

## VOLUNTEERS

Bob Nelson, ΔΔ916,  
Association President  
Alumni Chapter Commander  
and Recorder

Nick Bucci, ΔΔ1510,  
Association Director

Darren Crisman, ΔΔ1475,  
Association Director

Pat Thompson, ΔΔ1400,  
Association Director

Doug Kosydar, ΔΔ1249,  
Association Director

Jon Vinas, ΔΔ1473,  
Association Director

Chris Dorian, ΔΔ1483,  
Association Treasurer

James Shincovich, ΔΔ860,  
Alumni Chapter Lt. Commander,  
Association Director,  
LFAA Director

Edwin Sidwell, ΔΔ879,  
Association Vice President,  
LFAA Secretary

James Wyland, ΔΔ 1273,  
Chapter Advisor,  
University Advisor,  
Alumni Advisory Board Chair

George Bonnewell, ΔΔ1490,  
Alumni Chapter Treasurer

Lane Kintigh, ΔΔ1156,  
Association Director

Steven Rodrigo, ΔΔ1160,  
Association Director

Ernest Russom, ΔΔ1104,  
Association Director

## IN MEMORIAM

The "In Memoriam" section of recent *Penn Stater* magazines listed the following brothers passing to the Chapter Eternal:

Grandison G. "Buck" Allen, Jr., ΔΔ763, Richard Lindsay Butterfield, ΔΔ769, Timothy A. Dailey, ΔΔ990, Philip Haines, ΔΔ893, Bernard D. Minakowski, ΔΔ1046, and Richard E. (Dick) White, ΔΔ752, Philip Haines, ΔΔ893



# The Delta Delta

Sigma Nu Fraternity at The Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA • Summer 2020

[www.sigmanupennstate.org](http://www.sigmanupennstate.org)

[www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org)

## HONOR ROLL

The following brothers have donated to the Re-Colonization Fund since publication of our spring 2020 newsletter:

David Cotterill, ΔΔ739, Founder  
William Hibler, ΔΔ721, Founder  
Philip Haines, ΔΔ893, Legion of Honor  
Donald Bain, ΔΔ817, Knight  
Earl Christofferson, ΔΔ21258, Knight  
Coulston Henry, ΔΔ804, Knight  
Carl Schwartz, ΔΔ1118, Knight  
E. Pierre Roy, ΔΔ473, Knight  
Thomas Will, ΔΔ891, Knight  
David Hodgson, ΔΔ692, Rock Club  
Arthur Meloy, ΔΔ1341, Rock Club

Due to the generous support of our alumni, the Re-Colonization Fund now stands at \$14,696. We estimate a need for approximately \$150,000 by the end of our lease with the Evans Scholars Foundation. A capital improvement plan is available upon

request from [nelsonnittany@aol.com](mailto:nelsonnittany@aol.com).

Alumni contributions are at the heart of everything we do. Our communications and support for the re-colonization of the Chapter all rely on gifts, and as alumni, we play a critical role in making sure our Chapter lives on. Your gift makes a significant impact.

Using the form at the end of this newsletter, please send your donations to

Delta Delta Property Association  
19 Colonnade Way, Suite 117, #239  
State College, PA 16803

Unless the donors directs otherwise, all donations will be set aside to support the successful re-colonization of Delta Delta Chapter of Sigma Nu at Penn State.

## LEASE EXTENSION

The lease with the Evan's Scholars Foundation (ESF) has been extended through May 2028. Details were provided in an e-mail sent to all alumni for whom we have a valid

e-mail address. If you did not receive this e-mail, please contact Brother Nelson at [nelsonnittany@aol.com](mailto:nelsonnittany@aol.com) or at 814-278-8575.

## HOUSE MOTHER'S SUITE PROJECT

The project to convert the HMS to an uncovered project has begun. Plans are being revised by our architect. Following plan approval by the Centre Region Code

Administration, the Association will execute a construction contract which will be funded by our tenant, ESF.

