



# GAMMA IOTA NEWS

## SPRING 2020

### Featured in this Issue:

Volunteer Trustees Needed  
 WPI Alumni Weekend Approaches  
 1970 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in May  
 Exner & Hobson Recognized  
 Tech-side Shower Renovation  
 2020 Capital Campaign  
 Chapter News  
 Meet the New Sage  
 AlumNotes, AlumNotes, AlumNotes

### Have Some Time to Share With Your Brothers? (by Paul Exner)

"I can't emphasize enough that a strong Board of Trustees is the most important key to the success of PTN and sustainability of Gamma Iota Chapter. First, we need a dedicated president. Next, there needs to be a few folks with real-world business experience. Securing a loan should not be a daunting task. Writing construction contracts should be second-nature. Beyond that, we need energy on the Board to carry out various alumni activities that include outreach via the Gamma Iota News, maintenance of the PTN website and our alumni contact list, periodic social gatherings, and reunion events. Further, we need members who can manage or assist in our fundraising campaigns. We certainly need supplemental funds to keep ahead of the ever-increasing maintenance requirements."

Consider being a resource for these activities or in other areas of your expertise or interest, be a participant at Trustee meetings to provide input or become a Trustee. Any assistance will help to sustain and improve the organization.

# ΨΘΝ

GAMMA IOTA NEWS

A Newsletter Published by the Psi Theta Nu  
 Alumni Club of Sigma Pi Fraternity; Paul  
 Exner '71 - Editor (still)

### President's Report (by Joe Staszowski)

On behalf of the PTN trustees, I'd like to extend our best to you and your family for a healthy and prosperous 2020.

PTN and the undergraduate chapter are doing well. Financially, the rent payment is adequate to pay PTN's anticipated expenses, existing mortgage costs plus payments on the new 20 year loan entered into this year to finance the kitchen upgrade and dining hall floor replacement project. The hope is to pay off the kitchen loan within 10 years. Our current funds don't support any major projects until the first mortgage is paid off.

The undergraduate Chapter continues to be well respected on campus with 68 brothers and 24 new members, a 3.44 GPA and strong campus and community involvement.

The Tech side showers were renovated during winter break. Now, all "immediate need" projects have been completed (although we know surprises can always occur). However, the House is showing its age, so additional work will always be required to keep the House safe and in good condition.

At the June annual meeting, five trustees were elected to PTN, Lorri (Lind Caruso) Byrne '73 (retired), Kris Rosado '89 (Morgan Stanley) and Derek Heard '91 (DXC Technology). The current officers elected by the trustees in August are President - Joe Staszowski '73, Vice President - Harry Kasparian '73, Treasurer - Bruce Hillson '71, House Manager - Lorri Byrne '73 and Secretary - Chris Hammer '18.

Next year, WPI's Reunion weekend will be May 29-31 with special events for graduating classes with years ending in 0 or 5. PTN will hold its annual meeting on May 30 (details to follow in the coming months; but save the date). Elections will be held for three trustee positions. Please consider sharing your experience and knowledge to help PTN and Gamma Iota. Email and teleconference makes participation from anywhere possible.

Hopefully these newsletters help to bring back memories of WPI and the House. Your classmates would love to hear what you have been up to. Please share a short write-up and picture with us and we will include it in a future newsletter. Email us at psithetanu@gmail.com. Also, check out PTN's and the undergraduates' websites for additional info:

[PTN Website](#)

[Chapter Website](#)





## AlumNotes

### The Class of 1970 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in May 2020

Bernie Dodge '70 writes: "The class of '70 looks forward to our 50th Reunion coming up on May 28. It's impossible to believe that we graduated that long ago, but the calendar doesn't lie. In addition to activities on campus, we anticipate spending some quality time at the house and elsewhere. Hopefully "Worcesterian" Ken Johnson will recreate the guided tour of hot spots he did some years ago. I'm personally longing for a pilgrimage to the Miss Worcester Diner and Coney Island Hotdogs, and a possible Skull Tomb break-in. It would be great if the class of '71 joined us to amplify the fun."



Barry Mendeloff '73 - I am happy to report that I am now fully retired and enjoying every minute of it. After leaving Sundstrand (a.k.a., Hamilton Sundstrand; UTAS aerospace; Collins Electronics; soon to be Raytheon) as an Engineering Manager, I consulted for about 10 years and enjoyed that a lot more. As long as they send my pension check to the correct address I'm happy. Elizabeth is a Nurse Practitioner at Freeport Health and has a few more years until her full retirement.

