

Heather McCulloch Mistretta



REUNION FOR

ALPHA THETA CHI

Chuck Hassol '61 celebrated the 50th anniversary of his graduation with the brothers of his fraternity, Alpha Theta Chi (now Sigma Pi), over Homecoming weekend last October. AOX, Monmouth's third oldest fraternity, was founded in 1959.



"Many of us had not seen each other in 45-50 years, but we were able to gather 26 of the grey-haired/bald brothers together for the two-day reunion," Hassol said.

Following the Homecoming on campus, the group gathered at the Draft House in West Long Branch for a reunion. "Way back in 1962 the place was called Linda's Cliff House, and it was the first sponsor of our 'Chi Dogs' touch-football team," Hassol recalled.

"We had a wonderful time reminiscing about our fierce games on the Great Lawn against the 'Chinese Bandits' and so many of our escapades back in the 60s," he said.

"We were a pretty wild bunch. Like the Delta Sigs, we always felt we were the 'Animal House' on and off campus—although we were honest enough to admit that the distinction belonged more to Phi Delta Sigma than it did to us."

In the past 50 years the group has lost 12 brothers including its faculty advisor, Lauren K. Woods. "We raised a glass (several) to their memory, and we look forward to reuniting again next year," Hassol said.



JERRY AMEDEO '90, CHUCK HARRISON, BUTCH WELCH

Hassol remembered his fraternity sponsoring Homecoming Queen Contestants and winning the float-building competition at Homecoming almost every year of his college career. He also recalled bringing gifts to children in the hospital each Christmas.

"We were also the loudest group (with horns and drums) of supporters at home basketball games at Convention Hall in Asbury Park, and we also supported the founding of the Nu Theta Chi Sorority," he said.

He also recalled April 9, 1965, when they ran their own Rock 'n' Roll Show at Convention Hall.

"We had nine of the biggest Rock 'n' Roll acts at the time—Del Shannon "Run-away," The Chiffons "He's So Fine," The Crests (with Johnny Maestro) "Sixteen Candles," The Crystals "The Doo Run Run," The Tokens "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," The Tymes "So In Love," The Emotions "Echo," The Angels "My Boyfriend's Back," and The Dovells "The Bristol Stomp."

"We sold out both shows," Hassol said, adding that the WMCA "Good Guys," Joe O'Brien and Jack Spector, emceed the shows.



MEMBERS OF ALPHA THETA CHI IN THE 1960 YEARBOOK. STANDING: BILL KAEI '63, WILLIAM JELLEY '61, FORMAN VAN SCOICK, NOEL MOORE '62, ROBERT BRAY '64, THOMAS BOYCE '61, FRED KAEI '61, GARY FENDELANDER, MICKE GAREAU, BUD MCKNIGHT '61, WARREN REECE, HOWARD NEWMAN '63; **SEATED:** ROBERT WEISS '61, WILLIAM MCNIGHT, AL FALVO '61, JACK BRIGNOLA '62 '75M.

Hassol said he has retired for the second time, following his first retirement in July 2005 after a 26-year career as a sports writer and editor. After serving 3 1/2 years as a director on the board of his 1,500-home gated community in Leesburg, FL, Chuck “retired” from that responsibility last March.

In his first career, Hassol was twice voted N.J. Sports Writer of the Year by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters' Association. He also had a 17-year career as a community association manager in Raleigh, NC.

Hassol also provided updates for some of his fraternity brothers who are now spread across 16 states.

Among the brothers attending reunion were former AOX president and current Monmouth University Trustee, Jerry “Sleepy” Amedeo '66, former AOX vice president Gary Fendelander '62, Mike Fogg '64 '70M, Tom Gallagher '62, former Monmouth University Trustee Frank Gudicello '67, John Hollister '64, Howard Newman '63, Chuck Rupy '64, Richie “the Shiek” Schenk, Richard Silberberg '66 and Richard Towers '65.

