstruction of Afghanistan. As an agricultural engineer, I'm planning and designing structures such as irrigation canals, storage dams, etc. I'm also involved with getting

tractors and windmills onto farms. I'm only sorry I've been missing Penn State's return-to-glory football season!

**Lillie W. Ghidiu '78**

(7 Turnbridge Dr., Bridgeton, NJ 08302; lghidiu@comcast.net) It was great to see updates from some of my classmates, so here's mine. I've been married to Jerry Ghidiu for 22 years. He's an entomology professor at Rutgers University, at an experiment station in Bridgeton, N.J. I worked for FMC for seven years as an entomologist, sold real estate for 11 years, and now teach basic reading and math skills to fourth and fifth graders. We have a 15-year-old son, Michael, who just became an Eagle Scout. I volunteer with the Boy Scouts and PTA.

**William R. Prescott '79**

(1810 Church Rd., Hummelstown, PA 17036; Roy@Hydas.com) I guess

having two Roy Prescotts is a little confusing. The last update posted under my contact information really belonged to **Roy Prescott '58**. I retired from the Army a little while ago and run two companies here in good old Chocolatetown, Pa.

**Nancy T. Schlegel '87**

(1465 W. Main St., Valley View, PA 17983-9702; nschlegal@masserspuds.com) Where is my little sister from the fall pledge class of 1986?

**Allan J. Trently '92**

(6319 Kingsport Hwy., Apt. 88, Johnson City, TN 37615) I was married to Jennifer Bowman on May 6, 2005, and we adopted Jane Bowman, 9 years old. I write for the *Norris Bulletin*. I initiated and run the Campbell County (Tenn.) butterfly count for the North American Butterfly Association. In the last eight years, I have visited Texas twice, Arizona, California and Panama.

## Resolve to Reconnect with AZ

*It's that time of year again to start making your New Year's resolutions! This year, why not resolve to reconnect with Alpha Zeta? You could:*

- Contact five of your old Alpha Zeta buddies.
- Attend an Alpha Zeta event or plan a get-together of your own.
- Come back to Penn State and meet the undergraduates.
- Volunteer for the Morrill Chapter.
- Participate in our alumni Web site at **www.alphazetapsu.com** by posting photos, chatting in the blog or submitting an alumni update.
- Make a donation to the annual fund by visiting our secure alumni Web site or calling our toll-free donation hotline at **800-975-6699**. ■

## In Memory

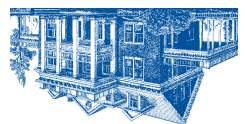
Since publication of our last newsletter, we have learned of the death of **Samuel W. Anthony '49** (5/26/05). Alpha Zeta mourns his passing and extends condolences to his family and friends. ■

509-43 FN

Address Service Requested

State College, PA 16804-0296  
P.O. Box 296  
Alumni Relations Office

**Morrill Chapter of  
The Alpha Zeta Fraternity  
PENN STATE**



*House Renovations Update and Information  
about Website Enhancements Inside!*

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