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BY THE NUMBERS

\$6,485

raised as of 4/19

\$13,000 goal

80

years of Gamma Chi

3

ways to give:

1. Make a gift online. DONATE
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

3. Call our toll-free Donation
Hotline at: 1-800-975-6699



CROSSROADS

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

April 2022

ALUMNI PROFILE

Dennis O'Connell '82: Alumni decide between making this a good chapter or a great chapter

Dennis O'Connell '82 (doconnell.cc@gmail.com)

says that he pledged to Sigma Chi for practical reasons: "Maryland was exceptionally large, and I wanted to be



more than a number." Ricky Levine and I were looking for on-campus housing, which was hard to find. We looked at several fraternities and picked Sigma Chi and the rest was history.

"Sigma Chi had a dynasty for intramurals," O'Connell says. "We won Greek overall for 19 years running when I was there, and went on to win 38 out of 40 years total. This really tied us together as a brotherhood — to compete on behalf of Sigma Chi. Everyone played a role, whether it was in wrestling, softball, basketball, or any of the other 25 sports we competed in."

"Competing pulled us together and really enhanced the brotherhood."

Beyond the Greek competitions, he says his best memories were of road trips that Sigma Chi brothers would take on weekends, Away Weekend, spring and winter formals, and the Christmas party every year."

He says that Sigma Chi's impact has lasted long past those great memories. "It's had a very positive impact on my career," he says. "I was fortunate to enter the wireless business in its infancy, and had more responsibility than a person my age normally should have. My Sigma Chi experience was invaluable, helping my career when other people my age didn't usually have that amount of leadership or managerial experience. That had a tremendous positive impact on my career."

He says that he gives back to the chapter because of all the alumni who gave of their time, talent and treasure to give him such a great Sigma Chi experience. "I am paying back what they did," he says. "Now I'm an empty nester

and have time to devote that I did not have before. I owe it to the Actives in the house to do for them what our alumni did that benefitted me.

I am paying back what others did, and if you could go back in time and talk to the alumni who were so involved with our Chapter in the '80s, they would point to Alumni who provided their time, talent and treasure to them so they could succeed too."

"Something I've learned in the past ten years is that Alumni set the tone between a good and great chapter. Chapter officers really respond well to alumni involvement, just like I did when I was their age. They need good role models."

You can give time, talent or treasure, and there is a need for all three. **Time** invested in mentoring is important for any college student. I know that I benefited from it. **Talent** is crucial for training chapter officers, especially the treasurer as he manages finances for the entire house. **Treasure** helps to underwrite alumni communications, and helps connect us to other alumni and network."

"When alumni are active, the chapter does very well. When we lost the charter, the primary reason I was told was that the alumni were not as active, as they have been now that we've rechartered. Bottom line: Alumni participation generates better outcomes."

Without Sigma Chi, I wouldn't have been as successful from a professional perspective as I might have been.

For more information on getting involved in giving mentoring, or giving back your time, talent or treasure, you can email Dennis at doconnell.cc@gmail.com.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Seth H. Preece '49: Sigma Chi changed my life for the better

Seth H. Preece '49 (MandSPreece@aol.com) pledged to Sigma Chi in the middle of WWII, and says that most of the other fraternities on campus were closed for the duration of the war. "Of the few active at the time Sigma Chi appeared to be the biggest and the best."

"I have many good memories of my four years on campus, not unlike those other Sigs have," he says. "I have two unusual memories that I shall never forget. One was getting to know **Robert W. LaPorte**. During the summer and fall of 1943, we became best friends. We were pledge brothers and were initiated together. We were both in the Army Air Force Reserve and expected to be called to active duty about the end of the year. We made plans to return after the end of the war, share a room at the Sig House, take chemical engineering and go into business together after graduation. In the spring of 1945, I received my last letter from Bob. He signed it 'See you back at the house.' A short time later his B-29 exploded taking off from Tinian Island."

"My other unusual memory occurred when I was the chapter magister. One night as I was waiting for the pledges to assemble in the chapter room for a pledge class, my father walked in and sat in the front row. He

opened his coat so I could see the pledge pin he was wearing. Several of the members knew my father who then worked for the Army Corps of Engineers and who had built and was working a lot in a soils testing laboratory on campus. Two of the brothers spotted him sitting in a classroom auditing some chemistry classes. They pinned a pledge pin on him and told him to report to me. I later initiated my father into Sigma Chi."

