Pastry chef Dwayne Ingraham (Southern Mississippi) competes on Food Network’s hit show Cutthroat Kitchen where gamemakers delight in changing the rules on a whim.

The Hunger Games
An Authentic Shave
One startup founder’s quest for an authentic shave and values-driven entrepreneurship.

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Bill Watson’s success in real estate is a testament to mastering the basics of sound business practices.

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Pastry chef Dwayne Ingraham (Southern Mississippi) competes on the Hunger Games of cooking shows.

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How an under-30 startup CEO is using big data to help Fortune 500 companies turn profits.
The Delta of Sigma Nu, the Legion of Honor’s official magazine, has been printed since 1883 when founding editor John Alexander Howard (North Georgia) published the first issue in Philadelphia (before returning to a local printer in Dahlonega, Ga.).

Through the years, The Delta has remained committed to its original purpose to “cultivate a love of our Fraternity,” in the words of John Alexander Howard. In the process of telling the story of Sigma Nu, The Delta seeks to challenge, entertain, and inspire our members to rededicate their lives to Love, Honor and Truth with every issue.

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.clarkson@sigmanu.org or PO Box 1869, Lexington, VA, 24450.
Values are Baked In

In the latest issue of The Delta we’re pleased to present a collection of feature stories that highlight four brothers we can all be proud of.

We start with a duo of young upstarts whose entrepreneurial acumen helped them found two remarkably successful companies at early ages. Andy Katz-Mayfield (Duke) and his co-founder set out to make Harry’s the go-to online retailer for men’s shaving products that would dethrone the overpriced legacy brands. With equally ambitious goals, tech startup DataRank, founded by Ryan Frazier (Arkansas), uses complex algorithms to help Fortune 500 companies make decisions about products and consumer insight. Both companies have earned the attention of venture capitalists, with investors lining up to facilitate their growth.

Our third feature story chronicles the career of another successful entrepreneur, though one who’s been in business longer than Harry’s and DataRank combined. Bill Watson (Stetson) founded Watson Realty Corp. in 1965 and now operates 43 real estate offices and 29 property management offices in Florida and Georgia. This year Watson Realty Corp. celebrates 50 years, the longevity for which Bill attributes to the company’s reputation for sound ethics and legendary quality of service.

Upon first glance our food-themed cover feature may seem out of place next to a series of stories about successful entrepreneurs. Take a closer look, however, and you’ll realize why a high-functioning professional pastry chef demands many of the same traits required of successful startup founders. As Dwayne Ingraham (Southern Mississippi) demonstrates on Food Network’s Cutthroat Kitchen, achieving success in the hyper-competitive restaurant world requires the same commitment to clear vision, strong leadership, and thinking fast under pressure.

When you read each of these feature stories you’ll notice one other thing they all have in common: each one traces career origins back to their Sigma Nu experience. Andy Katz-Mayfield speaks to the importance of surrounding yourself with people who share your values. Ryan Frazier credits his chapter with fostering an energizing culture that provided positive role models. To this day Bill Watson remains thankful for the emphasis his chapter placed on excelling in the classroom. Dwayne Ingraham was inspired to attend culinary school thanks to one of his fellow candidates; another chapter brother accompanied him on the 22-hour drive from Mississippi to Vermont where his culinary career began.

We hope you enjoy these stories and the rest of the Summer 2015 issue. We welcome your feedback and suggestions for stories we should consider in a future issue.

Yours in Sigma Nu,

NATHANIEL CLARKSON (James Madison)
Managing Editor
History from THE DELTA

Delta Omicron Chapter house at the University of Idaho in 1915.

Heard on Twitter

@UOfsl: Congratulations @OregonSigmaNu @SigmaNuHQ for winning Fraternity Chapter of the Year! Your hard work has paid off! Keep it going!

@LoveToGolf_PGA: My boy JD @oakhood4 made his pops so proud when he officially became my ΣΝ brother! #LHT #LegionOfHonor #Tradition #Legacy @SigmaNuHQ

@BethanySAC: Congrats to the E chapter of @SigmaNuHQ on winning the inaugural service project rising star award!

@rlstott: What a cool surprise in the latest @SigmaNuHQ mag! My work life (@asaecenter) and Greek Life collide #PwrofA

@meganharre: Excited to be at Delta Omicron’s @SigmaNuHQ Centennial Celebration Banquet tonight! #sigmanu #govandals

@BCGreekLife: We couldn’t choose just one Greek Student of the Month and after a great April and Greek Week we chose the entire @SigmaNuHQ #congrats

@Colt_Coldren: Congrats to my friend @cdowlingsignu on receiving the 2015 Newman Civic Fellow Award! @SigmaNuHQ

@antmontufar: Congratulations to my roommate @d4nsm1th and all of the @GDSigmaNu brothers for winning the MVBALL national championship! @SigmaNuHQ

@OJ_hipes: I would like to congratulate my brother @ JonSalazar3 for winning Greek Man of the Year WVU let’s keep it going @SigmaNuHQ

@NotNicSnyder: Can’t describe how proud I am to be the president of such an amazing organization like @SigmaNuHQ! #TakeBackTheNight

25 Years Ago …

Coaches of the Year 1989-90

1989-90 proved to be a banner year for Sigma Nus in head coaching positions in professional sports. The National Football League Coach of the Year Award went to second-year Green Bay Packer coach, Lindy Infante (Florida), while Pat Riley (Kentucky), the head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, captured the National Basketball Association Coach of the Year Award. Their achievements exemplify the leadership for which Sigma Nu is constantly striving; each man has reached the pinnacle of success in his respective sport — and in the same year!

50 Years Ago …

Progress Report

An encouraging trend among national fraternities generally is the steady increase in the number of new chapters and members. About 65,000 young men took the vows of a fraternity initiate during 1964-65, and of these 2,511 we claimed as Brothers in Sigma Nu. The year brought the total all-time membership, living and dead, of national college fraternities to more than 2,225,000.

100 Years Ago …

Installation at Idaho

A group of undergraduates, known as the Zeta Delta Fraternity, at the University of Idaho, has been granted a charter empowering it to organize a Chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity. The favorable vote of the Division was registered on May 26, 1914. The formal petition was promulgated on January 10, 1915, and the favorable vote was recorded on March 18, 1915.

The petition of this group was so strongly approved and the field of growth seemed so desirable that the Fraternity gave it an almost unanimous endorsement. The new group, to be known as Delta Omicron Chapter, enters the Brotherhood, therefore, under very promising and auspicious circumstances. We extend it a cordial welcome, confident that it will not disappoint its friends, but will grow into a secure place of helpful service among our sisterhood of strong and self-reliant Chapters.
“When you own your own company, there’s never a time when you’re not potentially working.”

- Ryan Frazier (Arkansas), DataRank CEO. See page 54.

“Trust your knowledge, trust your skillset, and keep things simple.”

- Pastry chef Dwayne Ingraham (Southern Mississippi) on staying focused in a fast-paced environment. See page 18.

“It’s a lot easier to build a company that solves a problem that you empathize with, as opposed to trying to solve someone else’s problem.”

- Andy Katz-Mayfield (Duke), co-founder of Harry’s, a web startup that sells high quality men’s shaving products. See page 8.

“We have built our organization on the basics: Be positive, outwork your competition, and focus on ethics and quality.”

- Bill Watson (Stetson), founder of Watson Realty Corp. See page 14.
**Staff Changes**

Veteran staff member
Adam Bremmeyer (Washington State)
departed the Sigma Nu General Fraternity staff team in March after four years of dedicated service. During his tenure with the General Fraternity, Adam served as Director of Expansion and Recruitment where he revitalized the Fraternity’s colony petitioning process and played a central role recruiting future Knights for 14 different expansion projects, including two that went on to become Rock Chapters. Bremmeyer also served as an Expansion and Recruitment Consultant and Leadership Consultant.

Adam is now residing in central Washington with his wife and infant daughter where he works as a finance manager for a real estate company.

Sigma Nu Educational Foundation Director of Development Geoff Doran (Drury) began a new phase of his career journey in March after four years with the Educational Foundation. Doran joined the SNEF staff in January 2011, where he served as Director of Development and was vital in the success of the 1869 Club. Brother Doran is now pursuing entrepreneurship full-time.

Drew Logsdon (Western Kentucky) has taken over as Associate Director of Communications after four years of service as Associate Director of Risk Reduction.

Leadership Consultant Matt Miller (Mount Union) has completed his two year tenure. While serving as a consultant, Miller worked with Sigma Nu chapters in the West Region, was a facilitator at College of Chapters, and was primary staff liaison to the Appeals and Grievances Committee at the 66th Grand Chapter in Nashville, Tenn.

Ben Nye (Arkansas) concluded his four-year tenure with the Headquarters Staff team in June. Brother Nye served as Associate Director of Communications where he edited and wrote for The Delta and managed the Fraternity’s social media accounts. Nye also served for six semesters as a Leadership Consultant.

Ben is now enrolled at Washington & Lee University School of Law.

After completing his tenure as a Leadership Consultant, Tyler Richter (South Florida) is now serving as Associate Director of Risk Reduction.

**Consultants**

Leadership Consultants Zach Eisenman, Travis Galloway, and Shekhar Hazarika will continue for a second year.

Raymond Fackler and Jacob Rigsby will serve as Expansion and Recruitment Consultants for Sigma Nu’s expansion projects at Highpoint and Texas Christian. This June saw the arrival of three new Leadership Consultants who will begin their travels in August:

Mark Gockowski (Kent State) graduated with a degree in broadcast journalism and served the Zeta Gamma Chapter as Commander, Recorder, Alumni Relations Chairman, and IFC delegate. He also was on the IFC executive committee and served on the Chapter Eternal Committee at the 66th Grand Chapter.

James House (UC Santa Barbara) graduated with a degree in political science and served the Kappa Eta Chapter as a three-term Commander. House also worked in the Greek affairs office and was a member of the Ritual Committee at the 66th Grand Chapter.

Evan Winebarger (Georgia Southern) graduated with a degree in therapeutic recreation and served as Commander and candidate class president of the Theta Kappa Chapter. Winebarger also served as an IFC liaison and has worked as a business productivity advisor for Microsoft and N3 Results.

**FIRE AT HEADQUARTERS**

In the early morning of February 27, the utility building containing maintenance equipment and heating, cooling, and electrical services to the Headquarters Shrine caught fire. The fire, caused by an electrical wire malfunction, rendered the building and all its contents completely unsalvageable. This left Headquarters without power, heating and cooling. Temporary systems were put in place to provide heat and electrical services, and a new utility building to house new heating and cooling equipment has been constructed.
DELTA NUMBERS

43
Number of real estate offices operated by Florida-based Watson Realty Corp., founded by Bill Watson (Stetson).

$200 million
Current investor capital backing Harry’s, the online store of shaving products founded by Andy Katz-Mayfield (Duke).

fourteen
Hours to film a single episode of Food Network’s Cutthroat Kitchen. See page 18 to learn about Food Network’s rising star Dwayne Ingraham (Southern Mississippi).

$1.4 million
Funding capital raised in February 2014 by tech startup DataRank, founded by Ryan Frazier (Arkansas).
A startup founder’s quest for an authentic shave and values-driven entrepreneurship.

By Ben Nye (Arkansas)
Interview by
Markus Jones (Southern Mississippi)
The partnership between Andy Katz-Mayfield (Duke), right, and Jeff Raider was a natural fit after they met interning at the same Boston management consulting firm. They worked together at several companies and shared similar passions for designing quality products. “We have a very strong value alignment,” says Katz-Mayfield.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HARRY’S
Andy Katz-Mayfield (Duke) waited patiently for a drug store attendant to unlock the display case holding razor cartridges. A full ten minutes passed before the attendant came with a key allowing Katz-Mayfield to select his razors. After adding shaving cream, the cash register showed $25 for the cartridge of razor blades. “I wasn’t buying jewelry, I was buying razor blades,” says Andy Katz-Mayfield. “I knew I was getting taken advantage of as a consumer and thought it was pretty ridiculous to spend that much but there was no alternative.” That day at the drug store proved a turning point for Katz-Mayfield. He walked out of the store and phoned friend Jeff Raider who, at the time, was an executive at online eyewear startup Warby Parker. Katz-Mayfield pitched Raider an idea for a new company that could manufacture inexpensive, high quality razors that could be sold directly to consumers online. So began Harry’s. What started with Katz-Mayfield’s frustrated customer experience has now grown into a men’s grooming company of over 100 employees with a backing of over $200 million in investor capital. Equally impressive is Harry’s 2014 acquisition of a German factory that will allow it to take on men’s shaving industry leaders like Schick and Gillette. With the factory, Harry’s is producing and shipping their razors to its nationwide, online customer base.

Long before setting out to create a new razor company, Andy Katz-Mayfield and Jeff Raider had solidified their relationship. During their undergraduate days, Katz-Mayfield at Duke and Raider at Johns Hopkins, both interned at the Boston management consulting firm Bain & Company. The two continued their professional relationship after college while at Charlesbank Capital Partners, a private equity firm in New York. It was at Bain and Charlesbank where the pair sharpened their business and management skills through exposure to a variety of different organizations and industries. Katz-Mayfield and Raider’s partnership was a natural fit. They were both passionate about designing quality products, building a brand that resonated with the modern man, and creating a better overall customer experience. “For Jeff and I there was a real deep level of trust and understanding. We have a very strong value alignment,” Katz-Mayfield says. **Building a new razor company didn’t happen easily. Katz-Mayfield and Raider faced**
I tweaked its razor design based on feedback from customers, a process that would have been much more difficult without owning Feintechnik. The flexibility to make design changes quickly and inexpensively gives Harry's the edge it needs to stay competitive. “Along with Schick and Gillette, Harry’s is the only other company in the shaving category that controls design, manufacturing, and direct sales of their product,” wrote Phil Johnson, a contributor to Forbes.

A KEY INGREDIENT OF KATZ-MAYFIELD and Raider’s entrepreneurial philosophy is authenticity which can be seen in all aspects of Harry’s culture, from its practically crafted razors to the company’s management strategy.

As Katz-Mayfield explains, the primary component of this authenticity is focusing on the underlying problem that Harry’s addresses. “It’s a lot easier to build a company that solves a problem that you empathize with, as opposed to trying to solve someone else’s problem.”

It’s a lot easier to build a company that solves a problem that you empathize with, as opposed to trying to solve someone else’s problem.”

challenges in choosing a razor design, finding a manufacturer, branding, and raising funds. What’s more, Harry’s was entering a market dominated by large companies Schick and Gillette. “It turns out that it’s actually really, really hard to manufacture high quality razor blades,” explains Katz-Mayfield. “That’s one of the reasons that the market is so consolidated. All the big guys do it themselves in house.”

After Katz-Mayfield pitched Raider his idea in October 2011, the two began studying design principles of common, hand-held tools. Finding what they liked best and most functional about those tools, Katz-Mayfield and Raider drafted several concepts they wanted in their new razor.

At the same time, the pair sought a manufacturing partner that could design and produce their concept for a new razor, what they call the Gothic Arch. The Gothic Arch is a technology that ensures the razor blade is strong yet also is extremely sharp at tip. “We knew we couldn’t build a brand if the product quality didn’t stand up,” said Katz-Mayfield.

This process proved challenging as only a few factories in the world have mastered the technology that Katz-Mayfield and Raider needed. After sampling a variety of products with no success, Katz-Mayfield and Raider considered abandoning the project. Yet, in January 2012, the pair achieved the breakthrough that made Harry’s a reality.

Katz-Mayfield and Raider discovered Feintechnik, a German company that had manufactured razors for 95 years. They liked Feintechnik’s quality and the cost was low enough to allow Harry’s to compete in the men’s shaving market. A partnership was solidified that ensured Harry’s would manufacture their razors through Feintechnik. With the relationship established, Harry’s began building its team, designing a brand and website, and creating the Harry’s 5-blade cartridge and other key features of its razor technology.

Katz-Mayfield and Raider launched Harry’s in March 2013, after building the company for over a year and securing intellectual property protection for their designs. After almost a year of successful operations, Harry’s moved to further shore up its operations by purchasing Feintechnik outright in January 2014.

Purchasing Feintechnik was big for Harry’s. As Katz-Mayfield pointed out, Harry’s is now vertically integrated, meaning it can cut the cost and time that come with shipping products from an outside supplier. The company can now develop their own razors in-house and experiment with new designs without the down side of paying for expensive trials and demos. On at least one occasion, Harry’s has
Katz-Mayfield recalls one example to the contrary that helps explain this. While looking for a razor at his local drug store, Katz-Mayfield recalled that, “There was actually a package that had a picture of a razor blade flying over the moon on it. I thought it was a little bit absurd and a little bit overdone.”

It was this type of marketing gimmick that Katz-Mayfield wanted to avoid at Harry’s. “We try to be really stripped down, simple, and honest in our approach in the way that we talk to consumers and customers,” added Katz-Mayfield. “I think that when you can stay authentic to the roots that consumers can feel that.”

Another aspect of the company’s authenticity is how Katz-Mayfield and Raider relate to their employees and fellow team members. “We really try to provide as much information and context as possible to everybody in the company,” explains Katz-Mayfield. This even includes sharing financial information with every team member at Harry’s. “We’re not trying to hide anything from anybody as we value a culture of honesty and direct feedback.”

To offset the honesty and direct feedback, Katz-Mayfield and Raider try to infuse a sense of humor into their management. “We try to keep things lighthearted and realize that this is not life and death,” said Katz-Mayfield. “We’re not afraid to make fun of ourselves.”

Katz-Mayfield doesn’t believe that having a great idea makes an entrepreneur successful by itself. “Oftentimes in entrepreneurship the ideas are glorified. My experience was that the idea was 10% of it and then 90% of it was focusing on execution and operations.” This isn’t surprising considering that Harry’s — unlike many new startup companies — creates a physical product that is sold directly to consumers. In contrast with startups that focus on software or app creation, Harry’s has to effectively manage supply chain and manufacturing along with sales and design.

Yet the added complexity of a large-scale operation doesn’t faze Katz-Mayfield. “It’s just getting started and executing. If you make a mistake, learn from it. You’re going to hit a hundred road bumps along the way but you can’t be discouraged. View those as challenges to be overcome.”

Katz-Mayfield attributes much of his success as an entrepreneur to the strong team that has surrounded him. At Harry’s, Katz-Mayfield and Raider have hired people who excel. “Everybody we hire should be better at what they do than what we are,” said Katz-Mayfield.

Hiring goes beyond finding the most technically competent applicants, however, and Katz-Mayfield emphasizes that value alignment is critical to
assembling a great team. "You really want to make sure there is value alignment there. 'Does this person value the same things that I value?'"

Much like fraternity recruitment, Katz-Mayfield indicated that it’s important to go beyond simply what potential new hires say they believe in. Hiring appropriately requires investigation by the potential employer. "Nobody will say, 'No, I don't believe in honesty.' It’s actually observing behavior and truly figuring out if those things are aligned," said Katz-Mayfield. It’s also important for employers to ask how applicants have demonstrated those qualities in the past.

This value alignment goes both ways as many of Harry’s new hires are attracted to working for the company by its philanthropic culture. "I think particularly with the millennial generation they look at their place of work or any other organization that they are joining, and they expect that organization to live those type of values."

To respond to this need, Harry’s has established at least one avenue for living its values as a company. The Harry’s 1% initiative is designed to do just that. As part of the 1% initiative, Harry’s gives 1% of its sales and 1% of its time volunteering to City Year in New York. City Year is an extension of AmeriCorps which places recent graduates in cities all across the country where they volunteer and serve the local community. "Our ability at Harry’s to attract really great talent is enabled partially by the notion that people want to work for a company beyond reasons that are based solely on revenue and profit," concludes Katz-Mayfield.

While value alignment is critical for Harry’s, this does not mean that its employees all think the same way. "Actually having a diversity of backgrounds and ways to approach problems is really valuable," says Katz-Mayfield. This is especially important for a company like Harry’s that values constant improvement in its employees. "We are a real learning culture. What I mean by that is everybody at all levels of the organization just really wants to learn and get better." As a young company seeking to break into an entrenched industry, the need for constant improvement and a diversity of thinking in its employees is vital.

Ethical leadership for Katz-Mayfield is an important part of his work as a founder at Harry’s and entrepreneur. "It’s about defining a set of values and then actually living by those values."

Katz-Mayfield doesn’t just see living by a set of values as something to be kept internal, it can also benefit society at large. "We look at certain constituents more broadly. It really is born out of a sense of responsibility to the broader community that we engage with. It’s about defining those values and being true to them both internally as a company and externally with consumers and customers,” he said.

