



GAMMA IOTA NEWS

SPRING 2019

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PTN 2019 Annual Meeting June 1/WPI Reunion Weekend May 31 - June 2 (Joe Staszowski)

PTN's annual meeting is on Saturday June 1 at 1:30 PM with lunch at 12:30 PM. At this meeting, the Trustees will discuss what has occurred in the recent past and what is planned going forward. There will also be Trustee elections. The meeting should last less than 1 1/2 hours, but you can come and go to meet your personal needs. Please join us. Location will likely be on campus due to the kitchen work. We will update you before the meeting!

PTN has arranged several events throughout the weekend for alumni to get together to rekindle friendships or meet fellow alumni from other classes. (See details on p.6) To help our planning, please respond to the Evite invitation or email us at psithetanu@gmail.com if you are considering attending the annual meeting or any of the events listed on page 8 so we can plan food and accommodations. WPI also has events planned throughout the weekend that can be found at <https://www.wpi.edu/news/annual-events/alumni-weekend>.

Please Donate to Our Kitchen Renovation Campaign! (Harry Kasparian)



We need \$100,000 to provide our current and future active brothers a direly needed renovation to our kitchen and dining area... **yes it looks exactly as it did in the 70's!**

A most generous alum has anonymously offered to match up to \$10,000 in donations per year for the next three years. Your contributions would be greatly appreciated.

We've simplified the donation process for you to allow you to provide a one-time donation, set up a recurring donation or pledge online. [Click here to donate now!](#) You can also mail a check to:

**Treasurer, Psi Theta Nu Fraternity, Inc.
34 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609**

Have Some Time to Share With Your Brothers? (Joe Staszowski)

We are always interested in any thoughts you might have regarding the organization or suggestions on ways you can help.

Please consider being a PTN Trustee* or helping out with a special project like:

- Helping update contact information for our PTN members
- Helping plan PTN social events
- Helping with an annual or semi-annual newsletter sharing alumni news
- Being a class rep helping us communicate with members on a more personal basis and by gathering information for the newsletter editor or for social events.

[Email us](#) and let us know where you are willing to help or any ideas you have.

*NOTE: Trustee meetings are quarterly and you can participate via teleconference. We also communicate regularly via email or phone. Qualifications are just your commitment to devote time sharing your expertise and willingness to make business decisions to keep PTN financially strong and to promote the welfare of the chapter.

Take a Moment to Update Your File!

We now are a community of over 700 brothers spanning classes over the past 51 years. It's been a while since we did a thorough update of our alumni database. Please [email us](#) with your latest contact information to better enable us to help you stay connected with your alumni brothers and our latest news.



AlumNotes

Kris Rosado '89 - Kris and his wife live in Freeport and have two boys in college. Their oldest is a junior (Cow year) at USMA West Point and the youngest is a sophomore at WPI. Kris is a Certified Financial Planner at Morgan Stanley based in Portland, Maine. This past January he hosted the 4th Annual Sigma Pi Winter weekend at his place near Bethel, Maine. This year the event grew in size to 11 Brothers in total and Kris hopes to grow it again next January. It will always be the weekend before the Super Bowl. Skiing, snowmobiling, basic marksmanship, speed quarters, stupid movies and lots of old memories and new stories. The event was mostly Brothers from the class of '89 and this year they had several from '90 and '91. Kris is hoping to continue to grow the event in total number of brothers and classes represented. Mark your calendars, January 24-26th 2020.



Speed Quarters: Left to right: Glenn Butler, Doug Bellfy, Paul Rocheleau, Brett Pauer, Ken Colby



Movie time: Left to right: Mike Michalean, Mike Rutkoski, Brett Pauer, Doug Bellfy, Glenn Butler, Ken Colby (on floor), Dan Desruisseux, Doug Campbell, Paul Rocheleau.



Fundraising Program Development Update (Harry Kasparian)

At our Winter PTN Trustee meeting I recommended that the Corporation consider using a professional fundraising organization to help us with the task of creating a sustainable capital campaign program. The impetus for my recommendation was a historical review of our never-ending struggle and failure as a group of volunteers to put together a fundraising program that is sustainable. It became obvious that if we are serious about fundraising we will require expertise and a long view of the process to create a culture of philanthropy. The Board agreed that I should look into that approach.

