



The Delta Penn

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

26th Annual Raymond C. McCron Dinner
Thursday, April 16

6:30 p.m. - Reception
7:15 p.m. - Brief Program

The Penn Club

30 West 44th Street
New York City

RSVP by Friday, April 10 to
Brett Danko at 609-203-3477
or brett@brettdanko.com.

Cost:

\$100 per person -
"Fellow" level

\$125 per person -
"Good Fellow" level

\$150 per person -
"Jolly Good Fellow" level
(additional funds augment
undergraduate attendance)

After RSVPing to Brett
via phone or email, make
your check payable to
"Pennsylvania Delta
Foundation" and mail to:

Brett Danko
39 Green Ave.
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

**Penn Alumni Weekend
Gathering at the Chapter
House**
May 16

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We have recently learned of
the deaths of the following
brothers.

Hank Pope '43
Edgar Waite Jr. '49
Rev. Dr. Charles Kapps '61

Chapter Eternal

Penn Delta SigEp Loses Two Icons

In Loving Memory of Hank Pope '43 and Louvilgia "Lou" Shores, Beloved Wife of Penn Delta's Long-Time Cook, Jack

By Brett Danko '90, President, Pennsylvania Delta Foundation

It is with great sadness that we announce two deaths within the SigEp Penn Delta community – **Hank Pope '43** and **Louvilgia "Lou" Shores**, wife of our departed brother Jack Shores.

Henry "Hank" Pope '43 passed way in Red Bank, NJ on March 14, 2015. Brother Pope's health had been declining over the past few years, though his caring wife of 50+ years Elaine made sure that he was always comfortable. Hank will be forever linked to the series of "newsletters" during WWII that allowed the Penn Delta SigEp brothers serving our country across the globe to stay in touch, improve morale and to make sure their service and sacrifice were not forgotten by those stateside (remember NO email or TV coverage back then). These letters were later edited and compiled in the book "Brothers in War," published in 2005. He will be greatly missed.

On another sad note, Jack Shores' beloved "Lou" passed away in early March. Lou had been suffering from dementia since before Jack's passing and the alumni board (through generous alumni donations) helped pay for in-home nursing care, treatments and medications not covered by Medicaid. Lou's daughter Marlene and son Jack have been incredibly grateful to the brotherhood for the love and support they have shown Lou since Jack's death.

Lou was the one that allowed Jack to spend as much time as he did at the SigEp chapter house, which in turn allowed a generation of brothers to learn from him and partake in his wisdom (and/or a proper "schooling" in the billiard room). Jack made it a point to NEVER

spend the night away from Lou, and I believe they only spent a few nights apart in their 50+ years together. Jack once explained that he always wanted to wake up and see Lou as soon as he opened his eyes. He then said to me – "I hope every brother finds someone they feel this way about in their life".

The family will have a private service

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later this year, and her ashes will be scattered along with Jack's to make sure they will be together forever. The alumni board is helping with the final expenses relating to her death and will likely honor her with a tree near their North Philadelphia home.

If anyone would like to donate money in honor of either of the departed, please send in a check made payable to "Pennsylvania Delta Foundation" with "Memorial Gift" in the subject line, or go online to www.pennsigep.com. Monies will be used toward Lou's final expenses and/or to SigEp Leadership Fund for undergraduate scholarships.

LIGHT THE NIGHT

SigEp Comes Together To Combat Mental Illness

Until the 2013-2014 academic year, everyone at Penn was well aware that the school was stressful, difficult, and took a toll on its students. However, this reality was always seen as part of the Ivy League education, something to be proud of, thought of as prestigious, and not condemned for its effects on the student body. After the loss of four classmates to suicide in one school year, this all changed.

“By sharing our light, we do not lose any of our own, but we can limitlessly provide for others.”

The tragedies our campus experienced during this past academic year intimately affected each of us as members of the student body, and too often as loving friends of those we lost. The university took action to create a task force and ramp up mental health treatment at our student health center, but we felt, as a chapter, that this issue was

too pressing and too pervasive to leave to the higher-ups and ignore simply because we did not have administrative power.

Within our chapter, we talked extensively about what could be done and even met with the university’s therapists to discuss how to support our brothers if they experienced such difficulties. The chapter then launched a comprehensive effort to develop a program called Light the Night with the intention to present students with an opportunity for dialogue and to let those who suffer know that they are not alone.

The creation of the program was one that brought together many groups, opinions and backgrounds on campus. Within our brotherhood, we presented the idea and had a team of about eight brothers who worked on making the idea into something feasible and effective. We began with an introduction as to what mental health is generally believed to be, then expanded this idea through performances by approximately a dozen individuals and groups, includ-

ing poetry, stories, songs, dances, etc.

We decided on opening the program by giving every audience member a candle upon entry. As the program began, one candle was lit with a match. Then students symbolically shared this light with each other as they proceeded to light each other’s candles. This gesture to begin the night was very representative of our goal for this program and the outcome that it achieved. The idea being that by sharing our light, we do not lose any of our own, but we can limitlessly provide for others.

