



The Delta Penn

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

ALUMNI EVENT

See You At The Chapter House!

Please join us Saturday, May 13 for our annual Alumni Weekend Gathering at the SigEp Chapter House at 4028 Walnut Street. We will begin festivities following the Alumni Day Picnic around 3:30 PM until 6 PM. Please visit www.alumni.upenn.edu for other activities during Penn Alumni Weekend May 12th - 14th.

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Pennsylvania Delta Foundation

Keeping Our Fraternity Strong!

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CHAPTER HOUSE FACILITY UPDATE

Strong Fiscal Footing at 4028 Walnut

By Brett Merves '05- Alumni Vice President



As the spring semester draws to a close, we continue preparations for Chapter House improvements, new project plans, and enhancements to the facility.

All of these efforts help to foster a continued sense of Brotherhood not only to the 24 house residents, but to the Undergraduate Brotherhood at large. The Sigma Phi Epsilon Chapter House remains a superior facility for all campus Brothers and Alumni.

In recent years the UPenn Office of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (OFSA) has implemented a new and improved facility management oversight initiative to help all Chapter Houses. This will be the second year in which Campus Apartments will be overseeing the facilities management of the SigEp Chapter House. This will help centralize needed repairs, reduce maintenance costs and better organize large structural projects like those which are required on a house originally built in 1896.

Last month the Undergraduate Chapter President and House Manager attended the annual fiscal operating budget meeting at OFSA. I'm happy to report our Chapter budget is on extremely-sound footing and has room for all necessary repairs this upcoming year.

This past year we have upgraded the heating system, replaced various bedroom rugs, new kitchen chairs and tables, and a refaced front deck. Some of the upcoming renovations on our schedule include exterior painting, landscaping, masonry repairs on the original house pillars, new driveway, and all new windows in the Chapter House. Maintaining this 120-year-old house is expensive but necessary to maintain the cohesiveness of the Brotherhood and Alumni at times. We've had so many memories of our time as undergraduates living, visiting, and partying in the Chapter House.

I'm so glad to reassure our Alumni we have a strong fiscal footing here at 4028 Walnut Street. This will in turn help sustain our Undergraduate membership and provide a place of gathering for our Alumni.

Alumnus Reflects On Positive Role Models, Bonds, and Fellowship

“SigEp gave me some great role models during and after college”

Most of us have a slew of things we credit to becoming the person we are now. For Brother **Dan McCaughey '99**, his Fraternity takes the credit. Read on for his best memories and how SigEp molded him into the man he is today.

When I arrived at Penn, I didn't feel like I fit in very well. I was a hick from a mill town in rural New England. Most people I met at the beginning of freshmen year went to top private or suburban public schools. A lot of them knew many other Penn students before they got there. Most people from my high school didn't go to college at all, let alone an Ivy League school. I was a lap behind academically, and there were plenty of exclusive social circles where I never felt welcomed.

SigEp was refreshingly different from the rest of the school, in my experience at least. Not only did I feel welcomed there right out of the gate, but the brothers did not fit into any of the usual fraternity stereotypes. I think the one common denominator was that everyone at SigEp liked to have fun and was really good at it, in a school where that can be a rare trait. But the brothers were all from different parts of the country and different walks of life, and had different interests. I thought that those differences were part of the fraternity's strength, and they made it a very welcoming corner of the Penn campus for me - at SigEp it was a good thing not to fit the normal Penn stereotypes, because nobody else did either. That made the decision to join SigEp an easy one.

I was the chapter President for a year, and held other positions including Vice President, house manager, social chair, and not least of all the critical role of keg master. Some of my best memories were the most casual and low-key times from the fraternity: things like dinner at the house and lunch in the cafeteria with a big crew of brothers on a daily basis, pickup basketball games, marathon card games, and weekly get-togethers for Monday Night Football. I thought those times together brought out the best qualities of the fraternity, with entertaining stories, fun debates, and lots of laughs, which



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reflected the bonds and fellowship of an extraordinary group of friends.

After graduation I lived in New Orleans and worked as an English teacher at a public high school as a Teach for America Corp. member for two years. After that I moved back to Massachusetts for law school, where I've stayed to practice law. I am a partner in the Boston office of Ropes

& Gray, focusing primarily on business and securities litigation. My wife and I live north of Boston, and have a seven-year-old daughter and a five-year-old son.