Over the past few months I interviewed and solicited proposals from two firms, Donor Focus and Columns Fundraising, who provide these services to the WPI Greek community as well as to WPI. Both firms felt that our annual alumni giving participation was quite low at 3% of our roughly 650 alumni, compared to a more typical rate of 15 - 20%. Both first-pass proposals outlined the need for an annual investment of \$10,000 - \$15,000 after start-up costs. This is more than we are raising on an annual basis with, of course, no material effort. Nevertheless, this is something we will consider!

The services they would provide involve researching, scrubbing and updating our alumni database, donor research, helping us define and describe the very important needs of the Chapter House and brotherhood, and the tactics of executing multiyear campaigns.

Even with outside assistance, both firms emphasize that PTN will need to be more active in the process than it has been in the past, which frankly is a pretty low bar. I will be speaking with references for the two firms and report back at the next PTN meeting in June as to their opinion of each company's effectiveness. We also may ask each firm to present its plan at the next Trustee meeting in July.

If you have any questions for the firms or references please [email](#) them to me as I am consolidating them to get more clarification as to what kind of performance we might expect from each.

Memorialize Your Name--or that of a Brother who has passed--on the House Sidewalk!

The Dean Street walkway leading from the sidewalk to the Chapter House steps has been replaced with a walkway constructed of 4" X 8" bricks. For a minimum donation of \$250, you can have one of these bricks replaced with a brick bearing your name (or the name of a Brother who has passed on).

More AlumNotes

Father Mike Hobson '85 - Fr. Mike today serves as the Pastor for two churches near Hanson Massachusetts, St. Joseph the Worker and Our Lady of the Lake. He is also heavily involved providing aid to those in need from the ongoing opioid epidemic. He recently attended the Province Archon meeting (a meeting of the New England chapters of Sigma Pi) to discuss the epidemic and how to look out for each other. Fr. Mike joined the priesthood in 1997, although he had been thinking about doing so since the fourth grade. He served on the PTN Board for two stints, 1999 to 2002 and 2006 to 2016, serving in numerous roles including Trustee president and editor of the newsletter. Fr. Mike still enjoys his active hobbies including scuba diving (which he picked up in the Air Force) and hiking. You can reach Fr. Mike at scubapriest@hotmail.com or on his cell phone at 978-766-3359.

Will Rose, Ken Johnson and Joe Staszowski (all Class of 73) played golf and had lunch in March 2019 in Arizona, well, kind of. The round was played at the Westborough, MA golf simulator where they played TPC Scottsdale. A lot of mulligans were used and we won't discuss the scores; but no golf balls were lost. (See photo p.8)

Will is "kind of" retired, if you call being a Real Estate agent and representing the GARMIN watch line to jewelry stores retired. Will says he is working more now than before but also is enjoying it much more. He just downsized and moved from Millis to Franklin, Massachusetts. Will and Joleen also find time to visit their four children located in Kansas, West Virginia, Charlotte, NC, and Massachusetts.

Both Joe and Ken are also retired and you have read about them in prior newsletters.



House Maintenance and the Kitchen Renovation Project (Paul Exner)

We the Trustees of PTN firmly believe in attentive maintenance and continuous improvement of our Chapter House. This philosophy has resulted in our house being considered one of the best kept on the WPI campus. There are a number of advantages to maintaining a sound structure; one being that early detection of problems reduces the size and cost of repairs. This common sense approach is often ignored, especially in a fraternity house which sees quick turnover of residents. Further, and not the least of the advantages, is that a well-kept residence attracts a large and high quality pledge class which, in turn, helps to insure that the House is full. Further, rent is distributed among a larger brotherhood and payments to PTN are, therefore, easier.

The architectural design for the kitchen renovation is nearly completed and construction is nigh. When we get a best and final lump-sum price from our preferred general contractor (GC), we will execute a design-build contract and begin the construction phase of the project. Bruce has secured financing from TD Bank for the bulk of the costs, with the rest being made up from the capital improvement account which depends a great deal on alumni contributions. The total cost of the job is now estimated to be north of \$150,000. We could really use some near-term alumni contributions to ease the financial pain.

