

## OFFICERS

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SPRING 2025

Chris Castelli (Consul)

Conor Huey (Pro Consul)

Drew Garvey (Quaestor)

Patrick Bruno (Recruitment Co-chair)

Logan Dunn (Recruitment Co-chair)

Jake Kranz (Magister)

Dmitri Lalos (Risk Manager)

Max Crowley (Annotator)

Zaal Lam (Scholarship Chair)

Ky George (Social Chair)

Chase Spurrier (Awards Chair)

Gavin Bambi (Kustos/Ritual Chair)

Cael Comstock (Derby Days Co-chair)

Logan Offutt (Derby Days Co-chair)

### ALUMNI ADVISORS

Dennis O'Connell (Chapter Advisor)

Terry Hillery (Asst Chapter Advisor)

Scott Werber (Finance Advisor)

Chris Kennedy (Derby Days Advisor)

## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$500.00**

raised since 9/1/23

**\$13,000 goal**

**2**

ways to give:

1. Make a gift online at  
[www.sigmachiumd.org/ways-to-give/](http://www.sigmachiumd.org/ways-to-give/)
2. Send a check to our  
processing center  
listed below:

**Sigma Chi**  
University of Maryland  
Alumni Records Office  
P.O. Box 876  
Ithaca, NY 14851-0876.



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

December 2024

## ALUMNI PROFILE: CHRIS KENNEDY '85



Recently, we reached out to our Derby Days alumni adviser, Chris Kennedy '85 to share his thoughts about what being involved in the Sigma Chi brotherhood has meant to him. Please read below to hear what Chris had

to say about his Sigma Chi experience.

"I pledged Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of Maryland, Gamma Chi Chapter in the fall semester of 1981. I lived in the original Sigma Chi chapter house at 4600 Norwich Road in College Park for all my eight semesters in college, graduating in May 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism.

While in college, I served our fraternity as Derby Days chairman, Rush chairman and Annotator. I also served the University of Maryland Greek system as its president of the Order of Omega, which is the Greek leadership honor society for all fraternities and sororities on campus. Additionally, I spent three years as an editor and writer for the Diamondback campus student newspaper at Maryland, writing Terp basketball and football articles and interviewing Len Bias, Lefty Driesell, Boomer Esiason, and Bobby Ross.

After college, I earned my Juris Doctor law degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, followed by completing a one-year appellate judicial clerkship for the Honorable John McAuliffe on the Supreme Court of Maryland. After finishing my appellate judicial clerkship, I moved to Baltimore, Maryland and began practicing law at a large Inner Harbor law firm. I continue to practice law in Baltimore, recently starting my 35th year in private practice with a concentration in complex medical negligence litigation.

I met my lovely wife Claudia here in Baltimore, and we have been married for 23 years. Claudia is a senior clinical nurse educator

with a pharmaceutical company. We live in Hunt Valley, Maryland with our two-year-old Miniature Schnauzer dog, Alfie. In our free time, we volunteer at our church and with other organizations. We also volunteer with our dog through the Baltimore chapter of Pets on Wheels, bringing him to visit patients at hospitals and residents at nursing homes. For the past 12 years, I have regularly appeared as a television panel commentator on the Baltimore political talk show "Square Off with Richard Sher" on WMAR TV-13 (ABC) and more recently on WBFF TV-45 (FOX).

Fourteen years ago, I was asked by the Sigma Chi alumni chapter to bring back Sigma Chi Derby Days to the Maryland campus. The undergraduate chapter had just been recolonized, and Derby Days was essential to the restoration of the Sigma Chi chapter in general, and its campus reputation and success in particular. Derby Days is the national philanthropic project for Sigma Chi chapters, and the money raised by our Maryland chapter has directly benefitted Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. Since returning Derby Days to Maryland, our chapter has raised more than \$500,000 for Children's National Medical Center, to help children locally at the hospital.

I pledged Sigma Chi back in 1981 because my older brother, John Kennedy Jr. (class of 1982), was the Quaestor (treasurer) of our chapter, and he had been telling me about Sigma Chi for three years already. I knew it was the right place for me, and I did not bother looking at any other fraternity. At that time, the driving motivation and morale bonding instrument that made Sigma Chi such a strong fraternity at Maryland was its incredible commitment to the multisport fraternity intramural sports competition provided by the university. The competition ran August through May, and it was the connective tissue that bound our chapter together. We had won the overall fraternity category campus intramural sports competition for nearly 20 straight years. Second place was simply not an option. Ever.

I fondly remember my senior year when an administrative mistake by our chapter put us hundreds of points behind our fiercest fraternity sports rival. We fought back the entire spring semester, and it all came down to the indoor soccer championship game. Win, and we would clinch the overall title. Lose, and our rivals would win. We trailed 2-0 but rallied with three late goals, scoring the winning goal just seconds before the final whistle. The Maryland Sigma Chi Miracle All-Sports Comeback made us proud champions yet again. To this day, my champagne bottle, autographed by my fellow soccer teammates, is still proudly displayed in my law firm office.

The impact Sigma Chi has had on my life is simply this: to embody three driving principles that guided the founding of our fraternity 169 years ago in 1855, and those principles are friendship, justice, and learning. Aspiring to achieve those three principles has been a huge part of how I have lived my life. In today's world, Sigma Chi continues to provide that same kind of value to our undergraduate brothers. The fraternity also teaches our brothers the importance of attaining goals and acquiring important life skills needed for their emerging work careers, namely, to learn time, people, and money management skills.

