

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

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- Dan Schlegel '85
- Byron Woodrum '86
- Jim Cooper '73
- Anthony Goia '17
- Chapter Advisors**
- Jay Holler '18
- Art Weber '82

ON THE WEB



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www.pennstatesig.org



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A Peterson Significant Chapter

State College, Pa. • The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi at The Pennsylvania State University • December 2023

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FALL 23 – AND SIGMA CHI – BEING THE BEST

By Jim Lundy '82, President

August 2023 marked our third fall that Sigma Chi has opened since we closed the house in 2020. Due to the hard work of our staff, Angela, Doug and Dana, it was one of the best openings we have had. The house was spotless and that was due to a lot of hard work by the staff over the summer. The brothers have also been taking good care of the house.

Our Staff Making a Difference

Since 2021, we have stayed with the operating principle of having a full time staff. Our Chef Angela Anderson serves up great meals made fresh each day. Our Janitor Dana Tressler keeps the house looking good. Last year we added a full-time facilities manager, Doug Sampsel and that move has allowed us to stay ahead of all the work our 95 year old house needs. Our staff are also having a positive influence on the chapter.

We are still searching for a House Director and while we had candidates we considered over the summer, none worked out.

Renovations – Alumni Made this Possible

Many alumni helped out over the last 2 years. In the past year, we have replaced three exterior doors, renovated the long room in the basement and also installed turf in the side yard. The burn in period of the new boilers is over and they are chugging along as we head into winter.



Alumni of the Year Awards (left to right): Bill Fricker, Bruce Karper, Andy Gildersleeve, Art Weber and Jay Holler.

However with a 95 year old house, we need to constantly replace aging items. Besides the roof, our windows are also going to need to be gradually replaced over the next few years.

Re-Launching our Annual Dues

We are relaunching our annual Alumni Dues program. Paying annual dues helps us significantly. For one, it helps to cover the cost of our alumni relations program – which comes in around \$15,000 a year. Please see the enclosed Dues form and help us out.

Continued on next page

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, April 12th

2nd Annual Undergrad/Alumni Golf

Saturday, April 13th

Blue White Weekend

June 7th-9th

Alumni Weekend

Fall'23 – and Sigma Chi – Being the Best

Continued from previous page

Paving the Way Campaign – Phase II

As you will see in Andy's article, the big project that we need to tackle is replacing our Slate Roof. Steve Pracht's article highlights that we still have many pledge classes that can still purchase pavers. Please leave your mark at Alpha Chi and buy a paver.

The future of Alpha Chi is about all of us

Alpha Chi is in a strong position. That said, we are only as good as the alumni volunteers who work and interact with the Chapter. There are many ways to get involved — as donors, as alumni volunteers, alumni mentors or as an employer (our undergrads are looking for Internships).

I look forward to seeing many of you at Blue White Weekend in April and our annual alumni weekend June 7-9, 2024.

*Lifetime Achievement Awards: Order of Constantine Brothers **Frank Raymond** and **Andy Gildersleeve** each holding their Plaque commemorating their lifetime service to Sigma Chi (Left to Right: **Frank Raymond**, **Andy Gildersleeve** and **Alumni President Jim Lundy**.)*



THE CHAPTER HOUSE

By Andy Gildersleeve '68

Taking care of a 95-year-old building that is occupied by 35 active Undergraduate Brothers is a challenge, to say the least. Thank goodness the House has really good bones and with **Cal Stuckman's** leadership and generosity we were able to do a significant renovation in 2007.

There are things, however, that were not part of the renovation and are now approaching 100 years in service. One of my key objectives as Alumni House Manager is keeping water in the right places, and that means the outside water from coming in and the water in the mechanical systems, inside the pipes.

Here is a short summary of some recent improvements, as well as some items that are currently in process: three years ago, we replaced the oversized boiler with two smaller and much more efficient ones. After some tweaking of the control systems, we are now operating at peak efficiency.

Shortly after the boiler installation one of the two heat exchangers that make the domestic hot water died and was replaced. The second one very recently gave up the ghost. I delivered a new one in September and our full-time maintenance man, Doug Sampsel, has completed the installation. Kudos to **Brother Byron Woodrum** who made a sizable donation, which allowed us to replace the three entrance doors to the house with brand new custom millwork solid oak doors. (Who knows how many times

those were opened and closed over the past 95 years?)

In a month we will be repairing and returning to service five air handling units that provide the primary ventilation to the house. Our next major project will be to replace the casement windows with stronger metal ones with much simpler hardware. By the way, having Doug handle our maintenance and repairs has saved us significant expense compared with the use of outside contractors.

