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The Penn State Sig

The Alpha Chi Chapter of
Sigma Chi in State College

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MAY 2025

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ON THE WEB



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Alpha Chi Takes Leadership in Formation of New IFC

Sam Lanza, former Alpha Chi consul and founding president of the new State College Interfraternity Council (SCIFC), speaking at a press conference to introduce the SCIFC in March.

Sigma Chi, Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE), and Pi Kappa Alpha (Pika) have united to form the State College Interfraternity Council (SCIFC).

House Corporation President **Jim Lundy '82** and former undergraduate Consul Sam Lanza have taken strong leadership roles in forming and announcing the newly minted SCIFC. We are proud to announce that Sam Lanza is the founding president of the new interfraternity organization.

The impetus for establishing the SCIFC has been the long-standing difficulty and relentless hostility that the Penn State Administration has subjected independent fraternities, including Sigma Chi.

Mike Church, Executive Director at Sigma Chi Headquarters, has strongly supported Alpha Chi's participation and leadership in SCIFC. Additionally, the Executive Board of Sigma Chi International has given their approval.

Each of the three fraternities is no longer affiliated with Penn State, and the SCIFC will not affiliate with the university. However, the end goal is to work in tandem with Penn State Administration.

The SCIFC's mission is twofold: to cultivate a stronger sense of brotherhood among its

members and to make a meaningful impact on the State College community through dedicated service initiatives. The council aims to foster an environment where members can develop leadership skills, build lasting relationships, and contribute to the betterment of their surroundings.

At a press conference held in March, Sam Lanza said that the SCIFC will be student-run and student-governed. The council is interested in welcoming other fraternities that would become independent from Penn State. Lanza will lead an objective to be free from the draconian, restrictive compliance environment currently mandated by the university upon fraternities.

Jim Edwards, a Sigma Phi Epsilon alumnus and president of the Lion Fraternity Alumni Association (LFAA), a group formed to help fraternities address common issues, detailed some of the problems, including not being permitted to recruit freshmen and not having their own judicial system. Edwards said that SCIFC will work to allow freshman recruiting during the fall semester and get them into fraternity houses before their sophomore year, making them better neighbors and more understanding of their fraternities' standards and goals

continued on page 4



Alumnus Spotlight: Rich Hume '82



A Sig CEO

Thursday, January 16th at 8:00 PM EST

Rich Hume
PENN STATE 1982



Did you know that one of your Alpha Chi brothers was recently chief executive officer of a Fortune 100 Company?

That would be **Rich Hume '82**, who retired from that position at TD-SYNNEX this past September.

Rich was born and raised in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, in what he describes as a modest home, but where he was wanting for nothing. Enrolling at Penn State University Park, he quickly became interested in economics. Rich's dad, however, gently steered him in a direction with far more job opportunities. He selected accounting and finance as majors within the College of Business Administration.

Rich followed the lead of his apartment roommate, **Kevin Murray '83**, in rushing and

pledging at Sigma Chi.

Upon graduation, Rich spent two years at a public accounting firm. That experience caused him to realize that other areas of private industry would be of more significant interest to him. The International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation offered Rich that opportunity and he began a career at IBM that would be sustained for 30 years.

Rich had successful stints in financial, supply chain, and commercial assignments, demonstrating business acumen and leadership and managerial skills. This was so much the case that he was offered the top executive position for all of IBM Europe.

Working from Madrid, Spain, Rich's scope of responsibility included 40 countries, \$35 billion in annual revenues, 50,000

IBM employees, and a significant portion of the company's profits. The complexity of doing business across so many cultures was a huge challenge, and Rich successfully managed growth during his tenure.

In 2016, Rich took a dinner meeting with a former IBM executive who continued to be part of his network. That former colleague was CEO at Tech Data Corp. (TD). He offered Rich to the opportunity to join TD as chief operating officer with a two-year pathway to the CEO position. Rich self-evaluated and determined that he possessed the right stuff for success in the TD opportunity. From there, the rest is business history. Rich became CEO in 2018 and, a few years later, orchestrated the merger of TD with SYN-NEX to become a behemoth IT aggregator company.

