

The Lion's Bridge



Alpha Delta Phi Nittany Chapter

Fall 2015

Chapter Grows Stronger After Joining IFC

By Steve Kraynik, President (2015)

Brothers, let me first start off by saying how good it feels to be sharing newsletters again. For a long time, our chapter had regularly distributed this semi-annual document to our alumni, but in recent years, we favored the use of our Facebook page for quick and easy communication. We have realized the importance of a consistent newsletter in order to properly share our business with our growing alumni association, and thus we are excited to bring back the Lion's Bridge as a regular occurrence.

As many of you know, the chapter decided to join the Penn State Interfraternity Council beginning in the Spring 2014 semester. Thanks to the efforts of brothers Kyle Feaster, Matthew Rathbun, Jack Cardello, and Aatish Bathija, who presented in front of the IFC Executive Board, we were unanimously accepted into the community as the 50th recognized fraternity at Penn State. We went through a one-year probationary period, led by Brother President Jack Cardello, in which we were essentially introduced to the new set of requirements and standards that are expected of all accredited Penn State fraternities. What this means specifically is that, in order for the IFC to recognize Alpha Delta Phi, we must submit a yearly report of our involvement in the areas of community service, philanthropy, academics, and educational programming. While these have always been important elements of our chapter since its founding, we have found it to be very motivating that we are a part of a larger Greek community that prides itself on these sorts of accomplishments. For instance, our 25-man chapter was able to record 232 accredited community service hours just during the Spring 2015 semester, largely because of the opportunities presented to us by the IFC. One example of this is participating in Greek Sweep, an event where fraternity men get together and clean up trash from the downtown area after big weekends like Halloween and "State Patty's." It obviously reflects positively on the Greek community at Penn State and gives us another chance to work alongside each other as brothers.

And so while the IFC transition has brought about new requirements, it has also added numerous benefits. The IFC helps us the most during recruitment, where we can finally be a part of recruitment events like the Greek Involvement Fair in the HUB. I cannot express how proud I felt to set up a table displaying our letters in a high-traffic area like the HUB and talk to waves of interested freshmen about who we are and what we do. This has been a great way to guarantee a good turnout for our favorite rush events later on, such as Poker Night and Bowling. In fact, our schedule of rush events has remained largely unchanged from the days when many of you had rushed, which is also something we pride ourselves on.

It has been of huge importance to our brotherhood that even though the IFC business does represent a new era for our chapter, we maintain and perpetuate the values upon which this chapter was built. As Alpha Deltas, we all chose to join this fraternity for very specific reasons, and our incoming pledge classes all want to be a part of us for those same reasons. We still use the same processes to educate our pledges and to develop them into better men - morally, socially, and intellectually. We have found that being an IFC fraternity has required us to compromise little to none of our business, but instead, it has allowed us to embrace the wide network of Greek men and women at Penn State and use it to further our own causes. We are still getting used to the processes and procedures of being an accredited fraternity, but ultimately, doing so brings us closer together as brothers adds value to our organization. And I have never felt this proud to work alongside such dedicated, well-rounded, and upstanding gentlemen in ADPhi.



Social Life in the Nittany Chapter

By Phil Goreski, Vice President, Social Chair

For many of us the small feel of the fraternity is the reason we got involved in ADPhi at Penn State. However as Penn Staters we obviously enjoy the large social scene here, especially in Greek life. We have worked hard to expand the social aspects of our fraternity by reaching out to other organizations and setting up long-lasting relationships.

One of our first experiences with an outside organization was our pairing with Phi Chi Theta for homecoming in the Fall 2014 semester. We got involved with this professional business fraternity through Jack Cardello, our president at the time. For this week we used the house as a meeting spot for both of our organizations to come together and join in socials, tailgates, and activities. We constructed a cornhole set and a table with our letters and symbols of each fraternity. Later, we used those to throw a backyard tailgate for after the Homecoming football game. To this day we still keep a close tie with PCT and look forward to socials with them in the future.

