



The Penn State Sig

The Alpha Chi Chapter of
Sigma Chi in State College

WWW.PENNSTATESIG.ORG

OCTOBER 2025

Consul's Corner

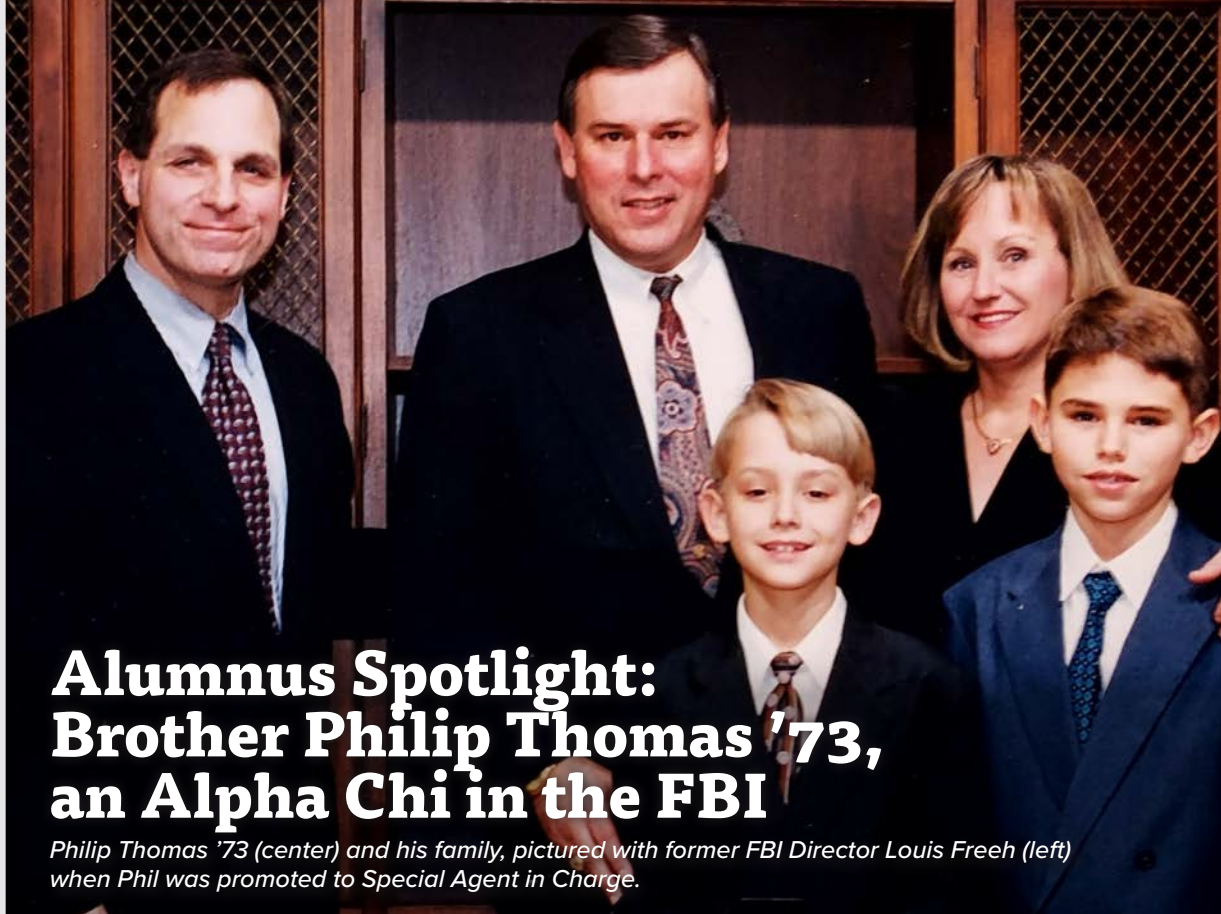
Our current undergraduate Consul is **Dante Scalise '27**.

Here is his message to alumni for the upcoming academic year:

The Alpha Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi was one of three founding chapters of the State College IFC this past spring. A main priority of the Alpha Chi Chapter is to continue to develop the new State College IFC for the fall semester. We recently voted in two new fraternities this fall, those being Acacia and Sigma Pi, increasing our numbers in the SCIFC from three chapters to five. We plan on communicating with other campus fraternities throughout the coming months about interest in joining our new organization.

