Pennsylvania Sigma-Phi Chapter
Dickinson College
Carlisle, Pennsylvania
Founded: October 11, 1890 (Chester N. Ames)

Chapter Houses Timeline:

1900-1914: The fraternity purchased a three-story building located just off of the northeast corner of West and Louther Streets. Red brick with white trim, their home was a simple building constructed in the "old style." They lived there until the house was commandeered for military housing following the outbreak of the First World War. This house has since been expanded and is currently used for a private residence.

1914-1922: The fraternity then moved into the eastern section of East College for five years before purchasing their second house.

1922-1928: The fraternity purchased the former home of Wilbur Fisk Sadler. It was a large, ornate three story building Victorian house situated on the southwest corner of College and Louther Streets.

1928-1941: The fraternity remained in the Sadler house. It was remodeled in 1928 to better accommodate the chapter. When the Second World War caused their numbers and support from their alumni to dwindle dangerously low, the fraternity was forced to sell the house. The number of members still at Dickinson remained so low for the next few years that a chapter house was not required. The former Sadler house was later demolished and its site is now occupied by the Holland Union Building.

1942-1946: No housing because of the Second World War.

1946-1964: The fraternity had recovered sufficiently to warrant the purchase of their third house. After some renovations, the brothers were able to move into their new home in the spring of 1947. The house was located at 200 South College Street and was a three story red brick house with white trim and a large front porch with double white columns. The house on South College Street was then sold to the Dickinson School of Law and was later demolished.

1964-1981: The fraternity moved into Quad 5 (now part of Baird-McClintock Hall) in the Fraternity Quadrangle.

1981-1990: The fraternity moved in Biddle House until they were forced to leave. Biddle House became the Arts House residence and then the home of campus offices and departments such as Religious Affairs and the Counseling Center. It now serves as the Registrar's Office, the Career Center, and Academic Advising offices.

1991-1998: The fraternity moved to 424 W. Louther Street. (Later became Theta Chi house until destroyed in the summer of 2006 and turned into outdoor volleyball court.)

1999-present: The fraternity moved into on-campus housing at 527 W. Louther Street. The house is a white duplex shared with the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity on the other side.

Photos courtesy of: http://chronicles.dickinson.edu
Chester N. Ames (1871-1921)

Chester Ames was born in 1871 to William C. and Margaret Demory Ames. He first attended Western Maryland College before transferring to Dickinson in 1888. At the College, Ames was a member of the Belles Lettres Literary Society, and Phi Beta Kappa, and a founding member of the College’s chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Ames eventually graduated with the class of 1893. After a brief career as a journalist, Ames received his master's degree from Dickinson in 1896. That same year, Ames accepted the position of registrar of the College.

The appointment of Ames as the first registrar marked a modernization of the conducting of official college business. Prior to this, Dickinson’s business was conducted by various faculty members that divided their time with these duties and teaching. Ames’ position marked a separation between administration and education at Dickinson that allowed the faculty to concentrate on their students rather than on paperwork. Ames served the college from 1896 to 1901, at which time the College abolished the office of the registrar.

In 1901, he was admitted to the Cumberland County Bar, and became editor of the Newville Times. Chester Nichols Ames died on February 21, 1921.

James W. Colona (1872-1946)

James Wesley Colona, son of Robert W. and Anna Ellen Colona was born on January 13, 1872 in Stockton, Maryland. Before entering Dickinson College in 1896, James attended Wilmington Conference Academy, a Methodist preparatory school in Wilmington, Delaware.

While at Dickinson, Colona was heavily involved in campus life. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and of the Belles Lettres Society. He also worked in the library. A third baseman for the Dickinson College varsity baseball team in 1897, Colona had a fielding average of .791.

Colona then attended Drew Theological Seminary where he graduated with a B.D. in 1902 and began service as a pastor. From 1901 to 1902, he was the pastor at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Round Hill, Connecticut. He then was a pastor at an Annamessex, Delaware church from 1902-1904 and then headed a church in Princess Anne, Maryland. Colona was also a superintendent of the Wilmington School District for six years and pastor of churches in Wilmington and Smyrna, Delaware.

In 1923, Colona was elected as a Dickinson College Board of Trustees member. Colona died on April 24, 1946 at the age of 74.

