SPEACONN

The SigEp @ UCONN Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

FALL 2026



This year's alumni and undergraduate picnic was held in Bolton, CT, on Saturday, September 26. It was a big success despite Mother Nature throwing a nor'easter into the mix. Thank you to everyone who braved the storm and helped make this a special event.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brothers and friends,

This year is one of milestones: 250 years of American independence, 125 years of Sigma Phi Epsilon, and 70 years of SigEp at UConn. On a personal level, 2026 marks my tenth year as a SigEp and my fifth as Alumni & Volunteer Corporation (AVC) President.

Reflecting on these milestones, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude. Among all the turmoil of 2026, I am grateful to be here in the land of the free and the home of the brave—and particularly grateful to those brothers and readers who have worn the nation's uniform. I am grateful to be a member of a fraternity that dares to be different from its peers. I am grateful to be a member of one of UConn's and SigEp's greatest fraternity chapters. And I am grateful (and privileged) to serve such an incredible group of undergraduates, alumni, and volunteers.

I could fill pages boasting about Connecticut Alpha's achievements since our last issue. I will leave that work to my colleagues, but to provide a brief summary: UConn recognized SigEp as "Chapter of the Year;" the national Fraternity recognized the chapter's academic success and member-development programming; and our own Steve Chaneles '83 received SigEp's Exemplary Service Award, which recognizes over two decades of service to our Fraternity. In addition to these impressive feats, the chapter and AVC successfully executed our biennial picnic and hosted SigEp's Grand President last month, notwithstanding mother nature's best efforts to the contrary. Shortly thereafter, our chapter welcomed over 30 new members through fall recruitment.

On a personal note, I have moved back to Connecticut and am excited to be proximate to many more of my Brothers. I look forward to seeing you in the year ahead, including at the 2027 Conclave in Phoenix. In the meantime, please enjoy this edition of SPEaconn!

H.F.F.
Van Augur '20
AVC President

CHAPTER UPDATE

SIGEP BALANCED MAN SCHOLARSHIP









Left Photo: L-R - Jackson Ray, Connecticut '30, and Nikho Torres, Connecticut '27.
Right Photo: L-R - Patrick Foley, Connecticut '30, and Nikho Torres, Connecticut '27.

Balanced Men, Brighter Futures

On September 2, about 80 brothers, alumni, and guests gathered at Willington Pizza House for Connecticut Alpha's annual Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet. Nine students were recognized for excellence in academics, leadership, athletics, and community service. Jackson Ray, pictured above, earned the top award, in part for helping raise nearly $10,000 for children facing serious illnesses through Team IMPACT. Patrick Foley, also pictured above, was recognized for his commitment to academics, leadership as a varsity basketball captain, and volunteer work with organizations such as the Appalachia Service Project.

Read the full story by Nikho Torres '27

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Alumni and Volunteer Corporation is incredibly proud to welcome our newest incoming cohort of brothers, including:

Name	Home Town	Major
Isak Abahamsen	Hartland, CT	Finance
Lucas Buckley	Chestnut Ridge, NY	Finance
Logan Carrano	Burlington, CT	Real Estate
Jack Dennehy	Harwinton, CT	Physiology and Neurobiology
Christian Diaz	Belmont, MA	ACES/Business
Braden Drapeau	Rocky Hill, CT	Business
Patrick Foley	Ridgefield, CT	Undecided
Zachary Foulkes	Potomac, MD	Undecided
John Fox	Southington, CT	Economics
Jake Gillen	Ridgefield, CT	Marketing