Katz-Mayfield recalls positively his time as a collegiate brother with the Gamma Chapter at Duke University. "Some of my best friends in life were fraternity brothers at Duke." For Katz-Mayfield, Sigma Nu had an excellent culture that helped form a common theme in his journey as entrepreneur. The connections he made through Sigma Nu ultimately led him to Bain & Company where he met Jeff Raider.

In all parts of his entrepreneurial journey, Katz-Mayfield has focused on surrounding himself with the best people he can — an attitude that all began at Duke University and Gamma Chapter. "It really does come down to the people. That’s fundamentally always been the decision making point for me."
The Power of Quality
BILL WATSON (STETSON) can trace his interest in real estate back to one of his business professors who had a special skill for getting students excited about real estate. “He created so much excitement about real estate opportunities to the class and painted the image that we’re not training you to be real estate salespeople, we’re training you to be leaders and entrepreneurs, to control your destiny. He asked us, Where is the wealth in the US? Who is in a better position to understand what a good value is?”

This prescient mindset by one of Bill’s professors would prove to be the spark that launched his career in real estate. Now, over 50 years later, Bill’s personal portfolio of individually-owned and Watson Realty Corp. properties includes 240 single-family homes, 68 office buildings or commercial properties, three apartment buildings and other miscellaneous properties. The company he founded, Watson Realty Corp., operates 43 real estate offices, 29 property management offices, two title companies, a mortgage company, and a maintenance division which includes plumbing, electrical, heating and air and home improvement, as well as a School of Real Estate, a Commercial Division, and a limited-function referral division with over 600 members.

Bill credits his company’s success to the leadership skills he developed in Sigma Nu’s Delta Mu Chapter at Stetson. “You have to concentrate on the basic skills, and invest heavily in your people. That relates directly to the fraternity. We’ve built our company on a military concept. I always tried to do a good job promoting, and softening up the market. Just like the military, you don’t take the market until your people take the market.”

SIGMA NU AS THE FORMATIVE YEARS

Bill remembers a culture in the chapter that expected brothers to perform well academically. “There was a degree of responsibility for those around you. We were all expected to look out for our Sigma Nu brothers,” he remembers.

There’s one example in particular Bill recalls that illustrates the chapter’s support for strong academics. He was taking Saturday classes at the time and the Sigma Nus were planning their big hay ride event. Bill was dating his future wife at the time and told her he’d have to skip the event to prepare for his test the next day — a discipline not found in typical college students.

“We see ethical leadership as self-discipline, as a commitment to do the right thing and not be swayed by the pain or price it costs to stick to your principles.”

Bill has always maintained a fondness for the railroads dating back to when his father and grandfather worked as train conductors. “We only had one car growing up, so we would always be driving to Union Station if he was running passenger trains or the shipping yard if he was running freight.”

Bill’s grandfather worked for the Seaboard Coastline Railroad and his father worked for Seaboard Coastline Railroad, now CSX. As he entered high school, he loved making money and saving to buy a car, but he realized the importance of getting a good education. “That was one of the things I liked about the Sigma Nus when I first arrived on campus. I could tell they were concerned about new members excelling in the classroom.”

“I worked summers and almost a full year before entering college. But the Sigma Nus wanted you to make good grades. We had study hall to instill that discipline. If you ever needed help with classwork, you could always count on a brother to provide guidance.”

In addition to a focus on academics, Bill was attracted to the Delta Mu Chapter because they were clearly the top performers on campus. “For those four years, we were superior to the other fraternities,” he remembers. “We were so dominating in leadership and activities that the school implemented a quota system in an attempt to level the playing field. The new limit was 65 members — we had 90.”

When Bill was attending Stetson, the students were expected to attend chapel once a week on Tuesday or Wednesday. The old Sigma Nu house was two blocks from the chapel in Elizabeth Hall.

Coffee and donuts would start at eleven in the morning at the fraternity house and Bill remembers, “All the ladies would stop by. We had all the hit records playing. It was a great way to interact socially.”

Bill has fond memories of the fraternity brothers serenading the ladies on campus when they were “pinned,” a tradition that has faded since his time. “They don’t do that anymore,” he says. “We would march three abreast and sing. This was before air conditioning. The ladies would be watching from the windows. We would present the white roses. It was impressive. It was a significant occasion and the ladies on campus loved it.”

When Bill was matriculating at Stetson, the Delta Mu Chapter was an example of the way success breeds success. “Quality brothers bring more quality. We have adopted this same mindset with our business. If you don’t recruit quality Sigma Nus, you lose that benefit. That works the same way in business. You’re known for the
company you keep.” Bill also remembers being impressed by the military inspired organizational structure and what he calls the aura of the Commander. “That’s different from a president. The commander is the leader. I liked the concept for the military connection. I liked the formality and the three cardinal principles,” he recalls.

“I was impressed with the goal-setting and the emphasis on working as a team. It showed in the presence our brothers had within ROTC. We graduated a lot of great officers.” Many of these ROTC leaders Bill references would go on to serve distinguished military careers, including two Lt. Generals, Jim Crysel and Jack Woodall, who were featured speakers at the 2013 College of Chapters.

Lifelong Commitment

As someone who has witnessed the power of brotherhood, Bill has always encouraged students under his wing to join the fraternity community. “If you go to college and don’t join a fraternity, when you leave college you’ll be missing out on a big network of support.”

“The Greeks are the ones who contribute to the university,” he observed. “Non-Greeks don’t have the same affinity for the college.” For Bill, this isn’t just an empty statement — he’s demonstrated a lifelong commitment to Stetson and the Delta Mu Chapter.

Delta Mu Chapter recently celebrated 100 years at Stetson and Bill was there to join the anniversary event. “It was really exciting and gratifying to celebrate that milestone. It was a thrill. 100 years doesn’t happen very often — maintaining that level of longevity separates you from the competition.”

When he thinks back about the most important leadership lessons he learned in Sigma Nu, the first thing he mentions is the importance of focusing on the bigger picture. “You have to look at the big goal. Don’t get wrapped around the axle on the minor things.”

Managing different personalities is always a challenge for entrepreneurs and business owners as it is for student leaders. Bill has carefully managed his professional relationships, with a broader emphasis on always treating people the way he would want to be treated. “We don’t want anyone to leave as an enemy. We want them to leave as a friend. You win by lifting them up and maximizing their talents.”

“When it comes to business acumen and ethical leadership, Bill sees the fraternity experience as an indispensable asset for young men.”

When Bill encounters an employee who isn’t a good fit, he’s always handled personnel changes diplomatically. “You are not doing someone a favor if they are failing and you keep them in your business,” he says. “We try to handle career changes in a very positive way: We think a lot of you and you have many good skills and qualities but it’s not a good fit for our organization. We’re not going in the same direction. But we like you and wish you the best.”

Helping new employees learn the company culture is also a critical skill for any business leader. When hiring, Bill says he looks for people who do things unsuccessful people don’t do. Anytime Bill is losing focus, he likes to recall the famous Vince Lombardi quote, “Mental fatigue makes cowards of us.” This inspires him with the discipline to do a little more. “Successful people are committed and they reap the benefits of success. Success is a lot of fun — failure is not much fun.”

“We try to inspire new employees. They owe it to themselves. You must have the discipline to make that additional call, to do one more visit. This divides the winners from the losers.”

Bill is quick to see the parallels between sound hiring practices and fraternity recruitment. “Look for people with good personal skills,” he says. “Look for people with a strong sense of commitment, not only in their work but also in their ethics. If they’re only focused on the fun part then they’ll take you in the wrong direction.” Bill has witnessed this problem in college freshmen who arrive on campus and don’t focus on academics. “They don’t realize that they are at a critical focal point in their life — they don’t realize...
that if they don’t graduate the trajectory of their entire career will be affected.”

Bill has had many years to observe the qualities that make for a model employee, and he can list them off from memory. “Dress like you care about your job. Don’t overreact before you know all the facts. It’s very important to hold your mouth — there’s nothing to be gained from criticizing people.”

“We have built our organization on the basics,” he says. “Be positive, outwork your competition, and focus on ethics and quality. We will not allow ourselves to be corrupted by one little thing. Our word is worth more than that.”

There’s also a firm commitment to developing employees that runs through the company culture. “We strive to take the individual’s strengths and multiply and accelerate them,” Bill says of mentoring employees. “We have found you are not successful in changing negatives — so focus on the positives.”

“We see ethical leadership as self-discipline, as a commitment to do the right thing and not be swayed by the pain or price it costs to stick to your principles. Doing the right thing wins out in the long run. We won’t compromise our principles. There are certain things where you draw the line. Do things the right way and you’ll be a longer-term winner.”

When it comes to business acumen and ethical leadership, Bill sees the fraternity experience as an indispensable asset for young men. “These are young guys right out of high school with limited experience. You’re running these chapters with young men and we’re molding them to perform like senior business leaders.”

So why has Bill chosen to stay involved all these years? “I have a high degree of loyalty and commitment. If you give me an assignment, I’m going to give 110% or not take it at all. Sigma Nu means a lot to me. Those were the formative years. I could have gone another direction and not achieved the same success. It really made a difference in my life, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be a Sigma Nu.”

Bill Watson with his wife, Janelle, at the opening of Watson Realty Corp’s new office in Mount Dora, Fla.
THE HUNGER GAMES

STORY BY
NATHANIEL CLARKSON
(JAMES MADISON)
How does one possibly prepare for the Hunger Games of food shows where organizers can change the rules on a whim? “Trust your knowledge, trust your skillset, and keep things simple.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK
If you’ve never watched

Cutthroat Kitchen until now the Food Network’s hit show is perhaps best summarized by one former contestant: “Cutthroat Kitchen is so much harder than you think it is. Take what you know about cooking, then take away some limbs, take away your cooking tools — it’s not easy. It’s about how resourceful you are, how clever you are.”

The episode begins when host and Food Network megastar Alton Brown introduces the contestants.
Chef Stef from Brooklyn.
Chef Ben from Indianapolis.
Chef Jackie from New Jersey.
And Sigma Nu’s own Chef Dwayne Ingraham, representing Oxford, Miss. “I’m here on Cutthroat Kitchen to show everyone a small-town southern boy can make it in the big leagues.”

Before each round contestants have 60 seconds to shop for everything they’ll need. What Alton calls “shop” is better characterized as a stampede to a fully-loaded pantry where contestants jockey for position to grab as many items as they can carry. When the free-for-all ends Alton shuts the doors and the contestants return to their station and attempt to formulate a recipe from the ingredients they grabbed from the pantry.

Next comes the auctions. Each of the four competing chefs receive an equal share of $100,000 in cash that’s stored on set in a silver suitcase. The contestants use this money to bid on auction items that will sabotage other contestants. The catch is that they only leave the show with the money they have remaining — and that’s only if they win.

Host Alton Brown can’t hide his delight in the various ways the contestants are about to be tormented. “In a game where sabotage is not only encouraged, it’s also for sale.”

Round 1 begins. Each chef must make a molten lava cake with whatever ingredients they happened to grab from the pantry.

The first package of items up for auction is a dozen roses, a wine flute, and an empty box of chocolates. The winner of this auction can require his opponents to forfeit all of their utensils and vessels in return for the three items.

Dwayne wins the first auction and forks over $6300 of his $25,000 for the luxury of baking with real utensils and mixing bowls. His opponents aren’t so lucky. Chef Jackie must stir her cake mix in the cheap plastic that comes with grocery store flowers; Chef Ben gets to stir his mix in a wine flute; and Chef Stef gets a flimsy box of chocolates in place of a mixing bowl.

Before the contestants proceed any further Alton announces the next auction, and it’s not good. The winner of this one gets to confiscate one opponent’s chocolate. That means no chocolate to make a chocolate molten lava cake. Dwayne being the skilled and savvy chef that he is realizes he has enough cocoa from the ingredients he grabbed from the pantry and decides to let this one go. Chef Ben wins the auction and predictably takes Dwayne’s chocolate.

At this point things are going well for Dwayne — that is, as well as they could be, all things considered. His opponents are baking with significant handicaps. Meanwhile, Dwayne’s weathered the storm by improvising the chocolate flavor with cocoa, flour, and sugar.

Right when things are going well Alton throws another auction that forces two contestants to hold hands for the rest of the round. Dwayne smartly passes on the bidding because his cake is nearly ready for the oven. He’s tethered with Chef Stef, but no harm done as Dwayne is well prepared for the obstacle.

5…4…3…2…1. Round 1 ends and Alton brings out celebrity chef Simon Majumdar to judge the molten lava offerings.

Simon runs down the line, sampling each one and offering his comments. The drama builds as Simon determines who to eliminate.

He zeroes in on Stef’s molten lava cake that’s missing a key characteristic: the lava. Simon sends Chef Stef packing; three chefs remain going into Round 2.

On a typical day Dwayne arrives at work by 7:00 a.m. and promptly begins reviewing prep lists from six different restaurants that operate under City Grocery. Dwayne and his team review all the orders received overnight and account for how much each store sold the previous day.

They also stay busy providing catering for offsite events. During college football season, this means fulfilling hundreds of orders for tailgates, including The Grove — one of college football’s most renowned tailgating locations.

When ESPN’s nationally-televised College Gameday visited Oxford for the Ole Miss vs. Alabama game last fall, Dwayne didn’t go home from Thursday morning until Saturday afternoon. One of Dwayne’s two assistants had just left, leaving him down a man on the busiest weekend of the year. “You just learn to do what you need to do,” he says, reflecting on that hectic weekend.

On the day I spoke with Dwayne he was preparing for a
party of 145 people. “After reviewing the prep lists we start attacking the day,” he says. On top of preparing bulk orders for parties and other catered occasions, Dwayne has to prepare orders for the restaurant where he works, which opens at 11:00 a.m.

I asked Dwayne how he ended up at City Grocery in Oxford — the idyllic college town home to the University of Mississippi that’s built a reputation for its thriving restaurant scene. “I was in Las Vegas at the time,” he recalls. It was 2010 and John Currence, City Grocery’s owner, posted a job opening on the alumni page for the culinary school Dwayne attended. At the time Dwayne was putting his time in as a line chef at Wynn Las Vegas casino-hotel. The work was grueling, but a necessary part of learning to run a restaurant. Dwayne was ready to make the jump to full-time pastry chef and applied for the job. The two connected immediately through common geography. John was from New Orleans, and Dwayne was from nearby Boothville, La. “John went fishing in my hometown,” Dwayne recalls.

John asked him to prepare six dishes and Dwayne flew in for the tasting. He remembers feeling nervous at the time, but he was ready for the test. To prepare for the interview, Dwayne conducted tastings with friends in the weeks leading up to the trial. “Friends came over and I went through my repertoire once a week. They gave me scorecards, told me what they liked and didn’t like. I used that feedback to tweak my options. This helped me decided what to prepare for the interview in Oxford.”

Dwayne grew up liking to bake, but he says the chef skills came later. “When you grow up in a small town you don’t realize that being a chef is an option for you. Local restaurants were all mom and pop, operated out of necessity. My husband is a fisherman, so we’ll open a restaurant to sell his fish. This is how most people approached it.”

When Dwayne decided to attend University of Southern Mississippi his mom worked with a lady whose son was Commander of the Theta Gamma Chapter at the time. “Every time I visited campus Kenny showed me around. When I arrived for orientation they all showed up to help me move in,” he remembers.

Dwayne got the idea to attend culinary school thanks to one of his candidate brothers at Theta Gamma Chapter. Gerald Peralta was planning to attend culinary school and Dwayne realized he would enjoy pursuing the same track. “As soon as I took a baking class I knew that was what I wanted to do,” he remembers.

Dwayne eventually left Hattiesburg for the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vt. Another one of Dwayne’s Theta Gamma candidate brothers, Markus Jones, accompanied him on the 22-hour drive to Montpelier, which sits about 70 miles from the Canadian border. They took turns driving for two days, taking a nighttime detour through Lexington to visit the Headquarters Shrine on the way to Vermont.
“Growing up in Mississippi, Vermont was an interesting place,” Dwayne recalls. “I was nervous about moving there, but Vermont ended up being a chill place.” The main difference he noticed at first was the lack of deep fried food. “It’s more of an agricultural-focused area. They believe in sustainability.”

“The only thing I didn’t care for much was the snowfall — I wasn’t prepared for New England winter.”

Dwayne went straight to Las Vegas after completing culinary school. The restaurant scene in Vegas was quickly building a highly regarded reputation, and Dwayne knew there would be good opportunities for him out there. Dwayne was eager to escape the cold weather, so naturally it snowed his first winter in Las Vegas.

Back in the Food Network studio, Alton Brown delivers the next challenge for the remaining contestants. Each chef has 30 minutes to make a savory chocolate dish.

Dwayne is immediately concerned by his lack of experience with savory cooking. “My world comes crashing down,” he shares with the confessional camera. “I have not done any savory cooking in my professional career.”

A single episode of Food Network’s Cutthroat Kitchen takes 14 hours to film. During this time they film three challenges in the studio kitchen as well as the personal interviews with each contestant, often referred to as the “confessional camera.”

But Dwayne keeps his cool, relying on the same calm and steady approach that guided him through the first round. “What I learned from the last round was to keep things simple and classic,” he says. “Trust the flavor profiles to make things elevated on the palate. So my plan for this round is to make a simple summer salad.”

When the timer starts the three remaining contestants repeat their stampede to the kitchen pantry. Dwayne returns to his cooking station when he realizes he left the pantry without grabbing a protein.

Chef Jackie wins the first auction and forces Dwayne to somehow incorporate a hunk of halibut with his chocolate savory dish. The chef from New Jersey makes it clear she hasn’t forgotten Dwayne stealing all her utensils in Round 1. “Chef Dwayne is the target,” she says with pleasure.

When the camera pans to Dwayne he looks nervous, but he stays optimistic. “You know what? I may be a pastry chef, but I’m still a chef. I can find a way to make this work.”

Simon returns to judge the dishes. “Combining fish with chocolate is brave,” he says, as if Dwayne had a choice. Unfortunately Dwayne’s halibut is slightly overcooked and Simon notices right away. Things aren’t looking good for Chef Dwayne right now.

Simon samples the remaining dishes and offers the usual pros and cons for each one.

No one entered the judging session with more confidence than Chef Ben. But things quickly go downhill for the tattooed chef from Indianapolis as it turns out his chilaquiles recipe was too sweet for what was supposed to be a savory dish.

Simon eliminates Chef Ben, leaving Dwayne and Jackie to compete for the final round.

The process for getting on Cutthroat Kitchen started with a Facebook message. The casting company contacted Dwayne because they wanted to shoot a specialty episode devoted to chocolate. “I was honored they asked me to apply,” he says. Dwayne completed the application and agreed to a Skype interview with the Food Network team. A few weeks later Dwayne learned he had made the show.

They shot the episode on August 19, the day before Dwayne’s birthday. They flew the contestants to Los Angeles and covered meals and lodging. All clips were taped the following day.

A single episode of Cutthroat Kitchen takes 14 hours to film. During this time they film three challenges in the studio kitchen as well as the personal interviews with each contestant, often referred to as the “confessional camera.” The format of the show is designed in a way that encourages the contestants to sabotage each other — hence the name Cutthroat Kitchen.

How does one possibly prepare for the Hunger Games of food shows where organizers can change the rules on a whim? Dwayne’s approach was much different from the preparation for his interview with City Grocery. “I did nothing,” he says. “I didn’t want to overanalyze. I didn’t want to get stuck in a rigid game plan. I just told myself, Trust your knowledge, trust your skillset, and keep things simple.”

Professional chefs, it turns out, are not programmed bots trained to perform the same task over and over. 'Cutthroat' contestants have to be skilled multitaskers, stirring a molten lava cake mix while managing their budget to bid on items in real time. “You have to think fast on the show,” Dwayne says, not unlike a typical day in the restaurant.
Cutthroat Kitchen offers useful advice for non-chefs, too. Regular watchers of Food Network shows have witnessed the brutally honest feedback contestants receive from judges. “I feel like my job prepared me for that direct form of feedback,” Dwayne says. Though the feedback can be uncomfortable to watch, Dwayne says the producers find a happy medium between good television and staying positive all the same. “Their goal was never to make anyone look stupid or incompetent. At its core, Food Network is about good-natured entertainment.”

Dwayne sees direct feedback as a necessary part of developing and becoming better all the time, a critical lesson for any career. “I can’t grow if people only tell me everything tastes good.”

