



The DELTA PSI SIG

DELTA PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT RPI

58pinewoods@gmail.com

Spring 2018

Building Our Bridge to ΣXcellence Campaign Brings Success for Foundation

2017 was another outstanding year for the Pinewoods Educational Foundation.

We have essentially closed out the capital campaign, *Building Our Bridge to ΣXcellence*, which was launched in 2009 to fund the reconstruction of 58 Pinewoods: The Pomeroy Chapter House. The vast majority of pledges that were made to our campaign have been paid in full, exceeding the performance our fundraising consultants had expected, but in line with what we expected our loyal alumni would do! We continue our fundraising efforts with the undergraduates as a means to help fund the other educational aspects of the Foundation's mission. The undergraduates are helping to build the bridge for the next generation of students at RPI, and we will soon be launching a legacy giving campaign to ensure that the Foundation can continue to support scholarships, career assistance, and leadership training far into the future.

Speaking of scholarships, the Foundation was pleased to have awarded scholarships from the Arch Love Scholarship fund to both **Ryan Gavin '17** and **Tim Saia '18**.

On the capital front, the Foundation led the way in getting approvals and capital to get fiber-optic cable run from campus to the east Troy area serving 58 Pinewoods, as well as several other fraternities in the Pawling Avenue area. Now the students living in that area can have direct access to the RPI network and enjoy the much higher speeds. Through the efforts of **Dennis Powers '63**, the Foundation also conducted career training seminars focused on resume and interview skills for our brothers, along with interested students from outside our chapter. We are working on additional programming for the next academic year.

On the evening of February 6, we have funded an outstanding speaker, who will address a large audience at the EMPAC Center on the topic of

values-driven leadership. **Matt Eversmann, Hampden-Sydney '88**, a Significant Sig, was the hero of The Battle of Mogadishu and his character was the star of the major motion picture *Blackhawk Down*.

The finances of the Foundation remain solid thanks to keeping the house full, providing rent to the Foundation, and due to continuing donations.

Without all of your continued support, we could not provide the accommodations and programs that are so important to our undergraduate brothers.

With heartfelt thanks from the Foundation board, **Jim Manocchi '75**, President
Paul Cosgrave '73, President Emeritus
Larry Mentz '68, Secretary
Dan Hudson '70, Treasurer
Ken Sobel '12, Board Member

2017 Contributors

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Jay Cady | WeiXuan Lai |
| Alex Cai | Eric Lujan |
| Stephen Cale | Harrison Ma |
| Ranin Chowdhury | Michael Manogue |
| Alexander Cope | Kevin Marvin |
| Paul Cosgrave | Philip McGrath |
| Ronald DeMara | Lawrence Mentz |
| Pierre Fabris | Gabriel Munro-Ludders |
| Sean Ferracioli | Larre Nelson |
| Nicholas Fortune | John Pfaff |
| Aidan Gorby | William Pomeroy |
| Michael Greenberg | Eric Pulvino |
| Colin Haynes | Oskari Rautiainen |
| Christopher Higley | Zackary Reed |
| Charles Hodges | Christopher Roche |
| Spencer Holt | Joseph Salomone |
| Ian Lahiri | Christopher Slonge |

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|--------------------|
| Kenneth Sobel |
| Stephen Sobel |
| Anubhau Srivastava |
| Alexander Steff |
| William Stone |
| Gary Stottler |
| James Straw |
| Sharon Sullivan |
| Michael Villeneuve |
| Shawn Vollaro |
| Joseph Wahl |
| Jared Wall |
| Timothy Wang |
| Adam Wertz |
| Nathaniel Wheeler |
| Yijie Yong |
| Joshua Yurkofsky |

Thank You, Brothers, for Beginning Payments to the 1855 Campaign

CLASS OF 2013 Alex Cai '13

CLASS OF 2014 Jay Cady '14
Stephen Cale '14
Stephen Sobel '14

CLASS OF 2015 Mike Greenberg '15
Zack Reed '15
Oskari Rautiainen '15
Marshall Shortledge '15