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Owen Graven	Southington, CT	P&B
Pat Halloran	Millis, MA	Communications
Jack Harburger	Baltimore, MD	Psychological Sciences
Connor Johnston	Nashua, NH	Finance
Cheyenne Lapaan	Bristol, CT	Nursing
Owen Livingston	Deep River, CT	Sport Management
Boden Mann	York, ME	Mechanical Engineering
Glen Paglierani	Wakefield, MA	Management and Engineering for Manufacturing
Gilbert Prepetit	Northborough, MA	Finance
Daniel Press	Montclair, NJ	Marketing
Aaron Ramponi	Rockland, MA	Multidisciplinary Engineering
Jackson Ray	Bristol, CT	Actuarial Science - Finance
Tyler Roche	Woodbridge, CT	Finance
Julian Rodriguez	Bristol, CT	Allied Health Sciences
Michael Russo	Westwood, MA	Management and Engineering for Manufacturing
Beck Silverman	Ridgefield, CT	Communications
Chase VanDeventer	Portland, CT	Accounting

SIGEP COMMUNITY SPIRIT RUNNING HIGH at the 2026 Hartford Marathon











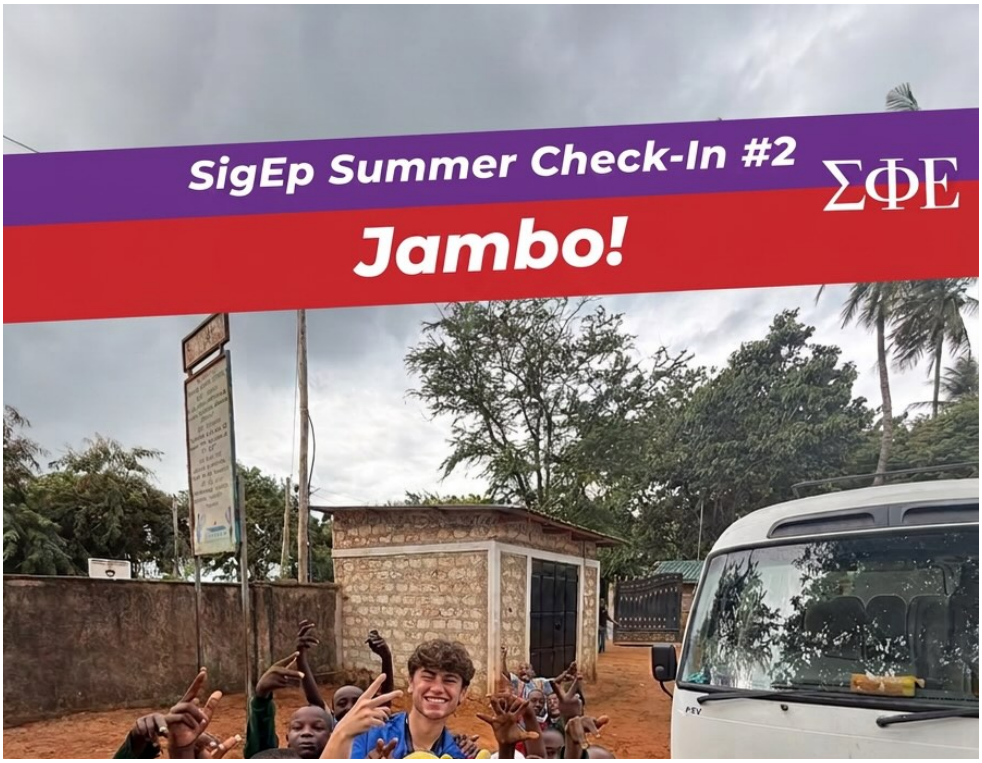
SigEp at UConn showed up in force at the 2026 Hartford Marathon, including runners, volunteers, fundraiers, and supporters.

38 Brothers, 645 Miles for Big Brothers Big Sisters

On October 10, 38 Connecticut Alpha brothers ran in the Eversource Hartford Marathon, covering about 645 combined miles across the marathon, half marathon, relay, and 5K. Together they raised $3,463 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut, SigEp's national philanthropic partner, to support one-to-one mentoring for children across the state. It was the chapter's first organized effort at the race. Twenty-three brothers also volunteered at a water station, and others staffed a chapter booth at the Finish Line Expo. The chapter hopes to make it an annual tradition.

