

DOC DAVIS MEMORIAL NEWSLETTER

PENN STATE DELTA UPSILON
FALL 2023



DU'S PLACE AT PENN STATE

Consider Supporting Our Undergraduates!

I write to update you on the state of our fraternity. I will not bury the lead: the state of our fraternity is strong. There are 36 undergraduates, comprised of sophomores, juniors, and seniors, living in our handsome Chapter House for fall 2023, with a total membership of 76 or so.

CHAPTER HOUSE RESIDENCY

Our financial position is adequate and improving with short receivables and no debt. This allows us the flexibility to make investments as they are requested by each undergraduate class. We welcomed 10 associates for fall 2023—all have already signed a housing agreement for next year. The commitment from our undergraduate brothers is apparent.

As you will read in the undergraduate update on page 2, we have been working in tandem to improve and enhance our Chapter residence and grounds. We must make constant investments, many which are increasingly complex and costly.

THE GREEK OUTLOOK

The value proposition of fraternities at Penn State is strained, as the university banned fall freshman recruitment several years ago and

Greek life is only one of many avenues for which undergraduates can network and make deep connections. Additionally, significant building in the State College area makes other housing options appealing.

Gone are the days when Beaver Hill was our main competition. Off-campus residences now boast amenities such as gyms, pools, golf simulators, and meticulously maintained community areas. Our Chapter's value proposition is to provide a fraternal experience that combines the best of scholastic, athletic, and professional development.

We must adjust our tack for the current environment. At our core, our alumni association is a provider of hospitality services in a brotherly manner. We offer scholarships, community involvement, meals, and networking and provide flexibility to intrepid brothers who study abroad or earn an internship.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT NEEDED

Disaffiliation or resignation of senior class members is increasingly a pressing concern—a common issue among fraternities. **It is in this area I ask for your attention.** A common retort offered to the advisory

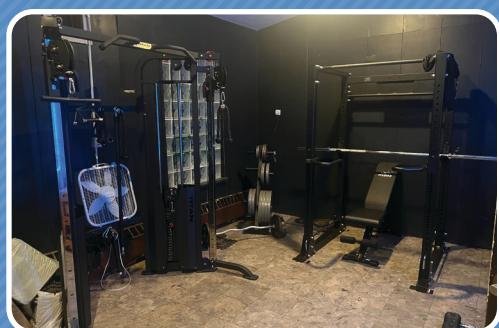
committee from resigning brothers is that they do not see the value in being an alumnus and paying dues senior year. At this point, they are spending their time at restaurants, clubs, interning, and looking beyond their time in college. We have also heard that the lack of present alumni is indicative that alumni status is not valuable.

I ask that you raise your hand to involve yourself with our undergraduate brothers. Offer advice on their budding careers, places to live in a new city, and the benefits of the ties that bind us together for generations. This can be as simple as a phone call with a brother interested in your career field or a 10-minute pop-in to the Chapter House when parking on the property for an event. Please contact any member of the alumni board for ways to be involved, either to ask how or to offer your time.

Our fraternity is well-positioned for the future. Thank you for all you do for our Chapter.

Fraternally,

William Woska, President
woska.william@gmail.com



Left: Brothers greatly appreciate the recent gym renovations. Center: Tom Arnold, Bryan Brockson, and Jason Cartwright host an alumni get-together at their DU-inspired Locust Lane Craft Brewery in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Right: Alumni President William Woska '12 explains to undergraduates the benefits of being a PSU DU alumnus.

GUIDED BY DU VALUES

Stephen Balliet '88 on Personal and Professional Development

"Now more than ever, the future of Greek life at PSU and around the country is very tenuous. Undergraduates need more leadership and guidance than ever to be successful. If you have any desire to reconnect into the ideals that make DU amazing, please reach out."

Before **Stephen Balliet '88** moved from Penn State Allentown to main campus, he was sold on the DU experience. High school best friend **Mark Callihan '87** shared the fraternity's ideals with Steve and made him realize it was more than just a place to live on campus. Decades beyond college, Steve is glad to retain DU connections and the lifetime fraternal commitment.