CLASS OF 2016 David Cecchini '16
Chris Higley '16
Ian Lahiri '16
WeiXuan Lai '16
Kevin Marvin '16

1855 Campaign Tops 100 Donors

As we all know, Sigma Chi is a lifelong commitment. Delta Psi brothers rediscover and renew this obligation after they graduate RPI and pass through life. It's the reason we live together, work together, travel together, celebrate together, and even grieve together far beyond our experience at 58 Pinewoods. It's the reason we read this alumni newsletter. It's the reason we give back as bridge builders to those who follow us.

Driven by this lifelong commitment, more than 160 alumni brothers pledged financial support to the *Building Our Bridge to ΣXcellence* Campaign. They were joined by 59 undergraduate donors, who made a bold commitment to pledge future earnings to the project. Together, they funded the renovation and expansion of the Pomeroy Chapter House that would facilitate lifelong bonds between many more Sigma Chis.

The 1855 Campaign was created to continue the spirit behind those initial undergraduate

donations. Since the Class of 2014, more than 100 undergraduate brothers have pledged \$18.55 from each bi-weekly paycheck for five years following their graduation. The total financial commitment to the campaign is nearly \$250,000 and growing.

As the fund grows, it will support endeavors of the Pinewoods Educational Foundation such as undergraduate scholarships, career workshops, and outstanding speakers. Over time, it will enable the Foundation to maintain and solidify Delta Psi as the premier fraternity at RPI.

To our young brothers, I hope you join in my excitement to create a lasting legacy for our chapter. To our recent graduates, please begin monthly payments to the 1855 Campaign by visiting bit.ly/2B4F81f.

In hoc,
Ken Sobel '12

Delta Psi Historical Society Committee

I think it would behoove us at Delta Psi to gather as much historical "stuff" from our past so that future generations of Delta Psi Sigma Chi's can be made aware of "from whence we came." I'm thinking of getting together a Historical Society Committee that would gather these artifacts from the past and house them somewhere in the Troy area for display during either alumni weekends or a more permanent display in the house.

Anyone interested in pursuing this idea should contact me, Ruff, at BobHutnick@gmail.com.

Sigma Chi Trio Starts Fingerprint Payment System

Experience in Sigma Chi Prepared Alumni for Intensity of Startup Business

Written by Ken Sobel '12

Are you supposed to enjoy your first job out of college?

Two weeks into my career, this was the biggest question weighing on me. I didn't sign my job offer with the expectation of hating my job, but here I was. With the encouragement of **Andrew Stevens '12**, I decided on the solution. "I'll start my own company!"

And so Whirl Inc. was born. I quickly joined forces with my biological brother, **Steve Sobel '14**, and former Pro Consul **Jay Cady '14**, both who, unlike me, knew how to design circuits and write code.

With a founding team in place, we got to work. Our product was a point of sale system that accepted fingerprint payments. It would dramatically improve the speed, convenience, and security of everyday retail transactions. After working nights and weekends for six

months, we had our first prototype by the spring of 2014.

Still resembling an RPI science project, that prototype helped us raise capital from Y Combinator, a startup venture fund based in Mountain View, California. We quickly relocated to the San Francisco Bay area, where we spent over two years figuring out how to transform a prototype into a business.

In those two years, we learned how to design hardware, build production-quality products, file a patent, write a pitch deck, form investor relationships, acquire customers, and partner with large banking institutions. Looking back, it was not my RPI coursework, but rather my experience in Sigma Chi that best prepared me most for the intensity of starting a company.

By late 2016, Whirl had processed over \$1.2 million on behalf of its customers, and over



1,000 people used our product to pay by fingerprint. In 2017, Visa tendered an offer to acquire Whirl's patent rights — and we accepted.

Steve, Jay, and I continue to work as a team at b8ta, a new type of retailer that allows emerging consumer brands to sell through physical stores over the internet.

