SPEACONN

The SigEp @ UCONN Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

SUMMER 2026

SAVE THE DATE
September 26, 2026

Alumni-Undergraduate Reunion Picnic









Please join us at Wickham Park in Manchester, CT, on Saturday, September 26, 2026, for our biennial Alumni-Undergraduate Reunion Picnic. This event is held during even, non-Conclave years. Additional details to follow.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Brothers & Friends,

Just like that, and another academic year has come and gone. Our undergraduate Brothers are off for the summer, and I hope you all are finding time for recreation and rejuvenation (and, for those south of the Mason-Dixon line, air conditioning). Thanks to continued commitment across the board, SigEp at UConn remains as strong as ever. For the first time since I've been around, the chapter will be starting the school year at over 100 men strong, yet still sport an impressive 3.5+ GPA (to the undergraduates who have scrolled this far down, congratulations—but please keep it up!).

On the alumni and volunteer side, I want to express my thanks to both Andy Kelly Arkansas '00, our chapter counselor, who has continued to step up his engagement in recent years, and Jake Daignault '25, our newly elected AVC vice president, who has helped execute a number of important functions this year while I have had my hands tied up with work. I'd also like to give Larry Carboni '86, a special shoutout for over a decade of ongoing service as AVC Treasurer.

On my end, I find myself wrapping up my time in D.C. and preparing for my long-awaited return voyage back to the northeast. To those Brothers who have paid me a visit during my two years down here, thank you! And I hope to visit many of you as I creep back up the east coast. On that note, make sure our biennial picnic is on your radar for September 26! Details about ticket sales will follow soon.

H.F. F.

Van Augur, Connecticut '20
Alumni & Volunteer Corporation President

CHAPTER UPDATE

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS





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

- Aidan Byrne, Ridgefield, CT
- Dylan Churyk, Haddam Neck, CT
- Connor Curry, Reading, PA
- Caden Elnaggar, Mooresville, NC
- Liam Fitzpatrick, Durham, CT
- Caden Green, Dover Plains, NY
- Jaden Jenkins, Mount Laurel, NJ
- Aidan Licata, Newtown, CT
- Jacob Lucas, Watertown, CT
- Mark Lumpinski, Trumbull, CT
- Preston Mennone, Durham, CT
- Ramin Mirzaee, Cheshire, CT
- Ricky O'Connor, Bethel, CT
- Nick Oliveri, Scottsdale, AZ
- Nasir Page, Tampa, FL
- Nick Roman, Ridgefield, CT





CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF '26

With great pride, the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation welcomes our outstanding Class of 2026 to the alumni ranks. Well done thy good and faithful servants!

- Alex Adamo, East Longmeadow, MA (Environmental Engineering)
- Henry Belliveau, Wellington, New Zealand (Economics)
- Dylan Burke, Concord, MA (Electrical Engineering)
- Ethan Carty, Fairfield, CT (Data Science & Engineering)
- Ray Consiglio, New Fairfield, CT (Psychological Sciences, Human Development, Family Sciences, Prelaw)
- Zach Corporale, Glastonbury, CT (Finance)
- Nathan Croke, Lexington, MA (Civil Engineering)
- Tommy Gotskowski, Litchfield, CT (Business Management)
- Drew Harrington, Melrose, MA (Finance)
- Ryan Hornish, Glen Rock, NJ (Civil Engineering)
- Joe Konstante, Melrose, MA (Finance)
- Sam Mason, New Haven, CT (Environmental Engineering)
- Thomas Nero, Averill Park, NY (Marketing)
- Justin Ortiz, Fairfield, CT (Finance)
- Alex Reilly, Glastonbury, CT (Computer Science & Engineering)
- Dan Root, Northborough, MA (Film & Video Production)
- Connor Shaw, Suffield, CT (Computer Science)
- Hunter Victorio, Arcadia, CA (Business Management)
- Ryan Witty, Wilton, CT (Psychology)

SIGEP WINS TOP UCONN GREEK HONORS



At UConn's Greek Life Arete Awards ceremony in April, CT Alpha was named the 2025 UConn Chapter of the Year. This honor reflects the hard work, leadership, and brotherhood that define SigEp at UConn. It’s a goal the chapter had been chasing, and they are proud to have achieved it together.

