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## BY THE NUMBERS

**\$10,565**  
raised as of 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 to our  
processing center  
listed below:  
**Sigma Chi**  
University of Maryland  
Alumni Relations Processing  
Center  
P.O. Box 7007  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-8007

# CROSSROADS

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

July 2024

## DERBY DAYS LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The University of Maryland Sigma Chi Gamma Chi chapter is happy to announce that Derby Days is coming back to campus in the Fall of 2024. Derby Days is a weeklong philanthropy event where the sixteen PHA sororities compete in various events to raise money for Children's Miracle Network and become the Derby Days champion.

Derby Days has become the largest Greek life philanthropy event at the University of Maryland. Since its inception, our chapter has been dedicated to making a positive impact through this event, and we are incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

Mariana Newby is one of the children that has benefited from Children's Miracle Network's lifesaving research, and she was a participant in this year's Derby Days.

"Every house that we stopped by during the sorority banner competition made Mariana feel so special that she was overwhelmed with so much excitement and didn't want to leave when we were done," Mariana's mom, Lorean Newby, said. "The students didn't realize how the smallest gesture of a hug, talking to her or even handing her some of her favorite candy impacted Mariana. She was so happy and felt like she made so many friends that day."

Lorean went on to say, "This event raises funds that are used to continue essential research to help impact pediatric care. It is this same research that saved Mariana's life 6 years ago. So grateful for all that the students do! Thank you for helping kids like Mariana grow!"

Thanks to the unwavering support of our members,



*Mariana Newby (center) poses with Sigma Chi's partnered sorority, Delta Gamma, at the Derby Days banner competition.*

alumni, and community, we have raised close to \$500,000 since 2011. These funds have been crucial in supporting various charitable organizations and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

According to the Assistant Director at Children's National Hospital Foundation, Shelby Stallings, Sigma Chi Maryland has had a notable impact on the organization.

"Events like the Derby Days raise critical funds, making it possible for us to provide

world-class care for local families, increasing healthcare access and equity in our community," she said. "On behalf of our patients and families, thank you to Sigma Chi at the University of Maryland for your support and commitment to children's health."

Our goal is to make Derby Days 2024 even bigger and better. To achieve this, we are seeking to grow our network of sponsors and supporters. Your involvement can help us reach new heights and expand our philanthropic efforts.

We invite you to become a sponsor and join us in our mission. Your contribution will not only support our event but also amplify the impact we can make in our community. Additionally, you can help us raise awareness about Derby Days by sharing this newsletter

with fellow alumni and potential sponsors.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the University of Maryland Sigma Chi Gamma Chi chapter. Together, we can make Derby Days 2024 the most successful event yet!

**-Danny Russell,**  
Derby Days Chair

## SAVE THE DATE

**Alumni Casino Night  
to benefit Children's  
National Medical Center/  
Derby Days**

TENTATIVE DATE :  
**Monday Sept 16**  
IN COLLEGE PARK

# SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY HAS ENRICHED MY LIFE BEYOND MEASURE

## David Crow '52

Recently, we reached out to **David Crow '52** to ask about his time in Sigma Chi, and the lasting impact that it made on his life. An accomplished author, David shared his story with us, in his own words.

"I pledged Sigma Chi out of sheer luck, which was pure good luck. A high school classmate told me to walk down to the Sigma Chi house and introduce myself. He said to show up for dinner at 6 PM.

I arrived for dinner at 6:20 PM, and dinner was over. I walked outside and ran into a brother named Tony Ristaino. We laughed about dinner being finished already, but our conversation went on for another 30 minutes. He invited me to a pledge function, and from that moment on, I wanted to be part of Sigma Chi. Over 50 years later, I still do.

Our house was at 4600 Norwich Road, just behind Fraternity Row. It was a large three-story house with a great living room, dining room, party room, and chapter room. It was an old house, but we maintained it well. There are so many great memories at the house, including initiation, parties, serious chapter meetings, and many festive occasions. Sigma Chi was the lifeblood of my college experience, and I cannot imagine life without it. My initiation was the highlight. When the chapter was asked 'Who vouches for this man?' The answer, 'We all do.' I will always remember that.

Sigma Chi offered a tremendous education separate from the classes at the University of Maryland. We learned to live with men of different temperaments, talents, and convictions. Our members came from a wide variety of family experiences. We were richer for becoming brothers in such a diverse group. I knew they would be friends and

brothers for life, and they have been.

I believe Sigma Chi offers a tremendous amount to every member from our beginning in the 1850s to the present day and beyond. College should be about opening a student's mind to knowledge, friendship, responsibility, and belonging. Sigma Chi did that for me and a whole lot more. All of the brothers I know feel the same way.

