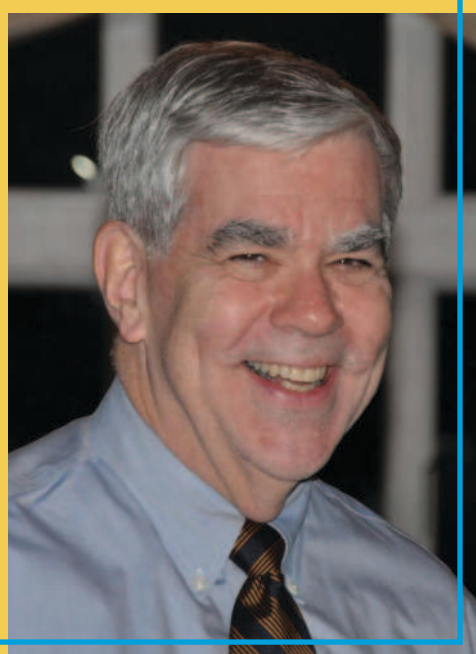




The DELTA PSI SIG

DELTA PSI CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT RPI



NOT “JUSTA” NEWSLETTER...

BY BETH GREENBERG '15

...this issue is to recognize Chapter Advisor **Robert “Justa” Eckart Jr. '73** as he steps down after 16 years at Delta Psi. His impact to the chapter over his tenure is immeasurable, reaching hundreds of young men as they transition into their adult lives. From 2010 through 2026, Justa has been a consistent presence, leading through major house renovations and a pandemic and supporting the growth of the chapter and Greek life at RPI, to ensure Sigma Chi has a solid foundation with which to flourish for the next 16 years and beyond.

Bob Eckart has never really been “just” anything and has definitely outdone himself as a Chapter Advisor. Adding to his long list of accolades, he can now include recipient of the 2026 Erwin L. Leclerg Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award from Sigma Chi International. Read on to see what brothers of the Delta Psi Chapter have to share about his legacy that is far from just average.

So Much More Than A Chapter Advisor

By Jim Manocchi '75

I have had the privilege and honor to have known Justa since the early 1970s when I was an undergrad two years junior to him—a lowly sophomore while he was a senior to whom we all looked up to...in spite of his self-deprecating nickname. According to him, he was just a freshman, then just a pledge, and finally just a brother. Hence: Justa. But we didn't look up to him just because he was a few years ahead of us in school. No, we looked up to him as previous Grand Consul **Bob Jones '73** put it, “because of his constant buoyancy and encouragement to others” along with his calm maturity and ability to sort things out in the whirlwind of RPI fraternity life.

When the dark days were upon us in the early 2000s, he was there with a number of other alumni from the late 1960s and 1970s, working to help get the chapter back on its feet. Before that, alumni involvement had fallen to nearly non-existent levels, there was little-to-no money, and we had a Chapter House that was literally falling down with a very small undergraduate brotherhood.

Where was Justa? LEADING the alumni to help get the chapter back on its feet. After several years of rebuilding the brotherhood and doing what could be done to make the house more livable and attractive to

potential pledges, he became central to the effort to raise money and do a complete re-build of the 110-year-old Pinewoods Palace. Justa was key to convincing our major benefactor, **Bill Pomeroy '66**, that the brotherhood was again solid enough and was worthy of the risk we were asking him to take by putting so much money on the line. Without Justa and Bill, the new house would certainly never have been possible!

But in order to build the new house, the old one had to be largely torn down and made into an unlivable construction zone for a full year! With no Chapter House, Justa arranged apartments that the chapter could use for living space and for Chapter Meetings and events. If there was ever a time when a strong leader was needed to hold things together as a brotherhood, that was it. But they didn't just survive. Under his guidance and leadership, they flourished and got one of their largest pledge classes ever!

The decade since then has been largely free of significant issues because the chapter has had his continuing steady support and guidance. Now, as much as we will all miss him and his influence on the chapter, I think we can all agree that Justa deserves not only our sincere gratitude, but also a happy retirement! You certainly earned it, Justa!!

I am so proud to tell you that **Robert C. Eckart Jr. '73**, better known to us as Justa, is my little brother. Justa started as an Assistant Chapter Advisor to our legendary **Arch Love '42** from 1975 to 1986 and then became Chapter Advisor to the new Sigma Chi Chapter at SUNY Albany from 1986 to 1997. He served the Albany/Schenectady/Troy Alumni Chapter as Treasurer and President from 1975 to 1990; served on our PEP Board in multiple roles from 1975 to 2012; and all that on top of being Delta Psi's Chapter Advisor for the last 16 years. With that record, I'd say Justa is legendary.

