

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feeling Happy In The Valley



State College is just the place for a Spring, Summer, or Fall reunion with your Sigma Chi Brothers. Check out these great events happening, and plan to attend one, or all!

We Are Weekend

Celebration of the class of 1968's 50th reunion, and Penn State Pioneers

When- June 1-3, 2018

Where- Penn State, University Park Campus

The Alumni Association will host We Are Weekend, a three-day celebration that'll provide plenty of memorable moments to remind Penn Staters why the University holds a special place in their hearts. For more, visit news.psu.edu

Homecoming 2018

When- October 13, VS Michigan State, time TBD

Where- Beaver Stadium

Join your Sigma Chi Brothers as Penn State looks to avenge last season's, last-second heartbreaker in East Lansing.

IN MEMORIAM

Alpha Chi send its thoughts to the friends and families of the following Brothers, who have entered the Chapter Eternal:

William Zern '38
John Robinson '55
George Cadwallader '67
Daniel Noerr '72



1906-1972

A Peterson Significant Chapter

State College, Pa. • The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi at The Pennsylvania State University • May 2018

EVENT NOTICE!

Join Alpha Chi for the 28th-annual Sigma Chi Golf Classic!

Head to www.pennstatesig.org to register!



Friday, June 8: Golf @ PSU White Course – Shotgun start promptly at Noon

As in past years, the weekend will kick off with our traditional Friday event at the venerable White Course at Penn State. The format remains the same, with an individual stroke play event and also a foursome event using the “yellow ball” between the foursome. We will recognize the individual Low Gross and Low Net and customary skills events for the day.

Saturday, June 9: Golf @ PSU Blue Course – Shotgun start promptly at 9:00 a.m.

The format is a proprietary handicapped team scramble. You MUST indicate your golf handicap and expected teammates when registering. This is generally a “fun competition,” and if you don't have a team, we'll be happy to partner you with other players of equal temperament, talent and conviction. Traditional prizes for Longest Drive, Straightest Drive and Closest to the Pin, as well as second and third place in the Net and Gross flights will be awarded.

Saturday, June 9: Awards Ceremony and Steak Bake @ 400 E. Prospect Ave. - 5:30 p.m.

Golfer or not, please join us at our Chapter House for cocktails and dinner.

Sunday, June 10: Alumni Meeting @ 400 E. Prospect Ave. - 9:00 a.m.

Before you head home, please set aside an hour and join us at the Chapter House for coffee and donuts and an update from the House Corporation leadership on the “State of the Chapter.”

Tournament Fees for 2018:

Friday, June 8, 2018 – Golf, Cart Fees, Range Balls, Prize Pool and Buffet Lunch and Beverages at PSU White - \$100

Saturday, June 9, 2018 – Golf, Cart Fees, Range Balls, Prize Pool, a commemorative Tournament Keepsake, and Lunch and Beverages at PSU Blue - \$120

Saturday, June 9, 2018 – Appetizers, Open Bar and Famous Steak Bake - \$65

Full Weekend of Fun for only \$285!

P.S. If you are sending a check, please make payable to Sigma Chi Penn State University Alumni Relations Processing Center, PO Box 7007 Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007. Please be sure to write “Sigma Chi 2018 Golf Tournament” in the check's memo line.

ALUMNI PROFILE

“Don’t Ever Be Afraid To Take A Chance”

“I planned to rush [five, or six] fraternities, but when I met the Sigma Chi brothers I knew that was the right place for me. Sigma Chi was my third and last stop,” says **Remmie Butchko '90**. “I made many brothers for life. This includes both at my chapter during my years as an active, and in the ensuing years [I] have met many more Sigs along the way.”

Butchko recalls his time at Sigma Chi as a period in his life during which he not only made many lasting friendships, but also met his future wife.

“I think one of every Sigma Chi brothers’ favorite moments is Initiation. Meeting my wife (Delta Zeta) during homecoming was probably the highlight, though,” he says.

After graduation, the time came for Butchko to work the family trade.

“We have a family insurance business in the D.C. area, and that has been my career from Day 1. Actually, it has technically been since day 10. I came home after graduation, Dec. 24, and started my career Jan. 2. My homecoming date and I were married soon after, and now we

have a 19-year-old daughter and a 16-year-old son,” Butchko informs.

Of course, even with his dedication to his family business, Butchko has never forgotten the importance of the bonds he made with his Sigma Chi brothers.