2026 CARLSON AWARDS, RUCK SCHOLARS, AND TRAGOS QUEST TO GREECE SCHOLAR

SigEp at UConn Again Shines on both the National and Local Stages

SigEp at UConn continued its award-winning performance during 2025-2026. At the Carlson Leadership Academy in January, the chapter received the **Donald C. McCleary Award for Excellence in Member Development** and the **Excelsior Award for Academics**. For the third consecutive year, the Alumni & Volunteer Corporation received the **Sunago Award for Excellence in Mentorship**. The AVC also received the **Operational Excellence Award** for excellence in core areas of operation: mentoring undergraduates, alumni cultivation, asset management, and corporate health.

Chapter president **Noah Arce-Caliskan '27** was selected as a **Tragos Quest to Greece Schola**r. **Jack Nachtygal '28** and **Nikholas Torres '27**, chapter vice president of recruitment, were selected to attend the **Ruck Leadership Academy**. And **Zach Corporale '26**, former vice president of communications, received the **J. Edward Zollinger Outstanding Senior award**.

The year culminated with the chapter being recognized locally as **UConn's IFC Fraternity Chapter of the yea**r.

Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the continued success of SigEp at UConn!

Read more here: https://connecticut.sigep.org/blog/connecticut-alpha-wraps-up-2025-2026-with-national-and-local-awards/

ALUMNI UPDATE

The following are updates on our fellow brothers.

Dr. Thomas "TJ" Acquista '22 completed his dental training at the UConn School of Medicine in May, earning his Doctor of Dental Medicine degree. TJ will be continuing his training starting in July at the University of Florida's Advanced Education in General Dentistry (AEGD) located in Tampa, Florida.

Louis Crisci '21 married his SigEp Sweetheart Addie Lotito on May 16, 2026.

Van Augur '20 completed service as a law clerk for a justice of the United States Supreme Court and looks forward to new professional and personal adventures this fall.

George Andrews '19 married his SigEp sweetheart Haley Stein in a ceremony on Horsebarn Hill which garnered feature coverage in the summer 2026 issue of UConn Magazine. https://magazine.uconn.edu/2026/06/11/some-picnic/

Dr. Matthew Lin '18 completed his medical training at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in New York City, earning his M.D. and Ph.D. in cancer immunology.

Luke Maloney '18 and his wife Bianca welcomed their son, Wesley David Maloney, born March 6, 2026. Wesley shares his middle name and a birthday with his maternal grandfather David. Wesley got his head start as a potential SigEp legacy when he made an appearance in dad's arms during the quarterly Alumni & Volunteer Corporation meeting in April.

Chris Chadbourne '88 was elected to the UConn Foundation's Board of Directors.

Mike Baldassari '87 was the lighting designer for Spinal Tap II: The End Continues and for portions of Marty Supreme.

Tom Birmingham '86 was appointed to the Advisory Board of UConn's Eversource Energy Center within The Institute of Environment and Energy.

Wade Medlar '80 retired from his post as general manager for Pavestone/Quikrete managing manufacturing locations in Missouri. Wade's diverse career started in IT designing and writing manufacturing software. He transitioned to work within the Lawn & Garden industry for the last 33 years where he managed companies that manufactured and sold products to retail and commercial customers. Wade was president of the Fiskars US Lawn & Garden business in Madison, WI and later, president of the Anchor Block Company in Minnetonka, MN. "My experiences working to recharter CT Alpha's chapter in '79 was the best education I could have had," he said. "I made mistakes and hopefully learned from them. Working with people to successfully achieve a goal stayed with me and became fundamental in any success I had in my career. As an undergrad, my time in Sigma Phi Epsilon and with my brothers was invaluable, and as it turns out, it is a lifelong experience."





