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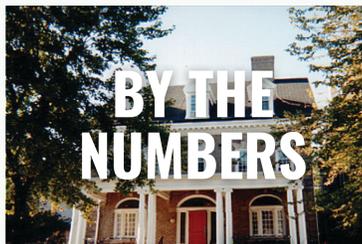
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SigEp



117

Years of
Pennsylvania Delta

\$20,000

Annual Fund Goal

\$10,743

Raised as of
June 1, 2021



78

Alumni Donors
Have Given

3

Ways for YOU to Give:

- Make a gift online at pennsigep.com.
- Call our Donation Hotline at 1-800-975-6699.
- Mail a check using the enclosed envelope and donation form.



www.PennSigEp.com

Spring 2021

The Delta Penn



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

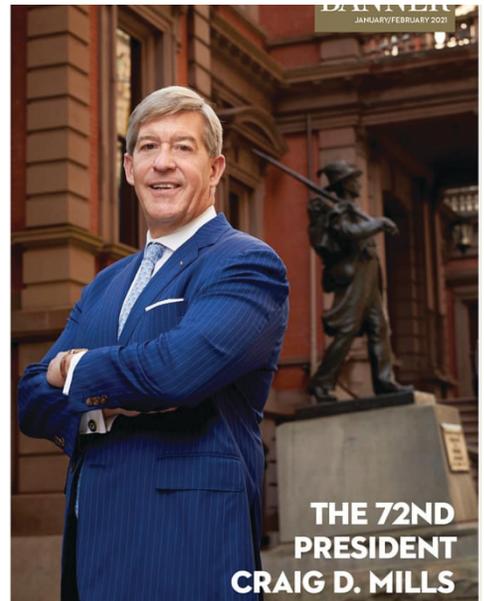
ALUMNI UPDATES

Brother Craig D. Mills '84, 72nd President of The Union League of Philadelphia

Brother **Craig D. Mills '84** is the 72nd President of The Union League of Philadelphia! He graced the cover of the most recent issue of their members' publication, *Banner*. We cheer on Brother Mills, who is currently an Executive Shareholder at Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC, in his leadership role at this Philadelphia landmark.

"Occupying an entire city block in the center of Philadelphia's commercial and cultural district, The Union League of Philadelphia is a historical organization dating back to 1862. Members of the organization represent the Philadelphia region's leaders in business, education, technology, healthcare, law, government, religion, art and culture."

- Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC News Article



THE 72ND
PRESIDENT
CRAIG D. MILLS

Dan Rosen '99 on the Wharton FinTech Podcast

Scan the QR code to listen now!



Brother **Dan Wharton '99** is the partner and founder of Commerce Ventures, a sector-focused venture capital fund that invests in infrastructure and enablers for the Commerce Continuum. He recently spoke on the Wharton FinTech Podcast, discussing his background, the evolution of the FinTech industry, and much more. Scan the QR code below to listen to the podcast.



Joey Lohmann C'22 Finds Lockdown Letters, Thanking Essential Workers

Joey Lohmann (C'22) is one of the founders and leaders of Lockdown Letters, an organization that has sent thousands of thank you notes to medical staff in hospitals around the country during the pandemic. The following article featuring the organization appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Source Courtesy of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

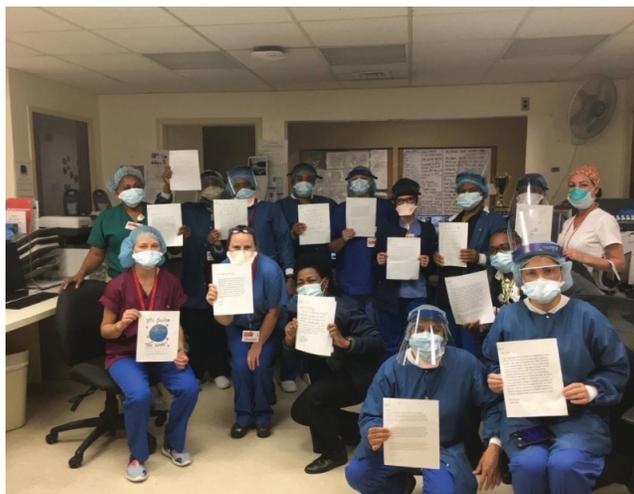
By: Bethany Ao

Rupa Palanki can still remember the hopelessness she felt when the University of Pennsylvania shut down in-person classes last March due to the pandemic. Palanki, now a 22-year-old Penn senior, had just returned to her hometown of Mobile, Ala., and desperately wanted to help in whatever way she could.

She began talking with friends about possible ways to provide community service during the pandemic, and the idea for Lockdown Letters, an initiative to send letters of appreciation to front-line workers such as doctors, nurses, and teachers, was born.

“We’re all usually very involved in community service, but obviously during the pandemic we can’t actually go out and do the things that we normally did,” Palanki said. “So we figured the next best thing that we could do was support the front-line workers who are out there every day.”