“I keep in touch with a bunch of my brothers. In fact, not too long ago we had a reunion, and chapter meeting (condensed chapter meeting) in the Philadelphia area. It was great together. We are obviously all older, balder and fatter, but the past 25 years have been kind to most of us,” he says.

There is no doubt that Sigma Chi has had a positive impact in Butchko’s life. With great lasting relationships also came a great sense of unity.

“The long term friendships, and relationships are obviously [the] most significant impact, but sharing common values, and beliefs are what have solidified the relationships. Most of the common values



and beliefs carry forward today. When we met in Philadelphia, it was very apparent that we were surrounded by Men of Good Character, and later in the evening the Spirit of Youth may have appeared as well,” Butchko says.

At one point, events in Butchko’s life took a downward turn with his health, but he came through, stronger than ever.

“I recently survived a bout with colorectal cancer, so pretty much everything in my life is new and exciting. It was a big eye-opener to realize that with the right focus I could work 50 hours per month instead of 50 hours per week, and achieve similar results,” Butchko says.

Butchko ends with a piece of advice every individual needs to be aware of.

“Don’t ever be afraid to take a chance on something. Even if you fail, the weight of failure is far less in the long-term than the regret of never taking the chance.”

EVENT RECAP

Alpha Chi Takes Tops in Holiday Lights Competition

By Greg Kline '07

On Friday, December 8, Alpha Chi hosted its annual Winter Formal. It went extremely well. My wife, Betzi Kline and I were there for a couple hours. We were also met by Danelle Del Corso from the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) at Penn State. She got to witness the Sweetheart being crowned and

hear the Sweetheart song being sung by all the men.

She was extremely impressed. I talked to her for a while and she is truly a friend to the Alpha Chi chapter. Also, all the Brothers were very respectful to my wife, Danielle and all the ladies that were present, of course.

It was very classy and I’m extremely happy with how everything turned out. As far as the OFSL is concerned, I think we’re in very good standings with them and the University as a whole.

Also...WE WON THE HOLIDAY LIGHT TROPHY! Congratulations to Alpha Chi!



CHAPTER NEWS

New House Corp to Meet June 10

We’ve been working hard with the Chapter and are reviewing finances and policies to insure financial sustainability and to improve condition of the house. We will have important agenda items to discuss and approve on Jun 10, 2018. We hope to have good representation at the meeting.

“Stick with Fraternity life – the Clouds Will Pass”

At the time **George Cascino '66** went to Penn State in the early '60s, the university had 56 fraternities. Of those fraternities, 50 were located off-campus. Sigma Chi was among the few located on-campus. However, convenient location was not, and is not all, that has made Sigma Chi a treasured fraternity.

“... I could not find another fraternity I felt comfortable with, but the first night I rushed at Sigma Chi back in 1962, I liked the house. I liked the brothers, I liked the atmosphere and so Sigma Chi was my choice,” Cascino says.

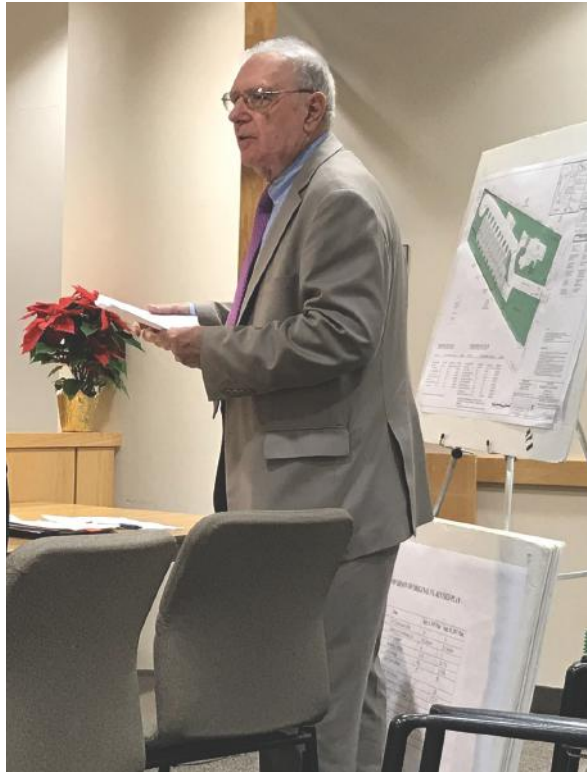
Cascino accredits the fraternity with many of his achievements.