It’s down to two: Jackie vs Dwayne. New Jersey vs. Oxford, Miss. They’re given a half-hour to make a box of chocolates. Easy enough, Dwayne thinks. "I'm ecstatic because this is right up my alley.”

During his 60 seconds in the pantry, Dwayne grabs dark chocolate, white chocolate, oranges, peanut butter, and graham crackers. When he returns to his cooking station he realizes he’s forgotten heavy cream — a critical ingredient for truffl ees. “Such a rookie mistake,” he concedes to the confessional camera. “You can’t make truffle centers without heavy cream. I’m so screwed.” Or is he? We’re about to find out.

Alton announces the fi rst auction of the third round, the opportunity to force your opponent to forfeit all ingredients and rely on what’s inside a giant mystery box of chocolates. Dwayne wins with a bid of $9,000, which is $100 more than the total amount Jackie has remaining. Dwayne's strategy of conserving funds in the fi rst two rounds pays off. Jackie is left reaching into mystery vats of chocolate to fi nd her ingredients — a scene reminiscent of Nickelodeon’s 1990s classic, Double Dare.

Realizing his error in forgetting heavy cream, Dwayne thinks fast and decides to make his own variation of s'mores with the graham crackers and white chocolate for marshmallow.

With two minutes remaining the drama is starting to build. Dwayne doesn't flinch. “I didn’t come here to go home second. I came here for it all. I want to prove to the South that we can compete with the big cities.”

Jackie ends up making truffl ees with dried apricots, raspberry, strawberry, and jalapeno. Her cooking station looks like a disaster zone from all the spilled chocolate.

Simon enters the studio kitchen for a fi nal time and remarks on Jackie’s station. “The presentation isn’t pretty, but the truffles are actually delicious.”

Dwayne is concerned about the lack of variety in his offerings for Simon. Jackie had four varieties, but he only has one. “I really could be in trouble here.”

“"The presentation is really good. You’re obviously really skilled. The graham cracker was a terrific idea.” Simon is clearly impressed with Dwayne’s s’mores idea, but his final decision is still up in the air.

“How was the fi sh and chocolate?” Dwayne says this is one of the most common questions he gets about the episode. “I didn’t realize how exciting the show would be for other people,” he says. “I did it because I thought it would be fun and shed some light on City Grocery. It ended up being a good opportunity to test my skills against big city chefs. I was surprised by how excited people got about it.”

“The other day I was dropping pastries off and some lady gave me a hug.”

As for the winnings, Dwayne knew right away where he would put the money. “I’m going to set some aside for this wedding I’ve been planning for about a year now.”

Direct feedback is a necessary part of developing and becoming better all the time, a critical lesson for any career. “I can’t grow if people only tell me everything tastes good.”

Dwayne’s rise to Food Network prominence is impressive, but it was no surprise to those who have followed his path. Markus Jones, Dwayne’s Theta Gamma brother who drove with him from Mississippi to Vermont, knew Dwayne was on his way to something big. “Despite his fear of the unknown, Dwayne had no hesitation about his decision,” he recalls from the 1500-mile drive they took together. “As I look back on that trip, it was obvious Dwayne knew exactly what he was doing and was clearly on a mission to reach his goal of being a pastry chef.”
Dwayne, right, plans to use his winnings from Cutthroat Kitchen for the wedding he’s planning with his partner, Jeff. Dwayne and Jeff are pictured here before a recent LSU at Ole Miss football game.
THE IDEA FOR RILEY SOCIETY
began when a group of Collegiate Grand Councilmen started discussing ways to help prepare young alumni to take on future leadership positions. Tyler Elvin (West Virginia) and Joe Gammie (Georgia Tech) were reflecting on their experience with the High Council while attending the College of Chapters in Roanoke, Va. While reflecting on the relationships that they had built over the past year, they began discussing how they could continue to ensure that strong relationships were being built between Collegiate Grand Councilmen (CGC) and other young alumni. They wanted to make sure CGCs of all ages had an avenue to stay connected on a meaningful level.

Tyler and Joe began constructing the vision of an organization that would connect CGCs from multiple years and create a pool of young talent to support the mission of the General Fraternity and Educational Foundation. They discussed their ideas with fellow CGCs Wells Ellenberg (Georgia), Matt Tudor (Eastern Kentucky), Jack Riker (Duke), and Cameron French (MIT) and High Council members John Hearn (Georgia)
“We like to think of the Riley Society as a grassroots program where we can build young, strong, and proven leaders for future leadership positions while cultivating relationships and educating through the years.”

and Maury Gaston (Auburn).

Upon leaving Roanoke, Tyler and Joe continued to discuss the idea and shared it with fellow Collegiate Grand Councilman Tom Bymark (Minnesota). Tom was very interested in the idea and began to help create the outline of the program that would become the Riley Society.

The three founding members collaborated and executed an outline complete with a mission statement, objectives, benefits, and structure. After the foundation was in place, the team pitched the idea to members of the staff team while in Nashville for the 66th Grand Chapter. Staff members offered input that would refine the program to align with the fraternity’s strategic imperatives related to young alumni initiatives. Multiple conference calls were held to discuss details before the Riley Society was approved by the High Council in September 2014.

With an idea in mind and an ambition to make a difference, Tyler and Joe proceeded with a plan. They eventually settled on three objectives:

1. To establish a permanent medium of connection between alumni committed to service, development, and leadership in the Fraternity.

2. To sustain and strengthen Society members’ connection with and commitment to the Fraternity and its founding principles.

3. To support the achievement of the Fraternity’s and Foundation’s strategic goals and imperatives.

The founders of the initiative intend to provide an experience that expands members’ professional network, builds their professional soft skills, provides an avenue for career mentoring, focuses on giving back to the fraternity, and builds strong relationships.

Riley Society is open to any initiated brother who is not on the roster of any collegiate chapter; is a current donor to the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation; agrees to receive communications from Riley Society, the Fraternity, and the Foundation; and commits to volunteer with one Sigma Nu alumni event or Helping Hand Initiative event every year.

“We envision the Riley Society as a large, prestigious group of young alumni who are actively involved in furthering the mission of the Fraternity and Educational Foundation through service and leadership,” Gammie says. “Overall, we want to see our members become more developed professionals, hoping that this opportunity will make both the fraternity and the young alumni more successful.”

“We like to think of the Riley Society as a grassroots program where we can build young, strong, and proven leaders for future leadership positions while cultivating relationships and educating through the years.”

“We envision the Riley Society as a large, prestigious group of young alumni who are actively involved in furthering the mission of the Fraternity and Educational Foundation through service and leadership.”
Appalachian State

Brother Dillon Hewitt-Castillo in the Bernese Alps while studying abroad in Spain.
Paul Rowland was named Senior of the Year, and Justin Shelton was named Advisor of the Year. In addition, the chapter was named Most Improved and received awards for Best Educational Program, Higher Education Day, and Best Joint Community Service Event.

Appalachian State
Kappa Epsilon hosted a LEAD session with Armantri Edwards as guest facilitator. Edwards is a past Appalachian State quarterback, winner of two national championships, two-time Walter Payton Award winner, and leader of the upset over 5th ranked Michigan in 2007.

In the session, Edwards shared useful insights on leadership gained through his successful careers in football and real estate. LEAD sessions have seen increased attendance this semester, this being the most popular by far.

Brother Mitch Ferguson is chapter Commander and is also on the men’s basketball team at Appalachian State. Along with his accomplishments on the court and in the chapter, Ferguson made the All-Academic team for the Sun Belt Conference by maintaining a 3.49 GPA.

Chaplain Patrick Fontaine is graduating top of his class from the economics department and past Lieutenant Commander Devin Honbarger has been accepted into three law schools.

The chapter also received most percentage of bids accepted and largest spring pledge class. This spring semester two brothers, Dillon Hewitt-Castillo (past Treasurer) and Jack Schaufler (past Recruitment Chairman), embarked on a six month study abroad adventure that would take them across Europe. They are living independently in a massive metropolitan area for the first time. They’ve indulged in tapas, Real Madrid futbol, and an abundance of fine arts. Experiencing Spanish culture is not their only cultural endeavor, however. The two have planned future travels to many diverse destinations such as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Lisbon and Porto, Prague, Istanbul, and Italy.

It’s hard not to miss home and both miss families, close friends, girlfriends, and brothers. They miss contributing to the well-being of their chapter and Appalachian State University. Jack and Dillon are displaying Love, Honor and Truth in all of their travels and are two of many who are currently representatives of fraternity culture—and more importantly Sigma Nu—to the global community. The two can’t wait to return to Appalachian State and help propel Kappa Epsilon to new heights while showing their achievement of Brotherhood alive from abroad.

Arkansas
This spring Gamma Upsilon Chapter along with Arkansas’ Kappa Alpha chapter hosted well-known sexual assault and risk management speaker Adam Rit. Over 150 were in attendance, including members of multiple fraternities and sororities.

Arkansas Ft. Smith
The Nu Alpha Chapter held their 8th annual St. Jude Breakaway 5k on April 4. Each year, the 5k helps the children of St. Jude breakaway from the grips of cancer and other catastrophic diseases. With over 160 runners participating, the chapter raised over $3,600.

Auburn
Russell Kendrick was recently elected Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast Diocese of the Episcopal Church. Russell joined the Beta Theta Chapter in 1978 from his home in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. His pastor there was Richard H. Cobbs IV—a brother of Beta Theta Chapter. Father Cobbs was a mentor to Russell in many ways and pointed Russell to Sigma Nu at Auburn. Russell served the chapter as Chaplain and as Alumni Contact Officer, and was elected vice president of the SGA. Following his architecture degree, Russell practiced architecture with his father for eight years before joining the ministry. Following seminary, Russell has...
served parishes in Georgia and Alabama 2007. Russell has energized and revitalized every parish he has served.

“Only God could have dreamt up the idea of a fraternity chaplain who later became an architect to eventually go on to serve as a Bishop,” Kendrick said recently in the Beta Theta Chapter newsletter.

“During the election process I bumped into a couple of old fraternity brothers, and I was surprised of just how deep the bond between us was still alive after so many years apart. The bond of friendship is a powerful force that transcends time and space. Even more, I trust that bond is a mere glimpse of that greater bond that we share with God of whom I have been called to serve as a Bishop in the Episcopal Church.”

Ball State
On July 25th, the Theta Nu Chapter will hold its annual golf scramble at the Morningstar Golf Club in Indianapolis. The golf club is owned by Brother Steve Seibel. Registration is $75 for alumni and $40 for undergraduate brothers and will begin at noon. To register, contact Kevin Short (Theta Nu 419) via email short@aol.com.

Bowling Green
On Saturday, November 22, members of Epsilon Chi Chapter spent part of the morning writing letters to the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post near Bowling Green, Ohio.

Bradley
On February 13, Zeta Phi ran 38 miles from Normal, Ill., to the Children’s Hospital of Illinois in Peoria as part of its game ball run. The chapter did this to raise funds for the hospital and did so while dribbling basketballs the entire journey.

“This is the 23rd year we’ve done this. This is my fourth year and my last year, so I’d like to hang my cap on this one and go out with a bang. I think the amount will be quite satisfactory and very beneficial to the Children’s Hospital,” said Brother Brian Fleming to Peoria’s CBS affiliate. The chapter collected $20,000 for the hospital after fundraising for more than a year.

Butler
Starting in July, Brother Robert Gale will be working as a financial analyst at the J.P. Morgan Private Bank in the ultra-high net worth division in Chicago, Ill. In this role, he will be supporting a team of bankers and investors to help manage client portfolios. “The largest take-away I have from Sigma Nu is that I have surrounded myself with the best men at Butler University and through this support system, I have been able to become more confident,” said Gale.

Past Collegiate Grand Councilman Joey Thomas has been accepted to Indiana University School of Medicine where he will start in the fall. “The titles and awards mean nothing compared to the unbelievable friendships and experiences. Sigma Nu and the people associated with it have done more for me than I could ever possibly repay,” said Thomas.

Several Epsilon Mu brothers competed in NCAA athletics including Brigham Stewart and Andrew Eiler (golf), Jaxon Sher, David Starkey, Zach Taylor, and Thomas Baldwin (football), and Alex Wodmoe (tennis). In addition, Brother David Starkey is the president and founder of Butler Athletes Recognizing Kids which is an organization of Butler student-athletes that visits and supports kids in local elementary schools and hospitals.

Epsilon Mu brothers have participated in the It’s On Us Campaign and the Stand Tall program. Notably, the chapter had numerous brothers attend a campus-wide event where they pledged to prevent sexual assault. Additionally, Epsilon Mu has been active in Stand Tall’s social media campaign by contributing pictures.

“The largest take-away I have from Sigma Nu is that I have surrounded myself with the best men.”
Alumnus Stanley Schumacher is director of Stanley Schumacher and the Music Now Ensemble and president of Musikmacher Productions. Musikmacher Productions’ mission is to produce recordings of both improvised and composed contemporary classical music in a chamber music format. The company’s four most recent releases are excellent examples of how it fulfills this mission in very different ways.

“Jive At 5:05” can best be described as improvised contemporary classical music meets free-form jazz. The title track of “Way Cool” introduces a narrative to the musical mix; “Way Cool” is a tale of abandonment, sin, and a young man’s fall from grace. The exciting new element on “Experimental Music Lab” is the use of a Theremin, very unusual in contemporary classical music. Finally, “No Technique” is a 42-minute composition for three trombones written by Stanley Schumacher. Featuring renowned bass trombonist David Taylor, it illustrates “Perfect Symmetry for Perfect Order.”

All recordings are available as CD’s or downloads from www.CDBaby.com.

Cal State Los Angeles

Brothers Ricardo Silva, Michael Lopez, and Colburn Junus drove over 2,500 miles from Los Angeles to visit the Headquarters Shrine while on their spring break.

Eastern Kentucky

Brothers Andrew Moorhead and Justin Asher in Paris while studying abroad.
Kappa Pi Chapter has seen a lot of change over the past year. The most noteworthy achievements have been the creation of a Pursuit of Excellence committee, over $10,000 raised from the Ducky Derby and Haunted House philanthropies, the successful recruitment of a 33 man candidate class, and creation of the SAFER Representative Officer (works with the chapter to put an end to sexual assault on campus, in the community, and in the Greek system).

Something else worth noting is that Kappa Pi has almost doubled in size in the past 18 months from roughly 60 members and candidates, to about 110 members and candidates. Although this growth has brought some challenges, Kappa Pi has successfully adapted. Kappa Pi has even improved overall chapter operations and very much looks forward to the next Pursuit of Excellence submission to show the national organization, and chapters around the nation, all that has been accomplished.

The chapter recently hosted an event for sororities called Turn the Tables on Sexual Assault. Each participating sorority purchased one wooden table which was designed and decorated with help from Kappa Pi brothers. Designs included sorority and fraternity logos, American flags, superhero logos, sexual assault prevention quotes, and inspirational quotes. When all the tables were finished, awards were given to the sororities based upon design, creativity, neatness, originality, and best overall table.

In addition to participation from campus sororities, Cal Poly’s SAFER organization also supported and sponsored the event. SAFER works to prevent sexual assaults, encourage
Brothers of Zeta Pi visiting Jing’an Temple in Shanghai, China, for spring break.

The Delta of Sigma Nu SLO, a non-profit sexu-

ting the tables was

raised from purchas-

assault.

preventing sexual

corresponded with

slogan or design that

to create a clever

and were encouraged

given white t-shirts

participants were

relationship health.

safe sex, and overall

Before the event, participants were

given white t-shirts and were encouraged
to create a clever slogan or design that corresponded with
preventing sexual assault.

All money that was raised from purchas-
ing the tables was then donated to RISE SLO, a non-profit sexu-
al assault prevention and treatment orga-

ization. In total, the event raised $1,000, but the amount of positive support and excitement that was created far out-

weighed the money.

Kappa Pi has one brother, Jack Connor

Kim, who is on Cal Poly’s NCAA Division

1 men’s wrestling team. Brother Reid

Wilhelm, a third year electrical engineering

major was named “Mr. Fraternity” by the

local Alpha Omicron Pi chapter.

Lastly, at the be-

ginning of this year,

Kappa Pi had eight

student orientation

leaders who helped

welcome over 200

freshman to campus.

Each leader put in

over 100 hours of vol-

unteer work and each

was responsible for

managing and helping

roughly 25 students.

These leaders showed

students around campus,

the city, helped

them set up college

accounts, and assisted

them with anything they needed during

their first week of school.

California

California

Brother Tyler Crouch was recently featured in

Forbes’ 30 under 30 list for his new tech-
nology startup Eko Devices. Crouch, who is a 2014 graduate of

California Berkeley, is the CEO and co-founder of Eko Devices. The

company’s chief product is the Eko Core, a Bluetooth attachment
to stethoscopes that ensures doctors make more accurate read-
ings of heartbeats.

The new startup recently finished

a round of funding that raised over $2 million. The company

was also a top three finisher in Extreme

Tech Challenge (XTC), a prominent com-

petition for new startup ventures.

This April, Beta Psi had its second annual

Carnival for the Cure

for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The chapter partnered with Tau Kappa

Ep silon and Delta Delta Delta to co-host the
event. The day was

filled with carnival games, performances like the Cal Band,

and a raffle. Berkeley police officers even

joined in on the fun

and volunteered to go into the dunk tank!

It was a great event

and the event raised

over $5,000 for cancer

research.

Beta Psi began this

event last year and

hopes to continue the

tradition by raising

more money, attracting

more students, and possibly even expanding it to other chapters.

Carnegie-Mellon

Alumnus Jonathan

Kaufman (Delta Sigma 1325), working

on his Ph.D. in physics

at UC San Diego,

was a member of the

now-famous BICEP2

team, which showed the first-ever evidence of the universe’s expansion. Kaufman

worked on a telescope

in Antarctica for four

years to achieve this

credible result.

For the collegiate chapter, Delta Sigma

saw three brothers,

Zhijun Gong, Vijay

Viswanathan, and

Bradford Wyatt, Jr.,

elected to CMU’s stud-

ent senate.

Wyatt and Viswa-

nathan were selected as Orientation

Counselors, with

Gong chosen as an

Orientation Leader for

summer 2014.

Fur

thermore, Gong was
elected as IFC VP of

member development

for the 2014 year.

The chapter is proud

of the involvement of these brothers in the

Case Western

Central Florida

On April 17, the Mu Psi

Chapter held its 6th

annual Undie Classic

event benefiting

Goodwill Industries.

This year the chapter

had 300 people turn

out, the largest total yet. The chapter
donated 2,700 pounds

of clothes to the local

Central Florida

Goodwill stores.

Each year the event has gotten larger with

more people partici-

pating and more

clothes being donated.

This year the chapter

brought in Victoria Se-

cret’s PINK at UCF as

a partner. The chapter

also used social media

by getting a Snapchat

“geofilter,” by creating a

Twitter, and having

more Facebook

exposure. The event

also supported by

Monster Energy and a local band made

of chapter brothers

called the Wild Flyer.

Central Oklahoma

Dr. Chris M arkw ood, alumnus of Mu Tau

Chapter, was recently

tamed the fifth

president of Colum-

bus State University.
Markwood began his career at the University of Central Oklahoma in 1994 where he taught in the department of political science. It was here where Markwood became the first faculty advisor of the Mu Tau Chapter. In recognition of his service to the chapter, Markwood was initiated as a non-matriculate brother.

“Dr. Chris Markwood, alumnus of Mu Tau Chapter, was recently named the fifth president of Columbus State University.”

Markwood is coming to Columbus State after a four year tenure as provost and vice president of academic affairs at Texas A&M Corpus Christi. “I think the future is bright for this institution,” said Dr. Markwood in a recorded statement.

Cornell
Four Gamma Theta brothers have begun a startup venture called Worthy Jerky, a company that is seeking to reinvent beef jerky. Brothers Alex Krakoski, Max Tave, Ian Filonenko, and Jeffery Kruse hold various leadership roles within the student led startup and are seeking to expand Worthy Jerky’s reach across Cornell’s campus. The company also has a redesigned website that allows customers to place online orders.

“When I received a scholarship to finish my high school education in Switzerland, I asked my mother for her delicious home-made beef jerky because my friends and I needed a portable, nutritious yet tasty snack for the ski slopes. With every bite, my friends became obsessed, and word of mouth began to spread. And thus, Worthy Jerky was born,” wrote Worthy Jerky CEO Alex Krakoski on the company’s website.

