



MU COW

Newsletter of the Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi

July 8, 2022 • Volume IV • Issue II



Welcome to all Brothers of AEPi Mu

By Aaron Miller, Alumni Relations Chair '23

Brothers — I hope you're all doing well! I'm Aaron Miller, an incoming fourth-year currently serving as the Mu Chapter's Alumni Relations Chair. The Alumni Committee and Executive Board contributors have worked hard to put together this edition of the Mu Cow, and we hope you'll give it a read to learn more about the state of the Chapter. The 2021-22 school year was, for many of us, the best year of college so far—we saw many of the events previously stripped away by Covid make a strong return, and we grew closer than ever with one another. Last October, we hosted a highly successful weekend of alumni events, complete with a Friday night formal and morning tailgate ahead of our 48-0 demolition against Duke. We're excited to announce a similar stream of events on **October 7th-8th, 2022** (with more concrete information to come). These dates coincide with YAR, so we especially hope to see our recent alumni, but all are of course encouraged to attend! Regardless of your ability to travel or attend our events in person, please feel free to connect with me to learn more about the Chapter via phone at (203) 856-8641 or email at aepiuvaalumni@gmail.com. If you missed our Spring 2021 Mu Cow for any reason, you can find it on our website [here](#). On behalf of the Chapter, I'd also like to extend my gratitude to all who donated to this year's philanthropy efforts. As you'll read soon, the event was extremely successful! Please stay in touch, and we hope you enjoy!

Fall 2022 Officers

Master:

Lieutenant Master:

Rush Chairs:

Andy Ringold

Sam Klein

Zach Garfinkel

& Todd Rissman

Social Chair:

Exchequer:

House Manager:

Scribe:

Zach Abruzzese

Cesar Engelhard

Alec Kane

Michael Murphy



From the Desk of the Master

By Andy Ringold, Master '24

Hello to all of my brothers and happy summer! I hope that you are all doing well as you read this newest issue of the Mu Cow. My name is Andy Ringold, and through the fall semester, I will be serving as Master for the Mu Chapter of Alpha Epsilon Pi. I am incredibly grateful and excited for this opportunity, and will do everything in my power to continue ensuring the safety and success of the Chapter and all of its members.

As many of you may know, we added 26 brothers to our Chapter this semester! This is the largest pledge class that this Chapter has had in recent memory. As I have started my term on a high note, I hope to continue bettering both Alpha Epsilon Pi and the Mu Chapter specifically. Having said that, there is so much more to a fraternity than its numbers. Not only did we expand our Chapter by 26 men, but we expanded our Chapter by 26 men of character, dignity, and respect. I know that each and every one of them will have a positive impact on the future of this Chapter.

On another note, the afternoon of April 9th, we held our first AEPi Mu Foam Darty. This philanthropy event, which took place in our parking lot, was filled with foam, pieing brothers in the face, and so much more. I could not be more proud to announce that we raised over \$2,600, all of which went to the UVA Heart Family Fund. You can read about this further in the Philanthropy Recap section!

The Mu Chapter has been through so much over these past few years, and each of us is proud that our effort, collaboration, and commitment to the future of this Chapter have been put on full display as our new pledge class has spent the semester acclimating to the brotherhood. COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges and situations which have required numerous brothers to step up and put the Chapter before themselves. Dating to before I became a brother, the resiliency that this Chapter has shown exemplifies how much each and every brother cares about this fraternity. Last semester, I really enjoyed the move toward a post-COVID way of life, as it was great to continue connecting with my



brothers. The bonding, passion, and dedication shown by the brotherhood over the entirety of last semester make me unsurprised by the results of this past rush and pledging cycle.

Additionally, please keep your eyes open for a fundraising opportunity starting in the coming months. Along with the rest of the brotherhood, I will be working to recover the Mu Chapter composites that we no longer have. In speaking with the company who takes our composite photos each year, Vantine Composites, it has come to my attention that they keep a record of every composite that they create. As it turns out, they have composites from our chapter going back to 1978. Over the years, many of our composites, particularly the older ones, have gone missing. I find it very important that we respect and remember the former members of our Chapter who have laid the groundwork for everything that we do today. That being said, composites are very costly and this is not something that we can even begin to pay for with current Chapter funds. We are still in the planning stages of this recovery project, so please keep this on your mind as the summer progresses.

