

## NEW INITIATES

Sebastian L. Pavoni  
Luke C. Driesell  
Manual A. Rosales  
Ryan J. Sigmon  
Lukas M. Zinngrebe  
Ian N. Green  
Michael T. Breznak  
Troy D. Burkheimer  
Thomas C. Jurgens  
Devon W. Sinni

## HOUSE CORPORATION

**Dennis O'Connell '82**  
President  
**Zach Gonnson '10**  
Treasurer  
**Barry DesRoches '80**  
**Phil Robling '79**  
**Dayne Warshofsky '13**

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Chris Meyer**  
Consul  
**Greg Kotchik**  
Pro Consul  
**Cameron Kline**  
Quaestor  
**Matt Ambrogi**  
Annotator  
**Jimmy Becker**  
Awards Chairman  
**Mitch Cooney**  
Derby Days Chairman  
**Patrick Bell**  
Magister  
**Connor Khodabonde**  
Rush Chairman  
**Sebastian Pavoni**  
Risk Management Chairman  
**Andrew Smith**  
Scholarship Chairman  
**Bryan Reich**  
Social Chairman

## COLLEGE PARK ALUMNI CHAPTER

**Scott Werber '86**, President  
**Phil Robling '79**, Treasurer



# CROSSROADS

A Publication of Gamma Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi, University of Maryland

December 2016

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### A Sigma Chi Until the White Rose Drops

#### Robert Lehmkuhl's Life Changed Forever the Day He Knocked on the Chapter House Door

Robert Lehmkuhl '74 had his life changed forever the day he walked up to the house at 4600 Norwich Road with the white cross in front of it and knocked on the door. "As an out-of-state student at the University of Maryland, there was no housing for me in the fall of 1970, so I had to find my own way," he said.

Robert's sister, a Gamma Phi Beta, suggested he try the Sigma Chi fraternity, and that's how he ended up at the door of the Sigma Chi house one day. "I knocked on the door, but was told to come in through the front window," he said. "The brothers who were playing Risk on the living room floor told me to go down the hallway and see the Quaestor to put my name on the list as a boarder. I paid my bill in full and, just like that, I had a room for the semester," he said.

If there hadn't been any rooms available, Robert said he may have ended up at the University of Texas or Utah. "My life was changed forever that day!" he exclaimed.

He pledged the fraternity that fall and was initiated on February 6, 1971. "Life was great living in the house for four years, including summers. I got jobs with the other brothers to make money for tuition, room and board, and dues. There were no student loans back then, so you either made ends meet or went to Vietnam," he said.

But the brothers relied on each other to get work and earn money. "My pledge brother, Jim, got me a job at his parents' house cutting



Robert Lehmkuhl '74

**"When people ask  
me where I grew up, I  
always say the Sigma  
Chi fraternity house."**

grass for the summer. It was the best summer ever and he became a lifelong brother," he said.

Even after graduation, brothers continued to provide Robert with professional opportunities. "My first job after graduation came from a brother named Doug, who needed reliable laborers to build swimming pools," he said. "Then, my first corporate job and career, which lasted for 20 years, came from another brother, also named Doug," he said.

Because of all this, Robert has no idea where he might be if he hadn't joined Sigma Chi. "It's corny, but

there are many paths in life. A phone call, a girlfriend, an accident, or a death could send you in a completely different direction. I don't know how my life would have turned out if the brothers at Sigma Chi hadn't accepted me into their fraternity and helped me get through the difficult times in life, but I know I will be a Sigma Chi until the White Rose drops," he said.

So, that house on Norwich Road that Robert boldly knocked on one fall day in 1970, desperate just to find a place to stay, became so much more than that. The house, and the fraternity, was Robert's home. "When people ask where I grew up, I always say the Sigma Chi fraternity house," he said.

