

ARM & HAMMER

Alpha Tau Omega

Gamma Sigma

Fall 2022



Instagram: [atogammasigma](#)

Facebook: [atogammasigma](#)

Linkedin: [Alpha Tau Omega - Gamma Sigma](#)

Headlines

Homecoming - Saturday October 1st

All are welcome to Homecoming on Saturday October 1st. The traditional happy hour will kick it off at 3:30pm followed by the Alumni Annual Meeting at 5pm and a brotherhood dinner at 6pm. Men's Soccer will be playing at Springfield at 1pm. Football will be hosting Merchant Marine at Alumni Stadium at 2:30pm.

ATO Nike Dri-Fit golf polos will be available for purchase for \$50. Payment will be accepted in the form of cash, check made out to "ATO - Gamma Sigma", or venmo. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon!



The Front Door Challenge

Inspired by Alumni who donated their time and expertise to completely restore The Front Door of our Chapter House, thirteen ATO Brothers from Classes of 1967-1973 have each generously donated more than \$10,000 to raise a total of \$150,000 to support The Front Door Challenge campaign. **Held in "escrow," we Challenge you to match with whatever donation you can. We will release a 100% match for ongoing restoration projects.** For example, if you donate \$100 / \$1,000 / or \$10,000 it will result in \$200 / \$2,000 / \$20,000 being made available for House restoration doubling your impact. Any and all size donations are appreciated, please give what you can!

Though in effect until December 31, 2022, we really want to receive \$150,000 in match donations by **Homecoming**. This will keep our funding ahead of the project work and allow the restoration to proceed uninhibited by lack of timely funding. If you help us, together we can raise \$300,000 to essentially complete the funding effort. Please rise to meet our Challenge in any way you can.

You can send a donations four ways as shown below:

E-payments:

- **PayPal:** magammasigma@gmail.com
- **Venmo:** [@magammasigma](https://venmo.com/magammasigma)

Checks:

- **Pay to the order of Massachusetts Gamma Sigma Alumni Association**
c/o Kevin Prince
62 Paquawket Path, Groton MA 01450
klekaprince@gmail.com

Stock Transfer:

- **Brokerage: E-Trade Securities**
Name: Massachusetts Gamma Sigma Alumni Association
Acct #: 51320359
DTC#: 0385

This fundraiser and the resulting projects are extremely important. If you would like to be more informed or involved please reach out to Rollie Batson '71 (207-651-6515, rrbatson@me.com) and Frank Jensen '68 (305-731-3852, keystaster@gmail.com).

Executive Board

President	Colin Canniff	ccanniff25@gmail.com	781-715-7320
Vice President	Luke Reid	lreid006@gmail.com	339-832-5759
Treasurer	Demetre Doherty	dldoherty09@gmail.com	339-927-8640
Risk Manager	Dante Amicarella	dante.amicarella@gmail.com	678-699-1732
New Member Educator	Matthew Dzwil	mattdzwil@gmail.com	978-835-9504
Rush Chairman	Nick Biliouris	nicholasbiliouris@gmail.com	774-437-3484
Chaplain	Giovanni Vecchiarino	giovecchiarino10@gmail.com	860-798-1365
Historian	Roe Hendrick	roehendrick@gmail.com	603-521-4385
Secretary	Michael Nason	michaelnason6@gmail.com	207-807-7005

Chair Positions

House Manager	Frank Ford	franklinford1717@gmail.com	609-977-2063
Steward	Franco Bazzini	francobazzini1014@gmail.com	939-644-3688
Comptroller	Antone Mello	antonemello8@gmail.com	401-297-5410
Social Media	Matthew Neuffer	matthewneuffer@gmail.com	908-914-2894
Social	Francesco Valagussa	francio0928@gmail.com	857-272-2580

President Update

Heading into the new year, the chapter has had to move in a new direction with our new member education due to issues arising with the hill. I have worked closely with the New Member Educator, Matthew Dzwil, to update and revise our education for it to be suitable and appropriate.

