

The IUP Sig



Newsletter of the Sigma Chi Delta House Corporation and the Sigma Chi Alumni Association

Sigma Chi Delta House Corporation

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- Ryan Gunther, vice president
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- Bob Baron, secretary
- Dick Clawson, house executive
- Tom Sinclair, golf outing chair
- Tony Coccagna, newsletter
- Matt Chatlak, rush
- Duane Corbett, communications
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- House manager: Jesse Dennis
- Risk: Kiefer Kuhn
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- Dave Elinsky
- Sam Scarfone

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- Gregg Wyland

Checkout Sigma Chi IUP Eta Omicron Alumni Association on Facebook

On the web: www.sigmachieo.com



Eta Omicron Sigs gathered for the second annual golf outing.

A Message from the President

Brothers and friends:

Thank you for allowing me to be the president of our house corporation for another year. As I head into my third full year I can actually take a second to reflect on some accomplishments as well as some misfires.

All in all, our house corporation is in good shape. Remember the enemy of being great is being good. Our undergrads have taken on the responsibility of filling the house to a 90 percent occupancy rate the past two years, and they have paid their rent. Because of this the house corporation was able to do many projects last year to keep the house looking good and above par. In comparison, this school year the house corporation has had to make fewer improvements. Dick Clawson, house executive, is always busy with fixes and improvements, but not to the scale of last year.

Outstanding projects include: resurface the parking lot and line it; paint the rooms; upgrade some of the bedding and room furniture; upgrade some of the Zoo Room furni-

ture; tile the upstairs hallway; new floor for the Chapter Room; code key lock for the back door; and pay down some vendor debt. We can always use alumni donations and would be happy to target your donation specifically to your project.

What keeps me up at night mostly is still the \$320K mortgage. The house corporation will be making a run at the alumni within the next year or so to see if we can make a dent in the mortgage. I am thinking more of a 50/50 split where 50 cents of every dollar donated goes to mortgage reduction and 50 cents goes to the house corporation to help fund projects. I'd be looking to do some damage to the mortgage and looking to raise \$50,000+. While \$25K does not seem much at a \$320K mortgage, it accelerates the amortization schedule considerably so each payment moving forward has less interest and more toward principal.

The past two golf outings have been a great success for our chapter. I know we have

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A Message from the President

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created an enduring event that does a whole lot more for the chapter than just raise money for the house corporation. The golf outing has accomplished so much goodwill among the 75-plus attendees every year. We now actually have a reason to come back to IUP! Even Noodle made it back. See you all Aug. 17 and 18.

OK, the Christmas party in Pittsburgh was a hit the first year despite the weather. Year 2 was a bust, and I did not even try Year 3. I still like the idea and would support the event, but it's too hard to try and rally Pittsburgh people from Seattle. Any volunteers?

I will be submitting a motion to the board to pass a 3 percent tax on all future revenues (rent and fundraisers). This tax will go toward the capital improvement plan. This money will be put in a special account and will build over the years to specifically fund future projects such as a new roof, water heater, heating system or other major projects. These would be projects to support major repairs or systems in the house and outside normal expenses. My idea here is not to have my predecessor in 2025 have to run for an emergency fundraiser to fix a leaky roof.

Don't forget the 40th anniversary gala on Nov. 2, 2013. We are planning far in advance. Ryan Gunther is the chairperson for the event. Ryan is working on a slide show and other fun ideas for the event. Please touch base with Ryan if you want to help out.

The undergrads are doing well but are still under water in past debt to national. Dave Elinsky, our chapter advisor, has been working with Kevin Pflumm and Dick Bono to work on ideas to get past this debt. I know the undergrads can use any donation you can afford. Much of the current debt has been building over the past 10 years from past alumni. You can make a donation to the house corporation and mark it for the undergrads only, and I will make sure the check makes it to Dick Bono, the current Quaestor.

Other than that the undergrads are doing well, with current brotherhood around 40 with 14 pledges. I have been informed that all 14 pledges have a 3.0 GPA or better. We also have 15 commits to fill the house for next year with nine maybe's before Spring 2012 even accepts their bids.

I really hope you enjoy the content of this newsletter. I felt it was time that we honor our brothers who have entered the Chapter Eternal. It is rather close to me because three brothers from my first composite have now passed on.

