



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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The inaugural IUP Sigma Chi Christmas Party was held in Pittsburgh in December. While a winter storm cut into attendance, about 30 Sigs attended, and \$185 was raised for Camp Orenda. From left are Andy Kalafatis, Reza Liaghat, John O'Toole, Jeff Bird, Sam Scarfone and Kelley Lalley.

A Message from the President

My Sigma Chi Brothers of the Eta Omicron:
First, let me tell you how honored I am to be the third president of your Sigma Chi Delta House Corporation and Alumni Association. Yes, I added the "Alumni Association" to the title because it is the job of the house corp to promote brotherhood long after we all leave IUP. Don't get me wrong — the main mission of our house corp is to be landlord. I will review the projects and renovations we have taken on over the past seven months in a bit..

This past December IUP Sigs and friends gathered for the inaugural IUP Sigma Chi Christmas Party. Old man winter had his say and cut into attendance, but the HO spirit shined through. About 30 IUP Sigs braved the icy roads and made it to Hofbräuhaus on the South Side of Pittsburgh. While attendance suffered we still collected \$185 for the kids at Camp Orenda. Watch for news on 2010's Christmas event in the next few months.

While we are on the topic of events, please clear your calendar for Aug. 14 for the inaugural IUP Sigma Chi Golf Tournament at Meadow Lane Golf Course in Indiana. Shotgun start is at noon. Check-in starts at 10 a.m. There are all kinds of packages for golfers and non-golfers. We are a social fraternity so bring

your friends, relatives and significant others. Yes, I'm going to be brave and bring my wife.

Look at the Old Gold "all inclusive" package that includes a Friday reception at the Sig house, green fees, cart, pig roast at the Sig house after golf and two nights lodging in the new Sig house for \$250. Don't spend your money at the Holiday Inn. Sign up at www.sigmachieo.com or contact Andy Kalafatis at AndyKalafatis@comcast.net or (412) 475-2180.



House corp. president Jeff Bird and wife Keri.

Projects around the house are never-ending. It's a large property. Our house executive, Dick Clawson, has been busy keeping the house in shape. Besides normal maintenance, some of the larger more expensive projects undertaken this past school year were:

Adding porcelain tile to the back and side door entrances. The front door is next.

Replacing the original LAN and Wi-Fi gear with new Gig switches and a much more powerful Wi-Fi system.

Chapter Room Renovation — Phase I of the project is well under way. The chapter room is a room where brotherhood thrives now. The new 50-inch TV, new paint, clean carpet and better furniture have helped transform the room into a true living room.
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Alumni Big Brother Program

This year marks the birth of a new era for the Eta Omicron Chapter of Sigma Chi. The recent initiation of the nationally recognized Alumni Big Brother Program has provided alumni and undergraduates a new dimension to the Sigma Chi experience, showing them first-hand how the brotherhood of Sigma Chi is a life-long journey. The program, which pairs up undergraduates with respective alumni based on fraternal, academic, and career interests, has multiple benefits.

The immediate benefit of the program is the creation of a new dimension to the Sigma Chi experience. This dimension, through its primary value of mentorship, creates meaningful relationships between undergraduates and alumni. The goal of participating alumni is to provide an outlet for undergraduates to gain relevant advice while also sharing their life experiences to assist in the development of a younger brother. The program also has helpful ideas and advice to assist alumni brothers in the development of their personal mentoring skills so that they can effectively further educate undergraduate brothers about the opportunities in Sigma Chi and its role in their lives.

While the program enhances networking opportunities through career advice and job skill development, it also provides opportunities for all brothers to fulfill their lifelong commitment to Sigma Chi by satisfying all aspects of the fundamental purpose of the fraternity: the cultivation, maintenance and accomplishment of the ideals of friendship, justice and learning.

Duane Corbett, a house corporation member and coordinator of the Alumni Big Brother Program, already recognizes promise in the program.

"A lot of our brothers lose touch with the fraternity after they graduate," he said. "Once they're on the outside and don't know anyone anymore, they become disconnected. There's really no way for them to get involved. This program changes that. They start a relationship with someone on the inside and they're back in the mix of things again. It encourages them to attend our alumni events and, therefore, increases our active level of brotherhood."

Participants of the newly initiated Alumni Big Brother Program of the Eta Omicron Chapter include:

Alumni — Cameron McGinnis, Ian Welby, Frank Kuhns, Dan Beter, Ryan Koons, Jason Farrell, Barry Fowler, Aaron Smith, Alfred Parker, Chris Peters, Scott Harshman, Luke Hingson, Ryan Gunther, Tim Rowland, Kevin Smith, Joe Darby, Sam Scarfone, Mark Hooper, Dave Novello, Matt Chatlak, Dan Sauritch, Rob Toutkoushian, Justin Carman, Kevin Field and Tony Vigilione.