Read the full story by Noah Arce-Caliskan '27

BROTHER PROFILE





Learning Medicine A Continent Away

Mike Uzillia ’27 took his passion for medicine to Mombasa, Kenya, this summer, spending a month shadowing physicians and teaching schoolchildren about hygiene. From hospital rotations to a safari in the Masai Mara, his experience offered new perspectives on healthcare, culture, and service.

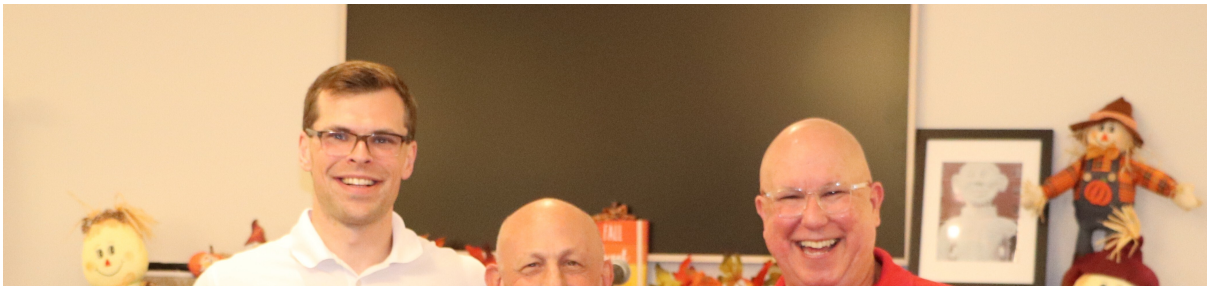
Read full story by Nate Vitorino, Connecticut '28

ALUMNI & UNDERGRAD PICNIC RECAP

Brotherhood Across Generations

An early-season nor’easter couldn’t dampen Connecticut Alpha’s spirit! Brothers gathered September 26 to celebrate the chapter’s 70th anniversary with Grand President David Calderon. Highlights included Steve Chaneles ’83 receiving the Exemplary Service Award, Hall of Fame inductions for Jerry Dallas ’70 and Wade Medlar ’80, and music from the Sabbs Brothers band. Relive the celebration and enjoy photos from the day.

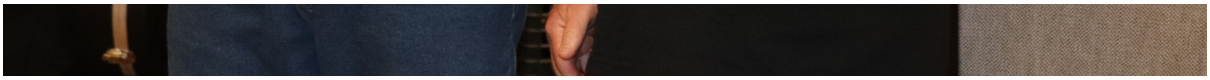
Read the full story and view photos





During the ceremonies, Steve Chaneles '83 was honored with SigEp's second highest award - the Exemplary Service Award. (From R-L) Presenting the award was David Calderon, Grand President, Cal Poly-Pomona '88, Steve Chaneles, and Van Augur '20 - SigEp at UConn's current AVC President. The award is given to those brothers who have devoted more than twenty years of service to SigEp and made a significant and lasting impact for the betterment of the Fraternity.





Also honored during the ceremonies were Jerry Dallas '70 and Wade Medlar '81. They were inducted into the Connecticut Alpha Alumni Hall of Fame for their long-time service to the chapter and various personal and professional accomplishments.



No SigEp event would be complete without honoring our SigEp Sweethearts. From L-R - Amanda Gunn, Jackie Estes, Rebecca Welte, Fran Flynn, Amy Killeen, Margaret Szerejko, and Jane Moreno.





Thank you to Vinny Piselli '86 (L) and Bill Gunn '88 (R) for sharing their amazing musical talents during the event.



Celebrating our brotherhood from L-R are Jim Moreno '86, Paul Langella '87, Rick Baran '86, Tom Birmingham '86, Jerry Dallas '70, Angelo Tebano ' 84, Dave Estes '84, Bill Wivell '85, Mike Kotulich '85, Paul Leonardo '87, Harry Vlandis '83, Ron Nault '84, and Steve Jason '83.





