

AEP



Sigma Eta Chapter

Letter from the Master

Brothers, alumni, family, and friends,

What an incredible year it has been for the Sigma Eta chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity! The 2013-2014 academic year was filled with growth, development, excitement and unprecedented amounts of fun. I could not be more proud to be a member of this well-established organization, which reached new heights in brotherhood involvement and achievement this year. I'm proud to say the Sigma Eta chapter truly did our fraternity's centennial year celebration justice.

We started the year off strong, coming together as a brotherhood during our fall semester retreat and conquering the Lehigh University ropes course. It was rewarding and fulfilling to realize what we are capable of accomplishing when working together as a unified and cohesive team. The brotherhood retreat unquestionably set a new tone for the chapter. Another first was BrOlympics, where brothers competed in a series of both athletic and non-athletic events for the title of BrOlympic Champion. This event was only the beginning of our philanthropic efforts to raise money for the AEPi Foundation and other charitable organizations.

Tikkun olam, Hebrew for "repairing the world," is a value closely held by all brothers of Alpha Epsilon Pi and is exemplified by our commitment to mutual helpfulness. I was immensely proud of the chapter's commitment to both the American Cancer Society and Save a Child's Heart organizations. Brothers exceeded expectations in raising over one thousand dollars and devoting countless hours towards Lehigh University's Relay for Life, an overnight community fundraising walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Then, with the help of Tony Silvoy of the Goosey Gander II, the Sigma Eta chapter kept the Goose open late to raise money for Save a Child's Heart, an Israeli-based international humanitarian project providing lifesaving heart surgeries and care for children.

We closed out the year with another new event – Father's Weekend. Sharing our fraternal experience with our fathers was a fantastic time – full of steak and adrenaline – that we won't soon forget. It was particularly special as it featured Brotherhood Shabbat. I was beyond proud to see Brotherhood Shabbat develop into a semiannual event. Sharing a home cooked Shabbat meal with all my brothers is an absolute privilege and a tradition that I hope will continue, as it truly personifies the ideals of our Jewish fraternity.

Words cannot express how truly grateful and humbling my experience as a brother of Alpha Epsilon Pi has been. I thank each and every one of you, brothers of both the past and present, for being a part of so many great memories. The future excites me as I reflect on my time as a brother of this incredible chapter and I have confidence that we will continue to grow and flourish, especially as our recognition efforts take full effect. I wish you all the best and have the utmost faith and confidence in you all.

Matt Golden
Master, 2013-2014



Brothers enjoying their time outside

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The Alpha Omega Pledge Class with their Pledge Master, Matthew Barrett

Featured Newly Initiated Brother

"I am what I am" -Popeye

I've never tried to be anything I'm not. The fact that I can be myself and still be a part of a fraternity is why I joined and love the Sigma Eta chapter of AEPi. While AEPi will continue to mold me into a more responsible and understanding man, it has not completely changed my identity. My name is Matthew Deninger and I'm the pledge class president for the Alpha Omega pledge class. I will be a sophomore next year and am studying Chemical Engineering. Currently, I am a member of the social committee and of the recruitment committee of our chapter.

During my short time as a pledge and then brother of AEPi, I've already grown and learned a lot. Repeatedly learning the four corners of the pledge pin - humility, faith, perseverance, and mutual helpfulness – and embody them into my life during pledging, and now through the rest of life, has made me a better friend, brother, and all-around person. Knowing to be more humble has been one of the more beneficial changes AEPi has made to me as, to be completely honest, always thinking I was right was one of my biggest flaws. By going to Hillel or Chabad on Friday nights I've learned much about Judaism, the faith our fraternity was founded upon. Perseverance will be particular helpful for me in trying to achieve my Chemical Engineering degree. I will also be able to rely on mutual helpfulness with my course work from Palis Tarasanombat and Jeffery Marks, who are also candidates for a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. Sigma Eta appreciates who I am today and who it will help me grow into over the next few years at Lehigh University.

