

UPCOMING EVENTS

Penn Sports

The men's basketball team

January home games:

Jan. 13 vs. Yale, 8 p.m.

Jan. 14 vs. Brown, 8 p.m.

Jan. 21 vs. St. Joe's, 7 p.m.

Grab some brothers and come on out to the Palestra – which turns 90 this month – and support the Quakers!



Phi Phi Chapter House,
3809 Locust Street c1970

Does anyone remember these "good old days"? Can you recall which brother drove the classic Corvette, the ubiquitous VW bus, the Beetles or motor scooters...We've come a long way since these hazy days... Locust Walk arrived removing traffic and parking, but our stately chapter house still stands proudly serving those Sigma Chi brothers seeking those Sigma Chi brothers seeking Friendship, Justice and Learning!



ALUMNI PROFILE

Phi Phi Joins HCI's Prestigious \$20K Club

During the 2015-2016 academic year, the Phi Phi Chapter raised \$26,750 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, the cancer research and treatment facility founded by **Brother Jon M. Huntsman '59**. By attaining this achievement, the Phi Phi Chapter was inducted into the prestigious \$20K Club, an elite group of Sigma Chi chapters that have raised \$20,000 or more annually for the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Our sincere thanks go out to the undergraduate brothers, their families and our Phi Phi alumni for their generous support in reaching this goal. May we all continue to help realize Brother Huntsman's challenge to be the **Generation to End Cancer!**

(See the full list of donors on next page.)



Brother Jon M. Huntsman '59 is shown with Consul **Griffin Rubin '17** at the \$20,000 Club induction ceremony at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah.

CHAPTER UPDATE

The State Of Our Chapter Is Strong

Consul Griffin Rubin '17

This fall, the Phi Phi Chapter successfully initiated seven extraordinary new members under the brand new **Preparation for Brotherhood** pledge program implemented by Sigma Chi Fraternity International Headquarters. As we head into our main rush period this January, we have 61 active brothers in the chapter, a solid foundation to build upon in addition to the new pledge class we will recruit and initiate this spring. I am pleased to report the state of the Phi Phi Chapter is strong.

As regulatory measures and accreditation processes both on campus and from headquarters increase, and as Greek life continues to be placed further under a microscope by the general public, Penn's chapter of Sigma Chi is ready to face the challenges in this evolving context. Our ongoing efforts through recruitment, philanthropy and active involvement on and off campus by Phi Phi brothers firmly anchors the chapter as a steadfast and exemplary Greek chapter on campus. The Phi Phi Chapter is here to stay.

Congratulations to the accomplishments of our many athletes this fall, specifically to the Penn varsity football team, as the Quakers brought home the Ivy League title for the second consecutive year. The Quakers were led by senior captain **Nick Demes '17**. Best of luck to the rest of the sportsmen in the months to come, especially to the varsity baseball team, led by senior captain **Mike Reitcheck '17**.

This past Sunday, the chapter elected a brand new executive committee, with junior **Cory Leshner '18** selected to take the reins as Consul for the 2017 calendar year. With his leadership and the quality of the new executive committee elected, I am confident that the Phi Phi Chapter will continue to thrive and excel. It has been an absolute honor to serve as Consul this past year, and I look forward to being involved as a second-semester senior and alumnus. Thank you to the alumni for all of your support and guidance, and I wish the next executive committee the best of luck and continued support from each and every one of you.

HOUSE CORP OFFICERS

Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc.

