

The Delta Penn

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

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SHARE AN UPDATE

We Want to Hear From You

We all enjoy hearing from our brothers about where life has taken them since graduation - in their lives, careers, with their families, adventures, and more.

Send us your updates soon at alumniupdates@affinityconnection.com and we'll publish them in *The Delta Penn* via email, so keep an eye out!

NETWORKING

Join the SigEp LinkedIn Group

If you're in the market for a new job or career opportunity, or if you are looking to hire new employees, be sure to join the SigEp LinkedIn group. This is a great place for SigEp brothers to meet, network, and share professional opportunities.

Visit www.linkedin.com/groups/155789/ to request to join the group today!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

A Letter from the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation

Fellow Penn Delta Alumni,

As the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation and our undergraduates prepare for Homecoming on Saturday, October 22nd, I am pleased to report that the chapter has reached the "other side" of Covid, appears to be thoughtful and participatory, and is working on Homecoming and the Balanced Man Scholarship to take place later this fall.

Chapter president Matt Matese, '24, and chapter vp/programming Jamie Moni, '24, are continuing to display the kind of constructive leadership which got us through a difficult and sometimes harsh time for us all.

I am glad to let you know that everyone in the chapter "escaped" the pandemic, and we as alumni volunteers have actively counselled the undergraduates to remain vigilant and careful, for themselves and for others on campus.

Fall is the time when the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation launches our annual giving support program for FY ending on August 30th of the following year. The past fiscal year, we almost met our \$25,000 goal, and we seek and ask for your collective support to surpass that amount this FY.

There are several donation categories indicated on the return flyer accompanying this issue of the Delta Penn. I ask you to be as generous as is appropriate for you, for the funds we raise are allocated primarily for undergraduate support of recruitment, re-opening of our dining room for dinners during the week, and brotherhood events such as the senior dinner and the New York City gathering in the spring. For alumni, annual giving supports Homecoming, Spring Reunion

Weekend and the publication of at least one *Delta Penn* per semester.

We also include SPECIAL funds established in partnership with the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation to support specific causes among our ranks as well as two undergraduate awards. Our emphasis this year is to augment funding for the Balanced Man Scholarship and the Eberstein Fund, which is earmarked for undergraduate participation in various leadership programs and next summer's Conclave.

Our undergrad and alumni interactions with key University administrators continues to be engaged and strong. Penn's fraternity property manager Jon Bell, is someone we rely upon and our Homecoming Honorees Brett Merves, '05, and Dustin Klein, '16, have tended to those important relationships with care and professionalism reflective of the example set by Jim Hughes '52 and Don Sontag, '53, which is why we chose to acknowledge and thank Brett and Dustin at Homecoming. (Did I mention that Homecoming is Saturday, October 22nd, at 4028 Walnut after the Yale game?)

On behalf of the undergrads and the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation, we look forward to your seeing for yourselves how the chapter is doing as well as joining in the the Acknowledgment festivities which will include hors d'ouvres and Penn-centric entertainment. Wives, families and significant others are more than welcome, of course.

Fraternally,

Brett Danko, '90

HOMEcoming - OCTOBER 22ND AT THE HOUSE

Homecoming at 4028 Walnut Street to acknowledge Brett Merves '05 and Dustin Klein '16

In the long history of Penn Delta, we have had loyal, participatory alumni who have contributed greatly to chapter house maintenance and improvements. That list includes **J. Bedford Wooley, 1916, Anthony D. "Red" Herbst, 1929, James, A. Hughes, Jr., '52, Don Bux,**

'53, Tim Games, '84, and all the way up to **Brett Merves, '05,** and **Dustin Klein, '16,** all of whom, depending on the time when they served, participated in keeping our old chapter house of over 50 years at 3909 Spruce, several

(Continued on Page 3)

ALUMNI PROFILE: JEFFREY ROTWITT '72:

“PA Delta imbued academic excellence, camaraderie and altruistic initiatives”

Jeffrey Rotwitt '72 attended Penn at the beginning of the 1970s, and his memories from Sig Ep stick with him today. Here's a look into his experience in the house and how it formed him into who he is today.

Jeff joined Sig Ep because of the brothers' presence on campus. “I knew some of the brothers and had high regard for them. [There was a] dual emphasis on academics as the chapter consistently ranked at or near the top of all fraternities in GPA (much of my class went to graduate and professional schools) and also having fun.”

One of his favorite memories is “when the chapter went at Christmas time to an orphan-

age and **Bruce Barber** (due to his natural attributes) dressed as Santa Claus (amply filling out the Santa suit) and we brought all the kids Christmas presents.”

Jeff still remembers the fraternity's openness and acceptance. “My then-girlfriend Dianne was welcomed at all of our chapter's social activities, which helped me to win her over. We've now been married for forty-eight years with four children (two boys and two girls) and ten grandchildren (ages one to fourteen).”