To continue, this past summer, Risk Manager Dante Amicarella and I went down to the 85th ATO National Congress in Orlando, Florida and brought back a scholarship award the chapter had earned for having one of the highest average GPAs among all ATO chapters across the nation. We also learned a lot from other chapters and the national officers, which we plan to bring back to the Gamma Sigma chapter. Furthermore, WPI and National awards are an area of focus for the chapter over the next few years as they demonstrate all the positive things we do as a chapter. With the chapter growing and improving in all directions there is a lot of ground for recognition.

Recently, the chapter has increased our engagement with the WPI and Worcester community and plan to continue that effort. On Saturday, September 17th, we welcomed our families for Family Weekend at WPI, where the brothers were able to show off the house to parents and siblings and enjoy a delicious dinner on a beautiful day. The chapter also helped the neighborhood board and attended the Neighborhood Block Party on Saturday, September 24th, and will be volunteering at the neighborhood Halloween Haunting event at Bancroft Tower on Sunday, October 23rd. On campus, we will be participating in the WPI's Walk to Fight Suicide, selling Suicide Prevention ribbons and other small items to raise money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. More philanthropy efforts will be conducted throughout the fall, and are highlighted in the Vice President report. ATO Gamma Sigma takes a lot of pride in helping out the WPI and Worcester community, and we look forward to aiding the neighborhood, WPI, and Worcester again this fall.

As a chapter we are looking forward to connecting with you all at Homecoming on Saturday, October 1st. Events like this are pivotal to the chapter to connect its past with its present. The chapter has also worked very hard, alongside our amazing Alumni Board, to restore much of 8 and 10 Regent Street. We have a very motivated group of actives and Alumni who are putting a lot of time and effort into making the house an exceptional place to live for years to come. Furthermore, the brotherhood has worked alongside very motivated alumni to help raise money via the Front Door Challenge. Brothers have spent time writing and sending hundreds of letters, attending this past summer's 50 year reunion, and conducting a telethon to alumni in order to raise money for the challenge.

I would like to express our gratitude specifically for all the alumni who have made time in their busy schedules to come help us make fixes and additions to the house, that will make it a place where any brother would be proud to live in for generations of Taus to come. Without you, the house and the brotherhood wouldn't be what it is today. We hope to see you all at Homecoming on Saturday, October 1st, so you can see the wonderful work that has been done over the past 18 months to help bring the house back to its former glory.

Love and Respect,
Colin Canniff

Vice-President Update

This semester we are working on taking advantage of a few community service opportunities. We are still partnering with the Worcester Green Corps. We require brothers to attend at least one cleanup per semester in designated locations throughout Worcester. There will also be occasional projects that we participate in, such as constructing a community garden. In addition we are starting a halloween costume drive where we collect costumes from families around our neighborhood, WPI, and Worcester as a whole. They will be donated to underprivileged children in the community that can't afford halloween costumes.

Later into the semester, we plan on organizing our 3rd annual turkey drive for non-perishable food donations or cash donations. The donations will be sent to the Worcester County Food Bank. We plan on soliciting donations from local food shops around Worcester as well as the WPI campus. In addition, we plan on volunteering with the "Haulin' 4 Hunger Drive" with Advantage Truck Group to combat food insecurity in New England.

Besides Philanthropy, we have elected new chair positions for the semester and organized a new Judicial-board committee for the year. We are currently working on the basement project including bringing the fire suppression system up to code, deep cleaning, and setting up a lighting system.

Love and Respect,
Luke Reid

Treasurer Update

The status of our bank accounts continue to improve from last year. All bills are up to date and being paid on time. The brothers have been on top of paying their national dues and rent/out of house dues. I was able to create our budget for the year with the help of the executive board over the summer to ensure that we will have enough money for all of the various events throughout the year on top of all of the bills that need to be paid. Over the summer the brotherhood used the money from can deposit returns that we have made over the past couple of years to buy and install a new washer and dryer for the house.

Looking ahead, we will continue to make sure that we have sufficient funds for the upcoming events we have scheduled for the fall, including Homecoming and Rush. Our system for letting each position know how much money they have in their budget has remained the same as it turned out to be a big success last year. We have also continued implementing our process of reimbursing brothers through Google Forms since it has been a very efficient and effective method. We have been working with Omegafi to help out a couple of brothers that have been having trouble with their Omegafi accounts and hope that the issue is resolved in the coming weeks. We will continue to work hard as an executive board to remain under budget and use our finances intelligently.

