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MORRILL MESSENGER

Morrill Chapter of The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta
Penn State • www.alphazetapsu.com • October 2014



EVENTS

Fall Reunion
Saturday, Oct. 18, 2014
12:30 p.m.
Yoder's Restaurant
New Holland, Pa.

Please RSVP to **Bob Pepple '68** at 610.932.3975 or **jpepple69@gmail.com**. All alumni, family members and guests are welcome. Need a few good reasons to attend? See our article on this page. We'll see you on the 18th!

IN MEMORY

Alpha Zeta has recently learned of the deaths of the following alumni:

Jack McCurry
Stanley Walton '51
Richard Cole '52
Peter Fenchak '54
Sidney Barnard '55

The fraternity mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

IN THE NEWS

Do you know a member of Morrill Chapter who has been in the news recently? Send story ideas or links to online articles to alumna **Emily Caldwell '09** (ecaldwell718@gmail.com). We want to share your successes with other alumni!

FALL ALUMNI REUNION

5 Reasons to Join Us on October 18

What would inspire you to return for a fall reunion ... with old friends ... and great food ... and beautiful weather (we hope)? **On Saturday, October 18, at 12:30 p.m., Alpha Zetans will join their families and friends in New Holland, Pa., at Yoder's Restaurant for our Annual Fall Reunion.** Here are the top five reasons YOU should send in your RSVP today!

Fantastic Food

Enjoy a delicious family-style, Pennsylvania Dutch meal with friends ... a menu sure to please everyone.

Great Friendships

How long has it been since you shared a meal and a few hours with some of your best friends from Alpha Zeta? Isn't it time to reconnect?

It's Not a PSU Football Weekend

This is one of the one weekends that the Nittany Lions don't play. So, use the time to take a drive, enjoy the fall foliage and enjoy a meal with your Alpha Zeta brothers and sisters.

Find Out the Latest

Do you know what is happening with the chapter? Or other alumni? Now is your chance to find out what is happening in the ag world from those who know best.

Network

Looking for a job? Have a position to fill? The fall reunion is a great opportunity to meet Alpha Zeta alumni who have an interest in the talents and strengths of their fellow AZ alumni brothers and sisters.

To RSVP for the weekend, contact **Bob Pepple '68** at 610.932.3975 or **jpepple69@gmail.com**.



MATCHING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Alpha Zeta Moves Forward "For the Future"

Chapter Joins Penn State Scholarship Program

The Morrill Chapter of Alpha Zeta has joined the scholarship program, "For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students."

As part of the program, Alpha Zeta has pledged to raise a total of \$50,000. This means that AZ must raise \$10,000 each year until 2018. Donations are tax deductible.

"We collected more than \$12,000 in the first year of this campaign," said **Art Keen '68**, Alpha Zeta Corporation Board President. "Alumni have been asking me about ways to

contribute to scholarships, and this is a great program to enable us to provide students with financial help in their education."

The Trustee Matching Scholarship Program provides an annual 10 percent match of the total pledge of \$50,000. When the endowment becomes fully funded, the program will provide about 15 percent of the endowment's market value each year.

The Trustee Matching Scholarship is need-based. First preference for funds will

Continued on Page 3

Turning His Priceless “Remember When” Moments Into a Path for Others

Brother James Pierson '48 Establishes Scholarship for AZ Actives

James Pierson '48 attributes many of his life's accomplishments and joys to his early career in the Army, his Penn State education and his time at Alpha Zeta. The experience meant so much to Pierson that he established a \$50,000 need-based scholarship for agricultural students in the name of he and his late wife, with preference being given to Alpha Zeta members.

Pierson grew up on a farm outside of Altoona, Pa. He graduated high school in 1942 and was drafted once he turned 18. He served his country in World War II in Patton's 3rd Army in Europe. He began his Penn State education shortly thereafter, majoring in agronomy. His plans were to return to his family's farm upon graduation in 1948.

Best Blind Date Ever

In March of 1948, Pierson was invited back to campus for a military ball. The only problem was that he didn't have a date. The girlfriend of his Alpha Zeta roommate asked around her dorm. It turned out that a lovely young lady named Dolores, a Penn State sophomore, had just broken up with the gentleman she had been seeing. “And he was a football player!” laughed Pierson.

The pair hit it off so well that within the year, they were making plans to wed.

“When I approached Dolores's father to ask for her hand, he told me, ‘I'll allow it, but you'll have to take on her college debts and make sure she graduates!’” Pierson said.