## HOMECOMING 2020

Due to the pandemic, the Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the PSU Office of Student Affairs have suspended all social activities for Greek organizations until further notice. This decision, if it remains in effect, will likely impact

planned Homecoming events. Because of this decision and the BIG10's decision to at least postpone all fall sports, a Homecoming event for Delta Delta alumni will not be scheduled for this year. Hope to see you in the spring.

## ANNUAL ALUMNI MEETING

The annual meeting of the Property Association and Alumni Chapter, required by our bylaws, will be held by telephone conference (or Zoom) beginning at 7:00 PM on September 20, 2020. Agenda topics include officer and director elections (see the listing on our web site using

the Alumni tab), status of the HMS project, financial status, plans for the year, and a brief report by Brother Nelson. A meeting report will be prepared and distributed. Please contact Brother Nelson at [nelsonnittany@aol.com](mailto:nelsonnittany@aol.com) if you want to participate.

In the spring 2020 newsletter, we announced upcoming articles on the “Dock Party” and the historic 1948 Cotton Bowl. But first, we found the following article which appeared in the Delta Delta News on March 9, 1925. The author is not listed. From the house dedication program (soon to be posted on our web site), we know:

- Design began in September 1920
- House plans were revised in the summer of 1924
- The deed was granted by the university in October 1924
- The construction contract was let on February 18, 1925

- Ground was broken in March of that year and completed in the early fall
- The “lodge”, as it was originally named, was dedicated on November 7, 1925.

Based on the date of the *Delta Delta News* article and the above dates, one can conclude that the article’s description was based on the approved construction plans. However, as with many construction projects, the as-built design may have differed from the original plans.

— *Note: see more photos on page 4.*

### “New Chapter House is a Magnificent Structure”<sup>1</sup>

The new Chapter home is a house of the Georgian type following out the general design of the new Watts Dormitory and the Varsity Hall.<sup>2</sup> It will be a fireproof structure built of the same texture and color of brick laid in Flemish Bond. The stone trimmings are of white Indiana limestone. A graduated slate roof<sup>3</sup>, using thick slates at the base and diminishing thickness toward the ridge of the roof, is specified. These slates will be in shade of bluish grey and green. The house is designed to normally take care of thirty-six men with extra rooms for servants and guests.

The exterior follows somewhat the same lines as the English Tudor house plans originally suggested. A walk from Burrowes Street leads directly to the central entrance in front. The house has an overall length of 110 feet along Burrowes Street. A terrace which is about twenty feet in width, will extend along the front, this terrace to be paved with slabs of white stone in irregular shapes. A similar terrace extends along the rear of the House.

The hospitable front entrance door in white, above which, in broken pediment, is a Sigma Nu Coat of Arms in stone. On either side of this entrance, large stone pilasters extend to the main pediment in the roof.

The right of the main portion of the House is a sun-parlor porch which can be enclosed in winter and opened in summer<sup>4</sup>. The kitchen wing extends to the left of the main part of the house, and to the rear.

#### Basement

From a service standpoint there is provided a large laundry with entrance to the kitchen yard. Also a kitchen stores room, and a cold storage room<sup>5</sup>. The laundry, kitchen stores room and cold storage room are convenient to the fire tower which extends from basement to third floor and which is used as a rear stairway from kitchen to basement. The coal storage room will accommodate two carloads of coal. This room has a built-in coal chute to the rear yard.

The furnace room adjoins with the furnace, and hot water heater. An ash lift is provided from this room to the rear terrace. Provision is made for a large trunk room and toilet.<sup>6</sup>

The Billiard and Pool room<sup>7</sup> will at present be left unfinished, but can be completed as our finances permit. The main feature of the basement is the Chapter Room 37 feet long and 26 ½ feet wide. This room is arranged so that members can enter from the front basement hall, while pledges can only enter through a special preparation room. A wide brick fireplace for burning logs is located in the center at one side. An emergency entrance to the fire tower is provided.