I have mentored dozens of Sigma Chis as interns in my lobbying firm, DCLRS. Many have been the children of brothers of my era, but even more have come from the current undergraduate ranks. My lobbying firm has had approximately 300 interns in my 33 1/2 years of managing this firm, and many are Sigma Chis. It feels great helping these young men prepare for careers. Our firm has been able to offer letters of recommendation, law school references, and advice from nearly 50 years in the lobbying world. Let me add, today's graduates are far better equipped than I was. They have all been impressive, and it makes me feel great that the next generation of leaders will be up to the task of making this world better. It means everything to give back. It means you have an appreciation for all that was given to you.

Without Sigma Chi, my life would have been poorer in more ways than I can count. To say it differently, the Sigma Chi fraternity has enriched my life beyond measure. I am deeply proud of being a member and hope to help as many members as possible in my journey.

Let me add that I wrote a memoir, *The Pale-Faced Lie*, which has become a best seller. In it, I list seven angels who intervened to make my life better. I list Sigma Chi as one of my angels, a crucial one in a life that could have gone very wrong."

## ZACK KAUFFMAN GAMMA CHI '21 LEUKEMIA BATTLE

Dear Brothers of Gamma Chi,

**Zack Kauffman '21** was a very active brother during his time at Maryland, serving the chapter graciously in multiple Executive Board positions, always being a champion to expand our fraternity's great aims and being a nothing but an exemplary role model to younger brothers, and positive light to all those around him.

He has been fighting Leukemia since the fall of 2021. He has had victories and setbacks along his journey. When conventional treatments failed him, he took it upon himself to become an expert of the disease, studying and meticulously crafting his diet and lifestyle.

He moved to Seattle by himself to seek the best in integrative care and found a team of experts who have worked with him to receive the latest and most innovative of treatments.

Zack's efforts nearly put him back into remission this past month, but an infection has set back progress.

The below GoFundMe was created so that he can receive an expensive but highly effective treatment (Dendritic Cell Therapy). Please consider typing this link into your browser and donating so that our dear friend can continue his battle.

<https://gofund.me/ea407ed3>

Thank you sincerely. IH.

Pat Murphy (Former Consul & Gamma Chi 22')



**Zack Kauffm n '21**

## REMEMBERING BROTHERS WHO GAVE ALL

### George Henry Albrecht and Joseph H. Gollner

Last month, we dedicated a plaque to our eight Gamma Chi Alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice during their service in World War 2: “For our today, they gave all their tomorrows.”

This plaque is located in our chapter house in the common room, as it was at 4600 Norwich Road.

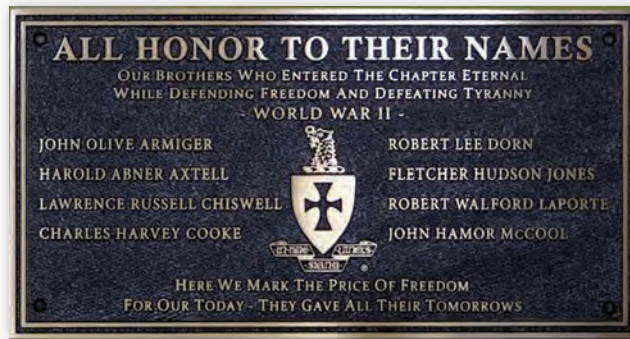
All honor their names, today and every day.

We would also like to honor two additional Brothers who died during their service in the US military, but do not appear on the plaque—Brothers **George Henry Albrecht** and **Joseph H. Gollner**.



**George Henry Albrecht**

Brother George Henry Albrecht served in the US military during the Vietnam War. George was born in 1931, and in 1964, he registered for military service. He was from western Pennsylvania, and he was initiated in our Fraternity in 1950.



#### Joseph H Gollner

Brother Joseph H Gollner served in the Korean War after graduating from the Naval Academy in 1949, where he was assigned to pilot the AD-4 aircraft.

Joseph was born in West Virginia, but eventually moved to Maryland. Prior to his time in the Naval Academy, Joseph was initiated in our Fraternity in 1946.

Brother Joseph died on January 11, 1952, while flying off the East Coast of Korea. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for “extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight while serving with Fighter Squadron FIFTY-FOUR (VF-54), embarked in U.S.S. ESSEX (CV-9), in action against enemy aggressor forces in Korea on October 29, 1951.”

For his gallantry in action over South Vietnam, George was given the Silver Star.

On November 19th, 1964, Brother Albrecht died in Vietnam at 33 years old, and was later buried in Arlington, VA.



## ALUMNI UPDATE

### Barry Jackson '87

Recently, we received an update from **Barry Jackson '87** on what he has been up to since the Sigma Chi days.