Dolores graduated with a degree in business education in 1950, after the couple had married in 1949. **Bill Mayer**, a 1949 graduate who now lives in Albany, N.Y., served as Pierson's best man.

A Lengthy Agricultural Career

After his tour of duty with the Army during the Korean War, Pierson went to work for the Oliver Corporation in York, Pa., in 1952. After seven years at Oliver, Pierson transitioned to the agricultural chemical business. Then, he began a long career with Rohm and Haas. During his 20-year career with Rohm and Haas, Pierson particularly enjoyed an opportunity to do tropical research in Honduras.

He was offered early retirement; though not one to remain still for long, Pierson obtained his realtor's license. He worked out

of Morgantown, focusing mostly on farmers and helping them to obtain their dream operations.

Keeping Focus on the Family

During his busy career, Pierson remained dedicated to his wife and children. He and Dolores welcomed three daughters and a son into their lives.

Son, Doug, followed in his father's footsteps, graduating from Penn State in 1978 and even served as chancellor like his father had 30 years before. Doug is now a professor at Alfred State University, and he and his wife, Debbie, take several students each year on Christian veterinary mission trips.

“They actually met through 4-H,” Pierson adds. “They were both attending a conference in Washington, D.C.”



Jim Pierson, right, and son Doug Pierson, left, chat with Harvey Brown, middle, at the 2013 Alpha Zeta Reunion.

Through his many grandchildren, Pierson has had the opportunity to visit several college campuses, including Iowa State University and the University of Maryland.

“I've also been to Cornell and Ohio State and saw the [Alpha Zeta] houses,” Pierson said. “I think ours is much nicer!”

Unfortunately, Dolores passed in 2007, just shy of 58 years of marriage.

Alpha Zeta Memories

Though he led a busy life, Pierson made sure to keep in touch with his friends from Alpha Zeta. Many of those bonds remain strong to this day including members of the class of 1950, **Don Seipt** and **Emory Brown**.

“They're good friends and have been ever since our time at Alpha Zeta,” he said. “I've kept in touch with an awful lot of friends, and that means a lot.”

Reunions throughout the years have helped to maintain those relationships and enabled plenty of “remember when” moments.

One in particular for Pierson goes like this: “Of course when I was at Alpha Zeta, it was dry; no beer or liquor. But six fraternities on campus had a softball tournament each year, and the loser of the tournament had to host a beer party. Well, we lost, and ended up hosting the party on the Alpha Zeta lawn during Finals Week. Some of the boys wandered over to the girls' dormitory to sing songs. As the chancellor, I had to have a sit down with the girls' dean. Pearl Westin. I can still remember her name! She gave us a break because it was Finals Week, but I was nervous about it.”

Pierson enjoys the opportunity to relive such memories each time he visits. “Every time I go back to Penn State, I try to visit the house. I've met a lot of the members over the years, and I think it continues to be a really great place,” he said.

Establishing the Scholarship

Because of his own positive experience and the outlook he continues to see from current Penn Staters, Pierson jumped at an opportunity to establish a scholarship.

Through Penn State's Trustee Matching Scholarship program, Pierson contributed scholarship funds,

and the university matches it, up to a total of \$50,000. The fund is called the James L. and Dolores J. Pierson Memorial Scholarship, and it will be awarded to students in the College of Agricultural Sciences, with preference given to Alpha Zeta members.

“I think it's a really great program,” Pierson said. “So many students — especially those who come from farms — find it tough to come up with the money for college and to avoid leaving without a lot of debt.”

Along with his generosity, Pierson is encouraging fellow alumni to also contribute scholarship funds by serving as the honorary chair for Alpha Zeta's Scholarship Drive.

“Alpha Zeta has been great to us,” he said. “We need to help support its future.”

See pages 1 and 3 for information on Alpha Zeta's participation in the Trustee Matching Scholarship program.

SCHOLARSHIP, CONT.

be given to members of Alpha Zeta as well as to students in the College of Agricultural Sciences.

An additional \$7,000 in scholarship funds are available to only Alpha Zeta members at Penn State through the Lindley Hoag Dennis Scholarship and Dr. David A. Morrow Alpha Zeta Memorial Scholarship. Those scholarships are merit-based.