After a number of logistical meetings in March, Lockdown Letters was launched in early April. Palanki and the half-dozen other students who helped found the initiative spent countless hours reaching out to their alumni networks and community service clubs that could help them write letters, as well as emailing school districts and hospitals around



Health-care workers in New York City pose with the letters they've received.

the country that would benefit from receiving the letters. To date, the initiative has collected more than 13,000 letters that have reached front-line workers in more than 40 states.

Many of the letters include colorful illustrations and stickers. One letter writer shared how grateful she was that health-care workers were trying so hard to keep communities safe, saying that her uncle has stage 4 cancer and is considered high-risk. Another praised front-line workers for having “big hearts.”

“It’s expanded so much and we’ve had letter writers from [ages] 3 to 73,” said Preethi Kumaran, a 20-year-old Penn student who helped launch the project. “We’ve tried to expand beyond hospitals, like to firefighters and grocery store workers and other establishments we can make contact with. It’s been really cool to see letter writers from all different communities, even without us really pushing or asking. Many of them have been looking to help with something like this.”

Experts have sounded the alarm on increased burnout and worsening mental health among front-line workers since the beginning of the pandemic. Studies have suggested that health-care workers, in particular, have experienced increased stress, anxiety, depression, and insomnia due to COVID-19. Some have said they don’t

“feel like heroes anymore” — the moniker many people used to describe front-line workers’ efforts — as the pandemic nears its one-year anniversary.

But words of affirmation can make a real impact, the students found. After the first few batches of letters were sent out in April, health-care workers sent the organizers smiling photos of themselves with the notes.

The letters have received overwhelmingly positive responses from front-line workers.

“We have all been working so hard in all of the uncertainty,” said one nurse from Penn Medicine who received notes of appreciation last spring, including from the hospital’s Spread the Love campaign. “It is so heartwarming to see these messages scroll across my screen. For just a minute, I feel better.”

Health-care workers at the George Washington University Hospital have also appreciated the encouragement, said Susan Griffiths, the hospital’s director of communications and business development.

“Through these letters, we have been able to continue to remind our care team that an entire community of support remains behind them and appreciates all that they do,” Griffiths said. “There is no doubt that every letter has helped to bring many smiles to the faces of those on the front line of this pandemic.”

“It was huge to be able to see that we’ve made that connection,” Kumaran said.

“This was the first time that I was able to see a group of us start from an idea, and actually take it through to fruition and achieve that goal that we had set out to do,” she said.

For those who would like to submit a letter, templates and further instructions can be found on the initiative’s website at lockdownletters.org. A PDF version of the letter — either handwritten or typed — can be submitted through a Google form.

“We felt like we didn’t have the money and resources, but the idea was really clear,” Palanki added. “I realized that even though we’re younger, we could still do something really meaningful.”



We asked Alumni About Their Top SigEp Memories and They Didn't Disappoint!

Charles Wheeler '63 (charley113@verizon.net)

Nicknames: I don't remember any nicknames, except "Oz" for **John Oswald '60**

Last time you met with a SigEp brother: I think it was last summer **Bob (& Liz) Engstrom '63**, **Steve (& Gail) Hooper '63**, **Jesse Cantrell** (wife couldn't make it). My wife Eileen and I all got together for dinner at Bank's Seafood and Raw Bar in Wilmington. We tried to reach **Lynn and Paul Welsh '63**, but they were out of town. Bob was in town from Hartford, so we took advantage of the opportunity to get together.

Top social event while you were at the house: "I don't even remember what the top social event was, but whatever it was, my date was Eileen Wolf, who I married a year later and we're still married. Incidentally, we met on a blind date facilitated by Jesse, who had known Eileen for years before he came to Penn. He claims it was the idea of his girlfriend at the time, Bunny.

Frank Barrett '65 (fdb912@gmail.com)

Nicknames: "**George Wolf '65** was The Invisible Man because he was always off somewhere studying hence was rarely seen. My roommate **Charlie Fisler '66** was Farley Chiseler, but those are the only two nicknames I recall."

Last time you met with a SigEp brother: "The last brother I saw was **George Wolf**, now retired and living nearby in Colorado. We met for a cup of coffee a year or so ago, but since The Plague struck I've lain low. Before that, the last brother I saw was **Dallas Smith '67**, and his wife Bev, while I was visiting my family in York, Pennsylvania. I remember their 1965 wedding, especially using my old Mercedes-Benz as their "getaway car."

Social life: "My social life in four years at Penn was measured in mere hours—maybe even just minutes! Skimmer Weekend was probably the best because the skulls on the river were so cool, but overall I never got to third base—or even first! I once spent an evening in a dark room with photographer Candace Bergen, but, alas, it was a photographic darkroom. The elegant Connecticut wedding of Grace Jones. Keith's sister stands out, too."

What SigEp was known for: "Penn Delta was known for being well rounded and inclusive (how do you think I got in?). No big jocks, no rowdies like the Betas, no real BMOCs, but we had wonderful speakers come by as guests: Arnold Toynbee, Prime Minister Harold Wilson's son, the mayor of Baltimore, Screamin' Jay Hawkins, and more (ask Connie, he knows). A select few of Frank Rizzo's men made uninvited appearances, but they never arrested anyone."