The next big change as part of joining the IFC is participating in Greek Week. This week is set up by the IFC to celebrate Greek pride, and we were excited to finally be a part of it. We are part of various service efforts throughout the week as well as socials at night. For 2014 we were partnered with Delta Sigma, Pi Beta Phi, and Theta Chi. Led by Matt Rathbun as the first Greek Week chair, our fraternity successfully made many connections especially at Theta Chi. We had a close connection with them and ended up setting up an away bar at their house. The event was a huge step up for us in the social experience because we were warmly

welcomed by a large IFC fraternity. Some other groups who we have been involved with are Equestrian Team, Omega Phi Alpha, Club Boxing, and Phi Sigma Kappa. The equestrian team is our go-to group of girls that we can invite over and love the ADPhi atmosphere and our brothers. Omega Phi Alpha always has their girls over but we are looking forward to setting up an official social later this year. We have brothers Santo Spataro and Taylor Jackson on the club boxing team which we take great pride in. We partner with them to allow club boxing a place to socialize. Finally our daylongs have grown to be well-known at State College. We recently had the brothers of Phi Sigma Kappa request to have an away bar at our house during this event.

Finally we know how important it is that we have events with just us Alpha Deltis so we have small date functions that are always a hit. Last fall we had a pumpkin carving combined with a date function which was a huge success. Literature Night takes the cake as one of our favorite nights each semester. Lit Night is our formal date function, combined with an evening of wildly entertaining literature pieces, written and read by each brother. In recent semesters we have successfully held Lit Night in the upstairs bar room and living room of 252, which went over very well because of our home improvement efforts. All in all we have grown from the days of being a small social fraternity but we still hold true to our roots.

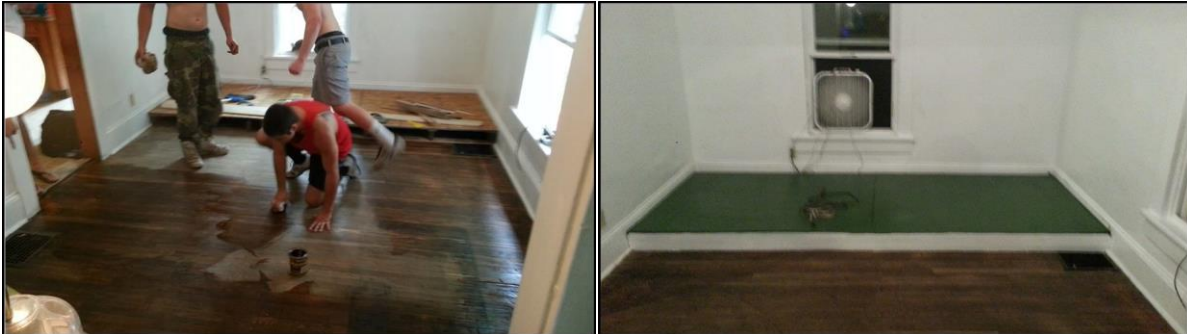


Home Improvement Boosts Fraternity Morale

By Steve Kraynik

Although after some weekends we scratch our heads and wonder how our houses are still standing, we've recently taken up huge efforts to at least improve their appearances on the inside. Still occupying the duplexes of 250 and 252 South Atherton Street, it's been fairly understood that 252 is more of the "party house" while 250 is more of the "chill house." We've made it a point to improve both places during our off-months in the summer. Starting with 252, we first removed all unnecessary furniture and junk to clear out as much space as possible. Then we repainted the walls on the entire first floor to cover up scratches and scuff marks. The bar room floor was rather foul and had layers of caked-up dirt, grime, and chewing gum stuck to it. And so we hand-sanded the entire floor until the bare wood was finally exposed, gave it a good steam cleaning, and then laid down a new coat of stain and sealant to make it look new. But the biggest task of all was building a platform for our bar to stand on, using plywood and free wooden pallets from Home Depot. The platform makes standing behind the bar and serving drinks both easier and cooler. Brother Phil Goreski took this idea further and built a wide, sturdy bench that extends almost the entire length of the room. Finally, we got a friend to paint our crest front and center on the bar. The end result is a cleaner, more spacious and much more fun room for socials and gatherings.

The first floor in 250 saw its share of improvements too. We added a bamboo Tiki-style bar in the corner, acquired a foosball table, a bottle-cap covered coffee table, and upgraded our TV and sound system. Even though space has always been a huge constraint in both houses, we as brothers have really done as much as we could to make sure they are a great atmosphere for both ourselves and our guests.





The changes have really helped to lift all of our spirits. They happened during our transition into the IFC, and so it was almost symbolic to give the houses a more “official” look as well. We all wish we had a nicer house, and we are working toward those days. However until that becomes a reality, we’re committed to getting the most out of the houses we have now.

