

OFFICERS

House Corporation Officers

President

Jim Lundy '82

Jim@psusig.org

Vice President

Rich Hantke '78

hantke@msn.com

Treasurer

Bruce Karper '75

bkarper@comcast.net

Chapter Advisor

Byron Woodrum

wwoodrum@wunix.com

GRADUATING SENIORS

Congrats to our Class of 2020!

Wesley Alexander – Wayne, PA

Alexander Badalamenti
– Oakland, CA

Taylor Campbell – Allentown, NJ

Brian Carelli – Fairfield, CT

Cole Ciocca – Doylestown, PA

John Delaney – Venetia, PA

Nicolas Giorgi – Chalfont, PA

Brendan Granahan
– Garnet Valley, PA

Jake Gray – Bethesda, MD

Jeff Hamlin – Mechanicsburg, PA

Christopher Higginson
– North Wales, PA

Michael Hirschmann
– Chalfont, PA

Andrew Ingber – Westport, CT

Jack Keough – Fairfield, CT

Connor Lynch – Furlong, PA

Matthew Marcelli – Devon, PA

Benjamin McGraw
– Pittsburgh, PA

Erin Morin – Portland, CT

Joseph Norek – Jamison, PA

Austin Prime – Jamison, PA

Andrew Stuardi – Furlong, PA

Daniel Tack – Merrick, NY



The Penn State Sig

www.pennstatesig.org

1906-1972



A Peterson Significant Chapter

State College, Pa. • The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi at The Pennsylvania State University • May 2020

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Jim Lundy '82

We face unusual times at Penn State. Most of the Chapter decided to stay home after PSU closed University Park campus and went virtual. Alpha Chi stayed open and we have had between 3-10 brothers there at any one time.

Spring Semester – Positive Movement by the Chapter

As I indicated in our earlier e-Newsletter, I made a visit to the chapter the weekend of 1/17 and it went well. The house was very clean and as a reward for two brothers painting four bedrooms, we purchased a new 82" TV that has already been put to good use. Advisor **Wil Woodrum** and Alumnus **Art "Leo" Weber** were there as well. We had a good visit and there is the start of a better alignment between the chapter and alumni.

The chapter took much better care of the house this semester – there has been minimal damage. This is a positive trend and we expect it to continue.

Summer Projects – Boiler Replacement will be Costly

Our summer plans are underway, and we have

a long list of projects. Besides painting and some window replacements, the big project is to replace our 13-year-old boiler (see related article). It will cost approximately 75,000 to replace the boiler – and to finance that we will use our line of credit with our bank. We however would greatly appreciate any donation you can give to help offset this cost.

Fall Plans are Underway

The chapter has over 36 brothers who will be living at the house in the fall. After a hiatus – we will be hiring a house director to get back to the or original plan. If Penn State does not open, then we will delay our house opening until PSU reopens.

Golf Weekend is Under Review

Our Golf weekend is being reviewed by the Golf Committee – and alternative dates are being looked at. However, it is all dependent on what is going on at State College. Stay tuned for an e-Newsletter that offers up details on what we plan to do.

Alumni Weekend on Hold

by Scott Fozard '89, Tournament Director

Our 30th Annual Golf Weekend is currently on hold due to COVID19. We are working with the Penn State Golf Courses to see what dates might work. If you have attended in the past, we will be emailing you once we know what our options are, if any.

LEFT: Tournament Director Scott Fozard with Bob Brugler, Dan Schlegel and Mark Sixour in 2018.



RIGHT: Flashback – Brothers Andy Radford and Dan Schlegel compete in IM Golf in the mid 1980s.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Don DiFrancesco '66 named Significant Sig for 2020

by David Brickley '65, Significant Sig

Hearty congratulations to our Brother **Donald DiFrancesco** being named as a Significant Sig for 2020.

Don graduated in 1966. Our Chapter house was still on campus, with it being a great time to be a Sig at Penn State. These were some wonderful years with fond memories which will remain with us forever. After graduation, he attended Seton Hall University Law School, started practicing law and got involved in politics. As fate would have it, we both were elected to our state legislatures in 1975; Don in New Jersey and I in Virginia, with our paths crossing at legislative conferences over many years. Don quickly rose the ranks of power serving as Minority Leader from 1982 to 1984, and then in 1992 as President of the New Jersey Senate for ten years.

