First Generation College Students
How fraternities help first-generation students thrive in college and beyond.

Chad Withrow
Continuing the Legion’s dominance of sports broadcasting

Annual Awards
Recognizing the best of the best

Who was Founder James McIlvaine Riley?
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First Generation College Students
How fraternities help first-generation students thrive in college and beyond.
Receive The Delta

In 2006 the print edition moved to an opt-in only subscription service, meaning any member can still receive every issue - they just need to notify us using the web form at www.sigmanu.org/publications. (All members with a good email address will continue receiving the digital version.)

Collegiate chapters still receive bundles of 15 for each issue. Collegians who wish to receive their own copy of the print edition are encouraged to opt-in at the web form mentioned above.

Change your address

Email headquarters@sigmanu.org (subject line: Change of Address) or visit www.sigmanu.org/change_of_address.php to update contact information.

Get published in The Delta

Collegiate chapters and alumni are urged to submit timely chapter news by emailing news@sigmanu.org or using the web form at www.sigmanu.org/news/tell_us_your_news.php. All members are encouraged to submit news stories and potential features along with high-resolution photographs.

Photographs should be taken with a 3.2 or greater megapixel camera. Do not downsize original file size or download from websites like Facebook or Flickr. Original photographs are more likely to get published.

Send a letter to the editor

Letters to the editor and other forms of feedback are always welcome and should be sent to nathaniel.clarksen@sigmanu.org or PO Box 1869, Lexington, VA, 24459.
Demonstrating Cultural Relevance

IN THIS ISSUE WE TURN OUR FOCUS TO A STORY IN HIGHER education that hasn’t received nearly enough attention. Overshadowed by headline-grabbing topics like ballooning costs and campus unrest, the unique challenges faced by first-generation college students represents an area where higher education has room for improvement.

As freelance writer Chante Griffin chronicles on page 44, 34 percent of students who attend a college or university are first-generation college students. Of these students, only 50 percent complete their degree in six years, according to a 2011 report by the Higher Education Research Institute. Our coverage zooms in to share the stories of four first-generation students and the way their fraternity experience helped them thrive in school.

In addition to helping new students adjust to life at college, there is mounting pressure on the fraternity and sorority movement to demonstrate the value we bring to every campus community where we operate. Our Q and A interview with Regent Lee Perrett (Auburn) dives deeper into this question and details the High Council’s vision for the Fraternity and the strategies and tactics that will help us get there.

Our collection of feature stories shines the spotlight on Nashville area sports radio host Chad Withrow (Tennessee), whose impressive rise to the top of his market represents the latest addition to Sigma Nu’s proud tradition of excellence in sports broadcasting.

Inside you’ll also find the latest dispatches from chapters and alumni around the country, along with the latest column by Grand Historian Bob McCully in which he shares lesser known details about Founder James McIlvaine Riley. The story on Founder Riley represents the first in a series of three that will highlight each Founder leading up to the Legion of Honor’s 150th celebration in 2019.

We always welcome your feedback on stories we should consider for a future issue. Letters to the editor, comments, and general feedback can be sent to news@sigmanu.org.

Yours in Sigma Nu,

NATHANIEL CLARKSON (James Madison)
Managing Editor
Heard on Twitter

@EllenbergWells: Fmr @SouthernCompany CEO Alvin Vogtle inducted into @SigmaNuHQ Hall of Fame for bringing credit to his nation, profession + fraternity #67GC

@TaylorDRhodes: Always great to meet other brothers of @SigmaNuHQ, even when 1,000 miles from home.

@SigmaNuIU: Herman B Wells BH 327 is a man who Walks In The Way Of Honor. He is an inspiration to Beta Eta and @SigmaNuHQ #LHT

@NichOliver01: Congrats @SigmaNuHQ on @ASAEcenter 2016 #ThePowerOfA Silver Award for "The Social Strengths Workshop"

@ChrisPMairs: Making @SigmaNuHQ proud!!

@bt_dmb tonight shows why at @BBandTPavilion #DMB2016

@ECUSigmaNu: Good luck to our two representatives flying out to San Diego for the 67th Grand Chapter @SigmaNuHQ #EtaBeta

@SWu521: Attending @SigmaNuHQ #67GC = a biennial @NPCWomen reunion @ZTAFraternity @ChiOmegaXO @alphagammadelta @AlphaDeltaPi

@JeffroTaylo: Lots of work with a little fun! Congrats Brothers! RT @SigmaNuHQ: Congrats to our new Rock Chapters! #67GC

@ryanjosephlynch: @SigmaNuHQ wow, Georgia extremely well represented. Well done all! (Regarding Rock Chapters)

@Billysaulle09: I’m living vicariously through @SigmaNuHQ at Grand Chapter

@curtmenefee: So honored to be inducted into the @SigmaNuHQ Hall of Fame today. Thank you Brothers!!

@dcampjr: Loved having @nicfraternity Pres-ident & CEO Judson Horras speak to us at @SigmaNuHQ Grand Chapter. Good to hear our progress!

@mikerob66: Attending the 67th grand chapter was one of the best experiences of my life. So proud to be a founding father of @ISU_SNU #67GC

@CampbellMonumen: Thank you @SigmaNuHQ for allowing us to work on the memorial for Alpha 2. LTH sigmanu #67GC monuments

@TheArchStar: Huge shout out to the staffs of @kappaalphahoarder & @SigmaNuHQ for hosting a GREAT #AFADriveInVA. @AFA1976 would be very proud!
OVERHEARD

“We need to continue to offer a valuable experience to young men, develop them, give them valuable life skills and instruct them as to how to be gentlemen and better members of society.”

// Regent Lee Perrett (Auburn). Read more from Regent Perrett’s interview on page 40.

“Sigma Nu has kept me on track. Sigma Nu provides that extra push.”

// Ismail Parks (Cal State Fullerton). Read more about how fraternities support first-generation college students on page 42.

“The whole Grand Chapter experience was great for networking and learning best practices from other chapters. I left feeling a new sense of motivation to stay involved with Sigma Nu after graduation.”

// Tristin Maximilian (George Washington). See photos from Grand Chapter on page 12.

“When you’re a 19-year-old accustomed to speaking in a chapter room full of people then speaking to 40,000 listeners a day who can’t see you is much easier.”

// Radio host Chad Withrow (Tennessee). Read more on page 50.
25 Years Ago
The Fall issue of *The Delta* from 1991 was focused on the prominent role that Sigma Nu played in the stewardship of America’s natural resources and the conservation efforts of several brothers. The cover story for this issue highlighted Ned Barclay Ball (North Carolina State), in whose memory the wildlife park at Kanuga Conferences, Inc. in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina was dedicated. The Letter from the Editor writes, "The park is a testimony to Brother Ball’s love for nature and his commitment to preserving the Earth’s environment, a matter of concern for all responsible people."

The timing of this look back into the past is appropriate as 2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. This issue also highlights the achievements of Ben C. Dysart III (Vanderbilt) as former president of the National Wildlife Federation.

[The Fall 1991] issue also highlights the achievements of Ben C. Dysart III (Vanderbilt) as former president of the National Wildlife Federation.

42nd Grand Chapter with the reminder that, "It represents Sigma Nu as it moves towards its Centennial, pausing there only momentarily for a change of horses, and then a fresh start into the next hundred."

This issue also featured a piece on Wyatt Thomas Johnson Jr., a former Commander of Mu Chapter (Georgia) and an Alpha Affiliate, as he became one of 15 White House Fellows serving a one-year term as an aide to top Washington government officials. Johnson was at that time a graduate of the University of Georgia as well as an MBA graduate from Harvard Business School. Johnson was encouraged to apply to Harvard by classmate and fellow alumnus William W. Wyman (Colgate). He submitted his application close to the deadline via Air Mail Special Delivery but quickly remembered an error. "I’ll never forget that, since the first application contained a typographical error. I drove into Boston to retrieve the bundle and correct the error before it was placed on the plane for Washington," Johnson said. Johnson was assigned to Special Assistant to the President Bill Moyers, specifically working with the White House Press Office. Of special note was that Johnson actually met then President Lyndon Johnson on his very first day on the job. "My first impression was and has continued to be that this is the busiest place in the world. I was struck that first day by the enormous amount of work which each person accomplishes each day. The phone is constantly ringing. Everywhere people are scurrying around with messages."

100 Years Ago
The October 1916 issue is a lengthy one coming in at over 141 pages! Then Editor of *The Delta* and Hall of Honor inductee John C. Scott (Purdue) seems to acknowledge this fact while highlighting the theme of this issue, "The theme of this issue is expressed in an inspiring manner on the open page. It is the application of the spirit of the day — a timely summons at the opening of a new college year calling all our men to their colors ... The effort represents thought and study by talented minds covering a period of months, and a long summer of collecting and compiling records and notes, of reviewing and preparation. If it is not carefully read it will not be properly assimilated, nor will it be reasonably appreciated. Then indeed it would seem like love’s labor lost."

Vice Regent Borden H. Burr (Alabama/Washington and Lee) also offers words of wisdom that many can relate to today. "There is some misconception as to the purposes and results, of fraternities. Some regard them as breeding places for snobbishness, as formers of a false aristocracy and as organizations which prefer society to scholarship, override brains with brawn, and compel merit to yield to name. It is not carefully read it will not be properly assimilated, nor will it be reasonably appreciated. Then indeed it would seem like love’s labor lost."

"There is some misconception as to the purposes and results, of fraternities. Some regard them as breeding places for snobbishness, as formers of a false aristocracy and as organizations which prefer society to scholarship, override brains with brawn, and compel merit to yield to name. The failure to enforce proper regulations, inattention to business details, disregard of fraternity ideals, the lack of preparedness on the part of some chapters, has given credence to these views, and the natural result has been the call, on the part of many, for anti-fraternity legislation. We must prove that these chapters are the exception. Our chapters must become assets, not liabilities. There must be as the foundation stone, individual preparedness."

Background Image: Kanuga Conference Center; New Wildlife Park; Kanuga 42nd Grand Chapter.

The Delta of Sigma Nu
**DELTA NUMBERS**

50%  
Percentage of first-generation college students who complete their degree in six years (Higher Education Research Institute).

$8,800  
Dollars raised by Minnesota’s Border Battle benefiting St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

ON AIR  
Number of daily listeners tuning into Midday 180 sports talk show hosted by Chad Withrow (Tennessee). Read more on page 50.

175,000  
Number of living Sigma Nu alumni. Read more about Regent Perrett’s plan to boost alumni engagement beginning on page 40.
Sigma Nu Recognized with National Awards for Sexual Assault Prevention and Bystander Intervention Program

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY, Inc. was recognized this summer with the Power of A Silver Award presented by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE). The Fraternity received this honor for its role in developing the Social Strengths Workshop, an educational program addressing sexual assault, relational violence, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention.

ASAE’s Power of A Awards, the industry’s highest honor, recognizes the association community’s valuable contributions on the local, national, and global levels. The Power of A Awards reward outstanding accomplishments of associations for their efforts to enrich lives, create a competitive workforce, prepare society for the future, drive innovation, and make a better world.

“Congratulations to Sigma Nu Fraternity and its partners for their hard work and for helping to make the world a better place,” said Sharon J. Swan, chief executive officer of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and chair of the Power of A Awards Judging Committee. “Their initiative exemplifies how associations are a positive force in our everyday lives — not just the profession or industry they represent, but to society at large.”

In early 2015, Sigma Nu partnered with Zeta Tau Alpha women’s fraternity (ZTA) to build a coalition that currently includes twelve international fraternities and sororities to develop educational programs aimed at addressing sexual assault and relational aggression on college campuses. This effort included contracting with Aaron Boe, founder of Prevention Culture and specialist in non-stranger sexual assault and relational violence prevention, and spearheading the development of the initial student workshop and alumni training materials that would become the Social Strengths Workshop — a men’s specific program on sexual assault, relational violence, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention. A similar women’s specific program was developed in partnership with ZTA for use by the coalition’s sorority partners.

The Power A Silver Award is the latest distinction in a number of honors earned by the Fraternity in the last year. This past June, Sigma Nu Fraternity was presented with the North American Interfraternity Conference’s (NIC) Laurel Wreath Award for its role in developing the Social Strengths Workshop with five other national organizations. Over 6,000 Sigma Nu members completed the workshop in its first year after launching. In December 2015, Sigma Nu was presented with the Association of Fraternity/Sorority Advisors’ (AFA) Excellence in Educational Programming Award for the LEAD Program. This award recognized the Fraternity’s continual efforts to ensure the LEAD Program is innovative and effective.

“Sigma Nu Fraternity is dedicated to providing high quality educational programs on this critical subject matter as we pursue our mission to develop ethical leaders for society,” said Brad Beacham, executive director of Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. “It is humbling to be recognized for our efforts by our peer organizations and industry organizations. Even more encouraging are the results we see from student evaluations that prove these programs make a measurable difference in their lives.”

This year the Fraternity will build on the success and curriculum of the Social Strengths Workshop to offer a skills and scenario-based Bystander Strengths Workshop to Sigma Nu’s collegiate chapters and colonies. This highly interactive workshop will teach techniques to identify potentially problematic situations and how to directly or indirectly intervene. Students will work through scenarios related to sexual assault, alcohol misuse, drug use, mental health, hazing, and more.

Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. is a national collegiate brotherhood organization with a membership of over eighty thousand men attending over 370 universities and colleges across the country. Please contact Tyler Young at tyler.young@sigmanu.org for more information.
Robert Arostigue
(Cal State Fullerton)

Robert completed his undergraduate studies at the California State University Fullerton, located in Fullerton, graduating with a degree in political science. During his time in the Lambda Upsilon chapter, Robert served as LEAD Chairman, Chaplain and on his chapter’s judicial board. After serving as LEAD Chairman, Robert received officer of the year from Lambda Upsilon, as well as LEAD chairman of the year. Robert assisted his chapter in winning his university’s educational program of the year, as well as Dean’s Cup. Robert also volunteered with a local elementary school during his time at CSUF, and served as a board member for Greek Week. Outside of Sigma Nu, Robert has interned for his school’s legal department, as well as for a local campaign. Robert is from Orange, Calif. In his free time he enjoys activities such as volleyball and hiking. Robert is a huge fan of the Angels baseball team and the San Diego Chargers. Following his time on staff Robert hopes to continue his education at law school and one day become an attorney.

Will Deviney
(Idaho)

Will graduated from the University of Idaho in 2016, with a degree in Exercise Science and Health. During his time in the Delta Omicron Chapter, Will served as the Risk Reduction Chairman, Philanthropy Chairman, and Intramural Chairman. Outside of Sigma Nu, Will worked alongside IFC as a Fraternity Recruitment Counselor, Greek 101 Counselor, and ran the Udaho Bound information table. Apart from Greek Life, Will has also worked as a teacher’s assistant for three undergraduate level classes, twice in Human Anatomy and once in Movement Science: Wellness and Behavior Change for Healthy Active Lifestyles. He has also volunteered in a local kindergarten classroom as a tutor and mentor. Although born in Hartford, Conn., Will has spent most of his life in San Clemente, Calif., and St. George, Utah. A huge sports and music fan, Will spends most of his time playing guitar, mountain biking, and watching Lakers’ games. Following his time on staff, Will hopes to pursue a career in Student Affairs and eventually earn a doctoral degree.

Daniel Dickie
(Central Florida)

Daniel graduated from the University of Central Florida in December 2015 with a degree in psychology. During his time in the Mu Psi chapter, Daniel served as Commander, Marshal, Public Relations Chairman, Greek Week/ Homecoming Chairman and was involved in numerous other committees. Outside of Sigma Nu, he was on the Greek Week Executive Board, Order of Omega Honor Society, was a Research Assistant in a UCF lab, and was an Undergraduate Admissions Student Ambassador. Originally from Orlando, Fla., Daniel enjoys reading, finding new and interesting things to do, traveling, working out, playing sports and following Orlando and UCF athletics. After his tenure with the Sigma Nu Fraternity staff, Daniel intends to pursue a Masters and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.

Rob Grabowski
(Alabama)

Rob received his undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Mathematics from the University of Alabama in December 2015. During his time in the Theta Chapter, Rob served as Commander, Marshal, Public Relations Chairman, Greek Week/ Homecoming Chairman and was involved in numerous other committees. Outside of Sigma Nu, Rob was on the Jason’s Men’s Honor Society, and the Order of Omega. Rob also was involved in conducting research across the Alabama campus through the psychology research lab. Rob was born and raised in Birmingham, Ala.; where he still returns to the majority of his family. Rob’s hobbies include mountain bike riding, running, playing guitar and video games. Rob hopes to attend graduate school for Organizational Psychology.

Preston Sam
(Cal State Fullerton)

Preston graduated from California State University, Fullerton in May 2016 with a degree in Kinesiology. Preston joined the Lambda Upsilon Chapter as a sophomore where he served as Recorder, Assistant Marshal, and Alumni Relations Chairman. Aside from fraternity life, he was as a counselor for Camp Titan, which was created by Greek Life to give underprivileged children in Orange County an opportunity to experience a week’s vacation away from home. Preston also spent Fridays volunteering to spend time with students at Sierra Vista Elementary School. Preston enjoys staying active through hiking, cycling, basketball, volleyball, and golfing. He hopes to compete in Men’s Physique and a Triathlon. Being born and raised in Los Angeles County, he remains a Los Angeles Lakers fan.
CHAPTER ETERNAL
Past Regent and Hall of Honor Inductee Brother Gerald Sherratt (Southern Utah) Enters Chapter Eternal

By Nathaniel Clarkson (James Madison)

Brother Gerald Sherratt (Southern Utah) entered Chapter Eternal on July 8, 2016. The former Cedar City mayor and Southern Utah University president was 84.

After earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Utah State, Brother Sherratt accepted an appointment to the Sigma Nu Headquarters staff as assistant to Executive Secretary Richard R. Fletcher. Sherratt served as editor of The Delta for three years; during this time the magazine earned national recognitions from Fraternity Editors Associations. During his staff tenure Brother Sherratt created the recognition program that now honors the Scholar, Athlete, Talent, and Man of the Year awards.

In 1970 Brother Sherratt was elected to the High Council, the Fraternity’s national board of directors. His service on the Council culminated with his term as Regent for the 1976-78 biennium. Among other achievements, Brother Sherratt’s term as Regent was marked by historic updates to some of the Fraternity’s most important publications.

A 1982 Delta article described him as “a man of untiring energy and creative genius — a man with a flair for innovation, journalism, spontaneous wit, and excellence in all that he pursues.”

— THE DELTA, 1982

Brother Sherratt entered the Air Force as a second lieutenant and became commander of a basic training squadron.

After leaving the General Fraternity staff Brother Sherratt became assistant to the president of Utah State University, where he continued his role as director of development and alumni affairs and instructor in the college of education. During his nine years in this role he made speaking appearances around the country and is also credited with establishing the university’s first endowment fund.

Sherratt later became the 13th president of Southern Utah University, a post he held for 16 years. Under his leadership the school experienced dramatic growth, with enrollment increasing from 1,800 to 5,500 students, according to a story by Deseret News. During his time as university president the campus added 16 new buildings and elevated the profile of its athletics programs. The current university library is named after him.