The SCIFC and the Sigma Chi Chapter are also committed to enhancing risk management practices at our fraternities. We will be integrating the DoorList app over the coming semester to better manage event attendance and safety procedures. Additionally, we are focused on strengthening relationships with alumni, fostering academic excellence within the chapter, and expanding our philanthropic initiatives on campus.

We believe that by prioritizing growth, safety, scholarship, and brotherhood, the Alpha Chi Chapter and the SCIFC will continue to build a strong and lasting presence at Penn State.



Alumnus Spotlight: Brother Philip Thomas '73, an Alpha Chi in the FBI

Philip Thomas '73 (center) and his family, pictured with former FBI Director Louis Freeh (left) when Phil was promoted to Special Agent in Charge.

Upon graduation as a political science major, **Phil Thomas's ('73)** draft status was first in the initial USA draft lottery. He decided to enlist and was accepted to the US Air Force Officer Training School (OTS), however, the program was suddenly cut-back with the conclusion of the Vietnam War. Phil returned home to the Scranton, Pennsylvania area where he joined a construction crew doing bridge work for Interstate 84. Great pay but perilous work on concrete pillars 100 feet off the ground.

Meanwhile, reading an issue of Sports Illustrated following a hard day of tying steel, Phil read an article featuring Penn State Heisman Trophy winner John Cappelletti, who was at the time contemplating applying to the FBI. This sparked Phil's interest in seeking a pathway for himself to become a special agent. His first opportunity was to join the FBI's Administrative Division in the Payroll Department. He also enrolled in the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, Virginia, working at the FBI headquarters (HQ) in Washington, DC, by day, and attending law school for 3½ years in the evenings. Upon attaining his law degree, Phil applied for special agent training, was accepted, and graduated from the 11-week program in spring 1978. His first assignment was in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia. Phil recalls tak-

ing his parents, who drove five hours to attend his graduation, to lunch at a nice restaurant, resulting in his being late on the drive from Quantico to the field office. Phil had an interesting combination of assignments, application cases for presidential appointments and bank robberies. One bank robbery case became known as the "Budweiser Bandit". The suspect was a semipro golfer, who, if he missed the cut in a tournament, pulled off bank heists in the same town. The culprit wore a Budweiser baseball cap and mask during his robberies. Teamed up with a senior special agent, Phil was on the apprehension team. It was his first time he drew his .38 caliber Smith and Wesson as they took the Budweiser Bandit into custody after his attempted escape.

1978-1982: Assigned to the Alexandria, Virginia Field Office

1982-1984: Assigned to the New York Field Office handling counterintelligence cases and later assigned to New York Legal Unit

1984-1989: Promoted to FBI HQ and assigned to the Classification and Appeals Unit handling legal matters.

continued on page 3



Delayed Honor for Some Good Work

by Andy Gildersleeve



The finished memorial pedestal, which honors the hard work of 20 Alpha Chis that made the side yard fence project a success.

Four summers ago, in July 2021, the first steps in creating our great side yard venue began. That included installing the perimeter stockade fence and surrounding that fence on the public side with a total of 43 Green Giant arborvitae trees. Twenty undergrads and alumni participated in that effort. While you have no doubt seen numerous articles about the use of the fenced-in area over the last four years, we were remiss in not paying honor to those who got this project out of the mud. A photo of the finished memorial pedestal is included. The brass plaque was ready a year ago, but the weatherman had other plans, and we had to delay the masonry component until this spring.

In mid May, on-site facility manager Doug Sempsel re-excavated the original foundation hole from last fall, which we had to fill for safety's sake. I joined him in hand mixing and placing about 500 pounds of concrete for a footing. We followed that up with some vertical steel rebar and then laid up four courses old concrete block to serve as the core of the new pedestal. Since neither Doug nor I are masons, we are happy to say that other than the photo taken to commemorate our effort, there is no record of how ugly it really was. Our goal was not beauty, but longevity! No passing band of marauders is likely to be able to budge it from its home. Honorable mention to Dave Walter, a friend of mine who is a real mason, for wrapping the core with sandstone and helping Doug to mount the plaque.

Although Doug and I talk weekly, this was our first opportunity to work a full day together in the trenches. I am certain he will bring the same level of effort and detail to bear in his new role as House Dad.

Ryan Tembe - 74th Grand Consul

On June 27, 2025, Sigma Chi HQ posted an article on the newly elected 74th Grand Consul, Order of Constantine Sig Ryan Temby (Rutgers, '90).

