



Fall 2018

The DELTA PSI SIG

DELTA PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT RPI

58pinewoods@gmail.com

From Greek Leaders to Community Leaders

Undergraduates Hope to
Improve RPI Greek Relations

The Delta Psi Chapter had another outstanding semester this spring. We won the President's Cup for the third year in a row, a testament to our continued excellence in academics, risk management, community service, and continued education for our members. We are proud to be ranked number one out of the many impressive organizations in the Greek life system and remain leaders both on RPI's campus and in Sigma Chi internationally.

Our active brotherhood retained our strong numbers, initiating 12 remarkable young gentlemen to help fill the shoes of our large graduating senior class. Delta Psi has a history of leading innovation in the Greek community, as with our success in the Preparation for Brotherhood and Ritual for Life programs. We continued that practice this semester, adjusting our election period to account for the Summer Arch program so that we may have more experienced returning juniors hold elected positions. Next semester, we will see another series of challenges and opportunities to innovate with the implementation of the five-week pledging process and RPI's temporary pause on recruitment. These events give us the opportunity to lead in the effort of improving the community's viewpoint on Greek life.

This fall, Delta Psi will continue to place a heavy focus on public relations and community service, as we have always done, and will seek to improve our involvement in the RPI community. We will incorporate incoming students as well as other fraternity houses in our efforts to strengthen the bond of Greek life on campus. The Greek Life Task Force's goal to create an improved and sustainable leadership culture at Rensselaer is a noble pursuit in which Delta Psi intends to assist. We will seek ways to use our identity as front-runner in the community to help other chapters improve academically and with risk management issues, as our brotherhood committee explores events and methods for permissible recruitment that will allow us to bring in enough new members in the coming year to sustain our large brotherhood.

The Delta Psi Chapter wrapped up another strong year as a standout example of Greek life on RPI's campus. We look forward to the upcoming year and remain confident that we can not only excel next semester, but help lift the Greek community up with us.

In hoc,
Spencer Holt '19
Consul
shbraxx@gmail.com



Aidan Gorby '19, Harrison Ma '19, Timothy Wang '18, Matthew Bonnette '20, Grand Consul Tommy Geddings, Spencer Holt '19, Joe Venusto '19, and John Glendye '21 show off Delta Psi's Sigma Chi Peterson Significant Chapter award at the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop.

DELTA PSI WINS NINTH PETERSON AND THIRD FIVE STAR AWARDS

Delta Psi brothers received their ninth consecutive Sigma Chi Peterson Significant Chapter award at the Balfour Leadership Training Workshop (BLTW) in Bowling Green, Ohio, on August 4. Delta Psi leadership received the award for outstanding chapter performance for the 2017-18 school year. Only 65 of the more than 230 chapters received this honor.

At the end of the 2017-18 school year, Delta Psi received the President's Cup, the top fraternity rating from the Rensselaer Greek community. It was the third time that the chapter received the top Five Star ranking. Five Star, the standards and evaluation program used on many college campuses, is a daunting process and requires significant participation and recordkeeping. A copy of the Delta Psi 2018 submission can be found at <https://sigmachi-rpi.org/news/>.

RPI Greek Task Force to Review Health and Safety Concerns for Greeks

RPI announced a Greek Life Task Force to address unspecified health and safety concerns for the Rensselaer Greek community on June 8, 2018. Preceding the establishment of the task force, RPI instituted policies for suspension of alcohol and a two-month delay for Greek fall 2018 recruitment. The Greek Life Task Force met during the last week of August. **John Pfaff '71** and **Bob Eckart '73** attended, and Sigma Chi's 68th Grand Consul, **Mike Greenberg, Illinois Wesleyan '82**, attended as keynote speaker.

Stay up to date on this issue at: <https://sigmachi-rpi.org/2018/07/02/university-creates-greek-life-task-force-new-mailing-list-deployed/>

19 Alumni Join Undergraduates for 2018 Work Party



Alumni attended the 13th annual Work Party on August 24-25 to catch up with the Bill Pomeroy Chapter House at 58 Pinewoods. The new foreman, **Gary Stottler '82**, reported that the work was minimal for the recently renovated 116-year-old house, including minor repairs, cleaning, and lawn and yard maintenance. Most of the remaining time was spent discussing the RPI Greek Life Task Force, Sigma Chi's new health and safety rules for rush, pledging and alcohol restrictions.

Alumni attending included **Gary Stottler '82**, **Foss Hooper '66**, **Bob "Justa" Eckart '73**, **Alan "HJ" Hanbury '74**, **Bob "Beo" Bedard '75**, **Jim Manocchi '75**, **Larry Heininger '77**, **Jim Rosetti '79**, **Mike Sweetman '92**, **Dan Zuber '10**, **Alex Cai '13**, **Mike Greenberg '15**, **Zack Reed '15**, **Andrew Ehlers '16**, **Frankie LoPinto '16**, **Brett McNeff '17**, **Robert Bishop '17**, and **Matt Cornell '18**.

Plans for Work Party 2019 are already underway.