The weekend before the start of this semester the undergrads had a going-away party at the Sigma Chi house for our brother JJ Johnston. JJ is on his way to Afghanistan. JJ is part of the U.S. Army 420th Engineer Company Clearance. The Indiana Gazette



Bill Fonshell, J.J. Johnston and Jeff Bird.

reports his company will be clearing roadside bombs and dealing with attacks from Taliban fighters in some of the most remote areas of eastern Afghanistan. I was touched with JJ's words, and I hope you all are.

When you read The Leader 3 piece remember we are all connected. The Leader Brothers are special to the Eta Omicron Chapter because the Leader family has had three sons become IUP Sigs. Odds are I would not have pledged if Randy and Frank Leader were not Sigs before me. I met Ben Leader my freshman year, and Ben always brought me around the Sigma Chi house. Next thing I knew we were both initiated in Fall '81.

I love the example of true Sigma Chi brotherhood in Mark Snyir's story of him and Chad Arnold. It's amazing to follow Mark's story from IUP to North Carolina to Nevada to Michigan to California, and all along the way Mark has touched IUP Sigs. I'd like to make a plea to all the '90s brothers to come back. We need you. Make an effort to attend the golf outing and reconnect.

In hoc,
Jeff Bird
Fall '81
Jbirdx11@comcast.net
(253) 297-1463

Save the Date
40th Anniversary November 2, 2013



Frank Leader, lower left, with some of his cronies from his school days.

Leaders give brotherhood new meaning

While the Eta Omicron has many examples of blood brothers and legacies taking the oath, our chapter still only has one family to have three sons become IUP Sigs. Randy, Frank and Ben Leader are the Leader 3. Randy was one of the first initiates in Spring '73 and is now in the Chapter Eternal. Frank was initiated in Spring '75 and now lives in North Carolina. And Ben was initiated in Fall '81 and now lives in Hawaii.

By Frank Leader

Randy was social chairman and float chairman. I held the offices of Quaestor, float chairman and brother-at-large during my time. I was a "Summer-Jan" freshman. Back in the '70's and early '80's IUP would have part of a freshman class start right after high school graduation in the summer and then skip the fall semester to return in the spring. Most of my pledge class was also Summer-Jans.

Ben started his IUP career at Punxsutawney for his freshmen year. Ben pledged his first semester sophomore year after he was at the main campus. Ben was ritual chairman.

I was first introduced to Sigma Chi because I had a car (Camaro Rally Sport). Freshmen are not allowed to have a car. During my first summer Randy arranged it so I could park in the Sig lot. I became introduced to the likes of Jack "Benny" Pensis, Jerry Dames, John "Woody" Wood, Glen Warchol, Larry Easily, Bill Stump, Bob White and my eventual big brother, Jim Stein. I was very

impressed with the friendship they all shared. They were and still are a super bunch of guys!

Sigma Chi was a very comfortable and supportive setting. All the brothers were great to "Randy's little brother." I brought my roommate and other friends to the house that summer. I visited during my fall away from IUP and finally pledged in Spring 1975.

Ben was exposed to all of Randy's stories and mine as a young and impressionable high-schooler. I guess all our stories didn't frighten him. Ben fell into the path of visiting Sigma Chi freshmen year and meeting the guys that remembered Randy and I. Ben also met many of the brothers that were our "littles" in the chapter. Randy and I paved the path for Ben.

All three of us felt that Sigma Chi made our IUP college experience the best it could be. The fraternity stays with you much longer than Econ 101 or the accounting class you will never remember. Sigma Chi will always be at the center of my experiences at IUP.

Not long after I graduated I became a Life Loyal Sig. However, before Randy could make a decision about becoming a Life Loyal Sig, he became ill and passed away.

Ben has moved to Hawaii, and the distance sometimes makes it very difficult for us to stay in touch. Ben has shared with me many times his fond memories of our chapter.

I will speak for Randy and Ben when I say we — The Leader 3 — are all proud to be IUP Sigs.



SIGMA CHI DELTA HOUSE CORPORATION 3RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

When: Friday & Saturday, Aug. 17 & 18

Where: Meadow Lane Golf Course, Indiana

Tee time: Noon (check-in at 10 a.m., with putting contest to follow)

Format: Four-man scramble

Win 5-Grand: There is a hole-in-one contest, with \$5,000 going to the winner and another \$5,000 going toward a donation in your name.

Prizes: TBA

Sponsor a Hole: You, your company or your pledge class are invited to sponsor a hole by making a minimum \$100 donation. Premium sponsorship is \$250.

Friday night reception: At the Sig House, 7 pm

Post-party: A pig roast and picnic at the Sig House will follow golf at 5 p.m.

