

Alpha Speaks



SigEp's 55th Grand Chapter Conclave is just around the corner! This year, we are going for our 5th consecutive Buchanan Cup, and we could use some help getting there. If you wish to make a difference and assist in giving NJA a chance to make a strong presence at Orlando this August, please contact President Daniel Fenton at dfenton@stevens.edu. Any help would be greatly appreciated!



Daniel Fenton

Chapter President

**Chris
Reed**

*Vice President of
Programming*



**Joe
Farino**

*Vice President of
Finance*



**Kyle
Runko**

*Vice President of
Membership
Development*



**Conor
Manning**

*Vice President of
Recruitment*



**Harrison
Kaye**

Chaplain



Brothers of New Jersey Alpha,

I am proud to say that we have had another successful semester here at 530 Hudson Street. Wrapping up the 2016-17 year, it is obvious that the men of New Jersey Alpha have been hard at work. Our chapter has reached new heights this semester, as evident from a new Spring philanthropy event that raised \$1,000, as well as the Spring 2017 bid class comprised of 21 of Stevens' finest men. The momentum we have developed this semester will surely lead to a fantastic Fall semester, and I am excited to see what comes next.

On Friday, May 12th we had the ten year anniversary of our recharter. Between that and all of the reflection during our Buc-Cup application, it is amazing to see how far we have come. In the Fall of 2016 we hit a record high semesterly GPA for campus with a 3.604. We ended the semester with a total of 99 undergraduate brothers, which makes us the largest fraternity on campus. We are continuously recognized as a model chapter both on the Stevens campus and in the Sig Ep community. Even from an internal perspective, brotherly love continues to peak as the chapter grows closer and closer each year.

I have had the pleasure of serving this fraternity as president for only a semester, but I have already learned so much. I am lucky to be leading the greatest group of men on campus, and I am even luckier to be supported by an incredible Executive Committee. Sig Ep has been recognized both on campus and nationally as an exemplary chapter, and this could not be possible without the 98 other undergraduate men of NJA. I have leaned on many brothers this semester, and I have never encountered a scenario where a brother

was not there to step up and help me. Sig Ep NJA has developed a reputation of excellence. This is due to no single person, but the drive and determination of many. We have had a fantastic semester because of this, and this alone is what will allow us to be successful in the future.

My favorite event this semester was our Burning Heart ceremony. Beyond enjoying speaking at this ceremony as President, the senior reading was particularly touching to me. Brother Dominic LoVasco spoke about how during his first gavel pass the room erupted in cheers. For him, this was the moment he recognized that Sigma Phi Epsilon truly is a brotherhood. He spoke about how Sig Ep does not ask you to change, with the exception of expecting you to "work harder, aim higher, and be better". This truly showcased the cardinal principles of virtue, diligence, and most importantly brotherly love in its purest form.

To end this semester, Sigma Phi Epsilon was honored multiple times at the Student Leadership Awards Brunch held by Student Life at Stevens. Sig Ep won the Chapter of the Year award, and two other awards for our Consent 101 program. This is a program that serves to facilitate the necessary discussion about sexual assault on college campuses.

Beyond this, brothers won the Senior Legacy award, the New Member of the Year award, and the Distinguished Teaching Assistant. With such a successful semester, I am extremely excited to see what new heights we can achieve as a fraternity in the upcoming year. I cannot wait to see our continued success as we go for our 5th consecutive Buc-Cup in Orlando!

Faternally yours,
Daniel Fenton
Chapter President

Have a story you want to share?

Do you have any stories or life updates that you want your brothers to know about? Put them in the next Alpha Speaks!

Email vpcommunication@sigepnja.com

A Semester Abroad

A brother shares his experiences from across the Atlantic



For the spring semester of 2017, I studied in the city of Dublin, Ireland. Throughout that time, I learned a lot of new things, met new people, and had the experience of a lifetime. At the same time, this was one of the most intimidating experiences I've had.

When you first arrive, it is very similar to the first day of college or, for me, Bid Night; you know no one (besides Jimmy). As the time goes by, you accustom yourself to your surroundings and get a group of friends again. For some, it can take time, but regardless, it always happens. And because of this re-assimilation to freshman year, it's an intimidating experience. It puts you out of your comfort zone and makes you start from scratch again. However, by starting from scratch, you are able to learn a lot about yourself. You are able to learn both through the people you meet and the places you go.