Here is one proud father, Luke Maloney '18, with his baby boy, Wesley.

FACULTY FELLOW SPOTLIGHT: SARIRA MOTAREF



UConn Magazine Spotlights SigEp Faculty Fellow Dr. Sarira Motaref

SigEp at UConn Faculty Fellow Dr. Sarira Motaref was the focus of a feature article in the summer 2026 issue of UConn Magazine. https://magazine.uconn.edu/2026/06/11/ce-2110-applied-mechanics-i/. Since joining the chapter's advising team several years ago, Dr. Motaref has been an invaluable source of support for SigEp at UConn. This feature article highlights her own academic and professional journey, her contributions to civil engineering knowledge, and her engaged teaching style which makes her a student favorite. The brothers of Connecticut Alpha are grateful for having the opportunity to collaborate with such an outstanding faculty member and caring person. Congratulations Dr. Motaref for this well-deserved recognition!

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.

UCONN NATION TRAVELS TO TWO FINAL FOURS

UConn Nation was out in force as the Huskies went to both the Men's and Women's NCAA Final Four tournaments in Indianapolis, IN, and Phoenix, AZ, respectively. While neither team brought home the trophy, we were once again reminded why Storrs, CT, is the college basketball capital of the world!



UConn Alumni in Indy: L-R: Eric Muschlitz '92, Steve Chaneles '83, Harry Vlandis '83, Dave Estes '84, Barry Musco '86, Ron Nault '84.





UConn Undergrads in Indy: L-R: Alejandro Reilly '26, Nathan Croke '26, Jacob Lucas '27, Charlie Joiner '28, Tristan Mooney '28, Aidan Byrne '29, Hunter Victorio '26, Will Angelou '28



UConn Alums in Phoenix: L-R: Tom Birmingham '86 with his SigEp Sweetheart Amy Killeen '87.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We were saddened by the news of the passing of **Brian R. Cheatham** '86 on May 1, 2025, following a brief hospitalization. He was born June 6,1962, and was the younger of two sons of Harold E. and V. Arlene Tabb Cheatham, of Clemson, SC. Brian attended public schools in Holland Patent, NY, Cleveland Heights, OH, and New London, CT. After attending UConn, where he joined Sigma Phi Epsilon, he transferred to Pennsylvania State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Integrated Arts. Brian moved to LA to pursue a career in the Performance Arts, including Acting, and Print and Media modeling. Early-on he held minor roles in stage productions hosted at Los Angeles Music Center's Mark Taper Forum and Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Consistent with the industry and early career trajectories, Brian captured print model assignments for major corporation advertisements including: Kodak, Morongo Casinos, Kaiser-Permanente and Keurig. During a related career stage he was employed in the major mens' fashion promotion industry, working with Magic International, staffing semiannual trade shows. At the time of his death, Brian was employed in direct sales of men's wear at Canali. His warm smile and kind heart will be missed.



ALUMNI CALENDAR

2026 SigEp Open Golf Tournament. All are welcome to participate in this year's annual golf tournament being held September 27, 2026.

- When: 10:00 am
- Where: Portland Golf Club, 169 Bartlett Street, Portland, CT
- Questions and confirmation: email Paul Summers at paulsum06790@yahoo.com

CT Alpha Alumni-Undergraduate Reunion Picnic. Please join us at Wickham Park in Manchester, CT, on Saturday, September 26, 2026, for a fun-filled day of laughter, good food, networking, and lively entertainment. Invitations and details to this event will be emailed later this summer.

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.





In Search of Mini CT Alpha Composites

As our chapter celebrates the seventieth anniversary of our founding as the Connecticut Alpha chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, the walls of the chapter house find themselves overflowing with composites. To help make space for the next seven decades of composites, we're kicking off a multi-year effort to downsize many of the hanging composites to mini composites.

To help with that effort, we are asking readers to dig through their old memorabilia and pass along any mini composites they might have (or scans or copies, if they do not want to part ways with these mementos!)

Contact Van and speaconn@gmail.com to coordinate your contribution.

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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