"Before I entered Maryland in the summer of 1943, I had never had more than short term acquaintances with others my age. But then I joined Sigma Chi and suddenly I had a house full of friends. It changed my life for the better and I have benefitted from Sigma Chi friendships all my long life."

His favorite memories last long after graduation. "I cannot write about Sigma Chi

without mentioning **Bob Martell**," he says. "He was in the pledge class and was initiated with **Bob LaPorte** and me. After the war, Bob Martell and I became roommates at the house. We were close friends. I was best man at his wedding. We visited each other frequently until he died several years ago."

Preece says that Sigma Chi made a big impact on his life. "In 1930, when I was five years old, the economy was in a great depression. My father lost his job and our home. In the following years, we moved frequently searching for work and finding employment only for short periods. In my first eight years of school I attended eight different schools. During my high school years, we lived in a place where I had very limited social contact with my classmates.

Before I entered Maryland in the summer of 1943, I had never had more than short term acquaintances with others my age. But then I joined Sigma Chi and suddenly I had a house full of friends. It changed my life for the better and I have benefitted from Sigma Chi friendships all my long life.

He says that giving back to the chapter is critical. "I do not want to lose contact and forget Sigma Chi," he says. "It was too important to me."

NEW ALUMS



Welcome New Alumni Brothers!

Please join us in welcoming these 28 fine young men who will be our Gamma Chi's newest alumni brothers!

Name:	Major:	Name:	Major:	Name:	Major:
Justin Lancaster	Criminal Justice	Nick Freda	Economics	Chris Cabral	Business
Alex Zapinski	Business	Everett Cox	Economics	Michael Del Bene	Computer Science
Brian Katz	Business	Sean Rogers	Economics	Pat Murphy	Business
Gavin Bigelow	Communications	Teddy Diamantopolis	Information Sciences	Lucas Franco	Engineering
Justin Comerford	Business	Hunter Knutsen		James Kesicier	Business
Nick Restivo	Business	Ryan Frankel	Business	Connor Hebert	Business
Gabe Didario	Business	Dan Cavallo		Jack Beisel	Business
Jack Shevick	Communications	John Sonta	Criminal Justice	Mike Naccarella	Engineering
Danny Cairo	Economics	Ryan Slade	Government and Politics	Connor Dennicola	Computer Science
				Nick Bournias	

ALUMNI PROFILE

William Randall '68: the Sigma Chi ideals have helped to guide my life

William Randall '68 (werandall2@yahoo.com) says that he didn't know anyone at Maryland when he came from high school in Florida. "I had no friends here," he remembers. "I was attracted to Sigma Chi because of all the brothers that I met. They made me feel welcome and comfortable. The Rush Parties were also terrific."

"I made lifelong friends in my pledge class," he says. "The Brothers were all genuine and fun to be with."

Some of his favorite memories are of 1964 Homecoming. "We won the best float contest and had to sit thru the first half of the football game wearing only a bathing suit in near-freezing weather," he says. "We had to carry our float around the stadium at halftime."

Randall says that Sigma Chi influenced him long after graduation.



"I have many lifelong friends from Sigma Chi – many of whom I see at our annual golf tournament."

"The Sigma Chi Ideals have helped to guide my life. I also learned how to live with and relate to my brothers from different backgrounds."

He says that giving back to the chapter is crucial. "I donate to my church, the University of Maryland, and many other groups, including Sigma Chi, which have all played an important part in my life."

He says if more brothers gave, the chapter would see even more benefits. "It would provide more help to the undergraduate brothers—academically and help those in leadership positions."

Without Sigma Chi, I wouldn't have been part of an amazing brotherhood.

UNDERGRADS

2022 New Initiates

Recently, we welcomed 15 fine young men into the Gamma Chi Chapter. Please join us in congratulating these brothers on their Initiation and extend them a warm welcome to Sigma Chi! Read on to view the new members.



