



The Delta Penn



Pennsylvania Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon University of Pennsylvania
Established 1904 | First Undergraduate Editor — Stuart R. Trottmann Jr. '39



A Tribute to Jack

He Was Sigma Phi Epsilon's Soul

The following is the eulogy speech given by Brett Danko '90 at Jack's funeral service.

They told me I have two minutes to speak. Well those of you who know me realize it is hard for me to even say hello in 2 minutes, but I will try.

The first time I met Jack I fancied myself a pretty good pool player and I told Jack about it. We played and Jack waited until I almost won. Then he ran the table, chuckled and said, "Don't feel bad son, I was just lucky." It was the first of many times I was schooled by Jack Shores.

They say that a man's success is NOT measured by the amount of wealth he has, but rather by the number of friends he has - well by that measure Jack was a very WEALTHY man.

Jack was a gifted, bright and charming man. He touched the hearts, minds and lives of hundreds of his brothers throughout his 45 years with our chapter. He was our link of brotherhood from year to year and decade to decade. He was our constant, our North Star - helping

us navigate college and beyond. He had seen it all before and he knew what was important, even if we weren't yet smart enough or mature enough to realize it.

In thinking about all the great times I had with Jack, I remember shooting pool, listening to jazz at Ortliebs, going to Sixers games or just talking in the kitchen. He attended my wedding in North Jersey BUT had to leave early to be home for the night with his beloved wife Lou. He never failed to let us know how much he cherished her, his children/grandchildren and friends.



Jack and Brett on Brett's wedding day.

I learned more from Jack than from any class I ever took at college. He taught me about tolerance and life in general. Jack always said you needed to stay true to yourself and you will never go wrong. Wise words from a wise man. Coming from the segregated South, he had every reason to distrust people - BUT he never judged anyone and he always searched for the best in them. He said there was good in everyone and it was up to us to find it.

He was the essence of one of our

fraternity's cardinal principles - brotherly love - which he exemplified more than any person I have ever met. He remembered a brother's favorite meal 20 years after he graduated and told stories of friendship that the brothers involved had long forgotten. However, Jack remembered it all - he was Sigma Phi Epsilon's soul.

I think I speak for the hundreds of fraternity brothers, some still young and others of us who are older, when I say that Jack will be sorely missed - but his compassion, warmth, humor and decency shall live on forever throughout the halls of 4028 Walnut Street. The stories of their times with Jack are too numerous to mention today and are cherished by us all.

Jack, thank you for your years of service and friendship to our fraternity. Rest in peace my friend and brother and win that heavenly pool tournament for us!

Alumni Weekend Gathering

**Honoring William "Jack"
Shores**

Saturday, May 14
3:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

4028 Walnut Street chapter
house



We'll Miss You, Jack

"Jack and I go way back. (Too many stories to tell). Jack has been an inspiration and 'grandfather' to me. From playing pool to hanging out at Ortlieb's jazz bar in South Philly; we did it all. Jack has attended my wedding, my child's baptism and has spent valuable time with my family and I in many ways."

- Paul Vaccaro '90

"I was steward at SigEp during the 1979-80 school year. One Friday night, Jack couldn't get the broiler lit to cook the steaks. I came down and tried to twist paper into a tape long enough to reach the pilot light. Needless to say when it lit, I was in the middle of a ball of flames, which Jack watched from the

safety of the doorway. My eyebrows, mustache and bangs were more melted than burned off. As Jack retold the story, he would usually begin with, 'I don't know about that boy, Jeff...'"

- Jeffrey Whiting '81

"There are so many stories, many surrounding our mutual love of jazz. But the one that is nearest to my heart is when I introduced Jack to my Dad at graduation. My Dad taught me how to play pool in the billiard halls in Queens where I grew up, and I was pretty good by the time I got to college, and Jack and I would play almost every afternoon. Jack would even take me down to Willie Mosconi's pool hall in South Philly, and we'd play a few games, and then he'd leave our table and go hustle a little. I was so proud that I'd been selected to go with Jack when he did his thing. I would tell my Dad about all my pool hall adventures with Jack, and when I introduced Jack to him, I said to my Dad, "Dad, this is Jack. Dad, Jack takes me to Willie Mosconi's pool hall with him when he hustles because I am the best pool player in the house." Without missing a beat, Jack says, 'Boy, I don't know if you the best pool player in the house, but you definitely the biggest pool player in the house.' Love you Jack. Miss you."