Rich assumed the position of CEO at TD-SYNNEX, running a business with annual sales of \$57 billion. After spending four years in that role and successfully leading the integration of the two companies, Rich recently retired.

There is a great deal more to this story than can be covered in a single edition of our alumni newsletter. However, you can learn more about Rich's outstanding executive experience and his wisdom on career development by watching his appearance on Sig Talks (January 2025).

The Sig Talk is accessible through the Sigma Chi Learning Consortium website. Select the Past Events menu item on the home page and scroll down a bit to find Rich's Talk, A Sig CEO. It will be an hour well spent!

You Just Never Know...

...when you might unexpectedly meet up with another Alpha Chi Sig.

This past February, **Jim Cooper '73** was on an ocean cruise circling South America. While in Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city in the Patagonia Region of Argentina, he took an excursion to Tierra del Fuego National Park.

While there, Jim saw another traveler wearing a Penn State hat, so he struck up a conversation. Turns out, the other Penn Stater was **John Kessinger '60**, a fellow Alpha Chi Sig.

John, his wife Barbara, and Jim had some additional good Sigma Chi and Penn State reminiscing back on the cruise ship and again, on a tour of the Concha y Toro Winery in the Maipo Valley vineyards of Chile.



John Kessinger '60, his wife Barbara, and Jim Cooper '73 enjoying a tour and tastings at the Concha y Toro Vineyard in Chile.

Sigma Chi Parent Club

We owe a special expression of gratitude to Allison Hayden, the mom of one of our graduating senior members.

Allison is founder and president of the Penn State Sigma Chi Parent Club, which she conceived and organized in 2022. The club's mission is to support and enhance the experiences of the undergraduate brothers by creating a strong link of communication between parents and the chapter. She has succeeded in fostering connections, gaining involvement, and helping to provide resources, financial and emotional, to ensure that Brothers maximize their Sigma Chi time while at PSU.

Through Allison's leadership, the Club has contributed meaningfully including planning for parents' weekends, promoting fundraisers, encouraging parental involvement, sending friendly dues reminders, and advocating the importance of living in the House to deepen the bonds of brotherhood. Her lively e-mails have become legendary!

Allison's final bittersweet initiative is organizing the senior graduation dinner for the families of our 24 Seniors. With about 130 guests expected to attend, it will be a special send-off celebrating four incredible years of friendship, growth, and Sigma Chi brotherhood.



Parent Club Founder and President Allison Hayden (center) surrounded by our current seniors.

Allison was a founding member of Chi Omega Sorority at the University of Delaware. She looks forward to passing the baton to a current freshman parent while expressing her deep gratitude for the memories, relationships, and opportunities afforded to her by the parent club experience.

Register Now for the 35th Annual Golf Classic!



We look forward to that time of year again: fresh cut grass and birds chirping in Happy Valley. Please mark your calendars for the 35th annual Sigma Chi Golf Classic on Friday, June 6, and Saturday, June 7.

The golf classic will again be held at the PSU Blue and White golf courses, and the steak bake will take place at the chapter house.

Registration for the golf outing is open. You can sign up by scanning the QR code below or by heading to pennstatesig.org/golf-classic.

If you have any questions, please contact Tournament Director **Matthew Kutz '17** at kutzmatthewh@gmail.com. We look forward to hosting another memorable golf outing and welcome alumni and friends.



Paving the Way Campaign Concludes Phase One

The Paving the Way for Alpha Chi campaign has completed the first phase. The pavers, purchased in 2023, are scheduled to be installed in May 2025.

Thanks to the 130 brothers, sweethearts, and friends who participated in the first phase of the campaign and contributed nearly \$70,000 to support the Alpha Chi Chapter. The campaign will resume in the future.