Giving back to Sigma Chi is important for three reasons. First, it is the duty of every brother to provide such help to our undergraduate brothers and place strong arms around those brothers in need. Second, the pass-it-down doctrine compels brothers to give back since they were given such help during their undergraduate years. Third, it makes you feel good. No matter how, or in what way, you volunteer, it gives you an instant, hearty dose of a genuine feel-good tonic.

Without Sigma Chi, I would not have met my best, closest, friends. And without those tremendous friends, I would have had a much harder time coping with the loss of two of my family brothers to cancer, John and Brian, who were also my Maryland Sigma Chi brothers. During such difficult times in my life, it was my wife Claudia, other family members, and many of my close Sigma Chi brothers who provided me support, with strong arms around me. And for that, I will be forever thankful to Sigma Chi. It's great to be a Sig!"

## RECORD-BREAKING \$64,000 RAISED FOR DERBY DAYS 2024

We are pleased to announce that the chapter raised a record \$64,000 earlier this month during our annual Derby Days philanthropy to benefit Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. This was a 16% increase over the 2023 results. Derby Days continues to be the most successful Greek philanthropy on campus.

We'd like to give a special shout to Derby Days **Chair Danny Russell '26** and his DD committee, plus the sisters of Tri Delta, for their outstanding fundraising results! Tri Delta again won the competition among

the Panhel sororities for the fifth-plus year in a row and was instrumental again in fundraising for Derby Days. Thank you, sisters!

We now have raised slightly over \$500,000 for Children's since we brought Derby Days back to campus in 2011.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to Derby Days alumni adviser **Chris Kennedy '85**, who has tirelessly supported our Derby Days chairs and the undergraduates for the past 14 Derby Days. In Hoc.



The Derby Days leaderboard tracks the fierce competition between the participating organizations.





Alpha Phi proudly shows off their first-place banner for the Derby Days 2024 banner competition.



The overall winners of Derby Days 2024, the sisters of Tri Delta, pose underneath their banner.

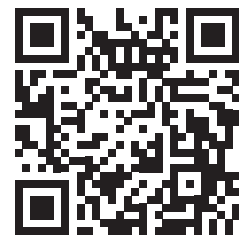
## HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM SIGMA CHI

We want to wish all our current Gamma Chi Chapter undergraduates, as well as all of our alumni brothers, a very happy holidays. The holiday season is always a time of reflection, celebration, memories, and most importantly, gratitude.

Whether it be through volunteering efforts, donations, or event attendance, we are thankful for your support in more ways than one. As Sigma Chi brothers, we share a passion for the brotherhood that contributed to our personal development, our relationships, and our lives as students and far beyond to our roles as husbands, fathers, professionals, volunteers, neighbors, and friends.

We can't overestimate the true meaning of giving back. By scanning the QR code below and adding your name to the ranks of our alumni donors, you can show our brotherhood what Sigma Chi means to you. We want to share our continued gratitude to those brothers listed on the honor roll below who have graciously given back to Sigma Chi already this year.

**SCAN TO GIVE**



### ***Sigma Chi Maryland Honor Roll 2024–2025***

*This Honor Roll reflect gifts made from September 1, 2024, to November 6, 2024.*

Charles Day . . . . .	1953
J. Brian Dietz . . . . .	1960
George Davis Jr. . . . .	1962
William J. Arnold. . . . .	1965
Frank Waikart III . . . . .	1968
Stephen Joyce . . . . .	1972



## HOMECOMING AT MARYLAND



**Chris Kennedy '85** (left) enjoys Homecoming with two younger generations of Kennedys.

This past October, brothers enjoyed beautiful fall weather as we gathered for Maryland's 2024 Homecoming celebration.

In addition to sunny skies and fall foliage, brothers also enjoyed a huge upset win for Maryland football over USC, one of the latest

additions to the Big Ten, after scoring 22 points in the second half.

We had a wonderful weekend reconnecting with our brothers, and we hope to see you at our next Alumni event!

## SIGMA CHI SUPPORTS SERVICE TRICK-OR-TREAT EVENT



*Sigma Chi greets eager trick-or-treaters as they participate in the Greek Life Service event.*



### Brothers, we want to hear from you!

As you know, our communications regularly feature alumni news from brothers across all decades. We love publishing these stories because our alumni are the heart of everything we do, and now, we are looking for more brothers to participate!

You can share what you have been up to since the Sigma Chi days, your favorite memories at the house, and what being a brother means to you, and we will publish your responses in an upcoming communication to the rest of your brothers. It can be something as simple as letting your brothers know what you are up to with work and life nowadays.

When life gets in the way, it can become increasingly difficult to stay in touch with our Gamma Chi buddies. That is why we want to hear from you

To submit your update, please contact our alumni relations partner at

[jscalone@elevateims.com](mailto:jscalone@elevateims.com),

or scan the QR code below to share with us via our alumni website.



On Halloween, Sigma Chi was one of several Greek community sponsors for the annual Boys and Girls Club of Georgetown trick-or-treat event. Brothers gave out candy to the kids as they went door-to-door, collecting candy and fond Halloween memories.

The event was presented by Greek Life Service at Maryland and was supported by nine Greek life sponsors. Several of these sponsors were also Derby Days participants, such as Alpha Phi and Tri Delta. We are proud of our undergraduates for consistently showing that Sigma Chi is truly for the kids.