

# ALPHA SPEAKS



Troy  
Kanaszka '17

*Chapter President*



Cory  
Wiedmann '17

*Vice President of  
Programming*



Finley  
Simonds '17

*Vice President of  
Finance*



Joshua  
Bloom '17

*Vice President of  
Member  
Development*



William  
Harris '19

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Zachary  
Binger '18

*Chaplain*



Zachary  
Caldarola '18

*Vice President of  
Communications*



Prior to being elected president of the undergraduate chapter I was naively unaware of just how many incredible experiences I would be exposed to. I find myself continuously feeling humbled by the men that I am surrounded by every day. Their collective drive, accomplishments, and goals astound me to a level I thought impossible. Although I stand in front of them as a leader, I often feel I learn more from them. Constantly motivating one another to become better in every area possible is what I love about SigEp and is a value I will forever hold dear. This encompasses the epitome of the Balanced Man Program.

I am lucky in many regards. A leader is only as good as his team, and mine is made up of some of the best men I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. They make my job easy. NJA received a handful of prestigious honors this past semester, and none of it would have been possible without them. Hours of filling out applications and submitting documents are only possible because of their achievements. In the past week, I received two emails from the staff at student life. One informing us of our Spring 2016 GPA and the other informing us of our Stevens Accreditation rating. The school has started a new accreditation program for all of Greek life. Every chapter on campus is rated on a five star scale based on their achievements of the last year. The semester GPA of our 90 brother chapter broke the previous record for highest GPA by any Greek organization with a 3.596. A few days later, I was informed that we were also accredited by the school as a five star chapter.

As these are accomplishments recognized only by the Stevens community, NJA has been pushing the boundaries for years to not only be the best chapter at Stevens but rather, one of the top organizations in the nation. With each year, we look more and more at the bigger picture. The North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) gives a chapter of distinction award to top chapters in the nation every year. This award is open to any fraternity chapter in the entire nation, and therefore by applying for this we were going up against not only other SigEp chapters, but every fraternity in the country. This was the next big step for NJA and when I received a phone call from current SigEp CEO, Brian Warren, informing me that NJA was selected as one of five chapters awarded with Chapter of Distinction, I knew this was a huge milestone for not only NJA, but for SigEp, Stevens, and all of our past and present NJA undergraduate brothers. With the award, SigEP NJA is recognized as one of the best fraternity chapters in the country.

These awards and accolades are honors that we are proud of, but something we value above all else is our bond as brothers. Everything came full circle for me when I was able to spend a day with the class of 1966 during alumni weekend in June. Eight of their fifteen graduating members were able to make it and being able to talk to these alumni, my brothers, for a few hours on a Saturday afternoon were some of the best hours I have spent as a SigEp. Thank you Gary Blauth, Jack Brickley, Bill Brummer, Phil Feltham, Mike Gillott, Pete Sapala, Rich Seeley, and George Thompson for showing me that regardless of the age gap, we all share the same eternal bonds as brothers. I urge every alumnus reading this to never forget that. Time passes and we all become involved in our own lives, but never think it has been too long to reconnect with an old friend. We are brothers for life and our bond will never be broken.

VDBL,  
Troy Kanaszka  
Chapter President

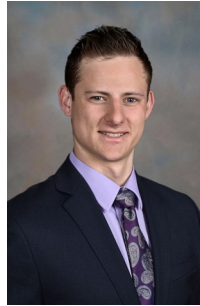
# A NJA BROTHER'S REFLECTION

What is it to be a SigEp? We all say it is for the Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love. It is to build a better man. It is to further one's own self through a constant pursuit of Sound Mind and Sound Body. That is what it is on the surface. However, over the last 5 years, I have seen being a SigEp means something that is not easy to be put into words. SigEp is about all of the little things. Being a SigEp is about being in the study at 3am while an older brother helps you study for a test. It is about crying in the arms of another brother when all roads seem to end. It is about playing football on a Sunday night knowing you would not rather be anywhere else. It is an experience, an experience that gives every brother a new outlook on life.

