

UPCOMING EVENTS

Penn Alumni Weekend 2016
May 13-15

HOUSE CORP OFFICERS

Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc.

President

Mark Kocent '82
mkocent@upenn.edu

VP and Treasurer

Gerald Knorr '82

Legal Counsel

Mauryn Nunes '70

Steven Adler '82

Michael Bergstrom '13

Jon Greenawalt, Jr. '91

Dhananjay Pai '83

Tom Valenti '00

Andrew Weinstock '13

Reed Werner '01

Ronald Woodmansee '82

UNDERGRADS

New Undergraduate Executive Committee

Griffin Rubin

Consul

Evan Shaulson

Pro Consul

Stuart Little

Annotator

Joey Maiocco

Magister

Jalen Hutchenson

Quaestor

Harry Taggart

Social

Mike Terraciano

Risk Manger

Thomas Maccio

Kustos

Taha El-Magbri

Philanthropy



Philadelphia, Pa.

www.phipi-sigmachi.org

Spring 2016

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Brotherly Bond

Two Sigma Chi Brothers Searching for a Family at Penn Find One in Each Other

Norman Wohlken '54 never had any siblings of his own, so when he came to Penn as a freshman, he was looking for friends who would fill a similar role. When he joined Sigma Chi, he formed a brotherly bond with **Fergus Sloan '54**, who didn't have any siblings either. "Suddenly, we had many new brothers and were able to share and learn from our new 'families,'" Norman said.

Norman remembers Sigma Chi house as a place to get away. He said, "The campus was not truly a campus because Philadelphia city trolleys cut through it. The house itself was an oasis in a city environment, a place for discussion and fellowship."

During their time as Sigma Chis, Norman and Fergus developed a strong relationship, and they created many great memories together.

In 1952, over the Christmas holiday, Fergus and Norman drove with **Bob Kelly '54**, another brother, to Miami in Fergus' new 1952 Chevrolet. Norman vividly remembers visiting Sloppy Joe's and flying to Havana, Cuba on Q Airlines for the unbelievable price of just \$10 a person.

The duo kept in touch after graduation as well. Norman said that they once rented two Pennsylvania railroad club cars to travel to Philadelphia for the Army-Navy game, which was a very big deal at that time. "He was very gregarious, and always invited old and new



Norman (left) and Fergus (right) at Sloppy Joe's in Havana in 1952

"I thank Sigma Chi for not only giving me a brother, but many, many more brothers."

friends to his home and other events," Norman said of his friend.

The two even agreed to be the best man at each other's weddings, and proudly fulfilled that promise when the time came. Although their first marriages both ended in divorce, they were both there for each other's second weddings, and every big occasion in between.

But Fergus was not only there for Norman during the high points in his life, he was also there for the low.

In February of 1966, after he had just gone through a divorce and moved to a new apartment, Norman resigned from his job at Merrill Lynch in New York City. Thankfully, Fergus was there to offer him a position at Orvis Brothers & Company where he was working as a partner in charge of sales. "Fergus came to my rescue many times," he said of their friendship.

Sadly, Fergus passed away on November 8, 2015, just a few months before his 83rd birthday. Norman said that, as time goes on, it is always difficult to hear that a brother has passed away, but some say that we began to die on the day we were born, so we must seize every moment.

Sigma Chi helped Norman form many lifelong friendships and seize every moment that he and Fergus had together. He says, "I thank Sigma Chi for not only giving me a brother, but many, many more brothers."

CLASS OF 1991 REUNION

Brothers Still Extremely Close After All These Years

Pledge Class Celebrates 25-Year Reunion in May

For members of Sigma Chi, friendship and brotherhood continue way beyond the four years one typically spends in college. Each year, Phi Phi Chapter continues to produce strong classes that carry on the core values of Sigma Chi. The friendships that brothers create seem to last a lifetime, and the class of 1991 makes no exception.

Jon Greenawalt '91 comes from a long line of Sigma Chi alumni. His father was part of the 1961 class, his uncle was part of the 1951 class, and his grandfather was part of the 1923 class. This longstanding family legacy is what drives Jon to maintain lifelong connections with his brothers.