Joseph Clemens was born on December 9, 1862, in the rugged county of Cornwall in England. His family of Cornish iron miners migrated to Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and then to Eichelberger, Pennsylvania. He was the only one of five brothers who did not follow the family tradition and become a miner.

In 1890, at the age of 28, Clemens entered Dickinson College after preparation at the Williamsport Seminary. At Dickinson, he pursued the philosophical course and studied to be a missionary. While at Dickinson, he was a charter member of the Sigma-Phi chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. A very hard-working student, he was the treasurer for the Union Philosophical Society and the treasurer of the Dickinson Prohibition Club. He also played in the College orchestra and sang in the College choir, at the same time serving as a member of the Missionary committee of the college Y.M.C.A. and as class poet.

After graduation in 1894, Clemens was a pastor for the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Episcopal Conference; until 1910 he served as circuit minister for such towns as Mont Alto, Rouzerville, and Blue Rock. In 1896 he married Mary Knapp Strong, whom he had met at the Williamsport Seminary. The following year he earned his master's degree in cursu from Dickinson.

In 1901, Clemens became a chaplain for the United States Army after visiting troops in Cuba; he and Mary were stationed in the Philippine Islands. Although his main duties centered upon being a religious leader, he was also expected to help keep morale up by organizing various social activities and fraternizing with his fellow officers. However, Clemens felt that his social duties conflicted with his spiritual ones; this conflict eventually led to his retirement in 1918. After a brief sojourn back in the United States, Clemens and his wife returned to the Philippines in 1922 and devoted their lives to botanical research and missionary work. In August 1935, the couple traveled to New Guinea to advance their missionary pursuits. While there, Joseph Clemens apparently contracted food poisoning; he died on January 21, 1936.
Raoul J. Archambault Esq. '42

Raoul Archambault was a Republican politician from Rhode Island. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1942. He ran as a candidate for Governor of Rhode Island in 1952. His opponent, Dennis J. Roberts (I) won by 52.62% with 215,587 votes. Archambault lost by 47.38% with 194,102 votes.

William Wilson Betts, Jr. '49

William Betts, Jr., was born in Clearfield, Pennsylvania on July 25, 1926. He was the son of Bernyce and William Wilson Betts, Sr. Following his high school education in Clearfield, Betts served in the United States Navy from 1944 to 1946. Later Betts matriculated at Dickinson College, earning his B.A. in 1949. He then began graduate study at the University of Minnesota, but transferred to Pennsylvania State University, where he completed his Master's degree in 1950 and his Ph.D. in 1954. In the period between his two degrees at Penn State, Betts taught high school English in Greenwood, Delaware. While there, he met Jane Jackson, whom he married on June 29, 1951. The couple has two children: Michael and Thomas.

Betts began his professional collegiate career at Ohio University as an instructor of English during the 1954-55 academic year. He then moved to Indiana State College (now Indiana University of Pennsylvania, IUP) in 1954. In addition to serving as a professor in the English Department, Betts was an assistant basketball coach for many years, as well as associate dean of the Graduate School from 1968 to 1971.

During his time at IUP, Betts' major scholarly work was published in 1965. It was entitled Lincoln and the Poets and was an edited volume, collecting poems about Abraham Lincoln by 23 different American poets. In this volume, Betts felt that “these poems taken together provide the most fitting, as well as the most enduring, memorial to the President.”

He treats each of the selected poems with equanimity, realizing that “not all readers today will agree on which best express the proper feeling for Lincoln” but holding that all “belong to the first rank of poetry.”

Following his retirement from IUP, Betts published Slips That Pass in the Night: The King's English Adrift on the Campus. This is a collection of painfully fully excerpts from student essays, much in the vein of Anders Henriksson's classic Non Campus Mentis. Professor Betts is quoted on the Great Science Fiction and Fantasy Website as saying: “If you like Yogi Berra, you’ll love these college student bloopers—564 outrageous miscues that out-Berra Berra. All genuine, just exactly as the students composed them.” The volume followed a similarly constructed book, A Docketful of Wry, published in 1970.

Throughout his time at IUP, Betts wrote numerous articles on the environment and on Pennsylvania in general. In 2003 he collected a number of them and published them in The Evergreen Farm: Essays and Tales of Rural Western Pennsylvania. Many of them had appeared in Defenders, in Pennsylvania Game News, and in Good Old Days. Betts told an interviewer for Contemporary Authors Online that “My writing inclines to nostalgia. For the most part it is inspired by memories of a time, which was more agrarian than the present, of a time when an identity with the land was possible. I write largely of western Pennsylvania, out of affection for the wild creatures to be found in that region, particularly for the raptors and the game birds, which I know best. I write always for the natural environment and against those forces which threaten it. In these times I never want for inspiration.”

