

# The Delta Penn



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

## In This Issue...

Chapter Report . . . . .	2
Conclave Update. . . . .	2
Alumnus Profile . . . . .	3
Experience and Culture. . . . .	4
Alumni Updates. . . . .	4

## Upcoming Events

**October 3**  
**Senior Dinner**  
Union League of Philadelphia

**October 24**  
**Balanced Man Awards Dinner**  
Houston Hall, Hall of Flags

**November 9**  
**Homecoming 2013**  
Penn vs. Princeton  
Kick-off at Noon  
*(Please join us at the chapter house on 4028 Walnut Street after the game for our usual fare)*

**Spring 2014**  
**NYC Dinner**

**May 17**  
**Penn Alumni Weekend 2014**

**November 1**  
**Homecoming 2014**

For further information, contact **Brett Danko** at [brett@brettdanko.com](mailto:brett@brettdanko.com).

## Alumni Report

### Pennsylvania Delta Foundation Supports the Chapter While Planning for the Final Stage of the Chapter House Renovation

*By Brett Danko '90 President, Pennsylvania Delta Foundation*

Our chapter was founded on March 24, 1904, when six Penn undergraduates were initiated into a very young Sigma Phi Epsilon, itself founded at the University of Richmond in 1901.

As the countdown begins for the 2014 observance of 110 continuous years on Penn's campus, I "proclaim" that our current chapter ranks among the finest and strongest in our 109-year history. On page 2, current undergraduate president **Joseph Pasteris '15** describes the state of the undergraduate chapter in more detail. There are two other chapter articles as well.

As you will see for yourself, all three articles illuminate a chapter on a strong, upward trajectory, something in which we can take a measure of pride.

As for the alumni body, we have been busy with our dual function of supporting the activities of the chapter as well as planning and (very soon) executing plans for the final stage of chapter house renovation.

***"Alumni and undergraduate events are the glue that holds us all together...We appreciate your continued support of these events."***

#### *It's Time for Dues*

But first, a commercial—dues. It is vital to our ability to support the chapter that we earn the participation of alumni in our dues program. Alumni dues allow for the publication of *The Delta Penn*. Alumni dues also assist in promoting alumni and undergraduate programs, including the

Senior Dinner and Homecoming every fall, as well as the NYC McCron gathering and Alumni-Weekend each spring.

These alumni and undergraduate events are the glue that holds us all together and they are not inexpensive. We appreciate your continued support for our events. Thank you.

#### ***The Chapter House at 4028 Walnut Street***

Ready? We are (finally!) going to fill in the "courtyard" space on the east side of the house, and that new area will be transformed into the main house entryway. We will be moving the entrance to the parking area from Walnut Street to Chancellor Street in the rear and will introduce a new, architecturally pleasing entry focus to our home. The porch will remain, and its function will not change.

Included in the plans are two additional sleeping bedrooms on the 2nd floor above the "courtyard." Also, a two-story addition will be added to the back of the current house with a bike storage area and exercise room on the basement level and a chapter suite, which will allow for a residence for a young faculty member on the first floor, as well as a large study/chapter room.

Our Penn-approved architects will have reliable estimates for final adoption by mid-October and, given support from our alumni, we look to break ground in a "best case" scenario next April, with completion by late August...in time to celebrate our 110th Anniversary, if you get the bigger picture.

We are now ironing out the financial arrangements with the University, combining unused previous alumni

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## Chapter Report

---

### The State of Penn Delta is (very!) Sound

By Joseph Pasteris '15, Chapter President of Penn Delta SigEp

As we begin the new academic year, Penn Delta SigEp finds itself in excellent standing. The past several years have included much change and overhaul in the chapter and, this year, for the first time in a long time, the chapter is focused on improving the programs and traditions in place, rather than creating new ones altogether. This pattern—which is indicative of the Penn Delta SigEp's recently established promise—can be observed in all functions of the chapter, from programming to brotherhood development.

With respect to programming, the chapter is set to engage in both community service and philanthropy events during the two semesters to come. On September 28, the chapter will send brothers to assist the Share Food Program with its mission to provide communities with healthy, wholesome food. Brothers will be packing food, bagging food, and gardening grounds during the event. The chapter is also in the process of planning a philanthropy event in conjunction with the Nutter Center, which rents the SigEp's chapter house during the summer months. The Nutter Center

is a program devoted to improving the quality of life in West Philadelphia

Perhaps the most promising aspect of the chapter so far this year is the recruitment department. In particular, the Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS) has shown early signs of success with an impressive number of applicants: 200. After this auspicious start, the brothers are gearing up for a series of upcoming recruitment events, starting with BMS applicant interviews. The chapter looks forward to the opportunity to add to the chapter's already substantial manpower of 61 brothers.