Colorado
At the 2014 IFC awards banquet, Gamma Kappa was honored with two awards. Brother Ryan Langhorst was given Academic Achievement recognition and Kevin Zell was named Fraternity President of the Year. Also, Brother Zell was named the IFC president for 2015. “I hope to continue upon the progress we made this year and our new exec board is a great group of guys,” said Zell.

George Washington
This fall, Delta Pi’s Timothy Stockhouse was elected president of George Washington University’s IFC. Since then, he and other Greek life leaders have worked with the university to make sexual assault prevention a top priority on campus. They are focusing on expanding opportunities and recommendations for chapters to attend sexual assault prevention training led by the university’s Center for Alcohol and other Drug Education, as well as preparing other ideas on the same subject.

Stockhouse served as Commander of Delta Pi in 2014 before being elected IFC president for 2015. He has also served in several other leadership positions within the chapter.

In an interview this past March, Stockhouse said, “For the IFC, a very important issue is the safety of our members and all students on campus, especially when it comes to sexual assault.” He also wants to make sure that the people who step into the new roles of president and vice president every year are completing what has been started by past IFC leaders.

In addition to Stockhouse’s election, current Commander Alexander Maxwell was appointed to a new Greek life task force, which meets bi-monthly in working groups to research issues affecting the community.

In addition, this fall marks Delta Pi Chapter’s 100th anniversary on George Washington University’s campus! The chapter will celebrate the history of the university’s longest continually-active fraternity by inviting alumni, family, and friends to a weekend centennial event, highlighted by a Saturday evening cruise on the Spirit of Washington. For event details and registration, visit www.gwusigmamu.com.

Lastly, the Delta Pi Chapter’s spring semester rush was particularly successful. The chapter gained 11 candidates, one of its largest spring classes in a long time.

Eastern Kentucky
Last fall, Theta Theta Chapter had its annual fall philanthropy event Jail N’ Ball which raised over $2,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

All IFC and Panhelrenlic organizations participated in this event, with the local Kappa Alpha Theta chapter winning for most money donated.

Eastern Illinois
Around 25 Lambda Gamma brothers participated in Delta Delta Delta’s Be The Hero 5k Run and Fun Walk at 10 a.m. on March 28. Brothers volunteered and ran in the race that raised over $1,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

The chapter also placed third in the tug-of-war competition as part of Eastern Illinois’ Greek week festivities and hosted its annual Easter dinner on Saturday, April 5.

Georgia
At the beginning of the spring semester, Mu Chapter began making plans to host a new philanthropy event that the chapter coined “The Classic City Bowl.” The brothers learned a lot by hosting the philanthropy soccer tournament in 2014, but decided that they were capable of hosting an even larger community-wide event.

Mu borrowed the idea from Epsilon Xi Chapter at The University of Mississippi and hopes for the Classic City Bowl to mimic the legendary “Charity Bowl” that has been held in Oxford for the past 24 years. After many phone calls with the brothers at Ole Miss, Mu Chapter leadership decided it was time for The University of Georgia to put on a similarly groundbreaking event.

Much like The Charity Bowl of Oxford, The Classic City Bowl will be a full-contact, high school style football game, to be played between Sigma Nu and one other fraternity on campus. This year’s game has been scheduled to take place between the brothers of Mu and the brothers of Pi Kappa Phi at UGA. The game is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 25th at Clarke County High School, a prime location in Athens, Ga., and walking distance from many Greek, university, and student housing complexes.

The brothers of Mu have set a fundraising goal of $30,000 and a ticket sales goal of $2,000. Mu has partnered with all seventeen Panhelrenlic sororities on Georgia’s campus in an event to create maximum “buzz” and excitement among the Greek community. The potential event possesses excites Mu Chapter as this is the first philanthropic event of this nature or magnitude to be held at The University of Georgia.

Georgia Southern
It has been a banner year for the Theta Kappa Chapter at Georgia Southern University. The chapter’s...
EVERY YEAR FOR THE PAST 35 YEARS, the Delta and Theta Zeta Chapters from South Carolina and Clemson participate in the Game Ball Run. The run takes place the weekend before the South Carolina-Clemson football game. This year, Delta Chapter ran the game ball starting at Williams Brice Football Stadium in Columbia, S.C., all the way to Greenwood, S.C., over 60 miles away.

Once in Greenwood, the two chapters met for dinner at a local Huddle House restaurant and then Theta Zeta Chapter ran the ball the rest of the 60+ miles to Clemson Memorial Stadium.

The brothers run, one or two at a time, behind a police escort. A tour bus, filled with the remainder of the participating brothers, follows and allows for the runners to alternate for the entire journey.

This year’s Game Ball Run was one of the most successful in its history. Both chapters started with lofty fundraising goals and saw great success in their efforts. The Delta Chapter, which raises funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and the Swing Mission in the Bahamas, raised over $25,000. Theta Zeta was able to match Delta’s total as they also raised $25,000 which they donated to Clemson football coach Dabo Swinney’s All-In Team Foundation.

Not only was this year’s run successful financially, but the Sigma Nu Game Ball Run also gained a lot of publicity. Delta and Theta Zeta Philanthropy Chairmen, Jay Benton and Casey Johnson, were recognized on the field before the Clemson-Carolina football game.

“Going forward, our fraternity is incredibly excited to continue to work with Dabo’s All In Team Foundation to help provide hope and better opportunities to those in need,” said Casey Johnson. “As Coach Swinney said to our chapter after the run concluded last November, ‘you make a life by what you give.’ It is our sincere hope that we will be able to do this with the All-In Team Foundation for many years to come.”

“We are very proud of our efforts this year and look forward to seeing what the future holds for our signature philanthropy event,” added Jay Benton.
 Theta Kappa’s accomplishments have been especially noteworthy in light of its own crisis moment in 2013. In the spring semester of that year, the chapter was placed on alumni receivership and subsequently expelled 37 of its 56 members, leaving just 19 men to carry the chapter forward.

These 19 men committed to being something more; they committed to leading on campus, in the classroom, and in life. They knew social status would come once other problems were fixed. Brother Evan Winebarger, who served as the first post-reorganization Commander noted that, “With only 19 men, we were very limited in most aspects. However, we never became fixated on what we couldn’t do. Instead we focused on doing everything that we could to lay a solid foundation of excellence for future brothers.”

Under Winebarger’s leadership, Theta Kappa began to emphasize recruiting the right men. In the first semester after the reorganization, the 19 men remaining in the chapter recruited 19 candidates, doubling the chapter’s size. Brother Adam Clay, the first post-reorganization Recruitment Chairman, said, “We started utilizing values-based recruitment. We began to look for quality in the men that we recruited and considered what each man brought to the table before we ever extended a bid. We looked at their grades, leadership involvement in high school, and other personal qualities as well.”

A newfound importance was placed upon other previously neglected chapter programs as well. Most notably among these was the LEAD Program. Under the leadership of Brother Brian Griffin, who simultaneously served as the first post-reorganization LEAD Chairman and Philanthropy Chairman, the chapter began to excel in both arenas. Brother Griffin said, “We introduced a LEAD speaker series that really engaged alumni.”

The semester after the reorganization, nine Theta Kappa alumni conducted LEAD sessions on various topics including risk reduction, values based leadership, and local chapter history, among others. This was a valuable educational experience and it led to reengagement of alumni that had not been involved for years. Many alumni guest facilitators later became involved with the Alumni Advisory Board.

During the spring 2014 semester, the entire chapter board ed a charter bus to make the eight hour drive to Lexington to see the place where the Fraternity was founded. In addition to touring headquarters and staying on the grounds in the Carriage House, the chapter had the unique opportunity of initiating the spring 2014 candidate class in the Alpha Room. “Going to Lexington and seeing so many things sacred to Sigma Nu really brought everything we had learned in the year after the reorganization to life. It gave us a real perspective of the past.”
said Brother Eric Degen, Commander at the time.

Through their pursuit of excellence and commitment to living their values, Theta Kappa is poised to become one of the elite fraternity chapters in the nation. With greatly improved chapter operations, a membership of 65 men, and a newfound top tier social status on campus, the future looks bright for Theta Kappa. The chapter’s new goals are further strengthening its operations and continuing to live in the life of Love, walk in the way of Honor, and serve in the light of Truth.

**Georgia State**

The Greek Awards Banquet this year went extremely well as Eta Gamma was named Chapter of the Year as well as Most Philanthropic. The chapter has raised a large amount of money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Currently, the chapter is getting ready for its 5th Annual Sigma Nu Smoke Out benefitting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and it anticipates raising around $15,000. With the help of alumni, brothers, the GSU Greek community, and sponsoring affiliates, this year’s event is expected to be the most successful yet.

Eta Gamma has recruited eight new members for the spring 2015 semester. These candidates have shown outstanding growth and dedication to the chapter. The class has accumulated around 1,000 hours of community service participating in various events such as the candidate class’s BBQ Cookout. They also managed communication lines with the brothers at the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital Radiothon event in Atlanta.

The chapter used LEAD sessions from Phases I-IV and has used several guest speakers. One of the speakers was an attorney who spoke about risk and crisis management programming. Other guests consisted of campus administrators to project directors at major firms in the Atlanta area. In one session, the chapter was joined by Alpha Xi Delta.

This semester the brothers participated in various philanthropy events hosted by other organizations within the Greek Community. Eta Gamma brothers were runners-up in Phi Mu’s Spring Fling Week and Alpha Xi Delta’s Xi Marks the Spot event. These events raised money for Autism Speaks and Children’s Miracle Network.

Eta Gamma’s alumni relations efforts have shown dramatic improvement as it has become routine to invite alumni to chapter events and initiatives.

**Georgia Tech**

Gamma Alpha had a very successful
spring semester after welcoming 22 newly initiated brothers last fall. The chapter hosted a bystander awareness seminar for Georgia Tech to inform students about the bystander effect and to teach proper emergency response. The chapter also provided a free CPR class to all campus Greeks.

In April, Gamma Alpha raised over $4,000 for Team Clark and Kickin’ it for a Cure by hosting a charity band party. Team Clark supports a Kappa Sigma at Georgia Tech who suffered severe brain damage upon falling from his loft, and Kickin’ it for a Cure helps a brother at the University of Iowa, who was diagnosed with stage three brain cancer.

Gamma Alpha also volunteered 60 brothers at the Atlanta Steeple Chase, which benefits the Atlanta Speech School, continuing a chapter tradition that has lasted over 20 years.

**Hampden-Sydney**

This winter, the college’s board of trustees and president recognized Eta Pi Brother Worth Osgood. During the previous summer, Osgood pulled a man to safety from an overturned tractor-trailer on I-95 near Richmond, Va. Risking exposure to open fuel, Osgood pulled the driver out of danger by hitting out pieces of broken glass from the windshield. Many local media outlets covered the story and labeled Osgood a hero.

Last fall, Eta Pi Brother and men’s soccer member Ryan Turner was awarded the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) Rookie of the Year and the Virginia State Rookie of the Year, in addition to a Second-Team All ODAC selection. He led all freshmen in the ODAC in points (18) and goals (7). Turner’s 18 points were good for fourth overall in the ODAC while his seven goals are tied for third. In ODAC-only games, he checked in second in points (15) and goals (6).

Additionally on the All ODAC Second-Team was Eta Pi Brother James Lawrence. Lawrence totaled 13 points, five goals, and three assists. His five goals ranked him 10th in the ODAC, and he also had the third-most game-winning tallies in the league with three.

Both Blake Carrey and William Boinest shared the Manager of the Year award for their vital assistance with the men’s soccer program. After countless hours of work behind the scenes, Carrey and Boinest were recognized during the annual sports banquet. On Saturday, April 11, the Eta Pi Chapter held their annual Greek Week Pig Roast. Over 200 people in attendance enjoyed food, drinks, and a performance by The Rhondels. All proceeds were donated to Habitat for Humanity.

The planning for Eta Pi Chapter’s 50th anniversary is underway and the chapter is excited to contact and work with alumni in order to put on the best event possible.

**Huntingdon**

Nu Beta Chapter had a successful academic year including many chapter and individual accolades. Last fall, Nu Beta won the All-Greek Homecoming Spirit Cup. Brothers Jeremiah Stone, Malone Kaak, and Tristan Thompson were elected to IFC as president, vice president of administration, and vice president of finance, respectively.

Nu Beta Chapter also received awards at the annual Greek Awards Banquet for Outstanding Membership Programming, Outstanding Alumni Relations and Communication, and National Publication Recognition. Brother Harden Spencer received Greek Man of the Year and Brother Miles Barnhardt received Future Fraternity Leader.

**Indiana**

This spring, Beta Eta hosted its third annual Greek Bowl flag football philanthropy, raising funds for Middle Way House in Bloomington. About $3,500 has been raised over the past year for the cause. The chapter raised a total of more than $18,000 since beginning the Greek Bowl philanthropy three years ago.

Middle Way House is an organization based in Bloomington dedicated to ending violence in the lives of women and children. “We wanted to give back to Bloomington
“on a local level,” said Beta Eta Philanthropy Chairman Brett Krieg.

The chapter raised funds through a combination of canning on campus, online donations, and buy-ins from the teams participating in the tournament. This year, ten fraternities participated. “We do this to give back, but it is also a lot of fun,” Krieg said. “It’s just friendly competition.”

Jacksonville State
Commander Kenneth Smith was named president of SEIFC this spring semester and Brother Tyler Brown was named Big Man on Campus by the Jacksonville State Zeta Tau Alpha chapter.

The chapter also celebrated its 40th anniversary on April 11 at the Anniston Country Club.

James Madison
Brother Zach Bolan (Iota Delta 721) was awarded James Madison University’s Fraternity Man of the Year for 2014, after completing his term as IFC president. The chapter also raised over $5,000 for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital as part of its Rock Week philanthropy.

Kansas
Nu Chapter was honored to receive several awards and recognitions this spring. The chapter was presented with the Elizabeth Watkins Community Caring Award by the Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The award was presented as appreciation for the chapter’s commitment to service.

UC Davis Sigma Nu

Co-Founds Latin American Film Series

Founded to increase the appreciation of Latin American arts and culture, the Crisol Latin American Film Initiative showcases Spanish language cinema and a variety of artistic mediums that highlight the similarities between Latinos and their non-Latino peers. The Film Initiative, co-founded by Brother Juan-Paulo Varela (UC Davis), hosted its inaugural run over four weekends beginning Saturday, March 14 through Friday, April 3, 2015.

All screenings were held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Varela serves as the program director, while co-founder Karem Orrego, a fourth year film student at the University of Utah, serves as executive director. When asked why he co-founded the Film Initiative, Varela said he wanted to create a platform through which Latin American arts and culture could be both appreciated and critically examined in the context of shifting demographics in the United States.

“Crisol is an olive branch similar to the fraternal love that we as Sigma Nus experience — we want to extinguish tired stereotypes and elucidate a modern Latin America in juxtaposition with the United States,” he said.

The Crisol Film Initiative was seen by a wide audience with prominent attendees including University of Utah administrators, such as the dean and several department chairs of the College of Fine Arts. Likewise, Utah State Senator Luz Escamilla and Utah State Representative Angela Romero attended the closing reception along with leading members of Salt Lake’s arts and culture community at the Urban Arts Gallery in downtown Salt Lake.

To accomplish Crisol’s mission, Varela was engaged with both leading individuals and organizations within Salt Lake’s political, artistic, and cultural spheres over the past six months. The Sundance Film Festival, held in Salt Lake City, helps create a receptive attitude towards artistic endeavors but also creates a competitive market for funding and recognition. As such, Varela and the team at Crisol worked diligently to gain the necessary support making Crisol a reality.

Following a successful inaugural run, Crisol’s sponsors and donors have pledged continued support for the film initiative which Varela hopes will continue as an annual event. Alternatively, the team at Crisol is weighing offers from two of the leading arts festivals in Utah to merge Crisol with their events.

In either case, Varela was excited to promote the arts and enhance the quality of life in Utah through the production of the Crisol Latin American Film Initiative.

Both Varela and Orrego have been approached about additional leadership opportunities within the Latin American and arts communities in Salt Lake. Verela has accepted a board member position on Utah’s chapter of the National Council of La Raza and will also be involved in the Utah Art Alliance’s Executive Planning Committee.
and volunteering at many of the hospital’s events over the last six years. The chapter is proud of being the first fraternity to ever receive the award.

At this spring’s Greek awards banquet, Brother Nathan Lutz was named Outstanding New Member and the chapter received Excellence in Membership and Development, Risk Management and Legal Liability, and Leadership and Campus Engagement. Brother Sam Tanner (Nu 2393) is a member of the KU Rugby team. Although the University of Kansas doesn’t have an NCAA Division 1 rugby team, the Jayhawks still had a great season. They represented the United States in Ireland over spring break where Turner was one the Jayhawk’s top scorers.

**Kent State**

On November 2, Zeta Gamma Chapter invited former Major League Baseball and World Series Champion Jim Leyland to conduct a LEAD session on stress management and motivation. As part of a new initiative to improve alumni and professional relations for the chapter, past Commander Mark Gockowski invited Leyland to speak to Zeta Gamma. Leyland created a presentation comparing a Major League Baseball organization to a fraternity chapter and giving leadership advice on how to handle prolonged stress. Leyland drew an analogy between motivating baseball teams through a long season to motivating a fraternity chapter through a long school year.

**Louisiana Lafayette**

This spring, the Eta Nu Chapter won first place in Greek week. As part of the festivities, Brother Cameron Haddad (Eta Nu 1092) was given the award New Greek Male of The Year. Brother Haddad also participated in Phi Mu’s annual philanthropy event, Big Man on Campus, and won Mr. Money Maker, Mr. Sexy Legs, and Mr. Congeniality.

Eta Nu alumni held a reunion weekend on March 6-7 which was attended by close to 60 alumni. The collegiate chapter supported the reunion by hosting a BBQ.

**Louisiana Tech**

During the 2014-15 academic year, Eta Zeta Chapter had a total of 87 collegiate members with the highest pin being Eta Zeta 1247.

Each year, the chapter holds a LEAD session led by the Alumni Commander, **Stanley Dupuy**. Local alumni participate in this session, sharing their wisdom and experience with the collegiate chapter and new candidates. This is a great opportunity for the chapter to meet older alumni and gain advice and insight on ways to better the chapter.

This year was the third consecutive year for Eta Zeta to win Greek week. In previous years of Eta Zeta’s history, fraternities competed for the All-Sports trophy. The Eta Zeta Chapter won 27 out of the 31 All-Sports championships, which ultimately led to the dissipation of the sports competition. Greek week, which involves philanthropy events, sports competition, and campus-wide events, was created in lieu of the All-Sports championship. Eta Zeta has won every Greek week since it began.

This year, Eta Zeta held a car wash benefitting SFC Tammie Riggs. Tammie, a soldier in the Louisiana National Guard, a mother of two, and a wife to a soldier in the National Guard, is being treated at MD Anderson, undergoing her second stem cell transplant. Eta Zeta Chapter raised over $3,000 to help pay for medical expenses for Tammie.

Eta Zeta is preparing for its annual crawfish boil benefitting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. This event was started in 2000 by Dr. Allen Torey, a past Commander, and has become a tradition ever since. Last year the chapter raised over $7,500. This year, with an increase in manpower, the chapter has set a goal to raise over $9,000.

Each year, the chapter hosts an alumni and parent brunch before the homecoming football game. After the game, parents and alumni attend a social gathering back at the chapter house. The chapter is proud to have been holding these events since its founding in 1961.

**Joe Reyes** is planning an alumni event with his pledge class in the fall, which would allow the collegiate chapter to meet older alumni, gain wisdom and hear some of their stories from the chapter in its earlier days. The Alumni Advisory Board consists of **Stanley Dupuy** (president), **Chris Stegall**, **John Morgan**, and **Chris Barr**. Alumni advisors include **Lomax Napper** and **Trey Twilligear**.

**Michigan State**

The brothers of Epsilon Rho won this spring’s intramural basketball championship, triumphing over FIJI 39-18 in the championship game.

**Middle Tennessee State**

Reese Osborne is the current IFC vice president of community relations. In this position, Osborne monitors IFC social media accounts and develops marketing materials to be used in recruitment and other IFC initiatives. “Being a part of IFC is a great challenge that I was prepared for by joining Sigma Nu and I love being able to represent our chapter on the executive board,” said Osborne speaking about his experience.

**Midwestern State**

Eta Upsilon completed over 300 hours of service to the community of Wichita Falls, Texas, with only 20 members. The service consisted of working with a local food bank, helping with an annual Halloween festival, and working with the intellectually disabled community.