The 1991 pledge class is having their 25-year reunion later this month, and Greenawalt says he is excited to reunite with his brothers.

"We'll never forget those four years. It wasn't about just getting our education. It was about friendship and brotherhood," said Greenawalt.

"I'm most looking forward to our camaraderie," he said. "We always have so much fun together. The opportunity to be together, laugh, and remember old times will make it feel like they just happened yesterday. We'll take off right from where we left off. We won't miss a beat."

Out of the 18 members of the pledge class, 15 are going back for the reunion. They plan



The class of 1991 poses at the Sigma Chi formal at Memorial Hall in Philadelphia, which is now home to the Please Touch Museum.

"We bonded together through our experience, and we've worked hard to stay connected over the years to keep the values of Sigma Chi alive."

on spending most of the weekend together.

During this reunion, the class of '91 will be dedicating a newly renovated glass window in the chapter house to **Eric Riester '91**, a member of their class who suffered from a heart attack and died unexpectedly about 15 years ago.

"Eric was a wonderful, soft-spoken guy with a really big heart," said Greenawalt. "He was a really good listener, very open and accepting, and always there when you needed him."

In addition to the window, the class is also installing a permanent plaque in Eric's name.

"Sigma Chi is about bringing honor to people, and remembering the impact they've made in their lifetime. We're all going to die, so it's important that we remember each other. We need to do that at all times, not just when we die. The opportunity to honor the living and the deceased brings honor to who we are."

The class of '91 has preserved their friendships for all these years, and they all embraced Sigma Chi and what it represents, which is a practice that has certainly paid off.

"Something like Sigma Chi benefits you for your whole life," said Greenawalt. "But you have to make an effort to contribute. It has to be important to you because it keeps you rooted and signifies what's important. We bonded together through our experience, and we've worked hard to stay connected over the years to keep the values of Sigma Chi alive."

CONSUL'S REPORT

Phi Phi Chapter Looks Forward to Continuing Traditions

by Griffin Rubin, Consul

In addition to the four brothers who were initiated in the fall of 2015, our chapter also recently recruited 10 new brothers. With our current membership, this adds up to a grand total of 72 members. The newest brothers bring vast potential, studying across three of the four undergraduate schools at Penn and representing seven different states across the globe, including Canada. They have displayed a great deal of enthusiasm about attending Balfour LTW and creating philanthropic events for the coming semester.

The new brothers have also continued the recent tradition of excellence in sports. Newly initiated brother **Danny Dwyer** saw playing time for the varsity basketball team and contributed to the team's best record since the

2011-2012 season. Another newly initiated brother, **Zareh Kaloustian**, has joined captain and senior brother **Patrick O'Leary** on the varsity golf team to help the Quakers defend their Ivy League title. Brothers **Blaine Willenborg** and Dan Harris also continue to elevate the level of play and competition for the varsity men's tennis squad.

The varsity baseball team, is lucky to have brothers **Mike Reitcheck** and **Gabe Kleiman** in the starting rotation and **Gary Tesch** and **Andrew Murnane** starting in the field. The team is off to a great start, with a 5-3 record in Ivy League play as of April 14.

It goes without saying that our chapter is made up of a talented group of gentlemen. As

we approach the end of the spring term and prepare to send off our seniors, we wish them the best of luck in their new careers. Not surprisingly, our seniors have secured jobs at some of the most coveted companies around the country, including Guggenheim, Lincoln Financial, PNC Financial Services, HFF, and many others.

We look forward to continuing Phi Phi's traditions of excellence throughout the end of 2016 and for many years to come. Thank you to the Phi Phi alumni for the endless support you continue to yield en masse to the current brotherhood and house. It is you, our alumni, who make the state of the chapter so strong.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Fred A. Sbrilli Jr. '56

(303 Amboy Avenue, Metuchen, NJ; fredsbrilli@hotmail.com) Coming from a small town and close-knit family of very limited finances, I had never been in the real world before coming to Penn. My ΣΧ experience (our beautiful building, elegant dining room, and tuxedoed waiters) taught me so much about



Siim Hanja (center) pictured with his business partner Rudi and his son Brown Harris.

