

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Weekend 2016
May 13-15



HOUSE CORP OFFICERS

President

Mark Kocent '82

Vice President/Treasurer

Gerald Knorr '82

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

Tyler Roth '15

HOUSE CORPORATION UPDATE

New Officer Election, Strong Financial Position Announcement, and Outstanding News from Active Chapter Highlight Annual House Corp Meeting

Awards Presented Include Peterson Significant Chapter and Outstanding House Corporation



Back to celebrate the 140th Anniversary of the Phi Phi Chapter included (front row) Jim MacLaughlin '78, Mark Kocent '82, Ron Woodmansee '82; (back row) Jim Powell '78, Frank Gabler '57, Murray McComas '58, Jim Colins '68, William Schmidt '69, Tom Farrell '68, Bob Crowley '74.

(Photo taken by Frank Hadden '80)

ANNUAL FUND

Your Donations Fuel Our Success

As reported in this issue, the House Corporation is in sound financial position, and the award-winning active chapter is maintaining our strong 140-year legacy at Penn. Your financial contributions fuel our success, and help preserve our chapter for the future.

Help us get a head start on our next 140 years by making your donation to kick off the 2015-16 annual fund. Go to www.phipi-sigmachi.org to make your donation and to find a list of donors to date this year.

The Annual Meeting of the Alumni House Corporation (The Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc.) was held on Saturday November 7, 2015 at the Chapter House.

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

Vice President and Treasurer **Jerry Knorr '82** presented the strong financial position of the alumni House Corp. Read more details on page 2.

Consul **Tyler Roth '16** gave a brief overview of the State of the Chapter. There are currently 62 active members and four fall pledges preparing for initiation. The fall pledge program was instituted to accommodate spring varsity athletic schedules. The undergrads were pleased to be honored last summer at Balfour Leadership Workshop with their second consecutive Peterson Significant Chapter award and are planning to go for a third this year.

Philanthropy efforts are a main goal of the chapter as they endeavor to raise \$20,000 this year for the Huntsman Cancer Institute. The House is also proud of its Risk Management program, which is a proactive comprehensive program amended from one they learned from Stanford's chapter at Workshop.

The following awards were announced and presented:

- 2014-15 Peterson Significant Chapter Award (Blue)
- 2015 Outstanding House Corporation Award
- Gilmore Scholars (**Justin Morena '17** and **Andrew Theiss '18**)

Before we concluded the meeting, Brothers **Murray McComas '58** and **Jon Greenawalt Sr '61** offered words of wisdom from their perspective of the Sigma Chi Fraternity's broader value-based leadership challenges. With no new business presented, the meeting was adjourned.

FINANCIAL REPORT

House Corp Announces Strong Financial Position

New Stair Tower and Electrical Upgrades Completed Thanks to Penn's Fraternity/Sorority Pooled Fund

Vice President and Treasurer **Jerry Knorr '82** presented the strong financial position of the Alumni House Corp including the following fund balances:

Affinity Connection - Alumni Relations Annual Dues Fund

(9/1/14 – 8/31/15)

Revenues:	\$14,540. (85 donors)
Expenses:	\$13,962.

Sigma Chi Club of Philadelphia, Inc. managed assets: (as of 9/30/15)

Short-term assets:	\$17,396.
Long-term assets:	\$79,065.

Total Unrestricted Net Assets: \$96,462.

Sigma Chi Foundation Managed Education & Scholarship Fund

(as of 10/30/15)

Current Balance:	\$92,442.
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Univ. of Pennsylvania/ House Corp Managed - Capital Assets

(as of 10/30/15)

Capital Improvement Fund (CIF):	\$36,762.
Alumni Gift Fund #600631:	\$83,767.

Highlights include: Over the following year we moved \$20,000 from short term assets into long term assets. We now have received commitments for 8 bedroom naming gifts and are seeking opportunities for 6 remaining rooms. We continue to seek ways to further engage young alumni into the annual dues campaign. Our newest elected and class of '13 Board members will be taking on this challenge.