We live in between Byron and Stillman Valley, Illinois on a cul-de-sac in an unincorporated area with walnut trees and gardens that keep me busy spring, summer and fall.

We have two grandchildren, both boys living with our daughter Sara in Springfield, IL. She's a lawyer for the Illinois EPA. Our daughter Niki is a Clinical Psychologist for the VA currently in Hampton, VA. Out daughter Lee and her husband Steve live in London. She is a part owner of a company that places students in third world locations to get experience in mental healthcare. Steve is an IT professional.

We belong to an all-inclusive vacation club in the Mexican Rivera where we can be found for at least three to four weeks a year. As I write this, we are meeting Lee and Steve in mid-February for a 14 day stay. My favorite Spanish is "Clavo oxidado por favor". (Google it!) [More photos at the PTN website.](#)



Steve, Lee, Barry, and Elizabeth in Mexico



Sara with Wilder & Bodhi



## More AlumNotes (and more on page 9)

**Henry Siegal '73** - I retired about five years ago from Northrop Grumman after spending most of my work-life in the communications industry, first doing Civil Engineering and then program management. A big chunk of my career was spent in the public safety sector that provides communications and computer aided dispatch systems to first responders. Nan retired from magazine work in 2015. She's doing free-lance editing gigs now. The latest is editing into comprehensible English literal translations for new signage in Japanese parks. The need for English signs may be related to the tourism anticipated from the 2020 Olympics. Two kids, both married. Genni is at UC-Santa Barbara working on a Doctorate in Ethnomusicology and David lives near me and works for a firm that designs and installs mechanical and electrical systems for data centers. My grandson, Harrison, just turned a year old. Nan and I are having a wonderful time doing grandparent things.

I'm still flying some - actually, more than when I was working. I volunteer for an organization called "Pilots N' Paws" and fly rescue dogs from shelters to fosters and adopters. In a moment of madness I adopted one of the rescues, a mostly Australian Shepherd puppy, who was about to be euthanized. I thought he'd get along well with my old English Lab, and they're fast friends now. Aussies need jobs; unfortunately, this one assumed the job of eating our couch. He's making good progress.

Barry set the bar with pictures, so I've included one from a family vacation we took to Cuba in December '18. It was a great time and we hope the start of a family vacation tradition. The group included my Brother and Sister-in-law, my Sister, my Daughter and Son-in-Law, and a slew of Nephews. My Son, his wife Danielle, and Nan weren't there on account of Harrison's birth that December. The kid has a lot to answer for. Most everyone in the picture will be strangers to you, but you might recognize the old guy at the end of the table.



**John Dewar '73** - It is hard to imagine that I retired way back in June 2012, after 39 years as a Civil Engineer with the Federal Highway Administration. We moved from California to Delaware for a position in 2005 and decided this is where we wanted to stay, even though I accepted a Washington, DC position and commuted there the last 5 years before retirement. Both our sons graduated from HS and College in New York and developed successful careers in IT and digital marketing (though we actually aren't sure what it is they do). They both married Long Island girls and one lives in Nassau Co. near NYC, and the other out east in Suffolk Co., so we frequently drive there for visits with them and the 4 grandchildren. California is one of our favorite places to visit and we had a fun reunion with Bruce and Debbie Olsen in San Diego in August 2019. [Read More](#)



John & Chris Dewar + Debbie and Bruce Olson





## Paul Exner Recognized as Outstanding Alumnus at PTN Annual Meeting

Paul (X) Exner '71 was interviewed by Joe Staszowski.

Joe asked the following questions:

- How long have you been involved in PTN?
- What caused you to get first involved?
- Who were the trustees then?
- What were the issues then?
- Who was involved and how did things change as time went on?
- How have the undergraduates changed over time?
- In your opinion, what does PTN need going forward to be sustainable?
- What has been the most and least rewarding part of being a trustee?



X & Former Sage Floris Van Rossum

You will find the answers interesting and informative. The entire interview can be found on the PTN website ([Read more](#)).

