



The BATTLEFIELD SIG

Spring 2021

THETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

HOUSE CORPORATION UPDATE

THETA CHAPTER RESPONDS TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On February 16, the House Corporation Board hosted a virtual chapter update and information session. The session was well-attended by close to 30 brothers. This group represented the undergraduate brothers, alumni from many generations of Theta Chapter, chapter advisors, and Grand Trustees from the International Fraternity. Our current Consul, chapter advisor **Richard Krisch '73**, Grand Trustees Nathan Neal and Edward Pitt, and House Corporation President **Sam Blum '15** provided detailed reports of campus life, national fraternity news, and our efforts as a chapter to support our undergraduates in a difficult time.

We set out to provide updates on what the campus looked like during the COVID-19 pandemic; Consul **Giacomo Coppola '22** explained that many of our alumni would barely recognize the campus today. The students are tested for COVID-19 weekly, they are denied access to the chapter house for social events or meeting purposes, and their recruitment efforts are severely inhibited by the restrictions in place from the administration. As our conversation progressed, it became clear that there are very tangible ways that the undergraduates could use the help of our alumni base.

Our spring philanthropy event, Derby Days, will likely be restricted by the school. Because of these restrictions, we may not be able to raise as much money as we normally do. Theta has raised upward of \$60,000 for cancer research during single weeks. The undergraduates feel passionately about this cause and would greatly benefit from any assistance to continue their efforts.

Seniors graduating in this environment are presented with a unique challenge in their job search. The HCB is working to open lines of communication between undergraduates and alumni in their respective industries. The first step we are taking is to get as many alumni as possible registered on our LinkedIn page. Next is to have alumni willing to answer emails and phone calls from undergraduates looking to navigate the professional world.

Here is the link to our LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6785618/>

Our chapter advisors and Grand Trustees provided information about the Greek world. Several chapters have been shut down due to COVID-19 violations, including one on Gettysburg's campus. Others have disassociated with their IFC organizations due to COVID-19-related disagreements. Thankfully, and not surprisingly, our chapter is in good standing with the college. Our young men understand the rules and are working hard to adapt and get creative within the restrictions set by the college. They currently struggle from the lack of in-person chapter events, but they constantly work to come up with ideas to keep the brotherhood strong in such difficult circumstances.

Support
Theta Chapter with
a donation today! To
make your gift online,
visit <http://givebutter.com/aBdT8r>.

In Hoc,
Drew Edelson '18
edelsondrew@gmail.com

SIGMA CHI PROVIDED MIKE SASS '10 WITH FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The first Sigma Chi memory that comes to mind for **Mike Sass '10** is his initiation. Mike and his brothers worked hard to rebuild Theta Chapter, and that was the day it all became official and their hard work paid off. As part of a chartering class, Mike was drawn to Sigma Chi's anti-hazing stance, advocacy for men from different backgrounds to join, and the best resources available for networking and leadership development. His Sigma Chi experience shaped him into the person he is today and undoubtedly helped him succeed personally and professionally.

"We had to learn how to develop an organization almost from scratch, learn how to recruit new

members, fundraise, operate within the college, and be a part of the Greek life on campus in general. It helped me mature my own social skills, communication skills, and problem-solving," Mike stated. "It also helped me in my professional endeavors by teaching me what to look out for in a recruitment setting, like job interviews or school interviews, and how to market myself."

Mike credits the influence of chapter advisors **Joseph Santacroce '88** and **Richard Krisch '73** for showing him and his pledge brothers what it truly means to be committed to Sigma Chi.

(Continued on page 2)



MIKE SASS '10

(Continued from page 1)

"They were the chapter father figures if you will. They rarely, if ever, missed a chapter meeting or chapter event," he shared. "They were and still are dedicated to the brotherhood and Theta Chapter. They taught us what it means to be a part of this brotherhood, and they were there from day one."

After graduating from Gettysburg, he went on to pursue his master's degree at East Stroudsburg University in clinical exercise physiology. During his time in graduate school, Mike still wasn't sure what he wanted to do professionally. Eventually, he decided to give medical school a shot.

"I didn't get in on my first try. I ended up working at Gettysburg College in the Department of Public Safety for a year while I reapplied to medical school," he shared. "During that time, I also had the unique opportunity to be an interim director of Greek organizations for Gettysburg's Student Affairs Office while the main director was on paternity leave."

The second time around, Mike was accepted to two osteopathic medical schools. He attended Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2012-16 and completed his residency in internal medicine at Orange



Regional Medical Center in Middletown, New York. After that, he worked as a hospitalist for a group at the same hospital for a year before becoming a primary care physician at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania.

"I'm most proud of having survived the process of earning my title of doctor and having earned the job I have now. My career is young, so I'm sure there is more to come, but right now I'm just enjoying the fruits of that labor," he said. "I love having a relationship with my patients and that they have trust in me to help them get and stay healthy."

Mike is also proud of the life he has built so far. He and his wife, Kate, have been married for eight years and have four kids: Kennedy (17, Mike's stepchild), and their three kids together, Maggie (4), Michael James III (2), and Rylan (7 months as of January 2021). He and his family live in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

Although his career path and raising a family have been his main priorities up to this point, he hopes to get more involved with Theta Chapter again now that he lives closer to Gettysburg College. You can connect with Mike at michaelsass@me.com.

Do You Know a Potential Sigma Chi?

Help Us Get in Touch with Potential New Members

If you know a young man on campus or attending Gettysburg in the future, we'd love to connect with him! Fill out the form below and send it to 300 N Washington St, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Or email this information to **Rieser Faller '22** at riser.faller@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to arrange a visit.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

High School _____

Please list any Theta Chapter or Sigma Chi relatives:

Your Information

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD!

