

## EVENTS

## 26th Annual McCron Dinner

April 7 @ NYC

## Alumni Weekend

May 14-15

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

## President

Brett Danko '90  
brett@brettdanko.com

## Vice President

Brett Merves '05

## Treasurer

Andrew Hua '92

## VP of Communications

Dan Olson '99

## Other Board Members

Conrad Eberstein '65

Tim Games '84

William Shilling '66

David French '51

Joe Langella '83

## BY THE NUMBERS

Pennsylvania Delta Chapter works in partnership with a third-party graduate relations firm to maintain a database of our brothers to ensure we're reaching as many graduates as possible through our print and email communications.

As brothers move and change jobs, we sometimes lose their current mailing and email addresses and lose touch with them. Here is a snapshot of our current database:

**Total active alumni:** 882  
(have a mailing address on file)

**Lost brothers:** 102 (10.37%)  
(no current mailing address on file)

**Valid email addresses:** 813  
(82.62%)

Help us stay up-to-date with your brothers by updating their contact information (or update your own if you've moved recently) by emailing us at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).

Your info will never be traded or sold.



# The Delta Penn

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

## CHAPTER UPDATE

## The SigEp "Red Door" is Always Open

Greetings fellow Alumni! It is my honor and pleasure to have the leading article in this edition of the Delta Penn. When Alumni Board President, **Brett Danko '90**, and I started discussing themes for this article, we agreed that the theme of the SigEp "Red Door" was a good one to share.

I believe you will recall the significance of the SigEp "Red Door", but in case you do not, the idea originated at the SigEp Syracuse New York Alpha Chapter in 1928. The tradition of the "Red Door" spread to all other SigEp chapters and means that wherever you find it, members, new and old, are always welcome to walk through and share the brotherhood of SigEp.

I recently attended our annual Senior Dinner this past February and had a great opportunity to meet with **Dan de Luca '90**. Serving on the alumni board, I have heard or seen his name at one point or another, but never met him in person. I must say that I was really impressed with him as a person and enjoyed our meeting. He has a great sense of humor, interesting career and, most importantly, he is a Penn Delta SigEp!

The challenge we give our seniors at the Senior Dinner is to ask each senior and alumni to stand up and give a brief speech about what being a SigEp has meant to them and what they are going to do to leave their mark on the chapter before graduation as well as contribute to the house long after they graduate. Often, brothers, possibly filled with brotherly love and some wine, give grand and emotional speeches with big intentions and rarely wind up meeting those expectations.



Dan, however, offered a different perspective...he claimed he wasn't a great brother, not engaged or heavily involved while an undergraduate and, as many of us can relate, post-graduation it is much harder to contribute given life's challenges with career and family. Dan told everyone present that being at the dinner he instantly felt reconnected and part of

the family again, as if he never left. His main point was that, given perspective and time, he realizes how much a part of his life SigEp is and, while he feels he has been disconnected, it felt good to be welcomed and share his stories with brothers and alumni.

What made his speech so heartwarming to me was that, in that instant, we all gave him great respect for sharing his story. Everyone in that room, brother and alumni alike has had their fair share of disconnection from the chapter and everyone at one point or another has had other external pressures that draw them away from fraternity life, but that fraternal tie that binds us together is simply enough to share stories and a deep connection.

I sat back and listened intently as his story is probably similar to many other alumni members of this fraternity. It doesn't matter if you have not been involved over the years. Please consider attending one of our events, joining the alumni board, contributing to the annual fund and suggesting others in your class to do the same or simply visiting us at [www.pennsigep.com](http://www.pennsigep.com) and updating your contact information (or emailing [brett@brettdanko.com](mailto:brett@brettdanko.com)).

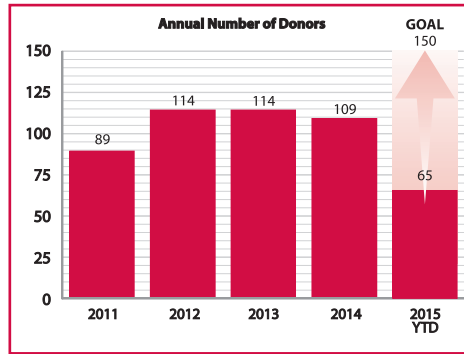
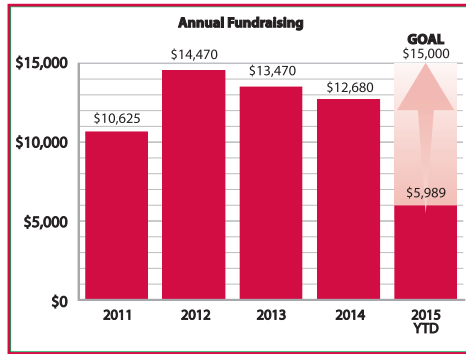
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## More Than 60% of us Have Never Contributed!