- The first phase of the job will be to evacuate all equipment and supplies from the job site. The active chapter has agreed to provide some muscle for this effort. The existing 3-door refrigerator will be located in the breakfast area for Chapter use. We're keeping the current dishwasher.
- The GC will then gut all the walls and ceiling, add insulation, replace the walls with water-resistant green-board and FRP panels, and install new plumbing and electrical, including lighting.
- Our hood system supplier will then install the stainless steel hood with makeup air and exhaust systems located outside. This work will be supplemented by our hood fire suppression contractor and fire/smoke alarm contractor.
- Our flooring contractor will next install an epoxy coating to the existing floor.
- After all this, the new equipment will be installed that includes a stove, griddle, convection oven, 2-door reach-in refrigerator, two-door reach-in freezer, four sinks, work table, and shelving in the pantry and throughout the kitchen. Our GC will reinstall the dishwasher.
- Currently, the plan is to begin the preliminary evacuation work on May 1st, with the GC moving in a week later. There should be much to see by the time of the PTN annual meeting on June 1st.

It cannot be understated the importance of the work that **Craig Lazenby ('71)** is performing as our property manager and handyman. There seems to be no end to needed repairs and upgrades. We spend close to \$25,000 per year on maintenance alone. Repairing the wood rot on the fire escape has been a major effort. Craig has also closed the abandoned city-side 1st floor heating system registers with inlaid oak flooring. Notable, he has repaired the three iconic city-side pocket doors, even fabricating metal parts to match the 1914 originals.

The place looks great. Our next major capital project will be the \$50,000 remodeling of the dining room and breakfast area which will include new flooring and walls while attempting to maintain the historic woodwork. We also need to repair and paint the 3rd floor dormers. Looking ahead a few years, we are contemplating a \$75,000 replacement of the 33-year old siding and a \$30,000 replacement of the 20-year old roof.



Inlaid Patch for Retired Register



Creative Repairs to the Pocket Doors



New Bulkhead Door



Fixing the Fire Escape



More AlumNotes

Kelsey Mcglashan '17 - Kelsey is living the good life as a young professional in the Boston area, working for Eversource Energy. He was recently promoted as an Electrical Engineer to their Grid Modernization Team, researching and implementing new technology to improve the electric infrastructure. He's enjoying living in the city with many other alums and can often be found either drinking a beer watching the sunset on top of Prospect Hill in Somerville, or playing trivia at one of the numerous microbreweries in the area with other alums. He has started home-brewing and hopes to develop and perfect recipes as well as collaborate with other passionate home-brewers. Recently he and a large group of other Gamma Iota alums went to an axe throwing bar in Somerville. Needless to say, everyone survived with only a few slightly damaged egos.



James "Remy" Roumeliotis '09 - James just celebrated his first anniversary with his wife, Maura, this past October. They were married on Friday the 13th which was something they were both excited about. They're currently living in Tewksbury, MA where they purchased a house this past spring. Remy notes that they are considering kids in the near future; however, they want to enjoy a couple of more years with just the two of them. Remy has been managing a team of cloud engineers for a business in Waltham, MA. At the time of writing, he's a week and a half into a series of office visits in Europe and is enjoying exploring new cities.

This past year Remy was appointed Chapter Director after **David Magnano** was promoted further up into the Nationals structure. He provided the following message: "I joined Sigma Pi back in the fall of 2004 and helped restart the chapter with a number of friends from my freshman year. It has been quite some time since I reconnected with the House and am proud to be here to assist where possible as the Chapter Director. This House means many different things to each and every brother and while not everyone may stay connected, this House has certainly had an impact on our lives. For those that have lost touch with the House and happen across this sentiment, I encourage you to reach out to PTN, myself, or any of the active brothers and see how you can reconnect."



More AlumNotes

Bernie Dodge, '70 - I graduated (barely) in the class of '70 after a semester in which classes were all turned into Pass/Fail so that we'd be free to protest the war. That June, I joined the Peace Corps and taught math in Sierra Leone along with **Dave Murphy '70**. Upon my return, I was hired to work at WPI helping faculty implement parts of the brand-new WPI Plan. I was part of the team when the first IQPs were tried out and I helped find a location for the first Washington Project Center. It was clear long before this that I'd never be happy as an engineer, but my job at WPI opened my eyes to the fun of experimentation with new ways of teaching and learning.

I stumbled on the field of instructional design. It's all about creating learning environments that are based on what we know about how people learn and it's very much like engineering in that it follows a data-driven process of analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation. Perfect for a misfit like me.