#### Main Floor Hall

Passing through the front Colonial doorway we enter a vestibule and then another door opens to the main hall. To the right of this entrance the stairway leads to the second and third floors. To the left is a large cloakroom where a telephone booth is also located. On stepping into the hall one notices three large double doors which frame the fireplaces in the living-room, library<sup>8</sup> and dining-room. The hall will be finished in dark colored gum-wood.<sup>9</sup>

#### Living-Room

To the right of the hall one enters the living-room which is also finished in dark wood. This room is 37 X 26 ½ feet in size. Across the ceiling extend four large hand-adzed spruce beams. In the center at one side an inviting fireplace with a Tudor arch in stone forms an attractive feature. French doors on either side of the fireplace<sup>10</sup> lead to the enclosed porch. At either end of this room are two large windows. Another side window with four wide entrance doors assure plenty of light. Our plans call for this room to be eventually paneled in dark woodwork from floor to ceiling.

#### Library

This room lies to the rear of the main hall, and between the living-room and dining-room. On

either side of the entrance door from the hall are built-in book-cases. Along the rear wall is a fireplace, having a French door on either side, these opening onto the rear terrace. This room is finished in ivory-cream colored woodwork.

#### Dining-Room

Two wide French doors, one from the main hall and one from the library give access to this room which is of the same size as the living-room and Chapter room. The fireplace is of strict Georgian design, the opening being lined in front with black marble, and the woodwork, including the fluted pilaster on either side is finished in ivory-cream color. Four large windows, in addition to two French doors, supply plenty of light, while two extra doors, one to the pantry and one to the rear hall, take care of service. The room is planned to normally seat forty-five men, but is large enough to accommodate seventy-five during House Parties.

#### Service Wing

The kitchen is planned to take care of the maximum requirements of the house. A large range, a sink for washing wishes, tables, and cupboards are supplied. An incinerator opening in the kitchen to the basement incinerator<sup>11</sup> and a special can set in the concrete floor of the kitchen porch takes care of garbage disposal. The pantry-room which lies between the dining-room and kitchen gives plenty of shelf space for deserts and serving, and under the window, a second sink for filling water glasses is provided.

A side door from the kitchen leads into the rear hall, from which are located the refrigerator room, two servant bedrooms, the servants (sic) bathroom and the fire tower.<sup>12</sup> The fire tower stairway gives access to the basement service rooms and upper rear halls. One door of the tower opens to the rear terrace, the other doors are automatic self

— *continued on page 4*

closing as called for by State Laws. Provision is made in the fire tower for the addition later on of a trunk lift to the third floor or the basement.<sup>13</sup>

### Second Floor

Eleven large study rooms, each with closet space, as well as two guest rooms and one large lavatory onto the hallway. Between the guest rooms, which look out onto the rear garden and over the College Golf Course, is located the guest bath room with white tiled floor. Each study will have space for at least two single desks and two chiffoniers, with two desk chairs and one easy chair. A room light is located in the center of the ceiling with individual desk lamps for each student. The main lavatory provides four wash bowls, two toilets, and two shower baths. Two linen closets open onto the side hallway.

### Third Floor

On this floor are located a dormitory, eight study rooms, two linen closets, a trunk room, and a lavatory of the same size as the one on the second floor. The dormitory has five windows and two doors which assure plenty of air. It will accommodate forty-five men if necessary, although some of the men will probably prefer to have their beds in their study room. During House party times the door to the front stairway can be locked, so that the boys may use the fire tower stair and turn over the second floor to the girls and the Chaperones.

There are many features of the House which are to be added at a later date when finances will permit.”

The following endnotes are provided by Brother Nelson.

1. This article, “New Chapter House is a Magnificent Structure,” appeared in the March 25, 1925 edition of the *Delta Delta News*. Based on this date, the article was published after house construction plans has been approved and about one-month after construction had begun. Based on other historical records and accompanying photographs, the foundation had been completed and construction of the first floor had started by the date of publication. It is unknown



Courtesy Penn State Archives

as to how accurately this description matches the finished structure.