Matt Deninger

Class of 2017

A Few Words about Rush

It has been said that "Rush is the lifeblood of the fraternity." With that in mind, the Sigma Eta chapter tackled the spring rush period head on, delivering our biggest pledge class in recent memory.

Events included a trip to a comedy club in New York on a party bus, snow tubing at Blue Mountain, a trip to Five Guys, and a dinner at a Brazilian steakhouse.

The Sigma Eta chapter welcomed nine new members into our pledge program. Weeks later, the fine gentlemen of the Alpha Omega Pledge Class became the newest brothers of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity.

The Alpha Omega Pledge Class:

Drew Berger
Roger Blumin
Sam Cassell
Matt Deninger
Jeremy Horowitz
Harrison Pfeifer
Brian Reiff
Allon Vitenson
Shane Wolfe

Cheers,
Sam Waldorf
Class of 2016



Matt Deninger

Congratulations to the Class of 2014

The Sigma Eta chapter would like to congratulate the following brothers on their graduation from Lehigh University:

Andrew Zerby

Nathan Kasimer

Zachary Daniels

Matthew Golden

Jacob Epstein

Chad Efaw

Matthew Barrett

Congratulations and best of luck to all of you!



Members of the Class of 2014

Co-Op Experience

Last fall, I didn't take a single class. Instead, I spent all semester working full time as part of Lehigh's co-op program for a company called Lutron Electronics. As you can probably guess, they design and produce electronics—lighting control electronics, to be specific. More than 50 years ago, Lutron's CEO, a man named Joel Spira, invented the rotary dimmer switch like you might find in your living room. They've obviously come a long way since then, and I spent most of my time there running tests to make sure some of their products work exactly the way they are supposed to.

I also spent that semester (and the next one) as Lt. Master of the Sigma Eta chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity. Most evenings after I got home from work were spent running minor board meetings, sitting in exec-board meetings, planning events and just generally solving whatever issues had arisen that week within the house. Both experiences were challenging and sometimes extremely stressful, but they were both also incredibly rewarding. Both helped me grow not just professionally, but personally as well. I could take the skills of project management and professionalism that I learned at work and apply them to my role as Lt. Master. Likewise, I used my job within the fraternity to hone my interpersonal communication skills and my will to persevere, which were equally applicable to my position at Lutron.

Between the two jobs, it was quite a bit of work, but in the end it was completely worth it. I gained valuable professional experience, helped my fraternity, and didn't have to do a single minute of homework in the process. It was a great semester overall.

Evan Warner

Class of 2015



Brothers at Brotherhood Shabbat

Jewish Life in the Fraternity

Alpha Epsilon Pi is a national fraternity composed of college students searching for a Jewish community. Jewish men at Lehigh can find this community through the Sigma Eta chapter. Together, we create an atmosphere in which we can express our Jewish beliefs and ideals. One of our favorite events that is done every semester is a fraternity-wide Brotherhood Shabbat. One Friday night every semester, we congregate for a Shabbat meal that is prepared, cooked, and eaten wholly by our AEPi brothers. Though we all certainly enjoy the home-cooked meal, we enjoy even more the bonding and togetherness we achieve from this event. More than anything else, this event helps our brothers appreciate the benefit of being a member of a fraternity in which our Jewish ideals are not tolerated but celebrated.

AEPi brothers are deeply committed to giving back to the communities that helped us expand our Jewish identities. Our philanthropic efforts are geared towards Jewish and Israeli organizations that serve to better Jewish communities around the world. We designed tanktops that adoringly read "I love Israel but I hate sleeves" on the front with a list of all seven charities AEPi supports on the back. We donated the proceeds equally to each of these organizations including Friends of the IDF, Elem, JNF, Keshet, Leket Israel, Save a Child's Heart, and Sharsheret. Together, we embody AEPi's national core values of faith, humility, honesty, mutual helpfulness, and perseverance, by sustaining and furthering our Jewish identities.