Growing THON Presence

By Nick Boraonkar and Chris Clemens, THON Chairs

Over the past two years, Alpha Delta Phi has raised over \$21,000 for The Pennsylvania State IFC/Panhellenic Student Dance Marathon, also known as THON. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy in the world and is an effort to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer.

All proceeds raised for THON are donated to the Four Diamonds Fund at The Penn State Hershey Medical Center with more than \$26 million raised over the last two years. The money is used to provide financial support for the children and families affected by cancer, as well as to conduct research for a cure.

This past year brothers Jack Cardello and Brent Littlejohn were selected to dance on behalf of Alpha Delta Phi. Being chosen to dance is an honor and a feat. Dancers are required to be on their feet with no sleep for 46 hours straight over THON weekend. As Jack and Littlejohn danced on the floor, the rest of the brothers were located not far from them in the lower bowl, providing support, motivation, and entertainment over the entire weekend. This year we are hoping to have another two brothers represent Alpha Delta Phi on the floor. THON weekend will begin on Friday, February 19th 2016 and will conclude on Sunday, February 21st 2016.



However, THON is more than just a single weekend. It is a yearlong effort of fundraising with various events throughout. To start off the year, we as brothers go on three separate canning trips, where we leave the State College area and spend the weekend at the home of a gracious hosting family. During the weekend we can be seen on the streets, promoting THON to passerby and accepting donations in our rattling coffee cans. Canning weekends are some of the best times to further bond as brothers. We also host other fundraisers with local restaurants, attend the annual THON 5K, and work to obtain corporate donations. These events are all important in helping us raise more than we ever have before. This year we are taking on a very ambitious goal of \$20,000, For The Kids and For The Cure.



Visits from Other Chapters

By Jack Cardello, President (2014)

During the Fall 2014 semester the Nittany Chapter hosted a number of brothers from other Alpha Delta Phi chapters. On the weekend of September 20th, eight brothers from the University of Massachusetts visited Penn State and stayed at our house. The brothers from both chapters tailgated the Penn State vs. UMass football game and later attended a party at our residence. Positive connections were made as the chapters bonded over social events. The next visit came from the brothers from the University of Maryland chapter as well as the McGill chapter over Halloween weekend. The McGill chapter even brought their pledges along with them, which we later used to our advantage. The Nittany chapter held a social event on Friday night which all of the brothers attended and enjoyed experiencing the Penn State atmosphere.

The following day we held the “porching” educational event using a combination of Nittany and McGill new members. While the neophytes were memorizing *Xaipe* on the porch, the brothers constructed a plan to add an additional challenge to the event. During the second round of singing, we decided to bring the new members in as a group. After failing to get through *Xaipe* (as planned), former Brother President Jack Cardello began to instigate McGill pledgemaster Adam Lewis. A fabricated argument ensued between Brother Cardello and Brother Lewis, which ended in the McGill chapter storming out of the house taking their respective members with them. The new members were convinced that the entire argument was legitimate and that they were to blame for the outburst, until everyone was able to laugh off the joke afterwards. This adds to the many porching stories we share with our new brothers once they have successfully mastered *Xaipe*.

Recruitment Takes Priority, Does Not Disappoint

By Brian Stickler, Rush Chair

Alpha Delta Phi experienced one of their most successful years of recruitment throughout the Fall 2014 and Spring 2015 school year. In the very first weeks of the year, the active Alpha Delta Phi brotherhood had dropped below twenty brothers for the first time in many semesters due to a large presence of seniors who had graduated the semester before. However, the active brothers took initiative and ended up with the largest pledge class the chapter had ever seen in the fall and the spring. Overall, twelve new members were initiated into the brotherhood; seven in the fall and five in the spring.

The success of the year was due to many factors. Obviously the passion of the brothers was a huge component in the gathering of pledges since one of Alpha Delta Phi’s biggest strengths is ‘the mystic ties that bind us here.’ Another reason the fraternity was successful was the dedication of the brotherhood in determining an excellent recruitment process. Joining the IFC was crucial to gathering dozens of names to come by the events. Two events that kicked off the fall recruitment were the Greek Involvement Fair and the addition of Alpha Delta Phi to the “Zone Days” program during Week One of rush. The Greek Involvement fair was held in the HUB and the event involved all IFC fraternities setting up a small booth where interested students could come by, read some history, meet some brothers, and finally decide

to give the rush chairs their contact information in exchange for literature on the upcoming events. The Zone Day was a similar event but was held at the Old Main Lawn with only a few other fraternities. The event was far more personal and catered (entirely paid for by the IFC). Overall, 90 names, along with contact information, were gathered.

