

# Alpha SPEaks





**Christopher Reed**  
*Chapter President*



**Christian Thompson**  
*Vice President of Programming*



**Jesse Priest**  
*Vice President of Finance*



**Sean Jones**  
*Vice President of Recruitment*



**Blake Kawalski**  
*Chaplain*



**Nicolas Nuila**  
*Vice President of Membership Development*

Brothers of New Jersey Alpha,

**A**s another semester comes to a close here at 530 Hudson Street, it is always extremely humbling to look back on all that NJA was able to accomplish in just a few short months. From welcoming 8 incredible gentlemen into the brotherhood, to hosting a joint event with both Delta Tau Delta and Kappa Sigma, we truly have been able to expand our reach and impact this semester. The current chapter is focused on developing positive relationships with fellow fraternities on campus and we are making huge strides in the right direction.

However, just as important as inter-fraternalism is to us, we always remember that at the end of the day we put the brotherhood first. 530 is a place we all call home and we must always ensure our brothers are enjoying their collegiate days. Whether it be going to a Ninja Warrior Gym with the bros, preparing for The Masters at Top Golf, or having a massive pig roast in our newly renovated courtyard, this semester was full of moments we will always remember. Moreover, we were also able to add a component to the brotherhood experience this semester that had never been implemented prior. During our semesterly "Brotherhood Lock-in", a time was dedicated specifically for "Deep Dives", where brothers could talk about anything and everything, break down the walls we as men innately build up, and get to know each other on a different level. The growth this brotherhood has seen over the last semester in regards to mental health and awareness is inspiring.

This semester was also a semester of excellence at the SigEp Nationals level for NJA. For the first time since 2015, one of our own will be attending the prestigious leadership continuum of Tragos Quest to Greece. Brother Cris Collado, currently heading into his senior year, was selected among hundreds of applicants for this honor and we could not be more proud of all that he does for our chapter. On the same breath, NJA will be sending two brothers to the RUCK Leadership Academy this summer! Brothers Jacob Meiskin and Daniel Raleigh were both selected by nationals to attend this exclusive leadership continuum.

Lastly, we as a chapter have made it a focus this semester to revamp our Alumni outreach in the hopes of developing annual events catered specifically for undergraduate brothers to meet all the incredible men who were part of this remarkable chapter before them. This semester the Alumni database has doubled in size and our first ever Sigma Phi Epsilon New Jersey Alpha Alumni Golf Outing will occur during the early summer! We understand as a chapter that we have a tremendous amount of room for improvement, and we hope our efforts pay off.

To sum it all up in a few words, the New Jersey Alpha chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon is still very much on the incline. With a golden Buc Cup now in the rear view mirror, we will always have our goals set on becoming a better fraternity each and every day. This fraternity is different, and this fraternity will always be different.

Fraternally,  
Christopher Reed 1118

# Philanthropy Spotlight

When it comes down to what Sig Ep NJA is about, giving back to the community has to be near the top of the list. Our chapter has organized countless events to give back to Stevens Students, other chapters' philanthropies and our national philanthropy, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

Events ranging from cupcake decorating to creating our very own Escape the Room allowed Stevens students to be engaged with the Greek Community. Cupcake Wars, a co-hosted event with Sigma Delta Tau, had participants compete in pairs where one person would decorate a cupcake, and their partner had to recreate the exact design but blindfolded! Overall, the event ended up raising over \$150 for Prevent Child Abuse America, one of Sigma Delta Tau's philanthropies. With the strong showing of brothers and sisters, the event was a huge success.

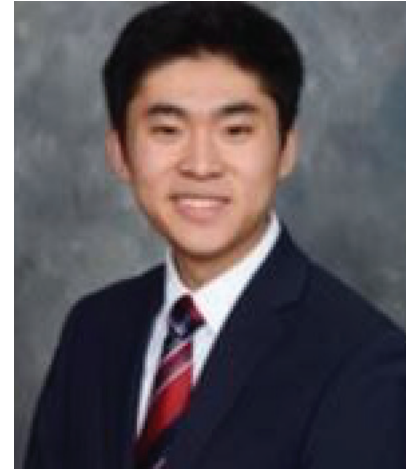
Sig Ep NJA has participated in other events hosted by other Greek organizations, such as Fraternity Family Feud hosted by Theta Phi Alpha, StevensTHON hosted by Stevens itself, and Castle Point King (CPK) hosted by Delta Phi Epsilon. Raising money for these causes definitely showed an increase in brotherly love across the fraternity as with good company comes even better memories.

