



Phi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho

THE TORCH



**Alpha Chi Rho
Fraternity**

The Pennsylvania State University

Winter/Spring 2024

Capital Campaign Update

Happy New Year! It's been a busy fall for our House Campaign. And, not unlike James Franklin's football team, we've done very well but aren't quite where we'd like to be - yet! But we will get there –much sooner than the Lions...

Through the generosity and commitment of 48 of you we currently have pledges of \$287,100 as of 2/9/24.

That is simply awesome. The Property Association and Grad Chapter Boards and I cannot thank you enough. Please See our Donor Recognition Roll below to see which of your brothers has participated.

But we want to exceed our goal of \$300,000. We just need a bit more help. There are over 600 Phi Lambda alums out there. Please consider joining the other 48 alums who have made a pledge and help us secure a strong future for the chapter. There is a donation card and envelop enclosed to make it easy. Or, you can make a donation online at the new website (pennstate-crows.org).

The objectives of this Campaign are to raise funds to help bring the house up to a more competitive position with other housing options in town AND to reinvigorate and reconnect our alumni.

It has been great catching up with many of you and hearing about how you remain connected with other

guys from your time in the house. Some of you have told me that you've recently reconnected with guys as a result of this campaign. That is fantastic! While we may not ALL know each other, we really do share a common connection that is tied back to our time as an undergrad member of the Chapter and in the House.

We want that connectivity and reconnection activity to continue beyond the Campaign.

As you will see elsewhere in this edition of The Torch, we have our chapter website up and running. And there is now a Member Portal where you can update your contact info. Soon there will also be a "Lost Brother" capability where you can help us reconnect with guys whose contact info we no longer have. Please check out the site and log in to your record in the Member Portal

The Grad Chapter will be looking to work with volunteers in various regions to organize Phi Lambda meet-ups periodically. Not everyone can get back to State College these days and, lord knows, it isn't easy or cheap to do so on football weekends. So, we need to bring "reconnection" to where you are. Hopefully we can get guys who are willing to help organize periodic get togethers in some of the areas we have large numbers of alums – Philly, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, DC, etc. If you are interested in helping with that, please let Grad Chapter President Bryan Gardiner know (bmg5121@gmail.com) and he'll work with you to make it happen.

Thanks again to all of you have contributed so far. I hope the rest of you will consider getting involved. We have donations from \$200 - \$50,000, so every little bit helps and is most appreciated. Let's get this over the goal line!

In the Bond,

John Rooney '86

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PHI LAMBDA

GRADUATE CHAPTER

Bryan Gardiner '12

President

Vacant

Vice President

David Kaschak '83

Treasurer

Ted Mowatt '83

Scholarship Advisor

John Murtland '96

Secretary

425 PROPERTY

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ALPHA CHI RHO

Victor Ramos '91

President

Bruce Helms '77

Vice President

David Kefford '83

Treasurer

Timothy Brodeur '02

Secretary



The **PSU Blue White game** is scheduled for April 13. Time TBD. Check the AXP website for more details as it gets closer.



Member Portal at members.pennstatecrows.org

Check out the new member portal!

Brothers:

We are pleased to announce that our new website is up and running, including the ability to update your contact information and make gifts online.

You can view the site at pennstatecrows.org. In order to access the members section where you can search for brothers, update your contact information, and see your donation history, please follow these steps:

- Click the “Member Portal” link in the top bar on the website or go directly to members.pennstatecrows.org.
- Click the “Forgot Password” link
- You will be asked to enter your email address that we have on record for you.
- If we have an email address, you can find it on the tear-off section of the cover letter under “Email”
- If there is no email listed, please visit <https://pennstatecrows.org/contact/> and update your email on that form. It may take up to 48 hours for access to take effect.
- If you have any issues, please send our website team a note at support@elevateims.com a note and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Graduate Chapter Update

Greetings brothers! As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, our Capital Campaign is making great progress. Thank you to all who have contributed! You are helping secure the future of the Chapter.

As far as projects associated with the Campaign go, our first big one will be substantial renovations of the second and third floor bathrooms; as was highlighted in the Campaign Case Statement (available on our new website at: <http://tinyurl.com/z3cf2ccc>)

We are proceeding with that effort now. Unsurprisingly, the township and state imposed some ADA requirements that heretofore had not been necessary. We have successfully navigated their approval processes and are now in a position to put the project out to bid. The plan is for that to occur over the next month and we expect to select a contractor for the project by late March/early April. Work will commence as soon as the Undergrads finish up spring semester.

We are also looking at improvements and upgrades to the volleyball area on the side of the house. More and more of the social functions occur in afternoons and the outside gets a lot of use. We are looking at adding porch access to the side yard area and possibly fencing options. More to come on that. We look forward to sharing finished product photos with you in our fall Torch.

Lastly, please take a few minutes and check out our website (<https://pennstatecrows.org/>). As you will see elsewhere here there is now a Member Portal area for you to update your contact info. We have 600+ mailing addresses for alumni, but less than 300 emails. Please check and update your email if necessary. We are looking to send out more frequent updates via email, so we'd like to be able to reach you that way too. Come this fall we expect to have functionality added to the site that will allow us to show our “lost brothers” – folks for whom we have neither a current mailing address nor email. Hopefully you'll be able to help us reconnect with them. Stay tuned for that.

Thanks again to all our Campaign donors and I hope the rest of you will consider making a pledge on the enclosed pledge form and help us surpass our goal.

In the Bond,

Bryan Gardiner '12 – Grad Chapter President

Graduate Profile

Richard Garber '59

As part of keeping up with our alumni over the years we will profile a graduate brother each Torch newsletter. Today we visit with Brother Dick Garber from the Class of '59.