Love and Respect,
Demetre Doherty

New Member Educator Update

As mentioned in the last Arm & Hammer, our goal with the reformed new member process is to cultivate an environment and culture that works to continuously improve the house and the new members. The key focus this fall has been on the continuous improvement of the now sophomore class beyond the scope of pledging. The current focus has been on academic improvement. I created a study hours event where every Wednesday and Friday from 9am-12pm there is a classroom on campus where members can come and focus on their studies. I also held two meetings before the WPI Career Fair to go over LinkedIns, resumes, and other professional programming topics. Shout out to Alexander Poll '22, Tyler Carroll '10, and Jacob Spada '20 for representing the alumni well at the Career Fair! Make sure to join the LinkedIn group to stay active with career opportunity postings.

Love and Respect,
Matthew Dzwil

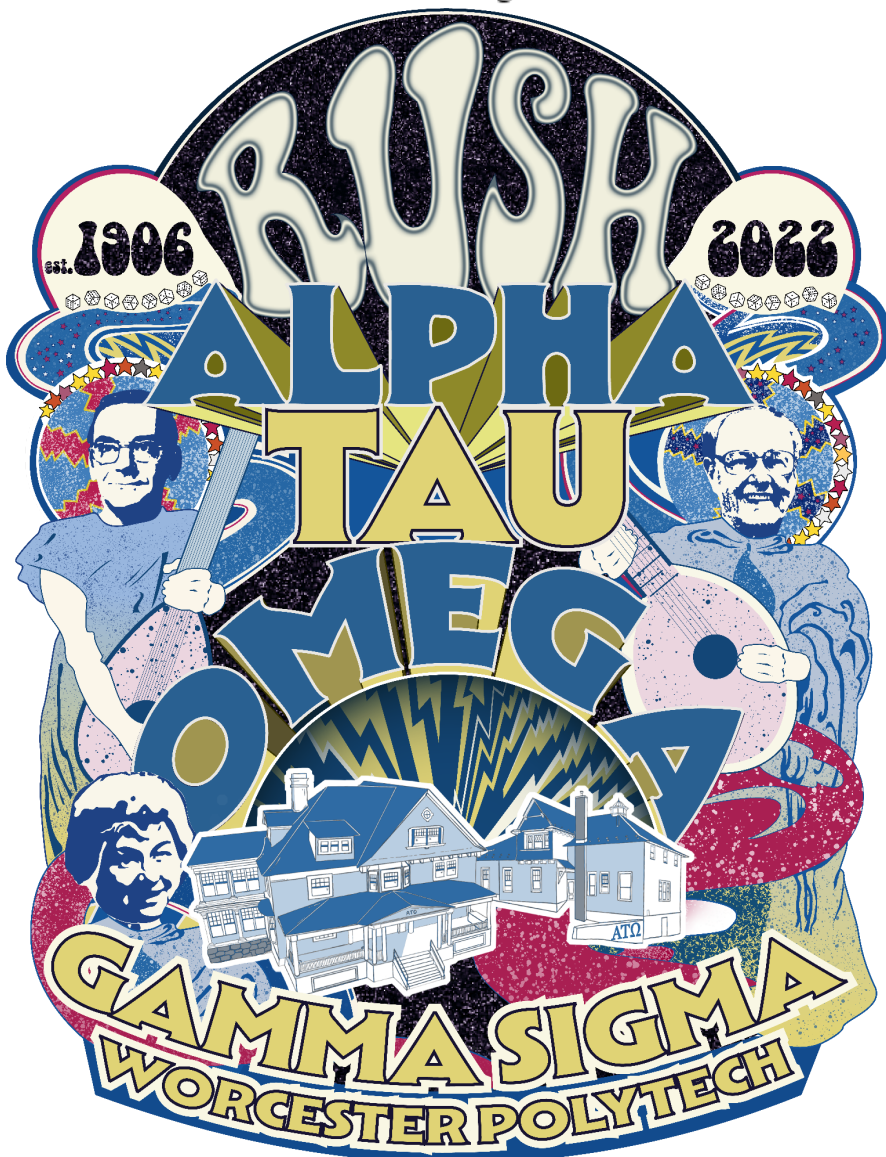
Rush Chair Update

This year, Rush is taking on exciting new challenges. We aim to expand our portfolio of potential new members to other reaches of campus. We want a diverse, and creative group of devoted kids this year and our efforts reflect that. The rush shirt design has taken on the rock and roll poster theme of the 60s and 70s, and it features Ma Fell, Bill ‘Tuna’ Trask, and Harry Thompson on the back as an homage to our legends. The new rushees will learn to love and respect them as we all have in due time, and I’m excited to meet them.