Allon Vitenson
Class of 2017

Brother Entrepreneurs

About a year ago, I began building a web-app for comparing guitars. Today, I have a largely developed business and we are working to expand the product and release it this fall!

For those techies, we have been using JIRA for agile software development and daily scrums. We've gone through several coders and are making progress with the web-app. We are currently utilizing the Node.js framework and NoSQL (MongoDB for data, Elasticsearch for querying).

Our goal is to allow customers to learn, review, compare, and purchase their ideal guitar. We are focused on a unique customer experience and plan to provide an informative site for comparing just about anything, starting with acoustic guitar. Further, we are building in analytics to better understand guitar-buyers and their trends.

In addition to coding, we need help with marketing, graphic design, policies and legalities.

If you are interested in supporting us (giving advice, questioning the product, or providing paid services), please let me know! If you would like an inside glance, simply email me and I can provide you credentials when we're ready for feedback.

Thank you for all your support this year and I'm excited for another crazy year at Sigma Eta. Hopefully some of these articles are a bit more crazy and interesting than mine. If not, let me know and I'll tell you about my six weeks of insanity in Prague, Budapest, Berlin, and London.

Dean Kroker
Class of 2016

The New Boards

In order to better improve the leadership of the house, the Sigma Eta chapter decided to restructure the leadership boards. There will now be two Boards: The Executive Board and the Board of Directors.

Congratulations to our newly elected Boards!

Executive Board

Master: Jonathan Cohen

Lt. Master: Zach Cahn

Scribe: Roger Blumin

Exchequer: Dean Kroker

Pledgemaster:

Evan Warner

Board of Directors

Brother at Large:

Keiran Hall

Recruitment Chair:

Sam Cassell

Social Chair:

Shane Wolfe

Jewish Leadership Chair:

Allon Vitenson

Philanthropy Chair:

Mitch Biler

Civics Chair:

Brandon Maus



Brothers at the Brotherhood Retreat

Brother Involvement on Campus

The Sigma Eta chapter of AEPi has become a haven for students who wish to explore their Jewish identities while participating in Greek life. The brothers of our chapter are extremely active in all aspects of Jewish life on campus. The majority of Hillel board members at Lehigh, including the Hillel President, are brothers from our chapter. Through Hillel, we are able to organize and participate in numerous Jewish Holiday celebrations as well as organize brother-wide Sukkah buildings, Passover dinners, and Hanukkah menorah lightings. We also have brothers who serve on the Chabad board. The president of the Friends of Israel Club and most of its members are brothers of our chapter, as are multiple vice presidents of the TAMID Israel Investment Group. These organizations have allowed us to further our connection to Israel through advocating on campus, bringing speakers to our school, and even consulting for Israeli start-up companies. We were also able to organize sponsorship for three AEPi brothers to attend the AIPAC Policy Conference in Washington DC. This relationship has allowed us to host AEPi Shabbat dinners and other holiday celebrations. Maintaining these leadership positions on campus have allowed brothers to not only further their own leadership capabilities but also to give back to the greater Jewish community. AEPi brothers contribute to and often lead Jewish initiatives on campus and are a major positive influence to the growing Jewish community at Lehigh. We are extremely proud of our efforts to strengthen Jewish life at Lehigh and look forward to continue to for many years to come.

Allon Vitenson
Class of 2017

The Recognition Process

This past year, Lehigh made a very important decision that will dramatically impact Jewish life on campus. Due primarily to the efforts of former Associate Chaplain Rabbi Seth Goren, Chaplain Rev. Lloyd Steffens, and Dr. Roger Simon, Lehigh has made the decision to bring a Jewish-affiliated fraternity to campus for the spring of 2015. This has provided one of the best opportunities for Sigma Eta chapter so seek formal recognition from the University.