The next few weeks were crucial being that the rush events were scattered through them. Keeping up with the tradition of past years, rushes were brought to bowling, participated in a poker night, and even enjoyed a traditional ADPhi social function. Events were all encompassing showing the rushes the houses, a party setting, a brotherhood event setting, and of course an introduction to the brotherhood. After bids went out, brothers Brian Stickler, Derek Lankeaux, Spencer Jackson, David Huber, Adam Groshek, Zach Scheffer, and Santo Spataro had decided to pledge.

Spring Recruitment was, as always, a very different atmosphere. Pledge classes are typically much smaller for all fraternities due to a decreased interest in rushing when compared to the fall. This however did not stop the brothers from holding a strong recruitment. Brothers relied on word of mouth and personal connections to spark the interest of the rushes. Brothers were encouraged to spend one-on-one time with a rush at least once a week.

Rush events included bowling, poker night, socials, and an invitation dinner in that order. Informal events were budgeted this semester to promote more personal connections with the rushes. The money was used to buy refreshments and food for football Sundays and other times where the brothers just 'hung out' with the rushes. At the end, brothers decided to give bids out to nine rushes; two of them however did not register yet. Luckily, since ADPhi had and has a great relationship with the IFC, the VP of Recruitment personally registered both of them. Both of them ended up pledging ADPhi. Overall, six out of nine students who received bids decided to pledge and five were initiated: David Mupo, Matt Golabek, David Smith, Chris Clemens, and Vince Ferraiuolo.

The Nittany Chapter of Alpha Delta Phi has made strong improvements on the quality of our recruitment process and we are happy to celebrate the twelve new brothers of our fraternity.



Fundraising Efforts

By Aaron Keaton, Secretary

Raising money is always a task that has high priority for most fraternities. This is especially true for us due to the Nittany chapter being a relatively small and new fraternity here at Penn State. Over the last year we have held many events in an attempt to raise funds. Our most recent fundraiser was with Five Guys Burgers and Fries. We reached out to the company because of the restaurant's proximity to the house and its history of working with Greek organizations. They allowed us to set up a tri-fold display in the restaurant and told us to invite as many people possible to come out and eat during the afternoon. Last year we teamed up with Coldstone Creamery for a similar fundraiser that also ended up being a success. During that event we were actually allowed to participate behind the counter by serving ice cream to the customers. Events like this are essential in helping get our name out to the student body. This helps spread a positive image of Alpha Deltas on campus while simultaneously raising funds for future endeavors. We plan on continuing to look for new opportunities and possibly work with the same companies again in the near future.

The Inaugural Alumni Reception in the Atherton Hotel

By Jack Cardello, Alumni Chair

Last spring, the Nittany Chapter of Alpha Delta Phi hosted the inaugural Alumni Reception in the Atherton Hotel. The undergraduate brothers rented out a boardroom in the Atherton Hotel and held a reception for the alumni, accompanied with snacks and a happy hour at the neighboring Rumors Lounge (a favorite watering hole of ours). The goal of the event was to provide our established alumni base an opportunity to reconnect with brothers, both current and past, in a semi-formal setting before engaging in the festivities of the Penn State Blue and White Weekend. We also wanted to give the alumni an event in which they felt comfortable bringing their spouse or loved ones. Although the turnout was not as high as expected, we are proud to call our inaugural reception a success and look forward to putting together a second event this upcoming spring. Please be on the lookout for an email with further details!



Help Nittany Chapter Via The 1832 Club!

By Ryan Lott, Treasurer

Brothers, as most of you will remember, each year your chapter had to pay a large sum of money to cover services from International as well as insurance for the fraternity. Depending on the size of your chapter, this annual check could have proven to be a large pain for you and your brothers. At Nittany chapter, we operate on a semester budget of about \$10,000. This goes toward recruitment programming, intramural sports, community service events, social functions, and other miscellaneous expenses. The reality is that more than half of our budget is sent straight through to International at the beginning of the fall semester, and only the remaining portion is truly available to finance brother activities. It has been the status quo to aggregate this money solely through active brother dues. In our current phase of growth, directly related to our transition into the IFC, our brotherhood has been faced with the challenge of adding many new activities and programs to our yearly schedule. As a result, it has been difficult to make strides as a fraternity while at the same time keeping the cost of membership at a reasonable amount.