The future of our chapter is bright, and I am excited to lead everybody through the ups and downs, the challenges and successes, and anything else that it might hold. There is much to look forward to next fall. Thank you for taking the time to read about my thoughts about the Chapter, and I will not let its members down.

Fraternally,

Andy Ringold

Brotherhood Update & Philanthropy Recap

By Sam Klein, Lieutenant Master '24

This past semester, I am privileged to have served as the Chapter's Lieutenant Master, a position newly in charge of brotherhood philanthropy. As Lieutenant Master, it has been a pleasure to work with Brother Master Andy to oversee the Chapter. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting representatives from



Nationals, many of whom I would not have had the opportunity to connect with otherwise. As head of Minor Board, I am proud to say that we were finally able to go on the brotherhood camping trip after a two-year gap in the tradition. The fourth-year Thetas—who were the only active brothers to have ever gone on the trip—were adamant that we bring it back to keep the tradition alive, and the Chapter is very glad that we did.

This semester, we were also able to run an in-person philanthropy event for the first time since the pandemic began. We hosted a Foam Darty at the house and were able to raise \$2,621.74 for the UVA Heart Family Fund, an organization run by UVA Children's Hospital Heart Center that provides underserved families with food vouchers, gas cards, lodging, and other financial necessities. The event was a lot of fun and we hope to make it an annual philanthropy event each Spring semester. I am excited to start planning philanthropy events for the fall and am confident that we can continue our fundraising momentum and meet our fall philanthropy goal of raising \$3,500 for the UVA Heart Family Fund. We will most definitely be in touch when that event approaches!

Meet the Lambda Pledge Class

By Colin Dockter, Lambda Pledge Class President '25

What do you call a group of 26 scholarly, handsome, charismatic, and Jewish men? The Lambda Pledge Class. We are proud to call ourselves the largest PC of the AEPi Mu Chapter in recent history. While one may think it difficult for such a large group to call each other brothers after only one semester, we've done it, learning to thrive together as one.

Of our expansive class, 20 are Jewish. Nate Welz is one such individual who understands how this shared culture has brought our PC closer together. He explains, "Our PC has many students who are actively involved in Hillel and other Jewish organizations around Grounds, and I think that helps contribute to our tight bond. Outside of AEPi, and aside from rigorously studying to get into the Comm



School, you can find us planning events for the whole community — and the rest of our PC — to enjoy, including a Jewish food festival, lunches with Jewish faculty, and a Purim me+3 dinner.”

In addition to a joint culture, our nicknames for one another have contributed greatly to our quick bonding. Being able to embody these nicknames gave us the opportunity to step into a new, unique identity within the brotherhood. In addition, the smiles and laughs shared over discussion of these nicknames has been great fun. When asked which member of our class had the best nickname, for example, Zachary Abraham pointed out, “Lurch, because it’s f*cking hilarious.” Conversations about nicknames and other AEPi events most frequently took place over shared meals. Jason Simon, A.K.A, “the king of O-Hill,” had this to say about eating together, “The dining halls were bussin’ this year, especially OHILL.”



Lambdas during a sunrise Humpback hike

Outside the dining halls, our pledge class has bonded over the many unique events AEPi has held. In just one semester, we celebrated the beginning of our fraternal journey at our bid day party, shared stories around the campfire on our camping trip, suited up in Nags Head for beach formal, and celebrated the completion of our first college year at Myrtle Beach. Hudson Noyes is one such Lambda who is particularly fond of beach week at Myrtle. When asked what contributed to his beach week experience, he thoughtfully explained, “we were very sober.”

As a semester of shared meals, inside jokes, and meticulously planned events comes to a close, the Lambda Pledge Class is proud to call each other brothers. It’s now our responsibility to provide the next generation of scholarly, handsome, charismatic, and Jewish men the opportunity of AEPi brotherhood, just as we’ve received it. The Lambda Pledge Class thanks those who’ve set the standard



for what brotherhood feels like, appreciates the journey we've been on, and looks forward toward the bright future of AEPi's Mu Chapter.