*How has Sigma Chi changed your life?  
Share your response by visiting our website  
([SigmaChiMaryland.com](http://SigmaChiMaryland.com)) to submit an  
update.*

## Sigma Chi Lays the Foundation for Fulfilling Careers, Lifelong Friendships, and Rewarding Family Life



Rich Bilz

**Rich Bilz '87** (1521 Nunnally Farm Road, Monroe, GA 30655-5710; [rich.bilz@henryschein.com](mailto:rich.bilz@henryschein.com)) Without Sigma Chi, my college experience at MD would have been one of a dorm rat, never

creating the lasting friendships that I still have to this day. I doubt I would have had friendships of that quality if I had settled for staying in the dorms or apartments and not moving into the house. Sigma Chi also developed the leadership and personal skills that I still use in every aspect of my business today. I just celebrated my 25<sup>th</sup> year with Henry Schein Medical, Inc., a Fortune 500 company. I'm looking forward to retirement in approximately another 10 years. Thirty-five years will be enough, unless they want to put me on the board!



Chick Hernandez

**Chick Hernandez '86** (4409 Harbour Town Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705-1081; [funywon@aol.com](mailto:funywon@aol.com)) If I had not joined Sigma Chi and taken office in the house, I

don't believe I would be where I am today as the longest tenured sportscaster in Washington, D.C. As athletic chairman, the responsibilities I had and the voice it created from within me was a game changer for my career. As for career highlights, I have plenty to list. I've worked in Augusta, GA, covered three Masters, got to play in the Augusta National three times. I've also won multiple Emmys, and was grateful to be hired back home here at Fox 5. My tenure at CSN has been tremendous from day one on April 4, 2001. It's allowed me to have a wonderful family. My wife is my childhood sweetheart, and my three kids, one who is a Terrapin freshman, are wonderful.

**John Warther '85** (324 Chiseled Stone Road, Sykesville, MD 21784; [john.warther@ghs.com](mailto:john.warther@ghs.com))



*John Warther's youngest daughter, who is following in his footsteps and attending the University of Maryland.*

**warther@ghs.com**) Sigma Chi was an instrumental factor in my life for many reasons. If I had not joined, I would not be continuing to strive to be a better husband, father, friend, and colleague. We learn by being a Sig that our core values,

the Jordan Standard, are principals we strive to attain, knowing full well the journey and

---

*"We learn by being a Sig that our core values, the Jordan Standard, are principals we strive to attain, knowing full well the journey and the quest instead of the destination is what it means to be a Sig."*

---

the quest, instead of the destination is what it means to be a Sig. So, while I know I am not the perfect husband, father, friend, or colleague, without Sigma Chi, I might have thought I achieved it all, when the reality is otherwise. As Sigs, we learn to trust ourselves and our brothers, while also holding ourselves and each other accountable to the Jordan Standard. My youngest daughter is following in my footsteps by attending the University of Maryland. She will be playing lacrosse there as well.

**Taylor Roethle '17** (919 Jonas Ave., Sacramento, CA 95864; [troethle1@gmail.com](mailto:troethle1@gmail.com)) If I hadn't joined Sigma Chi, I would not be the same person I am today. I met many of my best friends as a result of joining, and my time on the Executive Board certainly prepared me for the working world. Sigma Chi has given me a lot, and I



Taylor Roethle

look forward to having the opportunity to return the favor. I just started working as the portfolio manager for Lemma Senbet Fund, which is a student-run equity fund managing

roughly \$900,000. I also just began my term as President of Order of Omega, the Greek Honor Society.



*George Walls poses with his wife, Donna, and a colleague.*

**George Walls '67** (4933 Charlton Lane, Charlotte, NC 28210; [gwalls@carolina.rr.com](mailto:gwalls@carolina.rr.com)) I recently attended the 2016 Corporate Counsel awards and was honored with the Lifetime Achievement award.

**Gregory Andrew '95** (78 Upper Lakeshore Drive, Katonah, NY 10536; [gandrew@kpmg.com](mailto:gandrew@kpmg.com)) If I hadn't joined Sigma Chi, I would likely have a smaller circle of friends from Maryland. I still have a few friends I try to keep in touch with from my



Gregory Andrew

Sigma Chi days and they are the only alums I really stay in touch with. I'm currently working in NYC for KPMG. I have two kids and a beautiful wife.

## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Sigma Chi Lays the Foundation for Fulfilling Careers, Lifelong Friendships, and Rewarding Family Life

**Eric Harris '13** (321 Langton Street, Unit 3, San Francisco, CA 94103; [enharris@gmail.com](mailto:enharris@gmail.com)) I just accepted a job offer with a company in San Francisco, largely due to Sigma Chi. My referral to the company came from a fellow brother. I was very interested in the company and had tried reaching out to recruiters and other executives in charge of the teams I was interested in. I didn't hear back from them, but then discovered, through LinkedIn, that a Sigma Chi worked for the company. I sent him a message, saying I was a fellow Sigma Chi. I would be in the area in the near future, so I offered to get together with him for coffee to learn more about the company. He agreed to meet up and then made sure my résumé got in front of the right people. Several interview rounds later, I have officially accepted an offer.

**Andrew Brammer** ([andrewbrammer148@msn.com](mailto:andrewbrammer148@msn.com)) If I hadn't joined Sigma Chi, I wouldn't have met my wife, who was an Alpha Delta Pi and a Sigma Chi sweetheart. I recently moved into a position as the Chief Risk Officer of Counterparty Risk with Fannie Mae.



Joseph Ponzio

**Joseph Ponzio '85** (48 Florence Ct., Toms River, NJ 08753-2612; [joponz@aol.com](mailto:joponz@aol.com)) To be truthful, I don't think I would have finished my college degree if I hadn't joined

Sigma Chi. The fellowship and brotherhood created such a strong bond that I didn't want to let go of or move away from. The memories that I created throughout the course of my life are the only things that I will be able to take with me. My favorites are from the time I spent as an undergraduate brother. Although I may not see many of these brothers, they remain close at heart every day and have for all these years. I don't know where I would be if not for Sigma Chi, but I do know that I would not be the man I am today. Since graduating, I have gained a few pounds and lost a lot of hair, but I have been traveling the world and enjoying life in ways I never thought possible. I would love to go back

and do it all over again, and I'm sure many of my brothers feel the same way.



Jed Seifert and his fraternity brothers

**Jed Seifert '03** (5908 Conway Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; [jedseifert@gmail.com](mailto:jedseifert@gmail.com)) If I hadn't joined Sigma Chi, my liver might be a bit healthier, I might remember more of college, I might have attended more of my classes, and I might have graduated in four years instead of four and a half. But, I certainly would not have made great friends with many amazing idiots, just like me, and college wouldn't have been such an awesome time.

## ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

### How Has Sigma Chi Changed Your Life? Honor Your Experience with a Gift!

Our 2016-17 annual fund giving year began on September 1, and it's our goal to raise \$13,000 from 100 gifts by August 31, 2017. So far, we've received \$2,250 from 19 gifts. We greatly appreciate each donation we have already received, but we still have a long way to go before we reach our goal. For those of you who haven't made your gift yet, we'd like to remind you of the importance of it.

Strong alumni support is the glue that

holds our chapter together and, as we work to secure the future of our chapter, you play a critical role. Our future rests on your shoulders! Think back to your time in Gamma Chi Chapter, all the fun times, what it taught you, and how it molded you into the man you are today.

The Sigma Chi spirit lives on in all of you. We hope you'll pass the torch by making a gift that will impact future generations of

brothers.

To make your contribution, simply do one of the following:

- Visit our website [SigmaChiMaryland.com](http://SigmaChiMaryland.com)
- Call **1-800-975-6699**
- Mail a check to our processing center: Sigma Chi, University of Maryland, Alumni Relations Processing Center, P.O. Box 7007, Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

### 2016-17 Honor Roll

Thank you to each of the brothers who have contributed to our annual fund since it began on September 1.

We appreciate your support!