In 1974 Sherratt received the USU Distinguished Alumnus Award.

“The SUU family mourns the loss of a great leader, mentor, friend and visionary,” Stuart Jones, vice president of advancement at SUU, said in a statement. “Jerry left an indelible legacy upon our campus, community and state. He will be dearly missed.”

Brother Sherratt had a long track record of commitment to public service. As a junior member of the Chamber of Commerce in Logan, Utah, he chaired committees for county pageant competitions and held leadership positions in civic organizations while living in Lexington, Va.

As mayor of Cedar City, Sherratt is remembered for founding public events and initiatives, including creation of the ‘Festival City USA’ tagline. A community Facebook page remembered him as “a true giant in our community” and credited him for making Cedar City “a wonderful community.”

Funeral services were held on Sunday, July 17, 2016, with scores of his Sigma Nu brothers in attendance.
The Founders look over the convention floor as brothers, family, and guests gather for the opening ceremonies.
The Legion Goes West

Over 500 brothers and guests gathered in San Diego to conduct the business of the 67th Grand Chapter — the Fraternity’s supreme governing body. In the photo essay that follows San Diego photojournalist Rob Benson captures the actions, events, and emotions that have come to define the Grand Chapter experience.
1: Families of brothers attending Grand Chapter greet each other in the hotel foyer.

2: Regent Joe Francis (Oklahoma State) welcomes brothers and guests to San Diego during the opening ceremony.

3: In keeping with a new tradition started in Dallas, Rock Chapters are announced and recognized at the opening ceremony so other chapters have an opportunity to learn from Sigma Nu’s top performing chapters during the rest of the week.
4: Watson Realty founder Bill Watson (Stetson) delivers remarks after his Hall of Fame induction.

5: Sigma Nu Hall of Fame inductee and O’Reilly Auto Parts co-founder Larry O’Reilly (Drury) pauses for a photo backstage after delivering the Maddox Honor Lecture.

6: Sigma Nu’s 2012 Talent of the Year Patrick Thomas (Vanderbilt) returns to perform the national anthem.

7: Parliamentarian Dr. Tim Huerta (Cal State Los Angeles) reviews the protocols for conducting the business of the Grand Chapter.
8: Sigma Nu Hall of Fame inductee and Fox NFL Sunday host Curt Menefee (Coe) approaches the stage to a standing ovation.
9: Over 500 brothers and guests gather for dinner and a special presentation on the flight deck of the USS Midway.
At the closing banquet Alpha Affiliate award winners are dubbed by Regent Joe Francis. The Alpha Affiliate program recognizes ten seniors who have demonstrated living an honorable life by upholding the ideals of Sigma Nu and influencing others to do the same.

Luke Stahmer (Colorado) facilitates an educational breakout session about leadership and recruiting strategies practiced by John Elway, one of the greatest NFL players, executives and business leaders to build championship teams.

Tristin Maximilian (George Washington) applauds during a Grand Chapter business session.

“I was a bit nervous because I didn’t know many people planning to attend,” Tristin remembers thinking before Grand Chapter. “That quickly changed when I ran into Bob McCully at the airport where he introduced me to some other brothers waiting for taxis to the hotel. Throughout the conference I quickly met other brothers and shared stories and made new friends. The whole experience was great for networking and learning best practices from other chapters. I left feeling a new sense of motivation to stay involved with Sigma Nu after graduation.”

Incoming Regent Lee Perrett (Auburn) outlines his vision for the biennium in his first speech as Sigma Nu’s national president.

Newly elected High Council members take the oath of office. From left: Vice Regent Jordan Wu (Cal Poly Pomona), Vice Regent Maury Gaston (Auburn), Grand Treasurer Tim Huffmyer (Michigan State), and Dave Mainella (Bradley).

Chris Healy (Fresno State) facilitates an educational breakout session outlining the three things every chapter needs to be great.
16: Electing the new High Council (national board of directors) is one of the most important duties of the Grand Chapter. Here a collegiate member of the Elections Committee collects ballots from voting delegates.

17: Back in business sessions, Wesley Cox (Southeast Missouri State) rises to speak on behalf of a proposed change to the Long Creed.
The awards illustrated on the following pages were presented during the 67th Grand Chapter in San Diego, California, June 29 – July 3, 2016.
MAN OF THE YEAR

Garrett T. Oberst (Butler)

Garrett Oberst is an initiate of our Epsilon Mu Chapter at Butler University. He recently completed his degree in Chemistry and graduated with a 3.94 GPA this spring.

Garrett served the Epsilon Mu Chapter as Commander, LEAD Phase IV Chairman, and on the chapter’s Risk Reduction, Academic, and Campus Involvement Committees. He also held the distinction of serving as a Collegiate Board Member on the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation Board of Directors and as a member of the 66th Grand Chapter’s Nominating Committee.

Brother Oberst was a four-year member of the Butler University Rowing Team and received two time honors as a Butler University Top 100 student. He holds memberships in Phi Beta Kappa, Order of Omega, and Mortar Board honor societies, as well as a Treasurer of the National Society for Collegiate Scholars. He was a student and mentor in the Butler University Honors Program, member of the Homecoming Court, and recipient of several competitive scholarships.

“I have consistently found him to be dedicated, engaged, and one who acts tirelessly and selflessly on behalf of the chapter and Fraternity,” said Adam Novotney Epsilon Mu chapter advisor. “Those who can excel at this point in their lives are those who reach a balance of academic achievement, campus and community service, and social development.”
SCHOLAR OF THE YEAR

Connor J. Mojo (Oklahoma State)
EPSILON EPSILON #2466 / ALPHA #625

Connor Mojo (Oklahoma State) recently completed his bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering with a 4.0 GPA. In addition to his achievements in the classroom, Connor accumulated a consistent record of service to his chapter, including turns as Scholarship Chairman and as chairman of the Risk Reduction, Bylaws, and Executive Committees. He also served as President and Vice President of the Institute of Industrial Engineers, Vice President of the Oklahoma State University Student Foundation, Senator for the Student Government Association, and Representative to the College of Engineering’s Student Council.

Connor was the recipient of 17 competitive scholarships for his academic success, community service, campus involvement, and leadership experience. He was also recognized by his university as an Outstanding Senior and Senior of Significance.

His professors describe him as “one of the top, if not the top, student in the entire Industrial Engineering and Management program.” Of the thousands of students Dr. Sundresh Heragu has seen in his 28 years in the field, this year’s honoree is “a truly exceptional student who applies himself to everything he undertakes and executes. Despite all of his accomplishments, he is a modest individual and exhibits the highest levels of integrity, ethical behavior, and character.” Dr. Camille DeYoung describes him as, “an outstanding young man and our world is a better place with him in it.”

This summer he started work as a buyer for Phillips 66’s procurement division, with plans to start his MBA before a career in supply chain and operations.
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR

August “AJ” L. Wolf Jr. (Duke)

GAMMA #1580

A.J. Wolf (Duke) has served as a three-year starting defensive tackle for the Duke football team. A.J. has had numerous athletic accomplishments, including 1st Team Academic All-American honors from the College Sports Information Directors of America; six-time Academic All-ACC Team Recognition; ACC Player of the Week; recipient of the Mike McGee Award for most outstanding Defensive Lineman; 2015 ACC Tackle Champion (Highest Amount of Recorded Tackles in ACC); and two-time Most Improved Defensive Player.

In addition to his athletic achievements, AJ graduated with a 3.7 GPA in Public Policy Studies and served as Gamma Chapter’s Philanthropy Chairman. Beyond the classroom and chapter, AJ co-founded and served as president of the Lideres Unidos Futbol Club, an after school soccer program for underprivileged Latino youth.

Matt Alston, Commander of Gamma Chapter, describes AJ’s desire to give back to the community as “insatiable.” To get the youth futbol program off the ground, AJ raised over $5,000 through sponsorships and crowdfunding campaigns. The organization now has over 40 active members of the Durham public high school system. “AJ is a loving and caring brother,” Alston said. “His ability to make time for everything and everyone is truly impressive, and he truly embodies the concept of pursuing excellence in all things.”

George Grody, Duke business school professor, had the following to say about AJ: “His unmatched work ethic and the discipline he exhibited as a student-athlete, as well as the ambition and organizational ability he displayed as a community leader, make him someone all Sigma Nus would be proud to call a brother.”

AJ plans to pursue a career in the NFL and then work in sales and trading, with an eye on asset management, hedge funds, venture capital, and private equity.
CHAPTER ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Joe Reyes (Florida)
EPSILON EPSILON #2466 / ALPHA #625

Sigma Nu’s Chapter Advisor of the Year Award is presented to a Chapter Advisor whose efforts go well beyond the job description and include attending officer and chapter meetings, supporting chapter goal-setting and achievement, assisting in the development of special chapter events and programs and supporting the chapter’s use of our Ritual as the foundation for all we do.

Joe Reyes has faithfully served as the Eta Zeta Chapter Advisor for the past 15 years and has previously been recognized by the Fraternity as the 2004 Alumni LEAD Facilitator of the Year and Chapter Advisor of the Year Award in 2005.

Brother Reyes’ commitment to the Fraternity and impact on the collegiate members and chapter are best described by his nominators, a combination of the alumnus brothers he serves with on the chapter’s advisory board and top student leaders in the collegiate chapter.

The advisors with whom Joe serves alongside remarked upon how Joe built trust and earned the respect of the collegiate brothers. “While Joe is the quintessential chapter advisor, it is the extent to which he goes above and beyond to ensure the success of the chapter that truly demonstrates his commitment,” said one of his fellow advisors. “It is impossible to count how many times he has stayed late after chapter meetings or events to come to know the collegiate brothers on a personal level.”

In his time building rapport with the chapter Joe also came to be known as a mentor who provided guidance to help the student leaders stay on the right course. “There is no one more capable of providing this sort of guidance than Joe Reyes,” one of his fellow advisors commented. “Having gained such immense respect from the chapter, when Joe speaks, every single member listens. It is sufficiently rare that someone has this ability to affect a group of college-aged men that one with that ability is truly someone special.”

Above all else, the brothers of Epsilon Zeta Chapter look up to Brother Reyes as someone who lives the values of Sigma Nu every day and encourages others to do the same.
DIVISION COMMANDER OF THE YEAR

Jason Dooley (Kennesaw State)

The Division Commander of the Year, awarded annually, goes to the Division Commander who has demonstrated a genuine commitment to the Legion of Honor and whose pattern of performance is a worthy example for others to follow.

Since becoming an alumnus, Jason Dooley has never ceased in his tireless devotion to Sigma Nu as his commitment in serving in key volunteer roles for Sigma Nu has shined for over a decade. His dedication to Love, Truth, and Honor is more than exemplified through his actions as he continues to lead the young men in our chapters to excellence.

In addition to his duties as Division Commander, Brother Dooley has been a devoted volunteer for the Fraternity for many years. Jason is an original member of Task Force Hopkins — tasked with collecting best practices from our best chapters and making them available to all Sigma Nu Chapters. At the national level, in addition to serving on Task Force Hopkins, Jason has served as Division Commander of the Southeast Alpha Division since 2004 and on numerous Grand Chapter committees.

As Division Commander, Brother Dooley is known for dedicating special attention to each of the six chapters in his region as if they were his only chapter. While he comes from a strong chapter, Jason is mindful that while each chapter faces similar challenges, the solutions for these challenges are not one-size-fits-all. His leadership style encourages each chapter to break down the issue, consider various approaches and then take appropriate action. Under his guidance and support, no fewer than four Rock Chapter awards have been conveyed to chapters within the Southeast Alpha Division.

“Jason is a man of action and along with a personable nature, he is a man of positive influence,” said a fellow brother on Brother’s Dooley’s volunteer service. “With all of this noted, Jason is a humble leader. Jason has made a meaningful, substantive contribution to our Fraternity — and to the lives of many men within the Southeast Alpha Division.”
HOUSE CORPORATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Paul L. Dobbins
(Southeast Missouri State)

The House Corporation Officer of the Year Award is given to a House Corporation Officer who, through his years of service, has been noted for his outstanding work in developing a plan of action for renovation, upkeep and maintenance of the chapter home and its property, and in collaboration with chapter officers, members, alumni, and university administration in maintaining the chapter home and property.

Paul L. Dobbins has served as a volunteer for the Mu Kappa Chapter at Southeast Missouri State University, and as House Corporation President for the past four years. Brother Dobbins’ nominators — a blend of alumni, students, university officials, and alumni of other Greek organizations on campus — all recognized his leadership in making the new Greek Village at Southeast Missouri State a reality. Brother Dobbins acted as a liaison between the university and four fraternities. His efforts on their behalf ultimately led to the housing project that is now underway at Southeast Missouri State.

Chapter advisors from other organizations were quick to credit Paul with driving the effort to secure new housing on campus. “While past feasibility studies and efforts failed to produce a plan, Paul found creative ways to overcome issues — from funding through a combination of foundation scholarships, alumni donation, bond issue and leases — to resolving ADA requirements in construction,” observed one advisor.

Looking beyond the fraternity community, Southeast Missouri State University and its students are starting a new legacy thanks to Paul’s efforts. Paul’s role in the fundraising effort was so successful that the chapter was able to build a scholarship fund in addition to the funds raised for the new housing. “With the money fundraised we have not only secured our new home but we have also created a scholarship fund that is built to last the next half-century,” remarked a fellow chapter advisor.
ALUMNI CHAPTER OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Christopher Foeste (Southeast Missouri State)

The Alumni Chapter Officer of the Year Award is intended to salute that brother whose diligent efforts with the chapter and other alumni have positioned a chapter for success. This award is given to a recognized officer of a chartered alumni chapter who has shown through years of service, leadership contribution to the organization, development and programming by an alumni chapter, and collaboration with chapter alumni and collegiate members.

Brother Christopher Foeste served as a volunteer for the Mu Kappa Chapter for the past thirteen years, with a turn as Chapter Advisor from 2005 to 2010, before taking on his current role as an Alumni Chapter Officer.

Chris has facilitated relationships between the collegiate and alumni chapter by hosting weekend LEAD sessions to promote networking, resume review, and professional counseling. One weekend saw participation from dozens of alumni, many of whom had not been back to campus in over a decade.

In service of the chapter he has attended countless executive and chapter meetings, organized year-round recruitment advisory meetings with the chapter’s recruitment committee, integrated data analysis into recruitment for feedback and future planning, and helped the scholarship committee assist members in applying for and earning thousands of scholarship dollars each year.

He assisted in the planning of the chapter’s new $2.4 million house and was recognized by Southeast Missouri State University as one of five Young Alumni Merit Award Winners in 2015 for his professional successes and ongoing involvement with the University and Sigma Nu.

“Brother Foeste is constantly looking for ways that he can leverage his time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of our chapter,” said one of his chapter brothers. “He is always a brother who can be counted on to drop everything and help the chapter if it is needed. There is no better representation of the values of Sigma Nu than Brother Chris Foeste.”
ALUMNUS OF THE BIENNium

Neil D. Gilpin (Oklahoma State)

The Alumnus of the Biennium award celebrates that one alumnus over the course of this Biennium, 2014 through 2016, whose singularly significant record of support, sacrifice, and selflessness for the Legion of Honor is beyond exceptional.

Neil D. Gilpin (Oklahoma State) has served both his collegiate chapter and the Fraternity at large in numerous capacities for more than two decades. To name just a few of his volunteer roles and accomplishments:

- Division Commander for the Central Plains Alpha Division for the past seven years
- Past House Corporation Officer of the Year winner
- Past Task Force Hopkins committee member
- Past Grand Marshal
- Long-time College of Chapters faculty member
- Over 20 years of volunteer service to the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter and House Corporation Board

Brother Gilpin’s nominators describe his impact on the chapter and Fraternity at large as follows: “He was the visionary of the capital fund drive and house renovation effort of the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter to which he contributed considerably to the massive multi-million-dollar renovation and helped secure matching funds to launch the General Fraternity’s Center for Excellence construction project.”

Neil spearheaded an ambitious initiative to raise $1.5 million in matching commitments from Epsilon Epsilon Brothers, for the Spears Family Epsilon Epsilon Center for Excellence at our headquarters. Having taken many candidate classes on a pilgrimage to Lexington over the years, Neil was uniquely qualified to lead this challenge. “This project simply would not have been completed without his vision, relationships, hard work, and persistence,” said one of his chapter brothers. “The fact that he completed such a monumental task within a 90-day window is simply remarkable.”
GREEK ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Ival Gregory

The Greek Advisor of the Year Award recognizes a university administrator who has demonstrated exceptional service and performance in the areas of fraternity advisement and related responsibilities.

Ival Gregory is the Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Affairs at Oklahoma State University. In that role he works directly with the Interfraternity Council and the National Pan-Hellenic Council. He also works closely with alumni advisors for the OSU fraternity/sorority community and was instrumental in creating what is believed to be the first Greek Neighborhood Association in the country.

Ival first set foot on the OSU campus in the fall of 1968 as a freshman and was initiated into Delta Tau Delta Fraternity the following March. The majority of Ival’s professional career has been in the private sector where he served in management roles for industry leaders in three different industries.

Ival is widely recognized by students and advisors alike as a keystone of OSU’s award winning Greek community. As one advisor noted, “his hard work often goes largely unappreciated due to his willingness to stay behind the scenes and allow the students to receive the glory.”

Students in particular commend his hard work ethic, dedication to fraternity/sorority excellence, and his constant push to improve the community. “I will forever be in debt to Ival for the life lessons he taught the Interfraternity Council and the wisdom/knowledge he shares with the community on a daily basis,” one student said. “His voracious courage to keep the Greek community at Oklahoma State in contention to be one of the most award winning Greek systems in the nation is impressive and inspiring.”
In 1962, the Grand Chapter adopted a proposal by Brother Ora Baldinger, an initiate of the Alpha Chapter at VMI, to create the Alpha Affiliate Awards. Baldinger conceived of the Alpha Affiliate Award as a means of symbolically meeting Founder Hopkins’ request. The program was designed to award an Alpha Chapter initiate number to the Fraternity’s most outstanding graduating seniors in recognition of their achievements.

Logan O. Duncan, Alpha #620 (Georgia)
Logan Duncan majored in Finance, earning a 3.87 cumulative GPA. During his tenure as an undergraduate member of Mu Chapter, he served as Treasurer and Chaplain. He also served as President of the Dean William Tate Honors Society and was a recipient of Mu Chapter’s Robert Durham Medal of Excellence.

Within his campus community he was a mentor for the Terry Leadership Center in the College of Business, a portfolio manager for the Apollo Society, Treasurer for the University of Georgia’s Men’s Club Water Polo team, and member of the Order of Omega Honor Society. Logan was also a spring investment banking analyst for Frisch Capital Partners.

Lucas A. Flowers, Alpha #621 (Case Western Reserve)
Lucas Flowers is a graduate of Case Western Reserve with an impressive 3.70 GPA in Computer Science and Mathematics. Despite the workload that comes from being a student in his chosen field he remained engaged in Delta Alpha Chapter by serving as Historian and two terms as Recorder. Additionally, he served on several chapter committees. In these roles he wrote 1,800 lines of JavaScript Code to enhance the chapter’s historical recordings and alumni directory, grew the chapter’s digital archives from 20 to 200 gigabytes, and authored an addendum to James Paxton’s “History of Sigma Nu in Cleveland.”