CPK is an annual event where a common theme is decided upon and participating fraternities put on a performance that depicts the chosen theme. With this year's theme being powerful woman, Daniel Lum's astounding performance of Mulan in CPK impressed the crowd with his unique bo staff scene.

NJA ended up winning the Philanthropy Award for raising the most money compared to the other organizations. A huge shout out to Danny Lum for bringing a brotherhood even closer together and raising over \$2500 split between Big Brothers Big Sisters and ANAD (National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders)!

After having been a part of all of these awesome events around campus, we knew we wanted to continue our joint event with Phi Sigma Sigma this year. During the weekend of April 20th, NJA and Phi Sigma Sigma held the second annual Escape the Extension! Escape the Extension is like an "escape room" type of event where you are locked in a room and must get out using the clues hidden throughout the room.

With groups of 10 students each, and two groups of Sig Ep NJA brothers' families participating, Sig Ep NJA and Phi Sigma Sigma ended up raising over \$900 split between Big Brothers Big Sisters and The Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation. For the second year of organizing this awesome event, that was more than we could imagine. With countless hours of planning clues and buying supplies for the room, our hard work paid off when we heard the participants' positive comments and how much they can't wait for the next year's room.

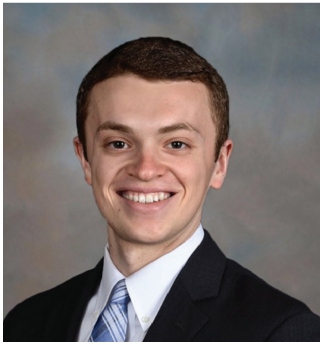


With philanthropy goals being so high this semester, I was unsure if I would be able to meet them. However, with the help of other organizations and our Vice President of Programming, Christian Thompson, I was able to call my first semester as Philanthropy Chair a success. Having little experience with planning events, I was scared to take on such an important role for NJA, but now I am confident that I have what it takes to take on the Fall 2018 semester. I am very excited to see what the future has in store for me and NJA!

*Brandon Wang,  
Class of 2019*



# Senior Reflection



*Jimmy Flaherty,  
Class of 2018*

In a few weeks, I will be moving out of 530 Hudson Street to head back home for the summer before moving to Philadelphia in August. As my undergraduate days come to a close, my mind is constantly overflowed with the memories I have shared with my brothers. Among these memories are a plethora of experiences; chapter meetings, bid nights, rituals, conferences, retreats, formals, mixers, nights out in Hoboken, and so much more. This brotherhood has made my years at Stevens the best years of my life, and I cannot put into words how much I will miss being an undergraduate brother at NJA. All I can do is reflect on how much this great fraternity has given me, and how thankful I am for it.

SigEp and its values gave me an avenue for pursuing my passions, setting goals, and improving myself. Immediately, the sigma process taught me how to be diligent. Under Sigma Coordinators Kris Alvarez and Josh Bloom, I learned how to manage my time between the things in my life that were most important to me; schoolwork, physical fitness, extra-curricular activities, and spending time with my family and friends.

During my Sophomore year, I began considering how I could use my passions to give back to the chapter. After planning some small events under Vice President of Programming Angelo Popper, I became Brotherhood Events Chair under Vice President of Programming Cory Weidmann. This gave me the opportunity to present event ideas to our brotherhood at programming meetings and chapter meetings, and plan events for our brotherhood. Every time I spoke about an upcoming event at a meeting, or spoke on the phone with a third party, I felt my public speaking skills improving.

