



THE HUSKER SIG

Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi
at the University of Nebraska



CONSUL CHAPTER UPDATE

My brothers, it has been almost a year since we have been able to get back in touch, but I am happy to share that life here at 1510 Vine Street continues to grow and excel like never before. The energy, passion, and dedication towards the chapter at an undergraduate level are at heights not seen in recent memory. The momentum gained from the past semester makes us super excited for the next school year to begin. Here are a few highlights from the past year:

It all starts with the initiation of 39 new brothers. This is by far and away one of our largest pledge classes in recent memory. The different temperaments, talents, and convictions these gentlemen possess have been at the forefront of building a significant culture change within the house. Helping set up a future Sigs from the past and present can all be proud of. This all wouldn't have been possible without our amazing rush team from the past year that included Brothers **Brandon Zohlen '23**, **Chris Karmazin '23**, and **Connor Loftus '24**. In order to prepare these gentlemen into our brotherhood, Brother Jeremy Webb, our magister, taught them our foundations, but more on that later.

One of the other large successes we had this year was with our philanthropic events. In the spring semester alone, the chapter was able to raise over twenty thousand dollars for Huntsman cancer institute. A large majority of this money raised came from our event Derby Days, which I am sure many of you may remember. Brother **Bobby Martin '22** was our Derby Days Chair for this past year and we owe much of our success in the event to him. Due to this achievement, I will be flying out to join other Sigs from around the country in Salt Lake, Utah, where Huntsman is based. In Salt Lake, I and the other Sigs will be touring Huntsman's facility along with learning a variety of techniques and strategies for the upcoming school year.

Academically, the house is continuing to grow in the direction that we set out around two years ago. This past semester, we were able to obtain a house GPA of 3.45. This puts us within the top 5 of all fraternities on campus, on top of being our highest GPA in recent memory. Another academic achievement we have experienced recently has been the initiation of nine of our brothers into Order of Omega. A Greek honor society containing members with the top 3% of GPAs in the Greek community. As we move forward, I along with the entire house want to continue to push the needle, raising our standards, to be the best house academically on campus.

Overall, the chapter is moving in a direction many of us are proud to be a part of, and were continuing to gain momentum. I find it to be a privilege and an honor to lead the men within this chapter on a day-to-day basis. We are incredibly ambitious about this next school year. We plan to have at a minimum have 3,000 service hours, 50,000 in donation money to Huntsman, and fix up the place that brings us all together, the chapter house. With that in mind, I invite any of you to reach out and reengage with the chapter to help us reach these goals. A simple way to do so is by joining us this fall when we will be holding an alumni weekend. This weekend will be open to any Sigma Chi alumni that wants to partake, starting with a golf tournament on September 9th at Mahoney golf course, game day against Georgia Southern on the 10th, and house tours throughout the weekend. Other than our alumni weekend, there are many opportunities to reengage with the chapter. This can be through Monday night dinners, attending chapter, being a guest speaker, attending philanthropies, and hell even just stopping by the house to see what's going on. Your engagement within the chapter means more to us than you think and we would love to have you around the walls again. Remember, even as an alum, the door is

always open and we will always receive you with welcome hands and warm hearts.

Finally, I would like to make myself available to all of you. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to know what's going on around the house feel free to reach out to me via email: blake.a.welker@gmail.com or phone: (913) 956-8530. I welcome the opportunity to speak with any Sigma Chi alumni, especially those who have shared the privilege to walk around these walls. Together, we are Sigma Chi's. Together, this bond is shared well beyond our undergraduate years. We hope that everything is continuing to go well for all of you during these troublesome times. We appreciate all that you do for the chapter and hope to see you all around soon!

In hoc,

Blake Welker '24

Consul of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi

DERBY DAYS RETURNS TO LINCOLN

In the past two years, we were unable to hold one of the most iconic events that every Sigma Chi chapter hosts around the world — Derby Days. The COVID-19 pandemic hindered our ability to host in-person events. Still, this year, with COVID restrictions easing, we held the largest Derby Days in the history of our Chapter, raising over \$16,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Institute.

