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COLLEGE PARK ALUMNI CHAPTER

Scott Werber '86, President

Phil Robling '79, Treasurer

UNDERGRAD NEWS

By the Numbers

3.14

Chapter GPA this fall

\$35,000

Raised for Children's Miracle Network from Derby Days this past fall

10

Upstanding new members initiated this fall

2017 Goals

"During my tenure as pro consul, I hope to help the consul in implementing an incentive-driven attendance program. I also will strive to improve the chapter's academic performance; namely by raising our GPA standards for new members. In addition, I will collaborate with the Derby Days chairman to shoot for 100% participation from on-campus sororities, and set the fundraising goal \$10,000 higher than our 2016 Derby Days, where we raised over \$35,000."

—Greg Kotchick, Pro Consul



CROSSROADS

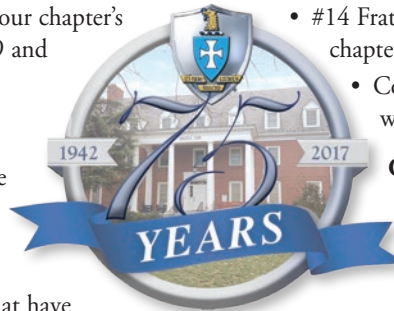
A Publication of Gamma Chi Chapter of Sigma Chi, University of Maryland

May 2017

GAMMA CHI'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Register Today for Golf, Cocktail Party, and More!

We are excited to announce our chapter's 75th Anniversary on May 19 and 20, 2017. Please mark your calendars for this milestone event and register at www.sigmachimaryland.com. We hope all of you can make it back to campus to celebrate our success and the many friendships and great men that have come out of our chapter.



Agenda

Friday, May 19

Annual Golf Classic

12:45 p.m. check in

- University of Maryland Golf Course
- \$85 includes round of golf, cart, bucket of range balls, prizes (\$45 for undergrads)
- Captain's Choice format, which means all skill levels welcome
- Prizes for lowest score, longest drive, closest to the pin, and more

75th Anniversary Welcome Reception

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

- University of Maryland Clubhouse
- \$35 includes dinner and open bar (\$20 for undergrads)
- Herb roasted bone-in chicken, carved roast beef, garden salad, fruit & pasta salads, herb roasted potatoes, green bean almondine, soda/tea, desserts

Saturday, May 20

White Rose Ceremony (public Sigma Chi ritual with families welcome)

Noon

- 4600 Norwich Road grounds
- We'll honor both 4600 itself and all our brothers who have entered the Chapter Eternal

Picnic/Barbecue

12:30 p.m.

- #14 Fraternity Row – Sigma Chi chapter house
- Cost is free, but please RSVP so we can plan accordingly

Cocktail Party/Reunion 7 – 11 p.m.

- College Park Marriott Inn & Conference Center (next to UMUC), Potomac Ballroom
- \$25/couple, \$15/single which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres.
- Cash bar
- Professional DJ playing your favorite, requested tunes
- Short program honoring significant alumni
- Outdoor cigar lounge

Please note:

- Black UnderArmour polo with M on chest and 1" SC on nape of neck available for ALL to purchase. Though we placed the original order, we will make a second order if there's enough interest.
- Registration for all events closes Friday, May 12, or earlier if an event is sold out. Please sign up early.
- **Please pay in advance, we can't accommodate walk-ups.**
- Spouses welcome at all events, kids welcome for White Rose & Picnic/Barbecue
- **Parking:** Ample for both night events. Saturday – Behind Ritchie, street parking, meters, but not in permit-protected areas.
- **Attire:** Blazer & slacks for cocktail party. Casual for all other events.

Please consider sponsoring a hole, or undergrad for golf and/or reception.

Questions? Please contact Scott Werber at scott@ddminsurance.com or 301-646-3013.

Register at www.sigmachimaryland.com.

THE MOST UNIQUE INITIATIONS IN GAMMA CHI HISTORY

Think Your Initiation Was Special? Check Out These Brothers' Stories

Over the years, there have been several brothers who've been initiated under unique circumstances. Recently, some of these brothers have shared their stories—some powerful, some humorous—with us. Here's a look at some of our best initiation stories. Do you have one to share? Email us at alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

The Time the Magister's Dad Pledged Sigma Chi

by *Seth Preece '49*

During the fall of 1946, I was the chapter Magister. One evening in September or October, I was in the Chapter Room waiting for the pledges to assemble for a pledge meeting. To my surprise, my father (Edmund F. Preece) walked in, and opened his suit coat so I could see the pledge pin on his vest.