Cost: \$65 for golf

\$50 for pig roast

\$25 for Friday reception

\$125 for all three

\$250 for all three plus 2 nights' in the Sig House

To register or for information:

Visit www.sigmachieo.com

For information: E-mail tomsinclair100@hotmail.com

2011 RECAP

A special thanks to the corporate sponsors who helped make the inaugural golf outing a success

Two Men And A Truck, Chad Arnold and Mark Snyir

Dr. Ralph Feather

Sun Harvest Citrus, Dave Nicely

The Technology Developer, Knute Binde

Wayne Bank, Kelley Lalley

Robroy Industries, Michael Deane

Siteworx, Inc., Gregg Wyland

Mattress & More, Stephen Goodwill

Atlantic Construction Co., Steve Guntang

Rammath Realty, Ed Ramrath

Harshman Consulting, Scott Harshman

John Wood

Marketing Strategies, Paul Cimino

Filtech, Harry Elinsky

Last summer we had 58 golfers, 20 others and a full house of 20 brothers who spent the weekend at the Sig house.

Jeff Bird, Jim "Chimp" Price, Todd Ferguson and Jim Bullotta won with a 9 under par.

Brothers stick together in business

By Mark Snyr
Fall '95

When I first met Chad Arnold, I couldn't stand him. He was shirtless, his arm was in a cast, and he was talking to us (the people going through Rush) about how he didn't care about us, as long as we paid our dues.

During my freshman year I was at Pizza House after a party and the line was long. I was near the end of the line. They shouted that all the pizza was gone! That's when I saw Chad walk away from the counter with the last pizza. He saw me and asked if I wanted some.

We ate and drank and Chad told me stories about all the romantic things he had done as a Sigma Chi and how I would benefit from becoming a Sig.

Afterward, we started to hang out, and we became great friends. We then spent the summer in the Outer Banks of North Carolina waiting tables with Mark Ballog and Mike Diana. Chad had graduated IUP, so I spent my next two summers working there with IUP Sigs Mike Collins, Scott Sand and Steve Guntang.

After graduation I was living in Las Vegas with Bob Jack, and after two years, Bob had found a serious girlfriend and moved out, and they were thinking about moving to Memphis. I was starting to get tired of Las Vegas (trust me, Vegas can get old). So I moved to Michigan, where I

reunited with my friend Chad. I worked with Chad at a Two Men and Truck location that he had just purchased. Our plan was to build this location up and then sell it and start one in Pittsburgh or somewhere else.

Chad and I had started working out with an amateur body builder, all because we saw Mark Ballog at Seven Springs Ski Resort on New Year's Eve. Mark said Chad looked bit "thick around the waste."

Soon, we were both going to be in Pete Echard's wedding along with Chad Goodhart and Bob Baft. I had lost some weight and was starting to look good. I wanted to take everyone by surprise at Pete's wedding. I really wanted to make an impact with everyone so I asked my trainer for some "additional help." My trainer gave me the phone number of a friend of hers that worked for Beverly International. Within a few days I had a powerful weight loss drug in my hands.

I was on this diet pill for three days when I started to feel horrible. I went to an urgent care center and they sent me to a hospital. I was admitted and stayed there for the next four days in intensive care. I was going to miss Pete's wedding.

The night of Pete's wedding, I was told that my condition was serious and that if they didn't get me to trauma clinic I would die. The problem was that there wasn't a trauma clinic that could take me.

As time passed, my temperature shot up and they had to induce a coma. I was told by the doctor that he didn't know if I would be coming back. Luckily, Detroit Trauma called and life-flighted me to a qualified trauma center hospital, where I spent the next 12 days in a coma, the next 25 in ICU and two more



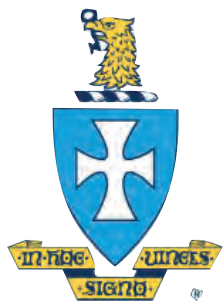
Chad "Vinnie" Arnold and Mark Snyr.

weeks in outpatient physical therapy. Not the way you want to lose weight ...

During this time, my mom practically moved in with Chad and his wife Shannon. Chad spent the next 45 days driving my mom a half-hour to the hospital, dropping her off and driving another half-hour back to work to dispatch the moving trucks by 7 a.m. Chad would then leave work at 5 p.m. and make the hour round trip drive to get mom.