President

Mark Kocent '82

mkocent@upenn.edu

VP and Treasurer

Gerald Knorr '82

Pro Bono Legal Counsel

Maury Nunes '70

Board Members

Steven Adler '82

Michael Bergstrom '13

Jon Greenawalt, Jr. '91

Dhananjay Pai '83

Tom Valenti '00

Andrew Weinstock '13

Reed Werner '01

Ronald Woodmansee '82

Current Undergraduate Consul

Griffin Rubin '17

HUNTSMAN CANCER INSTITUTE

\$20,000 Club - Phi Phi Chapter

2015-16 Derby Challenge

\$10,000+

Marie and Murray McComas, '58

\$1,000+

Nancy and Paul Kelly, '62
Monica and Gerald Knorr, '82
Vincent Kolber, '74
Ronald Caronia, '81
Willis Hesselroth, '65

\$500-1,000

Richard Carroll, '73
Thomas Farrell, '68

Jon Greenawalt, Sr. '61
Robert Hellauer, '73
Elizabeth Wiltshire, PAR
Norman Wohlken, '54

\$200-500

Mitch Bland, '78
Steven Bujno, '82
Amy Chalgren, PAR
Jayne Flynn, PAR
Gus Harris, PAR
Linda and Mark Kocent, '82
Vince Kolber, '74

Glenn Muir, PAR
Charles O'Neill, '69
Dhananjay Pai, '83
Joseph Rubin, PAR
Joseph Shulson, PAR
Joseph Sheetz, '89
Alvin Shoemaker, '60
Steven Theiss, PAR

Up to \$200

Mary Andrews, PAR
Deborah Anzur, PAR
Linda Benton, PAR

Robert Crowley, '74
Paul Garvey, '82
Ross Giambalvo, PAR
Frank Hadden, '80
Christine Maiocco, PAR
Donald McComas, '98
George Morriss,
Michelle Reitcheck, PAR
Tari Rivera, PAR
Craig Saunders
Cynthia and Brain Scanlon,
George Vasser, '91
Ronald Woodmansee, '82

MEETING MINUTES

The Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc., Board of Trustees, Annual Meeting

October 29, 2016, 10:00-11:30am, 3809 Locust – Living Room

The annual meeting of the Alumni House Corporation (The Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc.) was held on Saturday October 29, 2016 at the Chapter House.

Attendees:

Mark Kocent '82 - President
Griffin Rubin '17 - Undergraduate Consul
Michael Bergstrom '13
Andrew Weinstock '13
Ronald Woodmansee '82

Excused:

Gerald Knorr '82 - Vice President and Treasurer
Steven Adler '82
Jon Greenawalt, Jr. '91
Maury Nunes '70
Dhananjay Pai '83
Tom Valenti '00
Reed Werner '01

Board President **Mark Kocent '82** called the meeting to order. The first item on the agenda was Board elections. The following slate of candidates was proposed and approved for a 1-year term:

Mark Kocent '82 - President
Gerald Knorr '82 - Vice President and Treasurer
Maury Nunes '70 - Legal Counsel
Steven Adler '82
Michael Bergstrom '13
Jon Greenawalt, Jr. '91
Dhananjay Pai '83
Tom Valenti '00

Andrew Weinstock '13
Reed Werner '01
Ronald Woodmansee '82
*Griffin Rubin '17 – Current Undergraduate Consul

Consul **Griffin Rubin '17** gave a brief overview of the State of the Chapter. There are currently 54 active members and 7 fall pledges preparing for initiation. The fall pledge program accommodates spring varsity athletic schedules. The chapter was honored last summer at the Huntsman Cancer Institute for achieving the \$20,000 Club level of donor support. Eight members of the chapter recently participated in the annual fall leadership retreat led by **Jon Greenawalt, Sr. '61**. Elections for officers will take place in December to begin terms in Jan 2017.

Vice President and Treasurer **Jerry Knorr '82** provided a financial report that summarized the Alumni House Corp's following fund balances:

Affinity Connection - Alumni Relations Annual Dues Fund (9/1/15 – 8/31/16)

Revenues: \$16,965.
(83 donors)
Expenses: \$13,783.

Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc. managed assets: (as of 9/30/16)

Short-term assets: \$18,624.
Long-term assets: \$87,825.
Total Unrestricted Net Assets: \$106,449.