Perry Gray Bowen Jr.	1948	E. Wayne Lednum	1955	R. Kent Zimmerman	1963	Gregory S. Droege	1974
Waldo H. Burnside	1949	John L. Rymer	1960	Peter F. Prinz	1964	Douglas O. Waikart	1975
Frank C. Forster Jr.	1949	James Hart Evans Jr.	1961	James E. Firmin CPA	1967	Brian A. Rommel	1989
Robert E. Gralley	1949	Andrew P. Grose	1962	Robert J. Nicholas	1968	James F. Skarbek III	1990
John C. Sprague	1949	Pedro E. Wasmer	1962	William B. Jenkins	1970		



The Gamma Chi Chapter of  
**SIGMA CHI**  
 UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND  
 Alumni Relations Processing Center  
 P.O. Box 7007  
 Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

486-050

### In this Issue...

- *How lack of housing led to Sigma Chi changing a life*
- *Sigma Chi lays the foundation for alumni success stories*
- *75th Anniversary details*

PRSR STD  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
 State College, Pa.  
 Permit No. 2

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events Planned for May 2017

#### **Golf, Family Picnic, and Cocktail Party to Headline Chapter's 75th Anniversary Reunion Next May**

We'll be celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our installation at the University of Maryland from May 19-20, 2017. Please save these dates! We have several exciting events planned for the weekend to celebrate the long and distinguished history of Sigma Chi at the University of Maryland.

#### Friday, May 19:

##### **Annual Alumni Golf Classic**

- Where: University golf course
- When: 1:30 p.m.

##### **Welcome Reception**

Where: Golf course clubhouse  
 When: 6:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, May 20:

**White Rose Ceremony** (honoring Gamma Chi members who have entered the Chapter Eternal and our former house, which has joined them)

- Where: 4600 Norwich Road
- When: 12:30 p.m.
- Family and friends welcome to attend

##### **Picnic and Open House**

- Where: #14 Fraternity Row
- When 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Family and friends welcome to attend

##### **Reunion and Cocktail Party**

- Where: College Park Marriott – on campus, next to UMUC
- When: 7:30 p.m.
- Event includes:

- Heavy hors d'oeuvres
- Cash bar
- DJ
- Short program to recognize distinguished alumni in attendance
- Attire: Jacket and slacks suggested

Information on purchasing tickets online for the golf tournament/banquet and the reunion party will be available after the New Year. Keep an eye on your inbox for more details.

Go to [www.SigmaChiMaryland.com](http://www.SigmaChiMaryland.com) to ensure that we have your current email address.

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

### In Memory of Charles Kincaid and Ronald Donbullian



Brother **Charles (Papa) Kincaid '52**, beloved husband, father of four, and grandfather of 14, entered the Chapter Eternal on February 20, 2016. After attending the University of Maryland, he went on to earn many advanced degrees, including a Doctorate in nuclear engineering. Some of his career accomplishments include working for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, serving as a Physical Science Coordinator in the Office of the Naval Attache in London, and serving as a commissioned officer in both the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

#### **Ronald F. Donbullian '62 – "Neon"**

On Sunday, October 23, 2016, Ronald F. Donbullian of College Park, MD, formerly of Greenbelt, MD passed away. He is survived by the love of his life, Mary Wolfe; beloved father of Travis (Janet), Gibson, Leeana Donbullian, Camilla (the late Matt) Yandell, Frank Donbullian (Cindy Canfield) and Maria Donbullian; grandfather of Kylie, Angelo (Stephanie), Danielle (Bobby), Amanda, Devon, Sophia, Olivia, Matthew (Summer), Sarah, Chance and Aiden; great-grandfather of Nikala, Angelo, Vanessa, Jamie, Hayden and Natalie; brother of Anthony (Kathy) and the late Edward Donbullian. Also survived by his nieces and nephews and he eagerly anticipated the arrival of his great-granddaughter, Victoria.

*If you know of a Sigma Chi brother who has recently entered the Chapter Eternal let us know at [SigmaChiMaryland.com](http://SigmaChiMaryland.com).*