



MU COW

Newsletter of the Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi

July 8, 2024 • Volume VI • Issue I



Welcome to all Brothers of AEPi Mu

By Daniel Sitrin, Alumni Relations Chair '26

I hope all of you and your families are doing well! I'm Daniel Sitrin, a rising third-year brother and our chapter's Alumni Relations Chair. I, along with several executive board and minor board members, worked hard to put together this Mu Cow alumni newsletter. This 2024 edition is extra special as we prepare to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the founding of the Mu chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity at The University of Virginia! Our centennial celebration will occur on October 4th & 5th (Friday & Saturday) which is the same weekend as Homecomings, YAR (Young Alumni Reunions), and the football game vs. Boston College on the 5th. We will email you details about the weekend's events in the near future.

There is plenty to highlight in this newsletter from year 99 of the Mu chapter, but first I will quickly recap last year's alumni weekend. We hosted a Friday night formal at the house for alumni and their families to mingle with undergraduate brothers. On Saturday, we hosted a morning tailgate at The Georgia O'Keeffe House (our satellite house) at 1212 Wertland St. near The Corner. We then enjoyed watching UVA get its first win of the season vs. William & Mary at Scott Stadium. This year, we are thrilled to host a similar weekend of fun events for the Centennial.

Fall 2024 Officers

Master:	Ethan Schwartz	Social Chairs:	Zach Palazzotto & Darren Amona
Lieutenant Master:	Ned Kronenberg	House Manager:	Landon Jones
Rush Chairs:	Jonah Wilentz & Eli Beaubien	Exchequer:	Ezra Thau
Sentinel:	Nikolai Kosinski	Scribe:	Justin Lewis



All of us extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who has donated to our [Alpha Epsilon Pi alumni UVA Fund](#) and to this past year's philanthropy efforts to support [The Heart Family Fund at UVA Health Children's Heart Center](#). Your generous donations to our UVA Fund paid for the reproduction of missing composites spanning six decades, and over the years they have helped pay for needed capital improvements, house repairs and maintenance that exceeded our annual budget. Prior to '23, your contributions were most needed to help cover these large expenditures.

However, in the past two years, the greatest and most pressing financial challenge facing our chapter is the affordability of our membership dues. Because of factors beyond our control, our dues are higher than ever and will amount to \$3,000 for '24-'25. That's alarmingly higher than other fraternities. Our high membership costs both negatively affect our ability to recruit new members during rush and our ability to retain brothers. In addition to consistent large increases in the payments owed to AEPi International Headquarters, the main reason for our very high dues is that Esponda Associates (the property management arm of nationals) mandates that we pay them \$30,000 annually for a repairs & maintenance (R & M) budget. This 50% increase from this past year occurred because the house had very expensive R & M costs the past several years. This included multiple costly roof repairs and replacing expensive infrastructure such as a furnace, hot water heater, air conditioner compressors, and an air mover. It's our hope they will eventually allow a decrease in our R & M budget which would allow us to reduce dues, but that is unknown and beyond our control. The majority of dues are budgeted for new member recruitment and house repairs & maintenance. Of the 30,000 we'll be required to pay Esponda annually for R&M, 20,000 will be paid to them from dues, and \$10,000 will be via a rent increase to brothers living in the house. If the brothers who live in the house had to bear the full \$30,000 cost (instead of \$10,000) for the R & M budget, rent would be unaffordable. We would fail to meet minimum occupancy which would cause us to lose our house of 60+ years, and our chapter would likely fold.

For the purpose of reducing the high cost of our fraternity dues to help ensure the long term survival of your Mu Chapter, we are excited to announce a Centennial Capital Campaign to create a dues scholarship fund. It will be used to help prospective and current brothers with financial needs to afford membership by subsidizing a portion of their dues. We are setting an ambitious goal to raise \$100,000 for the scholarship fund which would help meet the financial needs for membership for many years to come. With your help,



we can celebrate this momentous occasion in our history by funding a campaign that would increase the inclusivity and financial health of our chapter for years to come. Your generous donations will directly help us retain all of our members and recruit even more brothers each year who embody our Chapter's principles, ensuring the future prosperity of it for years to come at UVA.