Derby Days this year included 176 participants from not only the Greek community but from different on-campus organizations. We had 38 brothers volunteer to coach 17 teams throughout the week. These brothers lead their teams in four events during the week. The first event was a simple barbecue at the Chapter House, giving everyone the opportunity to meet each other and socialize, and for me to go over all the events for the week in detail so everyone knew what to expect.

The first event of Derby Days kicked off on Tuesday, March 29th, and was a reverse beauty pageant. The coaches of Derby Days were dressed up to the theme, Spring Break 2.0, by the participants on their teams, and walked a red-carpet runway to a song of their choice. This event brought in a crowd of over 400 people and was a fun yet creative way to fundraise money for Cancer Research. The Army ROTC commandos took home first place at this event, coached by brothers **Chris Karmazin '23**, **Chase Allen '23**, and **Cory Grieb '25**.

The second event of Derby Days was a sand volleyball tournament that we held on campus for all teams to compete. The bracket was double elimination, and the tournament lasted around 3 hours. Congratulations to the team of **Isaac Alvarado '24**, and **Jake Brase '25**, with the sorority Delta Gamma for taking home first place in the sand volleyball tournament!

Last but not least, we had our Derby Day, something we do every year. We reserved the City Campus Recreational Center indoor turf field and had each team compete in a dance that they had prepared during the week, along with a painted banner. Congratulations to the team of **Preston Kotik '24**, and **Blake Welker '24**, with the sorority Alpha Chi Omega for winning the banner and dance competition! We then held over 10 smaller athletic competitions for each team to compete in, including relay



Team members Garrett Sanders and Josh Long spectate with Derby Days judges Dane O'Dell '20, Collin Crayne '20, and Stacy Kommers, House Chef.



Thomas Clinton '25 and his team show off their banner after the Derby Days dance competition.

races, football tosses, and more. The Army ROTC commandos took home first place in the athletic events.

This meant that we had a tie between two teams, and the tiebreaker came down to how they placed in the Sand Volleyball Tournament. The Army ROTC Commando's ended home taking home the hardware, winning this year's Derby Days! Derby Days this year was an absolute success, raising the most money we ever have from hosting Derby Days. Next

year's Derby Days is expected to be even larger, aiming to raise over \$20,000 for cancer research. Together, we will be the generation to end cancer.

In hoc,
Bobby Martin '22

39 NEW BROTHERS INITIATED THIS SPRING

This spring, I had the honor of being elected as the Magister and getting to lead 39 new Sigma Chi's through the Preparation for the Brotherhood process. My path to getting this opportunity was not typical, but I feel as if it was the correct path to my growth as a Sigma Chi. I was elected Magister as a second-semester senior, knowing full well that I am to graduate in May and not see the fruits of my labor pay off as I will no longer be an undergraduate member.

I feel as if it's a typical saying amongst those who have held the title of Magister, "I wanted this position because I wanted to emulate my magister, and be the guide for future pledge classes." Ever since I initiated in 2018, I knew that I wanted the chapter to elect me to this position, and fulfill the responsibilities of the task. So I ran for the position coming into my sophomore year, and every semester after that. Every time I ran, I was never the best Magister for the chapter. This happened 4 times. I know I was discouraged, but I kept running because I wanted to serve the fraternity in the way I felt I could serve the best.

This spring, the preparation for the brotherhood process went swimmingly. Our newest pledge class was full of young men with different temperaments, talents, and convictions that have come better men because of the process. It was inspiring being able to lead them through discussions and activities that made



The newest spring class of 39, initiated on the morning of February 26th, 2022.

them ask hard questions of themselves to become better men. On February 26, 39 new members were initiated into the Alpha Epsilon Chapter. I got to witness my final initiation as an undergraduate leading the process, and I never thought my undergraduate story would end that way.