This semester, the chapter created the philanthropy event, Dodge for a Cause. This event was a coed dodgeball tournament to benefit a local group of people with intellectual disabilities. Over $1,300 was raised in signups and donations. This event was led by Commander **Trey Twilligear**.
Minnesota

The 2014-2015 academic year has been very exciting for Gamma Tau Chapter in terms of philanthropy, campus involvement, and national awards. The excitement began with Gamma Tau receiving its fifth consecutive Rock Chapter Award at the 66th Grand Chapter in July.

“Gamma Tau’s proudest accolade is the North American Interfraternity Conference Chapter Award of Distinction.”

The heightened morale from attaining a decade of excellence motivated the chapter to continue this trend with Border Battle, the largest philanthropy event of the fall 2014 semester. Gamma Tau’s donations increased by 33% from last year for a total of nearly $6,500, which is the largest sum the chapter has ever donated at Border Battle. With the help of Beta Epsilon Chapter at Coe College, Lambda Delta Chapter at Mankato, and Eta Theta Chapter at North Dakota State University, Gamma Tau was able to raise a grand total of $10,926 for St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

San Jose State

Brother Veeral Sarhad was named Fraternity Man of the Year at San Jose State University. Brother Sarhad currently serves as the Commander of Zeta Iota and the vice president of philanthropy for San Jose State’s IFC.
Gamma Tau also strives to be involved in all areas of campus life. Lieutenant Commander Nicholas Ohren has been selected as a Freshman Orientation Leader and will facilitate the transition of incoming freshmen. The chapter has also increased involvement in the Greek community with two brothers elected to the executive council of the IFC. Brother Fred Werner was elected executive vice president and Brother Jacob Iveland was elected vice president for member development, with both brothers taking office in December.

The spring semester has continued to be productive with Gamma Tau winning three awards at the University of Minnesota Greek Awards 2015: Outstanding Membership Program, Outstanding Community Service Program, and Chapter of Excellence. The most notable spring philanthropy event has been the first ever Snuzapalooza. In collaboration with Memorial Blood Centers and Love Your Melon, 40 blood donations were made for recipients in need and $400 was raised to benefit pediatric cancer patients.

Of all the achievements and progress Gamma Tau has made this year, its proudest accolade is the North-American Interfraternity Conference Chapter Award of Distinction awarded to the chapter in March. Gamma Tau is honored to be a Sigma Nu chapter nationally recognized for its efforts, and will continue to strive for excellence in the years to come.

Mississippi

Epsilon Xi had a busy year with many brothers participating in athletics, leadership, and other campus activities. Brothers Ben Still and Connor Harris both were a part of Ole Miss’ Division I athletic teams. Still, an offensive lineman for the football team, was a starter and played in 12 of the Rebel’s games. Harris is a freshman on the Ole Miss track team and is a pole vaulter. Brother Loden Walker was elected Associated Student Body (ASB) attorney general for the 2015-2016 school year. Davis Rogers, the outgoing student body president, was one of ten students inducted into the University of Mississippi’s hall of fame.

Epsilon Xi held its 26th annual Charity Bowl March 27. This year’s recipient was 17-year-old Marcus Banks of Louisville, Miss., who suffered a spinal cord injury playing high school football. The chapter presented Marcus Banks and his family with a check for $75,000 to help him and his family with rehabilitation and secondary education cost. Epsilon Xi has raised over $1.6 million for Charity Bowl recipients over the last 26 years. Epsilon Xi also donated $25,000 to the Blair E. Batson Children’s Hospital out of Jackson, Miss., on November 1, 2014. Past Mississippi State Rep. Tim Ford entered Chapter Eternal on February 27, in Oxford. Brother Ford was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1980 and served as speaker form 1988 to 2004. Ford is credited with providing leadership when the legislative body was experiencing a period of hotly contested political battles. In a recent Clarion Ledger obituary, columnist Sid Salter remembered Rep. Ford as a good-natured politician with a special skill for uniting various coalitions within the Mississippi House. “I found Ford to be genuine and a man of his word,” Salter said in his piece. “Ford left Mississippi better than he found it when he entered public service — and that’s a powerful legacy.”

Mississippi State

On April 6, the Iota Gamma Chapter hosted Sigma CaNu, its spring philanthropy event benefitting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Starkville Habitat for Humanity. Six sororities and one fraternity participated in the canoe races held at Chadwick Lake. This was the first Sigma CaNu sponsored by the Iota Gamma Chapter, but the chapter looks forward to growing the event and sponsoring it for many years to come.

Missouri

The Rho Chapter revamped its philanthropy this year with its first annual Sigma...
in an article than ran on USA Today's college page. Stout, who was quoted about his Greek experience, had several insightful comments.

Stout described how he views his Greek experience in light of national controversies surrounding Greek life. "If I ever get any kind of negative feedback, I usually just steer the conversation in the direction of how many great things (Greek life) has done for the Springfield community," says Stout. "I am constantly impressed with how our [Greek] community is able to come together."

**Missouri S&T**

The Gamma Xi Chapter won the intramural flag football championship this past fall which capped a great year of intramurals.

**Montana**

Alumnus Brian Hutton (Gamma Phi 1918), a 2007 Montana graduate, received the Army Commendation Medal for Valor on September 10, 2013. Hutton received his commendation for action during May 4–7, 2013, while deployed in Afghanistan. Over these four days, Hutton’s team was engaged in eight different engagements with enemy forces. During these firefightS, Hutton successfully led his team to complete their assigned missions.

**Missouri State**

Brother Cody Stout was recently featured in an article that ran on USA Today's college page. Stout, who was quoted about his Greek experience, had several insightful comments.

Stout described how he views his Greek experience in light of national controversies surrounding Greek life. "If I ever get any kind of negative feedback, I usually just steer the conversation in the direction of how many great things (Greek life) has done for the Springfield community," says Stout. "I am constantly impressed with how our [Greek] community is able to come together."

**“Rodney Draper was presented with the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor by Vice President Joe Biden”**

The Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor is the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer who exhibits "exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness, presence of mind and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her personal safety, in an attempt to save or protect human life."

**Montana State**

The Zeta Nu Colony has doubled in size during the fall 2014 semester, from 11 to 24 members, and had the 2nd highest cumulative GPA of the seven fraternities on campus. Last year Zeta Nu had the 3rd highest cumulative GPA and won the fraternity award for Overall Excellence in Intramural Athletics from the 2014 Greek Awards Ceremony in the spring semester and completed 675 hours of community service over the year.

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**Mount Union**

In early November, Beta Iota Chapter honored Brother George Weimer, longtime advisor to the Beta Iota Chapter, with a surprise party and the announcement of the George Weimer Sigma Nu Prize at Mount Union. This award will be given to the Commander of Beta Iota each year.

Additionally, the collegiate chapter members have purchased a brick in the Pathway of Honor at Sigma Nu Headquarters with Weimer’s name and badge number to honor his long-standing commitment to the chapter. Mount Union made a special tribute video that was shown at the surprise party.

**New Hampshire**

On April 11, the Iota Sigma Chapter hosted their 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt. Brothers invited residents from all over the community to come enjoy the event and each participant was asked to donate a non-perishable food item.

The chapter was able to donate over 1,000 non-perishable food items to the St. Thomas Moore Parish’s food pantry (who also happens to be the chapter’s next door neighbor). They also gave away 1,000 eggs stuffed with candy to participants. Some lucky participants found prize tickets in their eggs and came away with great gifts, including one new bike!

The Iota Sigma Chapter is very happy with the turnout at this growing event and looks forward to
Brothers of the Lambda Upsilon Chapter recite the Creed together at the chapter’s 25th anniversary celebration.

At the end of the fall, Lambda Upsilon celebrated its 25th anniversary. At the celebration, the chapter raised over $4,000 in pledges to the Lambda Upsilon scholarship account. The chapter would especially like to thank Vice Regent Jordan Wu (Cal Poly Pomona), Joe Baxter, and Joe Lopez for participating and supporting the event as well.

“Having the opportunity to reconnect to our alumni base, especially our founding fathers has created momentum for our chapter. Alumni relations have improved drastically leading to better chapter morale,” said Lambda Upsilon Reporter Gustavo Flores speaking about the event.

During last fall’s Five Star Awards Ceremony - an award banquet for Fullerton fraternities and sororities – the brothers of Lambda Upsilon took home the Educational Program of the Year, Community Relations Program of the Year, and Alumni Relations Program of the Year. Brother Alexander Foy also received Greek Man and Greek Leader of the Year. ★

seeing it grow in the years to come.

North Carolina State

On April 19, brothers of the Beta Tau Chapter hosted their annual head-shaving event to benefit the St. Baldrick’s Foundation for childhood cancer research. So far, the chapter has raised nearly $20,000 for the foundation and several brothers have freshly shaven heads. “Only 3 to 4 percent of the funding for general cancer goes towards childhood cancer, so we’re really trying to spread awareness of childhood cancer and get the word out,” said Brother Brett Birnberg to the student newspaper. “The hair - that’s temporary. The money can go toward a future, and that’s what we care about.”

This fall, Beta Tau Chapter hosted Mike Dilbeck (Texas Christian) who spoke to the chapter and other NC State student groups on the topic of responsible leadership and bystander intervention. Dilbeck is a nationally renowned speaker on the topics of leadership and the ability of individuals to prevent drug and alcohol abuse, hazing, sexual assault, and violence.

The title of the presentation was Response Ability: The Revolution in Courageous Leadership. During Mike’s presentation he discussed what it means to be a responsible leader, shared stories of his own experiences with leadership, and stories of students he has met throughout his career as a speaker.

Along with Beta Tau Chapter, many other student groups, fraternities, and sororities attended the event, and filled the 400 person auditorium. Many of the student groups were co-sponsors of the event and contributed to raising the $4,400 necessary to cover expenses for the event and venue.

The event was a huge success, and the chapter and fellow sponsors were all very pleased with the outcome of the program.

North Dakota

This fall, the Epsilon Kappa Alumni Advisory Board and newly elected collegiate officers held an all-day, off site transition retreat. The day consisted of reviewing expectations for the upcoming year, reviewing the roles and responsibilities of the new officer positions, and some basic training on leadership. There were also several communication and leadership activities facilitated by the alumni.

North Georgia

The Brothers of Kappa Chapter had the honor of welcoming the Gamma Omega Chapter of Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority onto the University of North Georgia’s campus at their chartering reception Saturday, April 11, by presenting them with a check of $213.

The Ladies of Delta Phi Epsilon won Sigma Nu’s Penny War Challenge by helping contribute over $112.50 in change, which Kappa Chapter matched by giving back fifty percent to go to the philanthropy of their choosing.

Northern Arizona

On March 28, Eta Iota hosted a 5k benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. The run was a great success and was captured on video by Brother Connor Swann. The camera work was especially innovative as it was filmed using a drone.

Northern Illinois

Theta Eta Commander Nathan Lupstein has been elected president of Northern Illinois University’s student body. “We’re really happy about the results of the election and we’re excited to...
start working with the students,” Lupstein told Northern Illinois’ student newspaper.

Alumnus Brett White, a private wealth advisor with Ameriprise Financial in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. was named to the list of “FT 400 US Financial Advisors 2015” published by the Financial Times. The annual list recognizes the most outstanding financial advisors who represent the highest levels of ethical standards, professionalism, and success in the business.

To receive the award, a wealth manager must meet six criteria associated with quality client service, client assets under management, professional designations, favorable regulatory history, online accessibility, and a minimum of ten years in the industry. The rankings are based on data provided by brokerage firms, private banks, registered investment advisers, and research by the Financial Times by over 1,500 of the nation’s most productive advisors.

Northwestern

On March 6-8, brothers and candidates of Gamma Beta Chapter teamed with Kappa Delta Sorority for the 41st Northwestern University Dance Marathon. The beneficiary of this year’s 30 hour event was the Starlight Children’s Foundation, which provides services to chronically ill children.

This was the second year Sigma Nu participated in the event since returning to campus and the second time partnering with Kappa Delta. The team raised nearly $10,000 more than last year with a total of $37,792 raised, second only to the team of Delta Delta Delta and Sigma Alpha Epsilon for medium sized groups. This year NUDM, raised over $1.1 million for Starlight, which hopes to build 10 Starlight Sites, places in hospitals for kids to play and socialize away from doctors, shots, IVs, and treatment areas.

Around 20 Sigma Nu brothers and candidates participated in the Dance Marathon, all of whom had to raise $400 to dance. Brothers Craig Herdle and Connor Smith organized the team throughout the year and pushed fundraising efforts alongside Samantha Sterling and Rae Onders of Kappa Delta.

Sigma Nu was extremely motivated after getting to know their hero Ella Joy and her family. Ella Joy suffers from stage 4 cancer, but is a bundle of energy. The chapter hosted a dinner for her and her family at the house to get to know her story and how Starlight has helped her. The team celebrated Block 9 of the marathon dancing with Ella Joy!

The chapter competed in weekly trivia challenges, a campus food competition called Top Chef, made a “Why We Dance” promotional video, went canvassing for money in Evanston, and contacted alumni for donations among other things.

The chapter hosted Sigma Nuggets, a food philanthropy selling late night nuggets and fries, with nearly $2,500 raised for DM there. Several dancers also were involved in the organizing committees for the event.

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The chapter found the brotherhood inclusion session necessary because several brothers have expressed uncomfortable feelings about the words other brothers have said. It was important to hold this session because it raised awareness about the fact that even good intentions, the impact
Northwestern State

Mu Rho had a car wash to help raise money for a friend of Mu Rho’s. Josh Walker, 19, was recently diagnosed with Burkitts Lymphoma and is now at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Josh is showing progress and has a great attitude and is staying positive. The car wash helped to raise $700 for his expenses.

Oregon

The Gamma Zeta Chapter of University of Oregon has recently acquired a chapter house and has started the process of moving in. A chapter house is a big commitment but as a growing chapter, Gamma Zeta felt the time was right.

The chapter was contacted by the president of Sigma Pi Fraternity -- which needed to minimize expenses -- about the possibility of moving into their house. Considering Gamma Zeta’s growing size and ambition, acquiring a house was a natural next step. There were a lot of people involved in the process, notably Dan McCarthy, Tony Green, Kevin Reusch, Charlie Ekhlad, Spencer Timm, and Tyler Markgraff.

Pennsylvania

Brother Andrew Gegios was recently featured in The Daily Pennsylvanian for his work as the debate team coach for the Science Leadership Academy (SLA) a Philadelphia high school. Under Gegios’ leadership the team had great success by growing from 12 to 30 students and sending a pair of debaters to a national tournament.

Gegios holds four hours of debate practice per week at SLA and attends weekend tournaments with members of the team. However, the team’s increased dedication to debate has less to do with his own ambition and more to do with that of his students, Gegios told the paper.

Beta Rho Chapter had one of its most successful recruitment periods in recent memory, initiating a candidate class of 21 this past spring. Not only is this class large in size, but its members embody the ideals of Sigma Nu and have great ambition. They have already coordinated with other chapters and run multiple community service events. The class has a lot planned going forward.

In addition, the chapter has been well represented in campus leadership positions this year. Beta Rho’s former Recruitment Chair Josh-Chicote served as the vice president of the Undergraduate Assembly, the representative branch of Penn’s student government. Devin Grossman served as the chair of the nominations and elections committee, which oversees the entire student government. Furthermore, former Treasurer Akhilesh Goswami served as the president of the International Affairs Association, the largest student organization on Penn’s campus.

Lastly, Beta Rho’s Scholarship Chairman Rahul Gupta has gone above and beyond his fraternal duties by founding Access Engineering, an organization that teaches engineering to less fortunate high
ALABAMA GOVERNOR ISSUES PROCLAMATION HONORING SIGMA NU

ALABAMA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE K.L. BROWN READ a proclamation on December 12, 2014, recognizing the chapters of Sigma Nu Fraternity in the state of Alabama. The proclamation, signed by Governor Robert Bentley, recognized the historic men’s fraternal organization as the only such group founded in direct opposition to hazing and rooted in the honor principle.

Earlier in 2014, Governor Bentley signed the proclamation declaring January 1, 2015 as “Sigma Nu Day” in Alabama. The proclamation was presented during a ceremony at 7:00 p.m. CT on the 11th floor of the Houston Cole Library on the Jacksonville State University campus.

Rep. Brown was joined by Sigma Nu alumni leadership including Sigma Nu Educational Foundation (SNEF) board member Ralph Moore (Jacksonville State), past High Council member Austin Landry (Louisiana Lafayette/Birmingham-Southern), and SNEF Chairman Joe Gilman (Morehead State/Georgia). Dr. William A Meehan, president of Jacksonville State University, was also in attendance.

The story behind the proclamation is a testament to the strong student leadership that has come to define Sigma Nu Fraternity. Commander Kenneth Smith, a political science major, originally proposed the idea to Rep. Brown. “I wanted to do something different to celebrate Sigma Nu and our Founders’ Day for 2015,” Kenneth said. “With everything going on in higher education right now I know elected officials and other public servants like to hear from younger college students."

“This proclamation reaffirms the ideals Sigma Nu stands for at the campuses where we have chapters and in the communities where our alumni live,” Kenneth continued. “To some this might seem like merely words on a paper. But I’m glad I get to live out these high ideals and hold this brotherhood close to my heart.” ♦
Unfortunately, Delta Delta Chapter had to remove one of the large elm trees that stood on the property for many years. “After providing aesthetics and shade for many years, our big elm tree at the north end of the house came down, a victim of Dutch Elm disease,” said Ed Sidwell of Delta Delta’s House Corporation.

Penn College

The Nu Gamma Chapter at the Pennsylvania College of Technology hosted their 2nd annual Car Show on May 2. This car show will have food and games such as, ladder golf, corn hole, and can jam. The chapter is expecting car dealerships and businesses to attend and donate prizes for the show. It is also expecting to have many students and the general public attend.

Nu Gamma Chapter also received the Greek Academic Achievement Award that is given to the fraternity with the highest overall GPA every year.

Philadelphia

On Sunday, December 7, 2014, brothers from the Mu Pi Chapter gathered on the campus of Philadelphia University to celebrate the chapter’s anniversary and to remember Brother Michael D. Heyer, (Mu Pi 2) who tragically passed away in late September 2014. The brothers welcomed alumni, guests, and family members including a visit from Santa Clause.

The chapter thanks the members of the Alumni Advisory Board for their help in sponsoring the event: Brothers Murdocc Saunders, Josh Toth, Chapter Advisor: Keith Halpern, President of the Alumni Advisory Board Brian Dougherty, and President of the Mu Pi Alumni Chapter Dr. Sean P. Killion. In addition, the chapter also thanks Dr. Jason Lyons, Sigma Nu Educational Foundation Board member.

Rhodes

The Sigma Nu House Corporation of Memphis, legal owner of the Epsilon Sigma Chapter house located on Rhodes College grounds, was reinstated with the State of Tennessee in September 2014, after a 20-year period of inactivity. The Sigma Nu House Corporation of Memphis is working with the collegiate brothers of the Epsilon Sigma Chapter to develop a house improvement plan that includes repairs, renovations, and long-term maintenance.

Last fall, the Epsilon Sigma Chapter held a fish fry in memory of fallen brother, Virgil Starks. The philanthropy supported a scholarship fund and was a great success with music provided by The Flying Vs (Epsilon Sigma brothers) and the help of recent Chi-O sweetheart, Carolyln Starks, daughter of Virgil Starks. Epsilon Sigma collaborated with the Delta Delta Sorority to host the annual luau-fest celebration known as Sigma Luau as a joint philanthropic event. Three bands played during the afternoon while a Central BBQ food truck served lunch to those who bought tickets. The three bands were the Flying Vs, the Dumptruck Boys (consisting primarily of Epsilon Sigma brothers), and Live by Satellite (consisting of a Mu Beta brother) from Nashville, Tenn. Altogether, over $1,200 was donated to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Brother Bailey Kimmitt, former Commander (2013-2014), Brother Mason Levy, and Brother Andrew Tait have all been featured on Rhodes College’s front page this year. (www.rhodes.edu) Brother Mason Levy, graduating with a dual degree in physics and theatre, will be pursuing a masters in aerospace engineering at Georgia Tech University. NCAA athletes in Epsilon Sigma include Bailey Kimmitt (golf), Jimmie Stuckey (track), Nick Wang (football), Turner Kim (football), Jeremy Breddan (football), Sean Denby (football), Spencer Regelson (swimming), Jordan Williams (swimming), and Max Miller (swimming).