Actives — Joel Goodwill, Rob Capelli, Kevin Pflumm, Chris Carney, Ryan Lute, Andrew Adams, Owen Nene, Justin Johnston, Richard Bono, Dave Piper, Shane Religa, Rich Andros, Josh Hansen, Josh Pfautz, Matt Lanyon, Jemerson Crouse and Ryan Zaharko

A Message from the President

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Phase II includes a custom bar, modular furniture and a tournament grade foosball table. I hope to kick off Phase II this fall.

The new TV was donated by our alumni. I can't thank the following brothers enough: Matt Chatlak, Andy Kalafatis, Mark Hooper, John O'Toole, Barry Fowler, Scott Butchley, Joe Darby, Todd Murphy, Kenny Riccardi, Mike Conley, Ian Welby, Tom Sinclair, Kirk Tyler, Al Simmen, Ryan Miller, Scott Mathieson, Jamie Harrison and Jan Conrad. The Spirit of Sigma Chi rings true.

Closing items include:

Solid undergraduate membership of 38 moving into Fall 2010.

Full house of 19 men planned for Fall 2010.

FaceBook has 228 IUP Sigma Chi members. Search FaceBook for "Sigma Chi IUP Eta Omicron Alumni Association" and join today.

Magazine of Sigma Chi updates are in through the next two issues. Spring 2010 issues included a HO update.

Please enjoy the articles from our brothers included in this newsletter. They put a lot of work into the making this first edition of the IUP Sig newsletter one you would enjoy.

In hoc,
Jeff Bird,
Fall '81

Artists Make Their Mark at IUP

From iup.edu

The "Paint and Pixels" exhibit has been a strong favorite with IUP's University Museum audiences since its highly successful opening on March 25, 2010. Part of their enthusiasm has centered upon an 80-painting mural wall depicting scenes of Indiana County. The collection of small-format oil paintings, each measuring 9 x 11, were painted on location by artist and IUP and Eta Omicron alumnus Ron Donoughe.

Because of the popularity of this exhibit, the University Museum has extended the run, originally scheduled to end May 7. It will now remain open through June 12.

Also part of this exhibit are graphic design works by Ron's twin brother, Don, also an IUP graduate and Eta Omicron alum. Both are originally from Loretto and have gone on to highly successful careers as artists.

The mural collection is mounted together, filling a wall of the museum with evocative and charming views of Indiana County. This one-of-a-kind collection includes familiar landscapes and landmarks ranging from architectural treasures like the old Indiana Courthouse on Philadelphia Street and Breezedale on the IUP campus to the Purchase Line monument in Cherry Tree, to more modest subjects, including sheep in a field, bagged trees at Pike's Peak nursery, or a child's playground toy at Mack



Ron and Don Donoughe

Park. All are filled with the warmth and the solid values of our community.

As a long-term tribute to our county, allowing generations of residents and visitors to view the works for many years to come, the University Museum board is seeking donations to purchase the collection and install it in the new lobby of the IUP Performing Arts Center — onto the brick wall that was previously the exterior of Fisher Auditorium.

Gifts of any amount are welcome. Special opportunities are available to individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations, with gifts of \$5,000 pledged over five years, \$1,000 in a single gift, or through an adopt-a-painting incentive for \$350. Proceeds will go to purchase the paintings and to professionally install them in the PAC lobby. Any additional funds will be used to support the museum and its programs.

Hiring a Sig Presents a Great Opportunity for Both of Us

By Harry C. Elinsky Jr.

While looking across the room during Eta Omicron's 35th anniversary party back in October 2008, it hit me the number of young people that would soon start the process of looking for jobs and progressing down their career paths. During that night I gave a business card to a brother soon to be graduating and told him to send me his résumé. Well I never heard from that guy. Guess I didn't impress him!

A year later our company was looking for an energetic, eager and sharp candidate for an inside sales position. Looking through the piles of applications we received there was one that caught my eye. I noticed the candidate not only graduated from my alma mater (yes, I actually graduated) but was also a Sigma Chi.

Reading the words "Sigma Chi" on that résumé instantly reminded me of my college days and the bonds I had made. This résumé from a fellow named Matt Rudzik instantly made it to the stack we would contact for interviews.

Prior to my interview with Matt, I reviewed his résumé. As I said, seeing the words "Sigma Chi" took me back to my college days, so I didn't know what to expect. What type of young man would walk through the door?

Matt told me about going to school at IUP and belonging to a fraternity. (I didn't let him know I was a brother from the same chapter). Matt also told me about graduating and staying at IUP after graduating. I believe this is something we all wanted to do, and Matt was able to pull it off! (What an excuse working for Verizon! — at least he didn't say "Al Patti's" — and he must have had a phone contract he couldn't get out of!)

Matt had since moved home and had worked a few other jobs, none which he thought had potential, but they gave him the opportunity to gain experience.

I eventually told Matt of our common bond through Sigma Chi, but not until after he accepted my



Harry Elinsky and Matt Rudzik at Filtech offer for the position.