Sig Ep continues to influence Rotwitt's life long after graduation. “It provided a tangible connection to my formative years at Penn and lasting memories and friendships even

through our 50th reunion weekend.”

He gives back because he wants future generations to receive the same experience that he did. “PA Delta for me imbued academic excellence, camaraderie and altruistic initiatives that should be passed down to future Penn students.”

“[Giving back] strengthens the chapter to weather the storm of Penn's indifference or even hostility to the Greek system as well as the ability to compete for top members.”

Without Sigma Phi Epsilon, I wouldn't have had the depth or quality of the experiences that Penn could and did provide.

ALUMNI PROFILE: DAVID JEHN '85

Sigma Phi Epsilon provided a lifelong set of friends

David Jehn '85 (davidjehn@gmail.com) reflects on his time at Sigma Phi Epsilon and why he chooses to give.

The most distinguishing trait of the fraternity while he was there was the diversity and unity of the house. “We were the most varied set of brothers and we all came together anyway.”

One of Jehn's favorite memories happened when he was a relatively new member. “Our pledge class ‘kidnapped’ **Marty Black '85** and me and dropped us off in Atlantic City wearing dresses...it sounds awful but it was certainly memorable...”

“Sigma Phi Epsilon provided a lifelong set of friends (brothers) and really helped me think about leadership and what that entails.”

Jehn gives back because he wants to support Sigma Phi Epsilon for future generations. “I loved my time at Penn and especially in Sigma Phi Epsilon...and I want that experience to continue to exist!”

Without Sigma Phi Epsilon, I wouldn't know what Marty Black looks like in a dress.



One Lunch a Month Could Cover your Annual Giving

With a fresh new start on the horizon, we want to give Sigma Phi Epsilon a running jump into the new school year and we can do that with your help! Your donations mean more to us than you think. They are proof that the bonds we made at Penn and the memories we have of the Pennsylvania Delta Chapter are still valuable to you. For the price of just one lunch a month, you can cover your alumni dues, and now you can set up recurring payments! Annual dues and donations support Alumni Board operating expenses including events (Homecoming, Reunion Weekend, Senior Dinner, NYC Dinner) and alumni com-

munications. Our giving year ends August 31st, so help us make this giving year the strongest one yet!

To give to the 2022-23 annual fund today, use any of these methods:

- **Call** our toll-free donation hotline at **1-800-975-6699**.
- **Mail** a check to us at this address:
Sigma Phi Epsilon –
Pennsylvania Delta Chapter
Alumni Relations
Processing Center
P.O. Box 7007
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007
- **Go to** www.pennsigep.com and click the **DONATE** button.

Environmental law scholar Mark Nevitt '97 joins Emory Law faculty in Atlanta

Source Courtesy of *Emory Law*

Professor **Mark Nevitt** will join the Emory University School of Law as associate professor of law, starting June 1.

Professor Nevitt teaches courses in environmental law, climate change law, national security law, constitutional law, and natural resources law. His current research focuses on how climate change is destabilizing numerous areas of law and climate change's security implications.

Nevitt's scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Washington University Law Review*, *Boston College Law Review*, *Georgia Law Review*, *U.C. Davis Law Review*, *Yale Journal of Regulation*, and *Harvard Environmental Law Review*. He is a frequent contributor to NYU Law's *Just Security* blog, *Lawfare*, and Penn Law's *Regulatory Review*; and his com-



ments or writing have also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Newsweek*, and *The Hill*. He is also a frequent podcast guest and contributor, appearing on the *American Bar Association National Security Law Today Podcast* and Penn Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Podcast, among others.

"Professor Nevitt's expertise on climate change and national security will be a welcome enhancement for Emory Law's environmental and natural resources program," says Mary Anne Bobinski, Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law. "Accelerating climate crises will require new legal and policy solutions and our students will benefit from learning how this field of law impacts the security, health, and welfare of every citizen."

Nevitt joins Emory from Syracuse University where he served as an associate professor of law. Prior to that, he served as the Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Law at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. From 2017-2019 Nevitt was a Sharswood Fellow and Lecturer-in-Law, at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In 2017, Mark was honorably discharged in the rank of Commander after 20 years of service in the US Navy. As a naval officer, he served as both a tactical jet aviator and held several important roles in the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG), including Regional Environmental Counsel for the Department of Defense in Norfolk, VA; International Law Advisor, US-Iran Farsi Island Incident with the US Fifth Fleet/Naval Central Command; and Attorney-Advisor & Deputy Division Director, Administrative Law within the Office of the Judge Advocate General at the Pentagon. As an aviator, he flew more than 1000 flight hours and accumulated more than 290 aircraft carrier-assisted landings. He was awarded the Navy's Air Medal for "meritorious achievement, superb airmanship, perseverance, and loyal devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions." Mark was commissioned as a naval officer from the University of Pennsylvania's Naval ROTC program.

Nevitt earned a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, where he also completed his LL.M., with distinction, in Environmental Law. He earned his B.S.E from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar (active) and Maryland Bar (inactive).