One way to remedy this dilemma is to encourage the use of the 1832 Club. This program works by having alumni sign up to automatically donate \$18.32 from their bank account every month. The 1832 Club was active at Nittany for a few years, but about six years ago it fell under the radar and wasn't rediscovered until last semester with the help of Brothers Cozza and Farster. We would love to revamp the 1832 Club to make sure that brothers of future generations have a stable financial situation and are able to focus more on developing as a chapter instead of just making it through the year. However, we cannot do this without your help. Brothers, your contributions to the 1832 Club are extremely crucial to our growing chapter and we cannot thank you enough for your help and support!

We kindly ask that you consider donating one of two ways:

- 1) The sign-up sheet and instructions for the 1832 Club is attached at the end of this letter.
- 2) Alternatively, if you would consider making a donation via check, the check can be made out to 'Alpha Delta Phi' and the envelope can be addressed to:

Ryan Lott
747 E. Beaver Ave., Apt. 314
State College, PA 16801

We appreciate any helpful amount that you are able to contribute. Donations would be dedicated solely to helping our brotherhood further establish itself within the Greek community of Penn State. We look forward to the days when you can make it back to our chapter and see all that we have accomplished along with your help.

Convention 2015

By Bryan Egner, Rush Chair

This year I attended the 183rd International Convention in Hartford, Connecticut. After a six-hour train ride, I arrived at the City of Insurance to meet brothers from all over the country. Once in Hartford I stopped in at Feng Asian Bistro for an hour of amazing sushi and sashimi. The first event was a reception that Thursday evening where I was introduced to many brothers and alumni. The next two days were filled with chapter building workshops and presentations, a sexual harassment speaker, and long hours of debating about the future of the fraternity. At night there was a BBQ alongside the river showing the beautiful scenery of Hartford. On the last evening, there was a formal dinner at the extremely reputable Hartford Club where Fillet Mignon was served. The dinner was outstanding and the atmosphere was just as nice. After heading back home, a few things were taken away from my experience: The Nittany Chapter needs to improve its Alumni Association to further itself, and also remain in stronger contact with other chapters in order to plan trips and events. Next year's Convention will be held August 4th-7th, 2016 in Washington, D.C. at the Johns Hopkins Chapter, if you are interested in being Nittany Chapter's Alumni delegate please contact Brother Phil Goreski (our current alumni chair) at pgoreski@gmail.com.



Special Thanks

Special thanks to:

- Brother Liam Tripp, CSC, for visiting us in the Fall 2014 semester.
- Brother Adam Thau for arranging the initiation of honorary brothers Daniel Thau and Daniel Deitchman.
- Brother Ed Donahue for visiting us in the Spring 2015 semester.
- Brothers Gene Cozza and Brandon Farster for restarting our 1832 Club account.
- Brothers Kyle Feaster and Luke Stegura for participating in our spring initiation.
- The Johns Hopkins chapter for hosting us during the 2014 Leadership Conference and the 2015 Presidents' Summit.

Xaipe!



ALPHA DELTA PHI

Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity Inc.
21 Byron Place, New Haven, CT 06515
Phone: (508) 226-1832
office@alphadeltaphi.org

Alpha Delta Phi Nittany Chapter

1832 Club Application Form

I, _____, authorize The Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity to charge my credit card in the amount of \$18.32 per month.

Name on Card: _____ VISA __ MASTERCARD __

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

3-Digit PIN (Number on Back of Card): _____

(Electronic) Signature _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please complete this form and return to peter.shore@alphadeltaphi.org. The form can also be mailed to:

Alpha Delta Phi Fraternity Inc.
21 Byron Place, New Haven, CT 06515

If you prefer to give your credit card information directly over the phone, please contact Peter Shore to make the appropriate arrangements at **(508) 226-1832**.

Important Dates This Fall Semester

Thursday, September 17th – Bid Acceptance

Saturday, September 19th – Rutgers Game (Tailgate)

Friday, October 9th – Homecoming Weekend (Tailgate)

Friday, November 6th – Initiation

Saturday, November 21st – Michigan Game (White Out)

Contact Information of Current Fall 2015 Officers

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Aatish Bathija, PSU '16 – Sergeant At Arms – aatish94@gmail.com

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