I came into SigEp as a shy, timid sophomore who had little direction in life. In my time here I have been able to figure out more about myself than I knew there was to discover. College teaches us that we need to get a high paying job and if we do that we are "successful." I have come to learn that money and assets have nothing to do with success. True success can only be found within the hearts of those around you. In the spring of 2015, I found out that my father had stage 4 colon cancer. At that moment I felt the world was crumbling around me. I saw one of the strongest men in my life whittled down before my eyes. It was in that moment that I realized how fragile life was. In the blink of an eye, everything can change. You can have all

you have ever dreamed of and in a second it can be taken away. In that moment I also realized there was one thing that can never be taken away from me, the bond of my brothers. They have helped me get through the lowest of lows and supported me through the highest of highs.

Take away all I have and I know my brothers will still be there. That is what SigEp is. It is knowing regardless of how alone I feel, there will always be someone walking beside me. If I were offered the chance to redo any of the mistakes in my past I would refuse it. I would refuse it because in those mistakes I found my brotherhood. I found what it means to love unconditionally. I found the real treasures in life. I found the true heart of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Now and forever, Proud to be SigEp.



By Wesley Elford '16

## WE'VE HAD A BUSY SEMESTER



*The Grand Re-Opening of the Extension*

*Frank Butterfield Presenting During LIFT with NJA and UConn Brothers*



*Group Photo from the Student Leadership Awards Brunch (Winning 9 Total Awards)*

*The Brothers who Made it all 12 hours of Stevens-THON, a Dance Marathon to Raise Money for the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals*



# STEVENS GLOBAL SERVICE INITIATIVE



Kevin Baccaro '19

To most people, Jamaica is a place to escape from your problems, a beautiful place to vacation filled with amazing views and perfect beaches. However, opposite to what most people would think, most of Jamaica is extremely impoverished. When I went there for the Stevens Global Service Initiative, I gained a completely new perspective.

With the help of Thea Zunick, the Associate Director of Student Life, I was given the opportunity to serve the community on a global scale. For our service trip, the plan was to visit two schools in Jamaica and assist them in whatever ways we could within one week. Given the group's engineering background, it involved a decent amount of construction work. The name of the first school was Gordon's Early Childhood Institution. At this school, we demolished and remade a wall. The name of the second school was Pedro Plains Elementary and Basic School. There, we painted a wall that students from the University of Delaware had made and also built a swing set.

One of the most rewarding moments at Pedro Plains was when we built a swing set. While we were building it, there was this little boy, maybe 5 or 6, handing us whatever tools we needed. Since he was being so helpful, we promised that he could try it out first. And from the moment we finished building it until the moment he had to leave, I don't think I have seen anyone so happy in my life. When his mother told him they had to go, he started having a tantrum. At first, we were all confused why he was crying, but when his mother asked him, he said he didn't want to stop playing on the swings! And as small of an impact as this may seem, I found this tremendously rewarding that I could bring happiness to someone who has to struggle on a daily basis.

Besides doing manual labor, we had chances to experience, understand, and learn more about the Jamaican culture. Throughout our trip, we were able to try a variety of different foods, learn about the history of Jamaica, and even had the chance to visit a Pentecostal Church. Some of the different foods I tried included curried goat; platters, and mangos. *(continued on page 5)*

## Welcome the Newest SigEp NJA Brothers!



**From left to right:** (Top Row) Daniel Lawrence '20, Jacob Schozer '20, Andrew Caruso '19, Alex Buhse '18, (Middle Row) Andrew O'Brien '19, Joe Puciloski '19, Josh Ross '18, (Bottom Row) Brerton Conway '19, Daniel Pinto '19, Nicolas Nuila '19, Justin DeTone '20

(Continued from page 4)

In addition, we gained more knowledge on the history of Jamaica. To start, Jamaica was originally a British colony. Then, in the mid-20th Century, Jamaica peacefully gained independence from England. However, Jamaica began its journey as a country with a feeble infrastructure. When asking help from other countries, Jamaica made a deal with the European Union. Jamaica would provide their banana market and the European Union could provide profit. Instead of helping to proliferate Jamaica's economy, the European Union used Jamaica for its own personal gain, having the Jamaicans working for them, with little wage, where they would be controlling the market. This was a brief summary of what we learned from the movie *Life and Debt*.