SigEp gave me some great role models during and after college. Penn was a very competitive academic environment, and so many of the brothers in our house excelled academically - and later professionally - while balancing that success with a constant ability to have a good time and to be a good person. I have valued and tried to maintain that balance myself as best I can. I also learned a lot from the very different perspectives and priorities of my fraternity brothers, on things ranging from politics, to sports and music, to house improvements, to beer selection for parties, to people we should recruit. Those were valuable lessons on the benefits of listening to and learning from people with different ideas than your own. Most of all SigEp left me with a great group of friends for life. That includes guys from my class and the surrounding classes with whom I keep in touch (not as regularly as I'd like, but far more regularly than most of my other adult friends). But a more impressive testament to our crew might be the times when people who haven't seen each other in many years spend time together as if they haven't missed a beat, catching up on old times and on life's intervening developments just like they would have in the old days. That's always a reminder for me of how lucky we were and are for the good times and great friends that we made in college, even when that increasingly feels like a very long time ago.

Share your story

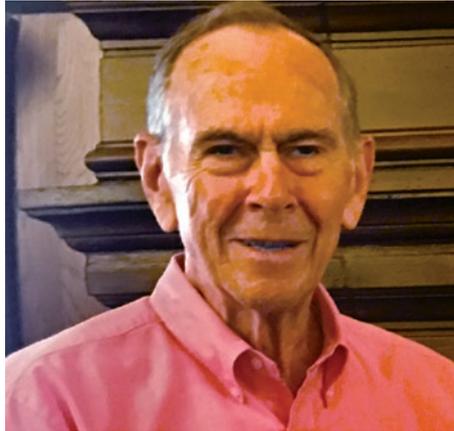
The stories of how your Greek experience helped you, taught you, made you the man you are today, helped you meet the love of your life, connected you to your first job... Share them with those who need to hear them. Send news and photos to

alumninews@affinityconnection.com

Looking Forward To Number 65

By Rogers "Rod" Vaughn '53

I have always felt very fortunate to have had a great education at Penn and to have been a SigEp. My first contact with the brothers at 3909 Spruce was in the spring of 1949 while I was a senior in high school. My guidance counselor urged me with two other friends to attend a weekend orientation at Penn. On the application form, she requested housing at Sigma Phi Epsilon since that was a familiar fraternity name for her. We were welcomed with open arms when we arrived at 3909 and were treated very warmly by all during our two day visit. When rushing started in October, I quite naturally headed to Sigma Phi Epsilon as my first stop. The fact that Jim Armstrong, my Thomas Penn dorm advisor was a SigEp, also was a factor. When the rushing period ended, eight pledges were from my dorm – **Dick Pelham '53, Dave Shirlaw '53, Gerry Kiefer '53, Pete Yurchak '53, Don Sontag '53, Norm Boudreau '53, Tony Squadrito '53,** and myself. Pete and I were roommates for two years at 3909; Gerry and I enlisted in the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps immediately upon graduation as the Korean War was still being fought and we faced being drafted. I remained in contact with Pete until his death several years ago and still get to see Don Sontag occasionally. I also get to see brothers from the classes of 1954 and 1955 – **Earl Conway '54, Bob Johnson '55, Clarke Glennon '55,** and



I've found it's always a joy to see the friends that were a significant factor in making my years at Penn so rewarding.

Aram Jerrehian '55. Earl, Bob and I live in the Hershey's Mill +55 community just outside West Chester. Until their passing, I also kept in touch with **Jim Hughes '52** and **Don Bux '53** and occasionally **Dave Ffrench '51.** I've found it's always a joy to see the friends that were a significant factor

in making my years at Penn so rewarding. I also have great memories about the love and kindness practiced by Dorsey Baker and Mr. Marshall who cared for and cooked for SigEp brothers for so many years. It was my privilege to have known them and been able to have so many enjoyable conversations with them. They were an integral part of the brotherhood I experienced.

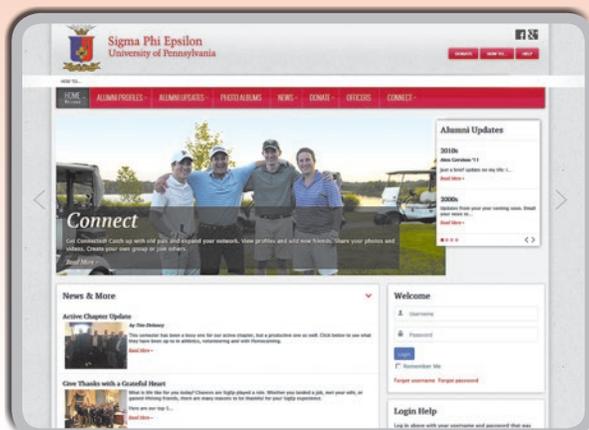
My three years in the army, two in Germany, provided me with great experiences and a close friendship with a WWII gunner on a bomber that lasted until his passing two years ago. Before leaving for Germany, I married my Penn Tri-Delt sweetheart and shortly before we returned to the US our son was born in Heidelberg.

My business career spanned 38 years with DuPont, 33 of them in Wilmington, Delaware, and five in Europe (Geneva and Brussels). The early part of my career was in advertising and marketing and later in business management. I was blessed to have been the worldwide business director for both the Teflon finishes and Corian businesses that provided me with great friendships and experiences around the world. I've been retired from DuPont since 1994 but continue to see regularly many of the people with whom I worked.