Most of the essays collected reflect this nostalgia and shed light on less technologically influenced times in rural Pennsylvania's past.

William Betts currently is an English professor emeritus from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and lives in Indiana, PA.

George Gekas '52

George Gekas (born April 14, 1930) is a Republican politician from Pennsylvania. He was born in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1930. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1952 where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He later obtained a law degree in 1958 after a brief stint in the Army. And after a short time in private practice, he served as assistant district attorney for Dauphin County from 1960 to 1966.

In 1966 he was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing Dauphin County. He served there until 1974, when he was upset by future Harrisburg mayor Steven Reed in the anti-Watergate Democratic landslide.

Undaunted by his unexpected defeat, Gekas was elected to the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1976 and was reelected in 1980. After the 1980 census, Pennsylvania lost two congressional districts due to a sharp drop in population. The Republican-controlled legislature drew a new, heavily Republican Harrisburg-based district designed for Gekas. He easily won the seat in 1982 and was reelected nine more times.

Gekas was one of the House's most conservative members, much to the liking of a district where Republicans dominated at every level of government. Gekas never faced any serious opposition during his first 10 campaigns, and he even ran unopposed in 1994. He was one of the House managers in the impeachment trials of Alcee Lamar Hastings and President Bill Clinton. He represented the state's 17th Congressional District from 1983 to 2003.
Chiran Thapa '63

Chiran Thapa is a master of ceremonies in the Kingdom of Nepal. He handles the king's state functions, including visits from dignitaries, and arranges special religious functions at Nepal's royal palace in Kathmandu. To add to his list of accomplishments, he graduated from Dickinson College in 1963. He has also received an honorary doctorate of public administration from the college. The honorary degree from Dickinson recognizes his prestigious role in global communications as well as his service to his homeland.

Thapa has served his small nation, located between China and India and home to Mt. Everest, for nearly 40 years, even acting as the royal palace's spokesperson during the 2001 massacre of Nepal's royal family. Over the years, Thapa has held a variety of roles with the royal palace. He worked from the early 1970s through the 1990s as a press secretary, providing international journalists with background information and working to enhance the king's communications with the world. He was also witness to the country's adoption of a new constitutional monarchy in 1990 that established a multiparty democracy, and deputy chief of the royal household.

More recently, Thapa's duties have shifted, and he is presently master of ceremonies at the Royal Palace in Kathmandu and deputy chief of the royal household.

Thapa found his way to Dickinson from a Jesuit high school in Kathmandu, where he had met two missionaries who graduated from Dickinson in the 1920s. After hearing about the college, he applied. "I made the right choice," Thapa said in a 2001 article in Dickinson Magazine. "Dickinson made me appreciate basic human values such as love for fellow men and women and the need to serve people who are less well off. I learned that one should not always try to keep up with the Joneses. This is what Dickinson has given to me and what I hope to recreate in the interest of my country and my people." He said he was also fond of experience in his fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Thapa holds a master of economics degree from the University of Cambridge, U.K., and a bachelor's degree in physics from Dickinson, which he says has been helpful as his small nation has faced nuclear threats from China and India. Additionally, he did post-graduate economic studies on China and India at the University of Cambridge and Germany's Heidelberg University, as well as studying at the University of Michigan and the University of Freiburg in Switzerland.

Polylingual, speaking English, Nepali, French, Hindi and German as well as being able to read additional languages, Thapa has participated in global conferences for a number of nongovernmental and governmental organizations. At home, he helped develop national parks and wildlife reserves and was responsible for introducing joint ventures between Nepali...
Richard Levie is a widely respected judge for his ability to manage and resolve the most complex cases.

Judge Levie has served as special master, mediator, and arbitrator in a wide variety of cases. While on the bench, he presided over complex and protracted civil cases, including tobacco personal injury and class action, asbestos and lead paint matters, and benzene and insurance coverage cases. He is one of 20 state judges throughout the U.S. to serve on the Mass Tort Litigation Committee to develop improved methods for handling mass and toxic tort cases, to disseminate new methods to state judges nationwide, and to coordinate with federal courts handling related cases. Judge Levie participated in the design and implementation of the Superior Court's civil delay reduction system and went on to assist in the development of civil delay reduction systems and ADR programs in court systems throughout the United States, as well as in South Africa, Malawi, Uganda, Swaziland, and Bolivia, under the auspices of USIA and USAID.

