



EPSILON ECHO

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF EPSILON CHAPTER OF THETA CHI AT WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

State of the Fraternity

This year, the chapter continued its rich tradition of maintaining a strong and close knit brotherhood. Eighteen new brothers joined our chapter, increasing the size of the fraternity. We are proud of all the graduates, including three brothers who became military officers. **Sean Hathaway** and **Sean Regan** will serve in the Air Force, while **Matthew Nicholson** will serve in the Army.

The chapter continues to improve facilities through major and minor renovations to the house, including the recent ongoing renovation of three bedrooms. We hope to continue these efforts and eventually renovate the entire exterior of the house as well as the library.

The chapter is making strides in regards to alumni relations and career networking. We want to work with alumni and encourage all of our brothers to build strong relationships and always be hospitable to any alumni who return to campus. Events catered toward alumni relation building took place over the past school year: Homecoming, monthly dinners, Poker Night, and our cancer awareness fundraiser.

We will also be hosting an event this fall, "Career Night." During this event, we will focus on interviewing skills, career advice, and networking for undergraduates through the assistance of chapter alumni. The chapter truly enjoys learning from and reminiscing with our alumni. Feel free to stop by anytime and visit the chapter.



Top Row: James Ternent, Graysen Deluca, Matthew Schmitt, Quinton Schimmel, Matthew Hoffer, Liam Finnegan, Tej Sheth, Jordan Pickunka, Corey O'Malley, Mitchell Holman. Bottom Row: Ben Pasculano, Daniel Palaez, Kevin Sifuentes, Zachary Shaffer, Mustafa (John) Eracar, Jason King, Noah Parker, Cole Willcutt.



Brothers gathered to honor the achievement of ROTC brothers Sean Hathaway, Sean Regan, and Matthew Nicholson.

Volunteers Needed – EBA Open Positions

The Epsilon Building Association (EBA) is looking for volunteers! Whatever time you have to dedicate to Theta Chi, we can find an interesting project to take advantage of it. Help manage the physical property, assist with our finances, help drive alumni programming, and so much more. There are literally dozens of tasks (large and small) just waiting for someone

to drive. Check out the running list at <http://tinyurl.com/oxe-volunteers>. Please consider joining the team of alumni contributors by contacting **Jim Melvin '85** at jmm2562@gmail.com. Our success depends on your Helping Hand!

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Brothers All In for Second Annual Poker Night

The second annual Alumni Charity Poker Night was another tremendous success. More than \$1,000 was raised for the USO. The event received great participation from alumni and active members alike creating certain plans to continue the event in the future. Congratulations to this year's champion, **Jim Melvin '85!**

If you have any ideas for future events of interest to alumni, we are open to ideas!



Brothers gathered around the poker table to try their hands and reunite with alumni and friends.



Who are these people, and what are they doing? Send your responses to Jim Melvin '85 at jmm2562@gmail.com, and we will share answers on our alumni Facebook page.

DARE!

Remembering Wil Houde '59

I just received word of the passing of Brother **Wil Houde '59**. Wil was a smiling, upbeat kid, eager to learn and be of help to all who asked him. He graduated in 1959 with an EE degree and went to work for Hewlett-Packard, getting in on the beginning of the digital boom. He became a regional manager for HP, who eventually moved him to their corporate headquarters in Palo Alto, California.

He progressed quickly at HP, becoming a product manager of one of their digital products, doing very well in the corporation. After several years at HP, Wil came home one day and told his wife, Dot, about an offer he had received from a small company. He was interested in the company and intrigued by their products. He wanted to leave his comfortable, well-paying position at HP and join the new company to help develop the product and watch it grow.

Dot was understanding and encouraged him to make the move. Then, in sort of a "by-the-way" comment, he mentioned that he wanted to take the money from his HP retirement account and invest it in the new company. As you would expect, his wife was not too happy at this, so they talked it out at great length. Finally, Wil convinced her that it would be an excellent investment. He took their savings, joined the start-up in the early 70's, and became a part-owner of that small company called Apple Computers.

He dared to take a chance. Wil used his WPI education as a stepping stone to improve his life and ours, giving all of us a "Helping Hand." He will be missed by those who knew him.

Fraternally,
"Pappy" Al Papianou '57



Sport (Peter Stanley '68), Manta Ray (James Rayner '70), Tom Ricchi '67, Tim Mackie '70, and James Melvin '85 in front of the chapter house. Jett (Gerry Blodget '69) was also in attendance.

Epsilon Building Association Board of Directors

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Neil Lettenberger '07

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Trevor Shaw '16

The Infamous First Television

Brother Al Papianou '57 recalls the tale of the first TV present at the Epsilon chapter house in the late 50's

February 21, 1957 was a typical evening as seniors returned from weekly forays to the celebrations of the great god, Bacchus, at various malt dispensaries in the city. These places now live in alumni infamy at WPI: The Boynton, The White Eagle, The Somerset, and The Valhalla. The Worcester police station now sits where the latter two bars were located.

