



# SPEACONN



## THE SIGEP @ UCONN ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

FALL 2023

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brothers and Friends,

I have the privilege of opening another edition of the SPEACONN with an abundance of excitement and good news. A lot has happened since the last edition, so I'll get right to it! Below is a brief summary of all our happenings. Please click [here](#) for my full President's Letter.

- **Grand Chapter Conclave in San Antonio** - It was an amazing experience and we won our third consecutive Buchanan Cup! Read more [here](#).
- **Newsletter Format** - Starting with this Edition, we'll be using Mail Chimp to publish and distribute our newsletters. They will be concise to better accommodate busy schedules and include links to the Chapter's website at [Connecticut.SigEp.org/news](http://Connecticut.SigEp.org/news) or additional detail.
- **Annual Meeting** - We'll be having our annual AVC meeting over Zoom at 6:45 PM ET on November 15, 2023. You can find the meeting notice [here](#).

In Phi,

Van Augur, '20  
Alumni & Volunteer Corporation President

## CHAPTER UPDATE



***In August, 13 undergraduate members attended the SigEp Conclave and received the chapter's 7th Buchanan Cup. They are pictured above sporting their new cowboy hats purchased especially for the occasion.***

Who says that March is the only month that comes in like a lion? September 2023 has kicked off with a roaring start in Storrs, CT. The following is a summary of key activities:

- We welcomed our newest Faculty Fellow, Leanne Adams, to the chapter. Leanne is a tenured professor in Accounting and is adamant about fostering the success of our business-focused undergraduates.
- Brother Luke Maynard has been selected as the newest Chairman of Member Safety.
- 13 new brothers joined our chapter and started the Sigma Challenge. Click [here](#) for a list of names.
- This past spring we earned the most prestigious designation that a UConn fraternity can obtain: Navy Status. In short, this means that our chapter excelled at the highest levels of citizenship, scholarship, and leadership as determined by the University based on numerous criteria.



## ALUMNI UPDATE



*Part of our alumni Conclave contingent enjoying breakfast in San Antonio.*

**Wayne Stiles, '65.** A big shout out to Brother Stiles who celebrates his 81st birthday this month. Following graduation, he served as a U.S. Navy officer and helicopter pilot serving off aircraft carriers, then as an FBI field agent based in Miami, Florida where he was assigned to the Watergate investigation. Following “retirement” he worked as security director for SunTrust Bank (now Truist) and as a licensed private investigator, including working with the U.S. Department of State during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Since 2002, he has lived in Raleigh, NC with his wife, Pat.



## SEEKING CONTENT

We want to hear from you! This is often the most viewed section of our newsletter. Please send us updates about your life - births, deaths, career, travel, hobbies, reunions, etc. - to [speaconn@gmail.com](mailto:speaconn@gmail.com).

## ALUMNI PROFILE



*Dylan in his element on the plains of the Central Kalahari, Botswana, photographing among his adopted family of Meerkats.*

### AN INTERVIEW WITH DYLAN FELDMEIER, '19

Hosted by Tom Birmingham, '86

Please click [here](#) to read a fun and fascinating interview with one of our brightest young minds and talents. Dylan Feldmeier, who this fall started his Ph.D. at Oxford University, is already making his mark on this world. Not only is he an accomplished photographer, his cutting edge research into the relationship between humans and carnivores is fascinating. For a closer look at the true breadth and majesty of Dylan's work, please visit his amazing [website](#) and [story map](#).



This fall, the undergraduates will be engaging in the following three activities in coordination with the AVC.

1. A panel of alumni will share their career experiences with their undergraduate brothers. Please sign up [here](#) if you are interested in participating.
2. At the Chapter's annual retreat TJ Aquista and Tom Birmingham will talk to the Chapter about the AVC and what it's like to be a SigEp for life.
3. A group of alumni will speak with our 13 new Chapter members as part of Connecticut Alpha's Sigma Challenge Alumni Connections program.

Thank you to everyone who keeps demonstrating what it means to be a SigEp for Life!

## **ANNUAL ALUMNI GIVING PROGRAM UPDATE**

In August, we launched our inaugural Annual Alumni Giving Program. Here are a few highlights:

- Our 2023 goal is to raise \$5K;
- 100% of funds go toward AVC operating expenses and undergraduate programming;
- As of early October we have raised \$2300 and are 46% of the way toward our goal.
- Thank you to everyone who has already contributed; and
- Click below if you wish to donate - it's not too late.

Also, SigEp Founders Day is November 1. We are taking a different approach to fundraising this year. All donations made to our new Annual Giving Program will go directly to support Connecticut Alpha. Separately, you will be receiving communications from SigEp HQ regarding the annual Founders Day of Giving (or FDOG) campaign raising funds which go directly to the National Fraternity. If you prefer to support the National Fraternity on FDOG, you can respond to the emails you will receive directly from SigEp HQ over the next couple of weeks.

**Donate**

To donate by check, please make checks payable to "CT Alpha of Sigma Phi Epsilon Alumni" to:

CT Alpha AVC  
78 Summer Lane  
North Haven, CT 06473

## **LOST BROTHERS**

Help locate "lost" brothers and keep your information current! This is critical to being able to reach our brothers and is easy to do. Here's how:

- Click [here](#) to share any updated contact information for lost brothers on this list;
- Click [here](#) to update your own information.

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

### **Our mailing address is:**

Connecticut Alpha of Sigma Phi Epsilon  
30 Laurel Way (Husky Village C1)  
Storrs, CT 06269