## Fr. Mike Hobson Receives Sigma Pi National Founders' Award (excerpt from "My Sigma Pi")

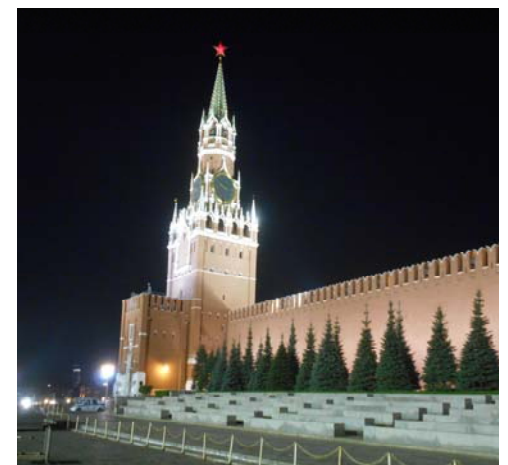
Growing up in a family with three brothers and two sisters, and having thirteen nieces and nephews, Fr. Hobson has long considered the brotherhood of the Fraternity to truly be his larger family. While in high school he never imagined himself joining a fraternity; however he found the Creed of the Fraternity did not contradict any of his personal faith beliefs, but instead found the ideals of brotherhood not only inspiring, but realistically attainable. As with the motto, "Progress, man's distinctive mark alone, Not God's, and not the beasts"; God is, they are. Man partly is and wholly hopes to be," Fr. Hobson is fully aware of the developing nature of the human person. Believing strongly in *every word and line* of the Sigma Pi Creed, Fr. Hobson has committed himself to helping the brotherhood in any way possible, especially as past Alumni Club President (Psi Theta Nu) for many years with Gamma-Iota, and helping establish the Iota-Rho Chapter, as Colony Director in 2014, at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. [Read More](#)



## Jeff Korn '73 Goes to Russia

My wife Kris and I had the opportunity to visit Russia this Fall and travel from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Russia has changed just a little bit from the 60's black and white TV images of tanks and rocket launchers rolling through Red Square with the Politburo and Premier Khrushchev standing atop Lenin's tomb during the height of the Cold War.

My first visit to Moscow was just after I began piloting to the USSR and naturally we had to venture out to see Red Square. You had to get a special form to leave the hotel and venture out on your own and we complied, and with our passports and shore passes in hand made our way to the famous landmark. [Read more](#) on the PTN website.





### It Won't Rain in the Kitchen Anymore (by Lorri Byrne - Alumni House Manager)

Remember those watermarks on the kitchen ceiling over the dishwasher and the can hanging from the ceiling sprinkler pipe to catch the water? Well, problem solved.

The Tech-side showers have been gutted and new ones (installed correctly) were completed during the winter break. Craig Lazenby, Property Manager, did the demo work on the old showers (now he doesn't have to go to the gym for a month) and Quality Contractors installed the new showers.

The demo work revealed the "sins of the past". Who did the prior work anyways? No one will fess up to it but this time the work was done the right way. The brotherhood is extremely appreciative of the upgrade. Plywood floor beneath shower was replaced. Two separate shower stalls.



### Alumni Helping Brothers (win-win for all)

We hope to assist our SP undergraduates find internships (pre graduation) and full time employment (post graduation). We will start posting their requests on the "members only" portion of the PTN website. Please consider our soon-to-be PTN members as you look for well qualified assistance. [See link](#)

Name	Contact Email	School Year	Major	What are you looking for?
Jack Tanny	jetanny@wpi.edu	Junior	Industrial Engineering	Internship
Owen Ferrarea	ogferrara@live.com	Junior	Chemical Engineering	Internship
Anirban Mukherjee	amukherjee2@wpi.edu	Junior	Robotics	Internship
Lucas Falsarella Guerreiro	lfalsarellaguerr@wpi.edu	Junior	Electrical & Computer Engineering	Internship
Jin Ryoul Kim	jkim6@wpi.edu	Sophomore	Computer Science	Internship
Nihal Patel	nmpatel@wpi.edu	Sophomore	Mechanical Engineering	Internship
Robbie Starr	rmstarr@wpi.edu	Junior	Electrical and Computer Engineering	Accepted Job Offer
Drew Robert	drobert@wpi.edu	Senior	Robotics Engineering	Accepted Job Offer
Chris Tracy	ctracy34@gmail.com	Senior	Chemical Engineering	Accepted Job Offer
Robert James	rjames3103@gmail.com	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	Accepted Job Offer
Nicholas Roschewsk	njroschewsk@wpi.edu	Senior	Chemical Engineering	Full-Time Position
Joseph Niski	jniski@wpi.edu	Senior	Robotics Engineering	Full-Time Position
Bailey Joseph	bjoseph@wpi.edu	Senior	Mechanical Engineering	Full-Time Position
Floris van Rossum	florisvanrossum@gmail.co	Senior	Robotics Engineering	Full-Time Position
Dylan McKillip	dmmckillip@wpi.edu	Senior	Masters in Robotics	Full-Time Position



## ANNOUNCING THE PSI THETA NU 2020 ANNUAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (by Harry Kasparian)

I'm excited to announce the launch of our *2020 Capital Campaign* seeking to raise \$20,000 in donations by the end of 2020.