Benjamin M. Compaine ’67

Benjamin Compaine currently teaching entrepreneurship at Northeastern University and is a senior consultant for the international Innovation Media Consulting Group.

He has divided his career between the academic world and private business. A recent business project involved creating a strategic plan for a major publishing company in Moscow, Russia. Previously he was Research Consultant at the MIT Program on Internet & Telecommunications Convergence. He spent 1997 to 1998 as Visiting Professor in Communications at Penn State University. From 1994 to 1997 he was the Bell Atlantic (now Verizon) Professor of Telecommunications at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he founded and was Chairman of the Center for Information Industry Research.

In 1986 Ben co-founded and through 1994 was chief executive of Nova Systems Inc., a firm that created and distributed software for management information reporting in telecommunications centers. From 1979 to 1986 he was executive director of the Program on Information Resources Policy (PIRP) at Harvard University where he had responsibility for funding and directing research on the implications of changing information technology for business, government, and society. Previously he was Director of Books and Studies at Knowledge Industry Publications, Inc.

His research interests include telecommunications policy, mass media economics, entrepreneurship, as well as the political, social and cultural implications of changing information technologies. He has taught graduate and undergraduate courses in these areas, including Business Basics for Technological Entrepreneurship, Introduction to Cybermedia, Telecommunications Regulation, Media Economics and Information Technology and Policy. His business expertise is in the strategic application of

He is the author, co-author or editor of 12 books. The Digital Divide was published in 2001. Who Owns The Media?, first published in 1980, was extensively revised and reissued in 2000. The Information Resources Policy Handbook and The Internet Upheaval were published by MIT Press in 1999 and 2000, respectively. Other books include Issues in New Information Technology and Understanding New Media. His articles have appeared in trade, popular, and scholarly journals, including Telecommunications Policy, Science Digest, Success, Teleconnect, Foreign Policy, Reason, Daedalus and the Journal of Communication. Articles and cases include "The Future of Media Companies in the International Arena," "Management Information: Back to Basics," and "Universal Access to Online Services: An Examination of the Issue."

He serves on the editorial board of the International Journal of Media Management and Journal of Media Economics, from which he received the Award of Honor for his "scholarly contributions and inspiration to the field of media economics." He was twice Program Chairman of TPRC’s Research Conference on Communication, Information and Network Policy and was Chairman of the Board of Directors of TPRC, Inc. A graduate of Dickinson College, he received his M.B.A from Harvard University and Ph.D from Temple University. He has been an invited speaker or consultant in Europe, South America, Asia, Australia as well as in the United States and Canada.
Stephen Marini is Professor of Religion at Wellesley College. Trained in History at Dickinson College and Theology at the University of Chicago (Rockefeller Fellow, 1968-69), he took the Ph.D. in the Study of Religion at Harvard University in 1976 with specialization in American Religious History. After a brief appointment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he has taught at Wellesley since 1976, offering a wide range of courses in the fields of American Religion and Ethics. He has also served the College as Director of Co-Curricular Activities and Director of American Studies, and was the first Director of the Peace Studies Program. From 2001 to 2004 he had a three-year term as Chairman of the Religion Department.

Concurrently with his Wellesley appointment, Professor Marini has held visiting positions at graduate theological faculties in the Boston area, including Weston Jesuit Theological School, Andover Newton Theological School, and Harvard Divinity School. In Spring 2001 he taught full-time as Professor of Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School/Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

Professor Marini's research interests concentrate in two areas, religion in Revolutionary America and the sacred arts in America. He is the author of Radical Sects of Revolutionary New England (Harvard University Press, 1982/1988) and Sacred Song in America: Religion, Music, and Public Culture (University of Illinois Press, in press), as well as numerous scholarly articles and reviews. His current projects include an edition of the 250 most popular American Protestant hymns as determined by a 105,000-record database compiled by Wellesley students, and a new book on the role of religion in America's founding tentatively titled The Government of God: Religion in Revolutionary America. Professor Marini's scholarly work has been supported by five major research fellowships. His work on religion in Revolutionary America has received three fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities as well as a Earhart Foundation Research Fellowship. His research on American Protestant hymnody has been supported by a Lilly Endowment grant including a research fellowship.

