



GAMMA IOTA NEWS

FALL 2018

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Wanted Missing Composite Pictures

We are trying to create a gallery of all 50 plus composite pictures and find several either missing entirely or damaged and/or missing photos. If anyone has a copy of the years noted below please [contact](#) Todd Becker. When complete the collection will be viewable on our [website](#). Thanks for your help.

Missing: 1971, 1976, 1985, 1991, 92,93,95,97, 2003 through 2013

Extra credit question: Were there years that composites were not created and if so which ones?

Donor Profile



[Dave Brownell '88 "Why I Give"](#)

PTN President's Report (by Joe Staszowski '73)

First, from the trustees to our fellow alumni, we'd like to wish you and your family Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and best wishes for 2019. PTN and the chapter house are doing well. The house is full, well-maintained and plans are in place for needed future capital improvements. The undergraduates are active with campus and community involvement. Rush is going strong.

From a financial perspective, our rent is competitive with other fraternities, we are meeting our near term monetary requirements and we are slowly replenishing the "depreciation fund" to meet future needs (see Treasurer's Report on Page 6).

The other area the trustees are focusing on is providing opportunities for alumni to reconnect. As done this year, one is participating in WPI's Alumni weekend / PTN annual meeting. Next year's weekend is May 31 through June 2 with PTN's annual meeting June 1: ([Alumni Weekend 2019](#)).

WPI's reunions are planned for classes ending in four and nine, but all alumni are encouraged to attend. Save the day, more details will follow. PTN also hopes to plan additional events like a family picnic / hike in a state park or attending a ballgame. Your ideas are welcome.

We all enjoy hearing what fellow alumni are up to. Please share a short write-up and picture with us and we will include it in a future newsletter. Checkout our website <https://www.psithetanu.org/>. Much effort has been put into it in the last year. It is a great place to see what is going on at PTN and with fellow alumni.

PTN can't sustain itself without your involvement, especially on the trustee level. New alumni participation and ideas are critical to our future. Consider becoming involved and sharing your life learned knowledge. Trustee meetings are quarterly and can be attended by teleconference. The time commitment is small but the need is great.



Dinner for Bert, visiting from CO. Clockwise - Lorri Byrne '73, Jane & Joe Staszowski '73, Norm Johnson '71, Rob Byrne '71, Paul Exner '71, Pat Tamborra '72. Right - Umberto Milano '71. Not shown - Craig Lazenby '71. Kathy Milano. Chris Exner. Cindy Johnson.

GAMMA IOTA NEWS

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



AlumNotes (2019 5-Year celebration brothers are highlighted in Sigma Pi purple)

Michael Riley, '97 is finally married at 42. He just bought a house and, though he has no kids yet, is living the domestic life in Portland, OR. He is really liking it out there with mountains, people, and good beer and restaurants. He is currently working in the semiconductor industry for a Dutch company called ASML doing new product R&D. This is the first job he's had with reasonable work-life balance.

Andrew "Drew" Piner '97 BS/'98 MS has just marked his 20 year milestone of moving out to Silicon Valley after graduation. He's been gainfully employed as an electrical engineer since leaving WPI and is currently working on CMOS image sensor design in the Image Sensing Group for ON Semiconductor. His current design is supposed to see low earth orbit trials in the beginning of 2019. He currently lives in Santa Clara, California with his wife of 17+ years Svetlana and a spoiled rotten German Shepherd mix dog named Roscoe. He spends his spare time exploring the world with his wife, most recently enjoying Switzerland this summer and taking the Golden Pass Rail train excursion across the scenic Alps. Previous trips include Machu Picchu, the great pyramids of Egypt, and even a Caribbean Island or two. His other hobbies include amassing a whisk(e)y collection large enough to crush him horribly during the next great California earthquake and displaying shock and amazement at how astronomical the home prices around him have become.

Steve Laudage '17 - Steve is living in Portland, Maine where he's been working for Pratt & Whitney - and enjoying the restaurant and microbrewery scene. he's kept up running since college, and just ran the Maine Half-Marathon (his first!). This November, he's headed down to Ecuador with the Portland Maine Professional chapter of Engineers Without Borders, where they're going to construct a water supply system.