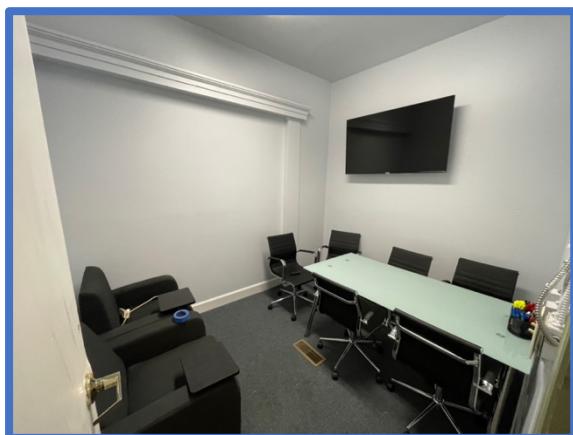
The Status of 1702 Grady Ave.

By Josh Hambrecht, Former House Manager '22

This past year has been another tough one for 1702 Grady Ave. We faced multiple floods to one of the basements, resulting in old scrapbooks and memorabilia becoming damaged. Our roof began leaking again, forcing the chapter to pay for roof repairs costing thousands of dollars. Despite constant setbacks, the Mu Chapter was able to manage repairs while providing improvements to the chapter house. As the outgoing House Manager, I was able to assist in the coordination of many of these improvement projects. We had new locks with keypad codes (pictured to the right) installed on every bedroom door. This was a much-needed security feature, providing each brother more of a guarantee to privacy in his personal space. We coordinated with Nationals to build a Study



Room in memory of Daniel Lipson, a founding father of the recharted chapter. This Study Room replaced the old utility closet, and features a flat-screen TV, 8 seats, two whiteboards, a large conference table, and a power station. Industrial shelves were installed in the laundry room to accommodate the tools moved from the old utility closet. I'm happy to pass on my role to brother Alec Kane, who is well prepared to take on this important role in our chapter.



Study room in memory of Brother Daniel
A. Lipson



Volunteering in the Community

By Zach Harris, Civic Engagement Chair '24

This past semester, various AEPi brothers have taken time out of their Sunday mornings to volunteer at the Ranger's Refuge at Gallastar. The Ranger's Refuge is a nonprofit animal sanctuary located in Esmont, owned by UVA community members Ron and Lorelei Pulliam, that works with various community members to find and take in stray animals. The Ranger's Refuge is home to hundreds of different farm animals, from horses to turkeys to cows, and the farmland these animals live on serves as a much greater alternative to the typical livelihoods of strays. Volunteers at the Ranger's Refuge will typically spend around three hours each week assisting with farm shelter repairs, cleaning animal enclosures, feeding the animals, and getting quality time with the (very friendly) shepherd dogs that protect the farm.

I personally started volunteering at the Ranger's Refuge through Madison House during my first year at UVA and now serve as the Madison House Program Director for the organization. I found that while volunteering there is a lot of grunt work, it is a very straightforward way to make a difference and serves as a productive distraction from the normal routine of schoolwork. Even the smallest of tasks on the farm have a tangibly enormous impact on the animals they concern, and anything that helps Ron and Lorelei (who both work full-time jobs outside of owning this organization) maintain their charitable efforts is worth it to me. When I became AEPi's Civic Engagement Chair, I sought to bring brothers into this organization and I am very grateful to the many who have stepped up and have helped make such a wonderful difference in our community.



Brothers at the farm



Jewish Identity

By Ben Ross, Jewish Engagement Chair '24

Hello, my name is Ben Ross and I'm currently serving as the Jewish Engagement Chair of AEPi and the Vice Chair of UVA's Hillel Leadership Board. This past semester, the brothers of AEPi continued to engage with and show leadership in our Jewish community at the University. Five of our brothers served as interns with the Brody Jewish Center Hillel, helping to hold events and welcome new Jewish students to Grounds. Our new Lambda pledge class was active in our Jewish community from the get-go, with multiple newly initiated brothers participating in the Hillel Jewish Leadership program for first years, and five of them accepting internship positions for next year. Following in the footsteps of recently graduated brother Jacob Borenstein, I have been elected to the Vice Chair position of Hillel's Jewish Leadership Advisory Board and I'm extremely excited to serve our Jewish community.

