

Alpha Chi House Corp. Wants YOU!

EXCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR ALPHA CHI ALUMNI

Do you enjoy trips to Happy Valley? Do you wish you had reason to visit more often?

Are you looking to add leadership skills to your resume? Or seeking a fun, fulfilling commitment?

Alpha Chi is seeking fresh minds to serve on its House Corporation. If you like a challenge, there's never been a better time to help. No matter the skill set, all our Alumni bring something to the table.

You understand the challenges today's fraternities face. You also know that at the core of the fraternity experience are life-changing values that helped you reach your potential, and an extended family of friends you will forever call your brothers.

Have Questions?

Email Eugene Eignor '98 (eignor98@yahoo.com), or Bobby Peterson '99 (Bobby.Peterson@WWT.com) today to discuss further details on how you can help Alpha Chi.

Please thoughtfully consider this important opportunity to pay it forward to the experience that made a major impact on your life, and continues to make an impact through lasting values and lifelong friendships.

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A Peterson Significant Chapter

State College, Pa. • The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi at The Pennsylvania State University • October 2017

CHAPTER NEWS

Thanks for the Memories, Dave!

On April 1, 2017 we had our post-initiation brunch to honor our new pledges and to honor Dave Kline's last. For the last 15 years he has embraced the role of Chapter Advisor for the Sigma Chi, Alpha Chi chapter.

He made it known that after his 75th birthday he's going to be passing the torch as advisor, and assuming a less active role. He wants to spend more time with his grandkids and fishing. However, in true Dave Kline fashion, letting go is easier said than done. He has currently taken on another task by assisting the actives as a financial advisor where he will be helping them with house budget and smart spending practices.

This is something that can be an invaluable lesson when dealing with

a multi-million dollar home and hundreds of thousands of dollars passing through the books while teaching them about solvency.

Dave is always looking for new and innovative roles as a mentor to assist these young men. With the new sanctions on fraternities across Greek life at Penn State, Dave is looking to the future of Alpha Chi so that maybe one day his Grandson will have the honor of being Sig. He's often said that one of his goals as advisor was to make sure Alpha Chi will be here forever.

"Thank You" Dave, for all your hard work and dedication to the young men, the house, and the Sigma Chi tradition which we know to be a Man of Good Character.



The Glue that Help Us Through Life

How the friendships Jeff Lohr, '66, made at Sigma Chi have stood the test of time

As a freshman, **Jeff Lohr, '66**, decided that he wanted to join a fraternity upon his entrance into college. What he didn't know was which fraternity he would join, finding a surprising answer in Sigma Chi. "At first, I rushed some of the big-name fraternities with the fancy houses," he recalls. "Although the houses impressed me, none of the guys made me feel welcome." At that point, Jeff decided to continue his search in finding the fraternity that he felt met his needs and expectations. "I was invited to a somewhat shabby, by comparison, Sigma Chi," he says. "I immediately felt at home with the guys I met."

Acclimating to his new phase of life, Jeff quickly became close to the men of Sigma Chi, finding a true home away from home. "I loved nearly all of my experiences living in the Sigma Chi house," he shares. "I learned a lot, especially about how to get along with a group of very diverse guys."

Jeff doesn't claim to have been the best scholar, but Sigma Chi left a lasting impact on the man he developed into during his college years. "My transcript said Accounting, but my parents thought it should say partying," he laughs. In fact, some of his fondest memories are those of the social kind. "I will always remember Initiation Weekend, the Sweetheart Formal, and our chapter meetings," he recalls.

But in all seriousness, Jeff's time at Sigma Chi not only taught him important life lessons, but he played an integral role in the growth of the fraternity itself. "My most meaningful service to Sigma Chi was when I served as Treasurer of the House Corporation under Mickey Silverman. It was during this time we found a way to purchase the current chapter house on East Prospect," he proudly explains. "Without this move, I doubt if Sigma Chi would exist at Penn State today."

Perhaps, though, the greatest take away that Jeff can say he got from his years at Penn State and Sigma Chi are the



Jeff Lohr, '66

lifelong friendships that were developed. "Friendships are the glue that helps us through life," he says. And some of those friendships have truly stood the test of time, despite differing viewpoints and life experiences, reminding Jeff of part of the Sigma Chi mantra. "Of all the various mantras associated with Sigma Chi, the one that stands out for me is *men of different temperaments, talents, and convictions*," he shares. "My lifelong friendship with Brother **David Kline '64** illustrates its importance. Dave and I have traveled different paths in life. I suspect that we have some fundamental differences of opinions regarding the country and world in which we live, but despite this, and because of the common bonds of Sigma Chi, when we get together we are able to focus on what we share in common. That makes it possible to share and appreciate our differences."