2. Watts, the first of the existing West Halls dorms, was built in 1923. Irvin followed in 1925 and was likely under construction at the same time as Sigma Nu. Jordan was built in 1930. The recently constructed Varsity Hall would be renamed as Recreation (Rec) Hall.
3. I believe a remnant of this slate roof still exists on the overhang above the kitchen door entrance.
4. Later enclosed (date unknown) and became the House Mother’s Suite.
5. Presumably, the four rooms in the south basement with original terra cotta foundation blocks appear to confirm.
6. The configuration and location of the coal storage room, furnace, and water heater is unknown. I believe these were located below the library in the room behind the basement trophy case (later used for a walk-in beer keg cooler and before that, an unfinished file room). Access to a chimney would have been required and there is evidence on the wall below the library fireplace of the needed penetrations. A portion of the ash lift appears to remain in a bricked-in recess in the southwest corner of the north basement and directly under the rear terrace. Interestingly, this recess is not shown in the fire reconstruction drawings. If it existed, plumbing for a toilet is no longer evident.
7. This room is the north basement. Used as an unfinished chapter room following fire reconstruction and later finished with paneling for party use.
8. The double doors to the library do not appear in the dedication pictures of this room. Rather, an open curved arched

entrance was built.

9. The article refers to wood in many locations on the first floor. The first-floor pictures in the chapter house dedication program show dark wood beams in the living room but paneling on the walls is not evident unless very light in color as

described for the library.

10. The French doors on the west side of the fireplace (left side when looking at the fireplace) are not evident in the living room photo included in the house dedication program. The reconstruction drawings show a solid brick wall in this location. Either this door was bricked-in when the patio was converted to a suite or this set of doors was eliminated from the new construction design.
11. Thus the need for the now unused kitchen chimney.
12. To this point, the configuration of the kitchen, pantry room, rear hall, refrigerator room and “servant” bedrooms is difficult to understand given the current configuration. The description of the dining room exit states that the exit connects to the rear hall. I suspect that the other rooms described in the Service Area were in what we now call the pantry/ commissary that runs along the west wall of this wing. Apparently, the pantry room ran along the east wall of the kitchen. This would explain the described pantry room window and sink for filling water glasses. Both the window and glass filling station remain today. This conclusion regarding the location of the pantry is supported by the reconstruction drawings which state “Remove Part.” This partition apparently separated the cooking area from the pantry. Based on this understanding, in order to enter the kitchen from the dining room, one had to first enter the pantry room or the rear hall.
13. A continuous vertical opening along the fire tower stairs from the basement to the third floor still exists but is obstructed by a pipe run.



# DELTA DELTA HISTORY

These photos accompany the article on page two. The full “lodge” dedication program, including a schedule of events, menu, and photos under construction and as built can be found on our web site, [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org). We encourage you to visit and view some history courtesy of Brother “Ike” Gilbert’s scrapbook maintained by his daughter, Ms. Joyce Sipple.



## ALUMNI NEWS

A very popular feature of earlier newsletters was alumni updates. We want to renew this feature. If you have news of you and/or your family that you'd like to share, please send a note to Brother Nelson at [nelsonnittany@aol.com](mailto:nelsonnittany@aol.com) or post an update at our website, [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org). Also, if you have a “shout-out” to another brother or group of brothers, please let us know and we'll try to accommodate.

## LOST BROTHERS

### No Brother Left Behind

We're missing contact information for some of our alumni brothers and need your help to find them. Head to our website to see a current copy of our lost mailing and email lists. Do you see a brother you know? Email your updates to [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).

## ANNUAL REPORT

The joint Annual Report of the Property Association and Alumni Chapter for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 has been issued. It can be accessed on our web site, [www.sigmanu-psu.org](http://www.sigmanu-psu.org). If you'd like a hard copy, please contact Brother Nelson at [nelsonnittany@aol.com](mailto:nelsonnittany@aol.com).



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My check is enclosed payable to **Delta Delta Property Association.**

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 19 Colonnade Way, Suite 117, #239  
 State College, PA 16803