Outside of his excellent academic performance and chapter involvement Lucas was also Sound Designer, Secretary, and House Crew member for the Footlighters, a student run musical theater group. He was also a violinist for his University’s symphony orchestra.

Matthew C. Holdren, Alpha #622 (Case Western Reserve)
Matthew Holdren graduated with a 3.82 GPA in Aerospace Engineering. His chapter involvement includes terms as Delta Alpha Chapter’s Commander, LEAD Chairman, Recruitment Chairman, and Alumni Relations Chairman. Additionally, he served within the campus’ IFC as Vice President of Service and Philanthropy.

Outside of his fraternal leadership, Matthew was also Captain and Vice President for Case Western Reserve University’s Rowing Team and a Bronze Medalist at the American Collegiate Rowing Association’s National Championship. He was also a co-founder and Vice President for the Acts of Random Kindness student organization.

Daniel L. Humphrey, Alpha #623 (Stetson)
While earning a 3.77 GPA in Political Science and Economics, Daniel Humphrey served as Delta Mu Chapter’s Commander and also served on Sigma Nu’s High Council as a Collegiate Grand Councilman. He was recognized by Stetson University in 2016 as their Fraternity Man of the Year and as their Greek Scholar of the Year in 2015.

Daniel also served terms as Vice President and Secretary of Communication for Stetson’s Student Government Association. He was also the founder and President of Stetson’s Mock Trial Team. He was the Recorder for Stetson’s Interfraternity Council in 2013 and also a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Nathan I. Lupstein, Alpha #624 (Northern Illinois)
Nathan Lupstein is a graduate of Northern Illinois University with a 4.0 GPA in Political Science. He served Theta Eta Chapter through terms as Commander and Candidate Marshal. Interfraternally, Nathan was also a member of Order of Omega Honor Society and served as Philanthropy Chairman.

On campus he was heavily involved in student government with roles as President, Election Commissioner, Chair of Campus Life, and a Greek Affairs Senator. He was also the founder and President of Stetson’s Pre-Law Honors Society, President and Founder of Men Against Misogyny on Campus, member of The Remember Project’s Board of Directors, Student Ambassador for the Political Science Student Advisory Council, and Executive Secretary of Circle K.
Connor J. Mojo, Alpha #625 (Oklahoma State)

Connor Mojo majored in Industrial Engineering, graduating with a 4.0 GPA. Within the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter he served as Scholarship Chairman. Connor was also recognized by Oklahoma State University as a Top Twenty Freshman Man during his Freshman year.

Connor was heavily involved in several campus organizations including President and Vice President for the Institute of Industrial Engineers, Vice President for the Oklahoma State University Student Foundation, Engineering Senator for Student Government Association, and Student Representative for the College of Engineering Student Council. He’s been recognized for his achievements several times as OSU Outstanding Senior, OSU Senior of Significance, and the 2015 Industrial Engineering Undergraduate Student Award.

Blake T. Moskal, Alpha #626 (Butler)

Blake Moskal graduated with a 3.86 GPA majoring in Science, Technology and Society. He served Epsilon Mu Chapter as Lt. Commander in 2014 and IFC Vice President of Finance in 2015. He also served as the Treasurer for Order of Omega Honor Society.

Within his campus community he served as a Student Officer for Intercollegiate YMCA, Mentor for the U.S. Dream Academy, and member of the Mortar Board Honor Society. Blake was also the recipient of the John Weidner Scholarship for Altruism and was named as one of Butler’s top ten male students for 2015-2016. He was also recognized twice as one of Butler’s top 100 students.

Garrett T. Oberst, Alpha #627 (Butler)

Graduating with a 3.94 GPA in Chemistry with a Business minor, Garrett Oberst served Epsilon Mu Chapter as Commander in 2014 and also served as a collegiate representative on Sigma Nu Educational Foundation’s Board of Directors.

He was a co-founder and Vice President for Young Americans for Liberty. His campus involvement includes membership of Butler University’s Rowing Team, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Order of Omega Honor Society, and Mortar Board Honor Society. He was also recognized as twice as one of Butler University’s top 100 students.

Kyle A. Stoner, Alpha #628 (Southern Mississippi)

Kyle Stoner graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a 3.75 GPA, majoring in Accounting. His campus involvement is impressive including induction into USM’s Undergraduate Hall of Fame in 2016.

He was heavily involved in USM’s Student Government Association with terms as Vice President, President of the Senate, Capital Improvements Chairman, and Senior Senator. He was also on the Executive Team for Gold Eagle Welcome Week, an orientation program for incoming freshmen. He was a re-founding member of USM’s Chapter of Order of Omega Honor Society and was recognized by the Student Government Association as an Outstanding Male Senator. He is also recognized as a Grade 7 Soccer Official by the United States Soccer Federation.

Kevin T. Szempluga, Alpha #629 (Minnesota)

Kevin Szempluga graduated with a 3.60 GPA in MIS with Finance and Spanish Minors. He served Gamma Tau Chapter with terms as Commander, Alumni Relations Chairman, and LEAD Chairman for which he was recognized nationally as Sigma Nu’s LEAD Chairman of the Year for 2013-2014. He also served on Sigma Nu’s High Council as a Collegiate Grand Councilman in 2015.

Kevin was also active in his campus community as the IFC’s Director of Philanthropy, At-Large Representative and Director of Student Life for the Minnesota Student Association, External Activities Coordinator for Power Play on Cancer, and Crew Leader for the Business School’s mentor program.
MANPOWER AWARDS

100+ Members
Alabama
Arkansas
Auburn
Butler
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Colorado
Georgia
Indiana
Iowa
James Madison
Louisiana State
Michigan State
Mississippi
Missouri
North Carolina State
Northwestern
Oklahoma State
South Carolina
Southern California
Tennessee
Texas Christian
Texas Tech
UCLA

80+ Members
Clemson
Cornell
Delaware
Duke
Florida
Georgia Southern
Illinois
Louisiana Tech
Kansas
Maryland
Minnesota
Nevada
New Hampshire
Oklahoma
Oregon
Penn State
South Florida
Texas Tech
UC Davis
UC San Diego
Vanderbilt
Washington State
Washington University in St. Louis
Western Kentucky
West Virginia

25% Increase
Birmingham-Southern
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State
Eastern Illinois
Georgia Southern
Hartford
Kentucky
Lamar
Louisiana at Lafayette
Minnesota State
MIT
Montana State
North Dakota State
North Texas
Oregon State
Philadelphia
Tennessee at Chattanooga
UCLA
Vanderbilt
West Texas A&M

ROCK CHAPTERS

Delta Alpha
(Case Western Reserve)
Epsilon Mu
(Butler)
Epsilon Sigma
(Rhodes)
Gamma Alpha
(Georgia Tech)
Gamma Mu
(Illinois)
Gamma Tau
(Minnesota)
Kappa Epsilon
(Appalachian State)
Mu
(Georgia)
Nu
(Kansas)
Nu Alpha
(Arkansas-Fort Smith)
Theta Kappa
(Georgia Southern)
The Rock Chapter Award is meant to honor collegiate chapters that have achieved excellence in all areas of chapter operations. To be granted the award, a chapter should be expected to attain the ideals or a nearly perfect state across a broad range of areas of fraternity operations. It should also be noted that risk management and behavioral issues are included in the judging process. In addition, to win the award, a chapter should be expected to maintain a state of excellence for a given period of time, not just for a semester of one school year. Furthermore, the award once granted, should not be considered recognition for future achievement (i.e. once a Rock Chapter, always a Rock Chapter), but rather recognition for past achievement with an appropriate date inscribed indicating the precise year which the award represents.

Finally, the Rock Chapter Award is only presented at Grand Chapters, (i.e. every two years), providing there are chapters that qualify. Rock Chapter award recipients will be those chapters which consistently achieve very good to excellent ratings in the Pursuit of Excellence Program over the course of the biennium.

**Delta Alpha**
*(Case Western Reserve)*
- Second Consecutive Rock Chapter Award – Fifth Overall
- 75 members
- 3.40 GPA
- 82% of members are involved in other student organizations, with 50% holding a leadership role within these organizations
- Donated 1,956 hours to community and averaged 26 hours per member
- Recruited 22 men this past year, initiated 21
- Using all phases of LEAD
- Recognized by community in the following areas: leadership, ritual, scholarship, and citizenship

**Gamma Alpha**
*(Georgia Tech)*
- Second Consecutive Rock Chapter Award – Second Overall
- 79 members
- 3.16 GPA
- 100% of membership involved in other campus organizations, 36% hold leadership positions
- Raised $3,727 for various philanthropic causes over the course of the year
- 100% of members involved in the Georgia Tech Student Foundation
- Recruited 28 men this past year, initiated 25
- Using four of five phases of LEAD

**Epsilon Mu**
*(Butler)*
- Fifth Consecutive Rock Chapter Award – Fifth Overall
- 112 members
- 3.37 GPA
- 100% of membership involved in other campus organizations, 53% hold leadership positions
- Donated 2,879 hours to community and averaged 24 hours per member
- Recruited 30 men this past year, initiated 29
- Using all phases of LEAD
- Recognized by campus for: educational programming, new member programming, philanthropy and service, scholarship, program of the year
- Recognized by community as a five-star chapter for the third year in a row (highest accolade a chapter can receive)

**Gamma Mu**
*(Illinois)*
- First Rock Chapter Award
- 88 members
- 3.13 GPA
- 92% of membership involved in other campus organizations
- Raised $2,969 for various philanthropic causes over the course of the year
- Recruited 31 men this past year, initiated 29
- Recognized by community for involvement in Stride for Survivors, a walk that raises awareness for sexual abuse
- Received IGI Excellent Chapter award for excellence and success in Leadership, Friendship, Scholarship, Service, and Social Advancement for the second year in a row

**Epsilon Sigma**
*(Rhodes)*
- First Rock Chapter Award
- 67 members
- 3.28 GPA
- 100% of members involved in other campus organizations, 25% hold leadership positions
- Raised $5,702 for various philanthropic causes
- Recruited 21 men this past year, initiated 20
- Using all phases of LEAD
- Won campus Fraternity of the Year award for five of the past six years
- Highest fraternity GPA on campus

**Kappa Epsilon**
*(Appalachian State)*
- Second Consecutive Rock Chapter Award – Second Overall
- 61 members
- 3.16 GPA
- Using all phases of LEAD
- 100% of members involved in other campus organizations
- Raised $4,215 for various philanthropic causes
- Donated 1,770 hours to community and averaged 29 hours per member
- Recognized by campus for excelling in areas of leadership and friendship

**Mu**
*(Georgia)*
- Fourth Consecutive Rock Chapter Award – Fourth Overall
- 130 members
- 3.31 GPA
- Using all phases of LEAD
- 90% of members involved in other campus organizations, 22% hold leadership positions
- Raised $33,000 for various philanthropic causes over the course of the year
- Recruited 33 men this past year, initiated 33

**Nu**
*(Kansas)*
- Eighth Rock Chapter Award – First since 1998
- 99 members
- 3.41 GPA
- Using all phases of LEAD
- 100% of members involved in other campus organizations, 50% hold leadership positions
- Recruited 28 men this past year, initiated 27
- Donated 1,826 hours to community and averaged 26 hours per member
- Recognized by campus for Distinction in Leadership, Campus Engagement, Chapter Management, and for Excellence in Community Awareness
**Nu Alpha**
*(Arkansas-Fort Smith)*
- First Rock Chapter Award
- 55 members
- 3.25 GPA
- 100% of members involved in other campus organizations, 43% hold leadership positions
- Donated $5,000 to St. Jude Children’s Hospital

**Theta Kappa**
*(Georgia Southern)*
- First Rock Chapter Award
- 93 members
- Using all phases of LEAD

**2016 COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

**Epsilon Zeta Chapter (Florida)**
Epsilon Zeta Chapter (Florida) received the Community Service Contribution Award with a per member average of over 42 hours of service contributed over the course of the academic year. The chapter helped coordinate numerous efforts within the Gainesville community including assisting with the construction of new homes for those in need of affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity, packaging holiday care packages for servicemen and women through the USO and spending time with children with and without intellectual/developmental disabilities through UF Best Buddies.

**2016 PHILANTHROPY CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

**Kappa Delta Chapter (Duquesne)**
Kappa Delta Chapter (Duquesne) was recognized with the Philanthropy Contribution Award as the chapter with the highest per member philanthropic contribution at an average of $455 per member. Kappa Delta Chapter raised and donated nearly $13,000 this year, with $11,983 going to the support of American Gold Star Mothers Inc. American Gold Star Mothers Inc. provides support for mothers whose sons or daughters lost their lives while protecting and serving our country. The Kappa Delta chapter holds their annual fundraiser for the organization during their White Rose Ball and delivers a check for their fundraised amount to the Gold Start Mother’s Headquarters in Washington, D.C. every February. There, brothers spend the day with the Gold Star Mothers, receive a tour of their headquarters, and hear their stories.

**MOST IMPROVED CHAPTERS**

The Most Improved Chapter Awards are meant to recognize those collegiate chapters that have displayed the greatest operational gains over the course of the biennium. Qualifying chapters are those that have shown significant improvement in their Pursuit of Excellence Program ratings from the first to the second year of the biennium. These chapters, should they maintain performance at their current levels, are expected to rise to the level of Rock Chapter in the subsequent biennium.

**Eta Phi**
*(Cal State Los Angeles)*
- 46 members
- Using all phases of LEAD
- 94% of chapter’s membership is involved in other campus organizations, with 36% holding leadership positions
- Raised $3,540 for various philanthropic causes over the course of the year; $2,300 of which was donated to St. Jude
- Sponsoring a Good Neighbor Program in order to ensure Greek houses have a relationship with the residential families who live nearby

**Gamma**
*(Duke)*
- 90 members
- 3.55 GPA
- Using all phases of LEAD
- 90% of chapter’s membership is involved in other campus organizations, with 50% holding leadership positions
- Donated 2,256 hours to its community and averaged 24.5 hours per member
- Recruited 23 men this past year, and initiated 100% of them
- Named IFC “Bronze Chapter” for 2016

**Zeta Xi**
*(UC Davis)*
- 91 members
- 3.10 GPA
- Using all phases of LEAD
- 100% of chapter’s membership is involved in other campus organizations, with 31% holding leadership positions
- Donated 3,949 hours to its community
- Raised $18,538 for various philanthropic causes over the course of the year
- Named as Chapter of the Year at UC Davis
- Received recognition for Philanthropy and Community Service

**COMMUNITY SERVICE & PHILANTHROPIC ACHIEVEMENT**

The Community Service and Philanthropy Awards recognize chapters for their significant contributions to community service and philanthropic organizations and for having the highest per member average contributions in either service hours or philanthropic dollars.

**2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

**Gallaher Cup**
Duke (3.55)

**Bronze Cup**
Dartmouth (3.51)
Washington and Lee (3.51)

**Certificate of Commendation**
Pennsylvania (3.49)
Washington in St. Louis (3.49)

**Certificate of Merit**
Northwestern (3.48)

**LEAD AWARDS**

**LEAD Chairman of the Year**
Anthony Johnson (Minnesota)

**LEAD Chapter of the Year**
Butler

**Innovation in LEAD Programming**
Butler
Minnesota
Eastern Illinois
“We are very proud of the fact that for the school year ending 2015, our collective chapter average grade point was a 3.0 — for the first time ever.”

Your inauguration speech in San Diego referenced a walk you took with some fellow volunteers during the 2007 College of Chapters in Lexington. What has been the significance of this walk in setting the course of the Fraternity since then?

Those conversations that we had during what we all have named the long walk have had a significant influence on the course the Fraternity has been on for the last several bienniums. One of the thoughts that we all had was that it is very difficult, if not impossible to have a strong national fraternity, unless you have strong individual chapters — all across the country. Conversely, a preponderance of average or below par local chapters will lead to an average national organization, and we felt that that we could do better as a national organization if we focused on the local chapters.

So, starting several bienniums ago, we started talking regularly and often about excellence and chapter strength and putting the appropriate resources and attention behind specific initiatives. Several tools were developed and key initiatives were begun and have continued since that time, as well as new ones that have been started which strive to keep the chapters focused on persistent, year round operational excellence.

On the scholastic side, we are very proud of the fact that for the school year ending 2015, our collective chapter average grade point was a 3.0 — for the first time ever. We strive to continue to focus in these areas of chapter strength, scholastics, and leadership training.
and our excellent national staff has been key in working with each local chapter to focus on these areas. The long walk was the genesis for putting these initiatives in place, and they’ve been successful and we want to build and continue on that path of success.

How would you describe the theme the High Council will pursue this biennium?

A general theme that I’ve spoken of is: “Linked to our Past — Committed to our Future.” That theme also includes the lifetime commitment to the Fraternity that each of us has. This acknowledges our long history of success that we should be proud of, while at the same time dedicating and committing ourselves to maintaining and building on the success which was created by those who went before us.

I like to think of our Fraternity as one long continuing chain that started that night in the fall of 1868 just off the Parade Grounds at VMI when our Founders first established our Fraternity, and which has continued without interruption for over 146 years. Each and every one of us is a distinctive link in that chain — we each have unique chapter and badge number — and we are all individually linked back to our three founders. We have gone from a three-link chain to a 235,000 link chain. I want us to continue on the strong path that has been set over the last few bienniums, and to keep on the path that we’ve set, and enhance and build on the successes that we’ve achieved.

Your speech in San Diego mentioned an opportunity for increased alumni engagement. What would that look like for Sigma Nu?

Yes, as I mentioned, when you join Sigma Nu it is a lifetime commitment — and as we all know, that is one of the oaths that we take when we are initiated. Initially, when you are in college the Fraternity has a commitment to you to provide certain benefits, programs and tools that will help you develop as an ethical leader. Then, after graduation you are committed to the Fraternity — for life. That commitment may take many forms — including time, volunteering, advice and counsel to undergraduates, donations at the national and/or local level, serving on a chapter advisory board, city or chapter alumni organizations and a host of other things you can do as an individual. Everyone — each and every Sigma Nu — has something to contribute, and that they can give back. I mentioned in my remarks that although we don’t have quite a ‘cradle to grave’ approach, you could say that we do indeed have an ‘initiation to grave’ commitment — which means that you are a Sigma Nu from the time you are initiated until you enter the Chapter Eternal.

Interestingly over the years, I have heard many Sigma Nus who attribute their successes in life to their fraternity experience, and the value they have received from the Fraternity. I can certainly say this, and I know many who read this will also attest to that, and it is a life-changing experience. We need to do a better job of getting that word out, and to continue to emphasize the value of lifetime membership.

We currently have over 175,000 living alumni, and there is an opportunity for each and every one of us to give back in some way. There are many alums who would like to get involved, but don’t know how. We’ve got lots of opportunities, and we’d love to hear from you.

You’ve met a lot of collegiate chapter officers during your tenure with the High Council. What are the leadership traits excellent chapter officers have in common?