Ryan Baker '16 - Ryan is living in Boston where he's been working hard for Drift.com. He was recently promoted to Tech Lead and is managing a team of engineers to build and enhance the products at Drift. Most recently he's been working on a side project that allows people to easily add passwordless user login to their websites called weasl.in.

Welcome Chef Sean Reidy

Sean is our new cook. Chef Kelly did such a good job that she was promoted and moved to Mississippi (nearer to her family).

Sean owned and operated Palace Pizza on Southbridge St in Worcester for 17 years prior to coming to Sigma Pi. He, his wife and his 10 year old son have lived in Rutland now for 2 years. In his spare time, he most enjoys goin' fishin' with his son. (He makes a mean lasagna!!)



Chef Sean is looking forward to the kitchen remodeling in 2019. You can help by buying a commemorative brick. Memorialize your name - or that of a brother who has passed -- on the tech-side sidewalk:

[Brick Order Form](#)



Alumni House Manager's Report (by Trustee Paul Exner '71)

Thank our lucky stars that Craig Lazenby continues as our property manager and handyman. Working with the active Chapter, he was able to manage inspections by the City and our insurance carrier with NO concerns identified. I'd bet that this is a first. In his handyman role, Craig has continued to repair and paint our iconic fire escape - mostly replacing rotting parts with new pressure treated lumber. He also replaced the Tech-side bulkhead door, artfully filled the 1st floor abandoned heating registers (we have a new heating system), bricked-up basement windows, managed some new electrical service, kept the refrigerator running, and overall kept the Chapter House running smoothly. Craig and I also continued our work on a preliminary design for the kitchen remodeling project. The construction is scheduled to occur during the 2019 summer recess.

How Did We Get The Current Chapter House?

This is the second in a series of articles dedicated to discovering the origins of our Chapter.

How 17 Dean Street? as told by **Chuck Frary, '65** at WPI Alumni Weekend in 2015.

Enjoy the entire video [here](#).



We had a lot of great help from the school. Dean Downing was the person we talked to. I was on the finding committee. It was the end of our sophomore year when we realized that Hackfeld Road wasn't going to do much beyond the next year - it was just too small. So, we went and talked to the dean and asked if there was any kind of way we could purchase a house; did the school have any housing? And it turns out that they had this place (Dean Street). It was a rooming house for school housing. They had completely divided up the whole place into individual rooms - it was in shambles to tell you the truth. We found out that anyway (remember - this was 1964 - the numbers were less startling than they would be today) that the house was available to us; the dean said that the school was willing to sell to us for fifty thousand dollars. So, we had to come up with a mortgage (which the school was willing to provide for us) and the down payment (which I think was no more than 10%). We had to come up with five grand which was about a years' pay for someone getting out of WPI at that point in time.

So, we scratched our heads a bit because none of us had that kind of money. We came up with this scheme to create a Psi Theta Nu bond. And, as brothers we each picked up a bunch of these and said: "Oh, we'll go find friends and family, relatives, whatever and see if they'll buy the bonds". And we had a little pitch that said: "Here's what we're trying to do, we're a new fraternity, we're trying to expand our base, we need some money to buy the house and get it fixed so we can use it next year". We had a couple of meetings with the parents who came over to Hackfeld Road. The upshot of that was the parents, in spite of their having to come up with our tuition, (tuition, room and board back in 1961 was 1,300 dollars), also came up with the money we needed by buying these bonds. It was a 25 year bond and we were paying the going interest rate which was 4 or 5 percent at that time. The denomination of the bond was whatever you wanted to give. It took a lot of faith on the part of these people - relatives and parents, to come up with the money and hand it over to a bunch of college students who were only going to be there another year anyway and with the prospect of a long period of time getting the money back - if ever.

Happily, we'll never know why they had such faith in us; but they did. That's really how we managed to get the money together. That money plus the mortgage that we took out was sufficient to let the school grant us access to this building and break down the walls and satisfy whatever we had at that time for fire requirements for the City of Worcester. It was the school that held the mortgage. We wouldn't have been able to do any of this if it hadn't been for the dean's commitment to the fraternity system.





