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CROSSROADS

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

May 2025

MAGISTER JAKE KRANZ '25: WE CAN KEEP THE LEGACY GOING



have, and it was very welcoming when I came to rush events," Jake said.

This strong bond, as modeled by older Brothers in the chapter, is what makes Sigma Chi campus philanthropy leaders, according to Jake. Derby Days is a point of pride for the undergraduates, and this year, Derby Days raised over \$60,000 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

"It brought together the entire campus, not just our chapter but also other Greek organizations and students, all working toward a common cause," Jake said. "It was a great example of how a strong Brotherhood can make a real impact."

Although Jake will soon graduate from UMD with a degree in economics and a minor in statistics, to pursue a finance career, he says that it is his time in Sigma Chi that helped him grow personally and professionally.

"Without Sigma Chi, I wouldn't be the person I am today," Jake said. "I have learned how to lead in a group of peers, navigate different tasks, and be accountable."

Giving back, Jake said, is what allows us to keep doing what we have always done: continuing Sigma Chi's tradition of fostering personal growth and togetherness.

According to Jake, this is precisely why your support is so crucial. "The older guys that were here before us showed how giving back creates a strong sense of Brotherhood and will ensure that future generations have the same experience we had, and that we can keep the legacy going," he said.

As Jake prepares to pass the torch to the future leaders of Sigma Chi, he looks forward to his own future, enriched by his time in the chapter. "After graduation," he said, "the connections and friendships I have built will last me a lifetime."

Earlier this month, we initiated 19 new Brothers into our undergraduate chapter following a successful rush, thanks largely in part to our Magister, Jake Kranz '25. Jake, who served as the primary pledge educator for this pledge class, knows firsthand how important it is to ensure the Brotherhood remains strong for generations to come.

Jake's time as Magister allowed him to set a great example for the future of Sigma Chi, an example that he remembers his own Magister setting for him. In fact, Jake said that his fondest memory of being in Sigma Chi was going to hibachi dinner with his entire pledge class and Magister during their away weekend in Virginia Beach, a weekend that he said he will never forget.

It was this positive influence from the older undergraduate Brothers that initially convinced Jake that Sigma Chi was where he belonged. "There was a clear sense of Brotherhood that other fraternities didn't

SIGS IN THE NEWS: JIM SPENCER '90

Early this year, the Maryland Alumni Association announced their prestigious list of award-winning Alumni for 2025, and Brother **Jim Spencer '90** was one of the honorees.

Every year, the Alumni Association hosts A Celebration of Terps: Featuring the Maryland Awards to recognize notable Alumni and their achievements. Jim received one the Maryland Awards, which the Alumni Association awards to "fearless Alumni who have risen to the highest levels of public service, launched successful companies and made groundbreaking discoveries."

Of the seven different Maryland Awards, Jim received the Spirit of Maryland Award, which honors and celebrates the alumnus who best embodies and inspires Maryland spirit and pride.

Congratulations to our Brother Jim on this monumental achievement!



Jim Spencer '90 (top left) stands among fellow Maryland Award recipients at November's Celebration of Terps.

LEADING WITH PURPOSE: HOW SIGMA CHI IS SHAPING CHRIS CASTELLI '27

We recently spoke with **Chris Castelli '27**, the sophomore Consul, about how his involvement in Sigma Chi has impacted his life. Keep reading below to hear what Chris had to say about what Sigma Chi means to him, and why your support is vital to the continued success of our chapter.

"Hello, my name is Chris Castelli, and I am a sophomore finance and information systems major from North Potomac, Maryland. As far as my career aspirations go, I would like to explore and learn more about the financial industry. Consul will be my first leadership role in Sigma Chi, but I've always been willing to become more involved since I joined spring of last semester.

Coming to Maryland, I didn't know much about fraternities or what they had to offer me, but a high school friend who was already in Sigma Chi, Nate Jacobs, reached out to me during rush. After meeting the guys and rushing a few other fraternities, I came to the conclusion that Sigma Chi was the best fit for me. Ultimately, the Brotherhood and ideals the guys stood for made it an easy decision to pledge.

Being involved with Sigma Chi has significantly contributed to my growth as leader and becoming a more well-rounded man. I've learned how to use my voice to take action and advocate for what I believe in, while also listening to and valuing the perspectives

of others. I've had to step out of my comfort zone, and in doing so I have become a much more resilient person.



One of my best memories so far was our away weekend last spring, when we went to Corolla, North Carolina. Spending time with all the guys is always fun, and this trip gave me an opportunity to become closer with some of the older guys. This was the first time I got to take a step back and appreciate the bonds I have with all the Brothers.

I think the bonds created through Sigma Chi will last forever, and the values instilled in me now will guide me through life. I can confidently say Sigma Chi has made me a better man, and I now have lifelong friends who will support me through any challenge I will face.

Having Sigma Chi on campus adds significant value by creating a true Brotherhood and fostering a sense of community. In a world where connection and support are crucial, Sigma Chi offers endless opportunities to get involved. Sigma Chi instills the necessary values every undergraduate will need for the rest of their life and equips them with the tools to succeed.