Rochester

Last fall, the Lambda Eta Chapter expanded on its annual hot wing eating contest and successfully raised over $1,000 for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. The hot wing eating contest is in its fifth year and now includes ghost pepper sauce on the wings in both the regular and final rounds.

With well over 300 in attendance, Sigma Nu filled up three levels in the University of Rochester’s student union building, Wilson Commons.

In addition to strong advertisement across social media and flyers, the chapter pitted entrants in a fundraising war against each other to win gift cards to local restaurants. This heated competition was especially successful in mobilizing the Greek community.

In the fall, the chapter plans to expand the event to include more activities and fundraising opportunities for non-entrants, as well as increase the number of people in the competition. The target for the 5th annual contest will be $1,500.

Several brothers have been selected for prestigious graduate school work. Brothers James Maslek (Lambda Eta 342) has been accepted at the University of Maryland to pursue a Ph.D. in quantum physics. Brother Johnson Trong (Lambda Eta 343) has been accepted at Georgetown to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry.

Lastly, Brother Dominick Schumacher (Lambda Eta 352) is captain of the University of Rochester varsity golf team.

Samford

Continuing with chapter tradition, Iota has many brothers participating in athletics this year. Iota football players included Warren Handrathan who handled primary place-kicking duties, Josh Killet who saw extensive action as a linebacker with 54 tackles on the season, Michael O’Neal who handled kick-off duty, and C.H. Scrugg who played in every Samford game as an offensive lineman. Iota also had ten other sophomore and freshman brothers on the football team.

Freshman Brother Alex Peters, a forward for the university’s basketball team, played in 31 of 32 of the team’s games. Sophomore Brother Chris Thrasher competed in pole vault for the Samford men’s track and field team. Brothers Josh Baker, Peyton Morris, Chase Owen, Matt Reid, and Hogan Whitmire were members of the Samford women’s basketball official practice team.

The chapter also partnered with Samford University and Samford Greek life and have agreed to sign the It’s On Us pledge to educate members about sexual assault and to take action against it.
Southern California
This past spring, Epsilon Omicron Chapter participated in the University of Southern California’s first wheelchair basketball tournament to bring awareness to disability access on campus.

The chapter partnered with USC Trojan Pride and USC Undergraduate Student Government (USG) to make the tournament possible. Over 200 USC students participated in the event, including USG president Rini Sampath and USG vice president Jordan Fowler.

The Epsilon Omicron Chapter has strong ties to the USC Undergraduate Student Government, with several brothers having held leadership positions in the organization. Participating in the event helped in reaffirm Epsilon Omicron’s strong commitment to giving back to the Trojan community.

As a chapter, Epsilon Omicron helped publicize the tournament on social media to help the new event attain high participation from USC students and other campus organizations. The team that the chapter fielded is proud to have helped make such a rewarding event possible. The chapter plans to continue working with the USC community to raise disability awareness and advocate for increased campus access for disabled Trojans.

Southern Poly
The Iota Pi Chapter at Southern Polytechnic State University is in an interesting position for the next year. Two universities, Kennesaw State University (KSU) and Southern Polytechnic State University (SPSU) have been merging over the last year after the Georgia Board of Regents ordered consolidation. The universities will be fully consolidated by the fall semester.

After hearing about the consolidation, several brothers of the SPSU chapter rose to leadership positions on campus. Brother Alex Harrington was elected as SGA president. Through this position he coordinated with consolidation groups to maintain a strong position for all students of SPSU going into the merger. As SGA president, Alex motivated students, worked on committees to consolidate varying aspects of the universities, helped organizations bridge the gaps with their counterparts, and put an emphasis on securing the traditions that are crucial at both institutions.

Alex also helped and encouraged Brother Andrew Benjamin to campaign for SGA senator of the Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology at the new university, and Andrew was successfully elected.

Brother Matt Lee, a current RA at SPSU, helped in the founding of the SPSU chapter of Cru and is its first president. Cru is a national collegiate Christian organization on several campuses whose mission is to enlighten students about Christ. When asked why Matt started the chapter he stated, “Throughout life we have opportunities to give back to the world and I do not want to live a life knowing that I could have done more for others.” Matt Lee’s position is beneficial through the consolidation to show the values of the Iota Pi Chapter to both campuses, setting Iota Pi apart from the other organizations already in place at the new Kennesaw State University.

The IFC president, Brother David-Luc Graap, was reelected and additionally Brother Stephen Reed was elected IFC vice president of recruit-
Iota Pi Chapter can maintain their tradition of excellence at the new, consolidated Kennesaw State University.

Stanford

In an event titled “Defining Manhood: What Can Men at Stanford Do?” Stanford President John Hennessy and Vice Provost Harry Elam spoke at the Beta Chi house on March 10, along with Hoover Fellow Joseph Felter Ph.D. and Associate Professor of Sociology Robb Willer.

The panel concluded the “Fraternity engagement with gender issues: to know, to understand, to act” speaker series held by Beta Chi in collaboration with the Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. The four-part series was designed to engage the fraternity and Stanford community members with gender issues. Sigma Nu decided to create the series following discussions in the fall about the role of fraternity members in sexual assault issues across campuses nationally.

“Stanford will offer a for-credit speaker series class at the Beta Chi chapter house.”

Past Commander Patrick Cirenza moderated the event and prompted the discussion with questions, followed by questions.
from the audience. Next year, Stanford will offer a for-credit speaker series class at the Beta Chi chapter house.

Stevens

The Stevens’ men’s volleyball team, which boasts the reigning Sigma Nu Athlete of the Year Chris Vaughan and eight other Sigma Nu brothers, is currently ranked #1 in the AVCA poll which ranks Division III volleyball. This is the first time the men’s volleyball team has been ranked #1 in program history. Furthermore, the team finished the season with the top overall seed in the NCAA tournament for men’s volleyball. Stevens will host the tournament to be held April 18-26. In total, the Gamma Delta Chapter has 12 varsity athletes.

The chapter has had a very accomplished year. This spring, 15 candidates accepted bids. With these candidates, the Gamma Delta Chapter will be passing Gamma Delta 1400 less than six years after initiating Gamma Delta 1300.

Gamma Delta is especially proud of the achievements of its individual members. Brother Tyler Mackanin was awarded a maritime systems engineering master’s degree fellowship through the Department of Homeland Security.

Michael Cahill was selected as one of nine student volunteers for the Northeast Greek Leadership Association’s (NGLA) annual conference in Hartford, Conn. He helped with conference registration, introduced speakers, attended daily NGLA Conference staff meetings and monitored hotel hallways. Through this experience he learned about conference management and began understanding the magnitude of the national Greek-letter organization population. Most importantly, he started building a network with fellow fraternity and sorority students from all over the northeast, as well as higher education and fraternity professionals.

Past Commander Mark Scalzo and past Scholarship Chairman Anthony Montufar received scholarships from Order of Omega’s national office. Both have prominent positions in the Stevens’ Order of Omega chapter with Montufar serving as president and Scalzo as vice president. Also, Matt Daw is Order of Omega secretary.


Gamma Delta has 20 brothers graduating this spring term. Best wishes for future success to Brothers Michael Cahill, Chris Coyle, Matt Daw, Paul Dubuke, David Evans, Zachary Everett, Rob Galos, Tyler Mackanin, Mike Mccallion, Robert McLeod, Anthony Montufar, Luke Phillippi, Mark Scalzo, Dylan Schlosser, Ryan Seifert, Robert Skowronski, Dan Smith, Julian Torres, Nick Villa, and Ben Yurcisin.

UC Davis

Zeta Xi has two NCAA collegiate athletes on the UC Davis baseball team: Daniel Gallagher and Elijah Ontiveros.

Brother Andrew Jones is working extensively with a committee to plan an Out of the Darkness walk to help raise awareness for sexual assault prevention.

UC San Diego

Since its inception on October 12, 1986, the Kappa Rho Chapter at UC San Diego has held the distinction of being the longest tenured fraternity on its campus. And now with 708 initiated members, Kappa Rho can boast that it has reached its 30th year anniversary with a celebration banquet that will take place on January 23, 2016.

Heading into Kappa Rho’s 30th year, the chapter had several notable accomplishments during the 2014-15 academic year.

Commander Blaid Burgess won President of the Year at UCSD’s Greek Awards on February 4, 2015. Emmanuel Lopes and Marco Rivera were also elected to UCSD’s IFC executive board. Lopes and Rivera will serve as the president and the vice president of service, respectively, for the 2015 calendar year.

During the week of October 20-24, 2014, Kappa Rho Chapter hosted their eighth annual philanthropy event, Trick or Treat for Hunger. With the help of the sororities at UCSD and the San Diego Community College, over 4,400 cans of food (the highest amount ever) were donated to Mama’s Kitchen, a community-driven organization located in San Diego, that provides food to men, women, and children affected by AIDS or cancer.

Kappa Rho Chapter hosted a sexual assault prevention workshop on January 25 with the help of Delta Gamma and UCSD’s CARE (Campus Advocacy, Resources, and Education) at the Sexual Assault Resource Center.

Several brothers of Kappa Rho helped launch UCSD’s new Greek organization, GUIDE (Greeks United for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity). This new organization partners with the Greek Life staff and UC San Diego community centers to advocate for inclusive recruitment practices, education about social justice and EDI issues, while heightening awareness of culture and equity-minded leadership.

After a strong first several months of the 2014-15 school year, the brothers of Kappa Rho look forward to adding to the list of accomplishments as they continue to plan for their upcoming 30th anniversary celebration in the winter of 2016.

Valdosta State

Mu Nu Chapter of Sigma Nu is pleased to report recent accomplishments awarded to the chapter.

The chapter was recognized by Valdosta State University as Chapter of the Year in 2014, which it had received in 2013 as well. The university also recognized Mu Nu with the Chapter of Merit Award and Excellence in Academics and Scholarship.

Mu Nu was also recently awarded Student Organization of the Year by Lowndes County for the chapter’s community service work with the Keep Lowndes and Valdosta Beautiful Program.

Mu Nu won Greek week, marking the 3rd year in a row and 11th Greek week championship overall since the chapter was founded at VSU in 1996. The chapter also won the men’s tug event at VSU in 2013 bringing to close a 40 year tradition at Valdosta State. Mu Nu was tug champion in 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2013.

The chapter participated in the VSU It’s On Us Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign in which two brothers helped make the PSA video, which was shown on campus at The Take Back the Night Sexual Assault Awareness Event. Lastly, the Mu Nu Chapter currently has the largest IFC chapter on campus and are looking forward to another great academic year.

Villanova

Kappa Zeta has been the spearhead on campus for NCOA Dance (a dance marathon) to raise money for the B+ Foundation for...
pediatric cancer. In just its second year, NOVAdance raised over $102,000 to help families of those with pediatric cancer and provide research grants. Kappa Zeta raised over $17,000. The majority of the brothers are on the executive committee of the fundraiser and hope to make it bigger next year.

During Villanova’s annual Greek awards, Kappa Zeta took home the awards for Recruitment, Chapter Operations and Chapter of the Year. In addition to these three awards, Kappa Zeta was nominated for almost every other category.

Washington

The brothers of Gamma Chi Chapter attended a career night featuring several distinguished chapter alumni from various fields. The event was a huge success, with an excellent keynote speech by Don James, the executive vice-president of operations for Nintendo. The night also featured a Q&A panel during which the chapter was able to ask questions of the alumni, as well as sessions hosted by each alumnus individually which focused on their specific career fields, allowing each brother to gain insight into the field he is interested in.

Washington & Lee

This winter, Lambda Chapter supported the largest collegiate team for Washington & Lee’s Relay for Life campaign. Lambda Chapter has been participating in this event for over a decade, consistently showing support for the American Cancer Society and its cause. Led by co-captains Socrates Manzoni and Bryce Zaremby, Lambda Chapter added 30 new members to its team, making it the largest at Washington & Lee University. The relay event is scheduled for May 14.

Lambda Chapter is extremely interested in community service and the advancement of just causes which exemplify the ideals of Sigma Nu. Helping with the battle against cancer through programs such as Relay for Life is a natural extension of not only the individual interests of the members of Lambda Chapter, but also the pursuits of Sigma Nu’s national organization as a whole.

Executive committee members of the Lambda Chapter took an active role in recruiting members for the team as well as seeking donations to support the cause. The chapter is close to hitting its $2,500 goal for this particular event and plans on continuing its support of the American Cancer Society in the future.

West Texas A&M

This fall, Eta Delta Chapter started a campaign for Pencils of Promise, an organization dedicated to furthering education of children in Guatemala, Ghana, Honduras, and Laos. So far, Eta Delta has hosted one event, a bake sale, and collected $451 for Pencils of Promise. The campaign is expected to last two years.

A candidate of Eta Delta Chapter, Julio Agustin Vaca, brought the initiative to the chapter’s attention, and the chapter decided to start the campaign. The chapter reached out to faculty and staff of West Texas A&M University and is promoting the campaign through social media. For more information about the campaign visit fundraise.pencils ofpromise.org/sigma nu.

West Virginia

This year, Gamma Pi has been a leader of changes on campus ever since Greek life was put on moratorium in November. The school ended the moratorium and Gamma Pi welcomed the new semester with its innovative bubble ball philanthropy. This philanthropy had participation from every sorority and was attended by university President Gordon Gee. The philanthropy made front page news in the Daily Athenaeum in Morgantown.

Gamma Pi has won every sorority’s philanthropy during this semester, including the Chi-Olympics and Kappa bowling. Continuing Gamma Pi’s tradition of leading change, the chapter was the only fraternity on campus to participate in the Dance Marathon where it raised $755.

Gamma Pi is also the only fraternity represented on the sexual assault advocates panel. This is a school organization of trained sexual assault peer advocates who help the victims of sexual assault and abuse cope with the aftermath. The panel will also discuss male perspectives on healthy masculinity as it relates to sexual assault prevention. Brother Chad Felix will represent the chapter on the panel that only consists of three male students. Gamma Pi brothers hold most of the IFC executive board positions, have the top two leadership positions in the military honor society, and five brothers in SGA. Along with four brothers in ROTC, and many other leadership positions all over campus, Gamma Pi has proven to be a chapter of leaders in both Greek life and on campus.

Brother Casey Henderson will be commissioned as an officer in the Air Force at the end of this semester and has earned a pilot slot. Brother Jon Salazar will commission as an officer in the Army at the end of next semester. Gamma Pi held a benefit concert to help raise funds for two brothers fighting cancer. The Steve Smith Band played for the concert, which was open to the public in addition to all Greek organizations. Brothers sold tickets and proceeds went directly to the families.

Western Kentucky

This year, Eta Rho Chapter and Phi Mu were partnered together for homecoming and instead of spending a large amount of money building a parade float, money was instead donated to the Buddy House of Bowling Green. The Buddy House is a local organization dedicated to helping individuals with autism. During the homecoming parade, the buddies rode along on the float in a show of solidarity with the Greek chapters and the Buddy House.

Brothers Hayden DeLozier, Tyler Megargel, and Allan Moreno participated in Walk A Mile In Her Shoes hosted by WKU’s IFC to bring awareness to sexual assault. All money raised stays in the Bowling Green area to help women who have been affected by sexual assault, rape, and gender violence.

The chapter raised $15,000 to dedicate the chapter house’s front porch in honor of two alumni that have entered Chapter Eternal. Both captains in the Marine Corps, Todd Travis and Roger Hinkle were honored with a plaque on the front port of the Eta Rho chapter home. Travis passed away while in service off the Mediterranean Sea in 1989 and Hinkle passed in 2014.

William Jewell

Brother Ron Kelley (William Jewell) was recently nominated for the Collegiate Wrestling Hall of Fame for his four years of undefeated collegiate wrestling during the late 1950s. Brother Kelley also serves as division commander in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for the district covering Lake of the Ozarks, St. Joseph, Independence, and Springfield, Mo.
CO-FOUNDED BY MITCH PURGASON (Appalachian State), Corner Tailors offers high-quality custom tailored suits at a fraction of the price of department store brands. Here Mitch answers questions about what it’s like to start a company while in school and what it has taught him about becoming a better leader.

What series of events led you to start the company?
The idea was brought up by one of our founders in a venture creation class we had together. It upset us that a high quality suit costs between $800-$1000 in the U.S. The alternative to a high quality suit is a suit from a generic outlet store. Outlet suits are affordable, but do not fit well or last. We wanted to give people the opportunity to buy a high quality suit for the price of a generic one. Appearance has a huge affect on first impressions; especially in an interview. Corner Tailors was started to help people on a budget look as good as the people hiring them.

What has starting a company taught you about leadership and getting things done?
Experience is the best teacher when it comes to leadership execution. Corner Tailors has taught me the value of communication and identifying objectives. To grow as a company, you have to set goals. To execute those goals you have to be able to communicate what needs to be done to your team. If your team doesn’t have a good understanding of the goal, or why it is important, you’re failing as a leader.

In what ways did Sigma Nu help prepare you to take on this endeavor?
Holding leadership positions has been pivotal in my development as an entrepreneur and person. Sigma Nu has helped me with organizational skills, public speaking, goal setting, and delegation. Sigma Nu has taught me that you can excel with honor and that the ends do not justify the means.

As commander, I had the privilege of attending College of Chapters in Roanoke this past January. One of my favorite sessions was the “Honor Panel” put on by James Doughty. The panel’s purpose was to show that “excelling with honor” is not just a phrase. Each man had to explain a situation where they chose “a harder right over an easier wrong.” This session impacted me greatly because it gave me real life examples of the integrity it takes to lead with conviction. I was so proud to call these men my brothers because of the sacrifices they made to make the honorable decision. Sigma Nu has provided me with a moral compass for making decisions, experience on when to make those decisions, and relationships to fall back on when I mess up those decisions.

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Taming the Data Beast

How an under-30 startup CEO is using big data to help Fortune 500 companies turn profits.

By Ben Nye (Arkansas) // Interview by Spencer Montgomery (South Florida)
Sigma Nu has helped Ryan Frazier (left) build DataRank. Along with several board of director members, DataRank employs Corben Young (right) a fellow Sigma Nu brother.
AS OF OCTOBER, 2014, DATARANK had been in its new office in Fayetteville, Ark., for a month. The office is modestly furnished, and has few flourishes and closed doors. Casually dressed workers input complex-looking code sequences into their desktops while seated at centrally located tables. There are no cubicles to be found.

The DataRank logo — a perky blue whale — occupies a prominent place in the office and offers a possible metaphorical interpretation to the company’s business model. Like a whale, DataRank swims comfortably through a sea of social media data and reemerges from the depths with useful analysis on consumer behavior. This unique business model driven by sophisticated algorithms has given the company a competitive advantage and has Fortune 500 clients lining up to pay for access.

Co-founder and CEO, 27-year-old Ryan Frazier (Arkansas), is perfectly comfortable in his role as a technology startup executive. Frazier’s low-key demeanor gives way to a keen entrepreneurial acumen that has caught the eye of investors and customers alike. Frazier and his young company have also gained attention from media outlets that cover startup news such as TechCrunch, Forbes, and Mashable.

Like many entrepreneurs seeking to keep costs down, Frazier has been a jack of all trades to ensure the success of his young startup. When the company moved into its first office in 2013, Frazier and his team moved all of the furniture themselves. “These tables,” indicates Frazier seated at a long, wooden table “are incredibly heavy as you can imagine.” With its most recent move, DataRank paid for movers.

It’s the second office in less than a year for the startup founded in October 2011 — the third, if counting the large house that the company’s founders lived in together. “When dirty dishes are slowing down business development or creating feuds within your coworkers, that’s not an ideal situation,” Frazier recalled.

The new office came towards the end of what proved a banner year for the three-year-old startup. In February 2014, DataRank received $1.4 million in capital from a combination of investment firms that specialize in technology startups. What’s more, DataRank doubled the employees on its payroll in 2014 while surpassing its sales goals every month.

AT ITS HEART, DATARANK IS A technology company. Nowhere is this more evident than the company’s leveraging social media data for its customers. Using its algorithms, DataRank reviews large swaths of information and then sorts and ranks it based on relevance to specific products or brands — a process that Frazier compares to operating a search engine such as Google. “At the simplest level it’s a tool for companies to learn about their customers,” says Frazier.

