

HONOR ROLL

Recent Online Donors

We would like to thank the following individuals who made online donations in the last couple months:

Michael Cote '92
John Rath '73
Art Weber '82
Chip Brubaker '79

You can help ensure that Sigma Chi remains a vital presence at Penn State and in the lives of its members by supporting our Annual Fund. Our updates throughout this newsletter vividly illustrate the life-long positive influence Sigma Chi has had on many lives. Please visit www.pennstatesig.org to donate online. We hope to hear from you!

ALUMNI WEEKEND

Don't Miss the 30th Annual Alumni Weekend

The SX PSU Golf Classic and Steak Bake

Friday & Saturday,
June 5-6, 2020



Friday, June 5 Golf – Noon
Start time – White Course

Saturday, June 6 Golf - 9:00 AM – Blue Course – Shotgun Start

Awards & Steak Bake at the Chapter House – 5:00 PM

Visit www.pennstatesig.org and click on the Events tab to register!



1906-1972

A Peterson Significant Chapter

State College, Pa. • The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi at The Pennsylvania State University • December 2019

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Preparing Alpha Chi for the Next Century

By Jim Lundy

It has been a year since I started my second stint as the Alumni President of Alpha Chi. Our chapter has been at Penn State for 128 years and while Greek organizations are being challenged by University Administrators around the nation, Sigma Chi and Alpha Chi are preparing for the future.

That future means that we, with our storied history at Penn State, have to confront current challenges and help our chapter thrive. While we made significant progress this year, we are focused on becoming better managers of our property and developing a long-term model for success for the next 100 years.

A NEW CONSUL

Meet Jonathan Shuster



Some of you may know Alumni Brother **Bob Shuster '87**, who was a great Consul in the 80s. Bob's son Jonathan was just elected as the 122nd Consul of Alpha Chi. Jonathan's Cousin Andrew Dixon was elected as Quaestor. Jonathan and Andrew are off to a fast start. (see Consul's Corner).

Four Alpha Chi Consuls at Grand Chapter this past June. Left to Right: Newly elected Consul Jonathan Shuster '22, Bob Shuster '87, and Order of Constantine Sig Frank Raymond '71 and our new Order of Constantine recipient Andy Gildersleeve '67.

ALUMNI WEEKEND

We had an awesome 29th Alumni Weekend this past June and had a huge turnout. We had the house looking pretty pristine and everyone noticed. We inducted select Alpha Chi Alumni into our AX Hall of Fame, and did the same for the Golf Committee. Rich Hume got his Significant Sig and Andy Gildersleeve received his Order of Constantine award at our event and at Grand Chapter.



Rich Hume '82 receives his Significant Sig Award. He was joined by his daughters Megan and Lindsay, both who were Kappa Alpha Thetas at Penn State.



Alumni MVPs. Brothers Andy Gildersleeve '67, Bruce Karper '75, Scott Fozard '89 and Byron Woodrum '86 were recognized by House Corp President Jim Lundy '82 (pictured on right) as the Alumni MVPs for their significant contributions to Alpha Chi.

By **Jonathan Shuster '22**,
Consul

My name is Jonathan Shuster and I'm currently a sophomore in the Smeal College of Business, intending to major in finance. I'm from Camp Hill, PA, just across the Susquehanna River from Harrisburg. When my cousin (**Andrew Dixon '22**) and I were initiated, we became the 12th and 13th of our family to join Sigma Chi and the 4th and 5th to join our Chapter. Given our family's history with Sigma Chi, Andrew and I learned from a very young age that what we put into the fraternity would be repaid ten-fold. So, we decided to seek leadership positions. Like my father (**Bob Shuster '87**), I was elected Consul and Andrew was elected Quaestor. We are very excited and committed to work alongside our Executive Board to better our Chapter.

As a Chapter we have committed to our excellence as a top fraternity at Penn State. At the beginning of the semester, we were recognized for having the highest GPA (3.31) by the Interfraternity Council. Aside from studying, we have been keeping busy raising money for THON, organizing blood drives, hosting families, and initiating new Brothers. This October, with the help from our Rush Chairs (**Max Lonergan '22**, **Jackson Berman '22**, and **Francesco Palmeri '22**) we initiated 12 new Brothers, bringing a new energy to our Chapter. This newest class represents a multitude of men from different backgrounds who we expect to bring luster to the White Cross.

