

1906-1972

A Peterson
Significant
Chapter



The Penn State Sig

The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi
at The Pennsylvania State University

WWW.PENNSTATESIG.ORG

MAY 2024

ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS

THE ALUMNI BOARD

PRESIDENT:

Jim Lundy '82

President@psusig.org

TREASURER:

Mike Guelker '85

SECRETARY:

Paul Herbert '75

HOUSE MANAGER:

Andy Gildersleeve '68

BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Fricker '85

Dave Capperella '86

Mark Dobrynski '89

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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and announcements
and to keep up with
all your Brothers!

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SIGMA CHIS

New Plaque Dedication

Brothers celebrate the dedication of both the Turf and the Team that built the fence
(more photos on page 4).

Golf Classic Weekend Will Soon Be Here



It is that time of year, dust off the clubs and start fine tuning the bar tours because the 34th Annual Sigma Chi Golf Classic is right around the corner. Do you have what it takes to vie for that most coveted attire...the vaunted Tacky Jackets? Come join us June 7-8 in Happy Valley to test your skills against the world's best!

Registration is OPEN at <https://pennstatesig.org/events/golf-classic/>. Updates will be posted at this link, as well.

- **Friday, June 7, 2024, 11:30 AM shotgun start – The White Course - \$100**
We will be sporting a new format...a Stableford. We did it a couple years back and are going to bring it out of retirement and see what everyone thinks.
- **Saturday, June 8, 2024, 9:00 AM shotgun start – The Blue Course - \$160**
There aren't any changes needed to this tried-and-true event! We will be playing a four-person scramble. Please note that you must have a four-person team to compete for the tacky jackets. If you need a team or need someone to fill out a foursom , just let me know.
- **Saturday Steak Bake, June 8, 2024 - \$75**
After golf, join us at the house for cocktails around 4:30, announcements and updates around 5:30, parade of steaks at 5:59, and dinner around 7:00.

Note that the cost increased by \$10 for Saturday golf this year because your team mulligans are included in the fee.

Dust off the clubs and break out the swing lube! Hope to see you in June

IH,

Bro Foz

Scott Fozard '89
Tournament Director

Bro Kutz

Matt Kutz '17
Associate Tournament Director-in-Training

A Sigma Chi Birthday Bash



In the photo left to right: Chip Thome '69, Bruce Balmat (PSU Phi Kappa Sigma), Rick Atherholt (Dickinson College Sig) John Missanelli '71, Don Biehn '67, Derek Reid '69, Diane Lueckel, Jim Cooper '73, Paul Thress '71, Luke 71' and Craig Mayer 68'

On Saturday, April 13th, ten Sigma Chis were among more than 50 celebrants at Stephen (Luke) Lueckel's 75th Birthday Party.

The festivities were planned by Luke's bride of 52 years, Diane (Koutsouros) Lueckel, who was also the Alpha Chi Sweetheart of 1970.

The party venue was the Lueckel Homestead in beautiful Bucks County, PA. In spite of a blustery day, Luke's friends, family, and fraternity brothers truly enjoyed a full outdoor afternoon of food, drink, and revelry. Happy Birthday Luke!

Dave Capperella appointed as a Chapter Advisor

David Capperella, a 1987 Penn State Graduate and Finance major, has joined the ranks of Art Weber and Jay Holler on the Alpha Chi Advisor Team. Dave's substantial professional background includes his ownership of Capperella Furniture where he is President & CEO. He's also a Principal in TD2 LLC, a real estate investment firm

Additionally, Dave is currently Chair of the Spring Township Board of Supervisors and a past Chair of Centre County's Chamber of Business & Industry. He has served as a Board Member of our House Corporation from 2021 until his recent appointment as a Chapter Advisor. Dave and his family reside in Bellefonte, PA.

We are confident that the Chapter and our current undergraduates will benefit greatly from his rich leadership experience and local presence.

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Alumni House Manager Report

by Andy Gildersleeve '68

There are times when I feel like the Dutch Boy with my thumb in the dike. Our 95-year-old house does take lots of TLC to keep it running smoothly. Fortunately, we have Doug Sampsel there every day, so we don't get surprised nearly as often as we used to, plus; Doug is able fix many things on his own, thereby saving us cost on expensive contractors. We recently purchased him a Pro-Press tool, so many plumbing repairs are now being completed by Doug.

There are two Capital Improvement projects we are looking to price, evaluate and complete in 2024. Both will have a payback of some kind. The first is to take the very long room on the third floor (#304) and split it into two rooms. Single rooms are in demand by our active members, and we can charge more for them. So, our goal is to get that done over the course of this coming summer break. The project requires modifications to the heating

and electrical systems, so it is not as simple as just cutting in a door and building one partition.

Secondly, we are investigating some type of air conditioning system that would utilize several of the existing air handling units. I drew up a schematic and recently met with a Mechanical Engineer here in Pittsburgh who is assisting with specifying the correct chiller and pumps. If the cost makes sense, we'll move forward and be able to bring in some extra rent revenue during the summer term. Air conditioning has also become a "competitive factor" with both other fraternities and in attracting our members to live in the House versus downtown apartments.