Siim Hanja '67

(P.O. Box 2078, New York, NY; shanja@bhsusa.com) Sigma Chi gave me many incredible memories.

I learned how to dance to the inspired sounds of local bands doing their version of "Louie, Louie" without slipping or falling on the somehow always wet floor of the Chapter Room.

I also learned how to make a citizen's arrest of an intruder coming in over what was once the back fire escape.

But mostly, I am grateful for meeting up with **Tom Nessa '68**. We persuaded each other we needed to leave town for a while at the end of the school year in 1970. We started by going to south Jersey to buy a '57 GMC BlueBird standard issue 51 passenger yellow school bus. Then, we tore out the seats and put in all our earthly belongings.

We took turns driving across the country to Montana, over the Canadian border, up the 1500-mile Alcan Highway, and through the Yukon to end up in Anchorage, Alaska. For this, I guess we should thank **Scott Semans '64** because he was already there and gave us a destination to drive to.

how to adjust and prepare myself for what was to come. I successfully spent three years as an Air Force officer (Navigator and Commander's Aide) and a lifetime in the business world, so thank you, ΣΧ, for showing me the way.

Alvin Shoemaker '60

(P.O. Box 1504, Sun Valley, ID; spikeshoe2@gmail.com) Through ΣΧ, I made lifelong friendships. I still get Paul Kelly's offbeat humor and fish with Jon Huntsman, too.

George Morriss '69

(120 N. Fair Street #2C, Guilford, CT; morriss.george@gmail.com) ΣΧ gave me brothers who became my friends.

Mitch Bland '78

(334 W. Solano Drive, Phoenix, AZ; mitch.bland@cableone.biz) The friendship and support at Phi Phi was great. Penn was and is a big place, and yet the brothers of Phi Phi Chapter made it seem just like home. All my fellow Sigs were good people and good friends, even when we were going through initiation.

John Stevens '84

(8425 Avonside Ct. East Amherst, NY; john_stevens@verizon.net) Sigma Chi provided a "home" on our urban campus where I created friendships with a diverse group of guys. Regardless of our backgrounds, we were "one."

I enjoyed intramurals in particular, especially hoops when my team won the Penn Fraternity League in 1983!

Leslie and I live in Buffalo, NY and have two sons in college (Syracuse and UNC Charlotte). I'm Director of Energy Management for Praxair, Inc., a Global 250 company that sells industrial gases worldwide.

Daniel Klausner '87

(1070 Park Ave, Apt. 8B, New York, NY; klausnerdaniel@gmail.com) I am thankful that Sigma Chi imparted to me the importance of following through on an endeavor once you have started it, along with discipline and charity.

I currently run Capital Markets Advisory business at PwC in New York City, which provides Independent Capital Markets advice to pre- IPO companies.

My wife, Lee, and I live on the Upper East Side. Lee is a facial plastic surgeon and we have three daughters, Brooke, Grace, and Mary Lee.

My family and I frequently visit UPenn for Homecoming, reunions, and football games.

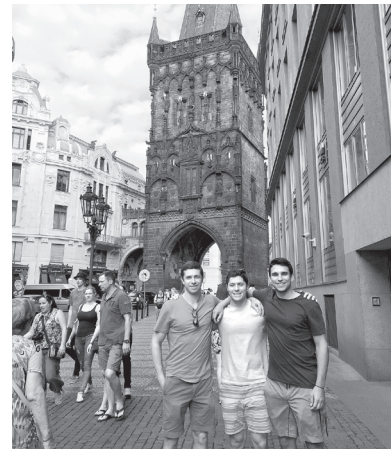
I'm also very active with the UPenn Admissions Office as a UPenn Alumni interviewer. I've also recently caught up with some UPenn Sigma Chis, including **Jim Pass '86** and **Walt Hulse '86**.

Brian Gartner '08

(311 E 60th Street #1A, New York, NY; bgartner86@gmail.com) I would like to thank Sigma Chi for giving me relationships that will last a lifetime.

William Amling '11

(will.amling@gmail.com) I want to thank Phi Phi Chapter for the great memories in the volleyball arena. I am living in NYC, contributing to the growth of a Sports Tech company in the Financial District as their top Sales performer.