THON 2020 has already started; we have big plans and have been fundraising with our partners, Alpha Phi, all semester. We have organized fundraisers with State College businesses, getting a portion of every sale made to a Sigma Chi, Alpha Phi and friends of our organizations. We represent four (4) Four Diamond families. This year, we are representing the Smiths, the McDonnells, the Zomoks, and the Dirococos. In September, we hosted the Smith family at our House for a barbecue and Nerf gun war with their son Mason who is currently battling leukemia. The Brothers plan to go canvassing over Thanksgiving and Winter breaks to raise more money for Mason and his family. On top of THON fundraising, we helped the Red Cross with two blood drives where we had numerous Brothers donate blood or volunteer their time.

In November, we hosted our Brother's families for our annual Parent's Weekend. We decided to move it to the fall this year, so our Brothers who go abroad still get the opportunity to show our House to their families. Although we all huddled around the TV just to watch the Nittany Lions lose a heartbreaker to Minnesota, I would say it was a successful weekend with parents from all-across the country.

Now, as the semester closes, we will say goodbye to fourteen of our Junior Brothers as they prepare to study

around the world. With them leaving, our new Executive Board has officially completed transitions. We are excited and committed to working with Alumni to take care of our beautiful Chapter House. We recognize the work of those who came before us and built so that we might thrive. We also appreciate those Alumni that continue to give back and work with the actives. Many Brothers in my class have stepped up, taking more active roles in the House with leadership positions, but also in small but necessary day-to-day functions.

We are emphasizing teamwork so that when we initiate our Spring Class, we will have taught and demonstrated the effort it takes to care for the House. As we all know, to achieve the complete Sigma Chi experience there has to be a balance between work, philanthropy and social. That being said, we are preparing for the Holiday Show Lights competition and planning for our annual Winter Formal. Fraternities decorate their houses with lights and decorations to hopefully place in the top five and earn recognition by the IFC, but the main goal in winning is to be awarded \$5,000 to our THON total. As for our Winter Formal, it is consistently one of the Chapter's favorite events. It is a very special time of year at Alpha Chi as we all come together one last time in 2019 to celebrate, say goodbye to our Junior Brothers going abroad, and introduce our new Sweetheart.

Along with planning our Winter Formal, we are working with the House Corporation and our Advisor Byron Woodrum to plan a breakfast reception for the Blue White Game. We will open the house to our Alumni Brothers and renew relationships.

I wrote of my long history with Sigma Chi and I've seen firsthand, the important role Alumni play in our Chapter's success. I've also seen through my 87-year-old grandfather (Bud Shuster, Beta Theta '54) the life-long commitment that is Sigma Chi. So, to our Alumni, I ask that you let us know of legacies at Penn State, join us for our Alumni events or just stop in to see the House and say hello.

Finally, I would like to offer my utmost praise, thanks, and appreciation to our former Executive Board. They played key roles in turning the Chapter around and mending Alumni and university relations while keeping Sigma Chi a top tier fraternity at Penn State. They helped the transition go smoothly and will be around to help in whatever way they can. We are looking forward to coming back from Winter break and having another great semester here at Penn State with your continued support and encouragement.

In Hoc,
Jonathan Shuster

THON

Our Chance to Make a Difference

By Mike Wells '21,
Head THON Chair



Sigma Chi brothers enjoying time with Mason Smith. Mason and his family are one of three being Sponsored for the 2020 THON.

The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi has set out this year to set a fundraising record for Penn State's Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON). Penn State's THON is the largest student-run philanthropy event in the world. This is a 46-hour, no-sitting, no-sleeping weekend that celebrates the entire university's fundraising efforts. Since 1973, THON has raised more than 148 million dollars to support children and families affected by childhood cancer. We also participate in Derby Days to raise money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, but THON is one of the largest parts of the Chapter's philanthropic activities.

The Alpha Chi Chapter's commitment to THON and its mission are unrivaled. Last year, as a joint pairing with our THON sorority, Alpha Phi, we managed to raise over \$150,000 to support the cause (enough to support a Four Diamonds research lab for 60 weeks). This coming year, our Chapter has three senior volunteers who displayed an commitment and passion to THON and will be on the floor dancing proudly wearing our letters. These include **Brendan Granahan** (Former Consul), **Andrew Stuardi** (Thon Chair, House Manager), and **Jack Delaney** (Thon chair, Rush chair, Academic Chair). We are very proud of these Brothers and their commitment to our philanthropic efforts.