Besides Delta Psi and Sigma Chi, Justa has an amazing record of service to our alma mater as well. For many years, he had served on the Board of Directors of the Hudson Mohawk Chapter of the Rensselaer Alumni Association, and he was on the Board of the Alumni Fraternity and Sorority Council from 2010 to 2024, when he was made Director Emeritus, where he continues to serve.



*Undergraduate Justa
in the old Chapter House.*

As the Delta Psi Chapter Advisor and Board Member of the AFSC, Justa has always been heavily involved in RPI's Fraternity and Sorority community. He was named Chapter Advisor of the Year so many times, I convinced the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Commons to name the award the Robert C. Eckart Chapter Advisor of the Year Award in order to give others a chance to win it!

I also can't tell you how many times I've overheard him ask an undergraduate brother, "What do you want your legacy at Delta Psi to be?" He has always mentored and encouraged our young men to be the best Sigma Chis possible, always living and upholding our values. He set the bar for following the Jordan Standard by being a living example. While we all know many of our outstanding brothers, I don't know any that live by this standard better than Bob "Justa" Eckart.

NOT "Justa" NUMBER

The numbers speak for themselves!
Since Justa took over as Chapter Advisor:



Brothers initiated:

314



Province
Balfour
Award
winners:

5



Sigma Chi
Peterson Awards:

13

(and potentially
another this year)

The chapter also received multiple 5-star accreditations from RPI, raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, and has impacted numerous groups on campus and in the Troy community through thousands of hours of community service.

Did you know that RPI named their Chapter Advisor of the Year after Justa?



Justa with brothers and past Grand Consul at BLTW after winning a Peterson Award in 2016.

A *Thank You* FROM YEARS PAST

JOE PUMPER '13

I looked up to Justa as an undergraduate. I appreciated how involved he was and could sense that he really cared. It wasn't until many years later—frankly, until I became a parent—that I truly appreciated just how skillful and invested a mentor he was. While always looking ahead and freely offering advice (often over whiskey porter or oatmeal stout), he recognized that real growth comes out of trying and failing—allowing the young adults with whom he was charged to guide to make and learn from mistakes, better preparing them for life outside of college. A decade and a half later and I see now that while Justa did care about Sigma Chi “the organization,” his actions were of unconditional love toward its members.



Justa with graduating brothers in 2013.

BEN SEPULVEDA '26

My first experience meeting Justa, like so many of us, was during the chapter's Seven Rooms recruitment event. Hearing him speak, as he is well known for, about the chapter and its transformational impact is something I will never forget. An alumnus returning to the house to impress upon prospective new members the impact that Sigma Chi can have on someone is a testament to not only this chapter, but to Justa and his legacy. His legacy is the cultivation of leaders of men who are articulate, intelligent, ambitious, and kind.

That legacy will last forever and continue to shape the lives of future Delta Psi Sigs for years to come. I feel truly fortunate to have learned from Justa, and his lessons are ones I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

JOE VENUSTO '17

Justa was an exemplary advisor. He was always prepared to offer poignant wisdom during difficult times, insight into upcoming decisions, or a sharp joke to lighten a room. The warm comfort and sincere respect he brought to the chapter made us feel welcome, appreciated, and included. Justa's intelligent yet gentle prompting made us feel autonomous in our decision-making while offering his counsel as a backboard to ensure we met our deadlines and requirements for the campus and to each other. When the brotherhood's worthy leaders were stretched thin, Justa stepped in and contributed to completion of outstanding tasks. His consistent efforts to maintain relationships with campus leaders cultivated the well-regarded perception of Delta Psi.

Justa encouraged us to set high expectations for individual and chapter-wide excellence. He did not hesitate to identify delinquent assignments or discrepancies in quality, which was vital in helping us hold each other accountable.

In my time, Justa was famous for the eloquence and length of his speeches. While we teased him relentlessly for it, his words always left us with wise teachings and important lessons. Through his words, actions, and consistency, we felt his care and love for our brothers and our fraternity. Justa, thank you for everything!

This Newsletter Has *Something Extra!*

FIND YOUR PERSONALIZED UPDATE INSIDE



It's time to fill out and return your annual contact information update! Even if none of your info has changed, please return the form so we know that we're reaching you. We'd also love to hear about what's going on in your life since the last time we were in touch. More instructions are on the form inside.

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Welcome New Brothers!

10 NEW BROTHERS WERE INITIATED IN MARCH,
THANKS TO MAGISTER **ROSHAN PATEL '27**.

**Christopher
"Fuzzy"
Padula '29**

**Dhruva
Raghavan '29**

**William
Guan '29**

**Klaus
Weber '29**

**Nicholas
Jordan '29**

**Connor
Chrysler '29**

**Steven
Berry '29**

**Luca
Marchignoli '29**

**Hunter
Balcom '29**

**Moses
Ochieng '29**



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WITH THE CHAPTER!