As a result of our efforts, we raised over \$1,000 for the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, we were featured in an article in the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, and most importantly, we successfully fostered dialogue about an issue that so tragically affects the lives of our peers.

Find pictures from the event at www.thedp.com/article/2014/11/lightthenight.

THE Y-PRIZE

Brother Teddy Guenin, (W’15 & SEAS’15) Wins Y-Prize

Teddy Guenin recently had the opportunity to participate in a competition in Penn’s Engineering School called the Y-Prize, which tasked teams with finding great commercial applications for their lab-based technologies. This year, the technology was graphene, and through some experience on applied sensor technologies, Teddy was able to immediately see a perfect fit. Graphene works

well as a sensor due to its high surface area ratio and high conductivity - even though it is just single layers of graphite, much like your pencil “lead” - and therefore it can be placed in a configuration that senses chemicals.

Combining his knowledge with some connections at Penn biosensor startup companies, Teddy assembled a pitch with friend Ashwin Amurthur, also majoring in bioengineering and entrepreneurial management. Their idea: there are currently no sufficient chemical sensors that can detect when fracking fluids leak into groundwater, but with a graphene sensor, municipalities and oilfield service companies can be sure to detect when a leak happens, so the situation can be remedied quickly without water contamination.

Fast forward to today - after develop-

ing the idea and receiving validation of the technology by many experts, Teddy and Ashwin presented findings at the final round for the Y-Prize and won the contest! The award was \$5,000, hardly enough to start a sensor technology company, but the prize also awarded them a commercial license to several key Penn patents that concern graphene production and application. Ashwin and Teddy are finalizing licensing plans, and are excited to present their prototype to oilfield service companies for beta testing in the near future. The market is excited to finally be able to detect the harmful carcinogens in water, and there is an inkling of hope that the success of the sensor will enable fracking operations to continue where they are currently banned due to safety concerns.



SPRING 2015 CHAPTER UPDATE

Brotherhood Remains Tight Knit, Many Join The Fold

By Tadas Antanavicius '16

Every semester since the chapter membership review a half decade ago has shown marked improvement. There have been some perceived ups and downs, but the foundations upon which the chapter stands, marked by the increasing quality of rushes that sign bids year after year, continues to remain strong and with no signs of slowing down.

In Fall 2014, the chapter undertook the venture of Fall Rush, a period where only sophomores and older unaffiliated students can be offered membership in Greek Life. Traditionally, very few chapters on campus utilize this opportunity to boost membership with high quality members that just so happened to not find the right fit in the previous semester. PA Delta ended the first month of classes by welcoming seven new members into the brotherhood – an exceptional number considering this was the chapter's first attempt at Fall Rush.

As Fall Rush was underway, the annual Balanced Man Scholarship process was simultaneously being used to start meeting freshmen candidates for Spring Rush. After a series of successful events, the BMS Banquet gave out the alumni-sponsored awards totaling \$2,000 to the top three candidates. Ultimately, two of those top three candidates took bids from us in

the Spring – a feat that has never been accomplished in the existence of PA Delta's BMS process.

Despite Greek recruitment at Penn being at a low, Spring Recruitment impressively brought the chapter 18 new members. Looking ahead, the chapter will shift its focus this spring to brotherhood development, personal development, and giving back to the Penn and local community. These will be accomplished through a concentrated effort to push forth brotherhood programming events, a revitalized approach to the Balanced Man Program, and a new commitment to each individual member pitching in to perform community service.

“Despite Greek recruitment at Penn being at a low, Spring Recruitment impressively brought the chapter 18 new members.”

Brotherhood programming has historically been difficult to plan and execute, but the few times it has come about it was met with great success. In Fall 2014, the brotherhood went on a paintballing trip together, and now in Spring 2015, we're expanding that effort. February already brought us a

well-received weekend ski trip, and the chapter is still looking forward to a Phillies game outing and a brotherhood weekend in the Poconos.

The aspects of personal development and community service are pushed forth by revitalized programs across the Sigma, Phi, and Epsilon Challenges. There has been a particular focus on further developing the new member education process in the Sigma challenge, including initiatives to emphasize education regarding member safety, risk management, and bystander intervention. And the ideals of Sound Mind and Sound Body have their share of initiatives pushing them forth as well.

As Greek Life nationwide continues to undergo increased scrutiny, Greek Life at Penn has not escaped a similar internal dialogue. The fraternity landscape fifty years ago was not the same as it was twenty-five years ago, which was not the same as it is today. It's but a matter of time until the landscape changes again – and I have faith the chapter's current direction will keep PA Delta ahead of the curve, ready to capitalize on its strong foundation and adequate forethought.

UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE

Spending a Semester in the Happiest Place on Earth (Not Disneyland)

By Andrew Rho '16

On my way to Copenhagen, Denmark, I was getting cold feet and my mind anxiously burned with two questions I couldn't answer. Why am I studying abroad? Why Denmark? But as I landed in the airport, the *lufthavn*, and looked upon the paper-flat surface of the city, the jitters cleared immediately. I was ready to plunge into my new home for the next four months.