BONDING THROUGH BROTHERHOOD

"DU had a small but strong foundation of brothers who were men of strong character," Steve said. He was proud to join the group and work alongside fellow young men eager to reach their full potential through DU. "Joining a fraternity that kept no secrets meant we were true to founding principles and completely transparent about who we are."

The fraternity's foundation of devoted alumni left a great impression on Steve in his youth, compelling him to stay connected with brothers like Mark, **Jeffrey Shurock '86**, **Judd Mumford '88**, and **Jeff Dunkelberger '89** to this day.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Steve was elected corresponding secretary shortly after initiation, which led to his later service as Chapter president. "Being the leader of a Chapter filled with incredibly smart and opinionated men was a challenge, but it cemented my desire to continue my work in leadership and management."

After graduation, Steve worked seasonally (often with DU brothers) at Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom. Those long workdays, occasionally followed by early morning parties, inspired Steve to take a full-time job leading the park's food and beverage team.

Through industry networking, Steve was recruited by Hershey Entertainment and Resorts and became the Director of Food and Beverage for Hersheypark.

EVOLVING EATERTAINMENT

"I loved my work and really evolved my role into designing and delivering 'eatertainment' experiences for themed attractions," Steve said.



By 2003, The Hershey Company contacted Steve to work on Chocolate World, for which he later became general manager.

Through the past 20 years, Steve has worked on several Hershey's branded experiences including The Chocolate Tour Ride, and he currently leads strategic business operations at Chocolate World in both Hershey, Pennsylvania, and Times Square. Steve takes pride in his career growth and appreciates the early DU leadership experience that prepared him for success beyond college.

Steve currently resides in Hershey, Pennsylvania, with his wife of over 30 years, Michele. They spend their summers at their beach house in Ocean City, Maryland, enjoying the sun and life on the water.



You can connect with Steve at
stevepsu1@gmail.com.

Undergraduate Report

The fall 2023 semester has been phenomenal for our undergraduates. From collective involvement, new improvements to the house, and brotherhood trips, it has been an eventful couple of months.

HOUSE UPDATES

The most noticeable change is our brand-new turf in the backyard. With special thanks to the generosity of our brothers, strong alumni network, and families, we were able to raise enough money to level and turf our beautiful yard! Specifically, a special thanks to **Jason Pitts '92**, **Sam Seideman**, **Charlie Nino**, and **Gavin Pitts** for taking the leading roles in this project.

With this new backyard, members spend loads of quality time together outside on nice days. There is ample room to toss a football around, play cornhole, and relax.

Additionally, the house gym has seen some major improvements, having been totally repainted and received brand-new equipment.

FALL ACTIVITY

Our primary philanthropy event is THON, which raises money for the Four Diamonds charity that battles pediatric cancer. Our newly elected THON Committee has had an outstanding start: we have already held multiple events at the house, highlighted by our yearly dunk tank fundraiser, a scary movie night in our party room, and powder puff football games. They are already setting records for fundraising. We are excited to see what events they plan next!

Earlier in the semester, our softball team was unable to repeat as champions, but their regular season success and hard work did not go unnoticed. Our intramural sports teams are heading into the playoffs in both flag football and 3-on-3 basketball. The football squad is looking for redemption after falling short last season, and the basketball team is looking like a championship contender.

CHAPTER PROGRESS IN 2023

FRATERNAL GROWTH

Recruitment Chairman **Jack McNally** once again did a fantastic job of bringing in a group of guys that represent the values this house holds so near and dear. Every semester, the brotherhood works together to host events that allow us to meet new guys and eventually welcome them into our family.

We recently held our executive board elections. Special thanks to our current executive board for all their hard work and dedication to this house. We wouldn't have accomplished many things we have recently done without them. We wish the best of luck to our new board members.