HOME COMING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

temporary residences, and our current house at 4028 Walnut Street in good physical shape . . . through thick and thin, and waging persistent efforts with the University bureaucracy.

Now it is time to acknowledge and thank our two current alumni house managers for their efforts to keep 4028 well maintained. Their work became especially important after Penn announced a few years ago that starting this past academic year, when the new "House System" residence opened at 40th and Walnut as a University facility for sophomores, which meant that Penn sophomores would not be permitted to live anywhere else, including in a fraternity house.

Brett Danko, '90, as Pennsylvania Delta Foundation president, has assisted (the other) Brett and Dustin for many moons, and is tremendously pleased to let our Penn Delta alumni know how well and how consistently our two Homecoming honorees have been in their efforts to provide sound and supportive undergraduate Penn Delta housing.

We are anticipating that many alumni and families will join the undergrads at the house on Saturday, October 22nd, after the Penn vs Yale football game.

Two quick last notes: we do have a table once again — our undergrads are working with our chef to have a buffet of hot and cold hors d'ouvres. (Given the Pennsylvania Senatorial election in November, if we have any vegetables, we will be careful not to use the term "crudite.")

And, the undergrads have declared our chapter to be alcohol free, and they will be serving sodas, water, and maybe even iced tea. For those alumni classes used to an earlier tradition of our serving beer and wine, it's time to remember that we hold our undergraduates' lives in our hands and have changed with the times. (If your name is Johnson, Glennon, or Jerrehian, we hope you will understand . . .)

Fraternally,

The Pennsylvania Delta Foundation

Penn Delta's Alumni Quest to Africa II

This Thanksgiving will mark the second time a group of Penn Delta alumni will participate with Catherine and Rob Fuller's Conservation and Preservation Safari to Southern Africa. Watch this space in our next Delta Penn for a report, replete with photographs as Rob's classmate, **Saam Farhang '99**, and **Brett Danko '90**, join in and venture forth.

A sad farewell to Brother Earl Conway '54

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of **Earl Conway '54** into Chapter Eternal. He passed away on March 24, 2022, at the age of 90, with his wife of 67 years, Nancy, by his side as he entered the Kingdom of God.

Earl was born on November 14, 1931, in Asbury Park, New Jersey. He was the first in his family to attend college, and received a full academic scholarship to attend Penn, where he earned his bachelor's degree in political science and international relations. In addition to being a full-time student, Earl enrolled in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corp (Army ROTC) program, became a SigEp brother and competed as a member of the varsity swim team.

Earl loved the ocean and spent much of his summers working as a lifeguard in Seabright, New Jersey. It was during one of those summers that he met Nancy Lou Schucker, who became his wife and lifelong love.

Following his graduation from Penn in 1954, Earl was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Army before becoming a sales and marketing representative in Philadelphia for P&G. He spent the entirety of his professional career with P&G, earning several promotions, leading a number of the organization's business units, and eventually heading all sales and marketing for P&G in Europe, which provided Earl and his family the opportunity to live in Brussels, Belgium. In 1985, Earl was asked by then Vice Chairman Thomas Laco to spearhead what became P&G's transformative work around the adoption of the principles of total



quality management. Earl immersed himself in the work, which led to his embracing the teachings of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, known for his pioneering work in continual quality improvement. The impact of Earl's leadership in total quality management continues to be an integral part of P&G's strategy.

Following retirement, Earl and Nancy moved to Vero Beach. Earl became an avid diver and looked for every opportunity to go on dives in Florida and other parts of the world, including many dives with his children.

As an international thought leader on quality, Earl traveled extensively internationally and throughout the United States, often lecturing side-by-side with Dr. Deming with whom he remained close until Dr. Deming's death in 1993. In 1992, Earl received an invitation to the White House where he met with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore. Following the meeting, he was asked to be an advisor to the White House on quality management, a role he held from 1992 to 1993. In addition, he was invited to speak to high-profile government officials and business leaders in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Wuxi, Peoples Republic of China in 1992, and Moscow and Kirov, Russia in 1994.

Of his many leadership roles post-retirement, he was co-chairman of the U.S. Quality Council of The Conference Board, a member of the American Society of Quality, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati, and an adjunct faculty member at Indian River Community College in Vero Beach. In addition, he lectured frequently with

Dr. Deming at Columbia University. He was vice chairman of the Indian River Memorial Hospital in Vero Beach, and also served in leadership and Board roles for Volunteers of America in New Orleans; Ursuline Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio; the Planning and Zoning Board, City of Vero Beach; and the Civic Association of Indian River County in Vero Beach. Of his many honors, he was a proud recipient of the American Supplier Institute's Taguchi Quality Engineering Award.

Lost!



We're missing email addresses for a number of alumni. If you haven't been receiving our monthly eLetter, please update your email address today to stay informed of the latest Pennsylvania Delta Chapter news and event details.

You can update your email address at www.pennsigep.com or by sending it to alumninews@affinityconnection.com (mention Penn SigEp)