I would be remiss if I did not mention a future liability that requires our attention very soon, the roof! The slate has held up well over all of these many years, but we did need to replace one area last year. The nails that hold it on do not have the same durability as the slate itself, and even the slate does not last forever as water penetrates the edges and causes it to delaminate. We are currently acquiring budget pricing for replacement, either in slate or standing seam metal. More to come on that in future reports.

As a 1968 graduate, I never lived in this house. Many of you, like me, remember the house at the corner of Burrowes and Pollock. We all refer to that as the Old House, but in truth, the current house is actually older than the Old House at the time we lived in it! I am happy to report that with four years of "culture sensitivity training" the current Brothers are taking on the responsibility of respecting their house in the same manner that we always did.

ADVISOR'S CORNER

By Art Weber '82 and Jay Holler '19

Brothers, we have had a successful Spring Semester and Fall Semester is off to a great start thanks to the hard work of **Consul Sam Lanza** and **Pro Consul Brian Boylan**.

The Chapter rushed hard over the summer and into the fall and took a large class of 30 men – and reports are they are good guys who care for the house.

The chapter has many things they have taken on – including

winning a Spring Lacrosse Club championship and there are plans for some upcoming philanthropy and get togethers with neighbors.

If you are on campus this winter to attend a basketball/hockey game or a wrestling match, make sure to take the time to visit the House and meet the Undergraduate Brothers. They will welcome you. As a reminder our 2nd annual Alumni Active Golf event will take place the Friday of Blue White Weekend.

CONSUL'S CORNER

Taking Alpha Chi to New Heights

By Sam Lanza '25, Consul

Greetings alumni brothers. My name is **Sam Lanza** and I have been Consul at Alpha Chi since February 2023. I am pleased to report that the Chapter is reaching new heights, thanks to the dedication of the Executive Officers and the brotherhood. While we continue to operate independently of Penn State, our diligent collaboration with our advisors and alumni has demonstrated that the essence of Greek Life is embodied in our fraternity, thanks to the unwavering commitment and effort of our brothers.

Record Pledge Class

I am pleased to announce that this fall semester, Alpha Chi has welcomed an impressive group of 28 young men to our pledge class! This achievement is due to the exemplary work of our rush chairs, and significantly, the pivotal Summer Arts Fest



The 2023 Chapter Officers with our Staff.
First Row Left to right: **Doug Sampsel**, **Luke Hebbelinck '25**, Chef **Angela Anderson**, **Qeester Patrick Kaiser '25**, **Dana Tressler**. Second Row: **Pro Consul Brian Boylan '25**, **Consul Sam Lanza '25**, **Tribune Michael Hayden '25**

rush event. We would like to thank our Alumni for allowing us to have this event, which directly resulted in the addition of eight members of our pledge class. This was truly a

win for the brotherhood.

The Yard – Commemorating One Year of Turf

The chapter, West Virginia Sigma Chi, and all other recent visitors to 400 E Prospect continue to be amazed by our Turf Yard, which will turn 1 year old in October. The turf has truly become a novelty here at Penn State, and it has left every other fraternity scrambling to figure out a way to catch up.

We will be commemorating the yard with a new name and plaque thanking past **Consul Billy Lougheed** and CNB Contracting Corp, as well as Dr. Steven Murphy for their support.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from more alumni throughout the year.

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ALUMNI WEEKEND AND THE GOLF CLASSIC

33 Years Strong



First and foremost, very special thanks to **Scott Fozard '89** who has been a part of the Golf Classic planning since 1999 and has Chaired the event for the past eight years. Our Golf Classic is one of the premiere Sigma Chi Alumni Engagement Events anywhere in the United States and Canada. Scott's talents, dedication, and impeccable attention to detail have made it an outstanding annual reunion for Alpha Chi Members, not to mention how much we all relish the golf, friendly competition, comradery, and Steak Bake.

Scott is beginning the transition for leadership of the Golf Classic to our younger generation of Alumni. **Matt Kutz '17** has agreed to take over as the Golf Classic Tournament Director after the 2025 edition, which will be our 35th Annual Golf Classic!! We are indeed pleased that Matt is stepping up to assume the TD mantle.

The last few years have seen an influx of more and more recently graduated Alpha

Chi's. It is exciting and refreshing to see them and vital for the growth and perpetuation of this remarkable event. Matt will be looking to build out his Tournament Committee team. If you are interested in assisting Matt and joining the Tournament Committee, please reach out to Matt or Scott Fozard.

It may be nine months away, but who isn't already thinking about the 34th edition of our vaunted Sigma Chi Golf Classic? Here are some juicy tidbits to keep in the back of your mind as the weather cools.