As a chapter, we are working on community engagement as a whole, and this year I’m challenging all brothers to bring at least one unique person to rush that they have met on campus in the first part of the year. We will be practicing the funnel approach as laid out by the national guidelines, that is, taking in a large group of kids at first, and narrowing it down to a fine number of truly ideal candidates. I trust my brothers will find a great crowd of people, and I’m incredibly excited to welcome the next generation of Gamma Sigma brothers.

Love and Respect,
Nicholas Biliouris

Back Design



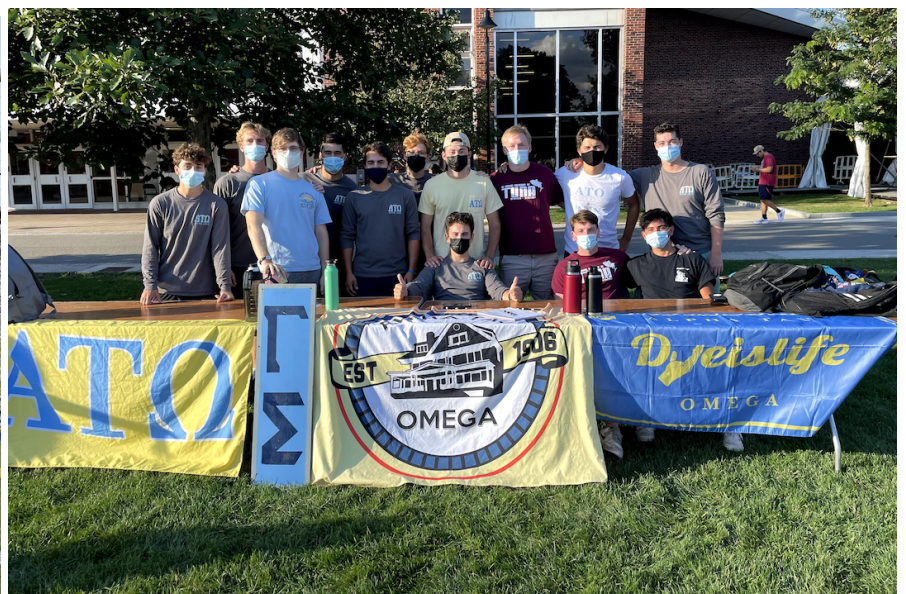
Front Design



Chaplin Update

We always pride ourselves in being the closest brotherhood on campus. We love to spend quality time together whether we are grinding studies or shooting hoops. We do an array of things together including soccer, basketball, football, kickball, baseball, skiing/snowboarding, going to sports games, and many more. I plan to keep that ball rolling and keep the brotherhood active and engaged. This winter break we will be going on our annual ski trip which is arguably the Tau's favorite brotherhood event. Overall we have a great group of guys that care about each other and want to be there for one another. Below are some great photos that we have taken while in the midst of our events.

