

HOUSE CORPORATION

Dennis O'Connell '82
President

Zach Gonnson '10
Treasurer

Barry DesRoches '80

Phil Robling '79

Dayne Warshofsky '13

UPCOMING EVENTS

HOMECOMING

October 28

An alumni tailgate will begin two hours before kickoff on the Clarice Smith PAC lawn across from the stadium. BYOB. Family and friends are welcome!

INITIATION

November 4

HOUSE CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING

November 4 • 2:00 p.m.
at the Chapter House

Fall Investiture

November 4 • Noon
at St. Andrew's Parish Hall on College Ave.

SIGNIFICANT SIG

We are proud to share that **Chick Hernandez '86** (Sports Anchor, Reporter, and Host for Comcast SportsNet/NBC Sports) was among the Significant Sigs selected in 2017!

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We regret to inform you of the passing of the following Sigs...

- William Coale Jr. '49 (4/18/17)
- Paul Massey '49 (3/18/17)
- John Edwards III '50 (2/5/17)
- Kenneth Davis '51 (7/18/17)
- H. Robert Lynn '54 (11/24/16)
- Robert Green '59 (8/17/17)
- Robert Colvin '60 (3/5/17)
- John Rymer '60 (8/5/17)
- Vincent Spong '67 (3/31/17)
- Mike Conmy '92 (8/24/17)
- Kevin Sheahin '93 (4/30/17)



CROSSROADS

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

October 2017

FEATURE STORY

Loyal Terps Fans Get Ultimate Away Game Experience Crabcakes and Football Festival a Success Thanks to Two Austin-Based Gamma-Chi Sigs

With Tom Herman taking over as head coach, it seemed Texas already had the September 2 game against Maryland in the bag. But that didn't keep loyal Terps fans from making the long trek to Austin—



PICTURED Standing: Bryan Clobes, Tom Burton, Nick Abid, Vince Scanlon, Ryan Kennedy, Bryan Tinsley, Greg Toland, Victor Bradford • **Kneeling:** Brian Allen, Greg Gaston, Rich Thometz

and much to everyone's surprise, their dedication paid off in what was one of the best away game experiences in Maryland history.

Gamma Chi brothers had an especially strong presence at the weekend-long event—appropriately dubbed the Crabcakes and Football Festival—thanks to alumni Rich Thometz '87 and Dallas-based Jonathan Valz '96.

Rich organized the event while Jonathan hosted Maryland and Sigma Chi alumni at his bar, The Concrete Cowboy.

"I've had that weekend circled on my calendar since the game was announced a few years back," Jonathan explains. "Having traveled to Berkeley for the game at Cal in 2009, I felt that there was no concentrated effort to organize the UMD alumni, and I wasn't going to let that happen this time. To see such a great turnout with all different age groups represented, it really was an amazing day."

On Friday night, more than 1,000 UMD alumni packed the Concrete Cowboy for happy hour. "Inside Maryland Sports" talk radio also broadcasted live from the bar and even invited Jonathan on as a guest.

"They asked if we were going to win,

and of course I picked the Terps," he says, laughing. "Let's just say that I won a lot of steak dinners from my [Texas] friends here in Dallas."

"The Concrete Cowboy headquarters for Terps fans on

the evening before the game set the tone for the entire weekend," Rich chimes in. "Sigma Chi Terps showed up in waves all evening. Jon did so much planning and preparation to give UMD fans an unbelievable away game headquarters bar experience to rally around, and it was great to support a fellow Sig's successful business..."

On Saturday morning, alumni enjoyed free breakfast tacos at the bar before heading over to the stadium.

The weekend was already off to a great start, but Maryland's remarkable win certainly added to the merriment.

"UMD Sigs are connected by our love of competition and sports," Rich says. "[Seeing the Terps win was] surreal. Maryland exploded on Texas during the first half, and then kept scoring during the second half to keep Texas at bay. Seeing the game in Texas' stadium, among a visiting fan base of die-hard Maryland fans, was an experience that I don't think any Terps fan there will ever forget."