Palmer Anderson '23

Morton, Pa.

Erick Miller '23

Newtown, Pa.

Nicholas Cox '23

Purcellville, Va.

Joshua Myers '23

Herndon, Va.

Connor Elliott '23

Media, Pa.

Matthew Rau '23

Castle Pines, Colo.

Zachary Evans '23
Egg Harbor Township, N.J.

Kenneth Spadaccini '23
Cresskill, N.J.

Jeffrey Gier '23
Oyster Bay, N.Y.

Paul Szanto '23
Fanwood, N.J.

Peter Halsey '23
Essex, Conn.

Brett Travis '23
Leola, Pa.

Connor Heath '23
Hesston, Pa.

Andrew Weinbrum '23
Weston, Conn.

Ronald Lentz '23
Lewisburg, Pa.

FACING CHALLENGES HEAD-ON

Theta Chapter Collegians Adjust to the New Normal at Gettysburg College

The Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi at Gettysburg College is responding to the challenges of COVID-19 through a reaffirmation of our mission to support the three great aims of Sigma Chi: Friendship, Justice, and Learning. Like the rest of the United States, Sigma Chi operated virtually for much of 2020, facing challenges to connect with each other and preserve the relationships between brothers and our college community.

The chapter began 2021 on a strong note by pledging and initiating 15 exceptional individuals into our chapter, all done virtually. Magister **Will Hopkins '22** notes: "I was incredibly fortunate to initiate 15 young men over winter break. As with any new member education process, there were many obstacles. Having to conduct the entirety of the experience over Zoom presented even more challenges. These obstacles did little to curb the enthusiasm of the pledges. Every week, they brought their high spirits and friendly faces, ready to discuss the importance of the values of Sigma Chi." Furthermore, our successful efforts with recruitment will carry on toward our philanthropy goals.

Philanthropy Chairman **David Wiener '22** says: "In adherence with COVID-19 guidelines on campus, we continue to have our eyes set on achieving a hybrid Derby Days that incorporates some socially distanced in-person elements in addition to online initiatives. Most importantly, we want to highlight the 'why' behind our philanthropic efforts as a reminder of the great things that can happen when our brothers come together."

As a chapter, we are dedicated to making Theta more inclusive for all members of our college community. Campus Equity and Inclusion Chairman **Alejandro Sánchez '21** asserts that: "The main missions of the Equity and Inclusion Committee are centered on strengthening our brotherhood internally via discussions within the chapter regarding race, sexuality, and other topics. Additionally, we would like to better connect our brotherhood to groups on campus such as the Black Student Union and the Latin American Student Association." With the goals of our determined executive board in mind, and the challenges faced and overcome from COVID-19, the Theta Chapter of Sigma Chi is committed to making our brotherhood and community stronger than ever before.

In Hoc,
Giacomo Coppola '22
Consul



Brothers of Theta Chapter host safe and successful recruitment events amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Such efforts resulted in the initiation of 15 men of high character this spring. Our brotherhood continues to rise to and surpass the challenges presented to us by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Jack Kenyon '21, Dylan McKeever '21, and Christian Rodriguez '21 proudly display the Sigma Chi flag at End of the World, Hawaii, in December of 2020.



Brother Daniel Petrillo '21 from Bridgewater, N.J., is a future United States Marine Corps officer.

THETA BY THE NUMBERS



GPA: 3.63



New Members: 15



Total # Brothers: 63



Spring Service Hours: 6



Intramural Winners:
Oliver Yancey '21 and Daniel Janzow '21



Will Hopkins '22 and Dylan McKeever '21 stand atop Okemo Mountain in Ludlow, Vt., on January 15, 2021. This photograph was displayed on the Sigma Chi Instagram page and won the Campus Classics Flag Friday challenge for that week. "We are always excited to represent our fraternity," Will said. "It was an honor displaying the beautiful colors of Sigma Chi at the top of the mountain."



Brothers Sam Jagolinzer '22 and Will Hopkins '22 enjoy a beautiful late-summer day in Gettysburg in August of 2020.

CHAPTER OFFICERS



Consul **Giacomo Coppola '22**
(505) 690-5547
gcoppola12@gmail.com

Pro Consul **Jacob Singleton '22**
jsingleton156@gmail.com

Annotator **Dylan McKeever '21**

Quaestor **John Moore '22**

Magister **William Hopkins '22**

Recruitment Chairman **William Combs '22**
(215) 817-4949
combs-harrison3@gmail.com

Risk Management
Chairman **Thomas Ramsay '22**

Tribune **Benjamin Johnson '22**

Editor **Shane Shannon '22**

Historian **Angus Brouillard '22**

Kustos **Jack Kenyon '21**

House Manager **Angelo Magliochetti '22**

Scholarship Chairman **Theodore Davis '22**

Social Chairman **Rieser Faller '22**

Health and Wellness (COVID-19) Chairman
Kevin Isky '21
kevingetysburg@gmail.com

Philanthropy Chairman **David Wiener '22**



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

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CHAPTER ETERNAL

It is with profound sadness that we alert you to the passing of **Peter J. Barnes III '78** into Chapter Eternal on February 22 after a sudden and all-too-brief fight against kidney cancer. Pete, also known as "Bad News" or "Snappy," was one of a kind and will be forever remembered for his loyalty to his Sigma Chi brothers and friends. He was a wonderful husband to Katie, a father to Meg, Jack, and Kenneth, and a devoted son. We have no doubt the New Jersey court system will have a huge void to fill with Judge Barnes no longer on the bench.



Is Your Contact Information Updated?

Beyond our biannual newsletter, we're also focused on updating our alumni contact records. You might recall receiving a form in January asking you to confirm your contact information and to share what's new with you.

Don't remember receiving that form? Please email dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com so we can keep our records current!