- Seth Popper '88

A Letter from Jack's Daughter...

Dear Brothers of SigEp,

Words cannot express how grateful my mother, William and I are for all the wonderful brothers of SigEp's Penn Delta Chapter. The caring and love expressed to us was just awesome and never to be forgotten.

We were very touched by the numbers of brothers who came out to support us. I still get a lump in my throat remembering seeing all of you there in the sanctuary. You guys wrapped your arms around us and made us know how very much my dad meant to you; the financial commitment you've made to my mother is just awesome. I only hope each and every one of you whose life he touched knows just how much you meant to him too. He spoke of "the boys" constantly, whether it was the current residents of the house or alumni.

It goes without saying we will all miss him dearly. He mentored, taught and cared about us all in a way that we could all understand. A confident though simple and non-judgmental man of modest means who didn't need bells and whistles to introduce himself. A wise man who loved to share that wisdom. A caring man who would give the shirt off his back if need be. My wish is that whoever comes in to replace him in the kitchen at 4028 Walnut Street is as humble, as wise and as caring an individual as my Daddy Jack was.

Best wishes to the brothers of SigEp and continued good health and blessings to them, their wives and children whose photos he was so very proud of.

God Bless You All.

With Sincerest Thanks,

Marlene Rice-Whittaker Gaines
1436 Guilford Place
Philadelphia, PA 19122-3412



“Jack Shores has always been a pillar of integrity and honesty for Penn Delta. A fount of modest wisdom, he has been one of the few enduring threads that has held our chapter together through the years. For many Brothers, Jack has been a teacher, friend, and confidant who fed them not only from the stove but from the heart. Never one to make excuses for himself, Jack expected the same from us and encouraged personal integrity and responsibility in all matters, large or small. He provided those who listen with refreshing perspective, humor, and inspiration, especially during what was an impressionable and formative period for many of us. Whether it was at the pool table, in the living room, or over a generous serving of Jack’s ‘a\$\$,’ you always knew that you were getting ‘schooled’ in a positive way by a senior brother who only wished you the very best.

- Rich Chou '99

red roast beef.”

- Timothy E. Games '84

“Whether it was being a sounding board for your daily problems, relaying the history of 4028 in the way that only Jack can, or schooling you on the pool table, you always looked forward to spending time with Jack after a long day. Jack has helped shape generations of SigEp Delta boys into men by passing on his unique brand of wisdom. His contributions to 4028 are immeasurable. We are all lucky to have Jack as a “chief cuisinor,” friend and brother.”

- Grant C. Geisen '98

Lindbergh Avenue near the airport and bought a new Vulcan stove and a new freezer for the kitchen, both replacing old and failing units that had served their time (and more) for Sig Ep.

The menu improvement issues were more of a problem. Marc gave Jack several thick (like 2 inches thick each) loose leaf notebooks of instructions for proper restaurant cooking, and while I’m sure that they served the purpose for the chefs at the George V restaurant in Paris, they were a bit much for 4028 Walnut Street in Philly. Our goal of staying within reasonable reach of the cost of lunch and dinner at the Commons on Locust Walk was blown out of the water by Marc’s recipes and exotic components. We ended our relationship with Marc summarily. I have no idea what happened to the 2” thick notebooks he had given Jack to follow for the meals for the lads.”

- Jim Hughes '52

“Jack, I’m sorry about messing up the kitchen last night, we were going to clean it up this morning.”