Jonathan headed back to the venue early and when the final whistle went off, he was at the front door ready to greet fellow Maryland fans.

(Continued on Page 3)

How Gamma Chi Brothers are Shaking up the Marketplace

Luzio vs. Everybody Web Series Features American Success Stories

Don't ever let anyone tell you that you are not capable of doing something great.

That is the premise behind *Luzio vs Everybody*, a business venture that was developed by Sigma Chi Brothers **Mike Luzio '98** and **Chris Ytuarte '99**. *Luzio vs Everybody* is a key part of The LVE Group, one that looks to inspire others to succeed through a “you vs. the world” attitude, and includes a weekly web series hosted by Mike called *52 American Success Stories*, featuring individuals and organizations who have overcome adversity in pursuit of their passions. “My whole life, I felt like people were always telling me that I couldn't do something,” Mike states.

So, after finding success as co-founder and CEO of Industry Retail Group (IRG), Mike decided to make a bold move. “I don't have time to wait,” he says. “I decided to go for it and build this business.” After selling IRG for more than \$50 million, Mike joined forces with Chris and developed The LVE Group. “We created a brand around the ‘I can do it’ mentality,” Mike explains. “We want people to put ‘Their name vs. Everybody’ and take on that mindset, not letting anyone tell them otherwise.”

The LVE Group has evolved since its inception. While officially becoming a company in September 2016, LVE began taking shape nearly a year prior. “Mike approached me about writing a book based on his experiences building and growing his first company, IRG,” recalls Chris. “As we started kicking ideas around and working on the book, we realized that his past and future as an entrepreneur and CEO needn't be separate entities and both required more than just a few chapters in a book. That's when we decided to become partners in a new venture called The LVE Group that would both document and relay Mike's past successes so that others can learn from them, while also creating opportunities for The LVE Group to build and grow a new business.”

For its social, online component, Mike enjoys the opportunity to hear success stories, while learning from them at the same time. “I love sitting down



Inspiring the world (L to R): Paul Tribles '96, Mike Luzio '98, and Chris Ytuarte '99.

with amazing people and hearing their stories of perseverance. After 20 years of working in business and hearing these inspiring stories, I wanted to share them,” Mike explains. “I think in this time in our country with all of the negativity going on, we have to remember that this country is amazing and we produce amazing people.” Always looking to improve himself, Mike uses these interviews as a way to become a better businessman. “Through this business, I gain knowledge. I am a big believer that I'm not the smartest guy in the room, but I surround myself with people who are better at certain things than I am.”

And what better group to work with than his fellow Sigma Chi brothers? As Creative Director for The LVE Group, Chris is responsible for growing the brand's exposure and awareness through various creative mediums and platforms. “Since Mike's oversized personality is such a major component of the brand and its business goals, I believe the creative side of bringing his story and persona to the forefront will play a large part in the overall success of The LVE Group,” says Chris.

On the business side, Mike and Chris are proud to work with fellow brother, **Paul Tribles '96**. Paul serves the company on the strategic business front, focusing on the different arms of The LVE Group. “While not at the forefront, the *Luzio vs Everybody* brand has a robust business consulting side of the house,” he explains.

“I help run this crazy, but incredibly amazing and ambitious freight train we are riding on right now. I work closely with Mike on our ever-evolving business plan, help create and maintain key business partnerships, and provide financial management and marketing strategy input.”

Creating a new business is a huge undertaking, but to do so with your Sigma Chi Brothers makes the ride that much more interesting and fun. “There is an immediate comfort level between us that allows us to cut through a lot of the typical corporate workforce bull. We get to the core of an issue much faster,” states Chris. “Mike and I have been great friends for 22 years, so as business partners, we know we can say pretty much anything to each other. With Paul, who was an older Brother at Sigma Chi when Mike and I pledged, the foundation was already there from our shared experiences as Sigs and we all fell pretty quickly back into a rhythm and means of working and communicating that comes very naturally from being fraternity brothers.”

It is obvious that Sigma Chi has played a critical role in the coming together of Mike, Chris and Paul. It is also no surprise to any of them that the fraternity had tremendous influence on the success of the business.