I believe that acting as the magister made me a better man. I know for a fact that I was able to do the best I ever did because of how I was grown over my entire undergraduate career. After my junior year, I never thought I would

hold another position in the house, I felt as if it was time for me to focus on getting a job lined up, getting good grades, and enjoying my last year in college with my pledge class. Yet I choose the path that gave me the opportunity to see the growth and maturity of a young pledge class, a pledge class that taught me to keep that spirit of youth and to be a better man.

In hoc,
Jeremy Webb '22



FORMER CONSUL GARRETT SANDERS RECOLLECTS ON HIS YEARS AS A SIG

I pledged the Alpha Epsilon Chapter in the Fall of 2018. I did not know very much about Greek life and what it had to offer. My dad was a Sigma Chi and told me I should give it a shot as he was able to gain a lot from his time as an undergraduate and I saw how active he was as an alumnus. I learned valuable information about the fraternity and my pledge brothers during my pledge ship. I initiated with 24 other men who I call my best friends today.

I witnessed lots of transition and hard times during my early years in the chapter. The chapter had stagnated and was unable to raise the standards and be the gold standard organization on campus we knew it could be.

This inspired me to get involved in leadership right away. I held the position of House Manager my freshman year, Magister for my entire sophomore year, and Consul my junior year.

Throughout my 2 years on the executive team, I worked with a variety of driven individuals and tackled a wide array of tasks and challenges. During my term as Consul, our chapter raised over \$20,000 for cancer research and won a Blue Peterson award from Sigma Chi Headquarters. I felt blessed to work with a great group of people and achieve this great milestone for the chapter. I learned what it meant to be a servant leader and put others and a common goal before yourself.

As I finish my undergraduate experience, I will be working as a Financial Staff Consultant for Ernst & Young in their Chicago office starting in January 2023. I credit the Alpha Epsilon Chapter for my development and exposure to some of the best people I have met in my entire life. The chapter developed the skills I needed to become my best self and leave something better than where I found it. I plan to be an active alumnus and give back and pave the way as others did before me. I enjoyed my 4 years and am excited to see what the chapter accomplishes in the years to come.

In hoc,
Garrett Sanders '22

A WORD TO OUR ALUMNI

Greetings gentlemen, my name is Ryan Sanchez and I am the current Tribune of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I have served as Apparel Chair and Magister in my prior semesters. This issue of the Husker Sig was dedicated to you, our alumni. Those who came through this house, and excelled the reputation of Sigma Chi at Lincoln for so many decades. Within this most recent year, our current group of Undergrads is thriving in every which way possible; in the classroom, in our philanthropic efforts, in our long term goals as and short term personal goals as men and as a chapter. However, the one area we feel where we can improve is within our relationship with you. The last several years have seen a decline in our relationship, and due to the pandemic, and other circumstances, it has been hard on our part, to gain contact with our alumni brothers.

Our goal in the future is to build new and stronger relationships with the brothers who

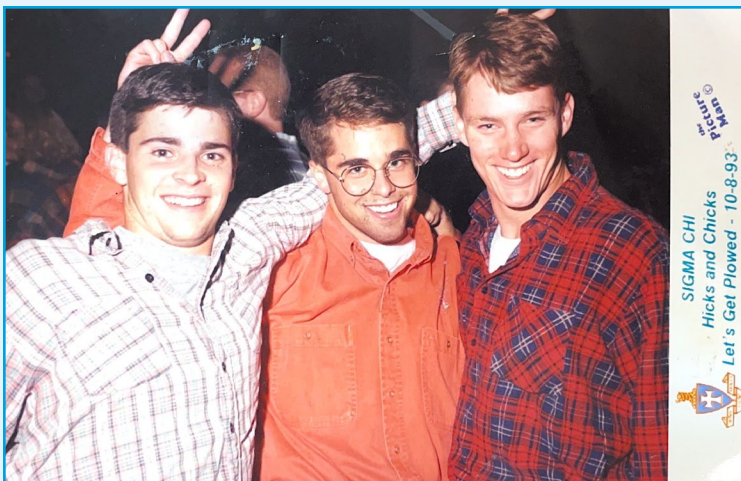
have passed through the walls of 1510 Vine Street, in hopes to provide a place where memories can come back to life from some of the most memorable years of everyone's lives. There are several plans as of now to host events in which we would like to see each and every one of you present in hopes to hear about your times at Alpha Epsilon and learn how we can build prosperous futures like many of you have accomplished in your years after your undergraduate studies.