Last semester, AEPi celebrated Hanukkah by lighting menorah candles, reciting prayers, and eating delicious sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts) and latkes. Our Swag Chair, Isaac Leifert, designed a unique AEPi Hanukkah sweater that brothers from around the country ordered to celebrate the holiday. Academically,

AEPi continues to engage with Judaic culture. Fifteen brothers, myself included, took

Jewish history classes with professors such as James Loeffler, a friend to many brothers, and Jewish religious classes with professors Vanessa Ochs and Asher Biemann.

In the community, brothers continue to engage in Israeli clubs such as TAMID Group—an Israeli consulting and



Scenes from the Brotherhood Shabbat in the fall



investment organization led by brothers Ethan Gimbel, Aaron Miller, Charlie Healy, and Nadav Cohen—and Hoos for Israel. Additionally, a large group of brothers had planned to travel to Israel in December for Birthright, but the trip was unfortunately cancelled as a result of increasing Covid cases. Brother Zach Harris and I actually just returned home from our Birthright trip, and many of the brothers who've been waiting to go are planning to do so this December. The photo to the right pictures Zach and me on the Menara kibbutz during our trip.



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 7th-8th, 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 7th
- Satellite house ("The O'Keeffe House") at 1212 Wertland St., Charlottesville, VA 22903 during the day for a tailgate before the football game (details TBA)

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

By Dr. Adam Salzberg, Mu '98

I hope all of you and your families are doing well. I am extremely proud of our undergraduate brothers for conducting an outstanding rush this spring and recently initiating 26 new brothers. To my knowledge, that's the largest pledge class in our Chapter's recent (or possibly entire) history. 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 19 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.

In the July '21 Mu Cow, we kicked off a \$50,000 capital campaign led by the brothers and with my assistance. Since then, 22 Mu alumni have donated \$5,230 to our UVA Fund. That total includes a \$2,600 donation I made on June 10th, which means that 21 of our alums donated a total of \$2,630. We greatly appreciate their generosity. So, our remaining capital campaign goal is \$44,770. Any and all donations are helpful.

As many of you know, UVA's Alumni Association administers our [Alpha Epsilon Pi UVA Alumni Fund](#). Our fund's purpose is to assist our Chapter by helping pay for repairs, maintenance, and capital improvements that exceed their budget and reserves. All donations are considered tax-deductible gifts to the University of Virginia. I am obligated to approve any disbursement requests by the House Manager or Executive Board, and Alumni Hall requires receipts. Also, no one at AEPi national headquarters has access to or control over our alumni fund. UVA's Alumni Association donation website is <https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/21200/donations>, so please follow that URL if the hyperlink above does not work. Under "Designation", scroll down and select "Alpha Epsilon Pi."



Our Grady Ave. house (and many other AEPi chapter houses) is part of the corporate entity “University Chapter Fraternal Home Corporation” owned by nationals. Our lessor and property management company is [Esponda Associates](#). Before the fall of ‘18, Esponda Associates funded all repairs and maintenance (R & M) as part of rent. This arrangement caused our housing costs to rise substantially above market rates and become unaffordable. In the spring of ‘18, we negotiated a new housing agreement with Esponda that gave our Chapter the control to fund and pay for R & M with a required \$15,000 annual R & M budget. To lower rent and keep housing costs in line with market rates, the annual R & M budget was (and continues to be) funded with an increase in dues to all brothers. Since all brothers use the house, it’s fair that everyone contributes to its upkeep.

In 2019, our house had two flooding events from torrential rains that caused over \$11,000 in damages which required expensive repairs to a heat pump and the need to purchase a new furnace, gas tankless water heater, and sump pump. Our alumni fund was depleted by helping to pay for those repairs. Any repair, maintenance, or capital improvement expense that exceeds the chapter’s ability to pay via house funds and our alumni fund is paid with what Esponda Associates calls “trustee cash.” This is an interest-bearing, home equity line of credit held by nationals. Borrowing trustee cash increases our housing costs. In a worst-case scenario, borrowing large amounts of trustee cash would cause our leases to far exceed market rates, resulting in brothers being unable to afford to live in our house. This would cause us to lose our house, and our Chapter would fold. Our current mortgage balance is \$350,000, and our trustee balance is \$99,805 for a total of \$449,805 owed to nationals.