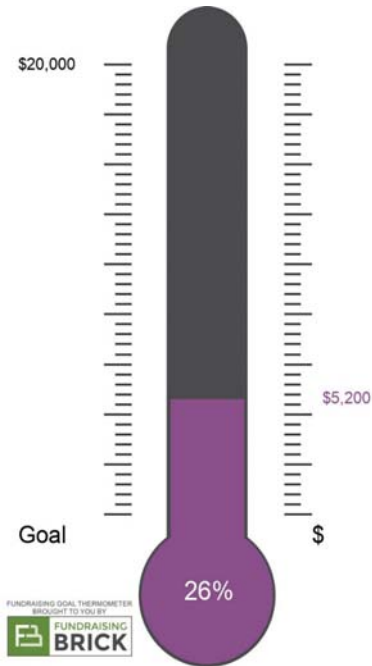
We need your financial support to enable us to undertake some important projects to assure the future of your Chapter House. Our goal is to maintain a home for brothers in which they can comfortably live, work and study (within reason) as well as grow and build lifelong relationships

Why Now - The current undergraduates have built an excellent Chapter with a superb track record with philanthropy, campus leadership and the top fraternity academic performance (GPA) as recognized by WPI.

Your contribution will immediately affect the undergraduates' community environment in a positive way. Future sustainability of the chapter necessitates attracting new members - a process which is strongly correlated with perceptions of the brotherhood - but also its physical condition.

Our Need - The goal of the campaign is to begin to fund a series of capital projects include restoration of:

- The dining room walls, woodwork and cabinetry.
- Hardwood flooring and woodwork on the first floor of the house.
- Repairing and refinishing the stairwells and hallways of the chapter house.



The door casings, moldings, staircase, hardwood floors and walls are in serious need of repair. Most significantly, the stairwell is pulling away from the wall and sagging quite noticeably (See photos below).

Our Ask and Why - In the spirit of preserving your legacy, we ask you please consider donating to our Capital Improvement Fund. Your gift will help assure Sigma Pi Gamma-Iota chapter a solid footing for future generations of brothers. Note that a generous alumnus has volunteered to match donations up to \$10,000!!

Please catch up on [Chapter](#) and join me in [Annual Campaign Fund](#).

**Grand Staircase Problems - Left - City-side Grand Staircase Pulling from Wall  
Right - Tech-side Staircase is Cockeyed**







## Meet Our WPI Chapter Advisor - Officer Robert Vandal

Robert (Bob) Vandal is the current Chapter Advisor for Gamma Iota. His involvement with our chapter makes for a very interesting story. Bob is not a professor, but is on the staff of the WPI campus police; not your normal qualifications for a chapter advisor.

Officer Vandal says that he first wanted to be a fire fighter; but an opportunity with the Shrewsbury Police Department came sooner. Bob is 63 years old, married, and has spent the past 43 years “on the street”, the last 23 of them with the campus police. He was first introduced to the Gamma Iota Chapter when he served as a liaison for campus Greek Life, giving safety talks and risk management training. During a dark period at Gamma Iota, Bob responded to some incidents at the House and became close with a couple of chapter members. In 2004, we needed a chapter advisor and a couple of guys asked him to serve temporarily in that position. “I didn’t know if I could do this as a police officer,” Bob said, recalling that he needed to check with the WPI Police Chief and school administration. He was given the go-ahead to assume the role of advisor, a position he thought would be very brief. A few weeks turned into three months and then six months and finally Sigma Pi announced it had arrived at a decision for a permanent adviser. Their choice surprised Mr. Vandal. “They wanted me. I agreed to try it for a year,” Mr. Vandal said.