Our annual fund for the 2015-2016 giving year began on September 1 and, so far, we have received 65 donations for a total of \$5,989 toward our goal of \$15,000 from 150 donors. We greatly appreciate all donations we have

already received, however we have a ways to go during the next five months. **Did you know that over 60% of all alumni have never made a donation back to Pennsylvania Delta Chapter?**

It is tax return season, so now is the perfect time to make your contribution to Pennsylvania Delta Chapter! It's easy to do, just visit our website at [www.SigEpPenn.com](http://www.SigEpPenn.com) click "Donate" in the top right hand corner. You can then choose to mail in a check,



call our donation hotline or make a donation online.

Alumni communications. Events. Scholarships. House updates. These are just a few of the things that donations to our annual fund help us to provide. Our chapter

relies 100% on alumni donations to ensure the bright future of Pennsylvania Delta Chapter of SigEp at Penn.

We would like to thank our top five all time donors; **Brett Danko '90, Donald Sontag '53, Conrad Eberstein '65, David Lloyd Jr. '74** and **Mr. Stephen Gresdo '96** for their generous donations over the years, as well as the 65 men who contributed so far this giving year.

## UPCOMING EVENT

### 26th Annual McCron New York City Penn Delta Dinner



The McCron dinner has evolved to become an evening of warmth, fellowship, generational brotherhood, and occasional networking.

Please join us at the 26th Annual Raymond C. McCron NYC dinner on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Penn Club in NYC to reconnect with pledge brothers, meet and network with other alumni and current brothers.

The Penn Club  
30 West 44th Street  
New York City

Reception at 6:30 p.m., Brief Program at 7:15 p.m.

**\$100 per person – "Fellow" level**  
**\$125 per person – "Good Fellow" level**  
**\$150 per person – "Jolly Good Fellow" level**

RSVP with by Thursday, March 31st, 2016 to Brett Danko | (609) 203-3477 | [brett@brettdanko.com](mailto:brett@brettdanko.com)

Visit our website at [www.pennsigep.com](http://www.pennsigep.com) to download and print the form, then mail the form and a check made payable to "Pennsylvania Delta Foundation" to:

Brett Danko  
39 Green Ave.  
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



## ALUMNUS PROFILE

Contributed by Edward Zilberbrand

**Adrian Lievano '15** is a recent alumnus of Penn and brother of SigEp Penn Delta. His pledge brothers claim one of the smartest people you'll ever meet and a man who's hoping to change the world. Lievano is the CEO of Everwaters, a recent startup that works to provide clean water access to people in need across the world. All of this happens through the seed of the Moringa Tree, which grows throughout India, Central America and the Caribbean. However, it is only because of Lievano's dedication and efforts that the seeds from this simple tree will eventually bring clean water to those who need it the most, at a much lower cost than any other solution.

Lievano came up with the idea while trying to answer an important question: what is the biggest problem the world faces? Realizing that one of the most important things we have on this planet, water, is in short supply and clean drinking water is even in shorter supply, he set out to fix the problem. After doing research, he discovered the Moringa Tree, whose seeds can remove over 99.99% of bacteria in water through natural purification means. In fact, in a recent chapter meeting, Lievano came in drinking water he had purified earlier from the local Schuylkill River, a body of water over ten times as contaminated as water in most developing countries.

With the means behind him, Lievano



*Adrian Lievano (middle) with co-founder and Dr. Amy Gutman receiving the Penn President's Engagement Prize*

began putting his efforts into raising awareness and funds for his project. While still at Penn, he won the first ever President's Engagement Prize and was selected as one of the inaugural Penn10, the ten most impressive students of the year as selected by the Daily Pennsylvanian and alumni judges. With the money raised from these endeavors, Lievano was able to travel to Kenya for two months, where he was able to do on-the-ground research and learn more about how to make the purification system accessible to all. While in Kenya, he experienced one of his most impactful moments— seeing a little girl drinking out of the same water pit as all of the other local animals

while he was on a safari through the countryside. With this vision in mind, Lievano hopes to start his efforts in Kenya and then branch out to the rest of East Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America and eventually the US through his social enterprise centered on accessible water purification for all.

Beyond accomplishments in his own projects, Lievano is a SigEp Penn Delta brother at heart. During his time at Penn, he was heavily involved in the Brotherhood Development Cabinet and even served as a New Member Educator for a semester. Even now that he's graduated, Adrian still swings by the house whenever he is in Philadelphia to chat with new members, share the wisdom

that he's learned over the years and lend an open ear to anyone who wants to talk.

Lievano is currently crowd source fundraising in order to qualify for the Millennial Train project, a 10 day trip across the USA in which 30 Millennials have the opportunity to present their ideas to and speak with politicians in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and other major cities. He is hoping that this trip further empowers him to continue his mission of having an impact on the world, one cup of purified water at a time.

*To learn more about Lievano's efforts, visit [www.indiegogo.com](http://www.indiegogo.com) and search "Everwaters-Mowa".*

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Fred Smith '57

While living in the house, my wife, Phylis, along with several other nurses from Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia came to the house one night and were quite noisy. As I was taking civil engineering at the time and was trying to study, these girls were making a lot of noise and, as they exited the back door, I poured water on them from the 4th floor.