My semester abroad was so diverse and meaningful, and comes close to perfect in many ways. I was blessed to

meet so many Danes who are amazing at English, so much so that students around the world choose Denmark to improve their own English skills. I was lucky to attend Copenhagen Business School and be challenged by intelligent, international business students and professors. With a bike, I took time to explore the city which is riddled with excellent restaurants, nightlife, famous landmarks, and lovely scenery. And with my free weekends, I went on adventures through the world's most attractive cit-

ies in Europe.

Looking back, I can honestly say that the flight across the Atlantic felt longer than the whole semester itself. But deciding to leave Penn for a semester was not easy. Without my close brothers in SigEp and all the incredible resources that Penn offers, it goes without saying that studying abroad can be a risk. But now, I realize that this was a risk worth taking.

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Stephen Gresdo '96: From Mixers with Villanova to Wall Street

This month we sat down with **Stephen Gresdo '96** to talk about life after SigEp.

Thanks for taking the time to do this. First, could you speak about what you do and how you got to this point in your career?

Sure. So since 2013, I've been running my own hedge fund. I graduated in '96 and went to work on Wall Street. For nearly 20 years now, I've worked at investment banks as a trader or at hedge funds as a portfolio manager. Most recently, I was a proprietary trader at Barclays. Due to regulatory changes and me wanting to do my own thing, I decided to leave and go out on my own. I've been running my own company for about a year and a half now. I like working for myself rather than being one of 28,000 employees.

What has your involvement in the chapter been like since you left Penn, and how has that experience been for you?

I like to think that the class of '96, my class, has been pretty involved. When it comes to Homecoming, the McCron dinner, giving back to the house with both time and dollars, or just getting together, the class of '96 has a great turn out. We used to do an annual summer gathering. It started when immediately after graduation, former president (**Rich Steinmeier '96**) moved to Cleveland, and we did a summer get together there. We would all go to Cleveland every summer for a long three-day weekend to play golf, hit the town, whatever we felt like. Eventually, Rich decided to go to Stanford Business School, and **Quang O '96**, who lived in Spicer, Minnesota, picked up the summer gathering. Guys would all go up to his lake house in Minnesota. We would play golf, get out on the lake, go bowling, all of that. We did that for 6 or 7 summers. The amount of guys we were able to get together for these was always impressive. It's

a great thing to see as an alumnus. Another example is just this past summer. We decided to rent a house in the Poconos. Half the group was from the class of '96, and half from '97. Guys from all over the country came. Here we are 20 years later, and we're still getting together.

Also, for the current seniors, any advice for how to remain involved and get the most out of SigEp as an alumnus?

My advice to the younger guys is that if you have an hour to spend, spend the entire hour to get in touch with someone who has been somewhat involved, and not the guy who actively chooses to be absent. They've chosen to be that way and that's fine, but it's more worthwhile to reach out to someone who has been less involved and has shown effort in the past. That hour you spend may get him to come to the next event or re-engage with the brotherhood in some other way.

What is your best memory from your undergraduate days in SigEp?

Some would say the female scene at Penn leaves something to be desired. We had 30 fraternities and 8 sororities, so the ability to consistently pull off great mixers could be a challenge. A few of the sororities were always fully-engaged when it came to mixing, (Chi O and Alpha Phi come to mind); but others seemed to mail it in. So one day some of us class of '96 guys said forget this, we'll just go to Villanova and find a party there. We would get on Septa and just head out and look for parties. We went to SigEp parties there once in a while and ended up meeting enough girls to get their sororities to come to Penn. So we started talking to Villanova sororities, the idea being that they would come to us. We called up Villanova's Alpha Phi and told them we would have a very nice, formal mixer with a full bar (low quality

alcohol of course). At 8 o'clock, two yellow school buses packed with girls pull up. The nuns come in first and set ground rules. They tell us the girls have to leave at midnight, no girls could go upstairs, etc. We proceed to have a blowout party with a DJ in the basement. Inevitably, some girls snuck upstairs anyway.

When midnight came, some of the girls were crying because they didn't want to leave. Girls at these other schools wanted to mix with us. At Penn, mixers can feel like obligations, whereas these girls from other schools really want to go. They're excited to mix with Penn guys. After all, we're going to be successful, we're employable.

Could you tell us more about your life outside of your career? (Family, hobbies, etc)

I travel quite a bit, not extensively. I go on a nice trip once a month, maybe. Maybe once a year I'll go to Europe or South America. Usually meet up with a friend somewhere in the country, maybe San Francisco, Miami, Boston, Las Vegas, etc. Most of my time is taken up by work and traveling.

Regrets from your undergraduate years?

The greatest mistake in my time at Penn is that I didn't explore the city or the surrounding communities as much as I should have. I know it's crazy, you're involved, you're busy, but when I look back, just going downtown, hopping on the blue line, and heading to Old City or Rittenhouse Square is a great experience and it's so easy to do. I would do it every now and again, but I regret not doing it more. I spent four years in college and I walked up and down South Street maybe twice. Other things like making road-trips to area schools to see friends more often would have been great as well.

Want the full story? See it on our website at www.PennSigEp.com.