



# The Penn State Sig

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

WWW.PENNSTATESIG.ORG

OCTOBER 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

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your Brothers!

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## Alpha Chis Inducted into Order of Constantine

Three of our four Order of Constantine Sigs at the 2024 Golf Outing.  
From left to right: **Andy Gildersleeve '68**, **Frank Raymond '71**, and **Jim Lundy '82**.

Each year, the Order of Constantine recognizes a group of Sigma Chi brothers for their commitment, dedication, and service to the Fraternity.

Induction into the Order of Constantine is considered to be the highest honor that the Sigma Chi Fraternity bestows upon one of its members.

Of the more than 365,000 brothers who have been initiated into the Sigma Chi, the honor of being named an Order of Constantine Sig has been conferred upon just 862 brothers since the Order's inception in 1948 at the 47th Grand Chapter, held in Seattle. At the Alpha Chi Chapter, we are proud to recognize that four of our brothers, more than double the international average per chapter, have earned this distinction.

Three of our Order of Constantine Sigs participated at this year's Golf Classic Weekend this past June. Pictured above from left to right are **Andy Gildersleeve '68**, **Frank Raymond '71**, and **Jim Lundy '82**. Our fourth Order of Constantine Sig, not in the photo, is **David Kline '64**.

## Chapter House Welcomes New Housing Director

Ms. Cheryl Dixon is the new Housing Director at Alpha Chi. She began her residence at the Chapter House in mid-August.

Ms. Cheryl acquired seven years of Housing Director experience while serving in the Greek System at Washington & Lee University. She has also been President on the Board of Directors at her condominium association in Fairfax, Virginia. In her initial year at Sigma Chi State College, she has a stated

goal of creating a home-away-from-home for our undergraduate young men, where they can develop friendships, respect, and pride in their Fraternity and Chapter House.

In working with the other Staff Members, Doug Sampsel/Property Manager, Angela Anderson/Chef, and Dana Tressler/Cleaner, the team will strive to generate a safe and healthy environment.



# Alumni House Manager Report

by Andy Gildersleeve AX-'68

As I write this report, the calendar is telling me that we are well into the Fall Semester and the Penn State Football Season. June and July seem like distant memories. However, two of those summer days were spent at 400 East Prospect Ave, and they stand out from the relatively beige background.

The first was June 8th when I attended the AX Annual Golf Classic. I am not a golfer, never have been, but I do enjoy that event which brings together our greatest number of alums. It is like Homecoming used to be from the standpoint of attendance, only better. It is also an opportunity for me and more than 100 other Alumni to see just how good the house can look. Doug Sampsel, our on-site Property Manager, and his helpers did a fabulous job of picking up the pieces after our undergraduate brothers departed for Summer break. They made the place more than just presentable for that event. He and I did spend some time in the boiler room that day and confirmed some piping and electrical conditions which are part of our research to determine the feasibility of installing the air conditioning capabilities that were envisioned when the major renovation was undertaken nearly 20 years ago. I am sure it was tabled at the time due to cost considerations, and it obviously has not gotten any less expensive, but I believe it is still worthy of consideration for student comfort in the early Fall and late Spring,



**Andy Gildersleeve '68, Dan Schlagel, and our Actives during a hard day's work on the Chapter House.**

competitiveness with downtown apartment living and other fraternities, and the possibility of renting some rooms in the Summer.

The second memorable date on my summer calendar was July 20th. That was the part of our Summer Work Weekend. **Jim Lundy, Dan Schlagel**, Doug and I got to spend some time working on the exterior of the building with about 15 Actives who showed up to help. Doug used a rented high-lift to take some brave souls up to the second and third floor levels to apply a fresh coat of paint. I had a second group down on the ground installing conduit for the new sound system for the yard. The new speakers will be mounted at ear height to maximize the effect, but at a lower overall volume to stay within the Borough noise ordinance. The yard is not only a sought-after venue for social events, but every activity that takes place out there is one less that occurs inside, where the finishes are more difficult to preserve.

All in all, a great summer, even though as usual, it flew by!