I asked him, "Where did you get that?"

He replied, "Two Sigma Chis pinned it on and told me to report to you."

I had a good idea what had happened. I didn't need to ask any more questions.

My father was not a stranger on the Maryland campus. He was a civil engineer working for the Army Engineer Corps. His office was in Washington, but he also spent time at a soil testing facility that he had established on campus early in WWII when he was updating the Army Engineers' Field Manual. That September, he had started auditing a course in the Chemistry Department to help him with some of his research. Two of my fraternity brothers must have spotted him sitting in a classroom and decided that established him as a student.

At the next chapter meeting, he was sent a written invitation to become a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity. We initiated Dad on November 10, 1946. A few weeks later, he was elected President of the Gamma Chi Alumni Chapter.

Better Late than Never

By *Richard Kearns '77*

When I first enrolled at the University of Maryland, housing was very tight. I ended up taking a room in the Lambda Chi Alpha house



Seth Preece



Ed Preece

on Fraternity Row. By the time I arrived on campus, they had their charter revoked and the house was taken over by D.U.

They allowed me to stay and also participate in the intramural leagues. I first met Tim Francis on the soccer fields when Sigma Chi played D.U. I believe I scored 2 goals that day. After the game, Tim approached me about pledging Sigma Chi. That night, I met him at the old house and also met a number of brothers, and I knew right away Sigma Chi was for me.

I studied my pledge material intensely. I didn't want anything to happen that may cause me not to be initiated. At the end of the semester, my junior year, things changed.

Back in those days the job market was extremely tight. My father was a VP with a very large insurance company and he advised me that there was a management level position available and that it reported to one of his counterparts who had agreed to offer me the position. It was clear that the decision had already been made for me.

I remember my family was gathered for a holiday dinner when the phone rang. It was David Crow, my Magister. He was wondering where I was because I was supposed to be at the house for initiation. I told him what happened and that I would not be going back to school. He begged me

to come anyway and go through initiation.

I was so distraught that I wasn't going back, so I declined.

I remember his words to this day: "Rich, if you don't come down and go through initiation, you will regret it for the rest of your life."

He was right. Not a week went by when I didn't regret my decision to stay home.

Then, something happened that made me explore the possibility of making the dream come true.

Nearly 40 years later, my nephew who attends James Madison came to me and said "Uncle Rich, I often heard you speak of Sigma Chi, and I want you to know I'm pledging Sigma Chi right now."

I was so proud. I decided there must be something I could do. I called headquarters and explained my situation. They put me in touch with Scott Werber, and I also contacted David Crow. These two great brothers put the wheels in motion to make my dream come true.

At the age of 60, I became a brother of Sigma Chi, Gamma Chi chapter!

P.S. One month later, I had the opportunity to attend my nephew's initiation and participate in the process.

Never say never...

Visit www.sigmachimaryland.com for more unique initiation stories.



Richard with his nephew

Where Your Gamma Chi Brothers are Today

Bob Gralley '49 (8810 Walther Blvd. Apt. 2117, Parkville, MD 21234; gralley1@juno.com)

Nothing too new at this end. I joined Sigma Chi in 1944 and, after going in the service, graduated in 1949. Sorry to hear that my old buddy **Al Mayer '49** passed away not too long ago. Al was instrumental in my joining Gamma Chi. I still remember the good old days and how much Sigma Chi meant in making me feel at home in such a new environment. Guess there is not too many of us old timers left. Time flies but memories will always remain.

Ed Whiteford '52 (811 Deepwood Ct., Bel Air, MD 21015; edwhiteford@comcast.net) My years at Maryland and Gamma Chi have been remembered pleasantly throughout my 85 years. After College Park, I went to Medical School and later had an Air Force career spawned by AFROTC at MD. I retired a Colonel as Maryland State Air Surgeon and have many fond memories. Although I am disabled now with ataxia which interferes with ambulation, the Lord has spared my mind. If I am able, I would like to attend the 75th anniversary.