The chapter has gone to extraordinary lengths to follow Lehigh policies exactly the way that they are written. Long-held chapter practices such as fall recruitment and pledging freshmen has been discontinued. In a meeting I had with the Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs (OFSA) Jessi McPherrin, she specifically praised our chapter's excellent conduct and operations, especially during a year when many chapters have been placed on probation or, in one case, even closed for poor conduct. We have had extraordinary positive interactions with OFSA, and we believe that this is a good indicator of things to come.

Within the coming months, we will know whether we were selected for recognition. Currently myself, Master Jon Cohen, and Interim Alumni Board of Advisors President Josh Greenberg have been working diligently with the relevant parties who will be leading the process for adding a new fraternity.

Lehigh has given us an important chance to formally show all of the high points of our chapter and all of the things we do for the University and demonstrate how recognizing the chapter is as beneficial to them as it is for us. Jessi highlighted the fact that being the only unrecognized fraternity, which the chapter traditionally thought Lehigh would see as a negative, can actually be an upside if presented correctly. Never before have we had the opportunity to fully articulate all the good we do for Lehigh, and never have they placed such a heavy emphasis on it. Since I have come to Lehigh, I have seen three separate fraternities close and many others come dangerously close. Stability and a clean record are things that many other fraternities do not have, but we do. Because we have this suitable established history, Lehigh will know that the possibility for success is very high and the risk is very low.

Competition with Sigma Alpha Mu has been very fierce, however Jessi indicated that our over a decade of history since re-chartering would be something that the Expansion Committee will take with very serious consideration. It is this committee that will ultimately decide our fate when we (along with the other potential fraternities) give our presentations in November. These presentations will outline chapter history and other important facts that Lehigh wants to know about the national organizations. After these presentations, we will know if we were selected. If we are selected, then we will finally again become full members of the Lehigh Greek Community.

While the chapter has pursued recognition in the past, never have we had such a great chance at meeting our goals. We have the perfect trifecta needed: Lehigh has stated that they will only add on a Jewish fraternity, OFSA is supportive of adding our chapter, and most importantly we have a chapter that is ready to take on the challenge. As the new Lieutenant Master, I look forward to taking on this challenge. This year will be a transformative one for us. I am hopeful that by the time the 150th meeting of Lehigh versus Lafayette rolls around, we will have many more things to celebrate besides just the game. If you are interested in learning more about the recognition process or want to know how you can help, my cell phone number is listed in the "Contact Us" section. You can also email me at zcahn01@gmail.com.

Zach Cahn
Class of 2015

The Alumni Board of Advisors

The Sigma Eta Chapter is excited to announce the Alumni Board of Advisors. This Board, which will consist of six alumni, will work closely with the Executive Board to promote long-term stability in our chapter. The Board will consist of three members from the first chartering of the chapter (1979-1992) and three members of the current chartering of the chapter (2001-present). The Alumni Board of Advisors will greatly benefit both current brothers and alumni as it will help the chapter establish, implement, and maintain a positive vision and will provide brothers with support and advising on tough brotherhood decisions.

The chapter will begin implementing the Alumni Board of Advisors this coming academic year and hopes to fully roll out the new Board by the start of the following year.

All alumni are eligible to apply and information on how to apply will be coming soon.

Roger Blumin
Class of 2017



Brothers and Alumni Watching the Lehigh Lafayette Football game

Stay Connected!

We're hoping to get you more involved in our fraternity. With recognition application process quickly approaching, we are making every attempt to better connect with you! First, we hope we had the opportunity to talk with you at our phonathon last semester. If not, please reach out to me individually so we can touch base by email at dean@deankroker.com or by phone at (610) 416-0257.

Hang with us in New York City! On **Thursday, July 31st**, we have a summer meet-up with alumni and current brothers. We will be meeting at the Dart Alley Bar (Stout NYC) located at 133 W 33rd Street at 5:30 pm. We really hope you can make it. RSVP by Saturday, July 26th via Facebook through the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/AlumniBrotherEvent> or you may RSVP by sending an email to rblumin95@gmail.com.