## Letter from the Alumni President

In a timeframe when all of the rage on social media is about 'Bama rush and the massive investments that SEC schools are making in their fraternity and sorority houses, Alpha Chi is not standing still. For the sixth year in a row, the Alpha Chi House Corporation won a Peterson gold award for most outstanding housing operations. That puts us in the top ten in the country.

Thanks to a significant amount of hard work to run our budget and collect all the money, we've been able to make significant improvements to the chapter house this year. This includes paving our parking lot (aka the tennis court), adding basketball hoops, and installing room-based air conditioning and new furniture.

Part of the need to constantly improve our house is twofold. First, it is 95 years old, and second, we have strong competition

from new apartments downtown. I can now confidently say that we offer very competitive housing, and much better food and coffee. Our staff is doing a great job, and we are pleased to announce that we have a new House Director, Miss Cheryl Dixon, who moved in over the summer.

On top of that, as of August 1, our 4-year suspension with Penn State is over. That said, Sigma Chi, TKE, PIKE and Skull are all independent chapters, with TKE joining the independent ranks over the summer.

Your generous donations help us to stay ahead, and we now must embark on a fundraising to plan for the replacement of our 95-year-old slate roof. We will be looking for Alumni to help plan for this fundraising endeavor.

If you are visiting Happy Valley this fall, please stop by the chapter house and meet the brothers.

**Jim Lundy '82**  
House Corporation Board President



# Support Our Brotherhood

As we look back on the 2023-2024 giving year, we are very grateful for the generosity of our Alumni Brothers. We had a good year for our Annual Fund, with a total of \$15,680.00 brought in from donations. Including Pavers, the grand total for the year is \$17,180.00.

With that being said, there is plenty of room for growth in 2024-25. The reasons for giving are well stated by Jim Lundy, President of the House Corporation Board, in his letter seen on the previous page.

So, join your Alumni brothers on the Honor Roll shown on the accompanying appeal and donate what you can to Sigma Chi of State College, PA. You can give by scanning the QR code above or by sending a check mailable to The Sigma Chi of State College Alumni Association our donation processing center at:

**Sigma Chi of State College**  
**Alumni Relations Processing Center**  
**P.O. Box 7007**  
**Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007**



**ANNUAL FUND**  
[pennstatesig.org/ways-to-give/](https://pennstatesig.org/ways-to-give/)



## Alpha Chi Congratulates the Fall 1968 Initiation Pledge Class

The seven surviving members of the 10-member pledge class initiated on October 27, 1968, are the first to meet the challenge of having 100 percent of their brothers have a paver purchased for the Paving the Way for Alpha Chi campaign. They will have a 12x12 paver installed to recognize this accomplishment at no additional cost. We appreciate **Steve Lueckel, Andy Miller, Eric Patzer, Frank Raymond, Mark Smythe, Tom Strohm** and **Ted Wile** who made this possible. **Frank McGurk, Ron Swartz** and **Bob Trump** are deceased pledge brothers who also will be honored on the pledge class paver.

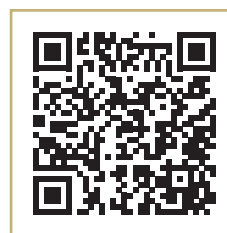
Several other pledge classes are close to reaching 100 percent participation in the Paving the Way campaign. Check the status of your pledge class by reviewing the list of brothers who have purchased pavers at <https://pennstatesig.org/ways-to-give/paving-the-way-campaign/>. We encourage you to contact your fellow pledge brothers who have not yet purchased a paver so that your class also will be recognized.

You can participate in the Paving the Way for Alpha Chi campaign by purchasing a commemorative paver as follows:

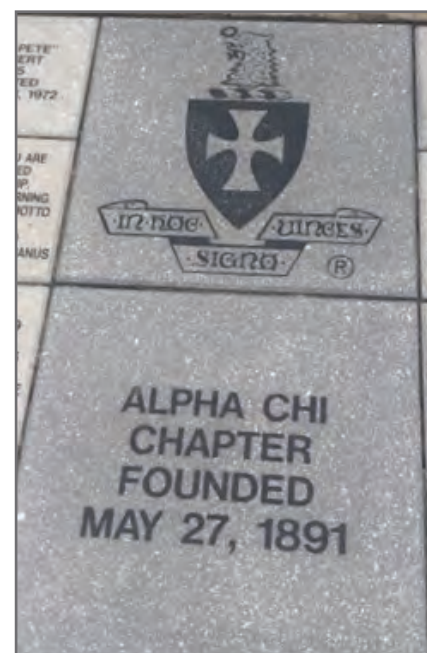
- 8X4 paver for \$300 (\$25/mo)
- 8X8 paver for \$600 (\$50/mo)
- 12X12 paver and composite picture in the chapter house for \$1,000 (\$84/mo)
- Constantine Society-24X24 paver in distinctive color and composite picture for \$5,000
- Stuckeman Society-24X24 paver in distinctive color and composite picture for \$10,000 (tax-deductible for individual Brother when donated through the Sigma Chi Foundation)

Funds raised will be directed to the much-needed replacement of the tile roof, which wasn't addressed in the previous house improvements campaign.

Please reach out to Steve Pracht at [steve.pracht@yahoo.com](mailto:steve.pracht@yahoo.com) or at 404-940-4011 if you have any questions about the Paving the Way for Alpha Chi campaign.



**PAVING THE WAY**  
[pennstatesig.org/ways-to-give/paving-the-way-campaign/](https://pennstatesig.org/ways-to-give/paving-the-way-campaign/)



# Chapter Advisor Report

## LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

This past August, three of our undergraduate brothers participated in the Krach Transformational Leadership Workshops (KTLW) at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Sigma Chi defines Transformational Leadership as the practice by which leaders inspire and empower others to innovate and create change that positively impacts the Fraternity and, ultimately, the world. KTLW is a unique opportunity for our student Sigma Chis to participate in an extraordinary leadership development and fraternal experience. Four Certificate Programs have been designed and are offered to Sigma Chi undergraduates throughout the United States and Canada. This past Summer our three Alpha Chi participants were among more than 500 Sigma Chi student participants. All three chose to enroll in the Values Based leadership Certificate Program. Here were their comments following completion:

*Pictured above: Alpha Chi Active Nick Cannon (in middle of photo - no hat) sharing his ideas with Sigs from other Chapters around the United States in a class at the 2024 KTLW Values Based Leadership Workshop.*

**Nick Cannon:** "I really loved spending time with other Sigma Chi Brothers from different places and hearing their perspectives."

**Jayden Yopez:** "I enjoyed the categories discussed in a classroom setting."

**Alex Rossman:** "I think my favorite part was seeing the way other Brothers from different schools would respond to questions and compare their answers to situations our chapter faces."

Alum **Jim Cooper '73** has served as a KTLW Facilitator for the past three years. His comment: "I could not conceive of a better way to engage in retirement-volunteer endeavors. It's been a great way to learn the perspectives of Generation Z Sigma Chis, contribute to their leadership development, and serve the Fraternity all in one activity. What I enjoy the most is how the student participants interact and learn from each other."



## Chapter Eternal

In the past few months four of our Alpha Chi Brothers have passed:

John "Chip" Thome '69

George A. Shal '70

Benson "Bennie" Swift '75

Bernard L. Herron '83

All Honor to their Names.

## A 60s and 70s Era Brothers' Tradition Stands Strong



*In the photo (front row left to right): Mike Manning '69, Jim Beam '69, Frank Raymond '71, Gary Prowant '71, Steve Lueckel '71 (back row standing) Ted Wile '71, Craig Mayer '68, Tom Strohm '71, Paul Thress '71, John Rath '73, Jim Cooper '73, and Ron Boraten '69. A lot of grey hair there!*

A Golf Classic Tradition is the Friday Night Small Group Dinners, where Alumni Brothers from the same era gather for a good meal and drink in preparation for the Saturday morning Scramble Tournament.

**Mike Manning '68** has organized the dinner for guys from the late 60s/early 70s era for several years now. He did it again in 2024 for a good evening at The Tavern in downtown State College.



## Join Your Fellow Brothers on the Honor Roll

We are excited to welcome the start of the 2024-2025 giving year!

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 2024-2025 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.