The TV store on Lincoln Square had a Washington's Birthday sale the next day. February 22, giving away a free TV to the first person to enter the store at midnight wearing a derby and long underwear. The gathering at the fraternity was ecstatic. "No-Action" was there wearing a derby, long johns were quickly found by "Whitey," a very smiling No-Action was convinced by "Alfie" to don the clothes, and "Hot-Rod" volunteered to drive

Upon arrival, the area was crowded with guys in derbies and long johns. Alfie, casing the joint, discovered an unlocked side door with No-Action and Whitey joining him there. Outside, "Big Jim" forced his way to the front of the crowd waiting at the doors. His job was to block the door and not allow anyone to enter until Alfie and No-Action greeted the manager.

Exactly at midnight, the doors opened. Alfie and Whitey presented No-Action as the winner, much to the surprise and dismay of the manager. To prevent a riot, the store gave away two TV sets, one to No-Action and one to whoever it was that got by Big Jim.

They piled into the Plymouth with the TV to return to the house. Hot-Rod got into a rubber-burning race and nearly rammed a police car, braking just in time to a tire-screaching stop. The cop shone his flashlight into the car and saw the derby, long johns, TV set, and the odor of malt beverages exclaiming, "Jesus, Mary and Joseph! What did I do to deserve this?" The policeman decided he did not want to unravel this bizarre episode at the station, wrote up a ticket, handed it to Hot-Rod, and said, "Get the hell out of here!"

Back at the house, Hot-Rod read the citation: "Speeding, reckless driving, and racing." He feared a suspended license, a huge fine, and the wrath of his parents, but found relief. They contacted an alumnus who was prominent in Worcester politics who gave Hot-Rod a stern warning about drinking and driving, then arranged to have the charges dropped. It is rumored that a quart of Jack Daniels Black Label was involved in the transaction.

Years later, Alfie moved into an apartment in Oakland, California. A young lady named, Jan, lived upstairs, and one evening she invited Alfie up to watch a PCL hockey match. Lo and behold, there was the exact TV he helped No-Action win in Worcester. Luck would have it, Jan was No Action's sister, to whom he gave the TV after graduating. Jan has been Mrs. Alfie for almost 55 years, and they still live in California where they raised their family.

2016-17 EPSILON BUILDING ASSOCIATION FUND

\$9,003 pledged as of July 31, 2017

Thanks to generous contributions from 55 brothers, the 2016-17 Epsilon Building Association Fund has raised a total of \$9,003 - meaning we are 60% of the way to our \$15,000 goal!

If you have not given to this important effort thus far, we invite you to join the growing list of donors! Contribute today by visiting alumni.oxepsilon.org and clicking 'Support the Campaign.'

The giving levels are as follows:

James Melvin Club - \$500-\$2,500

Donald Simonds Club - \$250-\$499

Epsilon Club - \$100-\$249

Theta Chi Club - \$51-\$99

Annual Alumni Dues - \$50

A complete donor list will be available in the next edition of the Epsilon Echo!



Green Monsters Win 2017 EBA Open Golf Tournament

Congratulations to the Green Monsters (**Ryan Burke '94, Dave Wildgoose '95, Even Ross '94, and Todd Mikolaycik '95**) for winning the second annual EBA Open Golf Tournament on July 22, 2017 at Holden Hills Country Club. Close behind in second place was team Curlinks (**Dave Liles '87, Jamie King '87, and Tom McMorrow '89**). To view a listing of all results, please visit: oxepsilon.com:1856/oxel/alumni/golf/2017/results.html.



On behalf of the Epsilon Building Association, Jim Melvin '85 presented Rich Wholey '87 with the Alumni Appreciation Award for his many years of service to Theta Chi, including 15 years as the Director for the EBA Open Golf Tournament. Congratulations and many thanks, Rich!



Theta Chi
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2017 Alumni Dinner Schedule

Alumni dinners are held the first Thursday of every month. Cocktails begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner starts at 7:00 p.m. For more information or if you have questions, please contact **Jim Melvin '85** at jmm2562@gmail.com.

September 7

British Beer Company
 Walpole, Mass.

October 5

Smokestack Urban BBQ
 Worcester, Mass.

November 2

Redbones
 Somerville, Mass.

December 7

Horse Shoe Pub
 Hudson, Mass.

Visit the Theta Chi Website

Visit alumni.oxepsilon.org, the official Epsilon alumni website, to:

- Learn more about the chapter
- Search for alumni
- Update your address, phone number, and e-mail address
- Find out about upcoming events
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)
- Support the Epsilon Building Association Fund

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