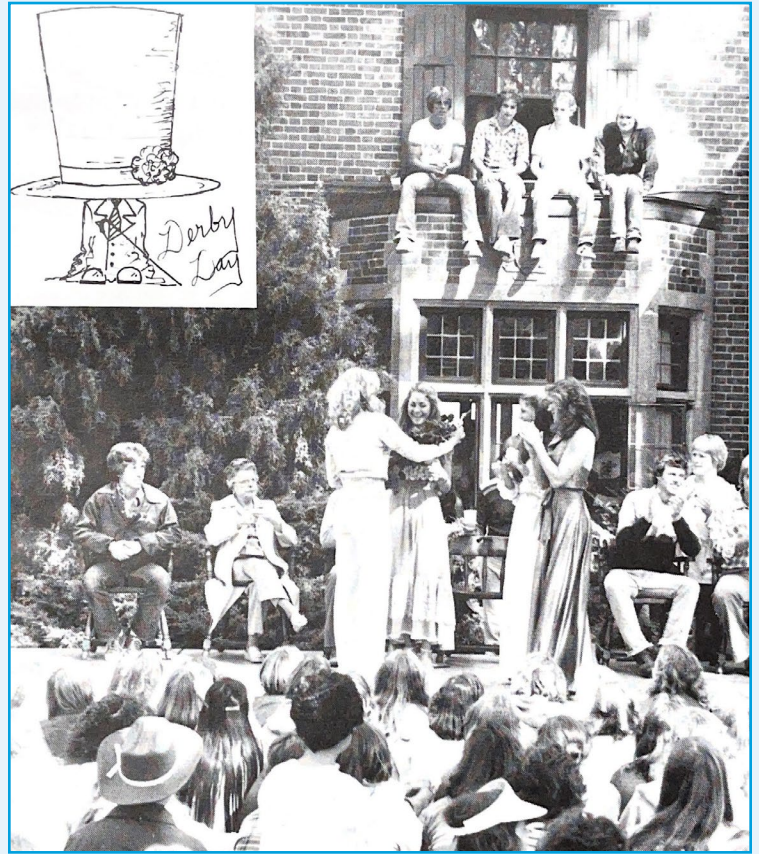
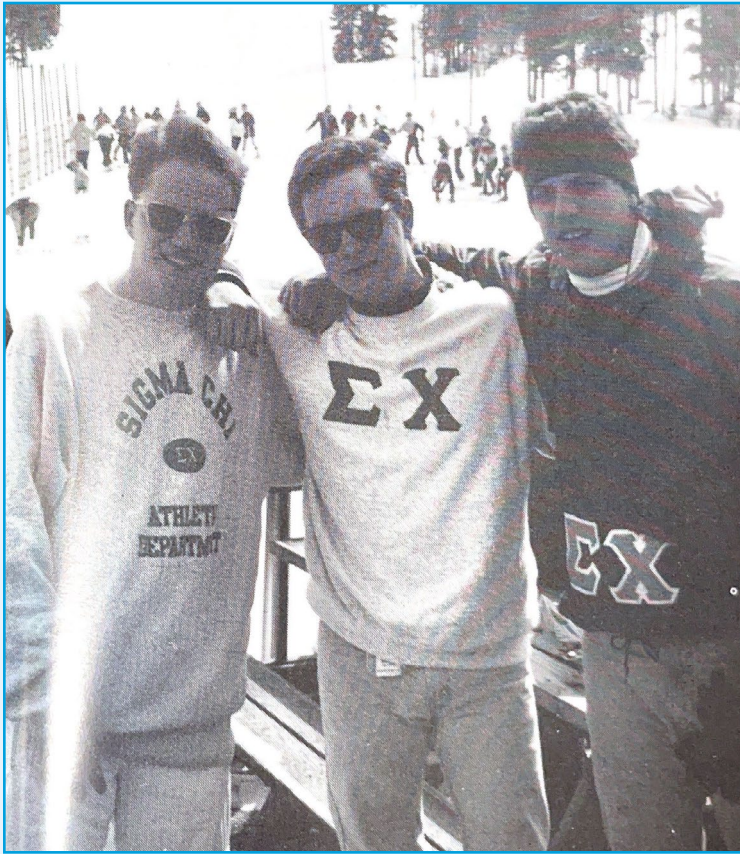
I personally spent some time with **Andy Thompson**, Consul of the chapter in 1991 and 1992, and gained an understanding of how the morals and ethics that we gain as members of this chapter can propel us in our lives as family men with prosperous careers. I personally believe there is so much untapped potential for our current group of Sigma Chi's to learn from you, our namesake; and hopefully, along the way, we can provide that feeling of home that you felt or still do feel here at 1510.