Dr. Adam Salzberg (Mu '98 and chapter advisor) spoke with Sean Calendar at Alumni Hall. Sean is the UVA Fund's associate director for client relations. Alumni Hall has given their long term approval for us to use our UVA Fund for the purpose of providing scholarships to help pay membership dues. As always, all requested fund disbursements by our chapter must be approved by Dr. Salzberg. To donate to our [AEPi alumni UVA Fund](#), select "Alpha Epsilon Pi" from the "Designation" drop down menu. All donations to our UVA Fund are considered a donation to The University of Virginia. After making a donation, you will immediately receive a tax receipt by email from the UVA Alumni Association. The receipt will include the statements "No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution. Please retain this receipt for tax purposes. Consult your tax advisor to see how tax rules apply to you."

We do not want our high cost of dues to prevent prospective or current brothers from becoming or remaining Mu chapter brothers. We want our chapter and its membership to continue to thrive. We greatly appreciate your generosity in advance. If you would like to contact me for any reason, you can call 703-424-4722 or email aepiuvaalumni@gmail.com. If you missed last year's Mu Cow edition, you can find it on our website [here](#). We look forward to seeing you and your families for our centennial celebration in October!

From the Desk of the Master

By Ethan Schwartz, Master '26

Dear Brothers,

I hope you are all doing well. My name is Ethan Schwartz, and I am very grateful to have the privilege of serving as Brother Master of our chapter this year. I have just about completed the first half of my yearlong term, and I cannot express how great it has been to lead and work with this amazing group of young men. The experience I have gained, pride I have felt, and most of all, the brotherly relationships I have deepened in my service for this fraternity have been truly invaluable. I am incredibly proud of the success of our



chapter and its members, and I am confident that we will continue to prosper.

First and foremost, I wanted to congratulate the members of our fraternity who recently graduated this May (and at the end of the fall semester). This fantastic group of men, many of whom went through much of their college and AEPi experience during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, have, nevertheless, contributed immensely to the fraternity in the last four years. Their hard work inside and outside of the classroom has earned them fantastic prospects. We are proud to be sending these new young alumni off to graduate school, opportunities abroad, and to positions in technology, finance, and politics. We will miss having them around and wish them the best of luck as they enter new, exciting chapters of their lives.

I am also incredibly grateful to welcome a new promising group of men into the Fraternity, the Nu Pledge Class. Thanks to the diligent and hard work from last year's rush chairs Robby Lefkowitz and Logan Wasserman along with efforts and input from the entire brotherhood, we are thrilled to welcome 17 bright, fun, and brotherly new members to the Chapter. This wonderful group excellently embodies the values of AEPi. They have been a joy to have in the Fraternity this last semester, and I am confident that they will continue to embody the values of our Chapter.

This last year has seen great strides for our chapter. Through ticket sales to our annual "Foam Darty" philanthropy event, a pie-in-the face fundraiser, and our Chick-Fil-A philanthropy partnership in the fall we were able continue our generous support of the UVA Heart Family Fund. In addition to our philanthropic efforts, the Chapter also earned the highest Inter Fraternity Council GPA for the past two semesters running. Furthermore, brothers continued their extracurricular success providing service and leadership throughout all of UVA Grounds.

That being said, there were some significant challenges that the Chapter faced last semester. A temporary suspension of Greeklike and increasing campus tensions surrounding Israel certainly posed difficulties for our chapter and brothers. But during these hard times, we remained more united than ever. Through group discussions, guest speakers, and the intimate brotherhood we have cultivated, all our members received support from each other, and the Chapter left these hard times in a stronger place than ever. I am very proud of how each and every one of us handled this difficult environment and relied on each other to get through it.