Read the full story at www.sigmachiumd.org.

FEATURE STORY (CONTINUED)

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“At first, I only saw some disheartened Longhorn fans trickling down 6th Street,” he says “... that is, until the tidal wave of red appeared, and we Terps fans pretty much owned the city for the rest of the night.”

“Any college football fan base would be lucky to have an away game in Austin over Labor Day weekend,” Rich explains. “It had the feel and craziness of a bowl game experience, but with great weather, great food and drink, and a great fan experience!”

According to Rich’s estimation, more than 60 UMD Sigs spanning five decades traveled to Austin, “ranging from **Alex**

Panhans ’67 and **Barry DesRoches ’80** to **Ryan Kennedy ’12** and his group.”

Through time and distance has separated alumni over the years, the sense of camaraderie and brotherhood was stronger than ever.

“[We] cut loose and had fun, just like in college,” Rich says. “So many Sigs were there having a great time catching up with their pledge class brothers and others they had not seen in a while.”

Though the Crabcakes and Football Festival is now just a cherished memory for Maryland and Gamma Chi alumni, it has hopefully set a precedent for future

away games.

“I would love to be part of more events like this one,” Rich says. “It’s good to take advantage of a unique type of scheduled UMD event—sports or otherwise—as an excuse to get together with brothers. I think we’ll plan on informally organizing Crabcakes and Football Festivals for any away games in cities that have a Concrete Cowboy to rally in as Terps headquarters (Chicago NW game, 2020, for example).”

Keep your calendars open and stayed tuned to www.sigmachiumd.com for future events!

MILESTONE EVENTS

Celebrating 75 Years



Many thanks to the 250 or so Alumni, who joined us in May to celebrate our 75th Anniversary at the University; especially those brothers who made the effort to join us from CA, AZ, CO, TX, FL, NC, PA, NJ, NY, etc., including our Grand Consul Mike Ursillo. We had alumni representing eight decades: the 1940s through this decade.



On the Web

Visit our 75th Anniversary Page at www.sigmachiumd.org to view:

- A slideshow of Gamma Chi’s history, which was played at the cocktail party
- The professional photos taken at the event
- The photos taken at the cocktail party photo booth



The Gamma Chi Chapter of
SIGMA CHI
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

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Inside...

*How 2 Gamma Chi Alums Threw a Party for
1,000+ of Their Closest Terp Fan Friends*

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CHAPTER NEWS

Gamma Chi Recognized with Multiple Awards

House Corp Earns Gold Award from Sigma Chi

Our House Corp. was one of 32 Sigma Chi House Corporations in North America that received a Gold Award from Sigma Chi, for superior business practices in 15 areas.

We are one of four House Corporations in the Big Ten to receive a Gold Award, along with Michigan, Minnesota and Penn State. Syracuse was the only ACC school.

Congratulations and thanks to **Barry DesRoches '80, Dayne Warshofsky '13, Phil Robling '79, Zach Gonnson '10 and Scott Werber '86.**

Dennis O'Connell '82 Honored for Exceptional Service

This year, at the annual Department of Fraternity & Sorority Life (DFSL) awards ceremony, Dennis O'Connell '82 proudly received the award for "Best House Corporation Officer."

"[Dennis] has not only gotten necessities for the house, but has worked with alumni to ensure the house stands out from the rest," said Bob Nichols, Associate Director of the DFSL at the University of Maryland. "With attention to detail and concern for other brothers' needs, this individual has helped create essential pride in the chapter and a place where brothers want to devote their time."

The alumni and undergrads of Sigma Chi are grateful for all the time and effort that Dennis happily dedicates to the chapter and ensuring our legacy at UMD.



Dennis O'Connell '82

FROM THE ARCHIVES

We love coming across great old pictures from our chapter archives, like this one of the Sigma Chi Football Champs in 1986. Can any brothers in this picture give us the story? Or share other memories from that year/era?

We invite ALL brothers to share the best photos and memories from their college days with the brotherhood at www.sigmachiumd.org or on our Facebook page [@UMDSigmaChi](https://www.facebook.com/UMDSigmaChi).