"Order of Constantine Sig Ryan Temby, **RUTGERS 1990**, was elected as Sigma Chi's 74th Grand Consul on June 27. He is a founding father and former Consul of the Iota Psi chapter and also founded the Rutgers house corporation while as an undergraduate. As an alumnus, he has been an active volunteer.

He has served as the Rutgers house corporation president and as a facilitator for several fraternity educational programs and what is now called the Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop. Temby was Grand Praetor for the Southern Ohio province from 2013 to 2019, and for his service he received the Edwin C. Fisher Grand Praetor Award in 2017. He also has

served on numerous fraternity committees, including the New Chapter Development Committee, Membership Review Team and Investment Committee. On the Executive Committee, he is the former Grand Quaestor and Grand Pro Consul.

Professionally, Temby joined Hewlett Packard in 1998 and for the next 20 years held many positions within the company. Later information technology roles include general manager of the oil and gas business at DXC Technology, vice president of PCMS Datafit, vice president of campus operations at North American Interfraternity Conference and a client partner at what is now called Motivus. Today he is a small business owner in Tampa, Florida.

Temby married his wife, Heather, in 1996, and together they have two children, Matt and Eryn. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and playing video games."



Jim Cooper '73 (right) spent time discussing Alpha Chi with recently elected Grand Consul Ryan Temby while at the Krach Transformational Leadership Workshops this past August.

Presidents Report: Continued Excellence in our 134th Year in Happy Valley



Brothers posed for a group photo at the SCIFC retreat.

It is hard to believe that we have been the Alpha Chi Chapter for 134 years. We had a great fall opening and welcomed a new chapter co-adviser, John Mikuluk, to our ranks. We also promoted our chef Angela Anderson and facility director Doug Sampsel to house co-directors.

The summer went fast; we held our 35th annual Sigma Chi Golf Classic weekend. Today it remains as the oldest Greek-alumni

gathering at Penn State.

When I was there in late August for our opening week, we also held the first State College IFC retreat, which focused on officer planning and risk management. It was short and concise and well received by the five chapters that make up the State College IFC (SCIFC).

continued on page 4

Alumnus Spotlight continued from page 1

It was also during this period that Phil noticed an attractive young lady while dining in the FBI cafeteria. He inquired with a mutual friend about her and learned that she would be attending a bachelorette party at a popular bar in Springfield, Virginia. Phil made a point of visiting the establishment that same evening for an after-work libation. The ladies invited Phil to join them at their table. He bought a round of drinks and was shocked by the \$35 tab for his generosity. The rest was history, and in May 1985, Phil wed Marina Lewis, who was employed by the Special Photographic Unit in the FBI Laboratory Division.

1990: Assigned to the Inspection Division as an inspector's aide and conducted 12 inspections throughout US.

1991: Promoted to squad supervisor for the Columbia Division

1994: Promoted to the assistant special agent in charge position for the St. Louis Field Office

1998–2004: Promoted to the Senior Executive Service and as the section chief of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section of the Criminal Division at FBI HQ

2000: Selected as the special agent in charge of the Memphis Division

2002: Transferred to the Newark Division as the interim SAC due to the previous SAC being transferred to NYC after the 9/11 attack

Upon arriving in Newark, Phil described it as just like the intro to "The Sopranos." He drove up the New Jersey Turnpike, took the Newark exit, then followed on to an old bridge into the "Iron Bound District," where he rented an apartment located near the office.

Soon after arriving, he was picked up by a military helicopter and flown to the East River. The ride included flying over an island just south of the Statue of Liberty. The island was filled with destroyed fire engines and ambulances caught in the 9/11 destruction. It was a sight he will never forget.

Six months passed quickly, and Phil was advised that HQ wanted him to apply for a permanent transfer as SAC for Newark. For the first time in his FBI career, he was compelled to decline. His wife and sons loved their lives in Collierville, and he wasn't going to force them to move. The new director, Robert Mueller, arrived and summoned Phil to HQ. Mueller wanted Phil to apply for the deputy assistant director position for

the Criminal Investigations Division, which would mean a relocation to DC. Again, Phil decided to decline for family reasons. His wife loved being just three hours away from her parents, who resided in Missouri. By this time, his sons had experienced five different school systems. Phil received a call shortly thereafter indicating he "should consider retiring". He took the advice, retiring honorably with 29 years and six months of service in the FBI.