Lastly, we visited a Pentecostal Church. To us, this is probably the most similar to what one would think a Southern Baptist Church is like. In the church, everyone is standing, everyone is singing, and everyone truly means what they are saying. In that room, the faith was untiring, almost as if you could feel it. And the thing that amused me the most was there was no structure at all to the mass. One minute, they would play a song; then the next, the priest would call out on people with their hands raised, who would then praise God for whatever He had done for them; and following this, a man would say a sermon which eventually lead into a song again, restarting the cycle.

All in all, I feel I have grown more as a person because of this experience. In fact, I had such a beneficial experience that this past spring, I chose to organize a 5K in which all of the proceeds would go towards those participating this year, even though I am not going. The reason for this is each student has to raise \$2000 themselves, by reaching out to family and friends. And being the last to

join the group last year, with two months to raise money, I understand the struggle of raising the money. Therefore, I figured anything raised would be helpful, and in total, we ended up raising a little more than \$2000!

This year, our brothers, Cristian Collado and Angelo Popper, are attending and I wish them nothing but the best in the journey that awaits them. I fully encourage anyone to go on this service trip if they can. But even if you can't, the best thing you can do is to try new things, get out of your comfort zone, and help others as much as you can.



## AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR OUTGOING RESIDENT SCHOLAR



Dear Tao Chen,

SigEp defines a Resident Scholar as a full-time graduate student who resides in the house of a chapter to provide them with mentorship, both on the running of the chapter and adjustments to life after college. Often when people have questions on the listserv that fits your expertise, you are the first to answer and offer assistance. From reviewing resumes, to homework help, and even investment strategies We are certain that every brother has benefited from your advice. However you yourself rarely ask for much from this house in return. Sigma Phi Epsilon would be hard pressed to find a Resident Scholar who has done a better job of meeting its expectations. You have gone far beyond these requirements to become more than just a mentor, but a friend and essentially a brother as well. Whether it's recruitment

events or chapter meetings, you are present as often as many brothers, and even more often than some. You had a positive impact on all of the brothers, no matter their major, graduation year, or when they joined.

We wish you the best of luck with finalizing your candidacy, presenting your thesis defense, and all that may come afterward. You will be missed greatly and any future Resident Scholar will have a tough time doing as good a job as you have.

Thank you for all that you've done for this brotherhood,

Sigma Phi Epsilon NJA

## PUBLICATION STAFF

Zachary  
Caldarola '18

Vice President of  
Communications



Kevin  
Wheatley '17

Alpha Speaks  
Chair



## 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](mailto: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.

VDBL,  
Zachary Caldarola  
Vice President of Communications

# ALUMNUS UPDATE

Hello out there to all my brothers from New Jersey Alpha - RLC,

I hope this message finds you all well. After recently been asked to write a brother update for Alpha Speaks, I became nostalgic realizing that I graduated from Stevens Institute of Technology and left my beloved 530 Hudson Street apartment in the SigEp house nearly six years ago. How time does fly by.

The good news is that I am currently in a happy place in my life. Living in California is a dream come true, and I am currently half way done in my medical residency as an obstetrician and gynecologist. My future goal is to likely pursue a fellowship in minimally invasive gynecological surgery which might even potentially take me back to the east coast.