Finally, I would like to reach out to all of you to ask for support in our Centennial Capital Campaign. As a brotherhood, we wanted to use this momentous occasion to make a positive lasting change for our



chapter. For this reason, as mentioned above by our Alumni Chair Daniel Sitrin, this year's donations will go towards the creation of a Dues Scholarship Fund that will help provide need-based financial assistance for our prospective and current brothers. Among many other benefits, this will increase the inclusivity of our chapter, aid in the recruitment of new members for whom the financial burden of dues is a big worry, and help alleviate the chapter of the financial burdens caused by inflation and an increase of our housing costs. If you have any questions about donations, please feel free to reach out to me, Daniel, or Dr. Adam Salzberg, and I thank you all in advance for your generosity.

With that being said, the future of the Mu Chapter is as bright as ever, and I cannot wait to continue being a part of the success of our chapter both during and following my term as Brother Master. Thank you for taking the time to stay updated with our chapter, and I hope to see some of you at our Alumni Formal this fall.

Fraternally,
Ethan Schwartz

Brotherhood Update & Philanthropy Recap

By Ned Kronenberg, Lieutenant Master '26

This past semester, it was my privilege to serve as the Lieutenant Master of the Mu chapter. In this role, I oversee the minor board, brotherhood events and the chapter's philanthropic activities, in addition to



Mexican Champions Ollie and Nikolai

serving on the chapter's executive board.

I am proud to announce another successful semester of brotherhood events. Our wonderful brotherhood committee worked hard to produce many events this year, including our annual camping trip, super bowl party, a die tournament, and the Mexican (postponed from the fall). Congratulations to Ollie Davidorf and Nikolai Kosinski, who put on a dominant performance in the Mexican this year. We were also able to add in extra brotherhood events in the wake of an IFC wide suspension of social events in March. The camping trip was a highlight, where we returned to Camp Holiday Trails, a beautiful retreat closeby to UVA, for an



amazing time filled with brotherhood bonding. I am grateful to have made so many lifelong brotherhood memories.

We also had an amazing semester of philanthropy. Once again, we spent the semester fundraising for The Heart Family Fund at UVA Children's Hospital, which helps families with children at the hospital meet their financial needs. This includes helping families with housing, food, and travel expenses while their children receive life saving treatment. We are happy to announce that we raised over \$2400 for the fund this past semester. Our annual philanthropy foam darty was instrumental in raising this money. Our amazing social chairs worked extremely hard to help put on this event, where we sold tickets for each entry and additional tickets through our "Pie a Pi" stand, where anyone could make an additional donation to pie a brother in the face.



Foam Darty at O'Keefe House

I am thankful for our amazing brotherhood that made this semester so special. It was great to welcome our newest members, the Nus, but hard to say goodbye to our graduating members. The Kappas and Lambdas have been great role models and provided for the greatest of memories. I greatly enjoyed serving the chapter this semester, and I look forward to working with our amazing minor board and executive board next semester.

Meet the Nu Pledge Class

By Billy Silver, Lambda Pledge Class President '27

Yet again, the Mu Chapter has expanded, as 17 new members are ready to prove why the Nu Pledge Class is the best to date. While we have only been around for a few short months, we are off to a fast start, making our mark as brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

We call ourselves "Alvin and the Chipmunks," and since January, we have operated as ONE team, proving that a brotherhood can accomplish anything together. In a single semester, we planned our own brotherhood event, chopped down a forest of bamboo, and went to the beach not once but twice. Although our herd met each other during an awkward exchange of events after bid day, we have developed a bond of



The Nus on a sunrise Humpback hike

friendship bound to last a lifetime. Whether it be a 15-minute walk to 1702 Grady or a 10-hour car drive to Myrtle Beach, we will do anything to spend time with each other.

Moreover, we are dedicated to making a positive impact on the fraternity. In the past month, we collaborated to design and paint a counter in the house. We are also in the process of constructing a stage. The Nu Pledge Class is not just making its mark within the fraternity but also across UVA. Our class

includes Dean's List honorees, a UVA tour guide, and a member of the Engineering Student Council. Others are part of prestigious business and academic clubs, aiming for admission into McIntire School of Commerce, Batten School of Leadership, and law school. The Nus are also actively participating within the Brotherhood, with several already interested in serving on the executive board.