Amedeo, the president of AOX in the mid-60s, was appointed to the

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N.J. Juvenile Justice Commission in 1999 and also served on the transition team of N.J. Governor Chris Christie. In 2005 he was awarded the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the NJ Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Gary Fendelander is a retired airline pilot and still makes his home at the Jersey Shore.

Mike Fogg served in Europe and Vietnam as a member of the Navy Reserve. He was a teacher in the Tuckerton School District for 25 years and retired as Superintendent of Schools.

Tom Gallagher entered the Peace Corps, and later became the youngest chief of a diplomatic mission in modern U.S. history when he served as



LEFT TO RIGHT: DON MUNIZ '67, AIDA MUNIZ, FRANCINE FISCHER, HENRY “HANK” FISCHER '68, CAROL BARNA, JOE BARNA '64



LEFT: PLEDGE CLASS, SPRING 1961: MANNY CADIMA '68, JOE BARNA '64, TIM MAXWELL, CHUCK HASSOL '61, ED FREDA '64, TOM GALLAGHER '62. **RIGHT: "CHI DOGS" TOUCH FOOTBALL TEAM IN 1963 YEARBOOK**

Consul General in Ecuador at the age of 34. He also spent several years in San Francisco running the largest public mental health clinic in the U.S.

Gallagher later worked for the State Department serving in numerous foreign countries including Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Ecuador, Spain, Belgium, the Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Dubai, Guainía, Cameroon and France. He recently returned from a stint in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Frank Gudicello practiced general surgery at Monmouth Medical Center for 20 years. He was an assistant clinical professor of surgery at Hahnemann Medical School in Philadelphia. He also served as president of the Monmouth College Alumni Association and was a member of the Monmouth University Board of Trustees from 1990 to 1997.

John Hollister went into the Army Reserve after graduation, but started his own corporation in 1980 and de-

veloped products for national big box customers sourcing products from Asia, South America, Latin America and Europe. In 1983 he came in second in the National Volvo 4.0 Tennis competition.

Howard Newman was the former editor-in-chief of *The Outlook* as well as student body president. He has practiced law in Monmouth County for more than 40 years.

Chuck Rupy worked for General Dynamics in Groton, CT, for 35 years and became program manager for the Trident Submarine Strategic Weapon System. He was elected National Chairman of the Human Resources Panel, which was tasked to help the U.S. shipbuilders become more globally competitive and address safety problems.

Richie Schenk, the fraternity's first member of Monmouth's varsity basketball team, went on to become the principal at West Caldwell and then assistant superintendent of schools in the Caldwell-West Caldwell School District.

Jack Schweitzer served in Vietnam where he was left partially paralyzed. He is living with his brother, Kirk, and mother in Cloudfcroft, NM.

Rich Silberberg is one of several AOX brothers who became attorneys. He has practiced law in several different categories in Newark, Woodbridge, Edison, Springfield and East Brunswick.

Rich Towers, a former class president, went to Wake Forest Law School and passed the N.C. bar in 1968. He served in the Marine Corps from 1968 to 1972 with time in Vietnam. He moved to High Point, NC, in 1972, first working in the Public Defender's office. He opened his own practice in 1976 and is still working.

Fred Kaeli Jr. '61, a Monmouth University Trustee since February 2010, is president of the Fairleigh S. Dickinson Jr. Foundation and a former senior vice president of investments at Smith Barney in Shrewsbury.

Hassol said that the fraternity members who gathered in October also remembered their classmates who are "gone but not forgotten." They include Bob V. Anderson '65, Bob Boerum '65, Neil Forman, Warren King '72, Bill Loffio, Ray McNabb '67 '71M, Paul Poetsch '63, Roger Schenone '63, Frank Schmidt, John Seyler '68, Stanley Sharaga '68, and faculty advisor Lauren Woods.

A quote from the 1965 Shadows Yearbook captures the spirit of the fraternity, "Graduates have distinguished themselves as: members of the Peace Corps, officers in the military, state and federal government employees, teachers, and businessmen...The past has, indeed, been great. The future will be even greater." [MU](#)



TIM MAXWELL AND TOM GALLAGHER '62