Alumni Update

Chapter Eternal

George Herbert "GHerb" Reynolds '66 entered Chapter Eternal on February 27. GHerb's pictures and testimonies from his brothers can be found at: <https://sigmachi-rpi.org/2018/03/09/george-herbert-reynolds-66-entered-chapter-eternal/>

Alumni Notes

James B. Straw '68 was selected for the 2018 class of Significant Sigs. The Significant Sig Award recognizes alumni who have accomplished outstanding success in their professional or civic activities. Jim joins seven other RPI brothers who were honored previously. His picture will be added to the Alumni Room at the Pomeroy Chapter House. Brother Straw graduated with a bachelor's in building sciences and received a bachelor's in architecture in 1969. Jim received his master of science in urban design from Columbia University in 1971. A retired architect, Jim resides in the Philadelphia area. A curriculum vitae is available at: <https://sigmachi-rpi.org/2018/04/07/jim-straw-68-selected-as-2018-significant-sig/>



Bob "Ruff" Hutnick '71 led Sigs to the 2018 Belmont Stakes for their 46th consecutive attendance to witness Justify win the Triple Crown, only the sixth time in 46 years.

Bob Bedard '75 moved his business, DeFacto Global, to the Quackenbush building in downtown Troy from Connecticut last year. DeFacto Global

provides enterprise-quality budgeting, forecasting, consolidation, predictive analysis, and reporting software to Fortune 500 companies. DeFacto Global is building out its core product to have more machine learning and artificial intelligence, and is partnering with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Doug Olenic '97 and **Vin Nolan '97** helped alert other Sigs to support **Marty Castriotta '97** raising his barn in Alstead, N.H., through community funding and support via Village Roots. Details can be found at: https://monadnockbuylocal.wildapricot.org/tlc?cfpage=project&project_id=19574&t=1522984824

Ben Richardson '15 became a Sigma Chi ritual master, completing a five-hour test on understanding and history of the Sigma Chi Ritual. Delta Psi is reported as the only chapter with two ritual masters. **Bob Jones '73** is the first Delta Psi ritual master and one of only a handful of trainers for this distinction.



Ed Youngkin '74, **Greg Chilson '75**, **Herb Arbeiter '72**, **Bob Hutnick '71**, **John "Chuck" Golden '71**, and **Alan Hanbury '74** at the 2018 Belmont Stakes.

HELP DELTA PSI FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Redirect Your RPI Donations to Sigma Chi

By now, I'm sure all of you have heard and read about the latest unilateral edicts from the Shirley Jackson administration regarding Greek life at RPI. The new rules they plan to impose will likely harm all chapters on campus. Indeed, it will probably kill several by delaying recruitment and placing large burdens on recruitment/pledging options and limiting spring recruitment's ability to fill the houses. (See news updates on this attack at: <https://sigmachirpi.org/news/>)

These damaging edicts came with virtually no affected-stakeholder input or consultation and little consideration of the harm that would be done, on top of the great damage this administration has already done to the Institute's finances, graduate schools, and college rating scores, not to mention the Summer Arch program. For those unfamiliar, see: <https://renewrenewsselaer.org/findings/>

While others continue to "fight the good fight" to preserve our chapter and heritage, this letter was prompted by a Delta Psi alumnus who no

longer wishes to donate to RPI and asked how he could support us instead.

For those of you who wish to move your dollars and ammunition toward the Delta Psi Chapter, there is good news! You CAN make tax-deductible donations without it going to RPI, simply by redirecting your funds. Several options exist:

1. Unrestricted donations to The Pinewoods Educational Foundation (PEF), a 501(c)(3) corporation that owns the house at 58 Pinewoods Avenue and has the added mission of providing scholarships, leadership training, and other career development for Delta Psi and the broader RPI community.

2. "Restricted" donations to PEF earmarked for specific purposes (Delta Psi undergraduate scholarships, paying down the mortgage, etc.).

3. Donations through the Sigma Chi Foundation, earmarked for Delta Psi undergraduate scholarships. **Arch Love '42** left a hefty sum to the Sigma Chi Foundation for just that

purpose, and PEF still administers the Arch Love Fund and awards scholarships from that fund each fall.

4. Donate directly to Phi Epsilon Phi, the house corporation who manages the property for the Foundation and maintains alumni relations responsibility. Note that donations to PEP are NOT tax deductible since it is not a 501(c)(3) public charity like PEF is.

A while ago, an RPI development officer called to ask me to put RPI in my will. My answer to him was the same as I hope yours will be: "Until the administration changes or they radically change their policies toward Greek life, I will make all of my donations to my chapter so that they will have the resources to survive and fight this administration." I hope many of you will agree and do likewise!

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

Jim Manocchi '75

Pinewoods Educational Foundation President

PINEWOODS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT



PEF President Jim Manocchi '75 and Matt Eversmann, Hampden-Sydney '87 (center) in the RPI EMPAC Center with alumni and undergraduates after Matt's "Values Driven Leadership" speech.



Matt Eversmann, Hampden-Sydney '87 and PEF President Jim Manocchi '75

Pinewoods Educational Foundation (PEF) provided an update at the PEP House Corporation meeting held on August 24.