In terms of SigEp, I am proud to say that I recently attended my first California based SigEp alumni event via the 1901 Club here in San Francisco where I was blessed to meet other local SigEp alumni. To my excitement it was great to hear that many alumni and recent regional directors at the function praised our local chapter, stating that from a head quarter's perspective NJA RLC is still running strong! They informed me that they have come across our former chapter resident scholar Dr. Jonathan Wharton and his praise for our chapter and even praised our continued relationship with trainer Frank Butterfield during our Sound Body camps. It is just great to hear that our chapter is still "crushing it," so much so that our reputation resonates all the way here in California. Great job to our current undergraduate brothers for keeping the values of Sound Mind and Sound Body still alive, and making an old alumnus like myself continuously proud.

This June 2016, I was also blessed to attend two separate weddings back in New Jersey for my close brothers. Both Dan Silva and Keith Rosso got married to their respective partners. It is a testament to our lifelong brotherhood that I am fortunate enough to partake in these brothers major life events.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to write for Alpha Speaks and to reflect on my SigEp experiences. From my role as VP Recruitment, Chapter President, Tragos Quest to Greece Scholar, and graduating Senior Brother, I have nothing but the fondest of memories of the fraternity and look forward to a continued lifetime of brotherhood.

Please feel free to contact me if you are ever in the San Francisco area or need any advice about the medical field or life!



Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love  
#907  
Peter Movilla, MD '10  
Sigma Phi Epsilon  
New Jersey Alpha RLC

# NEW JERSEY ALPHA ACADEMICS

Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity excels at the overall development of college men with the Balanced Man Program, promoting a sound mind and sound body. New Jersey Alpha, RLC is no exception, especially when it comes to sound mind. Now yes, I know we are all Stevens students and so naturally we are all gifted when it comes to academics, but SigEp continues to shine among the Stevens community. We have as a chapter one of the highest, if not the highest GPA, with our current GPA being 3.567. In addition to maintaining a high GPA, many of our brothers hold class reviews, are Stevens Scholar students, tutors, teaching assistants, have made dean's list and president's list, conducted research, published papers, are cooperative education and or five-year master's students, and are members of various honor societies.

NJA also provides an Academic Attack Plan (AAP) for any brother who feels like they need some extra help during a semester. If for some reason a brothers' GPA should fall below a 2.9 during any academic semester, that brother would be required to take

part. I have personally completed one semester on AAP, and I think that this is a great program that NJA provides. Having designated study hours a couple of days a week allowed me to plan out my time better and forced me to be more organized. Also having one of my fellow brothers as my AAP advisor provided me with another resource I could go to if I needed help. Even though increasing my GPA is ultimately a personal feat, NJA was able to provide me with tons of support, help, and guidance. While on AAP, I learned many different ways and techniques to help me with my academics in the future. I believe one can only benefit from this program; I know I did.

Now that I've been a SigEp for a couple semesters, one of the most common concerns I hear from potential new members is they are worried their GPA will be affected negatively due to the extra time commitment needed to be an active brother of this fraternity. This is a valid concern that anyone might have when thinking about joining a fraternity, especially since NJA expects a lot out of each of its brother. In order to try to find out

the answer to this concern, I recently sent out a survey to the brothers. One of the questions I asked was, "Since you joined SigEp, how many points has your GPA increased or decreased?" After calculating all the answers I received, a brother's GPA after joining Sigma Phi Epsilon, NJA, RLC increases on average of 0.048 points! I think this is a huge testament to the great job this fraternity does developing balanced men. Not only does this chapter do a fantastic job recruiting great guys, but this chapter also does a tremendous job elevating everyone to a higher level. I could not be happier to be able to call these guys my brothers.



*By Joseph  
Cuomo '19*



It's almost that time again. Sigma Phi Epsilon's 55th Grand Chapter Conclave will take place between August 2-6, 2017 in Orlando, Florida. We are trying to send as many brothers as possible since NJA is going for our 5th consecutive Buchanan Cup. Please contribute any amount of money to help send undergraduate brothers to Conclave, by going to [alumni.sigepnja.com](http://alumni.sigepnja.com) and clicking on "Contribute to NJ Alpha." Thank you in advance!