There are quite a few, but some of the key ones that I’d mention are:

Listening and communication. You have to be an active listener, and to genuinely hear what the other person is saying and understand where they’re coming from. Don’t be thinking of your answer while they’re speaking — actively listen intently, and then respond. You need to be able to communicate with them effectively. You have to learn how to put yourself in the other person’s shoes and see their point of view, and be empathetic.

Excellent decision making skills. You have to carefully think things through and make the right decisions. Quality decisions are dependent on a number of factors, including what the intended consequences are, as well as and sometimes more importantly, the unintended consequences. Decision making is a key life skill, and you’ll get plenty of practice as a chapter officer. Sometimes you have to make those on your own and at other times you’ll be able to involve others in the decision. You have to look at the issue from all sides and be able to make the best decision with all of the facts available to you. Our Regent Elect John Hearn has a great saying that we often quote: Good leaders need to be able to choose the

“We currently have over 175,000 living alumni, and there is an opportunity for each and every one of us to give back in some way. There are many alums would like to get involved, but don’t know how.”
harder ‘right’ decision over the easier ‘wrong’ decision.

Courage. As a chapter officer you’re going to be in some uncomfortable situations — that comes with the territory — and you have to be able to stand your ground and do the right thing. At times, you may have to make unpopular decisions, and you will need the courage to do so. And, knowing that going in if you do the right thing, and you have the courage of your convictions, things will usually turn out for the best in the long run. You also have a lot of support groups you can tap if needed, including other officers, alumni, the national organization, university administrators, etc.

Selflessness. You have to put the welfare of the chapter and your brothers ahead of yourself. You are a leader and you were elected to lead. If you’re the Commander, you are the captain of the ship, and you have to be in charge. At times, you may not be able to do what everyone else in the chapter is doing — which may mean missing out on some things. You are the one that everyone is going to look up to, and you’re the authority in that chapter — the Commander is the person in the chapter that everyone will turn to, whether that be brothers, alumni, parents, University officials, or the National HQ staff — you are the leader of your chapter. It is a large responsibility for a young man in college to have, but it will shape you and make you a stronger person and give you valuable life skills, opportunities and leadership skills that most of your peers will not have.

Thick Skinned. A chapter commander told me a few years ago that if someone in the chapter wasn’t mad at you at some point during the semester, you probably weren’t doing your job. You are going to have to say ‘no’ a lot — and you’re going to have to be the bad guy at times. You can’t take it personally — you have to let things roll off your back.

Have confidence in yourself and others. As an officer, you were elected by the chapter to do a specific job, and the chapter has the confidence in you to do so. Don’t underestimate yourself and be confident in your abilities, but don’t be afraid to ask for help or assistance. You have lots of resources available, so don’t be shy about using them, and involving others if needed.

What advice would you offer to a collegiate officer with hopes of transforming a struggling chapter? Where does he begin?

First off, do not try and do everything by yourself. Don’t be afraid to ask for assistance, and there are lots of resources available to you, including those in your chapter such as other officers or recent past officers who may have graduated. You also have alumni, your university, parents, your Sigma Nu consultant or others on the national staff, and possibly other nearby chapters or people you may have met at Sigma Nu events such as College of Chapters, Sigma Nu institutes and Grand Chapter.

“Fraternities are more relevant now than they have ever been. Our mission is one that no one can argue with — developing ethical leaders.”

There is no excuse for struggling and failing if you do not ask for assistance. We would rather have a chapter ask for help early, rather than wait until things are in dire straits or before things get to the critical stage. No one has all the answers, and there are plenty of people who are ready and willing to help.

Secondly, you need to properly assess the situation by determining what is exactly wrong and why? If you need help with this assessment, get it. You can also look at your Pursuit of Excellence or chapter consultant report and recommendations to see where you need to make improvements. You need to then determine the areas you need to tackle first that you can have the most impact on. What are the ‘basics’ and where can you make the most gains the quickest? Is it recruiting new members, finances, scholastics, reputation, etc.? Then enroll others who have your vision and together develop the steps and plans on how you want to get there, divide up the tasks, delegate them and come up with timelines for accomplishing them, and then hold each other accountable. Accomplish big goals by setting smaller tasks to complete which in turn will go towards achieving the larger goal.

What about the officer of a Rock Chapter? How does he inspire his chapter to avoid complacency?

Good question and one that has no easy answer. Complacency by definition is a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one’s achievements. It is the natural enemy of sustained success and it is human nature to relax and ease up after you have accomplished a difficult goal or objective and reached a sought after goal. That’s true in sports teams and individual athletics, academics, business and a number of areas. In his book Good to Great, the author Jim Collins said “Good is the enemy of Great.”

The officers of Rock Chapters have to continually find ways to motivate and keep the chapter focused on sustained excellence. You have to re-focus, set new goals and keep your eye on the ball — it is often harder to stay on top and repeat than it was to get there in the first place. You need to get the younger guys in the chapter enrolled, excited and motivated about keeping the Rock Chapter, and the older, seasoned guys motivated as well — perhaps as mentors to the younger guys on keeping that Rock Chapter after they graduate. You have to have milestones, measurements and monitor and keep track of your progress. You cannot wait until the end of the semester to ‘catch up’ — it has to be an area of focus week to week and month to month. And, as you monitor progress, if you find that you are going off track, a course correction needs to be quickly made. Another thing I’d recommend is that a new Rock Chapter should get to know some of the ‘repeat’ Rock Chapter winners and ask them for their suggestions and advice on how they are able to be repeat winners. It is not luck — it is due to hard work and diligence.

What are the most critical issues facing higher education right now? How can fraternities be the driving force behind solving these problems?

There are many, but I’ll mention a few that are top of mind.

Costs: tuition-financial aid and the cost vs. value equation. Universities are under pressure to demonstrate the value proposition for what they are offering. As a college education becomes more expensive and parents
and students look at the value they are getting for the cost, I believe fraternities offer a unique opportunity to add to the value part of the equation. We offer outstanding leadership, training, mentoring and other ‘life skills’ that other parts of the university do not offer that lead to student success. These living and learning experiences and skills which the fraternity gives, will I believe, translate into a better, more well-rounded graduate who will be better prepared for life and more attractive to employers than their non-Greek peers. Statistics also show that Greeks have a higher percentage of graduation than non-Greeks.

Behavioral issues, including alcohol/substance abuse and campus safety. These issues continue to be a concern in higher education, and fraternities can take the lead in continuing to educate and develop its members in how to conduct themselves as good citizens and gentlemen.

Sigma Nu has taken the lead in several of these areas. Over 93% of our collegiate members have participated in the educational program GreekLifeEdu, which educates collegians on alcohol and substance use and abuse, and we are a founder of the EverFi Coalition.

We also partnered with Zeta Tau Alpha to develop the Social Strengths Workshop, which addresses sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention.

We have a comprehensive anti-hazing program, including our sponsorship of hazingprevention.org, National Hazing Prevention Week, Novak Institute for Hazing Prevention, and have developed and implemented a national anti-hazing campaign going back many years.

What must fraternities do to stay relevant in the next 3-5 years and beyond?

In my opinion, fraternities are more relevant now than they have ever been. Our mission is one that no one can argue with — developing ethical leaders. Society needs ethical leaders more now than ever. We need to continue to offer a valuable experience to young men, develop them, give them valuable life skills and instruct them as to how to be gentlemen and better members of society. I believe if our chapters are doing things the right way — and most are — we offer something that they cannot get anywhere else on campus. We are marketing this value proposition to parents, administrators and potential new members — and in my opinion, the fraternity experience — if done right — provides real world, maturing experiences they’ll need later that will make them more successful down the road. These include living, working with and getting along with others in a self-governing environment, communications and problem solving and leadership skills.

Leadership skills and ethical behavior as well as being a gentleman will always be valuable for a person to have, and if we can continue to grow and develop ethical leaders, that is a powerful value proposition to be able to offer.

Fraternities have been active on campuses in the US for over 240 years, and many of the strongest leaders in all walks of life have come from the fraternity system. What fraternities offer in the way of leadership development has been invaluable, and it needs to continue to do so. Fraternities need to evolve and change to a degree, but also keep focused on their values, creed, liturgy and the things that have kept fraternities thriving for two and a half centuries.

At many, if not most universities the most active alums, donors, foundation leaders, fund raisers, and alumni chapter club officers, are Greek. And, even though Greeks on campus comprise a small percentage of the student body (usually 25% or less), at many universities they make up a very sizeable percentage of the alumni donors and alumni leadership positions of that school. The new NIC will be working to set up more local Alumni IFC organizations who will be working directly with their chapters and the university administration in order to enhance the relationships between the universities and the Greek system and continue that natural pipeline of alumni leaders for the university’s alumni and foundation organizations.

Visit sigmanu.org/about-us to read the Fraternity’s new strategic plan.

“The fraternity experience — if done right — provides real world, maturing experiences they’ll need later that will make them more successful down the road.”
FOR MANY, THE PATH TO COLLEGE is easy—even assumed. But this isn’t true for all. Nationwide, 34 percent of students who attend a college or university are first-generation college students, according to a 2012 study by the National Center for Education Statistics. Of these students, only 50 percent complete their college degree in six years, according to a 2011 report by the Higher Education Research Institute.

The first in their families to attend college, these five men share their stories about their paths to higher education, their transitions to collegiate life, and how Sigma Nu provided the community of support they needed to succeed.

Nationwide, 34 percent of students who attend a college or university are first-generation college students.
Kentucky-born Matt Tudor wasn’t just the first person in his family to graduate from college; he was the first person in his immediate family to graduate from high school. Although he was raised in Richmond, Kentucky—a small college town that houses Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)—Matt was never encouraged to attend college. In fact, his family didn’t understand why he even wanted to. Matt explains, “We are a family-oriented family. People get married early. That’s not the way I wanted to do it.”

Matt learned the value of hard work as a kid, while working 14 to 16 hours a day on a farm, earning 25 to 30 dollars a week. A self-sufficient kid, he let himself into his house each day after school and entertained himself with video games and books. When it was time to do his homework, he was on his own as well. “I remember in middle school, asking my dad for help with a math problem and he replied, ‘I have no idea...’

Determined to leave the farm and do something different with his life, Matt decided to serve his country in the military, even though he was just seventeen and couldn’t yet vote. Once separated from his family and the “small town mentality,” Matt decided that he wanted to pursue a college degree in homeland security. “I researched, and lo and behold Richmond had one of the top programs,” he recalls. So after six years of service in the Army (which included conducting intelligence and counterintelligence operations in the Middle East in 2006 and 2007) Matt found himself back home in Richmond—only this time as a college student at EKU.

Matt was drawn to Sigma Nu because of its military origins. “You have x amount of study hours that you have to complete per week,” he says. “They expect you to have so many service hours for that semester, so many social hours for that semester. In a way it’s kind of like College for Dummies.” It was this structure that made his transition to college as a first-generation student easier.
Twenty-year-old DePauw University student Armaan Patel was the first person in his family to attend college in the United States. To his Indian born-and-raised parents, education wasn’t just the most important thing; it was the only thing. When it was time to apply to colleges, however, Armaan had to lead himself. “I had to figure it out on my own, and schedule college visits for myself, and drag my parents along,” he says.

Armaan and his family settled on Howard University, in part because he received a full-ride scholarship, but his first year revealed something that he had never before realized—having a social life was almost as important, if not as important, as academics.

When considering a transfer to DePauw, Armaan says his parents asked, “Is their education good?” coupled with an advisory warning, “Stay away from [a] party school.” Armaan laughs, “What they didn’t understand is that every school is a party school.” Armaan admits that the huge social scene at DePauw took some getting used to, especially for someone who had never been to a party before college. He explains, “How I got used to it was—putting myself out there and going out with my friends. I had to learn that it was okay for me to try new things.”

While his parents initially thought that participation in Sigma Nu would hurt Armaan’s grades, he says that Sigma Nu has given him tools and resources that have enriched his academic life, and that participation in the fraternity has enhanced all aspects of his college career.

“Joining Sigma Nu has given me the opportunity and knowledge to become a leader, someone who goes against the grain, someone unique,” Armaan says. As Lieutenant Commander of his chapter, he is responsible for helping his brothers become leaders, and he has a vision for his chapter. “We’re working to give our house, and other fraternity men, a better name and a better reputation,” he says. For Armaan this includes creating leadership events, community service opportunities, and being social in a way that supports academic achievement.
Ismail Parks
(Cal State Fullerton)

The Reluctant Collegian

“I really didn’t want to go to school for four more years,” Ismail Parks admits. To him, college seemed lofty and expensive. No one in his family had attended, and his parents weren’t encouraging him to attend either. The turning point for this Riverside, California native came through his high school AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) classes. The college preparatory classes introduced him to rigorous academics and paired him with university mentors to guide him through the college application process.

“My teachers really encouraged me,” Ismail recalls. “They mentioned better jobs and specifically better pay. Getting a degree would make providing for my family a lot easier.” He applied not knowing how he or his family would be able to finance his education.

Ismail’s desire to stay close to home limited his college search solely to in-state schools, and he ultimately chose Cal State University Fullerton, a school with a strong business program, located just thirty miles from his family.

Like many first-generation college students, Ismail’s transition to college necessitated a mental shift. “It was a psychological switch,” he says. “You’re doing self-learning, and that push from your teachers is not there.” Despite the lack of support, Ismail survived his first year with relative ease. However, the year left him desiring more: “My first year wasn’t that great because I was going to class and going straight back to my dorm room instead of trying to get to know other people or get involved on campus.”

Ismail decided to join a fraternity the following year and chose Sigma Nu because of its guiding principles: “They share a lot of my values, in terms of ‘school comes first’ and family.”

Now, Ismail has a vibrant social life that includes community service and philanthropy, as well as academic support and accountability. When Ismail was struggling in an accounting class, for example, he was paired with an accounting major in his chapter who met with him two to three times a week. “It [Sigma Nu] has kept me on track,” Ismail says. “Sigma Nu provides that extra push.”

Ismail hopes that the “extra push” enables him to experience success in business so that he can care for his family. “I want to buy my family a house: my mom, my dad, my sister. My mom and my dad never owned a house. If I can do that for them, it would mean that I’ve done my job.”

“It has kept me on track,” Ismail says. “Sigma Nu provides that extra push.”
When asked to describe his parents, Jack Ward Herndon says, “They were pretty impoverished, but they gave me everything that they could.” This included a commitment to service (his mom volunteered as a candy striper in World War II), and a value for education, even though they hadn’t pursued higher education themselves.

Jack grew up on the small Isle of Palms, located thirteen miles from Charleston, South Carolina. His dream of attending a university was birthed in his grandma’s downtown home, located just one block from the College of Charleston. The images of students troup to and fro, with backpacks in tow, inspired Jack to do the same.

Jack arrived at the College of Charleston in 1971, and although he received bids from two fraternities that year, he declined them because they “never felt right.” The following year, however, staff from the Sigma Nu General Fraternity arrived on campus to recruit students for a new colony. When it looked like a vibrant chapter wasn’t a viable option (only three people attended the interest meeting), Jack and two other young men said, “Let us be your core group.” General Fraternity expansion staff acquiesced, and by the spring of 1973 it had developed into a thirteen-member colony. As Jack recounts, “We held a ceremony in the Knights of Columbus Hall, two blocks from my granny’s house.”

Jack and his brothers dove into service, making it their priority. “We went out to senior centers, before it was cool. We did activities with them and hosted events for them. We raised funds. Pretty much any event we had was … based on philanthropy.”

They threw themselves into their academics with just as much gusto. “If I had problems with anything, I had brothers to go to and ask, ‘Well what should I do about this’—as far as grades go or studying goes. We had study halls back then, too. They weren’t required by anyone, but we did them because we were a small group of guys and we knew that we needed to do well.”
University of Minnesota senior Tomasz Karwas holds himself to a high standard. The son of Polish immigrants, he intends to make his family proud. “I’m first generation,” Tomasz states proudly. “The first generation to attend college and the first to be American by birth.” For him the distinction is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Tomasz’s mother Renata raised Tomasz after his father passed away when he was just eight months old. Tomasz grew up in Portage Park, a neighborhood on the outskirts of Chicago. Determined to give her son the promise of the American dream, Renata cleaned offices in downtown Chicago for the majority of the day, leaving Tomasz with his maternal grandpa, who became a primary caregiver.

Though Tomasz’s family was unfamiliar with college life and the application process, it didn’t stop them from being active in his pursuit of higher education. They peppered him with questions about his career path: “Are you going to be a doctor? A lawyer? A priest?” And when it was time to visit prospective colleges, his Uncle Wojciech (also known as “Bert”), took him on a college tour to Nevada and Minnesota.

Tomasz settled on the University of Minnesota at Twin Cities, where he is a health and wellness major with an emphasis on public health. His Uncle Bert encouraged him to join Sigma Nu because of the networks and friendships that it would provide, and Tomasz found this to be true during a time when he needed friends the most. “When I lost my grandpa,” Tomasz shares, “the guys reached out to me.” They offered condolences, listened to him, and offered to help in any way possible. The experience (albeit difficult) allowed Tomasz to experience the supportive strength of Sigma Nu’s brotherhood first-hand.

When Tomasz is not working one of his two jobs or participating in a Sigma Nu activity, he studies for the PCAT (Pharmacy College Admissions Test). Tomasz credits his family and his fraternity for his success and aspirations. “I’m glad that Sigma Nu is one of the organizations on campus that does value being committed to excellence. At the end of the day, we hold ourselves to a higher standard.” Tomasz continues, “I am super fortunate — coming here to America. My uncle tells me that he’s living his college experience through me. It’s something he wishes he could’ve done, so hope I don’t mess it up.”
Competing in MUSIC
Chad Withrow, host of Nashville’s top sports talk radio show, is the latest rising star in Sigma Nu’s long legacy of producing sports broadcast superstars.

Every weekday at noon Central Time dials across the greater Nashville area find themselves tuned to the local sports talk radio program Midday 180. In April of 2016 the show reported a 16 point market share indicating that 16% of the listeners in their market were tuning in. The show’s host station 104.5 The Zone, ranked as the number one billing for the Nashville market in 2015 and was the number one station for persons 25-54. At face value these numbers seem confusing and almost anomalous.

While Nashville is a growing metropolitan hub, it hosts only two major league sports franchises and one major FBS college athletics program. It isn’t a major sports market on the level of New York City or Los Angeles. So why is the Midday 180 attracting so many listeners? It’s the same reason why so many fans tuned into the former BBC program Top Gear: it’s less about the content and more about the unique camaraderie of the three individual personalities delivering that content. One of those individuals is Chad Withrow (Tennessee), a born and bred Tennessean who’s now holding the ear of thousands every afternoon. To fully appreciate these milestones we have to peel back the story of how Withrow went from an intern to being one of the most notable voices across Music City.
Chad Withrow had it planned from the beginning. Coming from Mt. Juliet, Tenn., and majoring in Sports Management and Business at the University of Tennessee, he knew prior to his graduation in 2004 that he would need an internship before graduating. But as the saying goes, “the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry,” or in Withrow’s case they lead to becoming one of the most well-known voices in Nashville.