Love and Respect,
Giovanni Vecchiarino



House Manager Update

Projects completed or in the process of being completed by the brotherhood and alumni under the direction of House Manager Frank Ford:

- Organized and updated our House Manager google drive and shared with Alumni to better coordinate improving the house
- Created an online calendar in order to meet yearly regulatory checks, allow easy tracking of projects and create better synergy between the actives and alumni
- Remodeled Ma's Head Bathroom
- Fixed holes, banisters and other miscellaneous items around the house
- Painting, drywall work, and general upgrades to individual rooms
- New CO detectors through both houses
- Basement upgraded ceiling tiles and safety updates
- Alumni Large Projects:
 - Both houses painted externally
 - New C house roof and repairs to main house roof
 - Chapter room floor restored
 - Stained glass restored
 - Porch restored, repainted and updated

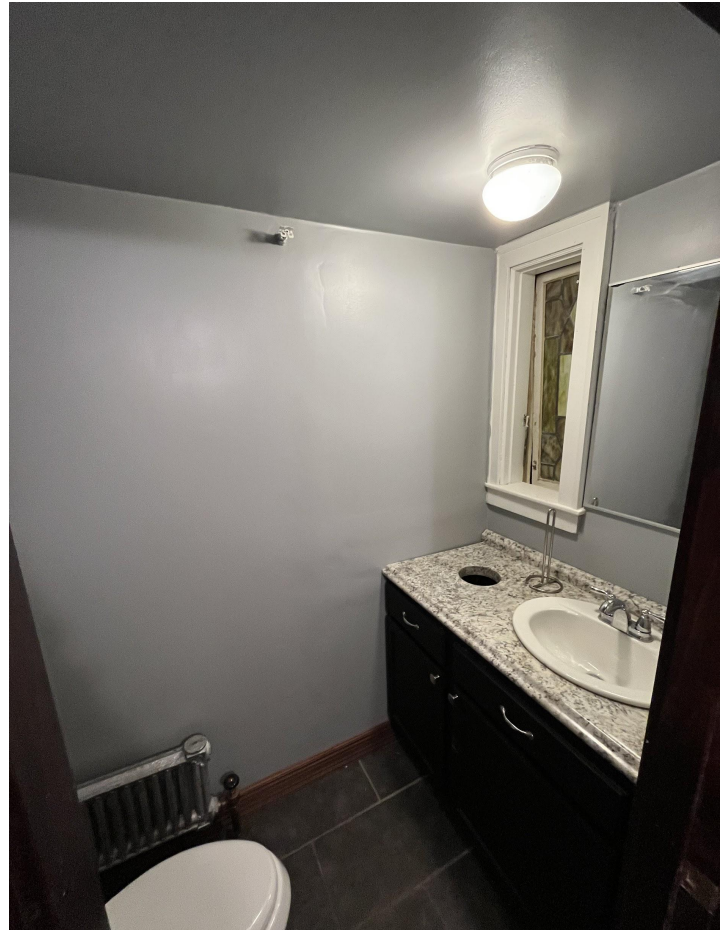
We plan to continue making improvements to preserve ATO for years to come. Any and all help (physical, financial, intellectual, etc.) is greatly encouraged and appreciated!

Love and Respect,

Frank Ford

609-977-2063

franklinford1717@gmail.com



Social Media Chair Update

The website has been refreshed and completed. It includes a list of the execs, risk policies, among other pages. The plan is to continue to add more pages such as a chapter history page, an awards page, and a detailed gallery of all house projects/renovations. To see the new site visit <https://www.atogammasigma.com/>

For other social media platforms, I plan to make relevant posts to instagram and facebook to keep the community up to date with what is going on at 8 and 10 Regent Street. Plans for the social media pages include throwback posts (highlighting our chapters history), fundraising/philanthropy posts, as well as the typical update posts. I look forward to rush where I will be keeping all prospective students updated on our events and rush calendar.

Love and Respect,
Matthew Neuffer
908-914-2894
matthewneuffer@gmail.com

This is a list of our seniors and their majors. These seniors are hungry to get out into the real world and we encourage you to reach out if you know of opportunities.