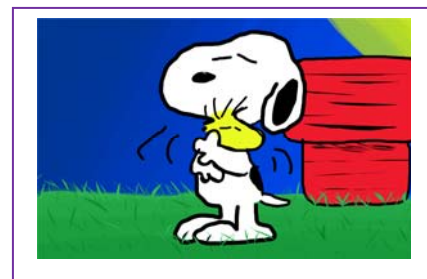
Fifteen years later, Bob Vandal is still offering advice and serving as a liaison between the fraternity and the university, and, most important, being a mentor and offering a listening ear. Not only do the chapter members cherish his advice, they have welcomed him as a brother. In 2013, Dave Magnano proposed that Bob become a full-fledged brother of Sigma Pi. The vote was unanimous to extend a pledge invitation to Officer Vandal. He didn’t have a hell week nor did he do pushups to get signatures in a gig book. However, he did some pledge training and, at a formal initiation attended by the full chapter, he became Magnano’s little brother.

The undergraduates of Gamma Iota Chapter have consistently remarked over the years that the relationship with Bob is a bond that is really special. The feeling is mutual for Officer Vandal. He warns, “I am always a police officer, first and foremost; so you better be good!” He stops by the Chapter House regularly and attends house meetings periodically. Bob says that after the students graduate, many become his Facebook friends.



Chapter Advisor Bob Vandal

Bob says he plans to keep advising Gamma Iota until he retires (He has not set a date). Who knows what might happen in retirement, he might write a book about all the kids he has met and the many hugs he has received over the years. Be sure to give him a grateful hug when you meet him.





## Undergraduate Report (by Sage Lucas Falsarella Guerreiro '21)

This academic year's fall rush was in many ways successful. We gave out 25 bids and 24 were signed, making it the second-largest new member class of the fraternities at WPI. The new members of Sigma Class have proven to be outstandingly committed to the fraternity, their academics, and on-campus involvement. They are also remarkably united as a class. As of right now, we are a little past halfway through the New Member Education process, and the chapter as a whole is very excited about the new guys.

Our Brothers and New Members continue to have a notable involvement in leadership positions at WPI. Brothers participate in Student Government, the Interfraternity Council (IFC), the Resident Advisor program, and Community Advisor Program. Congratulations to our brothers Robert Starr and Anirban Mukherjee who got elected to the positions of President and VP of Recruitment, respectively, in IFC.

Additionally, brothers are actively involved in cultural clubs such as the Brazilian Student Association, South Asian Student Association, and Black Student Union. This year alone, four brothers were initiated into the Order of Omega, due to their leadership in the WPI Greek Community.

The chapter has also remained strong when it comes to philanthropy and community service. Brothers have put over 700 hours of their time into community service in the past semester. We have continued to go to the Worcester Boys and Girls Club to volunteer on weekends on an almost monthly basis. The brotherhood continues to raise awareness and funds for various causes. Participation in Amazing Day, Donate Life, and St. Baldrick's Foundation has been nothing short of exceptional.

Going forward, the Gamma Iota Chapter is very much excited for the upcoming semester. We have events such as Greek Week and Relay for Life coming up; both of which involve a large portion of the brotherhood. Our brothers are always very excited to participate in these events. Additionally, the chapter will host its annual Clam Bake on April 5th.

**New Officers:** Joshua Hoy (2<sup>nd</sup>); Lucas Fernandes (3<sup>rd</sup>); Jack Tanny (4<sup>th</sup>); Akshaj Balasubramanian (1<sup>st</sup>); Avery Cirincione-Lynch (Herald); Maria Castro (HM).



Congratulations to brothers Jake Pardue, Max Spiegelhoff, Robbie Star, and Jack Tanny for becoming members of the order-of-omega, representing the highest forms of leadership and excellence within the WPI Greek Community!



Thanks to all the wonderful Alumni who joined us for our skiing trip.



Smashed some cars...big thanks to everyone who pulled up and made this event awesome!!





## More AlumNotes

Fifth annual Sigma Pi Winter Weekend in Maine - Twenty brothers from the classes of 1986 - 1992 made the annual pilgrimage north to the Fifth Sigma Pi Winter Weekend in Bryant Pond, Maine. Foosball, Chase Quarters, Pitch, Skiing, Ice Fishing, Snowmobiling, Basic Marksmanship, Practical Jokes, Bad Movies, Lobster Rolls, Safety, and many Adult Beverages were enjoyed by all. The age range of those arriving was 49-55 years old, but all regressed back to 19-22 within minutes of arrival. Old memories reminisced, and new memories and friends made. For one all too brief weekend, it was like living back at the House.