Our door is open here, and we'd like to see all of our fellow brothers walk through those gates again in hopes to learn about our past, share our present, and build a better future in which we can all grow together as brothers of this fine chapter. I personally went through our archives and hoped to bring back some nostalgia from years passed with some of the latest photos included in this year's issue of the Husker Sig. I am personally reachable at (402)-680-9818 and Ssanchr190@gmail.com, I'd love to hear from all of you or sit down in the future in hopes to connect you with the current active brothers of our chapter.

We all share the bond of choosing to take our next steps in our college years by signing that bid card to join the best brotherhood at the University of Nebraska, that choice hasn't stopped and we hope that you would like to come back and relive your moments that have set you on the path that you live today.

In hoc,
Ryan Sanchez '23





A BROTHER'S UNCONVENTIONAL ROUTE TO 1510 VINE

Hello Brothers! My name is Sebastiano Di Ruocco. I had the honor of initiating into the Alpha Epsilon chapter of Sigma Chi this spring semester with 38 other exemplary Gentlemen. Initiation and pledgship was one of the exhilarating and sublime experiences in my life. But, my journey to Sigma Chi has been long and unique. Before my time at UNL, I served 6 years in the United States Army as Sergeant and M1-1 Gray Eagle Aircraft Commander. It was an honor serving alongside some of our country's brightest and most hardworking Soldiers.

While in the Army, after graduating from Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training, I volunteered to attend Enlisted Green Platoon for selection into the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment. Shortly after that, I attended SERE training and Army Airborne School a.k.a. Jump School. During my service, I served a total of six tours of duty overseas,

including two to Iraq during Operation Inherent Resolve against I.S.I.S. and one to Afghanistan ensuring the safety of American Troops fighting terrorism. Furthermore, I flew missions in 9 African countries to help secure U.S. interests in the region. My time in the military was a transformational period and gave me so many positive life lessons.

My experience in Sigma Chi has been nothing short of extraordinary. The brotherhood exemplified by the whole chapter is tremendous. Every brother's passion for this chapter's continued growth and success exceeds comprehension. Our weekly Brotherhood events illustrate everyone's deep commitment to friendship. Our philanthropic efforts to be the generation to end cancer resonates with me deeply. I lost my aunt to breast cancer recently so every event and philanthropy we conduct brings us closer to riding the world of the horrible ills of cancer.

On-campus and I'm involved in the finance clubs of Stock-Pitch and Big Red Investment Club with fellow Sigs **Nick Coffey '24** and **Nate Brungardt '24**. Additionally, I was selected to new a new associate by Wall Street Scholars of Nebraska, a student organization dedicated to furthering its member's knowledge and skills in investment banking and private equity. Last fall, I earned a 4.0 GPA and was selected to the Dean's List along with 24 other Sigs.

