



The BATTLEFIELD SIG

Fall 2022

THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE



(Left) The House Corporation Board meets with Brother Andy Hughes, Spring Hill '02, to identify areas of improvement and strategize for the future. From left: Kevin Isky '21, Drew Edelson '18, Michael Boncardo '18, Chris Severini '18, High Garst '20. (Right) HCB working with Andy Hughes, Spring Hill '02.

To Support Our Brothers

House Corporation Board Unveils New Mission Statement

All summer long, the officers of the House Corporation Board have had their hands full with everything Theta Chapter. We have taken ambitious strides to offer more than ever to our brotherhood. This began with a strategic meeting hosted by **Andy Hughes, Spring Hill '02**.

Brother Hughes is an expert in the fields of personal and organizational leadership. He is the founding director of, and Executive Director at, the Garthwait Leadership Center at Gettysburg College.

In June, HCB defined exciting goals for the future and identified key areas of improvement under Brother Hughes' guidance. To reflect our goals and encapsulate our purpose, we created a new mission statement:

The mission of the Theta House Corporation is to facilitate the perpetuity of the Theta Chapter by providing support, opportunities, and resources to our alumni and undergraduate brothers.

With this in mind, our hope is to provide a lasting impact in our brothers' lives while in college and maintain that connection as alumni.

To that end, a new scholarship fund has been established in honor of **Jeffery Gier '23**, who sadly joined the Chapter Eternal in January, to support our undergraduates' academic success. Additionally, a full suite of alumni events has been well underway in Philadelphia, Harrisburg, and Washington, D.C. We celebrated Homecoming in October, and Reunion Weekend and Theta's 160th Anniversary are coming up in the spring. We look forward to seeing you all return for these events, as you have been sorely missed!

For our efforts, HCB was recently awarded the 2021-22 Outstanding House Corporation Blue award from Sigma Chi International Headquarters—a first in Theta HCB's history! We recognize that this award could not have been achieved without the dedication of all our fellow alumni, for which we thank you.

You can view the award winners and additional information at: **thesighouse.org/news/outstanding-house-corporation-award-winners-2022**

For the most up-to-date information regarding our events, chapter news, and everything Theta, be sure to visit **gettysburgsigmachib.com**. With your continued support, our mission can become a reality for the betterment of all our past and present Battlefield Sigs.

In Hoc,
Kevin Isky '21
Young Alumni Liaison
iskyke01@comcast.net

P.S. Bricks are still available to purchase so your name and legacy are forever a part of Theta's home!

DONATIONS TO THE JEFFERY M. GIER '23 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Send via check (with Gier Scholarship in the memo line) to the Sigma Chi House Corporation:
122 Sayford St., Harrisburg, PA 17102
To donate online: givebutter.com/GierScholarship



RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Orin Levine '88 Talks Vaccines, the Gates, and COVID

Going into college, **Dr. Orin S. Levine '88** never expected to follow in his father's footsteps in the epidemiology field. But he did exactly that, recently wrapping up 10 eventful years with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In this role, Orin worked to help distribute vaccines and other primary healthcare resources globally.

Another thing he never expected was to work through a global pandemic like COVID-19.

"In many ways, we were not ready for that challenge, but we leaned in hard and worked through it," Orin recalls.

Together, he and his team worked long hours to face the many obstacles together—not unlike the teamwork he once shared with his Sigma Chi brothers.



"It was amazing to work with living philanthropists like Bill and Melinda in an organization that makes a big difference in people's lives," Orin said. "A lot of times when you work for a foundation, the benefactors are [no longer with us], so to work with them directly through the Foundation was incredible."

The COVID-19 pandemic presented many new, unique challenges for Orin and his team. Not only did the virus disrupt their previous in-office work (like many businesses worldwide), but their job was also to fight and reduce the spread of COVID—the very thing disrupting their jobs!

While pivoting to remote work, the Global Development Program took on the new tasks of sending prescription drugs, diagnostics, masks, and eventually vaccines to people around the world. "We had all this on our plate, in addition to the work we were already doing pre-pandemic," Orin explained. "We hadn't set that aside."

"My team were like heroes. Everybody just stepped up and rose to the challenge."

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

After earning his doctorate, Orin started out as an epidemic intelligence service officer at the CDC, followed by becoming an on-staff epidemiologist. He then moved to Washington, D.C., to work at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Here, Orin worked on a vaccine trial in West Africa to combat pneumonia and meningitis. "It's incredible to think that just three jabs can help wipe out enough disease to give these kids a chance at life."