More AlumNotes

Wayne Eastman, '70 - After graduation in 1970, I worked for 4 years as a designer for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in Florida. There was a brief interruption for time with the Marine Corps Reserve. In 1974, I moved to South Carolina to work in a fiber production plant doing project and maintenance engineering. It lasted 42 years until I retired in 2016. Along the way, I married Linda, aka Elly May Clampett. We have 2 children. Brock got his degree in Computers and currently works for Blue Cross. He spent a deployment in Afghanistan, which was really hard on us. He and his wife Kelly have 2 boys, ages 4 and 3. Our daughter Brandi is a Pediatric Rheumatologist and lives with her husband Chris in Indianapolis. I'm enjoying my retirement with a lot less stress and aggravation. Elly May keeps plenty of animals around so there is no Empty Nest.

Joe Doran '69. We were a small Class of 1969 - Dan Lipcan and me. My last contact with Dan was quite some years ago. He was last spotted by **Wayne Turnblom '68** somewhere in New Jersey! I'm now mostly retired from the family business. I worked with my brother and nephew designing and manufacturing products for consumer and professional audio, mostly cabinetry and mounting and rigging hardware. Administration and Engineering (me) was in Massachusetts, and we made the products at our factories in Korea and China (lots of frequent flyer miles). Prior to getting back into the family business, I headed up IT for a semiconductor manufacturing equipment company. Upon graduation from WPI I made jet engines (well, my company did) in southern Connecticut.

Immediately after graduation I married Ann Meunier. Many brothers from the '68 to '70 classes knew her from visits to the house, and attended our wedding. Sadly, Ann died in 1985 of a congenital heart condition. But happily, mutual friends got Barbara Tully, a teacher in Winchester, Massachusetts, and me together almost twenty years ago. Barbara and I now split our time between New England and Florida, as well as the far-flung places our combined family of five children call home.



LEFT: Wayne Eastman '70



RIGHT: Ann & Joe Doran '69



LEFT: Burns '72, Dodge '70, Doran '69



RIGHT: Joe & Barbara



Alumni Giving (by PTN VP Harry Kasparian '73)

Do you recall all the time you spent together in the Gamma Iota dining hall over a meal, house meetings, rituals, rush, big weekends "socializing"? Well, that venue is in need of serious renovation. The PTN Trustees have set a goal to begin a \$100,000 [Kitchen and Dining Area Renovation](#) in the spring of 2019. We plan to begin the project immediately after school ends, spring of 2019. Over the years PTN has essentially been using the "duct tape" approach to make repairs only when things break or to meet food safety codes. We can no longer afford to defer a proper renovation due to the failing condition of the structural elements, plumbing/fixtures and appliances. The dining room sub-floor is failing in spots and also needs to be replaced. The list goes on.

A generous brother has offered to [match \\$-for-\\$ donations made up to \\$10,000/ year](#) for the next three years.... join him and your brethren by supporting this project.

More AlumNotes

Ralph Isabella, '74. It's hard to believe next year will be the 45th reunion for the class of '74. I must say, however, the 4 years at WPI could not have gone by slower, it seemed like those 4 years would take forever and yet the four decades afterward went by all too quickly.

Just like many of my classmates, I have put the working world behind me. Last year, 43 years after graduating and 33 years as an Airline Pilot, I retired from Jetblue Airways. My career took a few turns with my first job out of WPI was as a manufacturing engineer, then an aircraft structural engineer and ultimately an airline pilot. My airline career also had a few stops, one at US Airways for 14 years, which lead me to Jetblue Airways for my last 13 years of flying. My wife, Deborah, our son Benjamin and his wife Jackie joined me for my final flight in April of 2017.

My son, Benjamin, graduated from WPI in 2007 as an Aero Engineer so I have kept in touch with the college and Sigma Pi. He is now working for Sikorsky Helicopter in Connecticut specializing in Blade design. Although he never pledged a Fraternity, he did enjoy the friendship of a few Sigma Pi brothers and joined me for several homecomings at the house to catch up with classmates. No grand children yet, probably afraid I'll spoil them, which I will.