Our dedication extends beyond the fraternity. Many members of the Nu Pledge Class are actively involved in the Jewish Community at UVA, a testament to our commitment and connection. Twelve Nus hail from Jewish backgrounds, and many are active members of UVA's Hillel, further strengthening our ties with the community.

All 17 Nus are disappointed that the semester is ending, but we are thrilled to take the next step as brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi. While we are sad to see the 4th years graduate, we look forward to keeping in touch with them as they pursue the next chapter of their lives. In addition to the Kappas, we would like to thank the Lambdas and the Mus for welcoming us with open arms. These mentors have shown us what brotherhood truly means as continue to embark on our journey.

The Status of 1702 Grady Ave.

By Jason Simon, Former House Manager '25

This year, the chapter made many improvements to the house, despite several major challenges. During the first few weeks of the school year, our upstairs AC broke and a major leak in our sewage line was discovered, forcing all 12 house brothers to temporarily move to a nearby hotel while these systems were repaired. Despite these challenges, the condition of the house has greatly improved over the past year. Last



House Brothers Dinner at the Graduate

summer, a major renovation took place where the ceiling, toilets, and the fire escape were repaired or replaced. Over the school year, the chapter continued to improve the house by fixing leaks in the roof and a broken flagstone on the front step. We have also improved security around the house, installing Ring cameras around the perimeter of the house and an electric lock on the back door. Additionally, the recently donated

composites are now proudly displayed around the house. There is still much work to be done, but our newly elected house manager, Landon Jones, is well equipped to continue to improve the house and deal with new challenges as they arise.

Volunteering in the Community

By Zac Simonoff, Civic Engagement Chair '26

This Past academic year, through various volunteer and civic engagement efforts, the brotherhood has once again proved to be a pillar of the greater Charlottesville community. I am proud and honored to highlight some of the exemplary work that our brothers have done recently.

Acting as a Samaritan while furthering his academic interest in medicine, Brother Daniel Sitrin volunteers at the University Hospital, manning the ER reception desk. He also actively participates in Remote Area Medical (RAM), an organization dedicated to providing quality healthcare to underserved communities. Sitrin's commendable endeavors of clinic volunteering, fundraising, and running in the RAM 5k inspired members of the brotherhood to contribute to this cause.

Harnessing his entrepreneurial spirit, Brother Jonah Wilentz founded the values-driven enterprise YellowRed, a mobile application that encourages proactive safety on college campuses. In conversation with the University Judicial Committee, sorority organizations, and UVA

president Jim Ryan, Jonah is addressing the widespread concern around campus due to recent incidents and heightened tensions. He expects to officially partner with the university in the near future to become integrated into its security infrastructure and grow his user base of 300+ students.

Throughout the past year, Brothers Zach Harris and Ollie Davidorf have continued to strengthen AEPI's



Zach Harris at Ranger's Refuge at Gallastar



relationship with the Ranger's Refuge at Gallastar, a nonprofit animal sanctuary located in Esmont, Virginia. Supporting over two hundred abandoned farm animals of all varieties, Zach and Ollie's notable duties included feeding the animals, cleaning their enclosures, and performing construction repairs. Thanks to their help, Gallastar is drastically improving the lives of the forgotten farm animals and promoting sustainable farming practices for the future.

Jewish Identity

By Micah Israel, Jewish Engagement Chair '26

This school year was a unique time to experience Jewish life on college campuses, but AEPi provided strong support for both our brotherhood and the broader Jewish community at UVA. AEPi brothers were at the forefront of pro-Israel activism at UVA. Eli Beaubien ('25) reestablished Wahoos for Israel, with Jake Bernstein ('27) serving on its executive board as well. With the support of nationals, we mobilized our chapter to fight hard against the BDS referendum at UVA. AEPi also continued our partnership with Hillel, sponsoring a regular Shabbat dinner and Shabbat 300, a Shabbat dinner that included all of the Jewish organizations on grounds. These programs helped reaffirm AEPi's commitment to Judaism and provided spaces for processing through community in a time where many Jewish students feel alone. AEPi brothers continue to serve in leadership in Jewish organizations, with Ned Kronenberg ('26) and Micah Israel ('26) joining Hillel's governing board for the upcoming year, and Nadav Cohen ('25) serving on Chabad's board. We look forward to continuing to be a beacon of light for the Jewish community in a time of darkness for many Jewish students on campus.