While DataRank isn’t unique in providing customer insights, its sources and methodology have distinct advantages. DataRank has a much broader scope and provides more timely information than traditional customer insight methodologies such as focus groups and surveys. Unlike focus groups and surveys, DataRank is not limited to the responses of a preselected group nor to time constraints.
Instead, DataRank gathers information from online conversations as they occur on Twitter, Facebook, and other social platforms and then provides an ongoing, real-time survey. The potential data source is also growing. A July 2014, article in The Wall Street Journal estimated that there are 1.32 billion monthly Facebook users and 271 million Twitter users. In essence, there is a global conversation about products and brands for those with access.

Along with the ever growing sources for what they call “social listening,” DataRank is in ideal position to take advantage of the surprisingly rich business climate of its home in Northwest Arkansas.

Consisting of four cities: Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, and Bentonville, Northwest Arkansas is home to several large, well-known companies. Wal-Mart, the world’s largest retailer, calls Bentonville home. Tyson Foods and JB Hunt trucking – fellow Fortune 500 companies – are in neighboring Springdale. Benton County, the home of Wal-Mart, has seen its population grow from 97,000 in 1990 to over 221,000 in 2010.

Spread across the region are over 1,600 consumer goods companies attempting to sell their products in Wal-Mart. Known for its efficient supply chain, Wal-Mart has a reputation for being quick to change the products carried on its sales floor. DataRank’s ability to show how customers react to brands and products on social media is a tremendous boon for suppliers wanting shelf space in the world’s largest retailer. This is just what DataRank has done with several Fortune 500 clients that carry products in Wal-Mart.

While DataRank has seen great success through its three year history in Northwest Arkansas, this is hardly the norm for most startups, despite their perception as overnight success stories. According to a recent report in The Wall Street Journal, an estimated three out of four startups don’t return a dime to their investors.

On their own, innovative ideas don’t make startups successful. “Cash is king in startups and they have managed exceedingly well,” explains University of Arkansas entrepreneurship instructor Jeff Amerine.

By报社’s new show Silicon Valley, which features a young entrepreneur with a revolutionary and highly sought after computer algorithm. The comparison isn’t lost on Frazier. “The main character [in Silicon Valley] hyperventilates a lot and gets really worried about these decisions that he has to make,” says Frazier relating his own experience to the show. “Inevitably, whenever he finally gets over the hump there’s some bigger challenge that he has to face.”

The Silicon Valley connection goes much deeper than similarities to the HBO show. In 2013, DataRank participated in Silicon Valley’s prestigious Y Combinator program, what The New York Times has called “a sleep away camp
for startup companies.” The program hosts two groups of startup entrepreneurs per year while providing mentorship and an initial investment of $120,000 for each selected startup. Previous Y Combinator alumni include prominent Internet and technology companies such as Dropbox, Airbnb, and Reddit.

Frazier and his team faced stiff competition for a slot at Y Combinator before the program ever began. In 2011, Y Combinator’s founder Paul Graham listed the acceptance rate for its startup program as three percent. The program immediately preceding DataRank in the spring of 2013 had an acceptance rate of only one percent.

“Y Combinator was an incredible experience for us,” said Frazier. “To have the partners of Y Combinator believe in us and what we were doing was great validation that the work we were doing might be important.”

As the first Arkansas company to participate in Y Combinator, DataRank has brought some of the Silicon Valley culture back to their home state. Like other Silicon mainstays, DataRank has its own slogan; “Best idea wins,” says Frazier. It’s not quite as disruptive as Mark Zuckerberg’s “Move fast, break things,” or repeated as often as the Valley catchphrase, “fail fast, fail often,” but it does a good job connecting DataRank back to its Bay-area roots.

DataRank also favors the non-hierarchical office structure that allows for a relaxed culture. Its “flat” office culture led to DataRank’s open floor layout designed to allow team members to easily share ideas and work together on projects.

“There’s a lot more freedom and flexibility in the startup environment, which is the way that I like to work,” adds Frazier. Of course, the increased freedom and lack of traditional office hierarchy comes with more responsibility. “There’s a lot of trust in them to manage their own time effectively,” says Frazier discussing his fellow DataRank teammates. “We don’t say, ‘these are your tasks, go complete them.’ For some people that doesn’t work well.”

The entrepreneurial journey that Frazier embarked upon when founding DataRank has been multifaceted and has included valuable lessons. However, Frazier’s experience as an entrepreneur predates DataRank’s founding in 2011. His entrepreneurial prowess became evident while still an undergraduate at the University of Arkansas.

In 2009, Frazier and a team of classmates were finalists in the Arkansas Governor’s Cup, a statewide competition for business students. The success was an indicator of more to come, and through entrepreneurial courses and holding leadership positions in the marketing association, Frazier continued to hone his skills which caught the eye of instructor and future DataRank investor Jeff Amerine. “When I met Ryan in 2009 as a junior at the [University of Arkansas] he was better prepared for life and running a venture than most people with 20 years more experience.”

Despite his talents for entrepreneurship, Frazier did not immediately start DataRank upon graduation. Instead, Frazier took a position with an office supply company as director of marketing and sales. In his downtime, Frazier began developing the ideas and concepts that would become DataRank. “When I was working for another company all the types of things I do now were more like hobbies outside of work.” What was avocation became vocation in 2011 when, after reconnecting with former classmates Chuong Nguyen and Kenny Cason, the trio moved to Fayetteville to found DataRank.

Like any entrepreneur, Frazier faces many challenges, especially staying available at all hours. “When you own your own company, there’s never a time when you’re not potentially working. It doesn’t necessarily get easier over time. As you get more familiar with what you’re doing, the stakes get higher,” Frazier says. Unlike more conventional day jobs, Frazier faces pressure that only comes when answering to investors and high-profile clients.

“Corporations have changed to where they don’t really offer lifetime employment anymore.”
Amidst the pressure of being CEO and an entrepreneur, Frazier has searched for ways to find balance. “You can’t be the kind of person who says ‘I need to have my work done every day’ because there are days when you could stay until 2 a.m. and you’re not going to be done. So you have to be able to say ‘I did a great job today and these are the things that I accomplished. Tomorrow I’m going to get back at it again.’ Once we kept growing the company, we had to start putting up some of those boundaries so that you could unplug and find some time for yourself.”

Entrepreneurial experiences like Frazier’s may become increasingly more common for the current generation entering the workforce. Brian Henley, who is a software company executive and serial entrepreneur, thinks the rise of startups comes from changes in corporate America. “Corporations have changed to where they don’t really offer lifetime employment anymore; they don’t offer pension plans. That’s led people to not expect to work for one company their entire lives.”

The change in work environment has also created opportunities that were unavailable to previous generations entering the workforce. Unlike previous generations, it’s now much easier to raise the money needed to start a company, said Henley. “You used to have to raise millions of dollars to test an idea and most young people didn’t have access to that kind of money. Now it takes tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Millennials are also in a unique position to take advantage of the opportunities found in social media and mobile technology. Henley notes that as early adopters, “they have the most ideas about how to leverage that technology with new products and new businesses.”

SIGMA NU HAS PLAYED AN important role in Frazier’s development as a leader and in the development of his company. DataRank employs Brother Corben Young (Arkansas), a 2013 University of Arkansas graduate, and along with Brian Henley, has one other Sigma Nu sitting on the company’s board of advisors.

Much of Frazier’s leadership style can be traced back to his experience in Sigma Nu where he served as the Recruitment Chairman for Gamma Upsilon. “It’s interesting because a lot of the learning around leadership actually did come from Sigma Nu.” Frazier also credits several of the Gamma Upsilon chapter leaders he interacted with as inspirations and role models. “[It was] really learning from them and determining ‘how are they leading?’”

Frazier also found that his collegiate Sigma Nu experience provided a stronger bond and more motivated culture than what he saw in other organizations. “The unique and energizing thing about Sigma Nu was that the majority of everyone there really had a lot of drive. There were a lot of talented and intelligent individuals.”

It was his involvement with the Fraternity and other extracurricular activity at the University that Frazier found to be the most productive in his development as an entrepreneur. “Get involved in the leadership of the Fraternity or in other organizations that are focused on the things that you’re passionate about. Any kind of experience you can get leading these groups of 20-100 people is really valuable,” said Frazier providing advice to other would-be entrepreneurs.

For Frazier, much of entrepreneurship ties back to ethical leadership, especially fulfilling his word to clients, investors, and coworkers. “When you say you’re going to do something, you do it. You don’t leave someone by the wayside or waiting.”

Undoubtedly, Frazier’s commitment to ethical leadership through entrepreneurship will continue to take him far – a view that is shared by Jeff Amerine, the Arkansas entrepreneurship instructor. “Ryan is a hitter and DataRank is only the first of many great things he will do.”

“The unique and energizing thing about Sigma Nu was that the majority of everyone there really had a lot of drive. There were a lot of talented and intelligent individuals.”
Generational Generalizations Gone Wrong

How the guys who coined the word “millennials” missed the mark

By Jesse Walker

WHEN SOME PARENTS OF THE 1980s and ‘90s started sending their kids to schools where uniforms were required, who could have imagined the social consequences? Those dress codes became a core part of that rising generation’s identity — “a defining symbol of a much larger effort to clean up child behavior,” as one history of the trend recalls — setting the stage for the “compulsory uniformed service” that those same kids joined en masse after they left college. Even outside the service corps, young people took to wearing “general issue” clothing reminiscent of the G.I.s.” With time the generation’s conformist style came to represent a “collective grandeur,” leading historians to see the millennials’ school and soccer uniforms “as harbingers of monumental deeds that came later.”

What’s that? You say you don’t remember any of that happening?

Strange: It was predicted in such detail in Millennials Rising, a book published in the year 2000 by the court astrologers of the social sciences, William Strauss and Neil Howe. At that point, Strauss and Howe had spent nine years flogging a generation-based theory of social change that had just enough believability to hook an audience and just enough hubris to spin such wild speculations.

With this book, they turned their attention to the lives and worldviews of the millennials, their word—yes, they’re the ones who inflicted the term on us—
for Americans born in the two decades following 1982. Looking back from 2014, how have those theories held up?  

The saga of the uniforms was at least presented in conditional language: a tale that "may emerge," not one that was sure to happen. At other times Strauss and Howe didn’t even include that caveat. Under millennial pop culture, they assured us, music will be more melodic, sitcoms will be more wholesome, and young people will turn against "the gothic genre" with its 

"It’s always easier to describe the present than to predict the future"

"pessimistic view of man as victim," since that species of story "reminds them of what they sometimes find irritating about older generations." (These changes "will be fully locked in" by 2010.) Millennial courtship rituals will stress "deference to parents." Economic class "will rise above gender or race as a flashpoint for student political argument." And the new generation will create a more common culture, reacting against the social fragmentation of previous decades. Somehow I missed those developments.  

Even when Strauss and Howe’s predictions came true, they sometimes managed to be right in ways that suggest their larger theory of historical cycles was wrong. "Youth voting rates will rise," they declared, and sure enough, the percentage of young people casting ballots rose in 2004 and again in 2008. Even so, the voting rate for 18- to 24-year-olds in 2008 was about the same as it had been when Generation Xers voted in 1992 and somewhat lower than when young boomers went to the polls in 1972 — a sign that this might not be a break with prior generations after all. And in 2012, the rate started falling again.  

The more sensible parts of the book came when the authors cooled down the breathless TED-talk prose ("Millenials will be a generation of trends") to present some survey data about young people’s attitudes and give a refresher course on then-recent social history. It’s always easier to describe the present than to predict the future, and the authors astutely note developments ranging from the rise of charter schools to an increased national focus on kids’ safety.  

When it comes to popular culture, though, they weren’t even adept guides to what was then the present. Millennials Rising spends a lot of time trying to establish that the arrival of wholesome pop stars like Britney Spears (remember when Britney Spears was wholesome?) and retro styles like the ‘90s swing revival marked a major break with the "angry and alienated" music favored by Generation X. They seem unaware that the Xers bought their share of innocuous pop records in their teens too — poor Debbie Gibson and Tiffany, consigned to the ash heap of history — and they do not appear to have noticed that the swing revival was largely driven by Xers in their twenties and thirties, not millennials in their teens. And how did the authors deal with rap, today the dominant force in pop music? They reported it was "no longer connecting" with the young.  

Underlying those failed forecasts you’ll find a flawed theory. For Strauss and Howe, generations are a series of discrete units of roughly uniform size, one following another in a largely predictable pattern. A team-oriented "hero generation" does great deeds (like, say, winning World War II) and is followed by an "artist generation" born during the crisis. A post-crisis "prophet generation," like the baby boom, then leads an "awakening." Then we get a "nomad generation," like the Xers, and after that we’re set for another cohort of heroes.  

Our theorists nodded here and there to historical contingency — acknowledging, for example, that there is no rigid length to the period that constitutes a generation. They even decided, in the one great rupture in the cycle they think they’ve identified, that the U.S. skipped a hero generation in the middle of the 19th century. But they were confident enough in their pattern to make concrete predictions and to assign personalities to entire generations.  

Those mass personalities, in fact, are central to how the book defined a generation in the first place. A generation, Strauss and Howe wrote, is "a society-wide peer group, born over a period roughly the same length as the passage from youth to adulthood (in today’s America, around twenty or twenty-one years), who collectively possess a common persona.” They accepted the existence of exceptions and edge cases, but they insisted a core persona is there.  

Contrast that with Karl Mannheim’s “The Problem of Generations,” a 1923 essay that has become a touchstone for sociologists studying generational change. Like Strauss and Howe, Mannheim defined a generation not just by when its members were born but by the events that shaped their worldviews in their youth. Unlike Strauss and Howe, Mannheim did not write as though those events shape an entire generation the same way. Instead he wrote of different "generation units" with different reactions to their formative experiences. The Napoleonic wars, he elaborated, produced "two contrasting groups" in Germany, one that became more and more conservative as time went on, as against a youth group tending to become rationalistic and liberal.” (For a more recent example, consider the ways different American boomers reacted to the upheavals of the 1960s.) For Mannheim, those opposing units still belong to the same social cohort: "they are oriented toward each other, even though only in the sense of fighting one another.” But they did not have the “common persona” that Strauss and Howe imagined.  

Mannheim also had the sense to see that a biological generation “need not evolve its own, distinctive pattern of interpreting and influencing the world,” since those biological rhythms will not necessarily be matched by a parallel set
of influential historical moments. In a passage that should serve as a warning to anyone tempted by Strauss and Howe’s schematics, he cautioned against “a sort of sociology of chronological tables ... which uses its bird’s-eye perspective to ‘discover’ fictitious generation movements to correspond to the crucial turning points in historical chronology.”

Strauss and Howe assigned Americans to different generations as though they were drawing lines on a map, inserting artificial borders that obscure the gradual rolling changes that define so much of the landscape. They apply the label Generation X, for example, to everyone born from 1962 to 1981. Hailing from 1970, I fall smack into the middle of the cohort; and yes, I recognize myself in much of what the authors said about my peers. But I’m also acutely aware of the differences in perspective between me and those fellow Gen Xers who were born about a decade before or after.

Consider the period that came after the cultural revolutions of the ’60s and before the heightened restrictions on minors’ freedoms that began to arrive in the ’80s. Americans who experienced this time as teenagers had rather different early lives than those of us who experienced it as preadolescents and then hit our teens in a more closely controlled epoch. The youngest Xers essentially missed it altogether, getting childhoods more like the millennials.

I suspect that writers from Strauss and Howe’s other generations could similarly divide their cohorts into finely cut segments, with some slices exerting more cultural pull than others. Some millennials were in college on 9/11; some were in elementary school; some weren’t born yet. Do all these people really belong to the same generation at all, in Mannheim’s sense of the word? Like the uniforms they failed to wear, their uniformity existed only in Strauss and Howe’s heads.

This review originally appeared in Reason magazine’s October 2014 issue. Jesse Walker is the books editor for the publication.

Fried Fiction
Author: Andrew January Grundy III (Murray State)
ISBN: 978-1-4507-6328-8
Publisher: Andrew January Grundy III

Andrew January Grundy III is a 59-year-old free-lance photojournalist living with his family on a farm in central Kentucky. This book is a collection of his written work dating from 1970 to the present. In it he explains how he became a subliminal fixture of the media after a life-changing night in 1973.

He is currently involved in several twelve-step groups and is an affiliate of the national mental health movement. His major “bragging right” is his extensive vinyl rock-n-roll album collection. He owns well over a thousand records. “I guess I have about the best rock music collection this side of the Mississippi River,” he notes.

My Cancer Diary
Author: Robert Keiber (East Carolina)
ISBN: 9-780615-792149
Publisher: The Tuxedo Group

The purpose of this diary/datebook is to keep the patient involved in their recovery by greeting them each day with an encouraging quote and then helping them make notes of the vital information their doctor might need for each visit. Notes would include prescriptions, dosage, last CAT or PET scan, MRI, x-ray, chemo or surgery. It also includes a place for things to do, appointments and questions the patient might want to ask their doctor. There is a space for daily thoughts and each day ends with a suggested meditation the patient might practice. As their health improves this journal will be a reminder of the patient’s powerful spirit and mind as well a guide for others who might have to take on the same journey.

Reprinted from Amazon.com.
My Uncle Pat lived a rather unique and mostly bizarre life. If you found yourself in his company, you were soon attracted by his charismatic personality. He was an interesting man because of his rather different approach to all that life presented him. He was an attractive, likable misfit. This man could make you laugh and become angry, all at the same time. He was a dreamer and a schemer. When the good Lord made him, He threw the mold away. I've never known another like him. Perhaps his family and his heritage contributed to his uniqueness. He was born to a Mother and Father who had strong French and Irish roots. His Mother, Edna Gautier, was ahead of her time. She was a liberated woman, with business sense, a wanderlust and ample ambition to achieve her goals in life. His Father, Thomas Ross Murphy, began his adult life as a clerk in a local clothing store and because of his intelligence, ambition and drive, soon owned the store. My Uncle Pat had all these traits, but he managed to often misapply them with disastrous results. He was a comical and very peculiar man, and I loved him. I'll do my best as a writer to relate to you all that I can remember, concerning his character, his personality and the many and varied funny situations and grandiose schemes he created for himself to deal with, in a manner that only he could envision. The totality of his life is worth the read simply because he was one of a kind and he lived his life outside the box, with great enthusiasm I might add.

Reprinted from Amazon.com.

Shannon's Gift: A Story of Love, Loss, and Recovery
Author: Nate Bennett (Tulane)
ASIN: BOOKYAGHSA
Publisher: BookLogix
In this raw, emotional memoir, Nate Bennett uses a blog to work through his grief over the sudden loss of his wife Shannon. He is surprised and comforted to discover a vast virtual community of support. His blog posts – alternately poignant and of dry wit – eventually attracted tens of thousands of hits and a following from readers who hadn't even known the couple or their sons. This unique book gives the reader a window into the starkness of a widower's grieving experience in real time. What comes through in virtually every post is his love for Shannon as he weaves in vignettes from their life together, chronicling their love story and his efforts to recover. And in the end, with the support of his virtual community and the strength he was able to draw from remembering Shannon's wishes for him, he finds love again.

Reprinted from Amazon.com.

Mountain Boy
Author: Paul J.B. Murphy Jr. (Washington & Lee)
ISBN: 9-781930-119109
Publisher: Publishing Connections
In Mountain Boy, Murphy draws upon his intimate knowledge of Virginia's history and topography. He tells the story of Jamie Nicholson, a teenaged boy born and reared in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, who becomes caught up in the government's forced relocation of mountain families to create a national park. Written in a style that brings the reader into Jamie's daily life, it evokes a visceral attachment to the young man as he grapples with making his way in a new culture and determination to succeed. Jamie’s story is a testament to self-reliance, the indomitable spirit of youth, and a celebration of a young man’s relationship with the one adult who cares enough to mentor him.

Reprinted from cover.
SIGMA NU AND SAN FRANCISCO: A Golden Pairing
EVERYBODY LOVES SAN FRANCISCO
and chocolate! Well, almost everyone. My topics in this column are about two icons of San Francisco: one considered among the seven wonders of the modern world and the other, a famous San Francisco confection. Both celebrated notable anniversaries recently and, more importantly have strong connections with Sigma Nu.

I’ve lived just north of San Francisco for over 40 years. During my professional career, I crossed the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge almost every day. The drive across the bridge is always stunning — whether the sun is shining or the fog is pouring through the Gate. The Bay Area celebrated the 75th anniversary of the opening of the bridge in 2012.

However, it’s only recently that I learned of the strong connection during the construction of the bridge with Sigma Nu. It involves our two oldest chapters in the West and another on the opposite side of the country, in Pennsylvania. In addition, there’s a connection with two Regents of Sigma Nu and two chapter founders.