Seniors

Will Bazakas-Chamberlain	williambazakaschamberlain@gmail.com	617-872-0784	Computer Science
Franco Bazzini	francobazzini1014@gmail.com	939-644-3688	BS Business Analytics / MS Management
Nicholas Biliouris	nicholasbiliouris@gmail.com	774-437-3483	Robotics Engineering
Colin Canniff	cmcanniff@wpi.edu	781-715-7320	Mechanical Engineering (Minor: Business)
Zane Carey	zncarey@gmail.com	240-695-4040	Computer Science
Brent Ditzler	ditzlerb19@gmail.com	717-552-3161	Chemical Engineering
Demetre Doherty	dldoherty09@gmail.com	339-927-8640	Actuarial Mathematics
Mathew Dzwil	mattdzwil@gmail.com	978-835-9504	Data Science
Roe Hendrick	roehendrick@gmail.com	603-521-4385	Mechanical Engineering (Concentration: Mechanical Design)
Michael Nason	michaelnason6@gmail.com	207-807-7005	Mechanical Engineering (Concentration: Biomechanics)
Luke Reid	lreid006@gmail.com	339-832-5759	Mechanical Engineering (Minor: Robotics)
Andrew Roberts	wynn.roberts01@gmail.com	585-953-6025	Mechanical Engineering (Minor: Spanish)
Walter Rodriguez	walterrodz0214@gmail.com	787-226-1204	Mechanical Engineering
Luke Savoie	luke.r.savoie@gmail.com	508-369-7095	Data Science
Alexander Strickland	strickland7712@gmail.com	413-230-5815	Robotics Engineering/Computer Science
Joshua Unger	josh.unger01@gmail.com	201-675-2947	BS Computer Science / MS Management
Francesco Valagussa	francio0928@gmail.com	857-272-2580	Mechanical Engineering (Concentration: Mechanical Design)

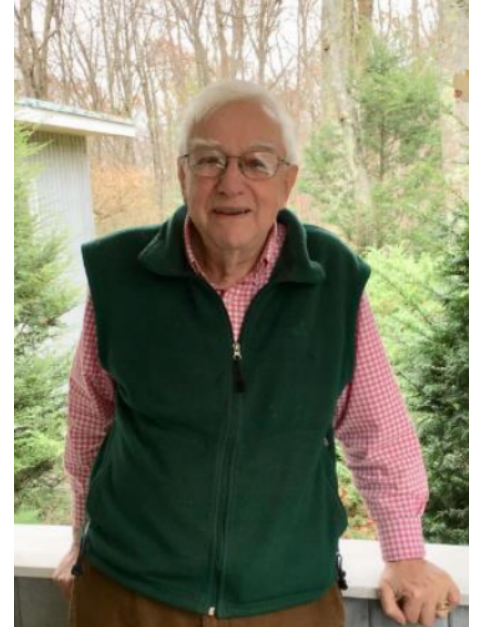
Masters Candidates

Michael Biando	mikebiando18@gmail.com	770-557-5483	BS Chemical Engineering/ MS Fire Protection Engineering
Evan Hallberg	evanhallberg19@gmail.com	401-447-6377	BS Biomedical Engineering/Mechanical Engineering/ MS Mechanical Engineering
Erik Herrera	eriksvenherrera@gmail.com	760-310-8634	BS/MS Mechanical Engineering
John Laukaitis	johnlaukaitis14@gmail.com	802-373-3614	BS/MS Chemical Engineering
Christopher Martenson	christophermartenson1@gmail.com	203-505-1931	BS/MS Mechanical Engineering

Historical Spotlight

Obituary for Christian S. Baehrecke

PAXTON - Christian (Chris) S. Baehrecke, 92, of Paxton, MA passed away on May 31, 2022. Pre-deceased by his beloved wife, Ingeborg in 2019, he is survived by his daughter, Astrid Baehrecke, her husband Kevin Ring, and granddaughter Audrey, son Eric Baehrecke, and grandsons Owen and Ansel, Eric's fiancée Ania Woloszynska and daughter Nina, as well as extended family in the US, numerous relations and acquaintances in Germany with whom he kept in close contact, and a multitude of local friends. Calling hours will be held at Miles Funeral Home, 1158 Main Street, Holden, MA, on June 16 from 5-7 pm. A private celebration of Chris's life will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on June 19. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Chris's memory to Mechanics Hall, Community Healthlink, or to a charity of one's choosing.