Achieving our remaining capital campaign goal of \$44,770 will prevent our Chapter from borrowing more trustee cash from nationals. This will help keep our housing costs affordable and competitive with on- and off-Grounds housing. Your donations will also allow the brotherhood to accomplish its goal of replacing all missing composites dating back to 1978. That is the oldest composite that [Vantine](#) can reproduce.



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We thank you very much in advance for your financial support of your Mu Chapter with your tax-deductible donations to the University of Virginia via our [Alpha Epsilon Pi UVA Alumni Fund](#). I hope many of you and your families can come to Charlottesville for the Oct. 7th homecomings weekend, including events for Mu alumni and the football game vs. Louisville. I look forward to a fun weekend with all of you.

Fraternally,

Adam Salzberg

Chapter Advisor, Mu '98

*We hope you enjoyed reading through this edition of the Mu Cow.
Please continue to the next page for photos!*

Please click [here](#) to join the Mu Alumni Facebook group and [here](#) to view our website!



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Snapshots of Brotherhood Moments



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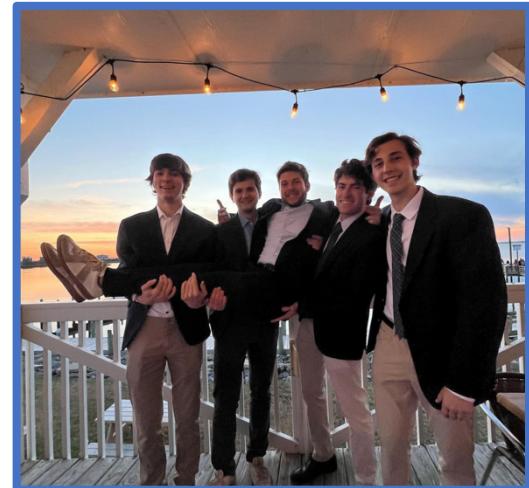
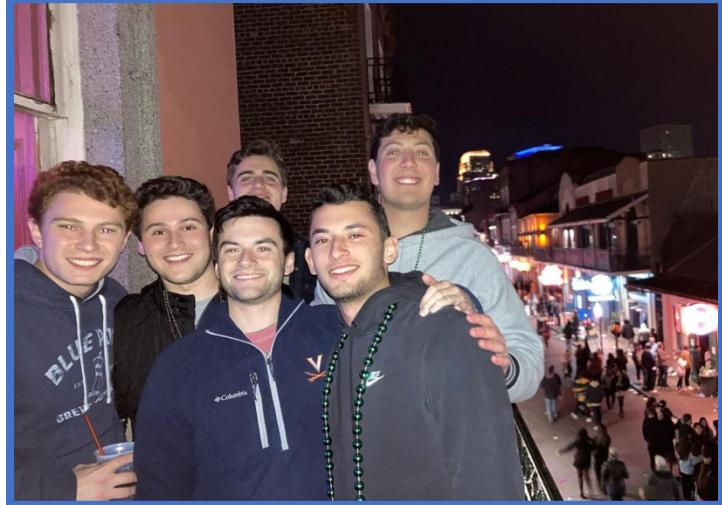
[Alumni Info](#)

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HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to all of our new graduates, Thetas and (some) Iotas alike! We are grateful that life mostly returned to normal and each of you could finish your college careers on a high note. 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 Thetas

*Chaney Sheehan
Hayden Tickle
Isaac Leifert
Jackson Wray
Jacob Borenstein
Jake Berger
Jason Calem
Julian Sherr*

*Justin Glassman
Matt Roer
Matt Simon
Owen Firnstahl
Rod Aryan
Seth Lewis
Spencer Mandelbaum
Zane Begun*

Graduating Iotas

Adam Adelstein
Adin Segal
Aidan Mossip*

*Jack Fechter
Josh Gen*
Josh Hambrecht**

**Graduated in three 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.