I am forever thankful to Chad for doing all he did for me and my family. His friendship and generosity exemplify what it means to be a Sigma Chi. During my eight months of rehab he would always call and check up on me and even flew me out to his house so I could watch the Super Bowl. I guess all the romantic things we talked about being a Sigma Chi that night at Pizza House came true.

Months later when an opportunity presented itself to become an owner in the Two Men and a Truck business with Chad, I jumped on the chance. Now we own 15 company vehicles and employ close to 60 people in the Sacramento and San Francisco Bay area.



Sig takes his lessons to Afghanistan

Brothers,

As some of you know, I will be deploying shortly to Afghanistan with my Army Reserve unit. What you may not know is how much Sigma Chi has helped me in my Army career, and how much it will help me throughout the rest of my career and deployment.

First off, a little about myself: I enlisted in the United States Army Reserves shortly before graduating high school in 2008, only months before enlisting also to become a lifelong member of Sigma Chi. I pledged in Fall 2008 with 15 other men who I did not know at the time would join me in finding some of the best friends I could ever ask for. I then did my basic training in the summer of 2009.

Going into boot camp I had heard a plethora of horror stories about what to expect. Many of those stories came out to be true, but something I had learned previously would prove to aid me throughout the process. You see, going into the 10 weeks of training I had something most others did not: a stable base of people who would have my back no matter what the situation, and also a set of values and morals that had been instilled not only by my parents, but also the Sigma Chi fraternity. One of the first things drilled into our heads at basic were the seven Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. These values, while important on the battlefield, are also important throughout life, and in the Sigma Chi fraternity. To quote, but put my own spin the creed to fit into my Army career, it would be easy to say, "I will so build, and so conduct myself that I may

ever be a credit to my country." The Jordan Standard also suggests some of these same values.

After these 10 weeks of basic I came back to college and back to Sigma Chi for another short year until I shipped back off to Fort Leonard Wood Missouri for my job training. While training was only seven weeks long, Sigma Chi and its teachings again would prove to aid me through the time away.

During the numerous times I have spent time away from my friends and loved ones I have dealt with a great deal of loss. From girlfriends to my grandmother there wasn't a thing that could prevent my brothers from stepping up to the plate, not only to try and understand what I was going through, but to do all they could to support me in my time of need and get through that time together.

Now that I am set to go to war you can almost bet that what it takes to continually deal with this lifestyle will only become more and more difficult, but I know that the burden of all of this does not fall solely on me. I honestly believe that it falls more on my parents, girlfriend and brothers. So, fellow Sigma Chis, I ask you to not only continue to be there for me like you have done so well in the past, but to also be there for my family. I love Sigma Chi and all of you more than you could ever know, and I appreciate all you have done for me. Now it's my turn to give back.

In hoc,
Justin Johnston
Fall 2008



The Chapter Eternal

Seventeen of our brothers have entered the Chapter Eternal.
All honor to their names:

Mark S. Belis
Kerry D. Casner
Thomas L. Collier
Jeffrey P. Fleming
Richard J. Gordon
Richard G. Ingram

William J. Kennedy
Jeffrey S. Knapp
Robert J. Kochinsky
James R. Leader
Ronald Markus
Robert A. Meyer

David P. Munley
David D. Poskus
John C. Rector
Louis J. Strugala
David Yancy

Mark your calendar for the

3RD ANNUAL

SIGMA CHI ALUMNI GOLF OUTING



August 17-18th, 2012

Meadow Lane Golf Course

510 Hamill Road

Indiana, PA 15701

Register @ www.sigmachieo.com



Friday Night Reception-7 PM

Golf Sign-In/Putting Contest-10 AM

Tee Time-Noon

Pig Roast at the Sig House-5 PM

Proceeds benefit Camp Orenda
and the House Corporation

For more information contact: tomsinclair100@hotmail.com

Sigma Chi Delta House Corp & Alumni Association

Mail your gift to:

Sigma Chi Delta House Corp & Alumni Association
c/o Adam Porter, 5258 Karrington Drive, Gibsonsia, PA 15044
or give at www.sigmachieo.com

I would like to give to:* (please check one choice)

Where the Need is Greatest Chapter Room Porcelain Tile

Donation Amount \$ _____

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Street Address _____

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I prefer to make my donation by:

Check or Money Order (made out to Sigma Chi Delta House Corp)

Credit Card (please enter information below)

Discover MasterCard Visa

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

www.sigmachieo.com/make-a-mortgage-donation/

Thank you for your gift!