For example, Brother James Edmund Flaherty and I planned a trip that would go to Brussels, Belgium; Amsterdam, Holland; Reykjavik, Iceland; and then back to Dublin, over the course of a week. In Belgium, we met two people from completely different walks of life, Lukas and Spencer. These people had only known each other for 5 minutes before Brother James Edmund Flaherty and I had met them, but surprisingly, they had a lot in common. Both had been to over 10 countries, lived shortly in each place (2-4 weeks), had a love of photography, and gained an international awareness that I have not seen before. Spencer was a young Californian 19 year old who was in his gap year

before starting college, and Lukas was an Australian 27 year old who had earned a Master's in mechatronic and mechanical engineering, worked for a few years, and then chose to travel the world. But in all seriousness, why would a 19 year old from California, a 27 year old from Australia, and two 20 year old gringos from New Jersey ever meet? It's a weird thought, but it shows how traveling has the ability to bring people together because they were some of the most genuine people I have met and are people I hope to stay in touch with down the line.

Overall, the study abroad experience ties in well with the cardinal principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon. First, it ties in to Virtue because it is important to be yourself when you are meeting new people from different cities and countries, and to make responsible choices (while still having a good time). Next, it ties in to Diligence because although you may be traveling around and making plans, it is important to stay on top of everything. It is easy to push things off and tell yourself that you will do it later, but only to realize later that you should have done those things earlier. Last is Brotherly Love, which I think may be the most important. The purpose of travelling is not to just visit places, take pictures, and leave. The significance of these visits stems from the relationships and friendships that you make in these places. Being open to exploring new places, meeting new people, and experiencing new things are keys to having a great experience. This also ties into Sound Mind because of its emphasis of learning about new cultures and stepping



out of your comfort zone.

Last, I would strongly recommend anyone who is able to study abroad to do so. I have had the chance to observe new cultures, see places I thought I would never have the chance to get to, and eat some of the best food I might ever have. It is one of the most amazing, rewarding, and unforgettable experiences I have ever had and I wouldn't trade the time for anything.

If you have any questions or are thinking of studying abroad, please reach out to Brother James Edmund Flaherty or myself. It has been one of the best experiences of my life and I would want another brother to experience the same.



**Kevin Baccaro,
Class of 2019**

Oh, How Times Have Changed!

*John Spaziani,
Class of 1967*

We attended Stevens in the best of times and the worst of times – The Beatles, The British Invasion, Star Trek on Sunday evenings, half day Wednesdays and Frosh Exams on Saturdays; the JFK Assassination and The Vietnam War. We laughed and cried, studied and played hard.

We were (and are) a close-knit group of twelve Pledges, all of who became Brothers, although two are no longer with us. The Vincent A. Rocco Technology Center is named in honor of our late brother Vincent A. Rocco.

Pledging in February was a tense time, yet the existing Brotherhood were generally warm and friendly. Of course, Pledge Week in the Fall was challenging – from painting the rear outer wall of 530, to the second-floor bathroom and cleaning the Party Room.

The culture at the House was set and maintained by our caring and loving House Mother, the late Mrs. Grace K. Rettig. Professor Rettig ran the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the same time as Professor Dalessio (John's father) had Civil Engineering.

Mrs. Rettig, the Big-Hearted, loving/caring and (at times) a stern Mother Hen, set high standards and values, which we generally followed. Jackets and ties were expected at dinner as well as



Pictured: Rich Hartmann, Wayne Steadman, George Bedorf, Bob Buechner, Pete Macko, Rich Sieglitz, Richard Ackerson
The late Tom Glagola, Len Calone and John Dalessio
Missing: John Spaziani and the late Vinnie Rocco

flawless table manners. There were always great meals, prepared by Lily our cook; with plentiful leftovers for that midnight coffee, tea and snacks. Who could forget steak and beans after Mid-Terms and the onion meatloaf!?!

Mrs. R kept her pulse on the forty-five (45) Member Brotherhood: who was doing well mentally, physically and grade-wise and who was not? She gave us a wonderful balance of discipline and TLC. As Kitchen Steward, I learned much from her folksy humor; and, day-time Soap Operas. We loved her dearly.

Sure, we studied hard and some of us struggled in Chemistry, Physics and Heat Transfer. Several of the “older” Brothers, like Bob Cuneo, Chip McCoy and the late Frank Gerard tutored some of us till they were hoarse. Our GPA was not great, perhaps about a 2.50. No one from the Class 1967 was on the Dean's List, except for Roy Johannessen ('68), who followed me as President.