After 3 years at WPI I headed to Syracuse University for a PhD in instructional design and went from there to my first grownup job on the faculty at San Diego State University. Thirty-nine years later, I'm still there as Professor of Learning Design and Technology. I'll be cutting back to half time next year and full retirement sometime after that. I couldn't have asked for a better career as I'm constantly inventing and refreshing the courses I teach in educational game design, learning, and applications of mixed reality.

In 1985 I married June, and we have a 31 year old son Alex who is finishing his masters in computational linguistics and works as a data scientist.

The friendships I made at Sigma Pi are still going strong. Even though we're spread out geographically, I'm in regular touch with former roommates **Joe Doran '69**, **Tom Burns '72/74**, and **Pete Billington '70**. My family traveled with Tom to Glendo, Wyoming for the total eclipse in 2017. (Tom provided the champagne). I'll be back at the Chapter House with Joe for reunion weekend this May. Looking forward to catching up with everyone at our 50th (!) reunion next year.





Why Sigma Pi - Gamma Iota? (Ken Brown & Chuck Frary - edited by Paul Exner)

From Ken Brown: We went out and contacted a bunch of Nationals at the time that we decided that we wanted to go with a National. Then we got in a whole boat load of trouble because it seems that you're not allowed to invite representatives of a National on-campus to your fraternity house. You can invite then by way of the Inter-fraternity Council chair; but you can't invite them yourself because some of those fraternities are disreputable (see Frary discussion below). We had five or six different representatives actually show up.

We got going with Sigma Pi because there was a chapter down at URI that was a bunch of nice guys, really friendly. Our first visit to their chapter house was a "road trip" with a carefully selected set of six. As driver, I went regardless of criteria! It was a great weekend. We all got along with no problem at all.

Following the national convention in beautiful Biloxi, Mississippi, in the fall of 1964, the Gamma Iota chapter began a sort of pledge relationship with URI. This was fine, until some of the GI's decided one evening after a party - this is only secondhand info - to conduct a pledge raid at the URI chapter. So far so good, but they seized a trophy and brought it back to WPI: the URI pledge drum. Ok, still not an issue - until our guys set fire to it. The URI chapter was, shall we say, unhappy with this event. Shortly after, the WPI house was visited by several large members of the URI house, who proceeded to take retribution for the loss of their drum. Things were never all that smooth afterwards.

From Chuck Frary: Yeah, Ken has it right - I had declined joining the "select six" so have nothing to add to Ken's recollections about that trip (other than that I was in the contingent that branded that trip "insane"). I do know we had a scary encounter at WPI when their "select team" of goons showed up for retribution - unlike Ken, though, my memories are blessedly "hazy". Just to indicate what we engineers were up against from those URI party animals, some years later, URI suspended the chapter there for "unfortunate events". WPI was not pleased with Sigma Pi and it took some placating to not have it interfere with our colonization process.

The selection of a National with which to associate was not easy. Remember, this was the early 60s - racial strife was running rampant. Many national fraternities were "whites only" at the time, totally unacceptable to us at Psi Theta Nu and to WPI. Sigma Pi had a history of segregation and most chapters were in the South but had recently moved its headquarters to Vincennes, IN and had changed its bylaws. They spent time with us persuading us all that those days were over. Obviously, they were successful. But we had a hill to climb for some time with WPI with that cloud and then the URI suspension - the only other SP chapter in the Northeast.

We had a probation period and a pledge period after becoming a colony and before becoming a full-fledged chapter. We had to meet periodically with the National representatives to align our bylaws, transform our finances to meet their standards, and learn SP rituals. It was time-consuming but not onerous. I don't recall the actual events that transformed us from a colony into a chapter. I do remember the celebration at the end of it all - just in time to graduate and move on. (Don't forget, we were simultaneously working to locate, finance and purchase, and arrange renovations to our new chapter house - 17 Dean St., making sure we would have a place for returning Brothers to live come September, 1965. Oh yeah - there were studies, too....)

It is gratifying to see how the Brothers at WPI have, over the years, firmly established Gamma Iota as a respected, socially and academically responsible and community-minded fraternity on campus. I hope what sketchy recollections I have don't contradict those of my fellow Brothers with better 50+ year memories....



CHUCK

Visit the [PTN Website](#) and [Chapter Website](#).