Board President **Mark Kocent '82** gave an overview of the recently completed capital projects since the last meeting which included \$47,000 in finishes and bathroom upgrades, and new furniture and curtains. These expenditures were covered by Phi Phi funds as noted below:

Painting

2nd Floor Bedrooms	3,600**
2nd and 3rd Floor Bathrooms and Hallways	2,496**
Kitchen, Basement and Porch Railings	3,875**
3rd Floor Bedrooms (Not Incl 35-36-37)	1,800*
2nd and 3rd Floor Bedroom Doors and Stairwell	2,700*
Total:	\$14,471.

Flooring

New Oriental Carpets in Lobby and Blue Room	4,760*
Refinish Wood Floor - Blue Room, Lobby and Stairwell	4,375*
Refinish Wood Floor - Dining Room	1,200*
Wood Floor Repair/ Refinish Bedrooms 35-36-37	3,600*
Total:	\$13,935.

Bathrooms

New Vanities in 2nd and 3rd floor Bathrooms	2,555*
Shower stall and flooring repair on third floor	2,555*
Total:	\$5,110.

Furnishings

New Leather Sofa, Loveseat and 3 Wing Chairs	12,267^
New Curtains in Dining Room	1,846^
Total:	\$14,113.

Total Investment -

Phi Phi Funded Projects: \$47,629.

(Funded from various sources incl: Gift Fund^, CIF* and Ops Budget**)



The new stair tower on the north side of the Chapter House.

The new stair tower on the north side of the Chapter House and associated electrical upgrades in the attic were completed from funds made possible by the new Fraternity/Sorority pooled fund to which all chapters make annual contributions. Board members were able to tour and inspect the new tower after the meeting concluded.

Stair Tower

\$675,000 Construction Cost and \$75,000 Design Fees:	\$750,000
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Electrical

New Wiring and Repairs in Attic/3rd Floor Bedrooms:	\$26,475
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Total Investment -

Pooled Funded Projects: \$776,475.

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

Front Steps Repair ~ \$20-50,000 Pooled Fund - summer 2016

New Electric Distribution and Subpanels ~ \$100-150,000 Pooled Fund - summer 2017

The Board discussed and approved the expenditure of Phi Phi funds for a new table and chairs for the Library:

Library Table and Chairs ~ \$7,396 - Education/Scholarship Fund

ALUMNI EVENTS

Preserving Camaraderie and Loyalty with Brotherhood Reunions

Group from Late '60s Honors Lifelong Friendships at Frequent Gatherings

For **Tom Farrell '68**, his Phi Phi experience developed a fine sense of camaraderie and loyalty to his brothers and the chapter. That's why he, along with other members from his era, have organized frequent reunions for the group in the years since graduation—like last spring's event in New York.

"We have remained close," said Tom. "After graduation, we attended each other's weddings, met for Penn football games, welcomed children, and, later, attended their weddings."

In past decades, the group was fueled by the traditional party hosted by **Mike Cavanaugh '69** every two years following the Penn vs. Yale football game in New Haven.

"1993 was the final such gathering for Mike, as he died, much too early, in 1994," said Tom. "The attendance at that party was high as we all knew that Mike was not long for this world. I organized one last party in 1995, but the torch was out."

The group—and Mike's spirit—lives on

through continued, though more infrequent, reunions. Tom has organized dinners in New York, **John Dickerson '69** in Rhode Island, and **Jim Colins '68** in Philadelphia.

"So reunions have been only occasional, but, on each occasion, conversations have been taken up even with many years intervening," said Tom. "I believe that we all think that this group of now old men are our mutual best friends who can be depended upon for help and support whenever needed."

As undergraduates, as Tom recalls, the lives of he and his brothers revolved around



A reunion of Phi Phi alumni in New York last spring. Pictured (L to R): Paul Hiller '65, G. Morris '69, Vincent Mannino '69, William Schmidt '69, Charles O'Neil '69, J. Halpern '67 (friend), J. Gardner Colins '68 and Tom Farrell '68.

the Chapter House—even if they were living elsewhere. Most meals were eaten there. There were pre-football game lunches and post-game cocktails and dinner followed by a party with a band.

"In those days, students did not have their own televisions so watching sporting and other events was a shared activity at the Chapter House. (I can remember Lyndon Johnson's announcement that he would not run as if it were yesterday)," he said.