Senator DiFrancesco became Acting Governor DiFrancesco at least once a year from 1992 on -until January 2001 when Governor Christine Todd Whitman resigned to become Administrator of the Federal



Environmental Protection Agency. With a quirk in New Jersey's constitution he became the most powerful official in the state serving in the dual roles of Governor and Senate President.

It fell to Governor DiFrancesco to lead New Jersey on September 11, 2001 when America experienced its most tragic of days. One of his colleagues recalled that amid all those emergency meetings, the concern Governor DiFrancesco voiced early and often was, "What happens to those children?" "What happens to those children whose parents will never return...?"

Don still maintains a successful law practice in New Jersey and has received countless awards and recognitions. He was a wonderful brother when we were at Alpha Chi together, and it was my privilege to nominate him for the Significant Sig Award being seconded by our Order of the Constantine Brother Dave Kline.

Well done Don! The values instilled by Sigma Chi are strong.

PHILANTHROPY

Alpha Chi Raises \$110,000 at THON 2020

by Mike Wells '21, Head THON Chair

From February 21-23, the Alpha Chi Chapter was lucky enough to have 4 of our senior brothers represent the fraternity at Penn State's annual Dance Marathon benefitting 4 Diamonds at Penn State Hershey. These brothers included Andrew Stuardi (former house manager and assistant THON chair), Jack Delaney (former head THON chair), Brendan Granahan (former consul), and Eric Morin (former Magister and assistant THON chair). These brothers showed unparalleled dedication to the house as well as THON during their 4 years at Penn State, and it was only right that they led the entire chapter through their final THON weekend as students.

This year we joined efforts with Alpha Phi Sorority and worked especially hard while fundraising with both chapters. After an entire year of pancake breakfasts, grilled cheese sales, and pasta dinners, we are proud to say that we raised \$109,981.00 for THON. This was an increase of over \$13,000 from last year's total and contributed to the grand total of over \$11.6 million raised by the students of Penn State.

I want to thank all our brothers, their family members, friends, and of course alumni for their efforts this year. We could have never achieved what we did this year without a great deal of help from everyone supporting the chapter, and it was extremely rewarding to see



THON Chair Mike Wells (on right) with the Sigma Chi and Alpha Phi THON Team

what we accomplished. A final congratulations to the dancers for making us proud, and for everyone who was present THON weekend to support them. Now we look to next year to begin fundraising again, and we will continue to do so until one year we dance in celebration of a cure.

CHAPTER HOUSE REPAIR

New Boiler Needed at Alpha Chi

Sub: by Andy Gildersleeve '67, Alumni House Manager



The planned new Tandem Boiler configuration for the Chapter House

Our 13-year-old boiler has seen better days and is on its last legs. We are planning to replace the aging boiler with a new Tandem unit that will ensure that heat and hot water are always operational.

The issue with the original boiler was that it was that it was too large for our house and as a result it ran frequently for just a few minutes at a time. That led to an incredible number of cycles per day and over the years, it has worn

out, in part due to cracks in the internal heat exchanger.

While we have insurance on our boiler, it only covers total failure, not age and wear and tear. So that means we must replace it – and cover the cost, which is estimated at \$75,000.

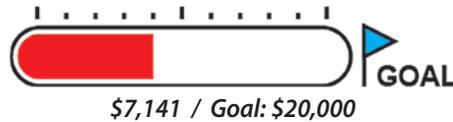
We have a bid out right now and expect to accept one and have the installation done over the summer. As always, we appreciate your donations to help us offset this cost.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Help Us Make the 2019-20 Giving Year Strong!

Our 2019-20 giving year, which began on October 1, 2019, has less than five months left with \$7,141 collected from 51 Brothers towards our \$20,000 goal. We want to thank those 51 Brothers (you can find them on this page and under the Honor Roll tab on our website www.pennstatesig.org) who have already made a contribution to Sigma Chi so far this giving year!