Although I am young, Sigma Chi has already given me so much, and I feel it is my duty to give back to the chapter to ensure its future success. Additionally, giving back helps sustain the values and traditions that make Sigma Chi special. Fostering a culture of gratitude and responsibility will only reinforce the strength of our chapter.

Without Sigma Chi, I wouldn't have grown into the leader I am today while meeting some of my closest friends."

Chris offered any Alumni who would like to learn more about ways to support the chapter or get involved are encouraged to reach out to him at cgcastelli3@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIP DINNER NAMES AWARD WINNERS

On February 24, the chapter hosted its semi-annual Scholarship Dinner.

Dr. Patty Perillo, the university's vice president of student affairs, was our guest speaker. Dr. Perillo oversees 16 departments and 4000 employees at the university including Resident Life, Career Services,



Chris Wohl and Kyle Samoryk are recognized for their academic achievements within their pledge class.

Stamp Student Union, the Health Center, Dept. of Fraternity & Sorority Life, and more.

Congratulations to **Chris Wohl** and **Kyle Samoryk**, who won the pledge scholarships for having the highest fall GPAs within the fall pledge class: minimum of 3.5.

Congratulations also to **Ethan Andrews**, captain of the chapter fantasy draft team with the highest average GPA among the eight or so fantasy draft teams from a draft held within the chapter. Ethan, holding the Bell Cup, which will have the team names inscribed, won the competition with close to an average team GPA of 3.7 last semester.

The Gamma Chi Education Foundation led by **Tom Burton '84** underwrites both the pledge scholarships and the \$250 cash awards for the winning fantasy draft team.



Ethan Andrews and his winning fantasy draft team hold the Bell Cup.

GAMMA CHI WELCOMES 19 NEW INITIATES



On April 5, the chapter welcomed 19 fine gentlemen into the Brotherhood following a successful rush. Congratulations to our new Brothers, pictured above, for being initiated into the fraternity.

We would like to extend a special thanks to our Magister **Jake Kranz '25** and also to our Assistant Magister **Gabe Bonilla '24** who is now pursuing an MBA at the Smith School. Both Jake and Gabe set a great example to the chapter of older Brothers holding key leadership positions, and we are grateful for all their hard work.

GAMMA CHI HISTORY: THE CHAPTER HOUSE



Gamma Chi chapter house in 1954.

Have you brushed up on your Gamma Chi history lately? Believe it or not, this is what the original chapter house looked like in 1954, before the expansion in 1966.

This chapter house was built in 1939 by the fraternity Sigma Phi Sigma, which had disaffiliated from their national organization and reverted to an independent local fraternity named Iota Sigma Fraternity.

It was the Iota Sigma local fraternity that built the chapter house at 4600 Norwich Road in 1939. In 1942, after the outbreak of World War II, they petitioned to join Sigma Chi.

The design and layout of the original Sigma Chi chapter house was used by prominent architect and Sigma Chi alumnus **Hugh Jacobsen '51**, when he was commissioned to design Fraternity Row and the 14 chapter houses in the early 1960s.

In the mid-60s, the chapter house on Norwich Road was expanded, and the White Cross was installed on the lawn in front of the chapter house.

After being on campus for nearly 60 years, the chapter lost their Sigma Chi charter in 2001, which left the chapter house on 4600 Norwich Road vacant in early 2002. As a result, the house structure rapidly deteriorated, and took on all the characteristics of an abandoned urban building.

In spring 2008, the chapter successfully recolonized and was granted a charter again by Sigma Chi on September 27, 2009. Given the estimated multiple million-dollar cost of renovating the Norwich Road property and bringing it up to current building codes, the chapter Alumni decided to pursue an on-campus fraternity house. The chapter moved into #14 Fraternity Row in August 2010: one of the chapter houses designed by Sigma Chi's Hugh Jacobsen.



On January 14, 2015, the demolition began on the original chapter house.

The Norwich Road property was sold to the university in 2015, and the old house was razed as a part of the sale. In January 2015, the old house was demolished, and the White Cross was moved from 4600 Norwich Road to the front of the current chapter house, where it stands today.

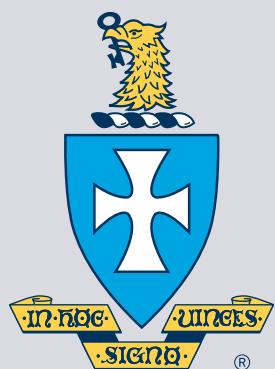


Part of the White Cross transport process from the original chapter house to our current house on demolition day in January 2015.

The proceeds from the sale of the Norwich Road property along with a large bequest from the estate of Brother **Jack Stringer '57** have endowed the Gamma Chi Education Foundation. To this day, the Foundation creates and oversees initiatives with the chapter to reward and promote academic excellence.



Gamma Chi chapter house today.



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