Name

Joshua Shweiki
Michael Murray
Erik Dimech
Benjamin Long
Robert Zanville
Samual Chansky
Braden Zehring
Alexander Soja
Jacob Rosenblaum
John Radovich
Nichalos Leccese
Jackson Weston
Ethan Andrews
Samual Miller
Peter Lally

Hometown

Bethesda, Maryland
Bardonia, New York
Setauket, New York
Emerson, New Jersey
Brookeville, Maryland
Winchester, Massachusetts
Elkridge, Maryland
Bloomfield, New Jersey
Ellicott City, Maryland
Larchmont, New York
Hopkinton, Massachusetts
Monrovia, Maryland
Yorktown Heights, New York
71 Victoria, Newport Beach, California
Silver Spring, Maryland

COLE MUSSER '23

House Corporation's Founders Scholarship Winner

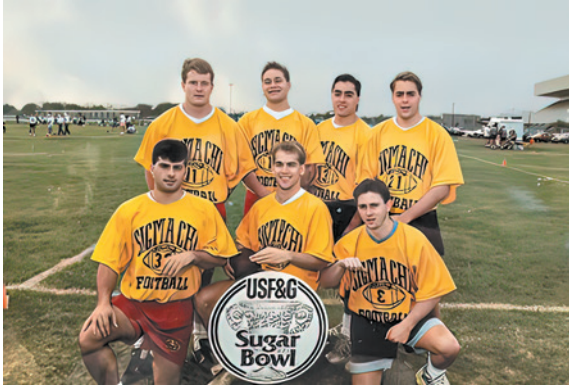


Congratulations to Cole Musser '23. Cole was selected as the recipient of our House Corporation's Founders Scholarship for 2022-23. Cole is an Aerospace Engineering major and serves as the IFC's VP of Risk Management. He also has served as our Chapter Scholarship Chair & Risk Manager.

The Founders Scholarship is intended to incent an upperclassman, who has distinguished himself as a scholar and leader, to live in the Chapter House to mentor our younger Brothers. Please join us in congratulating Cole.

THROWBACK

Throwback to the Good Ole Days



Pictured from top left:
Hale Hedley, Matt Kane, Mark Sellman, A.J. Venit
From bottom left:
Chris Mezzatesta, Kenny Wilund, Mike Gogarty

Who doesn't love a good throwback photo? Check out this photo **Christopher Mezzatesta '92** recently sent in of Sigma Chi from back in the day. Here is what Christopher had to say about the photo.

"This photo was taken in November 1990 at the NCAA College Flag Football Championships in New Orleans Louisiana at the Super Dome. We took a Winnebago down to the Super Dome to represent U of Maryland after winning the Fraternity and Open leagues in the Fall of 1990. We beat the University of Texas and lost to Florida State."

SIGMA CHI

Without Sigma Chi, where would we be? Here's what three brothers told us.

We hear it time and time again when we talk to brothers about Sigma Chi, without the Gamma Chi chapter many of you would not be where you are today if you had not been a part of this brotherhood. Read on to hear what three of your brothers had to say on the impact Sigma Chi had in their lives.

"In 1930, when I was five years old, the economy was in a great depression. My father lost his job and our home. In the following years, we moved frequently searching for work and finding employment only for short periods. In my first eight years of school I attended eight different schools. During my

high school years, we lived in a place where I had very limited social contact with my classmates. Before I entered Maryland in the summer of 1943, I had never had more than short term acquaintances with others my age. But then I joined Sigma Chi and suddenly I had a house full of friends. It changed my life for the better and I have benefitted from Sigma Chi friendships all my long life."

– **Seth H. Preece '49**

"I have many lifelong friends from Sigma Chi – many of whom I see at our annual golf tournament. The Sigma Chi Ideals have helped to guide my life. I also learned how

to live with and relate to my brothers from different backgrounds."

– **William Randall '68**

"I was fortunate to enter the wireless business in its infancy, and had more responsibility than a person my age normally should have. My Sigma Chi experience was invaluable, helping my career when other people my age didn't usually have that amount of leadership or managerial experience. That had a tremendous positive impact on my career."

– **Dennis O'Connell '82**

GAMMA CHI ONLINE



Social Media

Instagram: [@sigmachiumd](https://www.instagram.com/sigmachiumd)
Facebook: [@UMDSigmaChi](https://www.facebook.com/UMDSigmaChi)



Our Website

Find us on the web at www.sigmachimaryland.com. Read the latest news from fellow alumni and the undergrads, submit an update, or look through our photo albums!

If you think you or someone you know from the Gamma Chi Chapter would make an interesting alumni profile, please let us know at www.sigmachimaryland.com and click on "Contact Us" tab