Ken Harrington '68 (223 Warbasse Junction Rd., Lafayette, NJ; Kenneth.Harrington@embarqmail.com)

I currently live in Lafayette, New Jersey with my wife, Karen, and daughter, Laura. In 2007, I retired from Trane Co. after 36 years as a sales engineer. I now split my time between gardening, golfing, and visiting with our grandchildren, Ashley and Olivia. I've also begun building a model railroad that I've put off since high school!

I have many fond memories of my life as a Sigma Chi at Maryland, so it is hard to focus on one or two. However, I always thought about our weekly chapter meetings and, how, after discussing our differences and opinions in the meeting, always leaving the meeting as Brothers. Other great memories include football weekends, even though the team didn't give us much to cheer about.

I came to know about Sigma Chi well before I enrolled at MD. My best friend's father was a Sig at UMD and I always liked him. In fact, he was one of the founding brothers of Sigma Chi at UMD, **Lee Collinson '45**. So when I got there, I had already made up my mind that I wanted to be

a Sig. I pledged, and the rest is history.

It was through Sigma Chi that I got my first (and only) job. Brother **John Bergman '65** was a Civil Engineering grad like I was soon to be. We were talking one day, and I asked him where he worked and if he liked it. He told me about Trane, and invited me to his office to learn more about the company. I liked what I saw and wound up working for Trane for 36 years. I always marvel at how my initial association with Sigma Chi set the course for my life.

Once my daughters reached the age that school responsibilities took precedence, we stopped going to Homecoming. Recently, I have reconnected with **Charlie Brown '68**, **Bob Bryer '67**, **Tom Ferry '69**, and **Mike Ferrara '67**. Mike and his wife, Karen, have met us for dinner a few times and we have taken in a Maryland/Rutgers game in New Brunswick. Charlie and Janet have hosted us for a couple of Homecomings, and we saw Tom and Bob and their wives when we were at our vacation home in Berlin, MD. I am planning on attending the 75th Reunion in May and am looking forward to catching up with all the Brothers I haven't seen for many years!

Bob Donaldson '69 (3815 Donaldson Lane, Avenue, MD 20609; robert.donaldson@verizon.net)

After living in Washington, DC for 25 years and Falls Church, VA for 18 years, we finally built a new house on the family farm and retired to Southern Maryland full time. Any brothers who want to eat some crabs and go sailing should come for a visit.

Thomas Togneri '88 (56 Orchard St., Pleasantville, NY 10570-2115; thomas.togneri@nbcuni.com)

I'm the Sr. Director of Olympics and Sports Sales for NBC Universal & Comcast Regional Sports Networks.

I still enjoy keeping in touch with many brothers, including **John Bush '88**, **Jack Travisano '88**, **Maurice Rowe '88**, **Darin Pinto '88**, **Rick Sullivan '90**, **Mike Mills '89**, **Jeff Holibaugh '88**, **Jim Tracy '87**, **Darrell Beall '87**, **Dave Beall '87**, **Shaun McInerney '88**, **Tony Burton '92**, **Angelo Pace '88**, **John Vipulis '89**, **Joe Preston '92**, **Mike Walsh '88**, **Chad Thompson '89**, **Carlos "Chick" Hernandez '86**, and **Ed Woods '88**.

Darren Recuperero '91 (95 Prospect Hill Ave., Summit, NJ 07901-3706; DRcuperero@shiplp.com)

At Sigma Chi I got to know a great group of people that allowed a large college like UMD to feel small. Everyone helped shape my life inside the fraternity—it's a great group of people—but **Hale Hedley '90** served as my best man in my wedding and **Terry Carmody '92** continues to be among my closest friends. I also keep in touch with **Scott Werber '86** via his notes, **Matt Kane '92** (NYC), and **Dave Di Paolo '92** (NYC). My kids have kept me busy, but now they are looking at college so I'm going full circle. We visited Lehigh and I immediately recalled a great trip with UMD brothers back in 1987.

Brian Coffey '92 (43 W Broadway, Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776-3818; CoffeyB22@hotmail.com)



Brian and his wife, Ginger, at Fire Island



Brian with his children, Sean and Kaitlyn, and their dog, Finn

My favorite memories from Sigma Chi were Derby Days, house parties, and intramural championships. I've been inspired by many of my brothers, including **Lance McInerney '92** (because he's a good friend), **Kenny Wilund '89** (my big brother), **Mike Conmy '92** (a great guy who's very

driven), and **John LaValle '89** (for looking after a Long Island boy and his dedication to public service. He is currently the head of the Suffolk County Republican Party). I'm still in touch with Mike through Facebook. Sigma Chi taught me to be more a responsible citizen and to give back. The best part of

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ALUMNI UPDATES

Continued from page 3

being an alum is seeing so many brothers come to others' aid even well after graduation.