These were fun and silly times too. I can still hear Len Calone and Dick Cizek's GTOs soaring through campus, followed by Fred Faist's ('68) yellow Mustang, fresh from a pumpkin raid. There were Friday night parties with a beer keg, dives off the upright piano and brothers flying down the stairs. There were serious times too: especially while “Passing the Gavel” at Chapter Meetings and fund-raising activities for The Heart Fund, like the card party.

We looked forward to the annual Winter Carnival and Spring Sports formals. Our Chapter was famous for winning the annual house decorating contests, with such classics as the greeting card which opened and closed; and, the “skiing” Snoopy and riding Santa. Through those all-nighters, we enjoyed close comradery, much fellowship and learned some Engineering and Project Management.

Interfraternity Sports were huge, especially football against our arch rival: Delta Tau Delta. Who could forget the Big

Green Machine with the Class '67 members known for Len Calone's laser-like passes to Pistol Pete Macko or the late Tom Glagola (who also played linebacker), anchored by Rich "The Anvil" Ackerson, Rich Hartmann, Bob Buechner and John Spaziani on the line, and Rich Sieglitz as half back.

Many of us courted our Sweethearts, to which we are still married - approaching our 50ths.

Over the years, New Jersey Alpha has really changed for the better. There was an apparent shift to more emphasis on academics while maintaining excellence in sports. 528 Hudson Street was added in 1969, while the rear extension (529 Court Street, which houses the renovated Chapter Meeting Room) was finished in 1991.

The current Brotherhood is ninety-nine (99) members – more than double our 1967 size. There are no more “pledges” as such anymore. NJA adopted the SPE

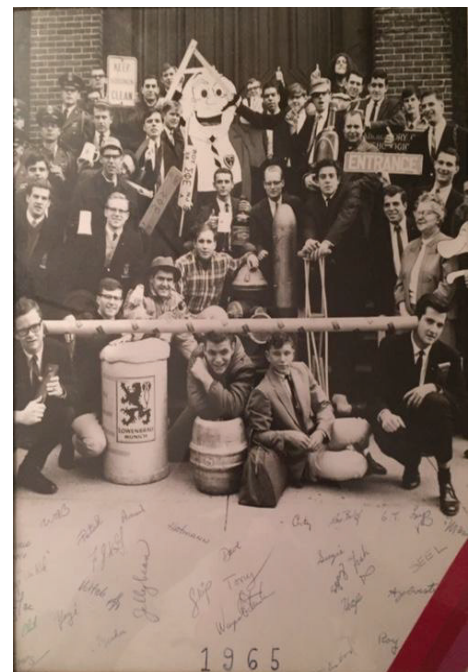
National Balanced Man Program upon rechartering a decade ago. Anyone who accepts their bid is, by the bylaws, a full-fledged Brother from day one.

Their average Brotherhood GPA for last semester was 3.60, the highest of any Greek Organization on campus!

Although they have been first in academics and interfraternity sports in past years, they came in second in floor hockey this year – participating in interfraternity basketball, dodgeball, football, hockey and softball. The two largest awards they received this year were the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) Chapter of Distinction Award and The Chapter Home of the Year Award from the Carlson Leadership Academy. BRAVO!

Stevens too has changed significantly, with the admission of female students and the addition of several new Schools of Study, like Finance and IT. It is now a highly-ranked University – coming in 12th in the Pay Scale's 2017 Return on Investment (ROI) Survey according to the April NJ BIZ Magazine.

In 1963, Dean of Men Bingham commented: “Look to your right and left. Know that one of those students will not graduate”, as there was a 50% dropout at that time. Stevens President Jess H. Davis “... invited us to pursue the educational challenges and opportunities we would be



afforded. Whether you do so, however, rests solely with you,” he said. Now, Stevens is a kinder, gentler and more supportive organization – working to help all students graduate.

SPE was (is) a place in which we loved to be, with the people we loved. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Brothers, the Classes of 1965, 1966, 1968 and especially 1967. You created a refuge and safe space in which we were tolerated for who we are. It was a place of love, belonging and fellowship, in which we always looked out for one another – unconditionally. You helped make me who and what I am today, tolerating my eccentricities and failings. Our Brotherhood is a lifetime experience, which we treasure. Gracias. Len Calone said it best: “Being a member of a fraternity in the 1960's at Stevens meant the difference between being just a student, or being an integral part of university life.”



530 Court Street, December 1966

A Letter From the Editor

Dear readers,

It has been an honor putting together this edition of Alpha Speaks. This publication is one of the many ways for brothers from all years to be able to connect with one of the things we all have in common, SigEp. The best way to continue this connection is to have news from our current undergraduates and also articles from our alumni. If you would like to write an article for the next edition of Alpha Speaks, please email:

vpcommunication@sigepnja.com.