- Peter Sunenshine '91



“I served as Steward in 1983. Jack’s roast beef was always ‘well done.’ I said ‘Jack, let’s serve it rare next time.’ He said, ‘Tim, the boys won’t eat any rare roast beef.’ Jack served it rare and peaked around the kitchen door, shocked to see the boys enjoying his

“Back in the early 1990s I had a project to get the kitchen up to Philadelphia city code and to see if we could get some help for Jack in getting the lunch and dinner menus up to a more nutritious and interesting (but still affordable) level. I hired Marc, the French training chef from “The Restaurant School” a few blocks away, to give Jack and me a hand with both parts of the project. Marc had some

requirements for meeting kitchen code that were resolved with two or three contractors and about \$10,000 and with a day of roaming up and down Second Street by Jack and me, buying some equipment. Later in the process, Jack and I went down to Singer’s Supply on





We'll Miss You, Jack

"While the recent *Delta Penn* reported multiple brothers who claimed to have hired Jack, I can claim to be the one who, fortunately, did not have to dismiss him.

Around 1971, it was a tough time financially for the chapter. Fraternities as a whole became less popular, and the trend was particularly acute for diverse fraternities on campus such as SigEp, where no natural constituency - whether religious, athletic, or high school background - dominated the membership. Not only were membership numbers low, but we had, repeatedly, suffered some financial instability when money designated for national dues had been misapplied to satisfy operating expenses of the chapter house.



We were forced to look at both cost reductions and revenue increases - perhaps good financial practice for the times that then lay decades into the future. I can remember looking at purchasing automated dishwashing equipment, a cost which, we felt, would increase our net revenue even at the personal cost of dismissing Jack and leaving Mr. Marshall on his own.

Having visited a SigEp chapter house in my home territory of Iowa, I looked into replicating a revenue source used by the Iowa State University SigEp chapter - pinball machines! The chapter leadership approved the rental of three pinball machines in the chapter house basement. I am sure that solely the passage of time would convince me that pinball

money allowed us to retain Jack on the payroll, but I do remember the thrill, as chapter president, of watching the rep of the pinball company divide the coins between his company and the fraternity, upon his first visit to count and collect the pinball proceeds.

Jack, we all applaud your service to SigEp Penn Delta, and, for those of us who were faced with resolving a tough financial situation in the early 1970s, we are very pleased that no part of the resolution interrupted your appreciated service to so many of us."

- Jeff Lehman '72

"After 20 years away from the house, I decided to go back and bring my 9-year-old son for the homecoming football game. Before, however, we stopped by to see who was at the fraternity house. Besides the usual suspects, Jack greeted us warmly as always. I have been trying to teach my son to play pool, so we started a game on the old table. Jack came over and not only showed my son how to play the game, but also told stories about me and my times during the dark '80s and kept everyone in the room entertained. Later my son said that it must have been great to have a cook like that when you were in school. I corrected him to say that Jack is my brother. Jack will truly be missed.

- Tim Wilson '87

"I lived in the house 3 years as an undergraduate and have been visiting regularly in my various roles on the alumni board over the past years since graduating in '99. He was the first person I looked for every time I came back to visit the house. I looked forward to seeing him playing pool and "schooling" yet another victim.



I loved how he would set up a brother, leave the ball in a position that made the next shot for his opponent impossible, and most of all how he loved teaching others how to play the game. One game of pool only takes a few minutes, but the lessons learned during that single game last a lifetime.

I remember the first time I introduced my family to Jack. They were taken in with his charm and personality. Every time I tell my family I visited Penn, they ask how Jack is doing. I tell them, "Fine as wine" and they smile because they too know Jack's famous line.

Jack's memory always amazed me. He not only remembered every single brother

that has been through the halls of our chapter, but he knew where they were from, could tell you at least one good story about each and every brother, and he probably beat every single one of us in at least one game of pool.

I will never forget Jack's smile, his wit, charm and most of all sincerity. He cared about each and

every one of us and showed it everyday through his loyal service to the chapter, his mentorship, and most of all friendship. I will miss him dearly, but I know that memories of him will last forever."

- Dan Olson '99



Chapter Report

SigEp is Back at Full Strength

Coinciding with the warming weather, the undergraduate chapter is witnessing the sum of the efforts put in throughout the fall and winter. Penn Delta began the fall semester with 26 returning brothers. After our inaugural fall rush, spring recruitment, and a second wave of spring rush, we have managed to recruit 21 new members. This not only nearly doubles our chapter size to 47 members, but is also the largest new member class that Penn Delta has had in over six years. We are back at full strength and the new members are all eagerly involved with the chapter. Despite some bumps and turns, the Chapter is headed in the proper direction and its future has never been brighter.

