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GAMMA CHI ONLINE



Social Media

Instagram: @sigmachiumd
Facebook: @UMDSigmaChi



Find us on the web at www.sigmachimaryland.com. Read the latest news from fellow alumni and the undergrads, submit an update, or look through our photo albums!



CROSSROADS

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

November 2020

JACK HEISE AWARD WINNER

Bob "Turtle" Smith and Wife Carol

Congrats to **Bob "Turtle" Smith '63** and his wife Carol, who were named the 2020 Jack Heise Award recipients in a recent Terrapin Club Annual Meeting. The award was given to the couple for their unwavering support and for exemplifying the Maryland spirit.



It's fitting that the award itself is named for a distinguished Sigma Chi alum as well, **Jack Heise '49**, who was an important benefactor of the University of Maryland. His dedication to Terrapins sports earned him the nickname "Mr. Maryland," and he was a winner of the Significant Sig Award.

A recent *Terrapin Times* article states that Bob played and started for the Terps Baseball team from 1960-63, and was co-captain his senior year. He credits Maryland Baseball with allowing him to get his degree with scholarship support.

After Bob graduated in 1963, he became a successful businessman and vice president of two Fortune 500 companies. He has remained

loyal to Maryland and joined the Terrapin Club in 1972. He moved to Great Falls, Virginia around 1980, and started to attend Maryland games with Carol, who he was dating at the time. A native of Harrisburg, Carol wasn't a sports fan until Bob took her to an ACC basketball tournament in Landover in 1980.

Bob and Carol have been faithful Maryland donors and basketball and football season ticket holders for over 45 years. In December 2007, they established the *Robert W. and Carol B. Smith Family Endowed Baseball Scholarship*, the first fully-funded scholarship for the exclusive use of the Maryland Baseball program. Over the last ten years, they have made multiple major gift commitments to the athletic department. In honor of their 2009 gift, the baseball stadium now bears the name Bob "Turtle" Smith Stadium. Bob and Carol, thank you for exemplifying Terrapin Spirit! We are proud that you are in the Sigma Chi family!

2020 SPRING PLEDGES

22 New Gamma Chi Initiates

While pledging was suspended this fall due to COVID-19 concerns, this spring saw a full roster of pledges. In the photo, Consul Pat Murphy poses with the class that was initiated on October 25. Welcome to a lifetime of Sigma Chi, brothers!



Adam Fairbanks
Alex Adedji
Alex Dikman
Billy Garofalo
Brandon Leer
Chris Love
Chris Vondas
Cole Barret
Cole Musser
Connor Denicola
Drew Riolo

Ed Venetsky
Jack Love
Jensen Vaughan
Joe Coppersmith
Lucas Feingold
Malcom Liu
Matt Montgomery
Nick Bournias
Owen Macrae
Solomon Sonenshine
Steven Santel

CHAPTER UPDATE

A Q&A with Pro Consul Tom Castle

Pro Consul tells us about life at UMD in 2020 and How Gamma Chi is responding to COVID-19.

Tell us where you are from and how you ended up at UMD.

I'm originally from Cranford, New Jersey. UMD was always on my radar, and I fell in love with it after visiting a few times in high school. I expect to graduate in the spring of 2021. I am a junior, pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in economics with a minor in mathematics.

What made you decide on Sigma Chi?

Out of all of the fraternities I rushed, it was clear that Sigma Chi had the closest knit brotherhood while also having respect for diversity of personality and thought.

Tell us about your involvement with Gamma Chi Chapter. What have you learned/gained?

I pledged in the fall of 2018 and am now the Pro Consul. Being a Sig and Pro Consul has taught me how to be a better and stronger leader and how to truly care for every member of this great organization.

How was this fall's rush affected by COVID-19?



Hoping your Holidays are Merry and Bright from 14 Fraternity Row!

Unfortunately, we decided that it was best to not recruit a new pledge class this fall, due to COVID. We thought that our energy was better spent trying to get a high-quality pledge class in the spring, seeing as fall rush is usually much smaller than spring, and was down even more this year due to the pandemic.

How is day-to-day life in the house different this year from previous school years? What safety precautions are the undergraduate brothers taking?

COVID has affected nearly every aspect of undergrad life. Most of our brothers are

taking classes completely online, and we have canceled all planned social events. Instead of the library, much of our studying is taking place completely at our residences, which is a difficult transition for some of us. All of our brothers are healthy, which is certainly something to be thankful for in this challenging time.

Are there any events at the house that you've had to cancel, postpone, or alter due to the pandemic?

We pushed our Derby Days events to the spring and canceled all in-person events at the chapter house. We hope that we will be able to resume more of our normal activities this coming spring.

What are your plans after graduation?