The 150th meeting of Lehigh vs. Lafayette is on November 22nd! Join the brothers of AEPi for a private tailgate prior to the game at Yankee Stadium! We have reserved space at **Yankee Tavern** (72 E 161st St, Bronx, NY 10451), which is located right down the street from Gate 6 of the stadium. The price is \$50 per person and includes all you can eat tailgate fare (hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages and peppers, salads) and an open bar of soda and top shelf beer. RSVP by October 20th by visiting the following link: AEPiLehighLaf.eventbrite.com. For more information, please contact Sam Waldorf by email at samwaldorf18@gmail.com or by phone at (215) 431-5700.

We would really value your help in expanding AEPi! We'll be sending out a formal letter soon, but we are asking for donations from both friends, family, and alumni. Donations will help us tremendously during the recognition process, and we really hope you can play a part in the success of our fraternity. Donations can be made via PayPal at give.sigmaetaaeppi.com or by following the instructions on the attached donations page. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Lastly, your support in ways beyond a donation is also greatly appreciated. We want to keep our alumni as involved as possible, so if you are looking for ways to get more involved, feel free to email me and we can connect you based on your interests. If you would like to help with fundraising, networking, strengthening alumni relations, planning events, or something completely unrelated, please reach out.

Hope you all find some time to take off this summer. Thank you for reading and feel free to check out my article on my business plans for the summer!

Dean Kroker
Class of 2016

Contact Us

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(201) 213-1956

Recognition Questions:
(845) 709-1961

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www.sigmaetaaeppi.com

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Assistant Editors: Master Jon Cohen, Lt. Master Zach Cahn,
Alumni Advisor Josh Greenberg



YES! I want to support the Sigma Eta chapter of AEPi at Lehigh University as a sponsor at one of the following levels

AEPi Sigma Eta can only achieve its goals with the assistance of generous donations from members of our community. Feel free to designate your donations towards any of the following programs, or choose your own in the others section. We thank you in advance for your support and look forward to hearing from you soon!

☐ **Alumni Partner - \$360**

- Listed as a Partner on all digital marketing materials.
- Semesterly report from Sigma Eta leadership.
- Nomination to alumni control board.

☐ **Supporter - \$180**

- Listed as a Supporter on all digital marketing materials.
- Semesterly report from Sigma Eta leadership.

☐ **Friend - \$50**

- Listed as a Friend on all digital marketing materials.
- Annual report from Sigma Eta leadership.

☐ **Other: \$_____ towards _____**

☐ **Jewish and Israel Focused Programing: \$_____**

- Funds Jewish holiday programs that will allow brothers to commemorate, learn, and observe Jewish holidays.
- Fund educational programs and sponsor brothers as delegates to various regional and national conventions that promote Judaism and a connection to Israel.

☐ **Composite Scholarship: \$_____**

- Funds annual undergraduate composite.
- Repairs old composites that have been damaged or has them reprinted and funds new composites.

☐ **Lion's Award:**

Award a one time donation of \$_____ to Brother _____ to sponsor his semester dues.

Donations can be made electronically at <http://give.sigmaetaepi.com/> via PayPal or major credit card.

Payment

Contact Person: _____

Name to appear on all advertising materials: _____

Preferred Address: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Preferred E-mail: _____

Please mail this form to:

**Alpha Epsilon Pi
ATTN: Dean Kroker
601 Laufer Street
Bethlehem PA, 18015**

You can contact the Sigma Eta chapter's master, Jonathan Cohen, directly at sigmaetaepi@gmail.com or at (201) 213-1956 with any questions.

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to **AEPi, Sigma Eta** in the amount of \$_____

☐ Please charge credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard in the amount of \$_____

☐ My payment has already been made online at <http://give.sigmaetaepi.com/>

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____ Security Code: _____

Billing Address: _____ Signature: _____

Please make all checks out to Lehigh AEPi. AEPi is a 501 (c) (7) organization (not tax deductible). Funds donated directly to the chapter will aid in subsidizing programming and administrative costs the chapter incurs on a semester basis.