Lastly, the Brotherhood Development (Bro-D) department is building on its already strong foundations. After having established successful Sigma and Phi challenges for first and second year brothers in 2012 and 2013, the Bro-D cabinet is looking to perfect the third and final challenge, the Brother Mentor program, which provides third-year brothers with an opportunity to earn the designation of Brother Mentor. Also with respect to brotherhood development, the chapter has placed an encouraging new focus on physical activity. In ad-

dition to participating in inter-fraternity league sports games, brothers are now lifting weights, running, and swimming together far more frequently than in the past. In all seriousness, SigEp brothers can be found at Penn's Pottruck Health and Fitness Center at just about any time of day.

***“Perhaps the most promising aspect of the chapter so far this year is the recruitment department. In particular, the Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS) has shown early signs of success with an impressive number of applicants: 200.”***

On the whole, the brothers of Penn Delta SigEp are excited for what should be an outstanding year. The early success and positive attitude of the chapter, coupled with the recent burst of alumni support for house renovations, make this my most highly anticipated year since I have been at Penn.

## Conclave Report

---

### The 2013 Conclave Gave Penn Delta Recruitment and Brotherhood Development Ideas

By David Chun '16, Chapter VP of Communications

Conclave provides the opportunity for members of Sigma Phi Epsilon to not only witness the legislative processes of the grand chapter, but also to network and create lasting friendships with brothers of different chapters. This year **Jovonnie Gonzales (C '15)** and **Carlos Diaz (C '16)** represented the Penn Delta chapter for Conclave in Dallas, Texas. When asked what they took away from their four-day experience, they replied with an overwhelming number stories of bonding with brothers of different chapters. Carlos fondly remembers group dinners and describes them as “[an]

opportunity to break bread with different brothers, all of whom were extremely friendly and willing to engage in conversation about anything, both fraternity related and not....Brothers compared and contrasted their chapters, but most importantly built friendships that surpassed expectations.”

In addition to bonding with other brothers, our representatives learned of different recruitment and brotherhood development events that the Delta chapter could employ. For example, one chapter held an event called Heart of Friendship in which brothers sit around

a fire and share stories and experiences.

Conclave was a major success and the brothers learned the importance of brotherhood and each individual chapter in the grand scheme of the progression of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Jovonnie summarizes Conclave perfectly: “In short, Dallas showed me first hand how this fraternity is much larger than any individual or group and how this fraternity will continue to create men that hold virtue, diligence, and brotherly love above everything else.”

### Sal Brau '67 Exemplifies Penn Delta Medical Traditions

By Conrad Eberstein '65

In 1904, Penn Delta was founded with the encouragement of medical students from Jefferson Medical. Our first undergraduate president, **Otto G. Wiedman 1905**, became a distinguished obstetrician in Connecticut (and, in the late '40s, delivered **Dane Kostin '69**).

Brothers like Adam Brubaker 1912 and the father and son team of **George 1909** and **George Lawrence, Jr., '34**, to **Cud LeClair '29**, **Pete Yurchak '53**, **Eric Gall '62**, **Tony Mishik '79** and **Rick Thompson '95**, just to name a few Penn Delta medicine men, have brought reflective glory to our chapter.

So too **Sal Brau '67**, who adds lustre to the respected Penn Delta medical tradition. Sal is the developer of a breakthrough approach to back surgery that makes for a swifter and less complex recovery for selected patients by going in from the front via the abdomen.

After graduating from the chapter in 1967, Sal studied medicine at the University of Puerto Rico, graduating with honors in 1971. He spent six years at Mt. Sinai in New York, train-

ing in general and vascular surgery before moving to Los Angeles with his wife Noreen in 1977. In L.A., Sal eventually became associated with a spine surgeon in a well-known sports medicine clinic who asked him to perform these “anterior” approaches for him.



Sal Brau '67 with Conrad Eberstein '65.

Sal then began concentrating in anterior spinal access, meaning how to mechanically reach a particular place on the spine so that surgery could be performed from the front rather than through the back.

What especially concerned Sal about spinal surgery was the tearing and cutting of muscles and the possible injury to the great blood vessels, which could happen in allowing the surgeon to access the spine itself.

“What if,” Sal mused, “a surgeon could enter from the patient’s belly area without actually ‘cutting’ any muscles or injuring these blood vessels?” He wondered if it could be done without entering the abdominal cavity itself to avoid injury to the bowel and other organs?