This reunion started 5 years ago when Kris Rosado invited two other '89 classmates, Dan Desruiasseaux and Paul Rocheleau up for a weekend. It has grown each year and is spreading across class years. Let's keep it going and growing!! This is an annual event and will always be the weekend before Super Bowl Weekend, so mark your calendars for next year, January 29-31, 2021.

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Kris Rosado at [kris.rosado@morganstanley.com](mailto:kris.rosado@morganstanley.com) and he will add you to the distribution list for next year. Pictures from the weekend are at this link: [Winter Weekend 2020](#) courtesy of Bomba and Beck.



From left to right: Keith Noe '87, Todd Becker '86, Dan Desruiasseaux '89, Jeff Lord '87, Mike Plourde '90, Decio Mendes '92, Doug Campbell '93, Ken Colby '90, Hank Epich '92?, Bob Bombara '86, Todd Delisle '89, Chris Barry '90, Derek Heard '90, Peter Tousignant '90, Paul Rocheleau '90, Jeff Carter '92, Chris Menard '89 (photo taken by Kris Rosado '89)

Jeff Korn '73 - Jeff and Kris are enjoying the retirement options and have done some extensive traveling in the past 3 years. We have visited Iceland 3 times, twice for the summer/winter seasons and again last January, because we didn't see the Northern Lights on the previous trip....didn't work that trip either, so I guess we will have to try Norway! The last trip was to the French Countryside and the area around Bordeaux. I'm a Beer guy, BUT, if you are a wine drinker or wine lover, this is nirvana. The education and the level of expertise in wine making are quite remarkable. The scenery, the food and the ambiance of different appellations for the various Chateaus is worth the trip. Bordeaux is like a mini Paris and only 3 hours by high speed train South West of the Capital. Add it to the bucket list. [See more.](#)



## Meet the Newest Sage - Lucas Guerriero (Interview by Joe Staszowski)

January is the time for a new slate of officers to take over at the house. This year's Sage is Lucas Falsarella Guerreiro, an international student from Brazil.

Lucas was born in Valinhos, Brazil, a city of about 120,000 people, 300 miles west of Rio de Janeiro. When he was 11, his family moved to Mexico City for two years, then to Closter, New Jersey for another two years before moving back to Brazil where he attended an international high school.

Lucas considered colleges in the US as well as Brazil. He decided WPI was the right fit for him. He initially was focused on Aerospace Engineering at WPI but switched to Electrical & Computer Engineering partially due to the likely difficulties an international student could have getting government clearance to work in the Aerospace industry. He hopes to focus on hands-on Computer Engineering after graduation. He will be the first engineer in his family.

Not being from the US, Lucas' familiarity with fraternities was just what he read in the press which wasn't flattering. He rushed for just a few days freshman year, and then decided fraternities were not for him. Sophomore year he decided to give fraternities a more in-depth look. He rushed several fraternities, but based on recommendations from friends and his interaction with brothers during rush, he decided Sigma Pi was right for him. Once a brother, he volunteered to be Assistant Risk Manager. He enjoyed this role so when the Risk Manager position opened up A term 2019, he stepped up to that position. He must have done a great job because the brothers, beginning of B term, elected him Sage for 2020.

Lucas sees the biggest challenge he will face as Sage is the change that will occur with 30 active seniors graduating (about 1/3 of the brotherhood) and being replaced with 24 new brothers. He is up to the challenge. He especially likes listening to brother's questions and concerns and giving advice/ mentoring people.

Lucas is also President of the Brazilian Student Association, a group with around 30 members. In his spare time, Lucas loves to cook especially Brazilian dishes which are not easy to find in the Worcester area. Upon graduation, Lucas hopes to find a job in the US in Computer Engineering. Being an international student, he will need a work visa, but having an engineering degree from WPI will hopefully make that easier. (Lucas is succeeding Floris van Rossum, another international student from Belgium.)



Lucas Falsarella Guerreiro



**Σ Π**

Rush Sigma Pi 2019!

Come join us for lunches and dinners every week!  
LUNCH 11:30am DINNER 5:30pm

If you have any questions feel free to contact our rush chair at [twhite@wpi.edu](mailto:twhite@wpi.edu)

Events: All events shown in the calendar are at 5:30pm, unless otherwise noted here!  
- Emergency Session: 12:00am  
- Lunch: 5:30pm - 11:00am  
- Frisbee: 5:00pm

Join the Rank Sigma Pi 2019 Fraternity Group!

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30					

Visit our website! [sigmapimaine.org](http://sigmapimaine.org) Address: 17 Dean Street/3rd Institute Road