



# ALPHA DELTA PHI SOCIETY

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## ALPHA DELTA PHI SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

Jim Sabo, BDN 1992 / *President*  
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Dena Schwartz, PENN 2013 / *Vice President*  
Alina Brewer, CAP 2015.5 / *Secretary*  
Laura Hellwig, CAP 2016 / *Treasurer*  
A. Paul Neshamkin, COL 1963 / *Historian*

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Justin Campos, MID 2019  
Christine Chapman, BRN 2014  
Peter Goldstein, BRN 2008  
Celina Kelly, COL 2009  
Alanna Kwoka, BRN 2010  
Henry Lombino, MID 2018  
Kylie Madden, CAP 2017  
Concetta Magliochetti, URS 2019  
Joan Matelli, MID 1992  
Rachel Quinn, BING 2019  
Jim Sabo, BDN 1992  
Kristen Soule, BRN 1999  
Matthew Schechter, BDN 1991  
Dena Schwartz, PENN 2013  
Ashley Taylor, GRN 2013  
Zachary Wilson, BRN 2012

### MAJOR INITIATIVE DIRECTORS

Melissa Diaz, BRN 2011 / *Chapter Support*  
Evan Finkelstein, BING 2014 / *Chapter Support*  
Tiffany Moustakas, BING 2015 / *Communication*  
Alanna Kwoka, BRN 2010 / *Development*  
Sam Davidoff-Gore, BRN 2015 / *Expansion*  
Christine Chapman, BRN 2014 / *Member Safety*  
Nassor Isom, BING 2015 / *Operations*  
Carling Mars, COL 2010 / *Philanthropy*

### CHAPTERS AND AFFILIATES

Binghamton Chapter, Binghamton Univ. (BING)  
Bowdoin College Graduate Organization (BDN)  
Brunonian Chapter, Brown Univ. (BRN)  
Capital Chapter, George Washington Univ. (CAP)  
Columbia Chapter, Columbia Univ. (COL)  
Granite Graduate Chapter, U. of New Hampshire (GRN)  
Middletown Chapter, Wesleyan Univ. (MID)  
Stanford Chapter, Stanford Univ. (S)  
Penn Affiliate, U. of Pennsylvania (PENN)  
Rensselaer Affiliate, Rensselaer Polytechnic Inst. (RPI)  
Ursinian Affiliate, Ursinus College (URS)

### HEADQUARTERS

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Michael Blitstein, BRN 2003 / *Executive Director*  
Terrie Eastmade, BDN 1997 / *Headquarters Manager*

Dear Siblings,

It is with great regret that I write to inform you that the Columbia chapter has been suspended by their University, effective November 8th.

During a pledge event on September 28th, a significant amount of screaming was heard coming from the house, to the extent that Columbia University Public Safety was called. Upon entering the house, Public Safety officers witnessed pledges wearing blindfolds, which led to the University initiating a judicial hearing on the charges of violating University policies on hazing and noise. The Inter-Greek Council Judicial Board found the Chapter responsible for the hazing and noise violations, and the Chapter has been placed on suspension until January 2020, and then will be on probation for an additional year, until January 2021.

Suspension means that the students cannot conduct any chapter business—including weekly meetings, initiation, social or philanthropic events. The students are able to remain in the house, and the Society is still recognized as an organization, but they are effectively inactive during this time. It is currently unclear how much involvement the undergraduates are able to have with the Society during this period—it is clear that they cannot host events, but it is less clear if they are able to participate in Undergraduate Parliament calls or attend Convention.

We are working to determine exactly what the University will allow to ensure that the students don't wind up in more trouble.

When the Chapter moves to probation, they will be allowed to resume business meetings and community/philanthropic events, and may be able to resume recruitment, but they will not be able to hold other social events.

As the Chapter currently has 12 juniors and 9 sophomores, the duration of the suspension and probation period is a challenge for their long-term viability — if they are unable to resume recruitment until they are out of the probation period, there will be very few students left to begin that rebuilding process.

The Columbia undergraduates and graduates are currently appealing the duration of the judgment. The basis for the appeal is that it is more productive to focus on demonstrating that they have changed the behavior that led to the suspension, than it is to just put the chapter on hold for two and a half years. The University has until the end of the semester to respond to this appeal.

As we await that decision, many things are happening at the local and national level:

- The Columbia graduate organization is working very closely with the undergraduates and the University to make sure that we understand exactly what the University expects of everyone, and that we follow that to the letter.
- The Society National, taking its lead from the Columbia undergraduate and graduate chapters, will provide any information or support to the University to try to bring them back to good standing as quickly as possible.
- As this issue has engaged a number of recent Columbia graduates, the Lifelong Experience committee will work on facilitating a number of events in NYC, to keep those recent graduates involved and energized, so they in turn can continue to support the undergraduates as much as possible.
- Chapter Services is heading a review of laws and university policies applicable to new member education practices at all of our chapters. The review will produce a report and recommendations.

Now I ask that everyone reflect upon their experience in the Society. As an organization, we pride ourselves on being the role model for other Greek organizations and always being willing to evolve when needed. Going forward, we must ensure that all of our members and pledges have a safe, welcoming experience in the Society.

As Chapter Services begins the review, I ask that you consider your own pledging experience and discuss with your siblings – graduate, undergraduate, from your chapter or another – about how we can do better as an organization. If something you experienced or have witnessed concerns you, please discuss these concerns with your chapter and begin the conversation about how to make changes. It is paramount that we ensure the pledging process is not a frightening or intimidating experience, but one in which everyone has experiences that positively solidify our mystic ties.

Over the next two years, we will be providing support to not just the Columbia Chapter, but to all of our chapters as we work to grow and evolve. I hope that we, as a Society, show Columbia the true definition of siblinghood and reach out to them with open arms. While some may end their college career without being able to participate in the traditions we hold dear, let's remind them that the Alpha Delta Phi Society is a lifelong experience, one that transcends the boundaries of a single undergraduate experience.

And to our Columbia siblings, please know that the Society is here for you and is not going anywhere. When the time comes for the Columbia undergraduate chapter to begin rebuilding, we will be there to help you recruit new members, convincing them that the Alpha Delta Phi Society is where they want to spend their four years in Manhattan.

I hope all of you will join me in this time of introspection and have honest conversations about your experiences as an undergraduate, particularly during the pledging process. I look forward to growing with all of you – and continuing to make the Alpha Delta Phi Society the best experience it can be.

Should you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at [president@adps.org](mailto:president@adps.org).

Jim Sabo  
BDN '92  
President, Alpha Delta Phi Society