I plan to intern with Northwestern Mutual as a financial representative intern in Washington, D.C. this spring. I have no concrete post-graduation plans, but am actively looking for opportunities in my field! A great way to connect with me is on LinkedIn: [bit.ly/TomCastle](https://www.linkedin.com/in/TomCastle)

CELEBRATION OF A DISTINGUISHED LIFE

Alan Mayer '49 Honored for WWII, CIA Service

Brother Alan Mayer '49, who passed in 2016, was honored by the Virginia General Assembly for his distinguished career and service in House Joint Resolution No. 818, passed by the Senate on February 2, 2017.

The resolution honors him for his service as "a patriotic veteran, a distinguished former member of the Central Intelligence Agency, and a longtime public servant in the Virginia House of Delegates."

Alan became a Sigma Chi while earning his degree from the University of Maryland. He also received a degree from the University of Virginia before serving in the United States Navy during World



War II. Following the war, he was a member of the Central Intelligence Agency and earned the Intelligence Medal of Merit.

From 1986 to 1996, Alan represented the residents of Fairfax County in the Virginia House of Delegates. During his career in the Virginia House of Delegates, Alan took a special interest in legislation to enhance the quality of life for individuals with brain injuries.

Alan was a devoted family man and is greatly missed by his wife, Grace, and children, Christopher, Margery, and Geoff, and their families.

ALUMNI NEWS

Send Us Your Updates!

Thanks to these brothers for sending in alumni updates! Visit our website at sigmachiumd.org to read more alumni updates. If you want to be featured in our next newsletter or e-letter publication to our alumni brothers, email your updates to alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

Seth Preece '49 (mandspreece@aol.com) says Sigma Chi played a significantly beneficial role in his life by providing him with a lifetime of good friends. "My life prior to college was to a large extent controlled by the great depression," he says. "In 1930, when I was starting [elementary] school, my father lost his job and we lost our beautiful home in Connecticut. In the years that followed, we moved from place to place while my father was able to find only short-term employment. If memory serves, by the time I finished high school we had moved nine times and I had changed schools eight times. I had some high school friends when I started at Maryland, but none that I had known very long or very well. I joined Gamma Chi and suddenly there was a chapter house full of brothers who sought lasting friendships. I am now ninety-five and enjoy looking back on many good and lasting friends."

Jim Smart '53 (ejsmart@ne.rr.com) says that he was a member of Gamma Chi as an exception. "I was a graduate student who rented a living space at the house for one summer—1956," he says. "I got to know the brothers. They asked if I'd like to join, but I had to agree that I could not hold an undergraduate leadership position. That suited me. So I became a pledge, underwent initiation, and became a member from 1956-60." He goes on, "I met many wonderful guys there. What I liked best were the exchange teas we had with various sororities. They were dry events, of course, but most pleasant." He says that while the teas were a favorite memory, it was in class where he met his wife-to-be.

Denis Schanberger '67 (deniscffl@verizon.net) might have worked 13 jobs to get through college, but he found time for some Sigma Chi memories. "I enjoyed a lot of the fraternity events like the sing competition (even though I couldn't carry a tune), sports, Derby Day, and hanging around the house with the guys," he says. He says that Sigma Chi made a big impact on his life through "the camaraderie, quality of the members, and the lessons taught." He says that while some fraternities are mostly party-oriented, Sigma

Chi has always stood for more, with high values you can apply to life.

Denis has been retired from teaching since 1999. Today, he is an avid bass fisherman and is in two clubs. "I am also the Secretary of the Maryland Bass Nation," he says. "I am basically living the good life, fishing, vacationing in Maine and Deep Creek Lake every year. I have camped across the country with my family twice for seven weeks with numerous other trips in Canada over the years. I have been in all but seven of the states and all but four of the Canadian Provinces. I am also a big Baltimore Ravens fan and have had season tickets from the beginning of the franchise." Denis has two sons and two grandchildren.

John Warther '85 (john.warther@ghs.com) says that one of his favorite places at College Park was The Hall. "Great food," he says. He also enjoyed attending lacrosse, football, and hoops games. As an alumnus, he enjoys tailgating and riding the bike trail through College Park with other brothers. He says that Sigma Chi has provided "unmatched friendships." One of John's daughters is getting married in June, and another daughter is looking forward to taking Maryland to another NCAA championship in lacrosse.

FLASHBACK PHOTO

Take Us Back to 1978

The year was 1978. Songs from the *Grease* soundtrack, like *You're the One That I Want* and *Summer Nights*, were top singles. *Animal House*, *Jaws II*, and *Revenge of the Body Snatchers* were top movies. The Terrapins played at the Sun Bowl that year. And the brothers in the house were living their best lives, making memories they still look back on fondly today.

Do you have photos to share? We want to see them—sideburns, polyester, and all! Send them to alumninews@affinityconnection.com or submit them on our website sigmachiumd.org, where you can see albums from other brothers from your era.



GAMMA CHI VITAL STATS

Let's Make our 78th Year a Great One

This year, Gamma Chi turns 78. That's a lot of brothers whose lives are better because of everything they gained at Sigma Chi, the most respected, honored, and prestigious college fraternity in the world. We need your help to keep our undergrad chapter and alumni relations strong.