After many years in the workforce after graduation, Jeff is now retired. He and his wife, Margie (McGarey) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year, and together they have one son, Andy, and two grandchildren. Having spent most of their married life in Charlotte, North Carolina, they decided to move to Portland, Oregon in 2012 to be closer to Andy and his family.

Jeff remains very active, and stays in great shape. "After 25 years or so as your basic slug, I became somewhat of a fitness fanatic," he chuckles. "I have run 15 marathons and a few triathlons. Although

I am no longer competing, I still stay at it nearly every day, swimming or cycling."

Jeff's real passion, however, is Habitat for Humanity. Having worked on countless houses sponsored by his church in Charlotte, Jeff has traveled to Africa, El Salvador, and Canada on Habitat world mission trips. He also spent a week at a Jimmy Carter Build in Americus, GA, where he not only met the President, but also Penn State football

great, Rosy Grier. He was honored to serve two terms on the HFH board of directors in Charlotte.

As if he isn't busy enough, Jeff also recently rediscovered his love for the trumpet. "I am part of a group known as Bugles Across America, where we volunteer to play Taps at military funerals and memorial services. I've also joined a local band."

And each year, Jeff returns to campus for a football game and a visit to the house. Gathering with host, John (Tube) Powell and his wife, Lynda, Jeff also reunites at the game with Tom and Judie Sharbaugh, Larry and Brenda Seethaler, and Ed and Tina Dionne.

Being back at PSU and seeing the Sigma Chi house each year, Jeff feels fondness and appreciation for the fraternity that gave him so much. That's why he supports the Chapter as best as he can financially. And knowing the challenges fraternities face today, Jeff is proud to do his part in making sure Sigma Chi thrives. "The fraternity system is under great stress today and the future of Sigma Chi is in the hands of its undergraduate members," he reminds us. "They need to do what they can to ensure it survives and prospers. Be true to what Sigma Chi stands for – love your Brothers!"

A Q&A with Chapter Consul Jackson Fitzgerald reveals his hobbies, and his vision for the direction of Alpha Chi

Where did you grow up?

JF: In Pittsburgh, PA, specifically in the neighborhood of Squirrel Hill.

What made you decide to attend Penn State?

JF: Well, I am the youngest of eight children in my family, and all of my older siblings went to Penn State before me. I fell in love with the campus from an early age visiting them, but I also did not want to be the only one to not go to Penn State, I'm not that much of a rebel.

What are some of your favorite hobbies?

JF: I love watching sports, reading interesting books, and hanging out with my friends in my downtime.

Why did you join Sigma Chi? Was it your first choice or did you shop around other Fraternities?

JF: There is a lineage of kids from my high school who are in—and now alumni of—Sigma Chi at Penn State. So the decision to keep Sigma Chi on my short list of houses originated there, but then as I rushed around I had some great talks with some guys at the rush events. I felt that I was a fit there—down to earth, genuine guys made up the core of the house. Who would turn that down? I considered TKE, since my brother was there only a few years before, but Sigma Chi seemed to be a better fit by the time I got to college.

What is your favorite memory so far of your Sigma Chi experience?

JF: I never really know how to answer these kinds of questions. But, as it specifically pertains to Sigma Chi, I would say our formals or Saturday game days at the house are my favorite. I would have to say that the moments I will miss the most are the ones where all of the guys were watching some great games in the great hall (whether it was the Super Bowl, the Big Ten Championship, or even Kobe Bryant's last game). It's great to have specific answers those "where were you when..." moments,



and my answer will always be the Sigma Chi Great Hall with my friends for so many different moments.

Describe your duties as Consul of Alpha Chi.

JF: The simple answer would be describe my duties being an overseer of all chapter actions and practices, as well as represent the chapter when need be. This includes being on the President's Council for the IFC, meeting with any PSU officials as the representative of the chapter, meeting with the landlords or alumni corporation, and running chapter meetings. Any decisions by committees in the house run through me and the executive committee (specifically our Pro-Consul Adam Holz, Jay Holler—house manager—and Jon Hansan, our treasurer).

What are some goals you hope to achieve as Consul this year?

JF: Well, I wouldn't say that have many personal goals as Consul this semester. I would rather say I have goals for the chapter, and I happen to be Consul while they happen, if that makes sense. A lot of goals that I want aren't things I can do by myself, so I cannot consider them "my goals." So, Sigma Chi's goals are pretty simple—maintain a top 10 THON fundraising ranking, get back in the Derby Days 20K club, initiate 25 guys for the entire school year, keep a good standing with the University, and keep the momentum up in implementing P4B—the new membership program. Those are our

goals, and my goal is to work for them with my guys.