At the time, I did not know any of the girls except Marilyn, **Fred Achenbach ('57)**'s girlfriend. After graduation, Fred married Marilyn. I was an usher in Fred's wedding and my wife, Phylis, was a bridesmaid. After the wedding I started to date Phylis and last December she and I celebrated our 57th anniversary. I guess you could say

we met in SPE on that night when I poured water on her, but really didn't know her for several years later.



### Joe Halprin '87

Celebrated Evan's 50th awhile back—the really young one in the middle. I stayed up 'til dawn... been a while for that. Otherwise have not done a great job staying in touch - with "the Family."

*You can send your update to our editor at [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).*

## UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER UPDATE

### This Semester Shows Specific Strengths in Leadership

Spring is upon us, and yet another semester seems to be flying by. After a successful fall semester, the Penn Delta chapter has continued its progress and has seen the reward for its hard work so far this year. Recruitment, the early focus of the spring semester, went exceptionally well, and would not have been possible without the hard work of Vice President of Recruitment **Werner Glass** and **Andrew Kerber**, our sophomore Recruitment Chair. Penn Delta brought in 26 new members that represent the best of the Penn community through their leadership, character and diversity. From varsity athletes to musical artists, the newest class will undoubtedly motivate the chapter to improve and expand as a premiere organization on Penn's campus.

The Sigma Challenge has also been refined this semester as we continuously work to determine what is most effective in developing our youngest brothers. Thanks to Vice President of Member Development **Matt Triano** and Volunteer **James Acosta**, we have been able to more effectively implement our challenges, and we are

working toward the development of a Brother Mentor challenge this semester.

This semester, we have seen specific strengths in our brothers' leadership roles and their initiatives in order to progress academically, socially and professionally. **Brother Mazin Blaik** was chosen to travel to Texas to compete in Elon Musk's Hyperloop challenge as part of Penn's team of engineers. The chapter also has several potential new members for the Order of Omega, the Greek leadership honor society and prospective members of cultural and leadership senior societies on campus. Penn Delta is once again represented strongly on the Undergraduate Assembly, on Class Boards and on the executive board of the IFC. As for SigEp leadership, we had ten members, both current and emerging leaders, attend CLA in Stamford in February and have worked to integrate these ideas into our chapter programming.

Our Alumni Speaker Series also remains a staple in our professional development efforts, as the chapter was honored to welcome **Vito Fossella '87** to campus

on February 29 to address the chapter and discuss how his SigEp experience has shaped his personal and professional life. We appreciated his time and his sentiments as we all learned about the history of our own chapter as well as how much of an impact the chapter can have on a brother's life moving forward. In addition to these initiatives, we are eager to continue the expansion of brotherhood leadership and development on campus and beyond.

As the semester progresses, we are looking forward to continuing to work with our community service partners, such as Open Kitchen, the VA hospital and many other Philadelphia-based initiatives. We also intend to organize another large-scale philanthropy event later this semester.

Thank you to the alumni who have contributed and allowed us to continue our valued traditions such as Senior Dinner and the annual McCron Dinner, where we look forward to continuing and strengthening the relationship between our members and our alumni.

-Steven Acchione, Chapter President

### RECENT EVENTS

#### Alumni Speaker Series



Vito Fossella '87

On February 29, the brothers of SigEp Penn Delta were fortunate enough to have alumnus **Vito Fossella '87** visit as part of the house's Speaker Series. Fossella, who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 12 years, was able to share his political experience as well as his memories from his time at Penn. Brothers loved hearing about how the idea of having a new bar in the basement came into fruition, as well as the lively political debate that everyone engaged

in at the end of the Speaker Series. New members were especially excited to meet an alumnus and learn about the impact SigEp has on its brothers post-graduation.

If you are interested in visiting the house and sharing your own experiences and memories with current brothers, don't hesitate to reach out to **Edward Zilberbrand**, VP Communications for SigEp Penn Delta, at [ezilb@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:ezilb@wharton.upenn.edu).

### CHAPTER UPDATE

#### "Red Door" is Always Open

(Continued from Page 1)

Penn Delta was fortunate to have the services of **Jim Hughes '52** at a time the chapter truly needed it. Jim balanced career and family, but after 40 years of NOT being involved in the house, he took charge of the physical plant and made it the "safest and best maintained house at Penn" (University's words, not mine). Not everyone needs to show this much dedication, but hopefully others will read this will become part of the fabric of Penn Delta in the coming years.

I hope this story doesn't embarrass Dan as I truly appreciated his perspective and strongly feel that his story isn't different from many other stories I've heard from many other alumni. What I do hope is that many of you are able to relate and understand that no matter how "active" you have been, past or present, that the proverbial SigEp "Red Door" is always open to you and that we, both Alumni Board and Chapter, always look forward to seeing you at our events and hope that someday you will be able to reconnect with us in one way or another.

All the best!

HFF

**Dan Olson '99**, Alumni Board Member, VP of Communications