PEF has closed out the initial capital campaign, which raised over \$1.7 million to expand and improve your chapter house, making it the safest, most up-to-date, and most comfortable house on campus.

PEF has the early 1855 pledges (\$18.55 per month for five years) from the recent graduates, which are now coming due for initial payments until they get real jobs.

To be solvent enough to be able to pay down our mortgage (PEF has a \$1.5 million mortgage on this house), as well as to provide funding for expanded programs, PEF must continue to solicit donations from all the actives. Overall, PEF is still in very solid condition financially.

Our first program of the 2018-19 academic year was the third running of the resume and interview skills workshop, once again led by **Dennis Powers '63** on September 15.

During the spring 2018 semester, PEF sponsored **Matt Eversmann, Hampden-Sydney '87** (the Hero of Blackhawk Down and a Significant Sig) as a motivational speaker on "Values Driven Leadership" to an enthusiastic audience in the RPI EMPAC center. The event was a great success from the standpoint of leadership training and motivation, as evidenced by all of the RPI ROTC attendees clamoring for pictures with Matt. It was also an honor to help the entire Institute and faculty to better recognize the leadership development aspects of Greek life in general, and of Sigma Chi in particular.

PEF stands out as unique since no other chapter at RPI does anything comparable to the programs that PEF develops and hosts for the campus at large. PEF was also able to get RPI to record the session and has several DVDs that the chapter can use for training and during recruitment to refresh the message. PEF hopes that, with the continuing financial support of the alumni and undergraduate brothers, they can continue to sponsor educational programs in addition to scholarship programs.

Phi Epsilon Phi Annual Meeting and Elections Held August 24

Phi Epsilon Phi (PEP) Corporation held its annual meeting of members and elections on August 24, preceding the 13th annual Work Party at the Pomeroy Chapter House at 58 Pinewoods.

Elected at the meeting were **John Pfaff '71**, **Jim Campbell '71**, and **Tony Morelli '90**. They join the other directors: **Dan Zuber '10**, **Mike Greenberg '15**, **Thom Kouletsis '76**, and **Jim Rossetti '79**.

Highlights reported from the officers at the meeting included:

- The House Corporation and the Pomeroy Chapter House are in excellent condition.
- Minor repairs and refurbishments were conducted during the year.
- The mailing list of 585 members was migrated to a new email domain at alumni_discussion@deltapsi.org.
- PEP funded two additional undergraduates to attend the annual Sigma Chi Balfour Leadership Training Workshop in August 2018.

Additionally, PEP was awarded a "Gold" status House Corporation award by the Sigma Chi Trustees. The entire meeting report was distributed earlier.



Graduating Consul Tim Saia '18 reported, "Graduation was cold and rainy, fitting for RPI." A large class of 21 was reported. Also, Nick Fortune '13 received his Ph.D. in mathematics education from North Carolina State. Back (left to right): Dan Sze '18, Hunter Eiss '18, Ed Prettyman '18, Sean Ferracioli '18, Tim Saia '18, Matt Cornell '18, Sean Waclawik '18, and Damian Amiruddin '18. Front: Chris St. Onge '18, Felicia Peacock (Lavalier, girlfriend of Ben Richardson '15), Marvin Cosare '18, Jack Yang '18, Andrew Ellis '18, and Reilly Keating-Wood '18. Not pictured: Nikolay Liharski '18, James Hu '18, Jonathan Tiller '18, Greg Pepe '18, Billy Sullivan '18, Matt Heimlich '18, Kenny D'Aurizio '18, Michael Manogue '18, Christian Sye '18, and Vandan Patel '18. For updates on what our most recent graduates are doing, check out the website at <https://sigmach-i-rpi.org/news/>.



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Sigma Chi Advances Health and Safety Policy

NIC Adopts Sigma Chi's Policy for Fraternities

In January, Sigma Chi adopted new health and safety policies regarding alcohol and pledging aimed at improving the fraternal experience for its undergraduate members. These policy changes are designed to help foster a safe and healthy environment at Sigma Chi's chapters.

Sigma Chi's policy changes and action steps include:

- Reinforcement of its policy on the presence of alcohol in connection with recruitment and pledging events to reaffirm the position that alcohol be banned at these events.
- Prohibition of hard alcohol in chapter facilities, effective February 1.
- Mandate that chapter pledge education programs not exceed a period of five weeks in duration, effective August 1.
- Elimination of alcohol at social events during the period when chapters are undergoing recruitment or pledging,

effective August 1 (modified with some exceptions, but rushees and pledges cannot attend).

- Cap on the size of social events by limiting the number of guests that each undergraduate can have at them, to three, effective August 1.

During August, The North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) adopted the Sigma Chi-led hard alcohol policy for its 66 member fraternities. The NIC policy will take effect by September 1, 2019, across more than 6,100 chapters on 800 campuses. Modeled after Sigma Chi's existing policy, the new NIC resolution prohibits the presence of alcohol products above 15 percent ABV in any chapter facility or at any chapter event, except when served by a licensed third-party vendor.

Delta Psi has planned adherence to the new rules, and the alumni participated in the first "dry" Work Party during August in compliance.