Ken can be reached at kenneth.sobel@gmail.com.

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Armen Renjilian '52 entered Chapter Eternal on December 22, 2017, of natural causes at the age of 88.33333. He always wanted credit for the months after his last birthday. Armen was a member of the first pledge class of Sigma Chi. He worked in the Albany/Troy area most of his life and was the manager of material sciences at Albany International Corporation. He retired at 81, having been a consultant to Albany International for many years after his official retirement. He was an expert in water chemistry related to paper making processes and did some of the original work to convert the industry from wool to nylon industrial fabrics (and other polymers). He holds six patents in this area. Armen met his wife, Lois, at a party held at 58 Pinewoods Ave. Their son, **Rick Renjilian**, is a member of the class of 1981 and lives in Port Washington, N.Y.

Donald Jon Weber '67, entered Chapter Eternal on August 1, 2017 at the age of 71. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 3, 1945, he grew up in Lyndhurst, Ohio, and graduated from the Charles T. Brush High School in 1963. Don came to NYS for his undergraduate education and graduated from RPI with a degree in aeronautical engineering. He then served proudly as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from June 1969 through 1975, working as a navigator on Navy planes. Don came back to the Schenectady/Troy area to work and continue his education and earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from RPI in 1978. He worked for General Electric for almost 30 years as an engineer for MAO and GE, retiring in 2004.

Survivors include his wife, Teri L. Clark Weber, and his treasured children, Darren J. Weber and Katherine J. Weber.

ALUMNI NEWS

"During September 2017, four 1960s Delta Psi Sigs met at the lovely retirement home of **Rod Blumenau '65** "Oedipus and the Four Mothers" **Blumenau '65** on the shores of Lake Keuka, N.Y., for drinks, dinner, and weekend stay over. **Bruce Allen '65** attended and was Rod's roommate first with **Louis Chiappetta '65** (who did not attend) in the Grotto of 58 Pinewoods and then for two years at the infamous 595 Congress St. attic apartment. The first of those two years was with **Bob Glaess '65** who tragically passed away in 2017, but was remembered at the lakeside gathering. The second of those two years was with **Dave "Killer" Kohler '63** who was Bruce's big brother and did attend the Finger Lakes reunion. Dave was back in '64 for his master's at RPI. **Dan DiLoreto '68** also made the reunion. This reunion was meant for the brothers that lived or had lived in Rochester, but Bruce Allen was able to crash the party because he had just finished a racing weekend at Watkins Glen in his Lotus Exige Cup car. He pulled up

in his truck and live-in car trailer. Very long time spouses Lynn Blumenau, Jodi DiLoreto and Carol Kohler listened in rapt attention to Sig talk."

—**Bruce Allen '65**

Scott Dukette '80 and wife Barbara are in the middle of an international living experience, spending one month each in 12 international locations. Find his reports and pictures at <https://sigmachi-rpi.org/2017/11/21/barbara-and-scott-dukette-80-spend-year-abroad-12-locations-4-continents/>.

Chris Carney '97 and Sherri Hao are expecting and reside in in Lake Tahoe.

Doug Olenic '97 and his family moved from San Francisco to Lake Tahoe.

Paul Brock '96 and Shannon are the owners of Silver Thread Vineyard in the Finger Lakes of New York and are developing quite a following.

James Schneider '12 wed Alpha Phi lavalier Aislynn Chalmers in September 2017.

Graduate student **Chaz Goodwine '13** received the RPI Founders Award of Excellence at the October 2017 Honors Convocation. The award is the highest honor of the Convocation ceremony. Chaz has defended his thesis and plans to receive his chemical engineering Ph.D. in May.

Jared Wall '09 and his wife, Amy, welcomed a baby girl into their family on January 18.

Sean Piela '10 graduated from RPI with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering in December 2017.

Ken Sobel '12 is engaged to Fatima Jaber. The two will be wed this spring.