“I thought for the longest time, when I was going to school, I was going to work in a front office somewhere. Be a VP or head of marketing. So I had an internship lined up with the Houston Astros,” Withrow says over a cup of coffee near the studio where he co-hosts the Midday 180. At the time the man doing the Houston Astros hiring for that internship was Jimmy Stanton, the current vice president of communications for the Tennessee Titans. Unfortunately, at the last minute he was turned down for the internship with the Houston Astros. This meant going to Plan B. Chad proceeded to approach a man named George Plaster, a true legend of the Nashville sports community. Plaster’s pedigree is lengthy but his highlights include color analyst for the Nashville Sounds baseball club in the 1980s, play-by-play announcing for Memphis State University and Vanderbilt University athletics, and in 2003-2004 he was hosting the newest addition to the afternoon Nashville sports talk radio market, SportsZone on 104.5 The Zone which had just made the switch to sports talk in August of 2003. In an almost quintessential southern plot twist the connection to Plaster was through a marriage, specifically Vanderbilt basketball star Drew Maddux who was married to Withrow’s cousin. Withrow secured an internship for SportsZone for the fall of 2004 and thus began a long journey in the world of radio.

“I certainly owe a lot to George for helping get my foot in the door in radio,” Chad says. Withrow’s early hard work quickly paid off when he was brought on full-time to help book the show and serve as the de facto executive producer with some mentoring from Plaster and the others working with SportsZone. “When you start out you only know one way of doing things and George was so good because he had done it for so long. I could learn his way, which had been successful for a long period of time, and I could also tweak in my own mind what I liked and what I might do a little bit differently,” Withrow says of his early days at the station. “They were all really great to me from the start and I learned a lot from everyone and there were things I would take from everyone. They were great about showing the way.”

The first time Withrow’s voice actually hit the airwaves was in 2004 during his internship when he was tapped to do some reporting for 104.5's Friday night show covering high school sports in the area. “Keep in mind I had no training in broadcasting. I had never spoken into a microphone.” For his first foray, covering a Dickson County High School football game, he wrote down word-for-word what he was going to say. “I thought, I’m just going to read this and try to sound natural.” Despite a well written field report on the game, Chad remembers his adrenaline pumping through his veins and quickly found himself breathless. “My heart rate was going up so much as I was reading it that I was getting out of breath. Everybody has some nightmare story about the first time they go on air.” To his credit, and using an affable and comedic personality that holds true today, he played it off with a joke about...
The Delta of Sigma Nu

The secret of our show is that our chemistry is legitimate, we’re like brothers. We can fight passionately about things and still be buddies. We’re all three pretty different personalities and we don’t have egos getting in the way of the show.”

The Midday 180 show officially launched in 2012 and Withrow was also given sole hosting responsibilities for the 6-7 p.m. slot which was renamed Primetime with Chad Withrow. “Looking back now it is a lot,” Withrow says with a laugh.

Withrow’s path to success is not a one-off story of right place at the right time. It’s the story of hard work and is best exemplified in a story that one of his professors told his class. The professor asked who knew who Michael Jordan was with every hand shooting up. They were then asked who thought Michael Jordan knew who they were. The hands remained down. The professor then said that it’s not about who you know but about who knows who you are. Therefore, if you find yourself working a concession stand, or in Withrow’s case, putting up signs for the radio station at 22 years old, you better be the best person at doing that job because someone is going to notice your work. “The problem with a lot of people is that they want to ask a lot of questions about why they need to be doing something instead of focusing on doing the best job they can do because one day Michael Jordan is going to see your work and tell someone to go hire you,” Chad says reflecting on his career.

Withrow also offers the sage advice to always be open to new opportunities even if it’s not something you plan for. “Don’t lock yourself into one role,” he says. Be willing to embrace all of the new things you may be exposed to.”

Withrow’s experience in Sigma Nu also played a large role in his success today. He served as Recruitment Chairman at the Epsilon Eta Chapter (Tennessee) which entailed a lot of event planning, a skillset he still uses today in juggling the different projects he helms for 104.5. He also shares that during his time in the chapter he developed as a better speaker. “If you’re 19 or 20 and you walk into a room full of people in a chapter meeting then speaking to 40,000 a day who can’t see you is much easier.” The diversity of his chapter also helped out in learning more about the different backgrounds of his brothers and their life experiences. This translated directly into developing an understanding for different opinions and views, things that come fast and hard in the world of sports radio.

In June of 2016 the Midday 180 show broke its own record again with a 16.3 point market share, one of the highest performances for that format. It routinely out-performs the station’s broadcast of the nationally syndicated Dan Patrick Show. It would seem that the old adage of Withrow’s college professor was a foreshadowing predicting his success with thousands knowing him…or at least his voice. ✨
2016 National Football Foundation Gold Medal Recipient

From left to right: Archie Manning with sons Cooper and Eli.
This summer, the National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced that **Archie Manning** (Mississippi) was named the 2016 recipient of the NFF Gold Medal in recognition of his exceptional leadership and unblemished reputation.

“**Archie Manning became an icon as one of the greatest players to ever set foot on the gridiron, and he subsequently used his standing to become one of the game’s greatest ambassadors,”** said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. “The entire football community has been blessed by his enormous contributions, and we take great pride in having him as our chairman. He has earned this honor many times over, and we are extremely proud to add his name to the esteemed list of past NFF Gold Medal recipients.”

The highest and most prestigious award presented by the National Football Foundation, the Gold Medal recognizes an outstanding American who has demonstrated integrity and honesty; achieved significant career success; and has reflected the basic values of those who have excelled in amateur sport, particularly football. First presented to President Dwight D. Eisenhower at the NFF Annual Awards Dinner in 1958, the Gold Medal boasts an impressive list of past recipients, including seven presidents, four generals, three admirals, one Supreme Court Justice, 29 corporate CEOs and chairmen, actor John Wayne and baseball immortal Jackie Robinson. Manning will become the 63rd recipient of the NFF Gold Medal.

“Coming from humble beginnings, Archie Manning has exhibited an extraordinary work-ethic throughout his life,” said NFF Awards Committee Chairman Jack Ford. “His exceptional composure enabled him to handle adversity both on and off the field, and he has remained deeply committed to his family and the community. His focus has always been on others and making those around him better. No individual is more worthy of our highest honor, and we look forward to celebrating the excellence he has come to personify at the NFF Annual Award Dinner in December.”

An All-America quarterback at Ole Miss, a Pro Bowl player with the New Orleans Saints and a College Football Hall of Fame inductee, Manning charted a successful post-football career, including roles as an investment broker, broadcaster, restaurateur, endorser, community leader and philanthropist. He added the NFF to his list of many charities, joining the NFF Board of Directors in 1993. He served with distinction before becoming NFF Chairman in 2007 and the leader of a nationwide network of 120 chapters in 47 states with more than 12,000 members.

During his tenure as chairman, the NFF has experienced remarkable growth, and his leadership played a critical role in the recent opening of the state-of-the-art $68.5 million College Football Hall of Fame in the heart of Atlanta. He also oversaw the launch of the NFF Leadership Hall of Fame, which has helped raise and distribute millions of dollars for the NFF scholarships, programs and initiatives. Currently, the organization distributes more than $1.3 million each year and recognizes thousands of student-athletes for their accomplishments on and off the field.

“There are a lot of good things and people because of football, and we recognize them,” said Manning in a promotional video for the organization. “I am especially proud of the fact that we recognize the scholar-athlete, and we reward kids starting in high school with our chapter program, distributing scholarships to those who do a great job of balancing football time with their academic requirements. We honor those kids, and they’re the ones who turn out to be great leaders and people in our society. It’s just gratifying to be part of something that does something great for young people.”

His exceptional composure enabled him to handle adversity both on and off the field, and he has remained deeply committed to his family and the community.
Kevin McGrail takes a break from hiking the Huangshan Mountain Range in China.
Auburn
This past year the Beta Theta Chapter grew tremendously in service and involvement. The brothers had a cumulative 5845.5 hours of community service. Kyle Sitzer, John David Hart, and Jack Fruin were elected to be representatives to Auburn University’s Big Event, which is a large-scale community service project put on by the University to help Auburn and the surrounding area with various community efforts. Several brothers went abroad to serve in mission trips, including John David Hart who went to Haiti and China, as well as Jack Rebarchak and Michael Price, both of whom traveled to Mexico during spring break for FOCUS Missions.

Additionally, brothers were elected to serve throughout Auburn University in varying areas. Several brothers were elected to serve on the Interfraternity Council, including James Pate and Scott Sturdivant serving as Co-Directors of Risk Management, and Hollis Gilbert, who served as Vice President of Risk Management. Brothers are also involved with COSAM Leaders, including James Pate and Taylor Young, who served as President for the group. Many brothers were elected to serve in the SGA this past year, including Ryan Bell, Cobb Bostick, and Austin McCombs. Brothers also were involved in a vast array of honor societies and groups.

In April, the chapter teamed with Phi Mu Sorority to host the Nu Mu Cookout, a large barbecue cookout and raffle to help serve the Rabren Foundation and the Childrens’ Miracle Network. Cobb Bostick was also honored to be selected to join the Spade Society, a group honoring the top students at Auburn. James Pate was also selected to join the Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society, which is a huge honor.

Butler
This past semester was a great leap forward for the chapter. The chapter was lucky enough to be awarded Rock Chapter honors for the fifth time in a row! In addition, Epsilon Mu was able to bring home the Manpower Award, Excellence in LEAD I, II, and All-LEAD, LEAD Innovation Award, LEAD Chapter of the Year, Excellence in Operational Excellence, Excellence in Personal Development and Membership Value, Excellence in Values-Based Leadership, and NIC Chapter of Distinction. All brothers worked tirelessly over the course of the semester to bring innovation and positive goal steps to their respective committees, as well as honor to their chapter.

Two brothers who particularly stood out are Blake Moskal, who was inducted as an Alpha Affiliate, and
Garrett Oberst, who was also inducted as an Alpha Affiliate and was named Sigma Nu Man of the Year! Epsilon Mu is proud to have such outstanding brothers leave their mark in the chapter’s history. Another honorable mention includes Brad Bocketti, former Eminent Commander, who was placed as Butler’s IFC president in January.

The chapter has also excelled in philanthropy, averaging over 18 hours of community service per brother over the course of the semester. Epsilon Mu has amped up their efforts in campus involvement, continuing to bring home a trophy in Butler’s “Spring Sports” as well as having an immensely supportive showing for Butler’s “Polar Plunge.” The chapter has high goals set for their Fall Voodoo event. With the help of their newly initiated brothers, and the momentum of such a successful past semester, the chapter feels confident in their abilities to embrace a challenge and reach even higher in the semester to come.

Cal State Fullerton
The Lambda Upsilon Chapter had many great achievements both as a group and as individuals since the beginning of the 2016 year. With excellence in grades and dedication to the community, the Lambda Upsilon Chapter was honored to receive such outstanding awards.

The chapter received the Interfraternity Council’s top awards, which included the Dean’s Cup and the 4 Star award. The Dean’s cup and the 4 Star are awarded to the chapter that has reached the highest level of achievement of the academic year. In addition to the chapter, representatives Andrew La and Erich Sieben were able to attend the 67th Grand Chapter in San Diego and were honored to receive awards for implementation of the LEAD Program and academic achievement.

Within the Fullerton community, the chapter also participated in impactful activities for the students of Sierra Vista Elementary School as part of the community.
service giving back. From this dedication every Friday afternoon, Lambda Upsilon Chapter then received the Service Award from the Parent Teacher association for the chapter’s continual volunteer service. Not only working with younger students, the chapter also organized the traditional philanthropy “SNUPER-BOWL” to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Center in April. The chapter was able to raise $1,278 to donate directly to the hospital. Furthermore, for a week of community service in the summer, Brian Burgess, Alexander Foy, Andrew La, and Tyson Phillip participated in an annual Camp Titan program which helps underprivileged adolescents gain confidence and a positive experience.

As a collective, the chapter achieved many things, but a few individuals had the opportunity to participate in other programs and achieve a higher mention. This year Alexander Foy was recognized as IFC’s Fraternity Man of the Year for his performance and dedication as Lieutenant Commander for the chapter. Alexander Foy and Fabian Flores also took the opportunity to study abroad to learn about the world. Brother Foy is studying abroad in Berlin and Brother Flores is studying abroad in Barcelona. The chapter is honored to receive recognition for the dedication and hours put into the community for the betterment of society. This year, Lambda Upsilon Chapter was also fortunate to have help from a few alumni. Alumnus Calvin Nyo facilitated all of LEAD Phase III. Alumnus Joe Baxter facilitated the officer transitions from the Spring to the Fall of the 2016 year.

The Eta Phi Chapter celebrated their 50th anniversary in May. The event was chaired by Worthy Commander Hugo Barraza with the night’s program highlighting the milestones and achievements of the chapter since its founding. Founding father and the most senior-serving member of the Los Angeles Chapter was also honored.

ON AUGUST 13, 2016, ALUMNI BUDDY NIX and Ronnie Waller hosted Mu Chapter’s (Georgia) “Greatest Generation” at Reynolds Plantation at Lake Oconee, Georgia. Brothers Waller and Nix gave a brief update to the attendees, followed by a State of the Chapter provided by current Commander Max Brandon. Alumni Advisory Board Chairman Joel Stern presented a rendering of the Robert L. Marchman III Flag Pavilion brick secured in honor of Brother Cecil Newsome and in memory of Brother Pete Peterson — both of whom served in Vietnam. This annual gathering of Mu Brothers from the 1950s and 1960s is always a much anticipated and enjoyed event and has been held for the past 25 years. Reynolds Plantation was developed in the 1990s by the Reynolds family, including Mu Brother Jamie Reynolds. This year’s event included over 100 Mu alumni and wives, current Commander Max Brandon, former Commander Leigh Stowe, several members of the Alumni Advisory Board, Past Regent Robert Durham, and Past Regent Joe Gilman.

Texas Christian

Chris Dorr brings the serpent and stripes across the pond to Edinburgh.
Angeles County Board of Supervisors Michael D. Antonovich presented the chapter with an official commendation from Los Angeles County.

**California**

This year Beta Psi Chapter had a special guest on their intramural basketball team. Richard Rodgers, the former University of California football tight-end and current Green Bay Packers starter, accepted an invitation from team members to take part in the Spring 2016 intramural season. At 6’4”, Rodgers was a huge addition to the team roster, which was able to achieve a semi-final appearance. Beta Psi Chapter hopes to have the Berkeley alumnus back on the team for future seasons.

**Case Western Reserve**

This spring at CWRU Greek Life’s year-end awards, the brothers of the Delta Alpha Chapter received the highest marks in the categories of leadership, scholarship, ritual, and the second highest mark in the category of citizenship, becoming the highest achieving Greek organization on campus. Also at this ceremony Charlie Topel received the Glenn Nicholls Award for Ethical Leadership in recognition of outstanding character. At the Case Western Reserve University awards ceremony Prince Ghosh received the Dorothy J. Pijan Student Leadership Award for Outstanding Freshman of the 2015-2016 academic year.

**Colorado**

The chapter had an outstanding academic year, ranking first out of 17 fraternities for the Spring 2016 semester with a chapter GPA of 3.046. The previous semester the chapter ranked second with a GPA of 3.019.

**Columbus State**

Collegians and alumni from across the country met at the Columbus Country Club to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of Mu Xi Chapter at Columbus State University on May 14th, 2016. Among the special guests in attendance were the parents of Brother Mike Joyce who passed from Leukemia in 2001. They presented the inaugural scholarship bearing their son’s name to Brother Zack Wilkinson.

**Duke**

Mack Chandler was recognized by Duke’s Order of Omega Chapter with the Interfraternity Council President’s award.

**Duquesne**

At the 2016 Northeast Greek Leadership Association’s Annual Conference Luke Maciod was recognized as one of NGLA’S Greek Leaders of Distinction.

**Eastern Michigan**

The Lambda Pi chapter at Eastern Michigan University once again had a strong showing at the EMU Greek Awards, both on an individual basis, as well as a chapter. Their awards include recognition as a Chapter of Excellence for the 4th year in a row and rating of excellent in all 5 of the Greek Standards and Assessment Program categories which include: civic engagement, integration of purpose, leadership development, positive relationships, and intellectual development.

Individually, Joseph Sikora was recognized as EMU’s New Initiate of the Year, recognizing his dedication to scholarship and his hard work to overhaul our chapter’s scholarship program.

Also, Matthew Johnson was recognized for the individual Scholastic Achievement Award, recognizing his drive in the classroom, his constant display of work in local art galleries, his university graphic design position, founding Ypsilanti’s only art collective (Water Tower Collective) and exceptional grades, all while beating cancer.

**Florida**

Brothers Alexander Maller, Bradley Maller, and Carlos Eduardo Santiago attended Grand Chapter in San Diego, Calif., and brought home the...
Manpower Award (80+ members) and Community Service Award for having the highest per man average of community service hours (42) for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Alumnus Salvatore Mortillaro recently passed the Series 6 Investment exam and continues to build his financial services practice with Northwestern Mutual. Alumnus Christopher Yanes completed a summer internship with Gresham Smith and Partners, a leader in design excellence excelling in Healthcare, Aviation, and large scale planning markets. Alumnus Bryce Sperling landed a position with The DiSTI Corporation, a leading provider of graphical user interface software and customized 3-D virtual maintenance training solutions.

Current Commander Landon Willey completed a summer internship in Fort Meyers, Fla., with Gartner, the world’s leading IT research and advisory company. Jordan Nasser completed a summer internship with Tampa, Fla.-based Pilot Bank, a full service bank providing retail, commercial, and investment services to individuals, businesses, and institutions in the greater Tampa Bay and Lakeland, Fla. areas. Jared Blackburn completed an internship with the US Department of State in Washington, D.C. within the Bureau of Legislative Affairs. In the future, he plans to attend law school and/or pursue a Master’s Degree and eventually run for public office.

Terence Delahunty completed a summer internship with Zero-G, a Dublin, Ireland-based brand strategy and design agency. Michael Schultes completed a summer internship in Orlando, Fla., with Lockheed Martin, one of the largest companies in the aerospace, defense, security, and technologies industry. Schultes worked as a college intern software developer for a large database study involving the F-35 program.

Brothers Harrison Magoutas, Grant Pitt, and Tirthan Shah worked with The University of Florida Homecoming and Gator Growl team over the summer as Director of Web Design, Assistant Director of Sales, and Assistant Director of Web Design, respectively, in preparation for the event. Gator Growl is the largest student-run pep rally in the nation.

Alumni and past Headquarters staffer Bill Morosco joined the coaching staff for Presbyterian College’s men’s basketball team under head coach Gregg Nibert. “I am extremely excited and humbled for the opportunity to work with someone as respected as Coach Nibert,” said Morosco. “His experience is something that I look forward to learning from and his winning pedigree is something I hope to contribute to. Presbyterian College and the Clinton community are unbelievably welcoming and I can already see why this place is so special. It’s a great time to be a Blue Hose and I am enormously thankful that Coach Nibert has given me this opportunity.”

Brother Morosco was previously on the coaching staff at The Citadel and prior to that was a graduate assistant at UC Davis.