I will have more to share on both of these projects by the Golf Classic Weekend in June.



Second annual officer appreciation dinner, front to back – Left: Alumni Antony Olivo '23, Dave Capperella '87, Jim Lundy '82, Jay Holler '19. Right Officers: Sam Anza, Past Consul, Ethan Sabatino, Pro Consul, Brandon Bart, Consul, Andrew Perillo, House Manager, Jack Davis, Quaestor, Anton Skvortsov, Risk Manager.



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

A Great Year-and the Future of Greek Life at Penn State

by Jim Lundy '82

As we race to the end of our 2023-24 academic year, Alpha Chi had a strong year both from a house operations standpoint and for the Chapter. First, we have great young men, and we just had our second annual office appreciation dinner.

Big Plans for Summer

We have some big plans for the summer, for as soon as finals end, the Staff will begin preparing the Chapter House for our 34th annual Alumni Weekend, which is June 7-9th in Happy Valley. This year, we plan on allowing some alumni to stay at the house – as hotel rates have gone up quite a bit. See Andy's article on all the work planned for the summer.

Third Year of Independence – What is Next

The chapter's suspension by Penn State officially ends on August 1st of this year. We should consider that one of the reasons our chapter has thrived is because of both Sigma Chi, our Advisors, the Staff, and alumni. It is not because of Penn State.

Greek Life Under Siege

Other houses have been facing a surge in the number of charges from the Penn State – partially because every incident now needs to be investigated by the Office of Student Accountability. Most charges have been proven to be false or not as serious as Penn State's letters claimed. For Spring Semester alone, 25 out of 33 IFC chapters had charges against them. One house was charged for hazing because Pledges held up letters at Thon.

Meeting with Penn State Leadership

During Blue White weekend, I met with the President's Chief of Staff Michael Wade Smith, the Interim VP of Student Affairs Andrea Dowhower, and Penn State Trustee Karen Quintos. The topic was what is the strategy for Greek Life at Penn State. Karen and I got a lukewarm welcome, and we pushed the idea of making Greek Life an asset to the

university – versus treating the students like they are a liability. Suffice to say, we still have a long way to go to get back to an engaging approach from Student Affairs towards our undergraduates.

Sigma Chi International Position

I was also invited to a meeting with our Advisors, Grand Praetor Bill Sapoch and Mike Church, the Executive Director for Sigma Chi. Mike is very sharp, and he was fully aware of all that is going on at Penn State. He characterized what is going on as being similar to what happened at USC, where student rights and property rights were being violated by the university.

To be transparent, our Chapter has a say in whether we go back to be part of the IFC. Right now, all the other houses are saying "don't come back" to both our chapter and to PIKE. So, there are now real discussions about forming an independent IFC, which would be sponsored by the National Interfraternity Conference. Mike Church does not think Penn State will change fast enough – and he is still very unhappy about how Penn State treated our Chapter when we were suspended. This is a fluid situation, and we will keep you updated.

Saving for our Roof

We continue to work to save for a new slate roof – and we do need paver donations – as every little bit helps. Suffice to say – while the Vermont slate does not cost that much, we have a very large roof – and labor costs add up to hundreds of thousands of dollars. We will have more to say on fundraising for the roof by this fall.

I look forward to seeing many of you this June in Happy Valley!



Danielle, Billy and William Lougheed celebrate the dedication of Lougheed and Murphy Field



New plaque in the dedicated side yard

Paving the Way for Alpha Chi Spring 2024 Report

Memorialize your alumni status as an Alpha Chi Sig by taking a few minutes of your time, right now, to purchase a paver. More than 150 brothers, or about 14 percent of our chapter's living alumni, have participated over the past three years. Thank you to those brothers who have already stepped up. Funds raised through the Paving the Way for Alpha Chi campaign are being directed to replace the aging slate roof.

Purchase your paver or purchase a memorial paver to honor a deceased brother by scanning the QR code at the end of this article or visiting the Paving the Way link at <https://pennstatesig.org/paving-the-way-campaign> to be directed to the Paving the Way Web page. Pictures of the installed pavers and a list of those brothers who have purchased a paver can be found on the page.

If you have missed the Spring 2024 installation deadline date of April 20, 2024, we recommend that you still purchase your paver now to be in line for the next installation. We also ask brothers who have already purchased a paver and know of pledge brothers or other chapter mates who have not done so, to help us by encouraging them to join you in this campaign.

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.



← Scan to donate electronically

Join Your Fellow
Brothers on
the Honor Roll



We are more than halfway through the 2023–2024 giving year! Have you made your contribution?

Each year, we recognize our brothers for their generous donations in our honor roll. You can find the honor roll on the back page of the one-page insert. We would like to thank those brothers who have contributed so far.

Have you earned your place on the honor roll? Make your donation to the annual fund today for the 2023–2024 giving year to see your name added to the list. You can do so by writing out a check and using the return envelope provided, or by scanning the QR code.

As always, we appreciate any donation of any size as any size gift ensures the legacy of Alpha Chi of Sigma Chi at State College lives on.