Keith Goldan '93 (505 Langford Dr., Downingtown, PA 19335; kgoldan@yahoo.com)

I just took a new role as Chief Financial Officer at OptiNose in Yardley, PA (www.optinose.com), and also recently became an Advisory Board member at the Downingtown STEM Academy (www.dasd.org/STEM).

Casey Jones '93 (39 Hamilton Road, Morristown, NJ 07960; lutherjones4@gmail.com)

I'm an attorney living in Morristown, New Jersey. I'm married to Terryann Bradley, and we have a girl named Libby, who has her father wrapped around her little finger!



Casey and wife,
Terryann



Casey and his daughter,
Libby

ALUMNI PROFILE

Christian Kachel '03 Releases Second Novel in a Series

Alum Author Shares the Story Behind His New Book

U.S. Army Reserve Major and award-winning author **Christian Kachel '03** recently celebrated the release of his new book, *Spoils of Olympus II: World on Fire*. This is the second book in the Spoils of Olympus series. Inspired by his experiences in Sigma Chi and fueled by his passion for ancient history, the story revolves around the events following the death of Alexander the Great.

About His Sigma Chi Experience

Q: Why did you join Sigma Chi as an undergrad?

A: A number of my friends had joined the year prior, and Sigma Chi at UMD in 2000–2001 was a bit different than the 'normal' fraternities on Frat Row. This fraternity wasn't caught up in the pretentious stuff and had a strong history and bond between brothers.

Q: What is your favorite memory of Sigma Chi?

A: I think traveling down to Miami for the 2002 Orange Bowl and New Year's Eve was probably my favorite Sigma Chi experience.

Q: Do you still keep in touch with many brothers?

A: There is a strong group of about 30 of us from the late '90s and early 2000s that keep in contact fairly regularly, given how far removed we are from graduating. Annual tailgates and 'man trips' always draw a good showing.

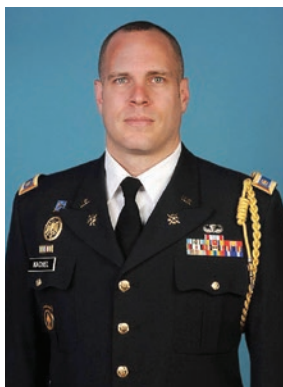
About His Novels

Q: How did your experiences in Greek life influence your future as an author?

A: Well, putting the coincidence that my novels take place in the ancient Greek world aside, my experiences and bonds formed during great times and bad—mostly great—while at Sigma Chi certainly translate to the core group of young male characters in my books.

Q: What has fueled your passion for ancient history?

A: I've always had a love of history and read many historical novels



prior to ever thinking of writing my own. Because of my familiarity with the literary genre, I knew the specific time period covered in my novels was not heavily written about. I saw an opportunity to write an interesting story about a unique time period—the time immediately following the death of Alexander the Great where his many generals fought over what he left behind. Greek and foreign armies were drawn into a world war that spanned decades and three continents.

Q: Why did you decide to write historical narratives about the Macedonian Empire?

A: Much had been written about Alexander the Great, both fiction and non-fiction, but few novels have been written about the incredible time period following his death. He established the greatest land empire up to that period which was fought over and divided among his generals for over 250 years.

Q: I see you have a new book that came out in 2016, can you tell me about it?

A: The sequel to my debut novel, *Spoils of Olympus II: World on Fire*, picks up right where the first leaves off. It expands the story further into the palaces of Babylon and the ancient cities of Persia.

Q: What do you hope readers will take away from reading *Spoils of Olympus II: World on Fire*?

A: It is my hope that readers will first and foremost appreciate the success Alexander and his later successors had throughout the Mediterranean world and beyond. Greek Kings were still in power over 100 years later in places as disparate as Egypt and Afghanistan.

I also think we as people have gotten a little too comfortable with the ease provided us through technology and hope readers will have a newfound respect for the lives of our ancestors.

Visit www.christiankachel.com to learn more about Christian's series, or purchase it on www.amazon.com. Want to get in touch with Christian? You can reach him at chris.kachel@gmail.com or (240) 462-6993.