Several of our undergraduates have benefitted from our AZ scholarships. Animal science graduate Derek Wasson was the recipient of the Lindley Hoag Dennis Scholarship for \$1,055 in 2013. "Receiving this scholarship was a great honor," he explains, "and it goes a long way in helping me



Lindley Hoag Dennis Scholarship winner Derek Wasson thanks Alpha Zeta Corporation Board President Art Keen '68 and his wife Rose for their support of scholarships.

afford the remainder of my schooling. I would like to say thank you to all the supporters, and I hope they continue to support this wonderful organization into the future."

Meagan Slates, an agricultural and extension education graduate from Hickory, Pa., was a recipient of one of the three \$2,400 Charitable Trust Scholarships awarded by the Alpha Zeta Corporation Board in 2013.



"I am very grateful to receive a scholarship from Alpha Zeta. This scholarship is extremely important to me because moving and living out of State College to complete my student teaching will be a large expense on top of college."

To make a pledge to the Alpha Zeta Charitable Trust, please use the form below.

For more information about contributing to any of these Alpha Zeta scholarships, contact Corporation Board President Art Keen at artkeen@verizon.net or 800.669.8795.

Stay Connected!

According to our records, we are missing valid email addresses for more than 700 alumni members.

Make sure you're among the first in the loop on the latest news, activities and event details from our active and alumni chapters.

You can update your email address by logging in to www.alphazetapsu.com or by sending it to our alumni relations office at updatemyinfo@affinityconnection.com. Be sure to mention Alpha Zeta Penn State. And

please be assured that our data for AZ PSU will never be traded or sold.



Alpha Zeta Charitable Trust Scholarship Drive Pledge Agreement

I, _____ *signature* _____ accept the invitation to join others in support of our Fraternity in its mission of Brotherhood, Education and Leadership and do hereby pledge and agree to contribute the total sum of \$_____ to the Alpha Zeta Charitable Trust for use in the Scholarship Drive.

My gift shall be paid in the following manner (please check one):

- One-time payment, due June 1, 2015
- Annually over four years, first payment due June 1, 2015

Name: _____ Grad Year: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return this form with your payment gift made out to Alpha Zeta Charitable Trust at:
c/o Eric Bengtson, 1336 Harris St., State College, PA 16803

Your donation is tax deductible.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Can You Put a Value on Belonging? Thank You to Our Recent Annual Fund Donors

Do you remember those commercials done by Visa which pointed out things in life that are priceless? Our version would go something like this: Four-year degree at Penn State: \$50,000. Cost of living at Alpha Zeta: \$300/month. Value of having one of my fraternity brothers or sisters introduce me to my spouse: priceless.

How can you ever replicate the experiences and environment of Morrill Chapter? There are things that have happened at 360 N. Burrows that could not have happened anywhere else. Belonging to Alpha Zeta at Penn State means being related to something that is beyond other relationships or affiliations.

So, we are asking you to help us financially support our ability to keep the house running and our alumni returning for events. We have

set a goal of 100 donors for our 2014-15 Annual Fund giving year. Currently, our Honor Roll shows 11 donors.

Thank you to **Henry Fortna '61, Barron Hetherington '75, Gordon Hoover '79, Richard Kessler '62, Dr. Joseph Kunsman Jr. '60, Lynn Laudenslager '64, Dr. Michael Mischna '99, Lt. Gen. Donald Snyder '57, Joseph Strittmatter '73, Nate Ulmer '13 and Jeffery Williams '75** for your recent gifts.

Join these donors on our Honor Roll by going to www.alphazetapsu.com and clicking "Donate" in the upper right-hand corner of the home page. You can also send a check to Alpha Zeta Penn State, Alumni Relations Processing Center, P.O. Box 7007, Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007. Or you can call 800.975.6699.

ALUMNI NEWS

Christina Petersson-Wolfe '00



A graduate in Penn State's Dairy and Animal Science Program, Christina Petersson-Wolfe is now an associate professor in Virginia Tech's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. But researcher, author and instructor aren't the only hats she wears. Christina is also a wife (married to **Jason Wolfe**, PSU AZ 1999) and mother to two sons.

Additionally, she is a photographer and manages her own business focused on newborns and young families. How does she do it all? Read her story at www.alphazetapsu.com.

Jake Hushon '05

Thousands of Penn State alumni arrived in Ireland late in August to cheer on our Nittany Lions in their season opener against Central Florida. But newlyweds Jake Hushon and wife, Wendy, decided that there was no better location or time to celebrate their new union. Go to www.alphazetapsu.com to read about their special week in Ireland.



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- 5 Reasons for You to Come Back for Our Fall Reunion
- One Alum is Turning Memories Into Scholarships
- Ireland + PSU Football = the Perfect Honeymoon!

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