“... It made my college a successful experience. It was the best decision I made, beside going to Penn State, and I've never looked back on it. It was a great experience with ... [the] brothers while I was there, and a half a dozen of them have continued as close relationships since I graduated over 50 years ago,” he says.

Just as Sigma Chi supports its members, Cascino has been there to support Sigma Chi.

“... We had to make a decision either to spend \$150,000 to upgrade the house from [a] fire protection point of view, [because] the house was built in 1905, or to make other arrangements, and what we did was, we bought a fraternity house downtown that was in financial trouble. We bought...the fraternity house with literally a down payment from Penn State, but we fell \$250,000 short. So 10 of the alumni – I was one of them – signed on the dotted line as a cosigner on the mortgage to pay off the mortgage on the house. ... When the house needed major renovations 10 years ago, they hit up the alumni for big substantial donations, which put a million dollars-worth of renovations into the house. And, we came up with the million dollars, some from very good alumni who contributed a lot of money that was put up to save the house, and bring that up to standards,” Cascino says.

During his time at Sigma Chi, Cascino served as president for one year, and traveled to Colorado and Indiana for the interest of the fraternity during crucial developmental years of both Sigma Chi and fraternities in general. Such dedication left Cascino with great memories.



“[I attended] the Grand Chapter of Sigma Chi in Colorado in 1964, [and represented] the fraternity at a critical time in their history. That particular session in Colorado sticks out in my mind... As far as Sigma Chi on the campus, there were a couple things. ... We re-established Derby Days, which was big nationally, but had fallen off the map in Penn State. ... Sweetheart Weekends were the most enjoyable weekends of all. ... We had a band. Everybody got dressed up. We named a sweetheart of Sigma Chi... But I think probably you can't put it in a singular event. Every day was an experience, and every weekend was an experience. We had a rule those days. We had parties on Friday nights, Saturday nights and often on Saturday afternoons. And, in those days you could not go to a party without a date. It's different today. In those days you had to have a date. And, so it got me out of my social shell, and into a learn-about-the-world shell, which I've carried for the rest of my life,” Cascino explains.

He also had a few words to say about the news concerning Penn State fraternities lately.

“... When you've had fraternities there for 150 years, and you can pick on one instance that happened in 150 years at 55 different fraternities, that ain't bad. ... You can't damage the whole system, and the

whole school because of one tragic circumstance. It has had unbelievable impacts – good impacts on people's lives.”

After graduating Penn State, Cascino met success in his career.

“I went to work for General Electric for six months, and then I joined the United States Public Health Service. During the Vietnam War, I served my military commitment in the public health service for three years, and then I left and became chief engineer at the Hackensack Meadowlands Development Commission in New Jersey, which was a state zoning agency, and I spent 14 years of my life there. And then, 33 years ago I setup my own consulting engineering practice, which I am still doing today.”

In Cascino's personal life, he passed along the Sigma Chi tradition to his son, Dylan.

“He graduated Penn State in 2012. I was lucky enough to pin him at the initiation ceremony that I went to. I went back to the school, and participated in the ritual and saw him get pinned, which was quite a thrill. Actually, I come from a long line of Penn Staters. My dad graduated in 1935. My sister graduated in 1964. I graduated in 1966. My oldest son graduated in 2008. My youngest son graduated in 2012. All from Penn State, three generations,” Cascino says.

He reports he may be looking forward to retiring in approximately two years, and is enjoying watching his two accomplished sons continue to grow.

He still keeps in touch with many of his brothers – **Rich Catalano '65**, **Duff Chambers '65**, **Donald DiFrancesco '66**, **John “Doby” Dobrynski '64**, **Andy Gildersleeve '67** and **Dave Kline '65**. They meet at homecoming every year and attend Penn State games.

To current actives and younger alums, Cascino has one major message: “... Stick with the fraternity life. ... The clouds will pass, and the bonds that ... formulate in a fraternity life, especially a chapter like Penn State, they won't be sorry for. They will get benefits for it for the rest of their life, and they just got to weather the storm right now, and it will pass... It's just a bad time right now, but it will pass.”

The Fruits of Labor

“The harder I worked, the luckier I got.”