Sal’s intellectual/medical curiosity

and speculation led him to develop and perfect a new surgical technique—entering from the front and carefully “pushing and holding” the intestinal sac and musculature aside and mobilizing the major blood vessels so that a surgeon could have a clear field to operate on the spine.

Thus was born what I call “the Brau technique,” further refined in 1996 (published in 2000) by Sal’s having invented a reverse lip “Brau blade,” which is a (patented) lever he created to pull back and hold the innards while a spinal operation takes place.

In 2000, Sal stopped doing general vascular surgery and further specialized in becoming the surgeon who would “expose” the spine so that the primary surgeon could perform his art. Sal has done as many as six exposures in a day and over 4,000 in his career. Sal has performed these “get the patient ready” surgeries all over the world, including Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Germany, France, Australia, and Canada.

Congratulations to Sal for his major contributions in the advancement of surgical techniques and for strengthening the spirit of contribution to the greater good, which is the hallmark of Benjamin Franklin’s University and of Penn Delta.

## Alumni Report *Continued from page 1*

donations with anticipated funding via SigEp National Housing in Richmond (conversations are well underway) as well as fundraising from our alumni body.

### What May I Do? – 3 items

1. Let us know if you are able/willing to be a class agent. Class agents will assist us in reaching our fundraising goal. We need an alumnus or two from each year to understand the project and assist us with identifying brothers

with whom we should be talking. Please email [brett@brettdanko.com](mailto:brett@brettdanko.com) if you are interested in being a class agent (or can recommend someone from your class)—anticipated thanks for your participation.

2. Be on the look-out for our Capital Campaign brochure, which we expect to mail probably in late October/early November.

3. Consider if 2013 would be a good time for a tax-deductible donation to

Penn, which will be passed through to our capital campaign building fund.

We will have a time table, various donor categories, and an ambitious, achievable goal just as soon as a final procedural agreement is reached with the University after the bidding process has concluded.

The Pennsylvania Delta Foundation board and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Senior Dinner on October 3rd and/or Homecoming on November 9th.

## Experience and Culture

### Undergraduates Spend Summers Exploring New Opportunities

By David Chun '16, Chapter VP of Communications

As the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon move back on campus to begin the new school year, they arrive with unique and interesting experiences. Many brothers saw the summer as an opportunity to explore potential careers through internships. **David Ibarra '15**, a systems engineering major with a minor in computer science, spent the summer in Seattle working for Microsoft in the software development branch. He encrypted and decrypted transport layer security traffic for a message analyzer tool that captures and analyzes network traffic. When asked what he took away from his summer experience, he replied "It was a good introduction to the software industry and I hope to be able to learn even more next summer."

Other brothers took the summer to go abroad and explore their passion for foreign culture. **Andrew Shannon** (C '15) and **Donald Davis** (C '16) went abroad to France and Italy respectively and immersed themselves in European culture. Andrew spent six weeks of his summer at a home-stay in the city of Tours, France. In addition to attending a history and contemporary culture class taught at l'Universite de Rabelais, Andrew took the time to bike the La Loire river, tour Renaissance chateaus in surrounding valets, and talk with French locals. His experiences in France inspired him to pursue studies of francophone culture and potentially return back to Tours in the future. Donald, on the other hand, participated in the

CALCIF program run by the University of Milan in Gargnano, Italy, and spent his time improving his Italian as well as enjoying the scenery of Lake Garda, Italy's largest lake situated between Milan and Venice.

The myriad of summer experiences displays both the focus of the brotherhood as well as the diversity. Not only are brothers conscious of career-oriented experiences, but they are also curious about worldly experience. The diversity of the Penn Delta chapter continues to be a highlight, as brothers continue to learn and expand their knowledge of other cultures.

## Save The Date

This next school year marks an important date in our history as we celebrate 110 years of continuous success on Penn's campus. We are currently planning special events to commemorate our achievement. Check [www.pennsigep.com](http://www.pennsigep.com) and look for special emails about the celebrations.

### Chapter Eternal

#### Frank Batchelor '44

*Note from Frank's wife, Karin: "Frank felt a lasting appreciation for his education at Wharton ('44) and always spoke highly of his three years in the fraternity house and the high standards involved in all of his experiences at Penn."*

#### Matt Mackie '53

*Note from Matt's wife, Dorothy: "He loved his years at Penn, especially belonging to Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity."*

## Alumni Updates

**John Grugan '92** was recently promoted as hiring partner at Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia. John has been with Ballard for the past 13 years and focuses his practice on defending companies and individuals in SEC enforcement actions and securities litigation. He also has a white collar criminal practice that has led him to represent the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in its internal investigation of priests accused of sexual misconduct. In addition, he has represented a number of individuals in insider trading and Ponzi scheme cases, as well as Cornell Medical School in a federal False Claims Act litigation.