Orin later went back to Johns Hopkins—this time as a professor—for nearly 10 years. In that role, he moved from inventing and testing vaccines to working in vaccine delivery for the first time. He led a team that designed a financial mechanism, called an Advanced Market Commitment, which they utilized to access \$1.5 billion toward sending the vaccine to kids in impoverished countries.

"It's been incredible to work on all this stuff, and there's a whole list of amazing people I've worked with and opportunities that I've had," he said. "It's all been really great."

WHAT'S NEXT?

After the many struggles from working to combat COVID (which sometimes had the team working 70 to 80 hours a week), Orin is ready to take some time off and ponder what to do next.

"I think I have one more big [role] in me—I just need a little time to unwind and restore my energy. Whatever I do next will have purpose. I'm going to do it with people I love working with and with a group that can be all in for whatever we're trying to accomplish. I'm looking forward to the journey and figuring all that out."

For today's Sigma Chi brothers, Orin has similar advice: just relax a little bit. "I see so many college kids who are worried about having it all figured out. Instead, I think this is the time to experiment, try different things on, and figure out what your passions are. I had no idea back in the house that I would be in this place at this time; there's no secret map to finding your path. Move forward with your own identity; making mistakes along the way is OK."

Orin lives in Mercer Island, Washington, and looks forward to the next phase of his journey. "Sigma Chi was part of a Gettysburg experience that helped shape me," he says. "I'm sure it's still shaping members today, and I hope they just make the most of it. Enjoy every minute."

You can reach Orin on LinkedIn at [linkedin.com/in/orin-levine-33443920](https://www.linkedin.com/in/orin-levine-33443920).

FINDING THE BEST FIT

Orin attributes his choice of fraternities to what his kids would now call "the vibe," or the feel of the chapter house and its residents. "The guys I met were laid back and it felt like a good fit, so I went with it." From studying together and learning pinocle to watching Phil Rice '88 demonstrate his ROTC training by jumping out a first-floor window (which he likened to jumping out of a plane), there was always fun to be had at Theta Chapter.

The Sigma Chi experience went deeper than that, of course, as Orin and his brothers grew and worked together as an organization. "It's more than just living in the same house; you're committing to connecting on a deeper level," he said. "The friendships you make and the feeling of a shared purpose are important experiences that have stuck with me to this day."

WORKING THROUGH ADVERSITY

A few years after graduating from Gettysburg, Orin decided to study epidemiology at The Johns Hopkins University, earning his doctorate in 1994. His work for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation began in 2012 as the director for vaccine delivery. That morphed over time into a larger role as director of the Foundation's Global Development Program, which oversees projects on both immunization and primary healthcare.

Over the years, Orin led a team ranging from 35 to 80 people, putting about \$500 million a year into innovations and partnerships to help improve under-5 and maternal mortality rates,

Do you have a favorite quote, or someone who consistently inspires you?

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." —Maya Angelou

Data brings a lot of rigor to what we do, and I kind of like that about the job. But that quote reminds me just having the facts or technically "being right" is not enough. You have to help people feel heard, included, and appreciated—not just bludgeoned with information. I've seen that approach too often in my field, even if they're right.



Brother David Goldman '24 (left) with fellow Sig atop a mountain in Utah at Sigma Chi's Horizons Leadership Experience.



Brothers with our new sweetheart, Autumn Chassie '23.



Brothers Brett Travis '23, Peter Halsey '23, and Aidan Cohen '24 at the Krach Transformational Leadership Workshop.

STRIVING FOR THE BEST

Theta Chapter Celebrates Fraternal and on-Campus Recognition

Spring and Fall Recruitment Success

The brothers of Theta Chapter are excited for the upcoming fall semester, having reunited after a productive summer break. Among the 40 active brothers are seven new members who were initiated in early spring. It has been a pleasure to watch them all grow as men and improve their community in so many amazing ways. The brotherhood is also proud to extend bids to 13 promising young men this fall; we hope to one day call them Brothers.

Awards and Accomplishments

At the Gettysburg College Greek Awards, **Alex Kagan '24** won Sophomore of the Year for his exemplary work within his community. Brother Kagan is "honored to have received the award and looking forward to continuing to make positive change within the Gettysburg community." Theta Chapter was also recognized for reaching the highest fraternity GPA on campus.