We would sincerely like to thank the alumni for all of their support; this year would have been impossible without their combined efforts. The Alumni Volunteer Corporation has been just as dedicated and determined towards bettering the state of SigEp as the undergraduates. The house is in pristine condition after the new renovations and we are instilling in our new members the respect needed to keep it well maintained. The chapter house is at full occupancy for the coming year with almost the entire freshmen class expressing a desire to live at the chapter house.

On a somber note, we are deeply saddened that Jack passed away before he could see the final results of the chapter's efforts. It is hard to imagine a class of SigEps who will have never met him nor heard his stories. But we, as a chapter, have ensured that his legacy is remembered and that every brother who passes through this house knows who he is and what he meant to SigEp. We miss him greatly.

Included below are the summer plans of some of the undergraduate brothers:

Seniors

Alex Gershon- Pursuing a MA in International Studies in Seoul, South Korea.

Patrick Hillstrom- Working full-time as a Strategic Mergers & Acquisitions

Analyst at Arbor Advisors, LLC., in Palo Alto, CA.

Nick Woodruff- Working for the Air Force as an Electronics Engineer in Warner Robins, GA.

Juniors

Kevin Becker- Working at LLR Partners - a Private Equity firm in Philadelphia.

Brian Bromberg- Working at Barclays Capital in New York City.

Jon Kayne- Working at a hedge fund (BHR Capital, LLC in New York) and also working on his tech startup.

Yash Kandoi- Interning in NY with Houlihan Lokey (Investment Bank).

Sush Bhaskarabhatla- Management Consulting Internship at Axia in Boston.

Eric Heiman- Summer Analyst at J.P. Morgan Asset Management in New York City.

Lucas Blanchard- Summer Analyst at Goldman Sachs' Credit and Risk Management division in New York City.

Andy Guenin - Software Development at Cambridge Associates.

Sophomores

Chris Chike- Internship under the EID program at GE Healthcare in WI.

Arka Mallela- Research on microRNA/RNA editing pertaining to cancer and other diseases at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia.

Albert Fan- Studying in France followed by Officer Candidate's School for the US Marine Corps.

Freshmen

Nigel Lam- Working at a startup investment company doing financial analysis and social media marketing.

Chris Yamamoto- Work-study at Penn or working as a research assistant in a lab, volunteering at John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

Mendel Chen- Working for SAIC as an Investor Relations Analyst

New Members

Reidel Antonio Bello
Miami, FL

David Vargas
Miami, FL

Kenny Hua Chan
Shelton, CT

Mendel Chen
Fairfax, VA

Nigel Chungchuen Lam
Brooklyn, NY

Christopher Adam Yamamoto
Glenolden, PA

Chung Tee Lim
Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei

Michael James Latimer
Flemington, NJ

Winston Naing Lin
San Francisco, CA

Yosef Berlyand
State College, PA

Jacob Liberatore
Drexel Hill, PA

Zak Knudson
Salt Lake City, UT

William Jiawei Zhang
San Diego, CA

Abraham Minh Bui
Seattle, WA

Erik Richard Long IV
Toronto, Canada

Nander Anton Jouzy
Dubai UAE Abu Abarah

Gregory Anthony Chianetta
Colts Neck, NJ

Mahmoud Mohamed Elguindy
Houston, TX

David Willam Hyman
Scarsdale, N

Sushanth Bhaskarabhatla
Little Falls, NJ

Arka Mallela
Moorestown, NJ

Alumni Updates

Henry “Hank” Guckes III ’61

(1212 Youngs Ln., West Chester, PA 19380; henry.guckes@gmail.com) After 16 years with IBM, Ida and I decided we wanted to live in Philadelphia and I left IBM. I spent the next 27 years or so working in Sr. Information Technology Management positions with several companies. Four years with Reliance Insurance, ten with Continental Insurance, three with Insurance Data Processing and ten with Independence Blue Cross. These positions ranged from Sr. Director to Executive VP and COO. Along the way I earned a Master’s in Electrical Engineering at Penn in 1973. After our daughters were in school, Ida went back to teaching English and French. She retired in 2003.