In addition to my business career, I've served on the West Chester public school board 16 years, eight years in the 1970s and 1980s and another eight years after retirement – 10 years as board president and two as vice-president. I also served 13 years on the board of a private school for learning disabled. Other activities like church treasurer, township long term planning and financial oversight of my son's business keep me active mentally in retirement. The passing of my wife four years ago after a great marriage of 58 years has left a void in my life but I remain blessed with my two children, their spouses and three grandchildren who live close and who continually bring joy into my life.

I get back to Penn every five years for the May alumni weekend and am looking forward to number 65 in 2018. I stopped at the Red Door and visited briefly following the class festivities in 2013.

STAY CONNECTED!



Alumni
www.pennsigep.com

Facebook
www.facebook.com/groups/15305569183

Undergraduate
www.penndelta.sigep.com

UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE

New Officers Take Over

The undergraduate chapter recently held elections for the upcoming school year. The incoming board will include:

- President - **Carrington Kyle '19**
- VP of Programming - **Matthew Moore '19**
- VP of Finance - **Sean Egan '18**
- VP of Member Development - **Andrew Rossi '19**
- VP of Recruitment - **Ryan Saavedra '20**
- VP of Communications - **Elias Zenkich '19**
- Chaplain - **William Morrison '18**

The incoming executive board brings a very fresh perspective and vision for the future of the house. The new president, **Carrington Kyle**, served as VP of Recruitment for the '16-'17 school year. Carrington has been incredibly involved in the leadership of the house since his freshman year, and we all look forward to seeing where his

creativity leads us this year. To replace him at the helm of recruitment, **Ryan Saavedra** brings a charismatic personality and young face to the position. The board has full intentions to recruit a fall class this year, and Ryan being close friends with several key rushes will be a great advantage. Carrington and Ryan will be working hard over the summer months to create a list of highly sought-after recruits from the spring to bring in for the fall class. **Matt Moore** returns to his role of VP of Programming after taking over this spring. After what is considered one of the better programming semesters the chapter has had, Matt was the obvious choice as the head of programming for another year. Matt is widely praised by brothers as having a unique drive and vision for programming, and his enthusiasm permeates to the rest of the brothers as well. Deliberations over several candidates were grueling and contentious, but the house is unanimously excited

about the drive and passion the new executive board brings.

Aside from elections, the chapter has been coming together much more this semester than in the past. One of our new members, **Hugh Reynolds '20**, is a member of the a cappella group, Counterparts. For their Friday night show, around 30 brothers went to the show with a SigEp flag to cheer on Hugh as he solo'd in the song Figures by Jessie Reyes. Also, several brothers went out to support **Alejandro Villasmil '18** in his show for **Onda Latina** and **Rahul Venkatesh '20** in his performance with Penn Dhamaka. Another new member, **Ryan Clyde '19**, is a member of the varsity lightweight rowing team, and we are hoping to get a group to go support him for one of his races towards the end of the semester. We hope to continue the precedent of supporting our brothers in performing arts groups and varsity sports for the semesters to come.

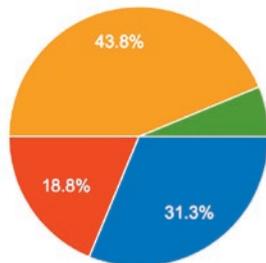
RECRUITMENT

Rush Yields 16 New Members

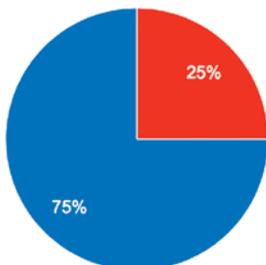
The 2017 rush process yielded some excellent additions to the PA Delta brotherhood. The brothers hosted events such as a lunch in a Brazilian steakhouse and a night out on the Benjamin Franklin Yacht with dates. Brothers especially enjoyed the new steakhouse event because it was very conducive to conversations with rushes in small, personal groups while eating our fill in well prepared food. We hope to continue adding events like these in the future to get to know our rushes better in intimate settings such as these.

After all was said and done, the new class is 16 young men we believe will greatly add to the house's value as a whole. New Members are:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Andrej Patoski | Ethan Ng Pack |
| Hugh Reynolds | Justin Swirbul |
| Kaden Diniz | Michael Bogdanos |
| Nathan Dangle | Noah Sinclair |
| Noah Werksman | Rahul Venkatesh |
| Ryan Clyde | Ryan Saavedra |
| Tiger Brown | Travis Wood |
| Vishal Tien | Zachary Sweeney |



- College of Arts and Sciences
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- 2020
- 2019

27th Annual Raymond C. McCron Dinner