Leadership Workshops

Over summer break, brothers took advantage of the multiple leadership workshops offered by Sigma Chi.

- Brothers **David Goldman '24**, Alex, and **John Swartz '22** attended Horizons Leadership Experience to improve their leadership and group dynamic skills. Brother Goldman believed the event to be "one of the best experiences of my life. I went in not knowing what to expect and emerged not wanting to leave. The lessons I learned cannot be found anywhere else."

- Brothers **Peter Halsey '23**, **Brett Travis '23**, and **Aidan Cohen '24** attended the Krach Transformational Leadership Workshop. While there, the brothers developed their personal and professional skills to apply in the fraternity and in their future careers.

Philanthropy Work and Recognition

The chapter took home first place at Tri Sigma's Cupcake Wars, raising money for the Tri Sigma Foundation and the March of Dimes. Our brothers also participated in the International Men's March Walk a Mile event. This event raises awareness for sexual assault, rape, and gender-based violence while raising money for Adams County Sexual Assault Services.

For the 14th year in a row, Theta received the highest award a Sigma Chi chapter can earn: the Peterson Significant Chapter Award. The chapter also won the Legion of Honor Academic award and the award for Best Campus Involvement for a philanthropy event. These awards recognize our scholastic and philanthropic achievements from the past year.

Our brothers are committed to forever strengthening the bonds of brotherhood and improving our surrounding communities.

In Hoc,
Samuel DeBrandt '24
Tribune

Chapter Goals for the Fall

1

Improve cumulative GPA.

2

Successfully initiate our fall pledge class.

3

Increase brotherhood participation within the chapter and the community.

Chapter Officers

Consul
Peter Halsey '23

Pro Consul
Brett Travis '23

Magister
Erick Miller '23

Risk Manager
Josh Myers '23

Quaestor
Matt Rau '23

Annotator
Logan Sodl '24

House Manager
Hayden Johnson '24

Kustos
Connor Elliott '23

Historian
Mike Baehre '24

Tribune
Sam DeBrandt '24

Recruitment Chairman
David Goldman '24
dgold2829@gmail.com
(914) 467-9460

Philanthropy Chairman
Russel Midgley '23

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chairman
Harrison Moore '23

Peterson Chairman
Anthony Sanchez '24

Chapter Editor
Alex Kagan '24

High Priest (Ritual Chairman)
Rieser Fallor '22

Social Chairman
Cole Bayesa '23

Brotherhood Chairman
Andrew Weinbrum '23

Scholarship Chairman
Malcolm Lathrop-Allen '24

Interfraternity Council Representative
Conor Vienneau '24

Why We Joined

*"I joined Sigma Chi
to expand my social circle
with ambitious and
value-driven people."*
—Zach Hoffman '23

*"Because of the
value that the brothers in
the house put on academics
and involvement in the school
outside Greek life."*
—Aidan Cohen '24

*"The tremendous
brotherhood convinced me I had a
home here at Sigma Chi and could
grow as a person while making
positive change in my community."*
—Henry Schmeltzer '24

Spring 2022 New Members

Antonio M. Abate '24
Northvale Abate, N.J.

John F. Caruso '24
North Arlington, N.J.

Aidan E. Cohen '24
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Dylan J. Hewitt '24
Sag Harbor, N.Y.

Zachary K. Hoffman '23
Upper Saddle, N.J.

Russell W. Midgley '23
Scarborough, N.Y.

Henry C. Schmeltzer '24
London, England



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SIGMA CHI
Gettysburg College
P.O. Box 442100
Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 66044
PERMIT #570

RECRUITMENT REFERRALS

If you know a potential Sigma Chi brother, please make referrals to our Recruitment Chairman:

David Goldman '24
dgold2829@gmail.com | (914) 467-9460

Make sure to include name, hometown, year, and any legacy connections.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Tell us what you're up to! How have you lent a hand in your community lately? Do you have any career highlights or family updates you'd like to share with your Theta brothers? How have you spent your time during the pandemic? Have you reached out to any brothers for support during times of uncertainty?

Share your story, and it may appear in a future issue of *The Battlefield Sig*! Submissions can be sent to our communications coordinator at dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com with "SX Getty Spotlight Suggestion" in the subject line.

Now more than ever it's important to stay connected to our Sigma Chi brothers. We hope you have a safe, healthy, and happy rest of the year.