Xunjun "Alex" Cai '13 bought a house in Boston, Mass., where he started working at PwCoopers as a consultant. His claim to fame is beating **Nick Fortune '13** in fantasy football.

Organized by **Chris Heinbokel '13**, a band of 16 Delta Psi brothers sailed on a cruise ship to Cuba from August 21-25, 2017.

RUFF NOTES

Bob "Ruff" Huntick's '71

I attended the funeral of Charlene Cosgrave, the wife of Significant Sig **Paul Cosgrave '72**, in July, along with Delta Psi Brothers **Jim Munger Banghart '69**, **Dan Burt '69**, **Herb Arbeiter '72**, **Bob Shortle '74**, **Alan Hanbury '74**, **Ed Youngkin '74**, **Chuck Shuey '75**, **Joe Saracino '75**, **Tracy and Jim Board '75**, and **Greg Chilson '75**. The next month, Annie and **Jim Banghart '69** visited as they drove their way across the

United States stopping at national monuments and presidential libraries. Munger's brother-in-law, **Jack Belletete '70**, married Ms. Marcea Gustafson on Nantucket Island December 31, 2017. **John Schroeder '68** entered Chapter Eternal on April 3, 2017. **Paul Jossman '70**, **Bill Ward '68**, and Joann Wood, wife of **Gary "Slug" Wood '70**, attended the funeral.

Class of '70 turns 70 in 2018. Schroeder was the steward when I lived at 58 Pinewoods and you'd see him leaning over the stove with a butt in his mouth and the ashes about to fall off. Ruthie was our full-time cook then — all honor to their names. 2017 saw the last of the Class of 1971 to retire: **Al Lubrano '71**, **Larry Frey '71**, **John Golden '71**, and maybe **Bobby Barnes '71**. Haven't heard from **Hobie Hey '72** in a while...MIA? **Bill "Evil" Hanson '73** continues to work for IBM. We'll get together, along with **Mike Hanson '12**, on February 24 for the RPI Hockey Freakout on TV in a sports bar in Northern Virginia.

Joyce, wife of **Chris "Zoomer" Serocke '73**, continues to heal from her ankle injury as Joan and Dan Burt continue their friendship with her after Zoomer's sudden passing in September 2016.

Sharon Sullivan, widow of **Ken "Snags" Sullivan '73** (Chapter Eternal 2001), continues to donate money to Delta Psi. With golf courses in Maine closed, she and her husband, Jim, spend winters in Hobe Sound, Fla.

While **Ed Youngkin '74** retired this summer after years of work, he has gone back to consulting.

Bill "Scout" Farnan '75 volunteered for the Alumni Big Brother Program. Scout's wedding circa 1976, goes down as one of the classic Delta Psi weddings EVER!

Besides making Charlene Cosgrave's funeral, **Greg "Flip" Chilson '75** also made the 45th and possible last Delta Psi Sigma Chi Belmont Stakes at Belmont Race Track. There is serious consideration to move the party to the summerhouse of **Ed Youngkin '74** in East Quogue.

Finally, I'd like to thank the 13 Delta Psi Sigma Chi alumni who volunteered for the Alumni Big Brother Program this year. I was touched at my little undergraduate brother's response. I hope to follow up with him in August as he begins his sophomore year. The volunteers are **Mike Greenberg '12**, **Josh Nichols '05**, **Jim Campbell '70**, **Jim Manocchi '74**, **Rod Blumenau '65**, **Bob Hutnick '71**, **Alan Hanbury '74**, **Joe Pumper '13**, **Brian Popelsky '77**, **Rau Crain '73**, **Bill Farnan '75**, **Rui Soares '96**, and **Bob Shortle '74**.

Save the Date Homecoming 2020

We're halfway from our last reunion in 2015 and halfway to our next big reunion in 2020 at Homecoming. I'm looking for volunteers to work on our 70th anniversary of Delta Psi/reunion/Homecoming.