Sigma Chi Foundation managed Education & Scholarship Fund (as of 10/30/15)

Current Balance: \$95,139.

Univ. of Pennsylvania/ House Corp managed - Capital Assets (as of 10/30/15)

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF): \$34,709.
Alumni Gift Fund #600631: \$80,424.

Highlights include: Over the past year our unrestricted managed assets grew about 10% from \$96k to \$106k and our capital improvement assets continue to hold a strong position at \$115k. Engaging young alumni into the annual dues campaign remains a challenge.

Board President **Mark Kocent '82** gave an overview of the recently completed capital projects since the last meeting. Since we have attained a high quality of improvements over the past years, we only required a minimal investment of about \$10k in finishes, painting, carpet cleaning and bathroom upgrades this year. These expenditures were covered by the central pooled OFSL fund.

The following projects are under consideration for the pooled fund for the next two fiscal years.

Front Steps Repair ~ \$32,000 Pooled Fund - summer 2017
New Electric Distribution and Subpanels ~ \$100-150,000 Pooled Fund - summer 2018

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A LOOK BACK

Phi Phi Chapter in the '50s and '60s

Brothers from different decades look back at their time at Sigma Chi Penn

Brother John C. Hoffsommer '54 lives in Maryland.

If you could thank Sigma Chi for one thing, what would it be and why?

JH: Living for 3 years – 1952, 1953, 1954 – in the Phi Phi Chapter at 3809 Locust Street with a swell bunch of caring and supportive brothers!

What is your best memory from your fraternity days?

JH: Daily contact with all the brothers and going to the games. When I became pinned to Rebekah Heraty (who later became my wife of 37 years), all the brothers honored her with singing “The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi!” Unfortunately, Becky passed away in 1993 at 58 years old.

Name three brothers you'd like to connect

with this year and why

JH: **Bill Mushake** (my roommate), who I still keep in contact with; **John Dunn**, a wonderful friend and advisor; and **Fergus Sloan**.

Share an update on your life today

JH: I've suffered a major heart attack with quadruple by-pass surgery but am going OK with Senior Fit and walking. It's two miles a day! I keep busy with two daughters, seven grandchildren, and five great grandchildren. Also, keep busy in church activities and community outreach!

Brother Roger J. Everingham '63 lives in Florida.

If you could thank Sigma Chi for one thing, what would it be and why?

RE: Exposing a country boy to a new lifestyle

and new friends. And, a “message to Garcia,” which I have given to dozens of young managers.

What is your best memory from your fraternity days?

RE: Sitting in the living room after lunch enjoying the sharp conversation led by Hal Shubert Brent!

Name 3 brothers you'd like to connect with this year?

RE: **Eddie Fallon**, **Frank Gabler** and **Jim Gallagher**.

Share an update on your life today (career, family news, etc.).

RE: Three daughters, three granddaughters, one grandson, loving my work and the Palm Beach life.

ELECTIONS

Phi Phi Chapter Chooses Executive Committee

The Phi Phi Chapter recently held its elections for the 2017 Executive Committee; the committee members will assume their new roles at the end of this semester (Dec. 22).

Here is the list of our new officers:

Consul: Cory Leshner (Junior; Charlottesville, Va.)

Pro Consul: Andrew Theiss (Junior; Birmingham, Ala.)

Quaestor: Mike Terracciano (Junior; Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y.)

Magisters: Gabe Kleiman (Junior; New York, N.Y.) and Alex Sydney (Sophomore; Weston, Conn.)

Annotator: Danny Dwyer (Junior; Chicago, Ill.)

Rush Committee: Will Fischer-Colbrie (Junior; San Francisco, Calif.), Reggie Murphy (Sophomore; Evanston, Ill.), Jay Tucker (Junior; Boston, Mass.)

Social Committee: Aaron Kim (Sophomore; Phoenixville, Pa.), Russell Rhoads (Junior; Brookhaven, Pa.), Stu Martell (Junior;

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada)

Philanthropy Chairmen: Tom Macchio (Junior; Plainview, N.Y.) and Will Tusetth (Sophomore; Chaska, Minn.)