Following graduation from law school at Temple University, John clerked for a federal judge and also spent his time in Washington in the Justice Department Honors Program. He is also listed in *Benchmark Litigation* as a "future star" in litigation and since 2010 has been named a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" by *Law & Politics* and *Philadelphia* magazines.

John married Meg, a Penn graduate he met after college and has been married for 19 years. They have four kids with the oldest being 16 (who is starting to look at colleges). John's wife is a clinical educator and also an artist and shows her work locally throughout Philadelphia. You may check out Meg's work, which is primarily encaustic painting, on her website at [megangrugan.com](http://megangrugan.com).

**Joshua Krotec '01** and Catherine Zorc, along with their son James, are thrilled to announce the birth of Gwendoline Anne Krotec on March 25, 2013. The Krotecs live in Wilmington, DE, where Josh is now senior vice president at First Aviation Services, and Cathy is an attending pediatrician with Nemours Pediatrics and an advisor for Nemours Health and Prevention Services.

## 2012-2013 Honor Roll of Donors

Thank you to the following alumni for contributing to our annual dues program this past year. With your support, we provide our members with ongoing newsletter communication, website interactions, and alumni events.

Stuart Trottmann, Jr. 1939	Dr. George Wolf 1965	Mark Kuperschmid 1984
Donald Ziegler 1943	David Woodyatt 1965	Alan Abrams 1985
Karin Batchelor	Calvin Bamford, Jr. 1966	Lawrence Harding 1985
Robert A. Miedwig 1947	Thomas S. Post, Jr. 1966	David Jehn 1985
Warren Bell 1948	Salvador A. Brau, M.D. 1967	Mark Edelson 1986
Charles Shubert 1949	Edward F. Plow 1967	Stuart Silberberg 1986
David Ffrench 1951	Dallas Smith 1967	Paul Gabos 1987
Thomas Kenny 1951	James Carnahan 1968	Joseph Halprin 1987
James Hughes, Jr. 1952	Maj. Richard Davis 1968	Andrew Brody 1988
David Rowlands, Jr. 1952	Philip R. Lezenby, Jr. 1968	John Venusti 1989
Matthew Mackie, Jr. 1953	Mark Lieberman 1969	Hon. Matthew Ciesla 1990
Rogers Vaughn 1953	H. Lee Roussel, Esq. 1969	Brett Danko 1990
Joseph R. Burns 1954	Harold Baker, II 1970	Jose Ibietatorremendia 1990
Earl Conway 1954	William Tripp 1970	John Orris D.O. 1990
Donald T. Floyd 1954	Dr. Bernardo Beyer 1971	Glenn Preston 1990
P. Clarke Glennon 1955	Robert Mayer 1971	Paul Vaccaro 1990
Robert Johnson 1955	Kenneth P. Frankel Esq. 1972	Michael Case 1992
Harold G. Jacklin, Jr. 1956	Thomas Keeline, Esq. 1972	Frederick Dold 1993
E. Kendall Lorenz 1956	David M. Kohen, Esq. 1972	Michael Haraschak IV 1995
K. Achenbach, Jr. 1957	Jeffrey Lehman, Esq. 1972	Darryl Myrose 1995
Carroll Andres 1957	Jeffrey Rotwitt, Esq. 1972	Richard Thompson, M.D. 1995
Fred Smith 1957	David L. Lloyd, Esq. 1974	Lee Wesner 1995
Carl Foley 1958	Howard Katelansky 1975	Quang Bang O 1996
Frederick Osterholtz 1959	Mark S. Swotinsky 1975	Stephen Gresdo 1996
Thomas Tay 1959	Kevin Duffy 1976	Richard Steinmeier 1996
Henry J. Wilewski, Esq. 1959	Raymond Stahl, Jr. 1977	Jason Kirschner 1997
David Callahan 1960	Anthony Mishik, M.D. 1979	Frank Catrickes 1998
H. R. Jellander 1960	Timothy Garvey M.D. 1980	Grant Geisen 1998
John Bryson 1962	Wayne Palladino 1980	Richard Chou 1999
Eric Gall M.D., MACP, MACR 1962	Bill Pearce 1980	Keith A. Lotman 1999
James Luther 1962	Richard S. Pzena 1980	John McCarty 1999
Daniel Van Winkle 1962	David Browne 1981	Daniel Olson 1999
Charles Wheeler 1963	Capt. Jeffrey Whiting 1981	Kyle Schroeder 2000
Ronald Dreger 1964	Marc Fox 1982	Joshua Krotec 2001
Daniel Fitzgerald 1964	Sid Bakst 1983	Edward Rhim 2001
Terry Rahmeier 1964	Douglas Roberts 1983	Greg Slawsky 2001
William Bateman 1965	Derek Warden 1983	Randy Cohn 2003
Conrad Eberstein 1965	Alec Willeson 1983	Matthew Dellelo 2003
James Spendiff 1965	Timothy Games 1984	