New IFC continued from page 1

The SCIFC will feature its own student-run judicial system for dealing with complaints or possible violations. The organization confirmed it would potentially suspend fraternities found violating hazing protocols. Additionally, SCIFC will partner with security firm Standing Stone Consulting to implement a proactive risk management and safety environment.

Lanza said, "Fraternities at Penn State were founded more than 140 years ago as independent organizations, and with SCIFC, we are charting a new independent structure for our immediate future and success." Lanza went on to say that the goal is creating a Greek Life experience that is both personally enriching and socially responsible.

Jim Lundy has declared that Alpha Chi is optimistic and proud to be a pioneering charter member of the State College Interfraternity Council.



Join Your Fellow Brothers on the Honor Roll

As we pass the halfway mark for the 2024–2025 giving year, we would like to thank the following brothers who have made generous donations to this year's annual fund as of 4/15/25.

John Hess '56
Paul Hoyt '57
Dick Mohler '58
Craig Mayer '68
Norbert Connors Jr. '60
Carl Heller '60
David Kline '64
Kenneth Strohm Jr. '68
Joseph Brzostowski '70

Richard Anthony '71
Eric Patzer '71
Tom Strohm '71
Daniel Eckenrode '72
Jim Cooper '73
Steven Lang '73
John Rath Jr. '73
Paul Herbert '75
Jeffrey Hamilton '86

Richard Nenstiel '78
John Robinson Jr. '78
Bruce Hartshorn '79
Jeffrey Stratton '79
David Lansdowne '82
Mark Hershey '91
Joshua Zech '99
Ruari Monahan '00
Dave Notaro '05

Thanks to their contributions, we have raised \$5,705 toward our annual fund goal of \$20,000.

However, we still have a way to go to meet our goal.

Have you earned your place on the honor roll? Donate to the annual fund today to see your name added to this year's list. You can do so by writing out a check and using the return envelope provided, or by scanning the QR code.



A New Parking Lot and Basketball Court – after 54 years

by Andy Gildersleeve '68



The campaign to modernize our property never ends. The famous side parking lot, which started as a tennis court in 1928 when it was owned by Delta Tau Delta, had seen better days. Large potholes had emerged. Thanks to ongoing donations and a very strong financial operation, we had the money and got competitive bids for replacing the lot.

We had originally considered milling the surface, but it was in such poor condition that the contractor had to completely remove the old surface. They added new stone and compacted the base. The contractor did a fantastic job, and a stencil firm came out and painted the lines for parking and half-court basketball.

Before someone asks why we did not make it bigger, we have reached the legal limit on how much of the lot could be impervious. We would need to construct a storm-water management system if we exceed that amount.

Basketball Hooping and more

Now, besides great parking, the big bonus for the brothers is that they can play basketball anytime they want. Thanks goes out to Significant Sig Rich Hume for buying one of the commercial hoops. We do plan to paint the entire surface and use Sigma Chi colors.

With the Loughheed and Murphy turf field and the new basketball court, our brothers are ready for all kinds of athletic endeavors.

Grand Praetor Gives Alpha Chi High Praise



Provincial Grand Praetor Bill Sapoch (center) enjoys a moment with Alpha Chi's Executive Staff on a recent visit to the chapter.

On April 6, the Grand Praetor of our Sigma Chi Province, Bill Sapoch, visited Alpha Chi. Among his tour activities, GP Sapoch participated in a chapter meeting. Some of his post-visit comments are shown below:

Good afternoon, advisers, Jim [Lundy] and Ryan Gunther. I wanted to drop a quick note on how impressed I was with the chapter at yesterday's meeting. I also wanted to thank Dave Capperella for hosting my chapter visit. I think Dave would agree that Alpha Chi continues to make big strides and shows no signs of letting up. Below is what I just sent back to Dante (current Consul):

Dante,

It was my pleasure to visit Alpha Chi, and thank you and the membership for all the work you have done to get Alpha Chi back on track with chapter meeting protocols. I was very impressed. Please keep up the great work. Please update me and your advisers on how you are coming along with the Peterson annual report. Great job!

In hoc,
Bill Sapoch