Georgia

The 67th Grand Chapter in San Diego was a proud occasion for Mu Chapter. Commander Max Brandon and Lt. Commander Mitchell Fenbert accepted Mu Chapter’s fourth consecutive Rock Chapter Award and Vice Regent John Hearn was elected Regent-Elect of Sigma Nu. In July 2018, during the 66th Grand Chapter in Washington, D.C., he will be installed as the 66th Regent and will lead the High Council during Sigma Nu’s 150th Anniversary.

Past Regent Robert Durham delivered a touching tribute to one of Mu Chapter’s “Mighty Oaks,” Generalissimo George Hearn III during the Chapter Eternal Report. Logan Duncan was inducted into the Alpha Chapter Affiliate Program, the highest honor bestowed upon graduating seniors. He now carries the badge number of Alpha 620 in addition to his Mu badge.

Mu alumnus Wells Ellenberg was named a Director of the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation and also accepted the Hall of Fame honor on behalf of Beta Theta (Auburn) alumnus Alvin Vogtle, former Chairman of Southern Company. Georgia Southern

During the 67th Grand Chapter in San Diego the Theta Kappa Chapter received the prestigious Rock Chapter award, the highest award for chapters. Because of his dedication and efforts in the chapter’s pursuit of excellence over the last three years, Past Commander Adam Clay accepted the award for the chapter. Watching the presentation were the three other Commanders since the chapter’s reorganization: Evan Winebarger, Eric Degen, and Zach Geurin. Besides the 4 Commanders, the chapter had 3 other collegians and 3 alumni at this presentation. The event was a proud occasion for Theta Kappa as it
became one of eleven Rock Chapters during the 2014-16 Biennium, and it is a fitting cap for three years of solid improvement and excellence. Additionally, Adam Clay was elected in November as the IFC President at Georgia Southern.

In April, the Theta Kappa Chapter hosted an Alumni Panel on Entrepreneurism and Business Leadership as part of their Alumni Speaker Series, and it was a resounding success. On the panel were Steve Gay, a Pharmacist & Owner of the Prescription Shop in Statesboro GA, Andy Oliver, the President & an Owner of Braswell Food Company in Statesboro GA, Shane Ragan, the President & Owner of Ragan Insurance Agency in Columbus GA, and Todd Kalish, the Owner-Operator of the Bradley Park Chick-fil-A in Columbus GA. Alumnus Billy Hickman, a Partner at Dahbs, Hickman, Hill, & Cannon CPA in Statesboro GA, facilitated the event.

In January, past Chapter Advisor, Tony Fair, was awarded the High Council Certificate of Commendation for 30 years of dedicated volunteer service. Tony was presented the award by then Vice Regent John Hearn (Georgia) at the 4th Annual Commanders’ dinner in Atlanta. The entire chapter extends its thanks to the Alumni Advisory Board, the House Corporation, and all the alumni ranks for their assistance, mentoring, and guidance during its 48-year history, especially the last 3 years. The chapter looks forward to the future as well as setting their sights on attaining another Rock Chapter award in 2018 at the 68th Grand Chapter in Washington D.C.
Eta Gamma Alumni Board of Advisors as a workshop focused on the preparation of resumes, interviews, and general business etiquette. These programs led to the chapter winning the Georgia State Greek Program of the Year at this year’s Greek Award Ceremony.

The chapter’s newly elected Commander, Juan Patino, won the Kenneth M. England Scholarship, a scholarship awarded to the school’s most outstanding Greek Member. Brother Justin Cochran, former IFC Vice President of Internal Affairs, won the IFC’s Executive Officer of the Year. Eta Gamma has proven itself dedicated to the strengthening of its manpower by increasing its membership by over 15% over the past academic year. Continuing it’s campus involvement tradition new initiate CJ Harper was elected SGA Senator, Brian Garcia was elected IFC secretary, Juan Patino was elected the IFC’s VP of External Affairs and Martice McClure was elected president of SCLA.

Gettysburg
The past few months have been busy for Zeta Sigma Chapter. The weekend of April 11th saw a career networking panel with alumni as well as the campus premier of Jeremy Savage’s play entitled “Hiding Nowhere.” Between then and the end of the semester Pat Dooley and Marc Tessier were involved in multiple performances with the Sunderman Conservatory of Music, and Graham Homan was invited to present research pertaining to both psychological experimentation on rats and the Holocaust. When the Bernie Sanders campaign came to hold a rally on campus, Blake Altenberg and Jon Danchik found themselves amongst the press corps with major news outlets.

Many brothers left for the summer to pursue job and internship opportunities across the country. Alex Delenko stuck around on-campus for most of the summer to research with Dr. Donald Jameson, synthesizing novel compounds and testing their enzyme inhibition properties, and Corwin Leber spent the summer working for Great Gettysburg Addresses, a company that helps local businesses with publicity and exposure. Others within the chapter followed different paths, from working with Sony to offering historical interpretation in National Parks. Needless to say, the brothers stayed busy.

The chapter recently held its yearly summer work weekend, bringing together active brothers and alumni in maintaining their property on the northern edge of the Gettysburg battlefields. With a well-groomed yard and a newly-organized house, the chapter looks forward to the coming year, and continuing to be a place where the good get better.

Illinois State
Andres Tapia III, Connor Kink, and Jordan Seaman were all recognized by Illinois State University’s Army ROTC program. Both Connor and Jordan were awarded the Tawani Foundation Award of Military Excellence, while Andres received an ROTC award in recognition of his steadfast dedication to the program and his willingness to serve.

James Madison
This year, Iota Delta Chapter distinguished itself at James Madison University’s annual IFC awards ceremony. At this function, the chapter and its brothers took home the most awards of all fraternities, including a number of individual awards. Matt D’Angelo took home the individual award for his contributions to the executive board, and Sean Carney was recognized for his work as President of IFC. In addition, the Chapter won awards for its service and philanthropy, and ultimately was awarded “Silver” status.

In May, Iota Delta hosted its annual Serpent Classic Golf Outing, which was attended by over 50 brothers from both the active and alumni chapters. This tournament serves as a way for brothers to reconnect and grow their fraternal bond in the spirit of competition. Mike Resetar took home the medal for lowest score on the
day, shooting an impressive even par!
Also in May, 27 brothers entered the Iota Delta Alumni Chapter. In their time, Iota Delta’s manpower increased by nearly two times. In addition, the credibility and overall reputation of the chapter increased significantly. It is through the hard work of these brothers that Sigma Nu at James Madison University is sure to thrive for decades to come. These new graduates begin careers all across the spectrum. Whether their careers begin on Wall Street, in a hospital, or at a tech firm, Iota Delta is proud of its graduates and excited to see where life takes them.

**Kansas**

Nu Chapter was thrilled to be recognized as a Rock Chapter at the 67th Grand Chapter in San Diego, Calif. This award is the culmination of a body of work, passion, dedication, and love that has been poured into Nu Chapter for the last 10 years by generations of Sigma Nus. In some ways, it is the culmination of more than 130 years of work as this outstanding group of men has embodied and drawn upon the pillars of Love, Honor, and Truth that were first brought to Lawrence in 1884.

In San Diego, in front of all represented Sigma Nu Chapters from across the country, the chapter finally heard its name called for the first time in more than a decade. This award is the pinnacle of achievement and testament to the great men shaped by our beloved Fraternity. It is also evidence of the influence of our great alumni who have supported the chapter along the way.

In addition to winning Rock Chapter the chapter had several milestone achievements recently, some of which include: maintaining the second highest GPA among Kansas fraternities (candidate class ranked first among all new member classes); receiving six awards at the IFC Greek Awards in Spring 2016, a chapter member elected president of the KU student body; and the current Commander chosen to serve on Sigma Nu’s High Council as a Collegiate Grand Councilman.

**Longwood**

Recent alumnus Landon Cooper’s logo design was accepted as the official logo for the 2016 Vice Presidential Debate at Longwood University this fall. Landon was one of five art directors from Longwood’s Design Lab selected to submit concepts for the competition. “It’s exciting to have my design chosen,” said the Virginia Beach native. “I’m proud to see something I created be the graphic mark for a timeless moment in Longwood’s history.” The final decision was made by a committee of University staff involved in debate planning. Banners with the winning look have just been added to locations across the Farmville campus.

**Louisiana State**

Well known thoroughbred horse trainer and alumnus Tom Amoss was the trainer for 2016 Kentucky Derby contender Mo Tom who finished 8th in the 142nd Running of the Roses. Leading up to the Kentucky Derby Mo Tom had three first place finishes with a fourth place finish in the Louisiana Derby.

**Lynchburg**

This year the Mu Chi Chapter achieved not only the highest GPA of all Greek Life on campus, but the highest QPA (Qualitative Point Average) of all Greek organizations on the Lynchburg College campus. This achievement is thanks to internal and external support from our Spring 2016 Scholarship Chair Benjamin Wyland, and brothers like Zach Betterton, Spencer Murray, and Dylan Elliott who work as tutors on campus, and the Lynchburg College academic resources. The success in scholarship works as a driving force for the future in working to maintain academic excellence as well as moral excellence, and setting the precedent for excellence on Lynchburg College’s campus.

In the past academic year, the Mu Chi Chapter has been able to celebrate its members and its advisor with the rest of the Lynchburg College community. At the annual IFC/PC Greek awards at Lynchburg College, Nathan Paxton received an award for outstanding service on and off campus. Paxton works as a PASS Tutor

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Georgia

Mu Chapter joins the men of Kappa Alpha Order for a photo after another successful Classic City Bowl.
Michael Dunmyer received an outstanding academic award for receiving a 4.0 GPA/QPA for the 2015/2016 year. Dunmyer is a Westover Fellow at Lynchburg College, which places him among the best and brightest first-year students Lynchburg College. Paxton and Dunmyer both plan on graduating in May of 2019. The Greek Award council also awarded Chapter Advisor Jonathan Fries the outstanding Greek advisor award. His work is constant and he never fails to help the chapter succeed. Fries also won an award for outstanding advisor work at the Lynchburg College leadership awards. The chapter plans on working to achieve even more great things in the upcoming year.

Benjamin Giustiniani spent some of his time off from school pursuing research in Japan with Lynchburg College Professor Dr. Takashi Maie. Dr. Maie went to Japan with Giustiniani and another student to study Goby fish. Giustiniani, a current Biomedical Sciences major, took this opportunity to learn more about the muscular and skeletal structure of an amazing organism, the waterfall-climbing Goby fish. The trip took Giustiniani to the metropolis of Tokyo, as well as relatively untouched landscapes in the Kushimoto, Wakayama area. Giustiniani was able to immerse himself in the work he loves as well as the culture of Japan through Dr. Maie. Giustiniani stayed with Maie’s family, and was able to immerse himself in a culture some tourists would not be able to under normal conditions. Giustiniani said, “I strongly believe that experiencing things that are outside of your comfort zone leads to a strengthening of character and personal beliefs.” Giustiniani plans on continuing work with Dr. Maie during the upcoming year and exploring more of the ideas Dr. Maie has to share.

In the wake of national conversations about relations between the United States and Cuba, two Brothers, Jon Adams and Michael Dunmyer went on a study abroad trip in Cuba through the Lynchburg College Study Abroad program. The group took the opportunity to explore an area that will soon be seeing even more tourist-like visitors, pending national talks. Adams and Dunmyer spent their time exploring the customs, culture, and atmosphere of the country. They were astonished at the stereotypes being broken concerning communist countries as they talked with local citizens and saw the community progress that was being made. Adams and Dunmyer also explored rural areas, such as farming towns, to see the dynamic of economic and social systems compared to larger cities or even smaller cities in the United States. Adams and Dunmyer came back to the United States with an appreciation of the things they love and hold dear, and the
ideas of the citizens of Cuba. Adams graduated in May of this year, and Dunmyer plans on graduating in May of 2019.

**Maryland**

The men of the Delta Phi Chapter were extremely active this past semester. They cosponsored seven philanthropy events including a road race fundraiser with Alpha Xi Delta for Autism Speaks and Delta Tau Delta’s dodgeball fundraiser for the American Diabetes Foundation. In addition, they hosted their annual Serving Honduras volleyball tournament in the backyard of their chapter house. All proceeds go to the Students Helping Honduras organization, where volunteers build schools for underprivileged children. The event was successful due in large part to the work of Brothers **Steven Sexton** and **Mitchell Goldstein**, among others, who were integral in its organization and execution. Thanks to the hard work of all brothers, children in Balsamo, Honduras, are one large step closer to receiving the middle school they deserve and desperately need.

On another note, the renovation of their chapter house was completed. The inside of the house was gutted and completely redone, along with some minor detailing on the outside. This process could not have been completed without the stellar work of the Delta Phi House Corporation. Headed by **Ramin Nejaddehghan**, with the help of **Bobby Becker** and **Jordan Blaker**, the project was completed in a timely and efficient manner. In testament to this work, alumnus and Alpha Affiliate **Ramin Nejaddehghan** was recognized as House Corporation Officer of the Year at Maryland’s 2016 Greek Awards Banquet.

**Minnesota**

After being named a Chapter of Distinction by the North American Interfraternity Conference in 2015 and a Rock Chapter at the 67th Grand Chapter, the Gamma Tau Chapter continues to look to raise the bar in order to avoid complacency and push our members.

A focus of the chapter’s strides to push its own boundaries has been with its philanthropy and service. The chapter’s largest philanthropy event of the school year, Border Battle, was expanded in the Fall of 2015 to include an entire week of activities, such as a football tournament that engaged other Greek organizations at the University of Minnesota, a pageant, a fundraiser with Qdoba, and others. Border Battle raised over $8,800 to benefit St. Jude Children’s Hospital. A greater emphasis was also put on Gamma Tau’s major spring philanthropy event, Snuzapalooza. The event included a petting zoo, raffle drawings, and food to raise money for the Wildlife Preservation Network. Gamma Tau Chapter was recognized for its efforts in philanthropy and service at the campus’s...
Greek Awards in January when it received the Interfraternity Council’s award for Outstanding Philanthropy and Service Program. The chapter has also focused on improving its use of the LEAD program. Chapter leaders have worked hard to find new facilitators to give fresh life to LEAD sessions, allowing them to be new to even the most experienced members. The chapter has also seen higher attendance at LEAD sessions and other chapter events by incorporating an Attendance Bowl competition that divides members onto teams, which then earn points for attending events. Gamma Tau was recognized at the Greek Awards when it received the Interfraternity Council’s award for Outstanding Membership Development Program for its efforts in LEAD.

The chapter was also recognized at the Greek Awards as an Interfraternity Council Chapter of Excellence. Furthermore, two individual members were recognized by the Interfraternity Council. Max Kasel received the award for Outstanding New Member after his efforts to start the Mental Health Initiative during his first year in Sigma Nu. Nicholas Ohren received the Interfraternity Council’s Living the Ritual Award for living our values of Love, Honor, and Truth in his daily life and representing Greek life in the most positive way.

Mississippi

Under the leadership of past Commander Taylor Massengill, the Epsilon Xi Chapter at Ole Miss completed another successful year characterized by commitment to leadership and service. The 27th Annual Charity Bowl was played in April, where the chapter’s donation of over $100,000 was announced to the community. This year’s recipient of $75,000 toward medical expenses was Mr. Kevin Orr, a retired Oxford Police Officer who was injured in the line of duty. Additionally, $25,000 was donated to medical research and Mississippi hospitals. The total amount raised through Charity Bowl will approach $2 million next year. Many brothers continued to give back through community service with organizations such as Coaching For Literacy, which harnesses the power of sports to fight against illiteracy in Mississippi. This year’s candidate class also volunteered over 300 hours of their time with Oxford’s Habitat for Humanity.

On campus, the chapter received the IFC’s Leadership and Character Development Award and Chapter Advisor John Green was recognized as Advisor of the Year. Commander James-Roland Markos completed his term as 2015 IFC President. Peyton Vaughan and Quinn McKemey were elected to the 2016 IFC Executive Board as Vice President of Recruitment and Vice President of IFC Judicial respectively.

Brothers also led in student government, as Brent Ferguson was elected ASB Attorney General, replacing fellow Epsilon Xi member Loden Walker. Jacob Munn was voted President of the School of Accountancy and Caleb Carroll was chosen as a Senior Class Officer. Epsilon Xi remains committed to serving the Legion of Honor at the national level as well. We are proud to report that at Grand Chapter, alumnus and Housing Corporation Board Member Carter Hutchins was elected Vice Regent for the next biennium. Commander James-Roland Markos also serves as one of two collegians on the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation’s Board of Directors.

Alumnus and former Commander Bob Galloway designated the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College and the Lamar Order at the University of Mississippi School of Law as the

Missouri State

Luke Wiesboeck competes in a motorcycle road racing event.

Nevada

A plaque at the Delta Xi Chapter house honors those who donated for the recent restorations.
beneficiaries of a $1.6 million planned gift. Brother Galloway is a graduate of the law school and was a member of the University Scholars Program as an undergraduate that eventually evolved into the Honors College.

**Wister Hitt** was also one of seven students recognized with Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society’s Freshman Leadership Award. The award was created in 2009 to identify, encourage, and honor leadership among campus freshmen. Hitt is a public policy leadership major from Yazoo City, Miss. He is a member of the Chancellor’s Leadership Class, the Lott Leadership Institute and College Republicans. He serves as an ASB senator, Freshman Council president and Candidate Class President for the Epsilon Xi Chapter.

Alumnus and former Mississippi track and field coach **Joe Walker** was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame at Mississippi College. Walker spent 30 seasons at Mississippi. During that time, which spanned two stints, he guided the Rebels to 11 top-20 national finishes and was a six-time SEC Coach of the Year honoree. His pupils earned All-America recognition 124 times, including 12 NCAA individual championships, as well as 60 individual SEC titles. The Utica, Miss., native was the 2002 USOC National Coach of the Year搅拌机。His pupils included Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and his home state of Illinois. Luke suffered a setback at Road America during practice when the temperature dropped rapidly causing the motorcycle to lose grip and slide out in a turn. Luke managed to compete in his race that same day with bursitis in both knees and a bruised shoulder. He finished in 4th place. His highlights of the season were 3 podium finishes while obtaining 6 different sponsors including Lucas Oil and Factory Effex. He sports the black and gold colors of Sigma Nu while using number 023. Luke will be going into his 5th year of racing in 2017 and plans to keep pursuing excellence in his sport.

**Missouri State**

This summer, Commander **Luke Wiesbeck** continued his career in motorcycle road racing. He competed in 10 National events that spanned over multiple states, including Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, and his home state of Illinois. Luke suffered a setback at Road America during practice when the temperature dropped rapidly causing the motorcycle to lose grip and slide out in a turn. Luke managed to compete in his race that same day with bursitis in both knees and a bruised shoulder. He finished in 4th place. His highlights of the season were 3 podium finishes while obtaining 6 different sponsors including Lucas Oil and Factory Effex. He sports the black and gold colors of Sigma Nu while using number 023. Luke will be going into his 5th year of racing in 2017 and plans to keep pursuing excellence in his sport.

**Montana State**

The Zeta Nu Chapter is excited to continue growing after their re-chartering ceremony this last spring. In April, Commander **Michael Richie** volunteered to shave his head to support the St. Baldrick’s Foundation. The Chapter looks forward to participating in more philanthropy events this fall. The Zeta Nu Chapter would like to recognize Chapter Advisor **Glen Herculean** for his outstanding dedication to the fraternity and for earning MSU’s Fraternity Adviser of the Year.