KEN



Undergraduate Report (Sage Floris van Rossum '20)

After a successful fall rush (29/31 accept/bid), our chapter welcomed the largest new member class of all fraternities at WPI, and the chapter initiated 27 new brothers of Rho class! We are excited to welcome our new brothers into the chapter as they grow and assume responsibility in our house. As our chapter size has increased, so has our involvement on campus. It has become hard to wander around campus and not notice our letters. As mentioned in previous newsletters, our brothers hold leadership positions in many critical aspects of campus life such as SGA (Student Government Association) or IFC (Intra-Fraternal Council). However, our chapter also has members who lead multicultural and international organizations that promote WPI's diversity, such as Brazilian Students Association, Black Student Union, and similar organizations. Recently, our strong leadership was recognized at the annual GAC (Greek Alumni Council) awards as we were presented the Outstanding Leadership Development Award for our well-known presence on campus.

Over last C-term, our chapter became intramural champions for basketball, beating other fraternities and sororities as well as campus organizations. Greek Week is just around the corner, as we won last year, the chapter is prepping to defend our title in 2019 in a series of engineering challenges like bottle rockets and cardboard boat races, and the infamous talent show!

Our chapter has continued participating in events to better our local community. We have travelled to the Worcester Boys and Girls club to volunteer at their events and cleaned up local parks. Additionally, our chapter continues to raise funds and awareness for various philanthropic causes such as Relay for Life, Amazing Day and Donate Life. Last fall semester, our brothers put just over 900 hours towards philanthropic causes. We are currently on track to grow our philanthropic contributions even more.

Gamma-Iota chapter is looking forward our annual Clam Bake on April 20th! It will be a great event for brothers and sweat hearts to reconnect and form new friendships at the chapter house. Additionally, WPI has their Alumni Weekend from May 31 through June 2nd. There will be fun events for new and old WPI graduates, and a PTN meeting at the chapter house on that Saturday.

Pat Tamborra '72 maintains that he's the only SPGI to ever play WPI varsity football. Any challengers?

It's Woodstock+50. "Gimme an F"!



Newly initiated and older brothers during Initiation Night



Brothers volunteering at the local Worcester Boys and Girls Club



The Sigma Pi Intramural Basketball Champions



PTN 2019 Annual Meeting /WPI Reunion Weekend Details

All events, other than Saturday lunch and Trustees meeting, are subject to participation. Please let us know if you plan on attending by emailing us at psithetanu@gmail.com.

FRIDAY NIGHT - MAY 31ST

Afternoon - We can play golf at a local course. Please let us know if you are interested.

Evening - Gather at local brewery for craft beer and Neapolitan pizza*

SATURDAY - JUNE 1ST

9 AM - Breakfast at classic Worcester Diner*

11 AM - Reunion parade on campus

12:30 PM - Sigma Pi Reception/lunch - TBD due to kitchen work

1:30 PM - Psi Theta Nu trustees meeting and elections - TBD due to kitchen work

3:00 PM - 5:00 House tours - 17 Dean Street

6:00 PM - Dinner on campus (see below**)

9:00 PM - Regroup at The Boynton on Highland St*

SUNDAY June 2nd - Brunch at local diner (make own arrangements Saturday)

* If enough interest.

** WPI allows all PTN alumni to join one of the class reunion event dinners on campus. Email us and we will let you know which one to register for.

Family Options off campus

- Worcester Art Museum - only 2 blocks from Sigma Pi - open 7 days a week - now home of the Higgins Armory Collection
- Salisbury Mansion - 2 blocks from Sigma Pi - open 1-4 Sat afternoon <http://www.worcesterhistory.org/museum/salisbury-mansion/>
- Worcester Historical Museum - open 10-4 - only 1 mile from SP
- Armsby Abby - North Main St, (3/10ths mile) - A premier craft brew pub mentioned in national magazines



"Here's to vague college memories that keep 3 old guys without much in common anymore sharing a drink once a year."

CartoonStock.com

We're expecting the Class of '70 to organize a big reunion celebration next summer. We need a champion.



Ken Johnson & Will Rose on the course



Another Dinner to Remember (and the Most Successful Rush on Campus)

Back on November 29, 2018, the Chapter invited candidates to a Rush Dinner. Chef Sean Reidy prepared a feast!