Upon retiring from IBC, I have been consulting on a part-time basis. It

keeps me in touch with two of the joys of my life, the people I have worked with over the years and the Information Technology field. I am currently a Vice President of the Penn SEAS Alumni Society (Schools of Engineering and Applied Science). This is a very active and interesting group, which keeps me in close contact with Penn and the current student body. Ida and I have three daughters and seven grandchildren. They are a joy and it is great for us that they live in the great Philadelphia area.

Captain Jeffery B. Whiting ’81

(7565 South 38th Street, Lincoln, NE 68516; jeffreybwhiting@msn.com) My best memory is of creating a surplus from dining contracts as the Steward and having surf and turf at the end of year party. In current news, my teen-

age daughters are getting their drivers licenses. Nebraska drivers beware!

Seth M. Popper ’88

(1619 Broadway, New York, NY 10019; Seth.Popper@broadwayacrossamerica.com) Wanted to let you know that, effective Monday 12/20 I moved on to a new adventure. I have accepted a position as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Key Brand Entertainment, a company primarily involved in producing and presenting theater around the country. It is an amazing opportunity, and I am looking forward to the challenge.

Share your news, updates, stories and photos at www.pennsigep.org.

Alumni Profile

Adam Barrist ’98 Tells the Tale Behind His New Novel

*Adam Barrist ’98 was recently asked to share his thoughts and motivation behind **The Concrete Lawyer**, a novel written by Adam. The novel is about a Philadelphia Lawyer who gets involved with some new clients that bring along a dangerous series of events that take place in Paris and Philadelphia as the main character has to take action to save his career, marriage, and even his own life. Please read what Adam has to say about his motivations behind the novel and support him by purchasing his novel.*



Adam Barrist ’98

Writing *The Concrete Lawyer* was the culmination of a longtime dream for me. I originally conceived the idea of publishing a novel when I was living in the Pennsylvania

Delta Chapter House as a sophomore. Oddly though, my compilation of SigEp experiences ranging from hiding dead fish carcasses underneath brothers’ mattresses to planning pledge scavenger hunts didn’t provide me with the compelling premise that needed to create a page turner.

I was invited to join the family of SigEp pledge brother, **Marc Menkowitz ’98**, for a vacation to Jamaica during semester break of our sophomore year, 1995-96. During that trip, Marc’s mother, Sue, would introduce me to the author who would change my outlook on reading – and writing. She provided me with a copy of Nelson DeMille’s then-recently published *The Gold Coast* to read by the pool. Although never a fast reader, spellbound with Mr. DeMille’s captivating storytelling and gripping descriptive narrative, I managed to rip through the entire text during the four-day trip.

From that point forward, I wanted to be both DeMille’s polished and debonair lawyer protagonist, John Sutter, and DeMille, himself. While by no means an economics expert (unlike the majority of my Penn Delta brothers, I studied at

the College of Arts and Sciences and never so much as set foot in Wharton’s Steinberg-Dietrich Hall), I figured that it would be more fiscally sound to become a lawyer before I became a writer.

So far, that strategy has worked out well. Practicing as a lawyer in Philadelphia for roughly a decade provided me with the knowledge and ability to publish *The Concrete Lawyer* and its in-production sequel, *Blue Blood Justice*. Although everything that I write about is strictly fictional and fantasy, seldom does a day pass that I don’t see or hear something in a courtroom or office that inspires me to write.

To think that this love affair with writing and the law is derived from a SigEp brother’s mother bestowing a single book upon me is – well – inspiring in itself.

Adam Barrist C’98 resides in Newtown Square, PA with his wife and two children. He is a Partner with the Philadelphia law firm of Deeb Petrakis. The Concrete Lawyer is available at most online bookstores. Blue Blood Justice is expected to be released in 2012.