Fraternities as you know are under a microscope this year now more than ever, What is Alpha Chi doing to ensure full compliance?

JF: Alpha Chi—going back to last semester—is one of the few chapters at Penn State who did not receive punishment from the University or the IFC. To keep this going into this semester, we have to have everyone on board. Thankfully, we initiated a bunch of great guys who

understand that the rules put in by the IFC and University are not optional. So, going forward, if we just enforce the rules given to us, we will be okay.

What is it about the current group of men in the Chapter that makes them stand out?

JF: We live by the mentality "Help yourself. Help others. Help yourself to help others." Our house has a diverse group of guys with diverse background and upbringings. This truly stand out—we have guys in the honors college and ROTC, brothers who love to engage in THON and other fund raisers and philanthropies, and men who are respectful to anyone they encounter. They are all smart, genuine, and hard working—we care about others, and care about each other.

What advice would you give to anyone looking to join Sigma Chi at PSU?

JF: It is important for anyone looking to join Sigma Chi to realize we do not wear our letters—both literally and metaphorically—to make ourselves seem cool or popular. If you are not willing to accept that the letters come with a responsibility, then perhaps Sigma Chi is not for you. But if you care about making a difference, than Sigma Chi is for you. Meet as many brothers as you can, get to know them on an individual level. We have guys who are a great judge of character in the house, and we will always give genuine interest in our house a chance!



Inside:

- *Thanks for the Memories, Dave!*
- *How a Car Ride Changed Everything*
- *The Glue that Holds us All Together*

A Ride with a Stranger

How a simple ride turned into something so much more for Tom Wood, '78



Taking rides from strangers was nothing new in the 1970s, when Tom Wood, '78, attended Penn State University. In fact, ride boards were

commonplace and often used to get from one place to another. When Tom needed a ride to visit some friends at Oswego State in upstate New York, he found another gentleman making the same trip. Offering to pay for the gas, Tom found his ride – and so much more.

“**Mark Sixour '77** posted on a ride board and I called him up and agreed to pay for the gas in return for the ride,” he remembers. “It was a long ride and a cold, snowy trip!” While strangers at the time, Happy Valley felt very small when later, the two bumped into each other again. “I didn’t know Mark at the time, but later, when visiting Sigma Chi for a rush party, I ran into him again and he remembered me from that long ride,” Tom shares. “It turned out that Mark was leading the next class of pledges and encouraged me to join.”

Although he already had a connection with at least one of the Brothers, Tom recalls that the transition into the

fraternity house was not seamless, but well worth it. “I lived in the house from the fall of 1976 through 1978. Initially, it was hard. I didn’t know many of the older Brothers very well, but over time it became much better,” he states. “I think it would be hard to connect if you didn’t live with the majority of the Brothers.”

Sharing classes was one way that Tom forged the bonds with his Brothers. “I received a B.S. in Geology and an M.S. in Mineral Processing. Several brothers were in the same classes and we studied together,” says Tom. “But it was a long walk to the Mineral Sciences building!” Those cold, long walks certainly brought out the strong bonds of brotherhood, some of which remain today. “I occasionally hear from Mark, he is still and active alumni. I also keep in touch with Bill Wells, Bruce Hartshorn, Steve Levis, and Rich Hantke. It is important to retain that sense of belonging.”

Perhaps his most special relationship that developed from Sigma Chi is the strongest of them all, the one with his wife. “I met my wife of 38 years at a fraternity/sorority party!” he exclaims. Today, after a successful career working for large engineering and construction firms around the country in technical, sales, management, and executive roles, Tom and his wife, along with their three children and two grandchildren have

settled in Colorado. Together, they enjoy travelling, outdoor life in the mountains, family events, as well as serving on local Boards.

Looking back, Tom recognizes the significant impact that Sigma Chi has had on his life. Not only social and his marriage, but lifelong skills that he carries with him to this day. “I learned good leadership skills,” he says. “The ability to work with some folks that were not easy to work with and resolving conflict.”

Knowing that the benefits of Sigma Chi may not show up right away, Tom hopes his fellow Brothers take advantage of all that is offered. “The skills learned are not immediately apparent while in school. They often emerge later in life and manifest in different ways. I would encourage all brothers to try and enjoy their college years and be involved as possible in Sigma Chi life while you can,” he advises. “The principals and lessons learned will stick with you as long as the memories exist.”

And he plans to continue making memories himself, making connections wherever he goes and staying active as an alum. “Everywhere I’ve been, a Sigma Chi will emerge in an unexpected place or time and you’ll always find the brotherhood alive when you do!”