There was "life after the FBI" as Phil went on to do investigative work at Deloitte for three years and was subsequently employed by Guardsmark Security as a vice president for just over six years. He is fully retired now. He has not spoken to a single person from Deloitte or Guardsmark since departing, but he does have breakfast with 20 to 40 retired special agents on the second Friday of every month.

Phil considers himself fortunate to have been a special agent for the FBI. He is very glad to have read that specific article in Sports Illustrated about John Cappelletti's interest in joining the FBI and gives special thanks to John for planting the seed of his FBI career.

We, as alumni of Alpha Chi, are proud of him and his service.

Moving forward, we continue to plan for continued improvements to our 97-year-old Stuckeman chapter house. We are saving for a new roof and are looking to raise money for that endeavor.

The chapter continues to do well, and they are active members of the SCIFC. Derby Days returned last spring, and they raised over 20K for that endeavor. We are planning some get-togethers in the spring and also look forward to seeing you June 2026, where we will celebrate our 135th year in Happy Valley.

Jim Lundy '82

*Alpha Chi Housing Corporation
President*

Sigma Chi Learning Consortium

A Great Resource for Alumni & Undergraduates, Lifelong Learning & Development for all Members

Dictionaries define consortiums as an association of two or more individuals, companies, organizations, or governments (or any combination of these entities) with the objective of participating in a common activity or pooling of resources for achieving a common goal. Consortia are generally nonprofits with a goal to help members improve their value, performance, and competitiveness.

Sigma Chi sponsors a learning consortium aimed at professional skill building, self-improvement, and knowledge acquisition. The basis of the Sig Consortium is dozens of informative podcasts, presented by experts in their respective fields. Check out the consortium website home page at alumlc.org/sigmachi.

The Learning Consortium also includes several recordings of Sig Talks. These are our fraternity's version of TED Talks featuring prominent alumni who provide intriguing perspectives on their areas of expertise. Our own Jim Cooper '73 is the International Chair for the Sig Talk Program. Alpha Chi alumni Jim Lundy '82, Rich Hume '82, and Craig Mayer '68 have been guest speakers on Sig Talks.

House Parents 2025-26

For the new/current academic year, Angela Anderson (cook) and Doug Sempel (on site facility manager) will expand their roles to become co-house parents for Alpha Chi. The primary purpose of these positions is to provide guidance, support, counsel, and adult presence for our active undergraduates. In addition, Angela and Doug will be responsible for assuring compliance with the chapter house rules and code of conduct and expected behaviors. Angela and Doug have both been affiliated with our chapter for several years. They are quite familiar with the "lay of the land" when it comes to day-to-day life and activities at Alpha Chi.

House Corporation Board Gains New Member

We welcome Dirk Matson to the house corporation board. In addition to his degree in administration of justice from Penn State, Dirk holds a Master of Social Work (MSW) from The University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in administration and leadership studies from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Dirk's profes-

sional career spanned more than 40 years in non-profit and governmental leadership roles, including significant board experience. He looks forward to implementing this relevant background for the benefit of Alpha Chi. Dirk and his wife Theresa reside in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

Congratulations and thanks to all Contributors!

The annual fund attained and slightly exceeded the goal of \$20,000, which is more than a 30% increase over the previous year.

Alpha Chi and our undergraduate activities will benefit due to your generosity, so thanks to those who made donations.

To view the full list of donors for the 2024-2025 annual fund, please see the included honor roll of donors insert.

Alumni News

Louis A. Meier III '62
Still Alive.

George D. Cascino '66
I got a visit from Andy Gildersleeve & Kathy last summer. I spoke recently with John (Doby) Dobzynski & Carolyn at length (Mark's dad!) Enjoying victory over SMU @ Game last winter.

William B. Wells Jr. '79
My wife Sally and I have opened a restaurant in Fayetteville, West Virginia, called The Gaines Estate. Fayetteville is the gateway town to the New River Gorge National Park. We invite any brothers who are visiting the park

or passing through to stop in and see us. You can check out our restaurant at www.gaineseestate.com.

Christopher F. Lacey '88
All is well on the California front. Valerie and I got engaged on Christmas night while in Bora Bora. My oldest son, Nick, is working on his masters in NYC.

My youngest son, Ben, is in his fourth term at the Culinary Institute of America in St. Helena, California. Couldn't be happier.

In HOC Brothers.