## Featured Brother

### The Remarkable Life of Pius L. Schwert, '13

#### *Penn SigEp Brother, NY Yankee and U.S. Congressman*

From *The Buffalo News*

#### **Who was the only New York Yankee player ever to go on to a career as a U.S. Congressman?**

U.S. Navy World War I Veteran and PA Delta Brother **Pius L. Schwert, '13!**

The Delta Penn found this information while researching SigEps who serve/served in the U.S. military and though you might find this information interesting and inspiring.

The remarkable life of a man nicknamed Pi played out in Western New York years before there ever was a movie or book of the same name. He is largely forgotten now, obscured by time and overrun by events, but Pius Louis "Pi" Schwert had a life worth remembering in the widely disparate worlds of sports and politics.

That dichotomy can be summed up in the kind of trivia question beloved by baseball fans: **Who was the only New York Yankee player ever to go on to a career as a U.S. congressman?**

The answer is Schwert, an Angola native and backup catcher for the Yankees who debuted at the same time as a young Boston Red Sox pitcher named Babe Ruth. Schwert went on to become a highly popular Erie County clerk and played a prominent role in local amateur athletics for decades, before he was elected as a U.S. representative from Western New York.

He collapsed and died at a wedding dinner near Washington, D.C., on the eve of World War II, at a time when he was considering a run for mayor of Buffalo.

Pi Schwert, despite his organizing and sportsman's roles in amateur baseball and basketball here, his two seasons with the newly renamed

Yankees and his exploits as an early collegiate All-American, isn't even in the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame or the Buffalo Baseball Hall of Fame. Neither the Yankees nor the National Baseball Hall of Fame have much more than basic information on him.

There's probably a good reason why he has been overlooked – he only played in 12 games for the Yankees of 1914 and 1915, had 24 at-bats and logged a respectable but unspectacular batting average of .208. He did play for the Buffalo Bisons from 1920 to 1922, but that was in a sort of emergency role that he had to work in around his new career as a banker.

Still, Schwert had a remarkable life, especially for his times. He was born on Nov. 22, 1892, in Angola, the son of Julius and Louise Schwert and the grandson of a German immigrant who had been a saloon keeper in Hamburg in the 1870s and a hotelier in Brant in the 1880s. Julius was a banker and businessman who served as the Evans town treasurer and clerk, and as town supervisor for 17 years.

Julius and Louise sent their son to Angola High School, and later to "post graduate" high school classes at Lafayette High School in Buffalo. All that study was good enough to earn young Pius admission to the University of Pennsylvania's prestigious Wharton School of Commerce in Philadelphia, where – unlike the rest of the hard men from the coal fields and farms who made up most of professional baseball at the time – he emerged with a degree in economics in 1914.

#### **An early All-American**

At Penn, Pi was an impressive student. He became president of the Wharton Association, and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, Friars

Society, Scalp and Blade Society and the Christian Association.

He also emerged, though, as a baseball player. He was a member of the freshman class baseball team in 1911, then spent the next three years as the starting catcher for the varsity squad. By his senior year he was captain of the team and was picked for the All-American college team.

Julius probably wasn't all that happy, but his son Pi still had some baseball oats to sow. Instead of using that economics degree in his father's trade of banking, which was certainly as open to him then as it would be later on, Pi signed on with the New York Yankees – who, until just a year earlier in 1913, had been the New York Highlanders. He was assigned no uniform number; players didn't wear numbers at the time. One of the few photos from his baseball career shows him lined up with three other Yankees, inexplicably wearing a white home uniform while the rest are in road-game grays.

Another photo shows Schwert catching in practice while American League base-stealing champ Fritz "The Catonsville Flash" Maisel is at the plate. Forget batting helmets – the Yankee third baseman isn't even wearing a cap, in this shot.

Swert didn't have to go far to sign with the Yankees. They were in Philadelphia when he joined the club managed by Hall of Famer Frank Chance. A Pittsburgh Press sports-writer of the time, following the then-common practice of naming teams by the leagues they played in, picked up on the news that July.

**Read the rest of this story at [www.PennSigEp.com](http://www.PennSigEp.com).**