I became more comfortable pitching ideas, and presenting in front of large groups. This encouraged me to get more involved on campus, and helped me to perform better in job interviews and professional settings.

As a Junior, I began chasing other goals of my own with the help of my brothers. Brothers Matt DiMarco, Billy Harris and NJA's Sound Body Attack Plan encouraged me to train for my first half marathon. After 7 weeks of training, I ran my first half marathon in December of 2016. About a month later, I left to study abroad in Ireland with Brother Kevin Baccaro. I had always had the goal of studying abroad, and with encouragement from brothers Kevin Wheatley, Colin Newman, and Troy Kanaszka, I made the decision to jump across the pond for the Spring 2017 semester. If it had not been for these brothers, I would have likely passed up the most amazing experience of my undergraduate career.

Now, as a Senior, I have had the opportunity to spend the entire school year living at the NJA house. Out of everything SigEp has given me, my time in the house has made it clear what I am most thankful for; my brothers. While SigEp has helped me to constantly develop myself, the times spent with my brothers are the times I will remember the most. Playing pickup basketball with my brothers; sitting in the courtyard and eating dinner with my brothers; staying up until 3:00 AM and talking with my brothers; spending night after night practicing for LipSync or CPK with my brothers. These are the type of moments I am most thankful for, and I will miss them more than anything else at Stevens.

Through self-development and lasting friendships, SigEp NJA chapter has made and impact on me that will last a lifetime. While it will be difficult to leave the walls of 530 Hudson Street, I am excited for NJA's future. Having the chance to take on a more mentor-like role in the chapter has brought me closer to the brothers who will be leading NJA in the years to come. Seeing these younger brothers constantly push themselves makes me proud to be a SigEp, and I am confident that there are great things in store for our chapter.

# It seems like only yesterday...



*Kevin Wheatley  
Class of 2018*

Just recently, Facebook reminded me of an event that took place exactly one year ago: my Castle Point King performance. I thought “holy crap, it’s already been a year since the end of my final year at Stevens.” This made me feel a lot of different emotions; nostalgia, sadness (not just because we lost that year), gratitude, and happiness too. The thing about looking back, is that it makes you feel a little bit of everything.

As a graduate of the 5 year Co-op program, college life always seemed like a constant; something that I would exist in forever. And yes, I did plenty of preparation for my current life after college, but when the end is so far out, you sometimes forget that it’s coming. I mean, I was at Stevens for half a decade, time can’t go by that quickly, right?

Well it can, and it does. And it only gets faster. I am already approaching the completion of my first full year of work and that whizzed by just as fast if not faster. You always hear the cliché “It seems like only yesterday...” It’s a cliché because it’s true; a good memory you made in college will seem like it happened yesterday, even if its five years later.

But, we as SigEps already know this. We strive to live our lives taking guidance from the Ritual, which teaches us the importance of time. As time continues to accelerate for me, now more than ever I feel that the Ritual’s teachings are applicable in my life. This is a good thing though. It means you can take comfort in the fact that SigEp got it right. We don’t spew superficial nonsense, we teach actual lessons that provide real guidance.

Life after college is an adjustment though. Don’t expect smooth sailing at first. I still feel like I’m trying to figure it out, and I’ve been doing it for a year now. School can be busy and extremely stressful at times, but the Monday through Friday work commitment is a different kind of challenge. It’s a bit more tiresome. I was exposed to it through Co-op, and I still feel like it was surprisingly challenging to adjust to. You’ll find that your schedule gets filled up so far in advance, because you can only get big things done on weekends, which makes it hard to

see friends. Life is a bit more monotonous, so you have to actively seek excitement. But there are bright sides too, especially when you realize that the vast majority of people are not in as good a position as you.

I’m quite grateful for the skills that I picked up throughout my time at school, but what I consider to be more important is the friendships I made. When I see an old friend I haven’t seen in a few weeks or months, we can always pick up right where we left off. I have a feeling that as our lives continue to evolve, our relationships will remain this way. Cherish the time you have with your brothers and your friends. These are the memories that you will look back on and say “It seems like only yesterday...”