In any event, I was hoping to relax a bit after leaving the airlines but it seems I have more to do than ever. To steal a line from one of my fellow pilots after we were furloughed from US Airways: When I wake up in the morning I have nothing to do and when I go to bed I only got half of it done. Hopefully we can have a good turnout at Sigma Pi for next year's reunion, especially for the class of '74.



Deborah & Ralph Isabella '74



Bert Milano '71/'73 on deck at the Cahora Bassa Hydro Plant on the Zambezie River in Mozambique. Read more about Bert's career [here](#)



PTN Treasurer's Report (by Bruce Hillson '71)

I am pleased to report that PTN's finances are stable for the present and short term future; and should become very solid in about six years.

Our operating budget for the 2018 calendar year is \$153,000. All income for the operating budget is derived from the rent paid by Sigma Pi to PTN. Donations and summer rents are above and beyond the normal rent and are earmarked for our Capital Improvements Account, and used exclusively for major projects to improve the House.

Since 2014 the Board has made significant improvements to our single physical asset, the House. We have identified several additional projects that need to be done. Most urgently are renovations to the kitchen. This project will be financed by a combination of donations and yet another bank loan. The loan amount will be determined by the amount we are able to raise through donations from alumni. Other needed improvements to the house include replacing the weathered and worn siding, redoing the roof and updating all the rooms. While these projects can be put off for the foreseeable future, they will be addressed as quickly as money becomes available through alumni donations. (Continued on Page 8)

More AlumNotes

Paul Rocheleau, '89. Gail (Auger '90) and I got married in 1990. We moved to Maryland for 5 years, and have been back in Mass since 1996. We live in Marlborough, MA with our sons Andre (19 yrs, attending Bryant Univ.), Nicolas (15), and Timothy (14). Our daughter Jacqueline (22) graduated from Boston University and is now living in Albany NY. I currently work for Aaron Industries in Leominster, MA as the Technical Manager overseeing the production and quality of recycled plastic resins. I'm looking forward to heading up to Maine again this January with **Dan Desruisseaux '89** to visit **Kris Rosado '89**, for what is now our 4th annual Winterfest. We've been joined by other '89s **Kris Menard**, **Mike Rutkoske**, **Doug Belfy**, and **Mike Mikaleon** in years past, and I think we're expecting at least 10 bothers this year! Should be fun for those of us who survive.



Dan D., Kris R. and Doug B

Kevin Nordberg Memorial Golf Tournament (by J Bañez '97)

This year we held the 10th annual Kevin Nordberg Memorial Golf Tournament at the Blissful Meadows Golf Club in Uxbridge, MA. The tournament was started to remember and celebrate Kevin's life. It continues to be an opportunity for his family and friends to support the organizations and causes that were important to him including the Worcester County Food Bank and cancer research. This year we raised over \$1500 for a scholarship award given to a student who graduated from Auburn High School from which he graduated. See photo of **Gene Campbell '01** on the tee. Other participating brothers included **Tony Misilo (Eta-Beta)**, **David "Rusty" Gray '00**, and **Mike Brady '95**.

Next year's event has already been scheduled for Sunday, June 9th. Mark your calendars and keep checking the PTN Events page for updates.





Undergraduate Report (by Tom White '20)

Sigma Pi undergraduates are very active in the community. They have participated in **Work On Worcester**, which is a city wide day of service for Greek Life. People were split up between park cleanup, painting gyms, helping at the local Habitat for Humanity Restore, and other locations. For the 3rd year, the undergraduates put on **Amazing Day with Sigma Pi**. They set up on the quad with a grill, lawn games, and an inflatable obstacle course on the quad with the goal of raising awareness of suicide on college campuses and worked with the Student Activities Office and the Student Development and Counseling Center to raise awareness of resources on campus. In addition, the undergraduates participated in freshmen move-in day at Founders, Stoddard, and Daniels halls.

Gamma Iota chapter also won several awards at the convocation this summer. The first award was the Grand Chapter award, given to the top 25 chapters of the biennium. The second was the Grand Council award in Tier 2. This is given to the top three chapters in our Tier, which is based off of number of fraternities on campus.