If you would like to help lower our production costs of Alpha Speaks by receiving the electronic version instead of the paper copy, please email the address above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email above.



Joseph Puciloski

*Vice President of
Communications*

Escaping the Extension

It goes without saying that one of Sig Ep NJA's core principles is giving back to the community. With structured community service opportunities organized by brothers, NJA has managed to give back to the people of Hoboken, the students of Stevens, and even various other towns and communities outside our local area with service trips ranging from volunteering at the homeless shelter, to building houses with Habitat for Humanity. Yet, when I became Philanthropy chair in the spring of 2016, it was clear that our efforts in philanthropy were not as developed as our community service endeavors, and one of the goals given to me early on by our then Vice President of Programming, Cory Wiedmann, was to create an annual spring philanthropy for Sig Ep that will establish us with a stronger philanthropic impact on campus. Setting up an event that semester proved to be more difficult than we had hoped, as various opportunities fell through and time was limited due to the end of the spring semester being packed with event after event each weekend. The fall came and we had our annual breast cancer walk philanthropy event, hosted with the sisters of Delta Phi Epsilon. The walk went wonderfully, raising over \$1000 to donate to breast cancer research through the Making Strides Foundation. At this point I knew that to be able to call my time as Philanthropy chair a success, I would need to organize an original and successful event for the coming Spring.

Early on in the semester, a sister from Phi Sigma Sigma approached Vice President Chris Reed and I about taking a mixer we had done with them the previous semester, and turning it into a philanthropy event. The mixer she was referring to was our ever-popular "Escape the Extension". Based off of the "escape rooms" that have risen in popularity over the last few years, a small group of brothers had designed and created our very own escape room in our second floor extension, creating puzzles, riddles, and various challenges to be completed by the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma, and the

brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon, in their hopes of "escaping the room". Chris and I both instantly fell in love with her idea.

With our hopes high we began the process of creating a new room that would be open to the entire Stevens community to come and have fun in trying to escape, while raising money for philanthropy at the same time.

Many nights of planning, brainstorming, last minute purchasing and prop decorating with the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma were required to pull this event off, but when it all came together, it paid off more than we could have imagined.

The event was the weekend of April 1st, and over 10 groups from various organizations across campus had shown up to participate in the room. With groups of 10 students each, and two groups of Sig Ep brothers' parents participating (thank you parents!) we raised over \$1000 through this event alone, and as a first time event that is an extraordinary amount.

The event was a success, an amazing amount of money had been raised for an amazing cause, and I was able to call my time as Philanthropy Chair a success. I have since passed along the Philanthropy chair position to a brother who had just joined this past semester, Dan Raleigh, and it is slightly bittersweet knowing that I won't be organizing this event for next year. Yet knowing that our philanthropy endeavors are in the hands of young, passionate man like Dan, I cannot wait to see how he takes us to new heights.



Marc Greenfield,
Class of 2019

Meet the Spring 2017 Sigma Class!



In No Particular Order:
 Pujan Shah, Kevin Leddy, Ryan Tom, Chris Keenan, Mikey Grossbarth, Simas Glebavicius, Dom Malfetano, Kyle Warnock, Will Kaminskas, Kenny Otten, K.C. Vasilas, Andrew Yenna, Jake Meiskin, Jesse Priest, Daniel Bianchini, Lucas Franz, Nick Ventrone, Giovanni Kioschnick, Niko Lambert, Domenic Maltefano, Justin Trugman

Save The Date, Founder's Day!

Saturday,
 November 4th

Contact info:
 Joseph Puciloski

vpcommunication
 @sigepnja.com

Alumni Visits

We at New Jersey Alpha would like to thank all of the alumni who were able to visit the chapter house for a reunion this past month. We hope that all who visited are pleased with how our chapter has grown over this decade, especially those who graduated 50 years ago!



Pictured above: Members of the Class of 1977



Pictured above: Members of the Class of 1967

If a reunion interests you, please consider contacting us to arrange a day where you can visit. We are always interested in meeting the men who shaped this fraternity into what it is today. Also, don't forget Founder's Day is November 4th this year. We're looking forward to spending the day reconnecting with our alumni over football and a cook-out.



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Building
Balanced
Men

Sigma Phi Epsilon

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
530 Hudson Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030

Alpha **SPE**aks

New Jersey Alpha RLC Chapter Newsletter: Summer 2017 Issue - Volume XI, Number 2

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