On top of our goal for the Annual Fund and, as we stated in some of the articles in this newsletter, the cost of the new boiler going in the House this Summer is \$75,000.



To finance this, we will use our line of credit with our bank. We however would greatly appreciate any donation you can give to help offset this cost.

You can donate online by simply going to our website, www.pennstatesig.org and selecting the Donate button at the top of the page. Donations can also be made through our toll-free Donation Hotline at 1-800-975-

6699, or by sending a check made payable to Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi to:

Sigma Chi – Pennsylvania State University
Alumni Relations Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

Our college days came and went, but the real Sigma Chi experience never ends. If you cherish those lasting friendships, if you appreciate the values that shaped your life, make your annual gift *Today!*

2019-2020 Honor Roll

THANK YOU! The following Alumni are recognized for their annual fund contributions in 2019-2020. This reflects gifts received from October 1, 2019 through April 29, 2020

Alpha Chi Cornerstone (\$1,000+)

Steven Murphy 1999

400 E. Prospect Society (\$400-\$749.99)

James Keith 1958
 Robert Ball 1975

Jordan Society (\$250-\$399.99)

Craig Mayer 1968
 Francis Platt 1979
 Michael Masciola 1982
 Charles Mateer 1982
 Jeffrey Hamilton 1986
 Robert Shuster 1987

1855 Society (\$185.50-\$249.99)

James Schulte 1953

Norman Shield Holder (\$100-\$185.49)

John Hess 1956
 Robert Scrabis 1959, MBA
 1962
 Peter Erber 1962
 David Kline 1964
 John Powell 1965
 George Cascino 1966
 Morse Reese 1967
 David Shields 1967
 William Bolla 1969
 Michael Manning 1969
 Andrew Miller 1971

R. Lang 1973
 John Rath 1973
 David Repko 1973
 Rodney Fletcher 1974
 John Robinson 1978
 Thomas Wood 1978
 Chip Brubaker 1979
 Edward Kwiatkowski 1979
 Curt Seiberlich 1981
 Barry Reichenbaugh 1983
 Bruce Nelson 1992
 Michael Cote 1992
 Kevin Hendrickson 1996
 Blair Anger 2001
 Rick Graham 2002

Sig Supporter (\$50-\$99.99)

Kenneth Blair 1956

Jeffrey Pruner 1965
 Larry Seethaler 1965
 Paul Diehl 1966
 Joseph Brzostowski 1970
 Richard Anthony 1971
 David Lansdowne 1982
 Art Weber 1982
 Jerry Wade 1984
 Eric Koval 1987
 Keith Olivia 1990
 Mark Hershey 1991
 Robert Kemmerer 1993
 Keith Kushnir 1996

Donor (Less than \$50)

Lanty Butchko 1995

MEMBER UPDATES

Alumni Brothers fill us in on family, retirement and why they give back

Check out where your Alumni Brothers are today! Visit the website at www.pennstatesig.org where you can also use the searchable directory to reach out to Brothers personally, reconnect and get their FULL story!

Philip Cox '62 rvspsc@yahoo.com

Update: As a graduate with a degree in Hotel Administration, I joined Marriott when they had but four hotels. I frequently tell folks I was a Manager of Marriott's first hotel – the Twin Bridges Marriott (albeit, not the first Manager – I served there in the mid-70's and he hotel was opened in 1957.) I left Marriott

in 1978 and joined my brother in the hotel business, owning and operating three hotels in Myrtle Beach until 1986. We then entered the real estate sales and property management business until retirement in 2008. I am married with 6 adult children – 2 hers and 4 mine and recently bought a new home in the Myrtle Beach area. We enjoy traveling and completed our last cruise on March 6 (20 days

in South America.) We were very fortunate that there were no Covid-19 cases aboard which enabled us to disembark safely. **Why I Give:** I try to support the fund annually since I understand the expense involved in maintaining a Chapter House should not fall entirely on the active members. I am actually in contact with a number of

– more updates on page 4

MEMBER UPDATES

– continued from page 3

Brothers who meet annually either in State College or at the Jersey Shore. I regularly contact **Carl Heller '60** and **Bert Berdis '62** and occasionally, **Norb Conners '60**. My most valuable experience(s) came as an undergraduate residing in the Chapter House and living with 100 or so, members as they came and went during my three years ('58-'61) as an undergraduate. As an active member I attended 2 (maybe 3) national conventions as well as various workshops. During my senior year, I was honored to be President (Consul) and established the very first Derby Day for our Alpha Chi Chapter.