Christian Siegfried Baehrecke was born November 29, 1929, in Dresden, Germany, the third son of Arnold Baehrecke and Gertrud Schirmeister. As a child and young man he lived in the eastern suburb of Bühlau just outside of the Saxon capital. Chris attended high school at the Staatsgymnasium and completed his Abitur exam at the Kreuzschule Dresden in 1950. He lived through the Dresden air raid in 1945 and following the Second World War was unjustly interned for three years in a Russian prisoner of war camp. Fleeing the soviet-occupied zone of his homeland, Chris applied for immigration to the United States. An interest in building construction led him to apprentice in carpentry. He became a journeyman before leaving for the United States in 1952. He then joined his Aunt's family, the Garrisons, in Boston.

Soon after his arrival in Massachusetts, Chris began his studies in civil engineering at Worcester Polytechnic University (WPI) graduating with a B.S. in 1956. Threatened with military service during the Korean War, he volunteered for ROTC courses offered at WPI. Upon becoming a US citizen in 1957, Chris received his commission as an officer in the US Army Corps of Engineers rising to the rank of captain. His active duty with the army reserve ended in 1965.

In 1957 he married his love, Ingeborg Wendsche in Berlin-Dahlem. Chris had been friends with Inge since 1945. As a young couple, Chris and Inge first lived near Washington, DC, then in Worcester until 1960, eventually buying land and building their home in Paxton where they lived 62 years of their happy marriage. Their daughter Astrid was born in 1958, followed by son Eric four years later.

Following his WPI graduation in 1956, Chris joined the fifty-year-old Worcester building construction/engineering firm, R.L. Whipple where he worked for his entire career. With his state registration as a professional engineer, Chris was involved in all operations of the company, rising to become its president for nearly two decades, before stepping back from active management in 1994. He remained a consultant with the company for its final twenty years.

During his professional career, Chris had lead responsibility for several award-winning building projects. This resulted in the firm's state certification for work on historic building restorations, older structures upgraded to modern requirements, or their adaptive reuse. He was involved with Atwood Hall, the theater building at Clark University, Whitcomb and Tuckerman Halls, the Higgins Residence of American Antiquarian, all in Worcester, and the Gough House in Boylston. Most prominently his work on the AIA award-winning renovation of Worcester's 1857 Mechanics Hall, where Chris led the initial restoration in 1976, followed by many years of work on further upgrades was a source of tremendous pride. In 2006 Mechanics Hall recognized Chris's continued care by awarding him its Master Mechanics award and Life-time honorary trusteeship. In 2011 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts honored Chris for his 55 years of service to Whipple Construction. Worcester's mayor gave him the ceremonial key to the city.

Chris's expertise was sought by many organizations, and he was active in volunteer service. For nearly sixty years, Chris stayed involved with the Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) fraternity from his WPI student days, its home then located on Institute Road. Following graduation Chris was elected president of the Gamma Sigma alumni and was integral in the purchasing and remodeling of a much larger property for its student members on Regent Street.

For over fifty years Chris served the town of Paxton. He was on the Finance, Appeals, Building and Master Plan committees and worked as an Assessor, Planner, and Selectman, serving as chairman in many of these positions. As Paxton's representative to the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Council, Chris was appointed its president during his 15-year tenure.

Chris's interest in mental health led to his 35 years as a board member at Community Healthlink. He was elected its president and chairman for five years. He also served as director of Yarock Memorial Housing until 2018. He further volunteered at his church, Trinity Lutheran, serving on the council and various committees. He also served on Preservation Worcester, as a trustee of the Elm Park Center, and at Anna Maria College, as a board member of Worcester's Lutheran Home, YWCA, and Devereux Foundation, and at Jeremiah's Hospice. He was a panelist of the American Arbitration Association, and a volunteer of the American Service Corporation. He ended his volunteer service in his mid-eighties.

Nothing was more important to Chris than spending time with his family and friends. Chris and Inge visited their homeland and family abroad over twenty times. Following the loss of his dear wife in 2019, Chris visited Dresden in celebration of her life for a final time. Chris and Inge enjoyed vacations on the outer beaches of Cape Cod, in the serene White Mountains of Jackson, NH with the Garrison family, and further afield in the States, Bermuda, and Europe. Chris enjoyed gardening, photography, and classical music, in addition to his many professional interests.