Over 60 years after graduation, Dick still fondly remembers his three years in the AXP Phi Lambda Chapter House. "During September 1956, the brothers decided Hell Week for my pledge group (during the first week of classes!) would include the conversion of some side lawn into a gravel parking lot. They deemed it appropriate that we work to the raucous sounds of Presley's "You Ain't Nothing but a Hound Dog" and "Workin on the Chain Gang". What fun?! Also, there were the fantastic seats available for sophomores and juniors every football game courtesy of Brother Kapitanoff. The themed weekends and the Carnation Ball (always on or near Valentine's Day), were really special and fun."

Having just lost his father to a heart attack early in his freshman year, Dick quickly formed lifelong friendships with his fraternity brothers who would become like an extended family to him.

Dick also met the love of his life at a dance at the AXP house. He invited her to a wrestling meet and the rest is history. "Early in 1958, I met Penn State student Judy Lang. She was my guest at many 1958-1959 house functions. We married September 1960 and had two wonderful daughters and a happy 44-year marriage before she passed in 2005. I have four precious

grandchildren, ages 13 to 27."

Participating in fraternity life in the house, and the leadership and responsibility opportunities it involved, helped prepare him for his long and distinguished career in engineering and management at Air Products & Chemicals.

Dick graduated in 1959 with a BS in Electrical Engineering and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Ordnance Branch of the U.S.

Army Reserves. Continuing his Penn State education, he graduated in 1961 with a M.S. in Business Administration. Upon completion of his Penn State graduate studies, he fulfilled his Army active-duty commitment at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD before embarking on his Air Products career. After retirement Dick instructed finance and economics courses at Penn State's Allentown, PA campus.

As a huge PSU football fan and season ticket holder for decades, Dick returned to campus several times a year and kept friendships alive. "It was great to see old and new brothers, and homecomings and other gatherings at the house were especially fun." Dick was very involved in Phi Lambda weekend reunions in 2014 and 2015. "I especially enjoyed Brother John Elnitski's tailgates in later years."

"I encourage all alumni to give back to the Chapter with their time and resources. Contributing to the Renovation Project, which will make the needed updates and improvements to the house, will help the Chapter with recruitment and keep the house going strong for generations to come."



Dick and Judy at the Carnation Ball



2014 Phi Lambda Class of '57-'59 Reunion

Donor Recognition Roll

Thank you to the following brothers who have so generously contribute to our campaign! The funds we raise now will play a pivotal role in bringing our beloved 100+ year house up to contemporary standards. By doing so, we aim to make our fraternity house more competitive with other State College housing options. This investment will not only enhance our living conditions but also elevate the overall experience for future generations of brothers.

For those who have not yet given to our campaign, we encourage you to consider a donation of any size. Please check the insert in this envelope for more on the Capital Campaign and to learn how you can donate.



Undergraduate Chapter Update

Alumni Brothers,

I hope you all had a great holiday season. Things are gearing up here at the House as we kicked off Spring Semester this second week of January. I thought I would give you a quick update on some highlights from the Chapter.

The Phi Lambda chapter currently has 42 members including six postulants initiated in the fall semester with six seniors graduating this May. We are planning a Spring pledge class well into the double digits and are busy at Rush now. The chapter had 16 brothers make the Dean's List in the fall semester achieving a 3.5 or higher GPA. We are working hard on making good grades.

The chapter is participating in intramural sports each semester, most recently fielding three teams in the fall 2023 semester – soccer, volleyball, and flag football. The football team fared best with a .500 season. The team got off to a shaky start to the season due to a lack of experience for some; however, they learned quickly and were able to compete with the opposition as the season went on. Other brothers who were not a part of the team would come out to support the squad on the sidelines showcasing a real sense of brotherhood. Although the season didn't end how they would've liked, they enjoyed going out and competing with one another against the other fraternities and are looking forward to the upcoming spring season.

Lastly, this year for THON the undergrads have been hard at work attempting to meet their goal of \$5000. You can support the undergrads at this link.

<http://tinyurl.com/mvnmcknj>.

Thanks for your ongoing support of the Chapter and if you are in or passing through town please stop by the Chapter House, we'd love to meet you.

In the Bond,

Chris Newell, Chapter President

Thank you

Legacy Society

\$50,000+

Dan Ressler '89

John Rooney '86

Torch Society

\$25,000-\$49,999

Landmarks Society

\$15,000-\$24,999

Steve Berger '88

Kevin Sugalski '77

Garnet & White Society

\$10,000-\$14,999

Brett Frankenberg '92

Bryan Gardiiner '12

Sol Jacobs '87

Leadership Society

\$5,000-\$9,999

John Barbella '89

Eric Cockshaw '90

Rob Elias '91

Steve Faux '86

Mark Fiorina '85

Robert Fischer '72

Scott Glover '86

Bruce Helms '74

Jim Keiser '81

Dave Miller

Ted Mowatt '83

Victor Ramos '91

P. Martin Sharpless '83

Mark Stephens '23

Labarum Supporter

\$2,500-\$4,999

Tim Brodeur '02

Dick Garber '59

Dave Kashack '83

Andy Katzen '91

Dave Kefford '83

Jeff McKee '90

John Murtland '96

Dave Reagan '81

John Ross '73

John Yurcho '86

Brotherhood Supporter

\$1-\$2,499

Mike Barber '87

Jim Blaydon '83

Jim Bova '79

Mario Carrello '73

Brian Ferris '78

Tom Haskins '73

Eric Hayes '12

Bruce Kabernagle '81

Matt Larlick '91

Bill Mayo '75

Chuck McConnell '81

Len Monto '72

Robert Orban '77

Jim Robinson '90

Mike Talladay '84

Chris Wigand '89

David Wolfe '86