(From left to right) Matt Rybak '13, Daniel Greenberg '13, and Bradley Present '13 are pictured in Prague, Czech Republic last summer. It was one of their stops during their trip to Europe.

Matthew Rybak '13

(445 Stony Brook Dr. Bridgewater, NJ; matthew.rybak@gmail.com) I am thankful that Sigma Chi connected me with like-minded friends who all have a sense of boyish adventure, loyalty to each other, and a commitment to having a good time at any cost.

Daniel Greenberg '13, Bradley Present '13, and I went to Europe last summer together before Dan went to medical school at Stanford and Brad (all honor to his name) went to law school at Michigan. Please let the records show that I am still probably the most intelligent out of the three.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

Sigma Chi Memories Prompt Recent Grad to Get Involved

Andrew Weinstock '13 Brings A New Perspective to The Sigma Chi Board

Andrew Weinstock '13 joined the Sigma Chi House Corp board in November of 2015, and although he may be the youngest volunteer, he still has great plans for his service as a board member. He hopes to be able to bridge the gap between alumni and current members.

Andrew said that, for the most part, his experiences at Sigma Chi prompted him to volunteer. "It was an unbelievable experience for me, so any way that I can help the undergrads have a better experience and give back is meaningful," he said.

Thinking back to his time as a freshman at Penn, Andrew said that he joined Sigma Chi because the brothers were similar to him. Right from the start, he felt like he was part of the group, and he said one of his fondest memories was the creation of "Weinstock Wednesdays."

The term was coined shortly after Andrew was initiated. "One Wednesday evening, the seniors asked me what we were going to do that night. They said I had to decide because it was 'Weinstock Wednesday,'" he said. Every Wednesday from then on turned into a fun opportunity for the brothers to hang out, and they even made t-shirts with the phrase. Andrew said, "For me, it really meant a lot. It made me feel like I was part of the fraternity."



Andrew Weinstock '13 (far right) pictured with some members of his pledge class.

"I think that the more people my age that volunteer, the better job that we can do of bridging the gap and connecting the alumni to the undergrads, which is only going to help make Sigma Chi a more meaningful place and experience for generations to come."

the gap and connecting the alumni to the undergrads, which is only going to help make Sigma Chi a more meaningful place and experience for generations to come," he said.

The experiences he and his brothers shared together helped Andrew form friendships that he hopes will last a lifetime. "Some of the older guys on the board are still talking to their brothers, and I want to have that experience 50 years from now and come back to the house and still have those memories. I want to see the undergrads having that same experience as well," he said.

Andrew also gained valuable life skills from his membership in Sigma Chi. He said that, as an undergraduate, he served as treasurer, and this experience helped him develop valuable leadership skills.

"I would have to tell older people that we couldn't spend money on things and needed to be efficient with our finances. That experience leading as a younger member showed that it didn't matter how young you were, anyone could contribute and be a leader," he said.

Andrew hopes to gain a lot from his time as a board member, and he encourages people his age to get involved and volunteer. "I think that the more people my age that volunteer, the better job that we can do of bridging

CHAPTER ETERNAL



"He lives long who lives well; time spent is not lived, but lost."

(Inscription on the Clock in the Phi Phi Chapter House Lobby)

"Death cannot kill what never dies, nor can spirits ever be divided which live and love in friendship; this is to comfort of friends, that though they may be said to die, their friendship and society are in the best sense ever present, because immortal."

—Constantine

The following Phi Phi alumni were called to the Chapter Eternal over the past year:

All Honor to Their Names

R. Timmis Ware '58
J. Robert Johnson '58
Thomas W. Hoff '57
Dr. Donald R. Dunlap '56
Robert W. Burian '56
Dr. Peter Demir '53
Raymond H. Welsh '53
Pierre Rochat '52



Ray Welsh '53 passed away on February 14, 2016 at the age of 84. He was an Emeritus Trustee and a proud supporter of the Phi Phi chapter at Penn. Ray was actively involved in many initiatives during his time at Penn

and as an alumnus. He is deeply respected for his tremendous work on Penn's behalf and for organizations across the Philadelphia region. Read more about Ray's life and his accomplishments at www.phipi-sigmachi.org.