Tribune: Griffin Smith (Sophomore; Radnor, Pa.)

Risk Manager: Tom Macchio

Academic Chairman: Ethan Daly (Sophomore; Saratoga Springs, N.Y.)

Steward: Alex Andersen (Sophomore; Radnor, Pa.)

Historian: Dawit Wondimagegn (Sophomore; Seattle, Wash.)

Kustos: Jared Warner (Sophomore; Baldwin, N.Y.)

MEETING MINUTES

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The Board discussed and approved the expenditure of funds to conduct a study to research adding air conditioning to the two upper bedroom floors, with a unit that could be installed in the attic and downfeet to the bedrooms. This would eliminate the multiple a.c. units in each room and possibly offer an electrical cost savings.

The following awards were announced and presented:

Huntsman Cancer Institute – \$20,000 Club

2016 Outstanding House Corporation Award (second consecutive year)

Gilmore Scholars (John Tucker '18 and Griffin Smith '19) to receive \$500 awards from the Education and Scholarship Fund for their academic achievement.

New Business: The Board voted to approve in increase in the Gilmore Scholars awards to \$750, beginning next year.

The meeting was then adjourned.



SIGMA CHI

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHI PHI CHAPTER

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- *Alumni Share How Sigma Chi has Impacted Their Lives*

HISTORY ON THE HARDWOOD

Penn's Famed Palestra Now 90 Years Young

On New Year's Day, one of the most famous athletic arenas in the country will turn 90 years old. As luck would have it, that building sits on the University of Pennsylvania campus.

The Palestra first opened for business on Jan. 1, 1927. The Penn men's basketball team pulled off a 26-15 victory over Yale that day in front of 10,000 fans. Ninety years later, the Palestra is the most famous collegiate basketball arena in the world. It has hosted 52 NCAA basketball tournament games, more than any other venue. It is home not only to Penn's teams, but also the famed Big 5 basketball series.

Since the Palestra opened, the Quakers men's basketball team has won or shared 25 Ivy League championships. The women's team has captured four league crowns, most recently last year.

Penn's wrestling team and women's volleyball squad also call the Palestra home. And the arena has hosted high school and professional games over the years. For a time, the Philadelphia 76ers played occasionally at the Palestra. In 2011, a group of NBA stars



played an exhibition there before 8,000 fans during the NBA lockout.

But the Palestra has always been first and foremost about the college game: It's been called the "Cathedral of College Basketball." In 1998, Roy Williams brought his University of Kansas squad to West Philadelphia to play Penn because the Jayhawks' radio play-by-play man, Bob Davis, wanted to call a game there.

On Jan. 7, a Big Ten school will play host at the famed building as Penn State meets Michigan State. Long-time Spartans coach Tom Izzo will finally get to coach a game at the Palestra.

"They all tell me I've got to get to the Palestra," Izzo said during a press conference

in 2014. "One of these years, I'm gonna be dumb enough to do it."

Charles Klauder, the architect who brought the building to life on South 33rd Street, probably had no idea that his arena would become a mecca for hoop heads. But that's what it is today: Mention the Palestra to most any college basketball fan, and just watch the smile of recognition. As former Penn coach and current

Temple coach Fran Dunphy put it, "When it's filled, and it's a crazy atmosphere, it's kind of indescribable. I don't think you can ever pinpoint in words what it's like. I think people have to experience it."

Do you remember going to games at the Palestra? Were you there during that magical 1978-79 season when the Quakers advanced to the Final Four? Or perhaps you were a student during Dunphy's glory years in the mid-90s, when Penn won or shared four straight Ivy League championships?

Whatever your recollections, we want to hear about them. Send us your memories of the Palestra by going to phiphi-sigmachi.org. We may use your stories in future eLetters.