Officer Vandal, our faculty advisor, won Faculty Advisor of the Biennium, given to one advisor every two years. Read the article from the Worcester Telegram & Gazette [here](#)

Rush is starting out strong, we have had about 40-50+ rushes at most of our larger events and even at some dinners. We hope to continue this momentum through the rest of rush to ensure a well rounded class.

We recently extended an invitation to Sierra Palmer to become a sweetheart of the house. Sierra is a member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority and is involved with the WPI soccer team. She is the 2018 President of Rho Beta Epsilon, the Robotics Engineering Honor Society.



Chris Ferreira '19
Sierra
Robert James '20



Officer Robert Vandal and Dave Magnano '13



Purgatory Chasm Rush Event



PTN Treasurer's Report (continued from page 6)

Donations (including matching funds) will allow us to accelerate the future improvements identified by the Board. Paying off our existing loans over the next six years will create a very solid financial position for PTN. The money not used for the monthly loan payments will be available to complete the remaining major projects, and/or saving for future improvements. It's been several years since PTN has had surplus money, so the expected funds will provide breathing room for the future Board to do general maintenance to preserve our investment.

More AlumNotes

Charlie Proctor '67. I grew up in the Vietnam War and free love eras, much preferring the later. My chief accomplishments at WPI, besides graduating, included co-social chair with Rein Freeberg and the distinction of running the only Sigma Pi committee that made a profit on booze and parties, some with bands and a "go-go" dancer. Off to work in 1967 designing and building turbines for the military - industrial complex, started MBA, blew up a helicopter engine on purpose on test stand and ran first Abrams AGT 1500 tank engine to produce full power. I was laid off in 1970 and had 10 days to report to the draft board with the horrifying vision of going to Vietnam unless I found another draft deferred job. I applied for 1 of 3 positions as a Military Advisor in Vietnam; arriving in country as the only tech rep with experience on the new T55 L11 engine in the Chinook helicopter. This knowledge kept me out of combat most of the time and survived next two years.

Intrigued by SCUBA, I opened my own store, taught classes, ran a charter boat company, ran marine store, opened up a cross country ski shop over the next 9 years. I got a job as production manager of the AGT 1500 Abrams tank engine line and finally finished my MBA that year. I started law school while winding down the SCUBA business, working full time, trying to maintain a relationship, and have fun. Laid off for fifth time, I packed it out for Montana where I hunted and fished, became plant maintenance manager of high-tech company and started practicing law for the first time in private sector. Returned a couple years later to Oxford Massachusetts, took over the law practice started by my grandfather in 1911, and worked with my Dad until he passed away. I'm still here. Oh yea, still building car engines, shot six deer already this year, love to travel finally seeing all seven continents with trip to Antarctica two years ago, work out at gym, still drink screwdrivers and Jack and Cokes, and looking forward to returning to South Africa next summer. A great life so far, lots of fun and my only two regrets are that I never found a wife and never became a millionaire. Presently, still working full time as family law attorney and managing the real estate company founded by my mother, helping poor people survive the legal system as pro bono attorney and working with the entitlement generation on drug related issues and survival. What's next? Wait and see. (See photo on page 9) Read more about Charlie's great experiences [here](#).

Dale Frygang '74. Since leaving WPI/ $\Sigma\pi$ in 1974, I have been working in the tire industry for nearly 44 years, the last 33 with Goodyear in Akron. Along the way, I picked up an MBA from Kent State in 1991. My main activity was tire engineering (development and testing) for passenger car and light truck tires. For the last 16 years, I have been involved in industry standards and global regulations (I no longer touch the product). In this regard, I was chairman of ISO Technical Committee 31 (tires, rims, valves) for 12 years. I have enjoyed frequent international travel; mostly to Europe, some trips to Asia.

I married Sandi in 1976, and surprisingly she still puts up with me after 42+ years. We had twin daughters in 1981. Jennifer and family live in Columbus, OH about 2 hours south. Nicki and family live in Cincinnati, OH, about 4 hours south. Nicki and husband were in Arkansas for about 3 years, where their 1st daughter was born. That was a longer trip!