Matt has learned the basics of his position exceptionally well. While I am not his direct manager, I enjoy working with him and helping him learn the business. Even though we are a small organization with just 32 employees, there are many opportunities for Filtech and our employees to further develop and capitalize on. It takes "outside-the-box thinking" and willingness of the team members to take the extra step making the extra effort.

I hope Matt will enjoy and continue building his career at Filtech, Inc. Every organization, whether private or public, for profit or not for profit, requires exceptional people to do the organization's work and to lead the organization through the trying times of the present market and to the opportunities of the future.

For organizations to perpetuate, they must be built on a solid foundation and continuously seek out and develop talented and hard-working team players to prosper and grow. Good employees are primary to a solid foundation.

Employers must recognize the team is the heart and lifeblood of their organization. Providing opportunities for team members to develop their careers is critical to the team members and the growth of the organization. As the team members develop and grow, so does the organization.

I hope Matt and I will be able to find more exceptional people through our bonds with Sigma Chi.



SIGMA CHI DELTA HOUSE CORPORATION

INAUGURAL GOLF OUTING

When: Saturday, Aug. 14

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: Cleveland Cg7 Black Pearl Irons
Cleveland HiBORE Driver
\$250 Golfsmith Gift Card

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 p.m.

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 more information:
E-mail AndyKalafaitis@comcast.net,
or call him at (412) 475-2180.

Trip Abroad Makes Impact on Brother's Life

By Ryan Schrmack

On Feb. 23, 2009, I found myself sitting in an aisle seat on a Boeing 747, thousands of feet above the Atlantic Ocean, and heading for a country that I had very little knowledge about. The 13-hour flight was heading for the small and recently war-torn country of Croatia.

Three months earlier, and on a complete whim, I accepted doing an exchange program for my sculpture class through IUP. I reasoned that there would be no other time in my life that this opportunity would arise. My home was now the capital city of Zagreb, and for the next seven months I would become part of their culture. I fought culture shock that was inevitably foreseen but slowly became accustomed to the culture and language. It is a different energy over there that you cannot find here. Life slowed down and everyone made it a priority to eat, drink and be merry. It's a lifestyle that I miss very much.

Luckily, I stayed in a dorm room similar to what you would experience on a normal college campus. Placed into living quarters with the other exchange students, I quickly became friends with people from all over the world. We would talk about ourselves, our cultures, our differences and our beliefs. I now recognize these people as some of the closest friends that I will ever have.

The only obligation that I had in Croatia was to attend class, in the city, five days a week. I was taught a very classical approach toward sculpture, which is an ideology that has lived for thousands of years throughout Europe. I learned to work with materials such as metal, clay, plaster, wood and stone.

Included in my curriculum, I attended three workshops out of class, each in different cities throughout the country. At the first workshop, which lasted five days, I stayed in the northeastern coastal city of Pula, where I painted two 15 x 15 wall murals. The second, was a wood-sculpting workshop in the woods of Bejolvár, and hour's drive from civilization. I made two sculptures from 8-foot trees in the span of two weeks. Finally, the third, was



Ryan Schrmack spent seven months in Croatia during an exchange program for his sculpture class at IUP.

a two-week workshop on the southern island of Hvar. Here I was teamed up with seven other people, and we created a 14 x mosaic of an exploding nebula, which consisted of some 12,000 tiny stones found all over the world.

In addition to the educational purposes of my exchange, I did some traveling. Despite living out of a school book bag for several months, I visited the countries of Bosnia and Hercegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and Austria.

As much as I tried to embrace every moment of my life for those seven months, I realize now how much of an impact my time over there has changed my life. You can spend all the time in the world reading about places throughout this world, but nothing can surpass the education you gain from first-hand experiences.

Derby Days



IUP Sigs raised \$1,000 for Camp Orenda during their annual Derby Days campaign.

Dr. Pettit Hits the Bookshelves

Dr. Lawrence K. Pettit, former IUP president and Significant Sig, reports that his memoir, "If You Live by the Sword: Politics in the Making and Unmaking of a University President" (formerly called "Passions in Conflict," and other names), is available for purchase.

"Please let your favorite libraries and bookstores know they can order copies directly from www.iuniverse.com. Individuals have the option of buying at your favorite book store, or ordering directly from Amazon.com, or barnesandnoble.com," Dr. Pettit says.

"There are some very positive passages about Sigma Chi in the book, and the Magazine of Sigma Chi will be publishing one of them in its story in a forthcoming issue. I am going to try to schedule some signing events in Pittsburgh and Indiana in late September. I have a signing event and reception scheduled in D.C. at the George Town Club on Sept. 28."

The D.C. signing is being planned and sponsored by Ryan Miller, an IUP Sig who is a member of that club.

For more on Dr. Pettit, visit www.lawrneckpettit.com.



Sigma Chi Delta House Corp & Alumni Association

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