Professor Marini is deeply engaged in teaching as well as research. He won Wellesley's Pinanski Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 1991 and was named Chairman's Prize Lecturer of the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1989. While serving as New England regional president of the American Academy of Religion in 1992 to 1993 he designed and conducted a successful summer program for young college teachers in Religious Studies with support from the Lilly Endowment.

Professor Marini is also founder and singing master of Norumbega Harmony, an internationally acclaimed choral ensemble specializing in early American psalmody and hymnody. The group, originally organized to sing at Wellesley College chapel services, celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2001.

Professor Marini has also worked on documentary films, serving as principal consultant for Ken Burns's PBS documentary The Shakers: Hands to Work and Hearts to God (1984) as well as consulting and appearing on screen in documentaries for the BBC and PBS Frontline. His other professional activities include national leadership roles with the American Academy of Religion and the American Society of Church History and frequent participation in conferences sponsored by the Liberty Fund.

Stuart Pankin

Stuart Pankin (born April 8, 1946 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) is an American actor.

Pankin played Earl Sinclair in the TV sitcom Dinosaurs. Pankin was also an anchor on HBO's Not Necessarily the News. He has done voices for Animaniacs and an animated Batman series. He recently played an Orthodox Jew in Curb Your Enthusiasm. He has also starred in Ally McBeal, Malcom in the Middle, and Walker Texas Ranger. In movies, he has appeared in Congo and Striptease.

Charles “Chuck” Strum

Chuck Strum is Associate Managing Editor at the New York Times.

After working at Newsday, he joined the New York Times in 1979. He first oversaw the Public Lives column and held several roles on the Metro desk, including New Jersey bureau chief, and performed adjunct editing work on several other desks, including the Foreign desk, where he edited coverage of South Africa's first free elections. In 2001, he was named Obituaries Editor of the paper. In 2006, he was named Associate Managing Editor.
Kenneth J. Berman ’76:

Kenneth Berman is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University and is a partner at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

He received his B.A. from Dickinson College, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Beta Kappa; he later received his J.D. from the University of Chicago. Berman previously worked for the Securities and Exchange Commission in the Division of Investment Management as Assistant Director of the Office of Regulatory Policy and then as Associate Director of the Division at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP. While serving as Associate Director, he oversaw the division offices responsible for processing applications for exemptive relief under the Investment Company Act and administering the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935.

Howard J. Lalli ’90

Howard Lalli has 15 years of media experience to the Custom Publishing practice he leads for Edelman, a global communications firm headquartered in New York and Chicago.

The Atlanta-based practice is launching consumer magazine-style publications for three of the firm’s top five clients—all in health care. Edelman Custom Publishing also has recently launched a magazine and book publishing strategy for a large consumer products company.

Beginning with the editorship of *The Dickinsonian* newspaper at Dickinson College and following his entry into publishing with *Vanity Fair* magazine, Lalli has held leadership positions with national, regional and local publications in various stages of launch and re-launch, including: *The New Yorker* (where he served as assistant managing editor); *The Palm Beach Jewish Times* and *Boca/Delray Jewish Times* (where he served as founding editor); Central PA magazine (where he served as editor and publisher); *Talk* magazine (where he served as founding managing editor); *Atlanta* magazine (where his work as executive editor included several award-winning pieces); and *Chai*, a Jewish community magazine he launched from his kitchen table and subsequently sold to the *Atlanta Jewish Times*.

Lalli’s experience with Edelman (formerly The Headline Group in Atlanta) also includes his role as corporate communications counsel for the region’s largest mixed-use redevelopment of a brownfield site and for Florida’s largest title insurance organization. His crisis communications experience spans environmental and employment issues, along with criminal investigations.

As a student at Dickinson College, Lalli was a history major. He was active in Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the Public Affairs Symposium and the Student Senate.

He currently lives in Dunwoody, Georgia, with his wife, Susan; son, Nick; and daughter, Jordan. He has continued his involvement with Dickinson College since graduation, most notably serving on the college’s board of advisors and, more recently, on the board of The Clarke Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Contemporary Issues.

Howard Lalli ’90 as he receives Dickinson College’s first ever Young Alumni Award