A healthy fraternity is a living thing. It requires maintenance, care, and supervision. You are a member and an owner! To perpetuate our chapter and keep it strong, we as volunteers keep a close eye on the "beating heart" of our chapter: the brothers and key statistics. Here's a

snapshot; to see Gamma Chi's complete flash report of alumni, donors, and donations, visit the "News" page on our alumni website.

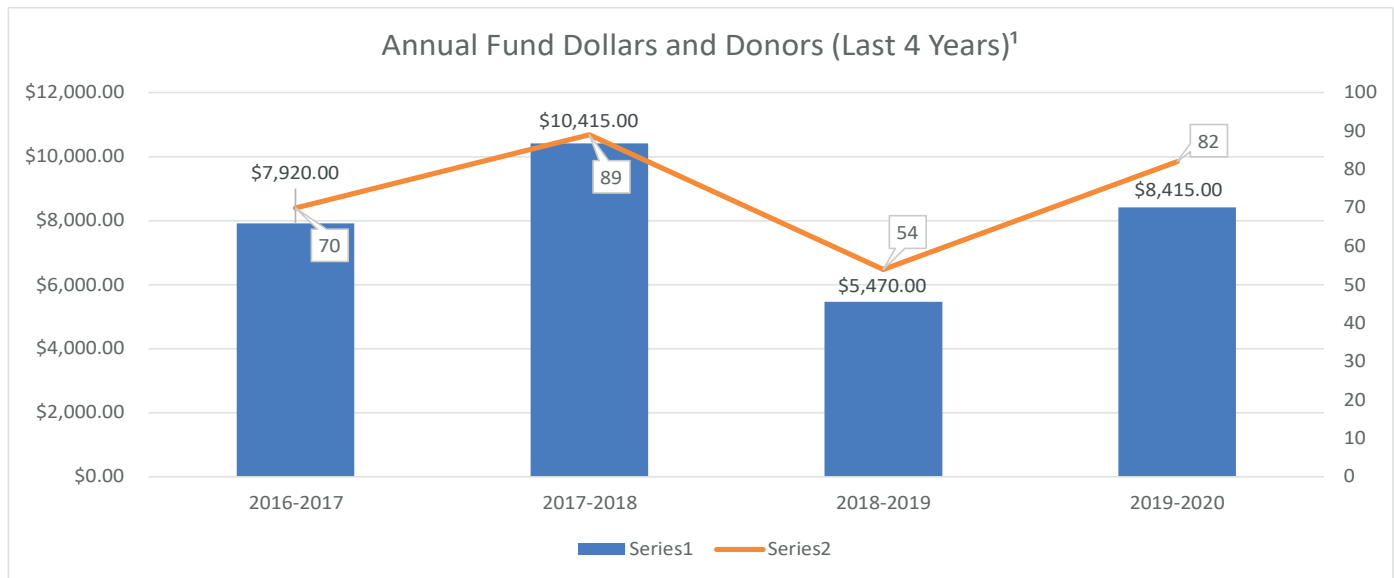
Join your brothers and make a gift today! See the enclosed letter to learn how you can give back.

Top 3 Decades of Donors (Last 5 Years)

1960-1969: \$9,410.00
 1980-1989: \$6,720.00
 1970-1979: \$6,455.00

Sigma Chi
 University of Maryland

Date Run 10/9/2020
 Fiscal Year: 09/01



UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER

2020-21 Executive Committee

Title	Name	Hometown
Consul (President)	Solomon Sonenshine	Newport Beach, CA
Pro Consul (Vice President)	Alex Zapinski	Pittsburgh, PA
Quaestor (Treasurer)	Ben Caine	Millstone, NJ
Magister (Pledge Trainer)	Nick Restivo	Rockville Centre, NY
Recruitment Co-Chairmen	Cole Barrett Steve Santel	Basking Ridge, NJ Garden City, NY
Annotator (Recording Secretary)	Matt Konop	Long Valley, NJ
Scholarship Chairman	Cole Musser	Sewickley, PA
Risk Management Co-Chairmen	Adam Fairbanks Drew Riolo	Columbia, MD Mahopac, NY
Derby Days Chairman	Malcolm Liu	Rockville, MD
Awards Chairman	Owen Macrae	Fayetteville, NY
Social Chairman	Billy Garofalo	Fairfield, NJ

LOST BROTHERS

Help Gamma Chi Stay Connected

Now more than ever, it's vitally important that we keep alumni brothers informed and involved with what's happening at Sigma Chi UMD. We have 186 alumni we can't reach via email and 37 alumni we have no current mailing address for. Visit sigmachiumd.org to review our current lost mailing and email lists on the home page.



If you have contact information for any lost brothers, email your updates to alumninews@affinityconnection.com.