My second topic is the story of the second oldest chocolate factory in the United States. This year celebrates the 163rd anniversary of its beginnings in San Francisco. It’s the Ghirardelli Chocolate Factory, founded in 1852, well before Sigma Nu was even a thought in the minds of our Founders.

SPANNING THE GOLDEN GATE

John C. Fremont: an American military officer, explorer and politician, named the strait between San Francisco and Marin County. He called it Chrysopylae, or “Golden Gate” because it reminded him of a harbor in Istanbul called Chrysocteras — or the “Golden Horn”.

Dreams of spanning the Golden Gate between San Francisco and Marin County go back to the early days of California’s statehood. Engineers proposed various ideas, but none of them went very far; the task just seemed too daunting. The distance to span, the depth of the channel, the powerful tidal currents, and the high winds made it almost foolhardy to even try. Its fog and rocky reefs resulted in over 100 shipwrecks — not to mention the political battles and special interests that aligned themselves against a bridge ever being built.

Most engineers of the time felt it was physically impossible to construct a bridge over the Golden Gate. The length required to span the strait, combined with the water’s depth (372 feet at its deepest), would be a monumental task if it were even feasible. The powerful tides were a result of the Pacific Ocean, twice a day, pouring millions of cubic feet of water into the San Francisco Bay every second. Countered by the rivers of the Central Valley of California pushing right back into the Pacific twice a day. The rivers drain over 40% of California’s massive interior land mass.

Politics

The political realities of building a bridge across the Golden Gate were just as formidable — some said they made the construction of a bridge the easy part. The City of San Francisco in the 1930’s had a population of around 500,000. Marin County, across the strait, only had a population of around 50,000. Oakland on the east side of the Bay (population 300,000) and the southern part of the San Francisco Peninsula down to San Jose and Monterey, were responsible for most of the commerce with San Francisco. The thirteen counties north of the Gate had tiny populations in comparison.

California’s legislature established the Golden Gate Bridge and Highway District (the “GGBHD”) at the end of 1928 to design, construct and finance a bridge. However, only six of the thirteen northern counties voted to become a part of the GGBHD. It’s not surprising when voters realized they’d be required to guarantee the repayment of the construction bonds, whether a bridge got built or not.
Powerful special interests lined up against a bridge as well. The railroads, then operating most of the ferries and barges on the bay, were dead set against it. The timber interests in the northern counties felt new residents would fight against logging the vast redwood forests. Dairymen and ranchers believed that hikers and campers would interfere with the grazing of their livestock. Environmentalists were upset that it would damage the natural beauty of the Golden Gate. The military, which owned the property on both sides of the Golden Gate, opposed the plan because of concern that the destruction of a bridge during wartime could block the harbor. All had strong lobbies and fought strenuously against a bridge. Plaintiffs filed 2,307 lawsuits, and they took over six years to resolve — eventually making it all the way to the Supreme Court.

After all the lawsuits were concluded, and approvals obtained, the GGBHD still had to approve and sell bonds to finance the construction of the bridge — during the very heart of the Great Depression. With minor involvement by the federal government, the District successfully sold the bonds, and the Bridge began construction in 1933. Four years later, at a cost of $35 million and 11 lives, workers completed the bridge — $2 million under the original estimate.

**Sigma Nus Step up to the Task**

Francis V. Keesling (Stanford) served as Regent of Sigma Nu from 1906-1908. After graduating from Stanford, he earned a law degree and became a successful attorney and civic leader in San Francisco. After an unsuccessful run for governor of California, he successfully ran for the Board of Supervisors, the political body that governs San Francisco. The Supervisors appointed him as one of the first board members of the new GGBHD. In addition, he served as chairman of the crucial building committee for the bridge from 1929-1937, through the bridge’s completion.

Two other Sigma Nus – Henry Westbrook, Jr. (Cal/Berkeley) and Arthur M. Brown, Jr. (Cal/Berkeley) joined Keesling on the twelve member GGBHD board. Westbrook represented one of the northern counties (Del Norte), and Brown represented San Francisco. Effectively 25% of the total board, the three Sigma Nus provided strong and effective leadership in the many daunting, and some thought insurmountable, obstacles faced. A detailed list of those obstacles is beyond the scope of my column. Suffice it to say, eight years after establishing the GGBHD, on May 28, 1937 the bridge, that many felt was impossible, was opened to auto traffic with the official dedication ceremony. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, from the White House, pressed a telegraph key to open the span officially. Past Regent Keesling, delivering the closing speech at the dedication over national radio and ended with the following:

“We wish that this Golden Gate Bridge may remind the traveler as he leaves or approaches his native shore and also everyone who views it of the liberty and glory of his country where life, liberty, and happiness have so long persisted, so that he may be re-consecrated and, as a result of his “high resolve,” actively devote himself, as he should, to his country’s problems so that the continuity of life, liberty and happiness may be assured.”

A week-long *Golden Gate Bridge Fiesta* of various events around the city celebrated the opening of the bridge. Several evenings during the Fiesta, a spectacular outdoor pageant dramatized eight episodes from California’s history. Another Sigma Nu, B. Kendrick Vaughn (Cal/Berkeley), later to serve as Sigma Nu’s Regent from 1958-1960, managed this enormous production of 3,000 participants. To provide a sense of its immensity, here’s a section of the promotion for the pageant from the official program for the Fiesta:
“The Span of Gold, with JOHN CHARLES THOMAS, famous baritone and cast of 3,000. An embellished Historical Pageant of the History of California from primitive times to statehood — presented in eight stirring episodes climaxing in the breath-taking illumination of the Bridge for the first time — the greatest Pageant ever seen in the West — bringing to life the very spirit of the Fiesta — staged in an incomparable setting in the world’s largest outdoor theatre at Crissy Field in the Presidio.”

Our Eastern Connection

However, Sigma Nu’s involvement was not only at the political level, but also with a critical construction component of the bridge itself. The Art Deco designed bridge rests on a concrete base with a steel structure — 83,000 tons of structural steel to be exact. That steel is where Sigma Nu’s eastern connection comes into the picture.

Sigma Nu installed our Lehigh University chapter in 1885, and two of its charter members were Charles D. Marshall and Howard H. McClintic, II. They both graduated from Lehigh’s young civil engineering program. Shortly after graduating, the two partnered in starting up a steel manufacturing firm, McClintic-Marshall, which, over the next forty years, would grow to become the largest independent steel manufacturing company in the country. Some of their many significant projects included the Marshall Field Store in Chicago; the George Washington Bridge and Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York; half of the floors of the Empire State Building; the Ambassador Bridge linking Detroit and Windsor, Canada and the locks of the Panama Canal. The company was so successful that they were acquired in 1931 by Bethlehem Steel — although they continued operating as McClintic-Marshall for several years after that.

The Bridge District chose the firm to supply the structural steel for the Golden Gate Bridge. McClintic-Marshall manufactured the steel, all 83,000 tons, in the East and shipped it to San Francisco through the Panama Canal over a six-month period to coincide with the building phases.

Sigma Nu’s involvement with the Golden Gate Bridge didn’t end when it opened in 1937. William H. Harrelson (Stanford), entered the first class at Stanford University in 1891. He played quarterback on the football team when Herbert Hoover, later President of the United States, was the team manager. After a successful career as an owner of a large construction company and banker, the District hired him in 1937 as the general manager of the Golden Gate Bridge. He served in the position up until 1942, when he retired for health reasons.

Thus, Sigma Nus played crucial roles in ensuring the Golden Gate Bridge became a reality. Today, more than 75 years later, it remains an endearing image for residents and visitors to San Francisco alike.

Sigma Nus played crucial roles in ensuring the Golden Gate Bridge became a reality.
In 1849, during the California Gold Rush, an Italian immigrant, Domenico Ghirardelli, came to seek his fortune in the gold fields. He soon discovered that his road to success was not chasing ore, but utilizing the retail and entrepreneurial experience he developed as a young man. The onslaught of prospectors driven by the dream of striking it rich resulted in an enormous need for supplies of food and tools. Seizing the opportunity, Ghirardelli opened a general store selling supplies and confections in Stockton and later in San Francisco.

While growing up in Italy, he apprenticed at an early age to a candy maker. With this knowledge, in 1852 he imported two hundred pounds of cocoa beans and started making chocolates. In the same year, he incorporated the Ghirardelli Chocolate Company in San Francisco. It is the second oldest chocolate company in the United States, behind Baker’s Chocolate in Massachusetts.

Until 1963, descendants of the founder owned and operated the business. Six initiates of our Beta Psi Chapter at the University of California, Berkeley were among those descendants.

**A Timely Discovery**

One of the reasons Ghirardelli was so successful is due to a monumental discovery, made entirely by accident. Prior to the mid-1860’s, chocolate was a very perishable commodity. Due to its high fat content, it was not transportable long distances without spoiling. Thus, the geographical market for chocolate manufacturers was small.

By chance, bags of chocolate paste were left hanging and forgotten in a hot room at the Ghirardelli factory. Over time, fat seeped out of the bags leaving a greaseless residue behind. Ghirardelli found that this residue could be ground, sweetened and easily made into hot cocoa and other items. The miracle was that it was nonperishable and could be shipped great distances. With the opening of the first transcontinental railroad several years later, Domingo Ghirardelli hit the pay dirt he never found in his short time in the gold fields of California.

Ghirardelli chocolates were very successful up until World War II. However, during the war, the military entered into a contract with Hershey’s to provide all the chocolate bars for troops in Europe and the Pacific. Due to that agreement, 75% of the chocolates consumed during the war were made by Hershey’s and transformed the country into lovers of Hershey’s chocolates. This transformation resulted in a demise in the fortunes of the Ghirardelli company.

**Domingo Ghirardelli’s Grandsons**

After Domingo Ghirardelli retired in 1889, his three sons took over operations of the

Ghirardelli Chocolate Company in San Francisco ... is the second oldest chocolate company in the United States, behind Baker’s Chocolate in Massachusetts.
business. One of the sons, Louis, also had three sons — Alfred, Louis and Harvey, who attended the University of California at Berkeley. They all initiated into Sigma Nu and went on to run the company in various capacities.

Alfred Ghirardelli (Cal/Berkeley), the oldest son of Louis initiated into Sigma Nu in 1902. He graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering with the “earthquake class” of 1906 — so called because their final months were interrupted in April, 1906 by the Great San Francisco Earthquake. Alfred was at the Sigma Nu house when the earthquake struck at just after 5:00 am. He was extremely concerned about the status of the factory, housed then in brick buildings in San Francisco. He hired a boat to ferry him across the Bay and found that the facility was largely intact and had sustained only minimal damage.

After graduation, due to his engineering training, he worked with the company’s chief engineer. In 1944, upon the retirement of his uncle, he took over the presidency. He served as president until 1955 when his health declined, forcing him to retire.

Alfred’s brother, Louis L. Ghirardelli (Cal/Berkeley), followed his older brother to Berkeley and was initiated into Sigma Nu in 1906. He also later joined the family operations, he became the plant manager. Upon Alfred’s retirement as president in 1955, Harvey took over the presidency.

A fourth grandson of Domingo was Virgil W. Jorgensen (Cal/Berkeley), initiated in 1907. He was close to his cousins and worked for the Ghirardelli company for many years.

The remaining two Sigma Nu connections to the Ghirardelli chocolate company were Robert O. Ghirardelli (Cal/Berkeley), initiated in 1932 and Chris W. Anderson (Cal/Berkeley) initiated in 1939. Robert, the son of Harvey T. Ghirardelli, was a legacy when initiated into the chapter. Although he worked for the company, he had an artistic bent that kept him from being heavily involved in the management of the firm. When he died, in 1990, he was the last descendant of Domingo Ghirardelli to bear the family name. Chris Anderson also worked for the company but did not play a significant role in its operations.

The Ghirardelli family sold the company in 1963, ending their more than 100-year connection with the business. The Swiss company Lindt & Sprungli, now owns Ghirardelli Chocolates. It has once again risen to be part of one of the top chocolate manufacturing firms in the world. Thanks to the Ghirardelli family, it will always be a sweet reminder of San Francisco.

**THE NEXT TIME YOU VISIT**
San Francisco, appreciate the beautiful Art Deco Golden Gate Bridge with its surrounding natural beauty and pay a visit to Ghirardelli Square. As you enjoy these San Francisco landmarks, don’t forget their connection with Sigma Nu. 🍫
IN A MARCH 15 ARTICLE ENTITLED "How to Survive the College Admissions Madness" New York Times columnist Frank Bruni laid out what he saw as the chief problem of the college admissions process: the effects of an increasingly large number of rejections coming from elite colleges.

Take Harvard’s class of 2018 as an example. Of the 34,295 applications the school received, only 2,048 were granted admission, or about 6%. The year before, Harvard set a record for the most applications it has ever received: 35,022. Similarly, Princeton, Penn, Brown, Yale, and Columbia all received large numbers of applications and accepted less than 10% of applicants for the class of 2018. Along with the Ivy League schools, other elite colleges maintain low admission rates. MIT admitted less than 8% of its applicants and Duke only 10.7% of its record-setting 32,506 applicants.

What’s behind this hyper-competitive admissions process? Bruni thinks it’s parents and potential students seeking a means to assess self-worth. "For too many parents and their children, acceptance by an elite institution isn’t just another challenge, just another goal. A yes or no from Amherst or the University of Virginia or the University of Chicago is seen as the conclusive measure of a young person’s worth, an uncontestable harbinger of the accomplishments or disappointments to come. Winner or loser: This is when judgement is made," writes Bruni.

The article proceeds to show that getting into an elite college isn’t “a conclusive measure of a young person’s worth.” Bruni sees many opportunities found on the other end of a rejection letter from an elite college and he chronicles the stories of two recent graduates who achieved high levels of success despite their initial rejection.

Peter Hart attended a state school after being rejected by his first choice at the University of Michigan. Through his own initiative, Hart managed to secure employment with prestigious management consulting firm Boston Consulting Group and later went on to pursue an MBA from Harvard. Another recent graduate, Jenna Leahy, was rejected from all of her top school choices but is now managing a charter school after a stint with Teach for America. "I never would have had the strength, drive or fearlessness to take such a risk if I hadn’t been rejected so intensely before," said Leahy.
Bruni makes several admirable points in critiquing the rush to gain admittance in selective, elite colleges. For one, success may not come immediately or predictably, even for graduates of elite colleges. “People bloom at various stages of life, and different individuals flourish in different climates,” says Bruni. As an example, Bruni points to a high school classmate of Peter Hart’s — who despite a perceived advantage of attending Yale — also ended up working for Boston Consulting Group.

“People bloom at various stages of life, and different individuals flourish in different climates.”

Along with his argument that a self-directed path to career success is still attainable, Bruni offers a less tangible consolation of attending a lower tier college. “The nature of a student’s college experience — the work that he or she puts into it, the self-examination that’s undertaken, the resourcefulness that’s honed — matters more than the name of the institution attended,” says Bruni.

It is here that Bruni might agree most heartily with former University of Chicago president and liberal arts defender Robert Hutchins. “The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives,” wrote Hutchins.

Bruni is laudable for showing that, through motivation and effort, individuals can form successful career paths on their own merit. Furthermore, in alluding to the less concrete goals of college, Bruni allows for a type of success that only comes through an examined life.

IF THERE ARE WEAKNESSES in Bruni’s argument, it is his overly narrow definition of success and inadequate description of how college — regardless of reputation — can lead to a meaningful life through self-examination.

In Bruni’s reporting on Peter Hart and Jenna Leahy, he emphasizes their employment by and selection into several highly respected institutions. Bruni also lists individuals who did not attend elite colleges who are in leadership positions in Fortune 500 companies or stand out in the prestigious startup school Y Combinator.

Implied in Bruni’s examples is the idea that organizations like Teach for America and Boston Consulting Group have confirmed that Hart, Leahy, and others like them are “successful.” Bruni’s argument still uses a paradigm that defines success as getting employed and admitted into the most prestigious and well-known companies, graduate schools, and organizations.

For Bruni’s argument to work fully, it needs to consider a wider range of recent graduates who may not have ascended to the heights of a prominent career like Hart, Leahy, and Fortune 500 executives.

For every Teach For America and Boston Consulting Group alumnus, there are many more public high-school teachers and assistant managers at local grocery stores. How do these people define success? Might they have had more post-graduate opportunity with an elite college education vs attending a local college?

The reader is also left to wonder how a college education can contribute to a meaningful and successful life beyond giving one career prospects. How do college graduates find meaning in their lives? How might their college educations have contributed to their living an “examined life”?

The article also makes the vague claim that “education happens across a spectrum of settings and in infinite ways.” While this is certainly true, there are no examples to back up the claim.

Fraternity members are well familiar with these outside-the-classroom educational opportunities, but these and other students in similar groups are beyond the scope of Bruni’s thesis. No examples of the fraternity members who made lifelong friendships or athletes whose commitment to the team kept them accountable to class attendance are included. These considerations and questions Bruni leaves largely unexplored.

For the best example of how higher education can lead to a life of meaning, Bruni should consider the work of Scott Samuelson and his essay entitled “Why I Teach Plato to Plumbers.” Samuelson, a community college professor, has extensive experience teaching philosophy to blue collar workers. “I recently got a letter from a former student, a factory worker, thanking me for introducing him to Schopenhauer,” recounts Samuelson. “The letter explained that I’d quoted some lines from Schopenhauer in class, and they’d sparked my student’s imagination.” Bruni would have done well to find someone similar to Samuelson’s factory worker to articulate the intangible benefits of college education.

Several interesting ideas are presented in “How to Survive the College Admissions Madness.” Bruni’s points about not defining self-worth as acceptance into elite colleges and allusion to the intangible benefits of higher education are well received.

However, if the goal of an education is purely focused on post graduate employment in high status institutions, potential students may be justified in feeling disappointment in rejection from elite colleges. After all, for every Peter Hart and Ivy League graduate, there will be many more recent graduates of average colleges who won’t ascend to prominent careers. That doesn’t mean that their college educations were a waste of resources or they won’t have successful lives.

Broadening the scope of success and better showing how college leads to a life of self-examination would further help prove Bruni’s thesis that college is still valuable beyond elite schools. Like the factory worker cited by Scott Samuelson, the reader may find that a college education has led to a lifetime of discovery and a love of learning.
Chris (at right) began his volunteer service in the early 1990s as Zeta Psi Chapter Advisor. He has since served as Zeta Psi House Corporation President and South Central Division Commander. Graham has been recognized by Sigma Nu as Chapter Advisor of the Year (2007) and twice as Division Commander of the Year (2010, 2014).

1. What do you think is challenging about working with today’s students rather than students from a previous generation?

Today you have so many communication mediums at your disposal, to me it’s harder now with the options available than it was back then. When I first started as an advisor there was no public internet. If you wanted to talk to someone you either had to find time when you both could sit down and talk or you had to use the telephone.

Advisors have to come up with a communication medium that both he and the officer agree to. What is the communication standard between you and the officer you are advising? You both have to agree to it.

2. What do you think are some of Sigma Nu’s best traditions?

I love going to any candidate and initiation ceremony, any chapter meeting; it’s very important to me that I have those opportunities to attend because they remind me of why I’m a Sigma Nu. It’s what we agreed to in our vows: to honor the five objects laid down by our founders. You are reminded of why you do what you do, why you behave the way you behave, what you want to be known for; what you want to stand for. It’s a constant reminder.

3. What advice would you give to someone who just pledged Sigma Nu?

Don Humphreys had some words of wisdom at Grand Chapter that every candidate should listen to. He said very simply, “When faced with something new, you should go for it.”

Don’t become a candidate just because you want to say you’re a Sigma Nu, become a candidate because you want to be a Sigma Nu and want to make Sigma Nu better. Have a purpose and go for it, don’t just sit back and be the member in the back of the room or the member in the back of your candidate class who’s not doing something. You’re only going to get out of it what you put into it — that’s an age old saying — but I don’t think it’s ever truer than for a candidate.

4. What do you think makes a great Alumni Advisory Board?

Wherever possible, bringing in diversity really seems to foster growth and strengthen the collegiate chapter.

Recently I watched an AAB take an approach during officer transition that I think has a lot of potential. The transition was designed by taking the Pursuit of Excellence Program and breaking it down by what each officer or committee chairman was responsible for. It’s not just looking at the officer manual, but taking the Pursuit of Excellence Program and what it takes to be excellent in each criteria and determining who has the responsibility to make sure that happens.

Don’t become a candidate just because you want to say you’re a Sigma Nu and to be a Sigma Nu and want to...
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