Have you recently participated in a Phi Phi reunion? Share your pictures and story at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org!

ALUMNI UPDATES

David Fleshman '61

(1646 Pepperwood Court, Charleston, SC 29414; dfleshman@comcast.net) I am active in the local Sigma Chi alumni group here in Charleston. We welcome Sigs from everywhere who live locally, as well as active members of the local chapter. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at a local pub, not unlike Smokey Joe's. I also take part in activities at the local Iota Epsilon chapter at the College of Charleston. I've assisted with rush and try to attend all initiation ceremonies.

Maury Nunes (Wh & Col, '70)

(126 Smohalla Court, Waleska, GA 30183; man.apc@verizon.net) My sixth book, *Designing Profits*, co-authored with Andrew Pressman, AIA, is due out in January 2016 and is now available through Amazon and other pre-pub outlets. The book is a detailed, objective business guide for architects, engineers, interior designers, and other design professionals, and is being published by London-based Routledge & Co. Meanwhile, since moving to North Georgia in 2012, I have become even more active in politics and has been elected both Treasurer of the Cherokee County GOP and 1st Vice Chair for the 11th Congressional District, which covers the outer North suburbs of Metro Atlanta and is represented by GOP Congressman Barry Loudermilk. I continue to practice law as outside general counsel for privately held businesses, professional practices, and non-profits. With offices now in both Kennesaw, Ga. and Falls Church, Va., I am admitted to the Bars in VA, GA, MD & DC. That still gives me time to continue playing tennis, squash, racquetball, and pickleball, as,

inspired by the Creed, I intently endeavor to retain the Spirit of Youth.

Bob Ziehl '85

(15846 Allison Pl., Lake Oswego, OR 97035; rjziehl@yahoo.com) I've been in the Portland area for eight years with my wife and two boys (10 and 8). I'm in the organic, herbal tea business — a long way away from 1980s Wharton. I miss Psycho Killer and the flamingo.

What Are the Top 3 Things You Gained from Your Sigma Chi Experience?

1. Enduring friendships with some of the finest people I have known throughout my life.
2. An appreciation for and dedication to the values epitomized by the seven founders.
3. A lifelong appreciation to the active members from my era for the effort that was involved with bringing by pledge class through, up to and including initiation. This is even though my class initially consisted of only four members, which dwindled to two by initiation.

- David Fleshman '61

What are the top 3 things you gained from Sigma Chi? Share them at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org!



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- House Corp in Strong Financial Position
- '60s Group Maintains Brotherly Bonds for Half a Century

CHAPTER REPORT

With 66 Active Members, Sigma Chi is One of the Largest Fraternities on Campus Chapter Returns this Fall with Second Consecutive Peterson Award

By Tyler Roth, Consul

This fall semester, our brothers returned to campus in high spirits having won our second Peterson Award in a row. We are proud to welcome four new brothers to our order and are excited by their enthusiasm towards becoming leaders in Sigma Chi and on campus. Our chapter now stands strong at 66 members, making us not only one of the largest chapters at Penn but also one of the most active and respected chapters. Our many athletes found success in their respective sports this fall season and we are happy to congratulate all of our brothers on the football team in winning a share of the Ivy League Title.

As elections approach our executive board is pleased to see enthusiasm from younger brothers and we are confident Phi Phi will continue to remain a strong chapter for the coming semesters. This spring, we are continuing to work towards reaching our philanthropy goal of \$20,000 and are off to a strong start thanks to several charity events this fall and generous donations from many alumni.

Thank you to all our brothers who made it to Homecoming and we hope to see you all again soon.



Phi Phi Brothers Shamus Clancy '16, Tyler Roth '16, and Giuseppe Maiocco '16 celebrate the chapter's second consecutive Peterson Award.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Help Preserve 140 Years of Chapter History!



As Phi Phi celebrates its 140th anniversary this year, we need your help to preserve the best moments from our chapter's history, like this great picture from the 1955 issue of *The Record* (can you believe it's been 60 years?).

Share the best pictures and stories from your era with the brotherhood. You can upload your submissions at www.phiphi-sigmachi.org, email them to alumninews@affinityconnection.com, or mail them to the return address on this newsletter.