Send Bob Hutnick an e-mail if you're interested in working on this celebration and/or any ideas to make it the best ever!

BobHutnick@gmail.com / (703) 860-1929

Fall and Spring Semester Highlights

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

The Pinewoods Educational Foundation (PEF) held its second annual interviewing and resume skills training workshop. **Dennis Powers '63** presented the materials and was supported by returning alumni: **John Baldwin '77**, **Matt Miller '77**, **John Pfaff '71**, and **Dan DeSantis '78**.

NOVEMBER 2017

Magister **Aidan Gorby '19** guided 13 new brothers into the roll book of Delta Psi.

FEBRUARY 6, 2018

Pinewoods Educational Foundation hosted Values Driven Leadership speaker Significant Sig **Matt Eversmann, Hampden-Sydney '88**, the featured character in the film *Black Hawk Down* about the Mogadishu event in 1993. Brother Eversmann addressed the RPI community in the EMPAC Center, sponsored by the Pinewoods Educational Foundation and the Delta Psi brotherhood.

FEBRUARY 28, 2018

The chapter hosted RPI faculty members at the annual Pinewoods Scholarship Dinner.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14 – Initiation

April 20-22 – Alumni Weekend

May 15 – Graduation

September 27-30 – Homecoming

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Sigma Chi Fraternity,
Delta Psi Chapter Alumni



Sigma Chi Fraternity
at Rensselaer



The DELTA PSI SIG

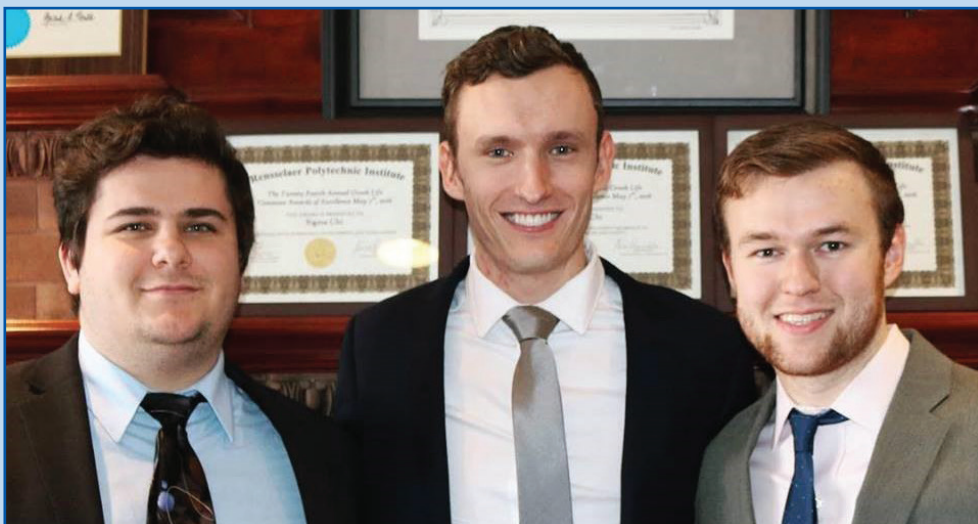
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Congratulations to our three December graduates! We wish them the best in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2017 GRADUATES

Sam Daskocil '17 graduated with bachelor of science degrees in aeronautical and mechanical engineering and will begin working as a technology specialist for the patent attorney track at Wolf, Greenfield & Sachs P.C. in Boston, Mass.

Scott Corradi '17 graduated with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering and will attend Stevens University in Hoboken, N.J., for his master in structural engineering degree.

Ryan Gavin '17 graduated with bachelor of science degrees in information technology and web science and business and management and a master of science in technology commercialization and entrepreneurship. He is looking for opportunities in product planning, product management, strategy/business development, or marketing in either automotive or consumer technology as he returns to north/central New Jersey. Please assist Ryan with any leads at: www.linkedin.com/in/ryantgavin/.