Celebrating from the 70's from L-R are **XX**, Jim Szerejko '71, Margaret Szerejko, and **XX**.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Wayne Stiles '64 is retired living in Raleigh, NC with wife Patricia. Fast approaching 85 years of age, Wayne is a former Naval Officer/Aviator (1964-1969) and retired Special Agent of the FBI (1970-1992). He also served as Security Director, SunTrust Bank/Miami. Wayne reports that he is in good health while residing near son Robert and his two grandchildren. Anyone passing through or visiting, give us a shout. wfspi@outlook.com

Wade Medlar '80 and his wife, Elaine, recently celebrated the arrival of their new granddaughter, Payton Lorraine Pall. Congratulations to the happy grandparents!

BROTHER MENTOR CHALLENGE CAPSTONE

SigEp for

Help Launch the Next Chapter of SigEp For Life in Boston

SigEp at UConn will bring undergraduate leaders and alumni together in Boston January 8–10, 2027, for the inaugural Brother Mentor Challenge Capstone. This is the culminating stage of the Balanced Man Program. Brothers will present project ideas that make a lasting contribution to Connecticut Alpha, and selected alumni will mentor them through the spring at about one hour per month.

We need alumni help with host venues, event logistics and planning, alumni outreach, and sponsorships.

Read the full story **Take the Alumni Interest Survey**

THANK YOU

SigEp UCONN

Heartfelt Thanks to Our Generous Donors!!!!

We recognize and thank all the donors listed below who contributed to our fundraising appeals since the 2024 Biennial Reunion Picnic. Please forgive us if we missed or misspelled your name.

The chapter's continued success and our efforts to keep our SigEp at UConn community connected would not be possible without your generous support!

Walter Anderson
Michael Antonini
Kari Augur
Van Augur
Mike Baldassari
Richard Baranowski
Bobb Barile
Tom Birmingham
John Brangaccio
Robert Butler
Larry Carboni
Scott Carr
Christopher Chadbourne
Steve Chaneles
Eugene Choung
Lou Crisci
Jerry Dallas
Paul DeAngelis
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David Estes
Ray Fernandes
Bob Flynn
Brian Gallagher
Bill Gunn
Ralph Hedenberg
Chip Hunziker
Adam Kajzer
Steven Kiel
Jay Kogan
Steve Jason
Ethan Lovallo
William Marvin
Wade Medlar
Scott Mitchell
James Moreno
Eric Muschlitz
Ron Nault
Bill Oldach
Giles Packer
Vincent Piselli
Jeffrey Russek
John Santa
Chad Stewart
Vic Tohak
Jack Wayert
Paul Welte
Jonathan Wharton
Bill Wivell
Tom Zalewski
Craig Zettergren
George Zitnay

SEEKING ALUMNI UPDATES

We want to hear from you! This is often the most viewed section of our newsletter. Please send us updates about births, deaths, career, travel, hobbies, reunions, etc. to speaconn@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Conclave Announcement



SigEp's 60th Grand Chapter Conclave

Planning has already begun for the next biennial Conclave to be held in Phoenix, AZ July 21-25, 2027. This "odd-year event" typically draws around 1,200 people, including a large contingent of Connecticut Alpha members. If you have never been, then mark your calendars. It's a long weekend of brotherhood, celebration, and fun! Click here for details.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

CHAPTER ETERNAL



Alexander Brenton DeFrancesco
November 24, 1988 - August 3, 2026

SigEp at UConn and the Connecticut Alpha AVC are saddened to share the passing of Renaissance Brother Alex Defranceso. The younger brother of three Connecticut Alphas, Alex was a good friend of AVC volunteers Jonathan Wharton and Van Augur, and frequently hosted the chapter's executive-board retreat at his establishment in Northford. In recognition of his devotion to SigEp, the chapter initiated him into the renaissance of brotherhood in 2024.

Eternal rest grant unto our departed brother, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Donate

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

CT Alpha AVC
c/o Larry Carboni
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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