2024 Dates – Friday, June 7 and Saturday June 8

Format Changes – Saturday's tried and true format and venue will remain the same...a foursome scramble on the Blue Course with a shotgun start a little before 9 AM. Friday's format and venue may change. We are exploring additional options for courses and competition format. Please stay tuned as we kick around ideas and options.

Hotels – a room block has already been secured at The Graduate (formerly The Atherton). Rates are still high for the State College area. Unfortunately, a number of events are now scheduled for this weekend each year, so room supply is in high demand.

Room Block – call The Graduate at 814-231-2100 and follow the prompter #2 for "Reservations". The block name is Sigma Chi Golf Outing and the block code is 6110612. Or use the following link: <https://bit.ly/47TN71g>

Possible Chapter House Lodging –

The House Corporation Board is currently considering the possibility of opening the Chapter House to provide rooms for Golf Classic Alumni Participants. This would include an appropriate lodging donation for the weekend. There is a high probability that this will happen, so please stay tuned. Just imagine, a couple of nights living in the Chapter House again!

Paver Campaign Update

By Steve Pracht '76

The second batch of pavers were installed ahead of the Alpha Chi annual golf outing. There are now four full sections of engraved pavers on the patio. We appreciate the 150+ brothers and sweethearts who have purchased pavers. Your financial support of Alpha Chi via the Paving the Way campaign is going directly to the facility project of replacing the slate roof on our Chapter House.

Two pledge classes are very close to achieving 100 percent participation and becoming the first to have a pledge class paver installed at no additional cost. The Fall of 1983 pledge class has 80 percent participation with eight of 10 brothers purchasing individual pavers, and the Fall of 1968 pledge class has eight of 1 brothers (two additional bothers are deceased) who have purchased individual pavers.

We have had a number of Alpha Chi brothers who have entered the Chapter Eternal, and **Jay Corrigan '57** is leading a group in purchasing memorial pavers for deceased brothers from his era. Says Jay, "Last year I was in contact with 16 alumni and some widows from the late 50's and early 60's era who wanted to remember a '58 alum and his sweetheart who died within three months of each other. We did this because of its permanence and to carry on a tradition of



remembrance. We are beginning the process of remembering three more deceased alumni in the same way."

Whether you want to honor the memory of a deceased brother or want to have a permanent recognition of your time in Alpha Chi, we encourage you to participate in the *Paving the Way* campaign and support the Alpha Chi Chapter.

You can purchase a paver by completing the attached form or by visiting the *Paving the Way* link at <https://pennstatesig.org/paving-the-way-campaign>.

Make your purchase by April 15, 2024 in order to have your paver installed by the next Alpha Chi Golf Outing. Pictures of the installed pavers and a list of those who have purchased a paver can be found at the same link. If you have already purchased a paver, then please show your ongoing support of the Alpha Chi Chapter by making a gift to the Annual Fund. If you are purchasing a paver, then please consider making an additional gift to the Annual Fund.

Feel free to reach out to Paving the Way campaign chair **Steve Pracht '76** at 404-940-4011 or Steve.Pracht@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



WHAT IS KRACH TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP (KTLW) ?

In August 2018, Keith Krach (Purdue '79 and former Chairman and CEO of DocuSign Corporation as well as U.S. Under Secretary of State) made an endowment level gift to the Sigma Chi Foundation that established the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshops (KTLW). This replaced the Balfour Leadership Training Workshops as the largest leadership training event in the Greek-letter fraternal world. KTLW consists of a four-day leadership event that focuses on personal and professional development of Sigma Chi undergraduates, developing them into Transformational Leaders in their chapters and on their campuses. Three different certificate programs comprise the KTLW Curriculum: **Values Based Leadership**, **True North Leadership** (based on a book written by **Brother Bil George – Georgia Tech '64**), and **Servant Leadership**. KTLW is conducted annually in August at Ohio's Bowling Green State University. Last year, the Krach Transformational leadership Workshop Courses were certified by the Middle States Association, the highest-level educational certification agency in the United States. Several of our Alpha Chi undergraduates have participated in KTLW over the past five years and Alumnus Jim Cooper '73' has served as a KTLW on-site Facilitator in both 2022 and 2023.



MIKE GUELKER JOINS THE HOUSE CORP. BOARD



Mike Guelker '85 is the newly appointed Treasurer for the Alpha Chi House Corporation. Mike earned a BS in Accounting from the Smeal College of Business Administration.

His career includes 30+ years of tax systems consulting at "Big Four" Accounting Firms. He is currently employed with Ernst & Young LP out of their Tampa, FL office. Mike resides in Venice, FL with his wife of 30 years, Taryn, and his canine companions Tucker, Kaia, and Lucie.

We express a great debt of gratitude to **Bruce Karper '75** who has very capably served as House Corporation Treasurer for the past six years and been tireless in his efforts.