Fraternally,
Duncan Nam, President

Alumni Board of Directors

President

William Woska '12

VP of Corporate Affairs

John DelSignore '92

VP of Undergraduate Affairs

Tim Zanaras '20

Treasurer

Bill Hauser '81

Secretary

Basil Pinzone '11

Member at Large

Alec Brennan '12

Member at Large

Brenden Finn '12

Member at Large

Tim Finn '75

Member at Large

Marc Jankowski '11

Member at Large

Max Kesner '20

Member at Large

Danny Matulula '19

Member at Large

Mark McGrory '14

Member at Large

Ryan Mullin '11

Member at Large

Gerrit Van Burk '91

Member at Large

Eric Van Emburgh '14



Multiple generations of alumni brothers gather for a tailgate prior to the Penn State vs. Michigan game.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Benjamin Amato '60 entered Chapter Eternal on October 1, 2022. After graduating with bachelor's and master's degrees in education, Benjamin built a financial planning and investment business, Professional Planning Consultants, that thrived for more than 50 years. He did so while raising five children. A prominent member of the State College and DU alumni communities, Benjamin will be remembered for his love of people, music, and entertaining others.



Don Steppe '64 entered Chapter Eternal on August 1, 2023. Don spent most of his career in metal manufacturing after graduating with an industrial engineering degree. While at Penn State, Don played football and basketball and met Demmy, his DU sweetheart and wife of 57 years.

ALUMNI NEWS

Dan Surra '76 lives in Kersey, Pa. He is a retired member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Email: elkco75@yahoo.com

Alan Piciacchio '89 is officially retired from IBM but remains active as a distinguished engineer and vice president of IT management for Kyndril, a startup company created from IBM's IT services division. Alan resides in Wappingers Falls, N.Y. Email: alanpiciacchio@gmail.com

Thomas Samuel II '91 is still working as a high school English teacher while his wife of 29 years, Julie, works for Sysco Foods Corporation. His son, Lance, is planning a July wedding while his daughter, Leah, is working toward graduation from Bloomsburg University. Thomas lives in Enola, Pa. Email: tsam20@hotmail.com

Rick Yeager '96 shares that his daughter continues the family tradition as a sophomore at University Park. Meanwhile, Rick's son is a high school senior with hopes to attend Penn State. Rick lives in Phoenixville, Pa. Email: ryeager@its.jnj.com

Aaron Stidd '06 suffered a traumatic brain injury in 2006, leading to a coma and rehab with support from his brothers. Aaron currently resides under the care of his parents in Huntingdon, Pa. DU helped with many fundraisers for Aaron, and he looks back on his college years with many fond fraternity memories. Email: connie.stidd@gmail.com

Sage Perisse '11 lives in Phoenixville, Pa. He started a photo/video company with his fiancé, Casey, called Manavon. The company stemmed from them shooting weddings, though they also do marketing, social, and corporate work. Sage shared the company's website, manavon.com. Email: sageperisse@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE FOUNDERS DAY 2024

Be on the lookout for more information regarding DU Founders Day in spring 2024! We hope to see you back on campus to celebrate our fraternal bonds at Penn State.

Alumni Engagement Comes in Many Forms

HOW CAN YOU HELP DELTA UPSILON?

- ▶ **Provide** your email to receive our digital updates. Send it to updatemyrecord@penningtonco.com.
- ▶ **Volunteer** as a board member or to serve on one of our committees.
- ▶ **Attend** DU Penn State events. Stay tuned for Founders Day 2024 details!
- ▶ **Mentor** or speak with undergraduates at the house.
- ▶ **Share** your newsletter copy with brothers, family, and friends. Let them know that Delta Upsilon at Penn State is stronger than ever!

For more information on any of the items above, please contact the Alumni Relations Chair John DelSignore at jdelsignore@gmail.com.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



FROM THE BOARD

Our board members would like to wish all DU alumni, family, and friends a happy holiday season. We hope to see you at an alumni event soon and wish you the best as you continue sharing those DU values and bonds we all hold dearly.

WHY THEY JOINED

"Going into recruitment week, I didn't even know if I wanted to join a fraternity—my parents were skeptical too. After meeting the brothers of DU, I knew that joining was the right decision. After a little bit of convincing, my parents were on board, and we all could not be happier."

—Hugh Kibera

"The second I stepped in the house for a tour and was immediately greeted by multiple brothers that were happy to see me, I knew I was in the right place."

—Austin Parisi

"I had a bid here and a bid to another house, and the deciding factor for me was when I asked myself, 'Where do I see myself two years from now?' The answer was here."

—Michael Renzulli