Deciding to rush Sigma Chi was one of the best decisions I have made in my life. I have made memories and friendships in just my first year that I will cherish forever. It's been an honor to be welcomed into Sigma Chi as a veteran. I look forward to giving all I can to this chapter in the coming years!

In hoc,
Sebastiano Di Ruocco '24



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VISIT AE ONLINE

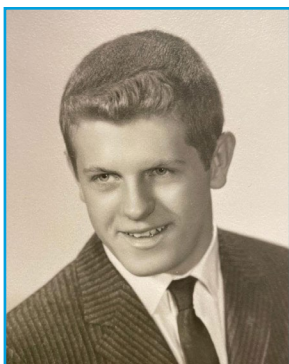
We publish a hard copy of *The Husker Sig* twice a year with support from your annual dues to the Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter. We hope you enjoy it. Remember to “fill in the blanks” between the printed editions of *The Husker Sig* by visiting our website, which is dedicated to undergraduate and alumni interests alike. We’re working on getting better and faster at posting news, and the more you use it, the better we’ll get! Visit Alpha Epsilon at www.unlsigmachi.com.

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THE QUIET LEGACY OF RON HARRIS

Ronald L. Harris (Ron) passed away December 8, 2021. Ron was born August 1, 1942 to Lewis and Antonia Harris. Most brothers are probably aware he passed away after a brief but courageous battle with a rare form of cancer. He is survived by his wife Chris, son Brett (Jan) Harris of Lincoln, NE, daughter Jennifer (Kelly) Amend of Lincoln, NE, brother Robert (Marilyn) Harris and seven grandchildren.



Ronald L. Harris

Brother Ron Harris was initiated into Alpha Epsilon in 1962 and remained a loyal Sig throughout college and during his lifetime. He quietly supported the Sigma Chi Fraternity financially and volunteered whenever possible at alumni events and initiation ceremonies. He was involved when the Alpha Epsilon alumni group decided to become a formal Alumni Chapter in 2007. Ron and his wife Chris shared their home with Sigma Chi Fraternity members

and alumni in December of 2010, 2011 and 2012 providing a Christmas Holiday reception during the beginning of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter reorganization. He also served in an advisory capacity between Sigma Chi and the University of Nebraska during the reinstatement of Sigma Chi back to the University of Nebraska campus. He graciously provided his limited personal guarantee along with nine other brothers that allowed the Sigma Chi Building Corporation to proceed with the successful renovation project for the students at 1510 Vine Street and was a campaign donor. Ron will definitely be missed by Alpha Epsilon and the “Sigs of the Sixties.”

Ron leaves behind a strong legacy of family members who decided to join Alpha Epsilon. Ron’s brother Bob Harris, brother-in-law Steve Olson (Chris’s brother), son Brett Harris, nephew Ted Harris (Bob and Marilyn’s son) and most recently grandson Nicolas Harris (Brett and Jan’s son) are all Sigma Chi’s and our guess is Ron played a quiet and encouraging role in their decision to join.

All Honor to His Name!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Sigma Chi Fraternity Active members have scheduled a golf event on **Friday, September 9th, 2022 at Mahoney Golf Course in Lincoln**. All alumni are INVITED and ENCOURAGED to put together a foursome or be placed with a group. Play will begin at 11:00 a.m. sharp with registration beginning at 10:15 a.m. Sigma Chi Fraternity members will be participating and they are looking forward to alumni attending.

GOLF & CART

\$40.25 per individual (under 57 years)
\$34.00 per individual (57+ years)

We want this golf outing to be a fun event so please make time to connect and reconnect with our alumni brothers and members of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Plan to take the day off on 9/9/22 and participate.

Formal registration will be sent out by e-mail in the coming weeks.

See you soon!