Brothers winning Hillel's "Matzo Ballin" 3v3 Basketball tournament

A Note about the Upcoming Alumni Weekend

Although we haven't finalized all of the details, AEPi Mu will host two alumni events from October 4th-5th, 2022, rain or shine. For younger alumni, these dates coincide with YAR, so we hope that you were already planning to be in town (book your flights and hotel rooms now!) and are available that weekend.

- AEPi house at 1702 Grady Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903 on the evening of Friday, October 4th



- Satellite house (“The O’Keeffe House”) at 1212 Wertland St., Charlottesville, VA 22903 during the day for a tailgate before the football game on October 5th. The time is still TBD as the game’s start time has not been set.

To help us plan, please indicate preliminarily whether you plan to attend either of these events [here](#).

Our main goal in sending out the Mu Cow is to connect with as many of you as possible. We truly want to hear about your past experiences in the Chapter, and we want to *see* them too! So, please consider sharing any pictures you still have from your time in Charlottesville or brotherhood reunions you’ve held after graduating. Additionally, to keep our alumni records up-to-date and give you a chance to ask any questions, we ask kindly that you fill out this [form](#), which we sent out last year, as well.

A Message from the Mu Chapter Advisor

I hope all of you and your families are doing well. I am extremely proud of our undergraduate brothers for their ability to conduct an outstanding rush in which they recently initiated 17 new brothers. Our chapter’s brothers continue to excel academically, in their extracurricular activities and with philanthropy. It has been a privilege to serve as our chapter advisor for the past 21 years (including as a co-advisor with Dr. Jay Levine from ’03 – ’05), and I intend to continue volunteering in this role for the foreseeable future. As a Crozet resident, it’s convenient to live only 20 minutes from our Grady Ave. house. This proximity allows me to meet in person with the executive board and other brothers as needed and to annually attend (at a minimum) and speak at chapter meetings.

I greatly appreciate in advance your past contributions to our [Alpha Epsilon Pi UVA alumni fund](#) administered by Alumni Hall to pay for the reproduction of missing composites spanning six decades, for capital improvements, and to help pay for R&M that exceeded the chapter’s budget. I also thank you in advance for your generosity for donations to our UVA Fund to support the dues scholarship fund for our Centennial Capital Campaign. I hope many of you and your families can attend our centennial celebration’s events on Oct. 4th & 5th. Feel free to contact me by phone 804-301-0771 or e-mail adam.salzberg@gmail.com

Adam Salzberg,
Chapter Advisor, Mu ‘98



Snapshots of Brotherhood Moments



Please click [here](#) to view our website!



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HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to all of our new graduates, Kappas and (some) Lambdas alike! We are grateful that each of you could finish your college careers with us. And most importantly, we are confident that each and every one of you will find success and happiness in all of your future endeavors, whatever they may be.



Graduating Kappas

<i>Sam Klein</i>	<i>Cesar Engelhard</i>
<i>Asher Friedman-Rosen</i>	<i>Ollie Davidorf</i>
<i>Spencer Horowitz</i>	<i>Andy Ringold</i>
<i>Parth Metha</i>	

Graduating Lambdas

<i>Nate Kimball*</i>	<i>Elie Syriani</i>
<i>Alec Kane</i>	

**Graduated in 3 years*

We love you endlessly and will miss you. Thank you for making our college and fraternity experiences so memorable. Whatever you're up to in the years ahead, please be sure to find time to visit C'ville. You're always welcome here.