**Nevada**

Delta Xi Chapter has owned the Graham Mansion at 1075 Ralston Street in Reno, Nev., as its chapter house since 1950. During the early years of ownership, the Alumni Housing Corporation completed extensive remodeling of the original building to accommodate the needs of a fraternity. More recently the south wing of the original mansion, euphemistically referred to as the Alpha Chapter, was boarded up and uninhabitable for a number of years due to failures in heating system, plumbing problems, poor water connections, a leaking roof and other factors. Several years ago the Delta Xi Housing Authority, present day owner of the house, repaired the roof and deck above the Alpha Chapter using funds bequeathed by deceased Brother, **John R. Chatburn**.

The rapidly growing chapter needed additional rooms, so in the fall of 2014, the Delta Xi Housing Authority authorized a renovation and remodeling project of the old Alpha Chapter to provide an...
additional 5 rooms and 8 beds at a cost of $196,000. Co-Project Chairman, Ron Metzger and Larry Tiller led the effort to raise necessary funds to design and construct the project. Donations of $105,000 from over 80 Delta Xi alumni were raised. Together with $5,000 from the chapter and a loan from the Chatburn Fund the project was funded. The loan will be paid back by the Chapter over a five-year period.

Construction began in late July 2015 under contract with Tim Milton Construction of Reno, Nev. The project had several challenging issues including a deficient structure and poor plumbing. Brother Brian Hartman provided a design for a robust structural system providing support from the basement to the sizable deck above the Alpha Chapter. Brother Doug DeAngeli provided the design for the HVAC and plumbing systems to include new hot water piping under the house’s main living room. Doug’s company, RHP, sub-contracted the HVAC systems and plumbing to TMC.

The chapter house was opened in late October 2015 with several actives moving in. A formal Open House for alumni attending Homecoming festivities was held October 24th. The entire house, including the 8 new beds, will be occupied for the Fall 2016 semester with 44 brothers living in and others filling a waiting list. This project will sustain the growth of Delta Xi Chapter for years to come.

On July 22, 2016, a Bronze Plaque with the names of nearly 60 alumni who donated between $1000 and $5000, as well as significant project contributors, was affixed to the structure to commemorate the project.

Brothers are encouraged to attend the chapter’s annual Crumley Dinner scheduled for December 10, 2016.

Northwestern State

On April 23, 2016, Phi Mu Sorority and the chapter co-hosted a color run. The profits were split and donated to charitable organizations. The event was able to raise $3,500. Phi Mu donated their half to Children’s Miracle Network while the chapter donated our half to St. Jude Children’s Hospital. The Mu Rho chapter of Sigma Nu looks forward to hosting additional joint service and philanthropy events in the upcoming year to encourage Greek unity on the campus.

On June 25, 2016, Mu Rho Chapter hosted its 2nd annual softball tournament in Natchitoches, La. The softball tournament consisted of 10 co-ed teams including an alumni team. The chapter was able to raise $2,000 to put toward building a chapter house. The chapter looks forward to inviting other regional chapters to participate in the future.

Oregon

The chapter received several 2015-2016 Fraternity & Sorority Excellence Awards at the annual presentation in June. Long-time Chapter Advisor Dan McCarthy was recognized as the fraternity community’s Outstanding Chapter Advisor and Commander Patrick Poggi was recognized as the fraternity community’s Chapter President of the Year. Additionally, the chapter was recognized with awards for excellence in Civic Engagement, Outstanding Leadership Development,
and Outstanding Values Integration.

Pennsylvania
This summer has been an extremely productive period in the Beta Rho Chapter’s 122 year legacy.

The chapter created a scholarship for new university students in memoriam of an alumnus, Zane Grey, a man who defined the Western novel genre.

Additionally, a LinkedIn group for collegians to engage with their alumni brothers in their professional life has been created. Alumni Relations Chair Scott MacGuidwin has also been busy developing a professional panel of alumni hosting CEOs, successful entrepreneurs, and industry leaders who are excited to come back home to 3819 Walnut St.

LEAD Chair Conrad Mascalrenhas has been heavily preparing for the inaugural LEAD Retreat before the start of the semester.

The Class of 1966 was also recently back at the house to host their 50th reunion, a huge milestone! It was fantastic to hear how their experiences in the fraternity still shape them as men today, and the chapter hopes to see them back again soon!

Community Service Chair Justin Bean has been busy starting an inaugural haunted house, Sigma Boo, with several performing arts groups on campus. He’s also laid the groundwork for a comedy show for charity as well as the return of the toy drive that brothers from years past fondly remember.

The house has also been under huge renovations this summer led by the Alumni Property Company including replacement of the main porch, resurfacing the parking lot, and reinstalling the basketball court.

In the second semester of the 2015-2016 academic year, the chapter had the second highest grade point average of all Interfraternity Council fraternities on the campus with a stellar GPA of 3.225! The chapter was only 0.08 points behind the highest GPA. The chapter GPA gained from 3.168 to 3.225, a 0.057 increase from last semester! We want to congratulate our Scholarship Chair, Matthew Freeberg for this achievement! Brother Freeberg worked hard with all the brothers to ensure they are on the right path. The initiated candidate class for the second semester consisted of three new brothers: James Brunner, Brian Gillette, and Ryan Ostler. The candidate class had the fourth highest new member class GPA of all Interfraternity Council fraternities with a GPA of 3.085.

The chapter’s annual philanthropy event, St. Baldrick’s, was held in May. It was an incredible event, as many members of the campus community attended! The event raised $4,788! Over 30 community members shaved their heads and donated to a great cause.

Mu Zeta Chapter sent two representatives, Thomas Chappell and Ryan Glynn, to the 67th Grand Chapter held in San Diego, Calif. They brought home an astounding eight chapter awards from Grand Chapter! The chapter is incredibly proud of the brothers and the hard work they have done this past year.

At the end of the spring semester the chapter had eight brothers graduating: Justin Cha, Asif Hashim, Blaine Kaplan, Dylan Panara, Jonathon Pons, Andrew Stadnicki, Jonathon Pons, and Ethan Young. Lastly, the chapter is thrilled to be celebrating its 25th Anniversary White Rose this year. The anniversary will be in April of 2017.

Stetson
The Delta Mu Chapter has accomplished many things this past year. The chapter won Fraternity of the Year at Stetson University and was able to maintain a 3.0 GPA as a whole for the entire school year. This is not including the individual awards given to the brothers for community service and group efforts. Danny Humphrey was recognized as an Alpha Affiliate at the 67th Grand Chapter. Additionally, alumnus Bill Watson was inducted into the Sigma Nu Hall of Fame. Lastly, over the summer, Steven Ersing competed in the United Kingdom for Team USA Ball Hockey.
The Delta of Sigma Nu

This summer has been an extremely rewarding one for the brothers and alumni of Gamma Delta Chapter.

Multiple brothers have been admitted to the prestigious Stevens Student Managed Investment Fund which began in the spring of last year. This fund manages a portion of the Stevens endowment and is advised by a board of industry professionals and business school faculty. The opportunity to manage real money in the tune of a couple hundred thousand dollars is unparalleled and is a remarkable preparation for the financial services industry. Daniel Pallone has been distinguished as a portfolio manager in the fund. Jonathan Hatter is returning for his second semester, and Luke Guglielmo, Peter Shamieh, and Daniel Polk are starting their first semesters on the team.

June saw the return of the annual Alumni Weekend where alumni from various classes could reminisce and share stories from their times living in the house and being a part of the Stevens Greek community. There’s nothing better than a summer barbeque with brothers and alumni at the house.

Five brothers, Jonathan Hatter, Liam Hanlon, Peter Shamieh, William Persson, and Daniel Polk, all students in Stevens’ newly branded School of Business, just returned from Spain as part of the school’s study abroad initiative. The trip is the final part of a course, titled Global Management, focused on the study of the Spanish economy while also incorporating foreign culture. Another continent over was Aanand Bhandari, who has been spending the past 7 months studying abroad in Australia.

More locally, Norman Gerad Ross is spending his entire summer in rural North Carolina helping approximately 1,600 young men with their sailing ranks and building their character.

Texas A&M

This past spring the chapter was very successful socially, but also academically. In what has become a norm for the chapter, numerous brothers received the “Deans Honor Roll” (3.85 GPR +), further solidifying their academic presence on campus. Brothers who received this were: Trent LaFarro, J. Conor Mullis, Reid Stacell, Brian Ogden, Trey Neal, Payton Shirley, Adam Patrick, Paul Scarton, Kyle Carlisle, Matt Durst, Joey Coll, Matthew Swanger, Will Chambers, Josh Green, Thomas Emeterio, Danny Stamp, Mitchell Balod, Ben Ray, Max Gollomp, Jake Bogar, Will Pfeiffer, and Brandon Little. However, it was the entire chapter that contributed to achieving the elusive and sought after Regents Award for Academic Excellence. Congratulations to these brothers for their hard work and academic performance.

Furthermore, the chapter participated in Snook, Texas’ annual Chili fest, an outdoor music festival. Each IFC Fraternity created a structure to celebrate local Texas musicians near and far. The brothers performed exceptionally well in this event, taking home first place, while wielding their famous theme “Jurassic Classic.” The builds were judged on creativity as well as the happenings inside of the build.

In the alumni sphere, many alumni have begun to do important things in the work force. Notably, Aldo Sordelli completed his first year at Boeing International. Secondly, Wesley Dickens climbed the Facebook employment ladder to become one of Mark Zuckerberg’s most esteemed associates. Furthermore, Joe Laurel concluded his first year at the elite Georgetown Law School. The chapter is expecting big things from these brothers in the future.

Villanova

The Kappa Zeta Chapter is proud to have completed an exceptional year. The chapter was reconnized for having the best philanthropy and chapter operations by the Greek Life office and Josh Beltran was awarded President of the Year. In addition to success as a chapter, a number of brothers have excelled on a personal level due to brotherhood development and leadership programs. Steve Perotti is Director of NOVADance at Villanova which raised over $160,000 to help fight pediatric cancer. Brothers Ben Crawford, Jakub Glowala, Steve Perotti, and Matthew Sopher all planned and led service break experiences that took groups of students all over the country to help communities and give back.

Jakub Glowala served as Interfraternity Council President. The chapter is also proud to have 5 brothers on the Special Olympics Committee at Villanova which is the largest student run event of its kind in the world. The chapter is proud of all of the accomplishments this year and how the brothers have strived for greatness.

Southeast Missouri

Recent initiates following their ceremony at Headquarters.
PREVIOUS GENERATIONS ENTERING the workforce have benefitted from a proverbial script outlining when and how major life events will take place. You’re born, you grow up, learn to hunt and work the land, get married, have children, and grow old. If previous generations had a script to follow, the current generation entering the workforce is navigating life with something closer to a choose-your-own-adventure novel.

The knowledge economy — more sophisticated, complicated, and dynamic than ever before — means a longer road to adulthood as young people dabble and explore a seemingly endless variety of career choices. A more complex economy means more time to figure out where exactly you fit in, says Kay Hymowitz, author of Manning Up: How the Rise of Women Has Turned Men Into Boys.

“The preadult is stunned with possibility, a predicament unknown to most of the human race up until recently,” Hymowitz writes. “Humans are social creatures naturally inclined to adapt to cultural rules and maps. Yet preadults have no instruction manuals.” Choosing your own career means taking longer to grow up, as defined by major life milestones like getting married, buying a house, and having kids. Renowned management thinker Peter Drucker detected this phenomenon back in 2005 when he observed how most people don’t know where they fit into a complex economy until their mid-20s.

The knowledge economy no longer relies on physical strength, Hymowitz notes in her book. As factory jobs
became automated or moved to Asia, fields like PR, marketing, and design became increasingly important in a world where helping consumers differentiate between infinite choices is paramount. To say these jobs multiplied at the expense of manufacturing would be oversimplifying. But most of this job growth came in fields that require the so-called soft skills like emotional intelligence.

For reasons researchers don’t fully understand yet, women are more attracted to jobs that require the strong organizational skills that are so highly valued in the knowledge economy. Thanks to a host of factors — including changing attitudes towards women in the workplace, greater access to education, and an economy shifting towards fields requiring emotional intelligence — women have made major gains in terms of workplace options and general work-life opportunities.

Industry analysts have noticed a similar phenomenon in the startup community. Women entrepreneurs, they say, seem to be better at sensing what consumers really want — a crucial skill in the age of mass customization and endless product variety.

Choosing your own career means taking longer to grow up, as defined by major life milestones like getting married, buying a house, and having kids.

While expanded opportunities for women represent a welcome sign of progress, some observers have expressed concern that their male counterparts are being left behind.

While expanded opportunities for women represent a welcome sign of progress, some observers have expressed concern that their male counterparts are being left behind. Nowhere is this growing gap more evident than on today’s college campus.

In Manning Up, Hymowitz devotes detailed attention to the dramatic shift surrounding higher education in the last four decades. From 1975 to 2006, she notes, the proportion of women with at least a college degree increased from 19 to 34 percent. During the same period the corresponding percentage for men increased from 27 to 29 percent. Many experts are predicting that women will account for 60 percent of college graduates in the coming years.

The news gets more concerning as we observe how male students tend to be less engaged on campus and less likely to join a campus organization. According to studies cited in Manning Up, women are more likely to participate in class discussion and tend to communicate more regularly with faculty, often resulting in more promising employment outlook after school. It has been well documented in recent years that women tend to graduate with higher GPAs than their male counterparts. As management philosophy shifts women are also poised to take on more leadership roles in corporate governance.

Men are falling behind, Hymowitz says, because they’re coming of age in an era without conventions and structure to guide the way. Where templated life scripts once ruled, nonlinear career paths are the new normal.

The good news is that fraternity and sorority members are primed to succeed where their non-fraternity counterparts are more likely to falter. According to recent findings by Gallup, fraternity membership is linked to higher well-being and better work engagement for college graduates.

“The 16% of college graduates who were members of Greek organizations are more likely to report being emotionally supported and having experiential and deep learning activities while in college, all of which likely have contributed to their higher work engagement and well-being,” the report said. The findings further concluded that fraternity and sorority members are more likely to be engaged with their organizations and more enthusiastic about their work.

While dense on research and analysis, Manning Up is light on prescriptions for correcting the achievement gap between young men and women. With the depth of coverage Hymowitz devotes to higher education, however, she reveals her thoughts on one of the root causes of young men falling behind.

With a better handle on instilling useful life skills and emotional intelligence, fraternities are in good position to deliver the antidote a floundering generation so desperately needs.
Sigma Nu Authors

**Bending Your Ear: A Collection of Essays on the Issue of Our Times**

Author: Drew Nickell (James Madison)
Publisher: Koehler Books
ISBN: 1633932907

Bending Your Ear: A Collection of Essays on the Issues of Our Times delves into the political issues facing America at a crucial moment in this country’s history, where we find ourselves struggling with our national identity and the direction in which we are headed. We have been bombarded with contradictory and confusing messages by the political and media classes to the point where we have collectively lost our way, forgotten our history, and lost touch with what it actually means to be an American. We need to be reminded that “we the people” have the ability to think for ourselves, and recapture all that has made this country the greatest country the world has ever known.

Drew Nickell pulls no punches with regards to both the sociological and political states in which we find ourselves. He assesses the current events of American politics and offers solutions, at a critical time when we decide which direction we will take in the 2016 general election. Now is the time for anyone who cares deeply about America, to read what is contained in Bending Your Ear – a Collection of Essays on the Issues of Our Times.

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**Bogue Chitto Flats Short Stories from a Southern Town**

Author: John Case (Mississippi)
ISBN: 0692516468
Publisher: Magnolia Bend Press LLC

Bogue Chitto Flats is the first book published by author John Case. In this collection of vibrant and heart-warming short stories, John invites the reader into his tales of the people he knew and the stories he heard while growing up in his hometown in rural Mississippi. These stories were formed as far back as grammar school and began to prompt John’s literary interest as early as his college days. Most of these stories have been published in Sidell Magazine where he writes a monthly piece under the moniker “The Storyteller.” The real things John saw in his youth in black and white, he now shares with us in Technicolor.

John’s talent is in creating and telling a story, using rich characters and scenes that fill the reader’s mind with images of days gone by and life as it was in rural America.

John hopes that, as you read these stories, you will get a glimpse of something or someone you once knew, and his tales leave you with a positive feeling about the way we are.

Reprinted from boguechittoflats.com

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**Full Bellies Hungry Souls**

Author: Bennett Chotard (Mississippi)
Publisher: Xulon Press (March 31, 2016)
ISBN-10: 1498464963

“Is this all there is?” That question haunted Bennett Chotard as his life seemed to gradually come undone. “Where was this Christian promise of joy, peace, and abundance?” he wondered. As the years passed, more and more he felt his faith had no relevance, no power, no impact on his life. Full Bellies, Hungry Souls: Making Personal Contact with God, records his explosive discoveries of spiritual lessons that led him to intimacy with God. Help yourself to a heaping portion of Bennett’s experience of how spiritual doors are closed and opened. They are learned not from a seminary, but his out-in-the-street combat with shedding ego, self-centeredness, power struggles, and rabbit trails of spiritual impotence. If you have ever felt something must be missing in your faith journey, Bennett believes this moment you hold in your hands is a God Thing. “Come and see!” That is what Jesus said to his shy inquisitors, and He still is saying that now, to YOU! “I have no secrets, I have no power,” Bennett explains. “However, if you are willing, I will show you a path that will take you closer to the One who does, and you will not have to wonder or doubt again.

YOU WILL KNOW!”

Reprinted from Amazon.com

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**The White House Pop-Up Book**

Author: Chuck Fischer (Kansas)
ISBN: 1938700244
Publisher: Commonwealth Editions; Pop Har/Bk edition

The White House Pop-Up Book is the latest creation from Chuck Fischer, best-selling author of pop-up books. The White House Pop-Up Book unfolds in three dimensions to the front of the most famous residence in the world, featuring the distinctive portico on the building’s north side. Turn the pop-up around, and you can peer into eight separate rooms on two floors (the Ground Floor and the State Floor), with accurate hand-painted depictions of the legendary rooms, complete with their historic treasures. The White House Pop-Up Book also contains an envelope of extras: an illustrated booklet with a concise history of the White House, and die-cut pieces to assemble bonus elements, including a Christmas tree for the Blue Room, the famous eagle piano for the East Room, and even a model of the president’s helicopter Marine One.

Reprinted from Amazon.com
THE LEGION OF HONOR will celebrate its 150th anniversary on January 1, 2019. To prepare for this milestone, the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation is launching a new campaign to support leadership programs, scholarships, and upkeep of the storied headquarters campus.

150th commemorative bricks will have a special mark denoting them as a celebration of the sesquicentennial. These special bricks will be placed in the Pathway of Honor on the Headquarters campus in Lexington.

Visit www.sigmanu.org/150brick or call 540-463-1030 to learn more.
JAMES McILVAINE RILEY
This column, the first about our three Founders, kicks off the events leading up to Sigma Nu’s 150th anniversary in 2019. In upcoming issues we will feature stories on Founder Quarles and Founder Hopkins, as well as announcements surrounding activities and events related to the sesquicentennial celebration.