Both girls decided to have kids about the same time. So, we have two 6-year olds (girl, boy), then two 4-year olds (they switched: boy/girl) and Nicki decided to have another one, a 2-year old girl. So, we have 5 grandkids and two grand dogs. The house is crazy at holiday time or when they visit. Jennifer started out as a 1st grade teacher in the public-school system. She has since become an elementary school principal. Nicki started as a pharmaceutical drug rep right out of school in the Cincinnati area, now an area manager. Gratifying when the kids do better than you! Sandi retired this past June, so she can visit the grandkids. I am still working fulltime. Hoping to make it back to Worcester, it has been a while. (See photo on page 9)



Charlie Proctor '67 (right) on the beach in Vung Tau, Vietnam with his Honda 305 Scrambler



Freygangs: daughter Nicki holding Emerson (almost 2); Sandi holding Beckett (4); Kennedy with rabbit ears, (6); Dale; Nick, son-in-law

Alumni Weekend 2018 (by Trustee Ken Johnson '73)

NAME	GRAD.
Bruce Hillson	1971
Craig Lazenby	1971
Robert Byrne	1971
Paul & Christine Exner	1971
William Medeiros	1972
Barry & Elizabeth Mendeloff	1973
Richard & Linda Page	1973
Lorri Lind Caruso Byrne	1973
John & Chris Dewar	1973
Harry Kasparian	1973
Joe & Jane Staszowski	1973
Ken & Andrea Johnson	1973
Jeff & Kristen Korn	1973
Hank Siegel	1973
Will & Joleen Rose	1973
Ed Nowak	1986
Todd & Susan Becker	1986
Dave & Carolyn Brownell	1988
J Bañez	1997
Justin Pelkowski	2008
Billy Sullivan	2018
Chris Hammer	2018
Jeff Martin	2019
Ajay Manohar	2020
Alex Boggess	2020
Chris Tracy	2020
Drew Robert	2020
Jacob Pardue	2020
Tom White	2020

Each year WPI hosts an alumni weekend just after graduation. There is no football game or rope pull but there is a parade, dinners, tours, events, and lots of good people to see. And while most of the active SPs have departed for the summer it does make it easier to park. 2018 was highlighted by gathering of graduation years ending in 3 and 8.

This year, PTN trustees, hosted a lunch at the house with a slide show before conducting the corporation's annual meeting. Moving this meeting from Homecoming to Reunion is with the expectation that more alumni will attend. Trustee elections are held at the annual meeting so your participation is most welcome.

To shake things up a bit this year, the decision was made to let WPI be host for dinner. Since so many of the Sigma Pi attendees were from the class of '73, everyone, from any class, was encouraged to sign up for the 73 dinner. (A little known fact, you can attend any class dinner you wish if you let WPI know ahead of time and you can visit any class reunion gathering before having dinner at the one you pre-registered for.)

This was held at the Rubin campus center and meant you could visit classmates from other fraternities and classes as well as your own. After dinner there were activities on the quad including a casino night at the Morgan Wedge. Thanks to Elizabeth Mendeloff and Chris Dewar for photos. Check out who was there. This arrangement was well received and will again be considered for 2019.

The 2019 Reunion weekend will be held Saturday, June 1st for the classes ending in 4 and 9. [Some of those guys are highlighted in this edition.](#)



Harry Kasparian '73



Jeff Korn '73 and Hank Siegel '73



Lorri Byrne '73



Jeff Korn '73



Elizabeth & Barry Mendeloff '73



Chris & John Dewar '73



PHOTO LEFT: Bob Byrne '71, Craig Lazenby '71, Kristen Korn, Lori Byrne '73, Will Rose '73, Joleen Rose, Andrea Johnson, Ken Johnson '73, Christine Exner, Paul Exner '71, Jeff Korn '73, Jane Staszowski, Joe Staszowski '73, Henry Siegal '73, Harry Kasparian '73, Chris Dewar, Elizabeth Mendeloff, John Dewar '73, Barry Mendeloff '73.