The Chapter welcomes donations from any Alumni or their corporations and is extremely grateful for any contributions. If you have any questions regarding donations, please feel free to reach out to me at mikewells9704@gmail.com or 215-622-0515. With every year we are one step closer to eventually being able to dance in celebration of a cure.

CHAPTER LEADERS STEP UP



The Chapter, under the leadership of past Consul Nick Vittorio has started to work and interact with the House Corp in a positive fashion. Nick led the Chapter to take more responsibility for the Chapter House this semester, including cleaning the House themselves.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT STARTS WITH YOU

Sigma Chi is a lifelong obligation and our alumni continue to show up for our events, including our 30th annual Alumni Weekend coming in June 5th-7th 2020. Our Chapter thrives when Alumni spend time with them and we are looking for more Alumni (young and old) to interact with our Chapter. Finally, we can't operate without donations and any amount you can give is sincerely appreciated.



Alpha Chi recognized brothers who have been Brothers for more than 50 years. Each Brother got a Pin and a Certificate.



Bill Wells '79, Jim Solomon '83, Dan Johnson '81 and Brad Samargya '82 get ready to tee off at the 29th Annual Alumni Weekend



Alpha Chi started a new tradition with the AX Hall of Fame, recognizing alumni who have served for more than 10 years as an Advisor or HC Board Member. The Golf Committee was also recognized for their service over 29 years.

HOUSE MANAGER REPORT

Investing in our Chapter House

While we invested in major renovations in 2007, the reality is that our Chapter House is 91-years-old. Alumni House Manager Andy Gildersleeve oversaw \$90,000 worth of work last summer and are preparing for the replacement of our furnace next summer. Note that the furnace project is estimated to cost \$70,000. You can help ensure that we make our goal by visiting www.pennstatesig.org and donating to our Annual Fund.

Alumni House Manager update from Andy Gildersleeve:

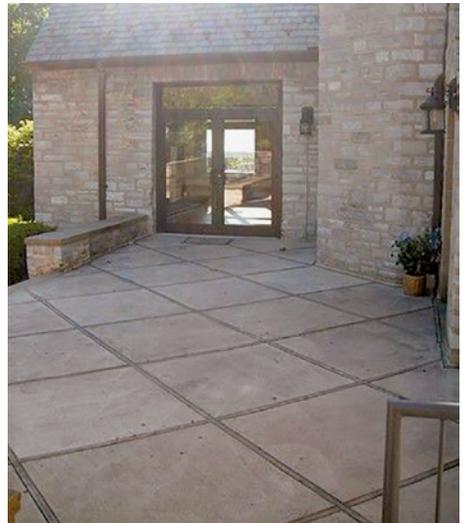
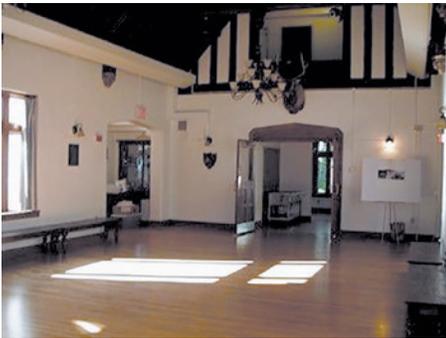
Many of you know me and I decided to step up and get re-involved with the Chapter and our great House last year. It has taken a lot of work

We did a lot of work last summer on the House - including painting the great hall, the hallways (1st, 2nd and 3rd floors), repointing the main chimney, refinishing the great hall floors, polishing hallway floors and much more. We also added 6 exterior security cameras and are adding a 7th so we can monitor the property.

Our Boiler has not aged well and continues

to be a challenge. After I had it inspected, we determined that is close to the end of its useful life. As such, we are planning on a replacement in 2020. The new design will feature a dual boiler configuration. As Jim mentioned, this is a substantial financial undertaking and we will have to use our line of credit to pay for it.

We have a number of additional projects planned for the summer of 2020 including some minor renovations to the basement.



"We did a lot of work last summer on the House ..."