William Wells, Jr. '79
BWells7027@gmail.com

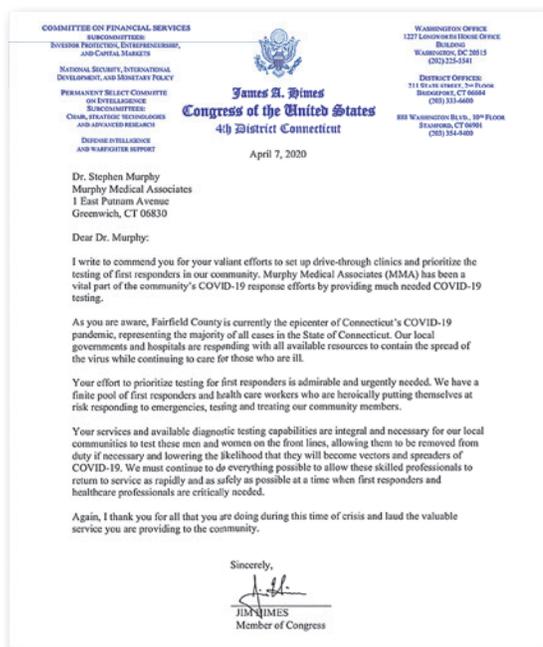
Update: My wife Sally and I are opening up a wedding and event venue in Fayetteville, WV. It is called The Gaines Estate and you can check it out at www.gaineseestate.com.

Why I Give: Sigma Chi played a big role in shaping my life and many of the best friendships that I have are my Sigma Chi Brothers. I want to support the Chapter so that the current Brothers have the same great experiences I had. The friendships that I made in college and maintain today are the most valuable part of my Sigma Chi experience. The House Corporation does a great job with the annual golf tournament by providing an event for Brothers to reconnect at the House. I would like to see better Homecoming events that offer the same opportunities. The Alumni should also act as mentors for the active Brothers in the House as well as resources to help newly graduating Brothers as they begin their careers. I have always felt that our Brotherhood had played a big part in our lives and I look forward to continuing those relationships. The Brothers that I am currently in touch with are too numerous to list here. I am in touch with some of my

Brothers every month. I also like that I have established friendships with Brothers at the golf tournament who were in school before or after me.

Bradley Samargya '82
Samargya@gmail.com

Update: I am currently working at KPMG as Global Chief Learning Officer living in Gladstone, NJ. The most valuable parts of my Sigma Chi experience are the golf outings and seeing old friends. Preserving the fraternity for the long-term at Penn State, including a Chapter of young men who act responsibly while getting the most from their college experience while respecting the property and representation. I am still currently in touch with **Jeff Painter '82**, **Joe Conaty '82**, **Thom Morgan '83**, **Kevin Murray '83**, **Rich Hume '82**, **Tom Adams '82**, **Mark Carey '82** and **Jim Lundy '82**.



MEMBER UPDATE

Dr. Steven Murphy, MD '99
Steven.Murphy@greenwichdocs.com

Update: I am currently running a drive-through Coronavirus testing center in New Haven, CT. I received a congressional commendation for my work during this pandemic. I hope all my Brothers present and Alumni are staying safe during this challenging time.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

William Masciola '85 Named as Alumni Historian



William Masciola '85 loves history, which is why he has agreed to take on the role of Alumni Historian. William was the Chapter Historian in the Mid-80s and since we have so much history of our 129 years as a Chapter, it is fitting that William takes on this role. We will be building a digital archive of important documents and photos using the Microsoft Cloud.

William has a photo of our original founders in 1891, but we need much more. Please help us capture our history, so we can pass it on. You can reach William at his new email address: William@psusig.org