David Lapointe '70 (david.lapointe@gmail.com)

Top Event: "The anti-war march in Washington in 1969. The government probably has photos."

What was SigEp known For? He says that during his time at Penn, SigEp was known more for what it didn't do. "We didn't burn the house down (that happened to another frat), or injure pledges (another frat), or name our house non-greek (St.Elmo?)."

Tristan Hoag '87 (tristanhoag@gmail.com)

Nicknames: **Paul Gabos '87** - Gabes. **Paul Puleo '87** - Pookie. **Dave Michon '87** - Meesh. **Andrew Schwartz '87** - Schwartzee. Most, if not all, were awarded during our pledge time.

Last time you met with SigEp brothers: My last catch up was with **Curtis Lightburn '87** in NYC. We had steaks at Spark's in Manhattan. It was a great night. We are close and stay in frequent contact. In fact, we both worked at the Boston Consulting Group for many years together.

Top social event while you were at the house: Best social event ever was Spring Fling 1986. Our house band, Disband, played in the Quad and brought down the house. It was a huge party, tons of fun.

What SigEp was known for: Sprint Football and Cheerleaders.

Tim Wilson '87 (wilsontimothy@gmail.com)

Last time you met with SigEp brothers: "I just skied last week with **Paul (Pookie) Puleo '87** and **Willy Nunn '87** at Big Sky, Montana. This shot is from The Corral Restaurant (they



Tim Wilson '87, Paul Puleo '87, and Willy Nunn '87 recently met in Montana

use that term loosely) in Ennis, MT, one night. Snow wasn't great, but the brotherhood and comfort were very high on this trip."

Bruce Yuen '83

Bruce Yuen '83 (bruce.yuen@comcast.net)

writes: "At my SigEp house, I strengthened on-campus friendships with several of my brothers, both classmates and pledge brothers. One brother was even in my wedding party.

During the first 10-15 years after graduation, many of us lived in the NYC area and saw each other often at Yankees games, dinners, Super Bowl parties, etc. I was able to go to other brothers' weddings and see their newborn children, then keep up as best as possible, even as my family and I moved to Connecticut and others scattered too. Our circle of brothers kept up with those a few years ahead and a few years behind!

I talked to my brothers about business plan ideas, career advice, legal advice, and the like. We all had our

-continued on page 4

We asked Alumni About Their Top SigEp Memories and They Didn't Disappoint! ...continued...

separate set of friends from either work or neighbors where we lived, as well as separate interests, but we always tried to keep in touch.

While I was never a chapter officer, I was a student leader on campus and I learned things from those who recruited me to SigEp who were also student leaders: always take care of those coming behind you. Nurture their talent, mentor them, and put them in a position to succeed you.

During my years at Penn, SigEp brothers populated many of the key and top student leadership positions on campus, whether political, social or inter-fraternity organizations. We had key leaders in athletics, too, including an Olympic fencer, squash captain and other sports. I believe we helped make campus life a lot better when we were in those roles. We relished the fact that SigEps were leaders

and it helped our chapter with the administration when we needed it (wink wink). That idea of mentoring people stays with me to this day! We certainly had our share of very, very intelligent people who went on to terrific success in many fields.

My big brother **David Browne '81** was a CEO at LensCrafters and Luxottica and there are several brothers either my age or a bit older who are very successful in the finance industry (**Rich Pzena '80**, **Wayne Paladino**, **Nick Calabrese '84**, etc.). My classmate, and the president of my chapter, is CEO of his family's firm in Buffalo (**Rick Smith '83**). Many of my brothers are military veterans, many serving during the first Gulf War and we're very proud of them!"

'80S FLASHBACK

Photo Flashback: Pennsylvania Delta in 1983

'80s brothers: get ready for a blast from the past. Check out this shot; doesn't this 1983 Penn SigEp hangout look bodacious? Here's some 1983 trivia that'll take you right back:

PENN FOOTBALL

The Quakers were coached by Jerry Berndt. The team had a record of 6-3-1, and were Ivy League co-champions.

PENN TUITION

Students paid \$5,197 in tuition and fees per semester as a full-time student. I'll bet that stings for you 2021 grads...

TOP MOVIES:

The Return of the Jedi
Trading Places
WarGames

TOP SONGS

"Every Breath You Take" by The Police
"Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson
"Flashdance...What a Feeling" by Irene Cara

TOP TV PROGRAMS

Dallas
Dynasty
The A-Team



John Paul Basile '86 and Paul Kim '86 as SigEp DJs

Thanks to **Joseph Halprin '87** for uploading this to our alumni website photo gallery! If you have great photos from your glory days to share, log in to upload them to our photo gallery or email them to alumninews@affinityconnection.com!

Were you there?
Are you in these pictures? If you remember this event, go to SigEpPenn.com or email us to share a story about it.