Barry shared that for 33 years, he was a US Army trained Physical Therapist, and currently, he is working for an Inpatient Rehab Unit in Seguin, Texas.

He has been a volunteer board/panel member for the Commission on the Accreditation of Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) for the last 9 years and has been a Tai Chi instructor for the last 8 years. Barry teaches a modified Yang style of Tai Chi.

Previously, he was the President and Board Member for Guadalupe County Master Gardeners and a delegate for Guadalupe County chapter for 5 years of volunteer service.

In addition, Barry is a current member of the Sigma Chi Alumni Chapter in San Antonio, Texas.

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

We look forward to seeing our Alumni Brother updates in our Alumni communications. It can be something as simple as letting your brothers know what you are up to with work and life now a days.

Head to [www.sigmachiumd.org/alumni/submit-an-update](http://www.sigmachiumd.org/alumni/submit-an-update) to submit your update!



## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024!



Congratulations to our 22 graduating seniors and welcome to our newest Alumni. Thank you for your SIGnificant contributions to the success of our chapter both during and after the pandemic. We wish each of you all the best in your future endeavors. Godspeed Brothers.

### Graduating Seniors

Adam Singer - Damascus, MD  
 Baasil Saleh - Rockville, MD  
 Colby DeMelfi - Newbury Park, CA  
 Cole Davis - New Hope, PA  
 Conor Walsh - N. Potomac, MD  
 Cooper Schneider - Granby, CT  
 Drew Claffee - Forest Hill, MD  
 Drew Gray - Bethesda, MD  
 Elliot Skoop - Severna Park, MD  
 Eric Tanionos - Kingstown, RI  
 Evan Bernard - Freeland, MD  
 Gavin Nash - Gaithersburg, MD

Gordon Kern - Potomac, MD  
 Jake Rosenbloom - Ellicott City, MD  
 James O'Donnell - Potomac, MD  
 Josh Weinberg - Bethesda, MD  
 Marcus Fini - Vero Beach, FL  
 Mark Rybski - Mendham, NJ  
 Matt Gemignani - New City, NY  
 Matthew Padgett - Leonardtown, MD  
 Neil Abramowitz - Gaithersburg, MD  
 Olly Hogg - Towson, MD  
 Roy Ke - Potomac, MD  
 Zach Proffitt - Boyds, MD



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### Meet the record-breaking Spring '24 pledge class!

On April 13, Gamma Chi welcomed the largest single pledge class to be initiated in the 74-year history of our chapter, with 32 new initiates. Our thanks and appreciation go out to our Magister **Nate Jacobs** and Kustos **Tim Rocha** for their leadership in bringing this group of young men through their pledgship and initiation.

In addition, we had several valued Alumni Brothers who volunteered their Saturday morning and afternoon to attend the Investiture and conduct interviews. Thank you to Brothers **Scott Werber '86**, **Barry DesRoches '80**, **Tim Walsh '80**, **Mark Hoye '83**, **Nick Abid '85**, **David Vespoint '86**, **Terry Hillery**, **Alex Glass '14**, and **Ben Bambi**—a proud father of new initiate **Gavin Bambi**.

#### The Spring '24 Pledge Class

Gavin Bambi - Perry Hall, MD  
 Luke Bennett - Milis, MA  
 Gabe Bonilla - Ellicott City, MD  
 Ben Brune - Towson, MD  
 Patrick Bruno - Rockville Centre, NY  
 Chris Castelli - Gaithersburg, MD  
 Cael Comstock - Olney, MD  
 Logan Dunn - Ellicott City, MD  
 Anthony Gambuzza - Fairfield, CT  
 Drew Garvey - Timonium, MD  
 Andrew Gernhart - Essex, MD  
 Stephen Griffin - Wrentham, MA  
 Gus Hargrave - Towson, MD  
 Alex Hood - Chappaqua, NY  
 Conor Huey - Towson, MD  
 Dmitri Lalos - Rockville, MD  
 Zaal Lam - Manhattan, NY  
 Ryan Lawless - Huntington, NY  
 Declan McCarthy - Huntington, NY  
 Miles McDonald - Manhattan Beach, CA  
 Justin McKendry - Manhattan Beach, CA  
 Luke Offutt - Ellicott City, MD  
 Logan Oliver - Ellicott City, MD  
 Ben Percy - Woodbine, MD



Brian Rogers - Cockeysville, MD  
 Noah Rosier - Rockville, MD  
 Neiko Ross - Reisterstown, MD  
 Luke Santos - Rockville, MD  
 Chase Spurrier - Towson, MD  
 Dmitri Themelis - Perry Hall, MD  
 Kevin Vecchio - Churchton, MD  
 Trent Whigham - Westbury, NY