# Executive Innovation



Christopher Reed  
President

Over the last semester New Jersey Alpha has been able to accomplish a lot, however there is still a lot of work to be done. A big change that was seen this past semester involved a focus on revamping several events that have always occurred the same way year after year. With this shift in focus, we hope to continue improving upon the way we operate as a chapter while avoiding overcrowding the calendar for our brothers

I am striving to reignite the relationship between the undergraduate brothers and the alumni of New Jersey Alpha by initiating a Sig Ep Golf Outing for both to participate in. My goal is to have this become the first inaugural golf outing that sparks an ongoing interaction between the two facets to create a continual cycle of staying in touch after graduating Stevens. We, as undergraduates, love hearing from the alumni and learning what Sig Ep means to them. I hope to bridge that gap and program across both wavelengths creating one large brotherhood event.



Christian Thompson  
VP Programming

As the vice president of finance, I am responsible for managing the Executive Committee's budget, tracking expenses, collecting dues, and maintenance of the house. I make sure that we do not overspend and that we get the most out of our dues. In addition, I oversee the finance committee, which consists of the house manager, kitchen steward, and other positions that help make sure all housing matters run smoothly.



Jesse Priest  
VP Finance



Marc Greenfield  
VP Communications



Sean Jones  
VP Recruitment

My goal as Vice President of Recruitment is to have events that guys get excited about. This includes not only members we are trying to recruit but also the brothers in the fraternity. I'm trying to listen to everyone's favorite events from the past so we can keep those and then include new ones, where right now I am working on including more events with sororities. I also want to provide as many resources as I can to brothers to improve their recruiting skills so we can continue to find the best guys on campus.

As the new Vice President of Communications, I have been focusing on revamping and restructuring the entire communications committee. Forming new positions to help facilitate communication between the chapter and parents, alumni, and the university, my main goals of increased transparency and dialogue, have been surpassed thanks to my amazing committee members. For the next semester I am looking to hone in on key areas such as our chapter website, and alumni relations, and continue to perfect our monthly parents newsletters.



6 Blake Kawalski  
Chaplain

As Chaplain, I plan to continue to grow interest in Mental Health awareness and corresponding group discussions. Additionally, I plan to ensure the Standards Board operates with positive reinforcement as a main priority.

One of my major goals was to give more brothers outlets to express themselves emotionally. This semester we had our first deep dive session, in which brothers were able to open up and discuss difficult topics with other brothers in a safe environment, and I plan on continuing to improve on the brotherhoods emotional maturity over the rest of my term.



Nicolas Nuila  
VP Mem Dev

# 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:

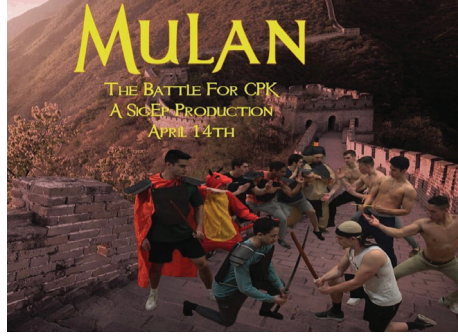
vpcommunication@sige-pnja.com.

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.



**Kenneth Otten**  
Public Relations  
Chair

# Stuff you've missed



Battle for Castle Point King

Lead by CPK Prince Daniel Lum, Sig Ep battled the Huns and raised over \$2500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters and ANAD

Student Leadership Awards  
NJ A Brothers were recognized for their outstanding leadership on campus

Cris Collado - Student Leader of the Year  
Daniel Ralieggh - Civic Engagement  
Nicolas Nuila - Outstanding Character & Courtesy



Greek Leadership Awards  
NJ A Brothers were recognized for their contributions to the greek community

SigEp NJ A - Excellence in Campus Involvement  
Jacob Schozer - Fraternity Man of the Year  
Daniel Fenton - President of the Year



Interfraternalism for a Cause

We teamed up with Delta Tau Delta in a successful Chichen Finger Night fundraiser



## 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@sige-pnja.com](mailto:vpcommunication@sige-pnja.com)