In my opinion, James McIlvaine Riley is the most complex of the three Founders. He is also the hardest to write about because he left very little behind to tell us about his life. Riley was named after his father, a father he never met. He never married and had no descendants.

Riley served the longest time as Regent in our history — by far. His Regency was ten years, from 1870 until 1880. The next closest Regent served for only four years. At VMI, he was considered the most sociable of our Founders and yet, despite being a Founder and serving as Regent, he never attended a Grand Chapter, several of which were in St. Louis where he lived.

The youngest of the Founders by several years, he was the first to die.

Forebears
James McIlvaine Riley was the son of James McIlvaine Riley and Anna Chichester Sanford Tapscott.

His paternal ancestors were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians. His grandfather, William Riley, was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Kentucky. He married Mary McIlvain in 1803 in Mason County, Kentucky. She was the daughter of William McIlvain and Mary McIlvaine (notice the slight difference in spelling of their last names.). The couple had ten children (five sons and five daughters) before his death in 1829. Their second child, James McIlvaine Riley (our Founder’s father) was born on November 9, 1805, in Kentucky. In 1834, five years after her husband’s death, Mary (McIlvain) Riley and her ten children moved from Kentucky to Illinois and eventually settled on a farm near Bryant, Illinois. James and his younger brother William spent time farming the family land before shifting their efforts to carpentry and building. In the late 1830s, they headed to St. Louis to ply their trade. Both of them worked on the ”Old St. Louis County Courthouse” for several years. This courthouse was begun in 1839 and was the site of the infamous Dred Scott decision in 1857. The courthouse stands to this day and is now a part of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial near the Gateway Arch.

Founder Riley’s mother, Anna “Annie” Chichester Sanford Tapscott, was the daughter of Chichester Tapscott and Jane Naylor. The Tapscott family originally came to America in 1696 from Devonshire, England, and settled in Lancaster County, Virginia. Eventually some of the descendants moved to Romney in Hampshire County, West Virginia, where Riley’s grandparents, Chichester and Jane Tapscott were married in 1825.

Parents
James M. Riley married Anna Chichester Sanford Tapscott on October 1, 1847, in Marion County, Missouri and they resided in St. Louis.

James was listed in the St. Louis directory as a partner in the firm of Riley & Christy — a grocer and commission merchant. A commission merchant sold provisions and other commodities as a middle man for a percentage of the sales price. Thus, they didn’t own the product, they merely brought the two parties together and arranged the transaction for a fee.

A little over a year after their marriage, on November 26, 1848, James M. Riley died at his home leaving his wife and unborn child behind. He was buried in a Presbyterian graveyard in St. Louis.

Childhood
Our Founder, James McIlvaine Riley, was born on May 16, 1849 in St. Louis, Missouri — a little over five months after the death of his father.

Prior to his birth, his mother relinquished the right to administer her husband’s estate to her step-father, William R. Campbell. He was also later appointed as legal guardian to Founder Riley in matters of his inheritance from his father’s estate. William R. Campbell was James’ step-grandfather through his marriage to his grandmother, Jane Naylor.

Founder Riley’s mother Annie remarried on December 30, 1852 to Clinton Odell Dutcher. Clinton was of Dutch ancestry and
a descendant of Captain William Dutcher who fought in the American Revolution. He too was a commission merchant, initially working for the firms of his uncles, Thomas B. Dutcher and Isaac Van Wert Dutcher in St. Louis. Clinton and Annie Dutcher would go on to have four sons, all step-brothers of James Riley — Clinton, Frank, Charles and Ralph. The oldest, Clinton, was seven years younger than James.

When Riley's legal guardian passed away in 1855, the court appointed Isaac Van Wert Dutcher as his new guardian. Isaac was the uncle of Riley's stepfather, Clinton Dutcher. Isaac would remain his guardian throughout his time as a cadet at VMI.

According to an article in The Delta by Walter James Sears, Riley attended high school at the St. Louis University School. However, in searching the list of students, I found no record of his attending that high school. Thus, perhaps Sears misinterpreted what Riley had stated during their time together.

**Enrollment and Time at VMI**

Riley entered VMI in the fall of 1866. Due to General Hunter's raid on Lexington and destruction of VMI in 1864, the Institute was closed for over a year. After the Civil War ended, VMI was rebuilt and reopened in the fall of 1865. Riley was among the group of cadets entering in the following year that opened on September 10, 1866. Other enrollees with that class included our two Founders, James Frank Hopkins and Greenfield Quarles.

Riley was drawn to enroll at VMI due to Captain Marshall McDonald, a kinsman (a first cousin once removed) and a member of the VMI faculty. Riley's grandmother was a sister of McDonald's mother. McDonald was an Adjunct Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy and Geology at the Institute. He would later go on to become the commissioner of the United States Commission of Fish and Fisheries.

At that time, cadets admitted were of two types — "state" and "pay" cadets. Virginia provided tuition and board for "state" cadets in exchange for their teaching for two years after graduation, while the "pay" cadets had to pay their own way. Riley was a "pay" cadet and the room, board, and tuition totaled $250 a semester. Cadets were also allowed $5 a month for personal expenses.

The opening day of class included quite a bit of pageantry as well as the reinauguration of the statue of George Washington in front of the barracks. After the destruction of VMI two years earlier, Union troops stole the statue from VMI. Our Founders must have been thrilled that day by the attendance at that ceremony of none other than General Robert E. Lee, then the president of Washington College (later to become, Washington and Lee University.)

During the 1866–67 school year, 182 cadets enrolled of which 123 were in the fourth (freshman) class. Initially the Institute housed five men to a room in newly built cabins east of the barracks. The cabins were comfortable and heated by open coal fires that made them very cozy in cold weather. In December of that year, the barracks' rebuilding was completed and the cadets had to relinquish the cabins in the dead of winter. The barracks' steam heating system still did not function efficiently and the rooms were cold. Accounts of that winter by the cadets were very unpleasant.

In The Story of Sigma Nu, John C. Scott describes Riley as follows,

> From the day he arrived in Lexington, "Mac" Riley was a favorite among cadets of all classes. A strikingly handsome youth, with courtly manners and affable disposition, his attractiveness was compelling, his personal charm irresistible. He had a natural talent for friendships, and... a habit of doing just the right thing at the right time.

The three Founders had entered VMI at the same time and were friends from the start. Thus, it was natural when Hopkins chose men to start the Legion of Honor several years later, Riley was among the very first he asked.

Although fires later destroyed most of the early records of Alpha Chapter, we do know the first three chapter officers. At the time, the officers were designated by the Greek letter conforming to the initial letter of the office they held. Thus, the Commander was called the "Chi", the Lieutenant Commander the "Lambda Chi", the Grand Scribe was called the "Gamma Sigma". In the spring of 1869, Alpha Chapter held its first elections. James Riley was elected the first Commander of Alpha Chapter, James Hopkins the first Lieutenant Commander and J. P. Arthur the Grand Scribe.

The chapter re-elected Riley and Hopkins to the same offices for the 1869-70 academic year. John Scott stated:

> The popularity of "Mac" Riley and the consistently modest manner of Founder Hopkins are noteworthy in the choice of first officers. From the earliest hint of the history of Sigma Nu down to the last recollection of survivors of that first year, all records, traditions and memories harmonize in the unquestioned fact that James F. Hopkins was the originator and the real leader at the beginning of the Fraternity. All agree with equal emphasis that this distinction failed to cause him to forego his modesty by acceptance of the highest honor of the Chapter.
The first Constitution of Sigma Nu, in contemplation of future expansion to other schools, required the election of a Regent and Vice-Regent for a term of five years. The chapter held the first election for these offices before the Founder’s graduation. Following the precedent of the first chapter elections, Riley was elected Regent (then called the “Rho”) and Hopkins was elected as Vice-Regent to serve for the period 1870-1875. The chapter re-elected both for another five-year term in 1875.

In total, Founder Riley served as Regent for ten years, far longer than any other person has served in that position. The closest was four years, served by several of our early Regents. Of course, with very few chapters in existence during this period and virtually no communication between them, there was not much for the Regent to do. In fact, it’s quite likely that Riley served more in name only and that there was minimal contact with him, if any, during his two terms as Regent.

Riley graduated with his class from VMI on July 4, 1870. His sociability and friendly nature resulted in less attention to studies and more attention to enjoying his time at VMI: he was 45th in his class of 52 graduates. In addition to the three Founders, eleven other members of Alpha Chapter graduated in that class. Riley served on the Committee of Arrangements planning the commencement ceremony along with James Frank Hopkins.

**Post VMI Professional Career**

Riley took a job in the fall of 1870 at a salt mine in Warfield, Kentucky. The city of Warfield in eastern Kentucky developed as a result of the establishment of a salt mine in the area on the Big Sandy River. Salt was a vital commodity at the time and was used to preserve food before refrigeration. It was also used extensively in the curing process for leather and dying cloth. Riley took courses in mineralogy and geology in his senior year and ranked number twelve in his class on this subject. He also took numerous engineering classes throughout his time at VMI.

He left the Warfield salt mine the following year and joined the engineering department of the Wabash Railroad.
Between 1871 and 1878 he worked for this line, the Missouri and Texas Railroad and the Texas and Pacific Railway, except for a gap, between 1874 to 1876, when he worked out of Salt Lake City, Utah, in mining development. All of these railway and mining operations needed engineers and surveyors to build their lines and mines and Riley was a perfect fit.

Starting in the spring of 1878 and for the next twenty years, he was employed with the U.S. Engineers (the civilian component of the Army Corp of Engineers) engaged on improvements of the Mississippi River or as a surveyor with the Street Department of the City of St. Louis. He alternated between these two jobs as needed. Finally, due to health reasons, he retired.

Later Years
His mother, Annie C. Dutcher died in St. Louis in 1879. His stepfather, Clinton Dutcher outlived her by many years and passed away in 1903.

Despite being described by John Scott as one of the most sociable of the early Alpha members and our longest serving Regent, Riley never attended a Grand Chapter. Of course, there were no Grand Chapters while he was Regent, the first not being held until 1884 — four years after his Regency ended. However, he didn’t even attend the two Grand Chapters held in St. Louis in 1892 and 1896 while he lived there.

He seemed to shy away from the accolades to him as one of the Founders. In June 1896, several months before the Eighth Grand Chapter in St. Louis, he was asked to write his recollections of the early days of the Legion of Honor for The Delta. His response reflected his typical embarrassment and humility,

Willingly would I write you such a sketch as you desire, did I feel that I could do justice to your publication, or present such thoughts as you desire, in so entertaining a manner as either Hopkins or Quarles, for, I assume you are in communication with them.

In December 1902, just before the Eleventh Grand Chapter in Indianapolis, he indicated he might attend the upcoming event if he felt up to it,

I will be with you do I not have nervous prostration; in other words: I live very quietly and so am fearsome of results; not being accustomed to attend functions of any kind. This is why I hesitated to try and be one of you.

Not surprisingly, he did not join Hopkins and Quarles in attending the convention.

In June 1910, he responded to an invitation to Lexington for the celebration of the revival of Alpha Chapter. In what was perhaps his final letter to Sigma Nu he wrote,

I have always kept with me the desire to return; as years have passed, hope has not dimmed, until lately. What a little band of youngsters it was forty years ago! What a power it is today! What I do wish — is to try to impress, that my heart and soul are with Sigma Nu... Now I have not by my works indicated this — in this I have been unfortunate; it is a continued source of regret and thought and worry that maybe I might be misunderstood, in that I have accepted none of the many invitations, so heartily showered upon me. Environment and conditions beyond me have always been in control.”

He lived his final years of retirement at 3405 Meramec Street, at the corner of Meramec and Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis.

Death
On April 17, 1911, Riley entered the U.S. Marine Hospital in St. Louis. The Marine Hospitals were set up across the country for civilian mariners, of which Riley qualified due to his service on the Mississippi
River. At that time, the hospital was at Marine Avenue and Winnebago Street. He was suffering from stomatitis — an inflammation of the mouth and lips — possibly brought on by his pipe-smoking habit. He never left the hospital and died on May 6, 1911, just 19 days later, at 1:30 in the morning. His death certificate lists gangrene of the mouth as the primary cause.

On May 9, 1911, he was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis in the same plot as his mother, Ann (Tapscott) Riley Dutcher, and his stepfather, Clinton Odell Dutcher. Vice Regent Arthur F. Krippner (Wisconsin) and the brothers of Gamma Omicron Chapter (Washington University, St. Louis) accompanied his coffin to the cemetery.

Writing of his death Vice-Regent Krippner said,

He looked well even in death. His face betokened peace and comfort and in the lapel of his coat we left the little Sigma Nu scarf pin which he has always worn there. His large badge will be preserved for the archives of the Fraternity. Six Sigma Nus acted as pall bearers and we placed upon his grave a huge bouquet of white roses.

Walter James Sears, the author of the Creed, wrote upon his passing,

As that little company of Knights stood at his grave in quiet Bellefontaine, across the flight of the years there came the message: ‘A Founder of the Faith is fallen, an old Knight is gone, but the Faith dieth not, being a living and uplifting power upon the earth; his lifeless ashes are to rest here, but his Spirit is to live among men — all men who have taken the vows of that Faith — a gentle and noble spirit working its way and will in the hearts of all Sigma Nus.

In 1919, Sigma Nu erected a monument over his grave in Bellefontaine Cemetery. Due to the high number of Sigma Nu visitors, the cemetery has put together directions to his gravesite. Inscribed on the stone marking Founder Riley’s grave are these words:

JAMES M. RILEY
ALPHA 3
ASSOCIATE FOUNDER
SIGMA NU FRATERNITY
1849-1911
THRU HIS LABORS THE SPIRIT OF HONOR, TRUTH AND BROTHERLY LOVE HAS BEEN CARRIED INTO THE COLLEGES OF THE LAND ERECTED BY SIGMA NU FRATERNITY 1919

And so ended the life of Sigma Nu Founder and Alpha Chapter initiate number 3 — James McIlvaine Riley. ✪
A Laudable Goal Backfires at Harvard

by Nathaniel Clarkson (James Madison)
Harvard University’s recent announcement to punish students who join single-gender organizations quickly made waves throughout the higher education community. In a memo distributed on May 6, Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust stated that students who join single-gender organizations would be barred from prestigious scholarships and prohibited from holding leadership positions on athletic teams or recognized campus organizations. As justification for this aggressive tactic Faust cited goals of seeking greater inclusion and addressing “deeply rooted gender attitudes.”

Harvard’s intended action quickly drew harsh condemnation from a variety of affected organizations and First Amendment watchdog groups. “Outrageously, Harvard has decided that 2016 is the right time to revive the blacklist,” said Robert Shibley, executive director of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), which defends freedom of association on campus. “This year’s undesirables are members of off-campus clubs that don’t match Harvard’s political preferences.”

“Harvard’s decision simply demonstrates that it is willing to sacrifice students’ basic freedom of association to the whims of whoever occupies the administrative suites today,” added FIRE co-founder, civil liberties attorney, and Harvard Law alumnus Harvey Silverglate.

As the unstated targets of the new policies, trade groups representing fraternities and sororities, including the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and the National Panhellenic Council (NPC), promptly joined FIRE in expressing concern over the administration’s intent to sanction students for free association.

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Harvard continues to receive negative attention for the move since the initial announcement. The controversial policies reentered the news cycle recently after it was revealed that Harvard reportedly promised waivers to select student organizations.

FIRE was again a leading voice in the chorus condemning Harvard for what many perceive as unfairly biased policy. “This strongly suggests that the real motivation behind the policy is not sex or gender discrimination at all—it’s that the Harvard administration simply doesn’t like certain groups and is willing to be as deceptive as is necessary to try to eliminate them,” a FIRE spokesperson said in a statement.

It remains unclear how Harvard will enforce the new policy for the targeted student organizations that don’t publish membership listings. Leaders for some of the “final clubs” have vowed vigorous legal challenges to the single-gender requirement. Meanwhile, fraternities and sororities, in partnership with their respective trade associations including the North American Interfraternity Conference and the National Panhellenic Council, will continue to monitor the developments and advocate for the freedom of association rights for all students.

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SGA Vice President Tre Nelson (Northwestern State)

Northwestern State SGA vice president Tre Nelson talks about rallying fraternities and sororities around building a coalition with the university administration.

1. Could you tell me about your involvement with SGA?
Last year I was elected to vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA). I also serve as vice president for the Interfraternity Council. This year SGA has made an effort to join efforts with the student planning committee that oversees major projects around campus. Currently we’re focused on building a new stage on campus that will host a variety of events. Our partnership with the student planning committee helps to coordinate logistics with architecture and other components of the project. I’ve also been seeking input from fraternity presidents on developing a new tailgating area on campus.

2. How was your Grand Chapter experience? Did it change how you feel about Sigma Nu?
My chapter’s commander attended College of Chapters in January and gave me an idea of what the convention would be like. I had also attended Southeastern Interfraternity Conference (SEIFC) in Atlanta earlier this year. From that experience I knew that not all chapters would be the same.

When I was asked to serve on one of the Grand Chapter committees I wasn’t sure what to expect. I had worked with Regent Francis for Greeks on the Hill lobbying day earlier in the spring, so I had some sense of what it was like to work with staff and alumni volunteers. Once I arrived in San Diego I was able to ease right in to the committee work.

3. Was there anything that surprised you about attending Grand Chapter?
The amount of input collegiate members have in the process. Anyone can voice their opinion during the voting or legislative process. The Regent salutes and acknowledges anyone who wants to speak on behalf of a proposed change to our bylaws.

4. What were some of your highlights from Grand Chapter?
Getting to meet and talk with past Regents and realizing this was the brother who signed my membership certificate. It felt like I was meeting celebrities. I also enjoyed meeting people you hear about every single day in your local chapter — prominent alumni volunteers and brothers like them.

5. What has your SGA experience taught you about how fraternities can support the goals of the school?
The school administration wants to see fraternities engaged with the university. They want to see us giving back to the community and actively supporting the university’s long-term goals. At Northwestern State there is a good relationship between the fraternities and the administration. Fraternity and sorority members are heavily involved on campus.

Serving on SGA helps with fraternity/sorority relations. You see the issues that directly face the FSL community. Getting on SGA opens the door for other fraternities to get involved too. It expands horizons when you get them involved.

6. What are the major goals the school is pursuing right now?
We want to be one of the best regional universities in the entire country. Northwestern State got a new president last year and Dr. Henderson has made this push a major initiative. We know students and alumni are more willing to support the school if they have affinity for their alma mater. This idea that school spirit = love your university has been a major initiative for us. There’s also been a push to make sure the university engages the local community. Our Welcome Week program hosts events all over town to help students get adjusted to college and plugged in to the local community. Fraternities and sororities play a major role in this effort by helping with move-in day. We open cars for students and carry bags into the dorm. We meet with the parents and tell them what we’re all about. ✭
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“My fraternity experience has kept me on track. Sigma Nu provides that extra push.”

— Learn more about first generation college students like Ismail Parks (Cal State Fullerton) on page 44.