“... The time that I was there, [the] group of members, and pledges that were in the house were friendly and welcoming. And, it was conveniently located on campus, which was important to me at the time,” says **Norbert Connors '60** of his first interactions with Sigma Chi. Norbert was and is known to his friends as Norb, or Norbie.

Connors believes his experience at Sigma Chi was pretty standard, and a good many of his fraternity brothers have become lifelong friends.

“The fraternity system was sort of an alternative to dorm living, and [alongside] the brotherhood aspects of it, I made a number of friends that have turned out in several cases to be lifetime friends. ... I had a very positive experience being a member of the fraternity generally, and specifically at Sigma Chi,” Connors says.

After graduating came a long career of hard work.

“I had a lengthy career in the steel industry. I worked 37 years at U.S. Steel, which is based in Pittsburgh, but I actually was moved around a good bit in my early career. I lived in Chicago, and Philadelphia, and [then] back [to] Chicago. [I] spent time at five different plants, and then I guess the last ... 15, or so years I was in headquarters in the Pittsburgh area. Then, after that, I sort of failed retirement, and the phone started to ring and I had an attractive offer from IBM, so I worked eight years for them after that. Now, I'm fully retired...” Connors explains.

Throughout his long career, though, Connors has certainly maintained his Sigma Chi connections.

“There is a group of relatively contemporary brothers who I see. ... Usually once, sometimes twice a year, either in Florida where I spend a good part of the winter, and there is a group of them that have summer homes on the Jersey Shore, and over the years we've gotten together in the summer time at Avalon, or Stone Harbor for annual events with spouses. And so, there is a group of about ... 12, or 15 that I see fairly regularly,” Connors says, before he starts naming the individuals, all fraternity brothers graduated between 1957 and 1960.

They include **Tony Agnone '58, Larry Pecko '60, Lynn Bell '58, Bert Berdis '62, Jay Corrigan '57, Phil Cox '62, Jim Faunce '57, Jan Gouza '57, John Haas '58, Dan Johnson '61, Jim Keith '58, Ed Lynam '57, Dick Mohler '58, Dave Morrow '59, Sam Rogers '58 and Tom Zimmerman '57.** Connors also gave special mention to a few fraternity brothers who have passed away: **Ted Junker '59, Jim Short '59 and Dean Tennyson '60.**

“Ted Junker used to host a Sig Gig every year in March at Marco Island, Fla., until he passed away last year. Also, our group was represented with one, or two [foursomes] at the annual Sigma Chi golf outing in June until the last couple of years. We were nicknamed AARP IV,” Connors says.

Regarding these relationships, he notes, “You have to work at friendships... That's part of what fraternity is about, for sure. ... Other than the friendships that are certainly very important, I think the overall experience enabled me to be better adjusted, and to deal with the realities of the work place and [gave me] the interpersonal skills that were important to achieve whatever success I might have achieved in my working career,” Connors says.

As for current events in Connors' life, most know that his wife of over 50 years, Carol, passed away in February of 2015. He has five “active and healthy” grandchildren between the ages of 16 and 23, two of whom live in the Pittsburgh area, and three in Shaker Heights, Ohio – a Cleveland suburb. Christmas coming means family visits to enjoy.

Connors gives a special comment for his two sons.

“I am very proud of my two sons ... Timothy and Christopher. ... They both have advanced degrees. My older son, Tim, is a lawyer, and he spent a number of years as a partner in private practice, and he is now an intellectual property counsel at Goodyear Tire and Rubber. Christopher has a couple of advanced degrees – Masters degrees from [Pittsburgh] and Carnegie Mellon, and [is] working in information technology at ... IBM, but has previously worked at NASA and Apple. ... They've made their moth-

er, and me, proud for a number of years,” Connors says.

Connors finishes with useful advice for students and recent alumni.

“... The most important thing is work hard. I learned as a young man the harder I worked, the luckier I got.”



2018 Penn State Football Schedule

See you at Beaver Stadium!

9/1- Appalachian State – TBD

9/18- at Pittsburgh – TBD

9/15- Kent State – TBD

9/22- at Illinois – TBD

9/29- Ohio State – TBD

10/13- Michigan State – TBD**

10/20- at Indiana – TBD

10/27- Iowa – TBD

11/3- at Michigan – TBD

11/10- Wisconsin – TBD

11/17- at Rutgers – TBD

11/24- Maryland – TBD

12/1- Big Ten Championship Game (Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN)