Leading the Legends
Pat Riley wins 9th NBA championship

Rebuilding Moore
Oklahoma chapters join forces for tornado relief

Taylor Hooton Foundation
Fighting the alarming trend of youth steroid use

Illuminating a Path
Bill Courtney’s (Mississippi) experience coaching an inner-city Memphis high school football team is discovered by two directors who chronicle the team’s trials in the Oscar-winning sports documentary *Undefeated*
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“It was horrific. It was a war zone.”

By the time footage of a horrific tornado reached the airwaves, brothers from three different chapters in Oklahoma were already leading the rebuilding effort in their communities. Within days they were receiving supplies from other Sigma Nu chapters from around the country.
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 nathaniel.clarkson@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.
From the Editor

Undefeated by Circumstances

Our cover story “Illuminating a Path” was a couple of years in the making. Story development began in February 2012, a few days before the Academy Awards. Alumni volunteers from the Epsilon Xi Chapter at Ole Miss notified us of a Sigma Nu alumnus featured in a little-known documentary, *Undefeated*, about a high school football team in a poverty-stricken area of Memphis.

Earlier that month, another Ole Miss Sigma Nu had notched his second Super Bowl MVP [Fig. 1]. In a fitting storyline, and one not unlike Brother Eli’s second Super Bowl win, *Undefeated* was an underdog to win Best Documentary Feature – until that point only four true sports documentaries had won the category since 1942.

About one year later, February 2013, our writer Merritt Onsa interviewed Coach Courtney. Now, nearly two years after *Undefeated* received the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature, we’re pleased to present a powerful story we couldn’t be more proud to tell.

*Undefeated* achieves everything you would expect from an Oscar-winning documentary. You can’t help but feel sympathy, sadness, happiness and joy for the team and its players. But the film’s lasting legacy will be its power to change how we think about disadvantaged kids that seem to be in a perpetual cycle of underachievement.

As Coach Courtney explains in our story, sometimes all it takes is someone showing them the pathway they couldn’t see on their own [Fig 2].

There are also moments in our cover story that remind us why Sigma Nu exists at all [Fig 3].

“The whole idea is to think about those words and make that a part of who you are.”

That’s Coach Courtney, referring to the Creed of Sigma Nu. If you’ve watched the film you know the values he instilled in his players came straight from our Creed. “The guy who wrote that [the Creed of Sigma Nu] meant it,” he says. And as you’ll discover reading our cover story, Brother Courtney means what he says, too.

Yours in Sigma Nu,

NATHANIEL CLARKSON (James Madison)
Managing Editor
Don’t Play Doctor
According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (collegedrinkingprevention.gov), over 1,800 college students die each year due to alcohol-related injuries. In many cases, these deaths may have been avoided if their friends would have called 911 at the first sign of trouble.

As part of Sigma Nu Fraternity’s ongoing effort to combat alcohol abuse and misuse, we have developed the “Don’t Play Doctor” video, in partnership with Phi Delta Theta International Fraternity, which created the original concept. This video educates viewers on the signs of alcohol poisoning and what to do if a brother or guest appears to have consumed too much alcohol. If you ever find yourself questioning whether or not a friend has had too much to drink, call 911 immediately and get emergency medical support. The full video can be found at youtube.com/sigmanuhq.

Best Practices
Best Practices Library Updates
The Best Practices Library underwent another update this summer. Review of chapter ideas and examples from the spring semester consultations, as well as this year’s Pursuit of Excellence Program submissions yielded several new practices to share with chapters. This summer’s updates include new academic progress reports and a midterm self-evaluation, innovative ideas to improve the selection of high quality members during recruitment with a “Wall of Why,” a focus on what chapter values and needs a prospective member exhibits, sample risk management plans for outdoor and general events, and a sample Big/Little Brother ceremony. Check out these new practices, as well as the other 225+ ideas in the library at sigmanu.org/bestpractices.

Have an idea, example, or resource that should be featured in the Best Practices Library? Looking for help with something specific that you would like for us to be on the lookout for adding to the library? Send us an email at headquarters@sigmanu.org and put “Best Practices” in the subject line to let us know your thoughts.

Alumni Advisory Board Guidelines
Alumni Advisory Boards (AABs) became a priority for Sigma Nu in 2008. Designed to advise, guide, mentor and provide long-term strategic direction to chapters, AABs are essential to healthy operations of a chapter. The Alumni Advisory Board Guidelines have been developed to help AAB members understand their role and provide specific action steps to be completed.

The document includes guidelines for advising collegians, expectations advisors should have of undergraduate members, and expectations that members should have of advisors. Be sure to see these guidelines at sigmanu.org.

Recruitment Meeting Agenda
One of the simplest items on the recruitment checklist is the one that is most often overlooked. The chapter’s recruitment meeting can hold the key to a chapter’s success by breaking down some of the most important factors (sigmanu.org/programs/vbr/). From reviewing the chapter’s performance from the previous term, to defining the type of man the chapter is looking for, the chapter recruitment meeting agenda acts as a guide through the process. Paired with the chapter self-evaluation, these resources will put any chapter on the path to recruitment success.
4
Players shot during Bill Courtney’s (Mississippi) six years as head football coach at Manassas High School.
See page 14.

286
Ranking of Cal American Homes – founded by Jessie Rodriguez (Cal Poly Pomona) – on Inc. magazine’s list of the 500 fastest-growing U.S. companies in 2012.
See page 38.

9
Percentage of young people who’ve never received education on the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs, according to a recent Proctor and Gamble study.
See page 10.

16
Seconds residents of Moore, Okla., had to prepare for last spring’s deadly tornado.
See page 20.

Combined NBA Finals championships for Pat Riley (Kentucky).
See page 58.
CONVERSATION

SUMMER 2013 ISSUE

Build It
This was really interesting. Living here in Arizona, I never knew Kendrick was a brother. His presence in both the sports and charity communities in Phoenix is very visible. I’m not a big fan of some of his baseball moves lately, but I guess I’ll have to overlook them now! Thanks for the article.

// Jeff Martin (Southern Utah)

Q & A with Regent Charlie Eitel
Great Q&A article with Charlie Eitel. I really enjoyed learning about his story. It is great to see successful fraternity members who truly uphold their fraternal values. I am sure it was a pleasure interviewing Charlie.

// Brian T. Clarke
Director of Greek Life
UC, Irvine

I have had the pleasure of working with Charlie many years ago. Everything said is as true as it can be said. He is a great leader and motivator.

// Robert Weiss
(Emory)

Sigma Nu leadership is top drawer in every way! I’m grateful and proud.

// Maury Gaston (Auburn)

Perspectives on Our Past
Bob, great article! Thank you for bringing Ray to life for us. You are doing an excellent job as our Grand Historian!

// Jeff Giarde (San Diego State)

A very inspiring message about Ray Ewy. He passed away nine years before I became a Sigma Nu. Every young person should read his story that shows how much the will to succeed can accomplish.

// Dean Arnold (Kansas State)

Chapter News
Congratulations to the men of Gamma Upsilon at the University of Arkansas. Since the re-establishment of the chapter in 2004 they have committed themselves to the ideals and principles of Sigma Nu. The alumni are proud of the results to date.

// Joel Wood (Arkansas)

I am proud of the way they have re-established the fraternity as the premier group on campus. It sets an example for others to follow, and the charity event with the Pi Phis for literacy serves as a model for other chapters to follow.

// James Parker (Arkansas)

HEARD ON TWITTER

@EKU_SigmaNu: Congrats to the 16 Candidates who officially started their paths towards Knighthood tonight! #LTH

@AlexT_SigmaNu: Saw the value of fraternity tonight. 10 men from various chapters, volunteering to advise a new colony that has zero alumni. #SigmaNu

@Mark_Schlabach: I’ve always liked Archie Manning, one of the most gracious men you’ll meet. Glad he went along with Book of Manning. Great film

@SigmaNuDrew: Well add “Book of Manning” to “Field of Dreams” on my list of best films on fatherhood. #BookofManning #FDD

@espn: Tonight, we hear the story of the first family of football. The #BookOfManning starts now

@michaelbbueno: So pumped that I’m getting to use my LEAD knowledge on Alcohol Misuse Prevention to help this high school class @SigmanuHQ

@KUSigmaNu: It’s national hazing prevention week, check out @SigmanuHQ for more information about spreading the word on ending hazing.

@andrew_walz: Proud to be a part of the only fraternity founded against hazing @SigmanuHQ @CSUSigmaNu #CSUHPAW13

@SWu21: Facilitator notes- CHECK Fresh baked brownies- CHECK Chanel pumps-CHECK I’m very excited to be leading a @sigmanuHQ recruitment workshop today

@mneearstinse: My job just got a whole lot better. My boss is a @SigmanuHQ! #AlphaXiDeltaLovesSigmaNu

@OregonSigmaNu: It was great seeing brothers from @UTKSigmaNu out last night. Glad we could host you in Eugene! #GameDay #GoDucks #UOvsTENN

@WSUFLife: You have some great men at WSU, @SigmanuHQ! #valuesinaction

@weissellenberg: Enjoyed being back on River Road with @michaebaru for a #LEAD session on effective, ethical leadership with @UGASigmaNu // @SigmanuHQ

@Smack_Daddy_T: S/O to my brothers @SigmaNuMuTau @SigmanuHQ for changing my life forever. I could never ask for such great people to be in my life. #sigmanu

@Joshcherok: We’re excited to welcome our @SigmanuHQ leadership consultant to the Kent State campus! @dcbrenton
“Think about it. We call them ‘performance enhancing drugs.’ In their minds, what could be wrong with that?”

Don Hooton (Louisiana – Lafayette) on steroid use among American youth. See page 10.

“But the truth is, even in a country with all the opportunity in the world, until that opportunity is explained and that path is illuminated, you can’t expect a kid to just find it.”

Bill Courtney (Mississippi) reflecting on six years of coaching an inner-city Memphis high school football team. See page 14.

“When we went to clean it up, I realized I was standing in what used to be someone’s kitchen, made into rubble.”

Colt Coldren (Central Oklahoma) while organizing disaster relief in Moore, Okla. See page 20.

“You have to have a very clear mission statement — like Sigma Nu’s Love, Honor and Truth — and pass that message on so it continues to compound over time.”

Jessie Rodriguez (Cal Poly Pomona) on what it takes to start a successful company. See page 38.
Flag Pavilion and Trees Dedicated

THANKS TO A GENEROUS GIFT BY JERRY FIELDS (TEXAS State) needed renovations of the Headquarters Shrine have been underway through the spring and summer. The Headquarters Shrine has been repainted, had new doors installed, and had a complete landscaping overhaul. Sigma Nu Educational Foundation’s Ethical Leadership Center has also received some much needed renovations, with contractors replacing carpets, mattresses, beds, and completely refurbishing two bathrooms.

These renovations were highlighted by the recent rededication of the Memorial Flag Pavilion to former Regent and Hall of Honor Member Bob Marchman (Emory). On June 22, 2013, members of Sigma Nu’s Educational Foundation board of directors gathered in Lexington for a memorial service honoring Marchman and Craig Haesemeyer (Iowa), a past member of Sigma Nu’s Educational Foundation Board of Directors. Haesemeyer served as secretary, president, chairman, and immediate past chairman of the Foundation. Haesemeyer and Marchman both had trees dedicated to their honor during the ceremony at the Headquarters Shrine. Haesemeyer was commemorated with a pin oak and Marchman with a pecan tree.
The Delta of Sigma Nu won the Fred F. Yoder Award for Overall Excellence at the Fraternity Communications Association (FCA) Annual Conference in St. Louis this past May. In addition to earning this distinction as the top Greek life magazine this year, The Delta also earned 2nd place for Story Packaging – Coverage of an Event and 3rd place for Best Online Feature or Magazine.

Thanks go to the award-winning graphic design team at Tria Designs and Freeport Press for helping The Delta earn this distinction. Recognition should also go to Merritt Onsa, Grand Historian Bob McCully, Mark Schlabach, Jay Langhammer and the many other writers who contributed excellent stories to the magazine this past year.

The Delta: Top Greek Life Magazine

The Delta of Sigma Nu

FEA Presidency Complete

Executive Director Brad Beacham (Texas Christian) completed last July his term as president of the Fraternity Executives Association (FEA). The FEA is dedicated to the professional development of the men and women employed by inter/national Greek organizations and promotes the values and advancement of the fraternal movement in North America. During Beacham’s term, the FEA hired its first professional staff and completed development and delivery of significant new member development resources. Beacham is the fourth Executive Director of The Legion of Honor to serve as President of the FEA. Preceding him were M.E. Littlefield (Maine), Richard R. Fletcher (Penn State) and Malcolm Sewell (Kansas State).
“I love you guys. I’m sorry about everything.”

No parent can imagine losing a child. But Don Hooton (Louisiana-Lafayette) came face-to-face with such tragedy ten years ago. He’s been fighting ever since for the lives of other young people — like his son Taylor — who believe anabolic steroids are no big deal.

By Merritt Onsa

Taylor Hooton was just 17 years old when he took his own life in July 2003. His parents, Don and Gwen Hooton, now believe his death was the result of steroid-induced depression.

A year prior, nothing about Taylor would have given cause for concern. He had a 3.8 GPA, was fun-spirited, active in church, had lots of friends and was a star pitcher on the Plano West High School JV baseball team. But a comment from one of his coaches that Taylor needed to “get bigger” may have planted an idea. At the time, 16-year-old Taylor was 180 pounds and six-foot-two.

Taylor had his heart set on becoming the number one pitcher on the varsity team. He was also enamored with the idea of improving his physique. And when he went looking for a shortcut to achieve his end goals, it seems steroids weren’t all that difficult to find.

Don looks back now on the months prior to Taylor’s death and, knowing what he knows today, says all the warning signs
of steroid use were there, only they didn’t recognize them.

Early in his junior year, Taylor quickly gained nearly 30 lbs. of muscle, which his parents attributed to the extra time he’d been spending at the gym. But there were other, less pleasant, indicators. He’d developed a severe case of acne on his back, bad breath and extreme mood swings. He’d be aggressive one minute — yelling, screaming and hitting the wall or a table — and in tears the next, apologizing for his behavior. “We saw almost all of the signs, but we didn’t know what we were looking at,” says Don.

When Taylor was caught stealing, the Hootons suspected illicit drugs so they sent him for a drug test and counseling to tackle his mood swings. But Taylor tested negative for drugs. (As it turns out, the test did not include steroids.) Afterwards, ‘Taylor assured his parents, ’I wouldn’t do drugs.’

But his erratic behavior continued, and Taylor eventually admitted to his psychiatrist that he’d been using steroids. When she told him to stop, he did.

However, stopping didn’t mean Taylor was safe. Steroids cause a rush of testosterone to the body, which stops producing testosterone on its own. When ceasing use of the drugs, it can take weeks or even months for the body to kick in and start producing the hormone again. The result can be severe depression.

When Taylor’s parents found more evidence of stealing after a family trip to London in early July, they grounded him. He begged them not to enforce the punishment, but they held firm. The next morning they discovered Taylor had hung himself, leaving a note that said, “I love you guys. I’m sorry about everything.”

They were devastated, and Don began asking how this could have happened to their son.

**Uncovering the Truth**

Taylor’s girlfriend and some of his friends later admitted knowledge of his steroid use. In fact, half of Taylor’s baseball team was injecting anabolic steroids. Even if they’d heard about the dangers of the drugs — including liver damage, high blood pressure, depression, even a shortened life span — it didn’t seem to diminish the temptation to try this quick-fix. In fact, Don says, “Taylor did not think he was doing drugs.” He uses the following illustration to explain.

“Imagine a conference room table. At one end you have the typical illegal drugs like cocaine, meth, marijuana, etc. At the other end of the table you have supplements, protein shakes and creatine, which many kids are using today. If you were to bring steroids into the room and ask on which side of the table they belonged, most kids would put them with the supplements.”

“Think about it. We call them ’performance enhancing drugs.’ In their minds, what could be wrong with that?” says Don.

That’s why, just six weeks following Taylor’s death, Don gave his first public talk about the dangers of steroid use and his suspicions that use among teens is more widespread than many adults understand. Soon after, the Dallas Morning News ran a story about Taylor’s death and steroid use. The New York Times also did three days of investigative reporting and published a story on the front page of the sports section the day before Thanksgiving. Two days later, a producer from 60 Minutes called; their story ran in March 2004.

As Taylor’s story gained momentum nationwide, Don started researching steroid use among teens, and he found an appalling lack of awareness about the dangers and prevalence of steroids in our schools.

“We have a national void of information. We were so focused on Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire that we lost track of the kids,” he says.

That’s when Don gave up his position as an executive at Hewlett Packard and dedicated his life to...
We have a national void of information. We were so focused on Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire that we lost track of the kids.

Fighting for Our Nation’s Children
In 2004, the Taylor Hooton Foundation (THF) was founded to carry out this work. Today, the Foundation is partnered with Major and Minor League Baseball, the NFL, the NHL, the National Baseball Hall of Fame and countless other organizations. MLB Commissioner Bud Selig has offered his support. The organization has just hired its sixth employee and recently expanded its programs into Latin America.

Ten years following Taylor’s death Don says use of steroids among high school and even middle school students is as prevalent as ever. A University of Minnesota study published in the November 2012 issue of Pediatrics magazine shows it’s not just male athletes who are susceptible to the temptation of quick access to a better body. A survey of more than 2,700 students in grades six through twelve revealed 5.9-percent of boys and 4.6-percent of girls admitting to steroid use.

Those statistics don’t include the number of young people who may be ingesting steroids or other harmful substances by consuming protein shakes or other performance enhancing supplements, which are unregulated. According to Don, 20-25-percent of over-the-counter supplements are contaminated or spiked with banned substances like steroids. Of those students surveyed in the University of Minnesota study, 34-percent of boys and 21-percent of girls said they consume protein shakes or other appearance and performance enhancing supplements.

Different from what one might assume, the emotional draw of wanting a better body attracts a very different crowd than “traditional” illegal drugs, which are often consumed at high school parties and social events. Steroid users don’t necessarily fit into that crowd.

“These are our high-achievers. Our best kids are taking these drugs because they think it’ll make them better at what they do. Non-athletes are using them as well to get that athletic look to compete socially. If girls are interested in the look the quarterback or the starting pitcher have, other boys might take this stuff because they want to compete for the ladies,” says Don.

A Matter of Honor
Don believes the prevalence of steroid use is a symptom of a much larger problem. “It goes back to honor and knowing the difference between right and wrong. Today’s generation of teens is used to instant gratification; every answer has to be instant, and that’s what they think steroids will do for them,” says Don.

The emotional pressure on teens — already running high in those tumultuous years — is compounded by the behavior and decisions they see exemplified by steroid-abusing athlete-role models like Lance Armstrong, Rafael Palmeiro and Barry Bonds.

“Professional and elite athletes are setting the example. They are teaching kids to deny and lie about it. What message do kids get from these role models? Not only is it okay to cheat, it’s not cheating until you get caught, and if you do get caught, deny it until you can’t anymore,” he says.

Unfortunately, a study by Proctor and Gamble revealed that 85-percent of young people said they’d never had anyone talk to them about the dangers of appearance and performance enhancing drugs. A more recent study conducted by the Gallup Organization and co-commissioned by THF was released on May 2nd. In a survey of more than 1,000 U.S. adults, only 19-percent perceive steroid use as a big problem in the nation’s high schools.

“It’s time we wake up and realize what’s going on right under our noses. There are health implications and moral implications. Parents need to know what to look for and how to talk to their kids,” says Don.

To further emphasize the severity of the problem, Don stated at a recent press conference, “We have enough children using these drugs to fill up either nearly every Major League ballpark or about 20 NFL stadiums.”

In the fight for honor and what is right, Don is emphatic that it’s up to us, the loving, caring adults — fathers, teachers, coaches, brothers, uncles and grandfathers — who know the truth to share with the young people in our lives. If we are aren’t giving them the message, we shouldn’t be surprised when the Lance Armstongs of the world teach them that life is about doing whatever you want to do — and getting away with it for as long as possible — regardless of the ethical considerations.

How to Talk to Your Kids
Conversations with children need to begin younger than you might think. Don says to start early to instill key values like honor, playing fair and working hard to achieve objectives the right way. Begin these conversations as soon as the child can understand and communicate about the rules of play and engagement.

“Children need to hear men talking about the importance of doing things the right way. Instead of listening to ESPN and debating whether Bonds should be allowed into the Hall of Fame, fathers need to make sure kids know these guys could be going to jail. It’s not about if they deserve to be in the Hall of Fame. It’s about right and wrong, legal and
illegal, honest versus dishonest,” says Don. Kids also need to be warned that they will run into temptations to take short cuts and they need to be equipped to reject those opportunities. Then, they need to see examples of it lived out in their role models.

That means parents need to think twice about the priorities they set for their children. “If we are going to lecture kids on honor and integrity, we’ve got to behave the same way. We can’t put so much pressure on our kids to get a scholarship or make the starting line-up. We’re losing sight of what’s really important here, which is working hard, playing fair and competing in the right ways. We’ve got to circle back and talk about how to do it the right way,” he explains.

Parents who don’t believe their kids are at risk can take a lesson from Don and Gwen. “Everyone is inclined to see it in someone else’s kids. We couldn’t have imagined that Taylor or his buddies would be doing something like that.”

**Getting the Word Out**

The Taylor Hooton Foundation is committed to spreading awareness among students, parents, teachers and coaches about the prevalence and dangers of steroid use among youth.

In addition to online training, the Foundation provides entertaining multimedia educational programs across the U.S., Canada and Latin America. At its founding, their target audience was high schools. They’ve since been met with a great deal of interest from universities. Currently two-thirds of THF educational programs are conducted at universities.

Don believes it’s his life’s calling to sound the alarm about this issue. He knows he’ll face opposition — he already has — but he doesn’t care. “I know the truth. I know what happened to Taylor. We’ve talked to enough people to know what’s going on in the schools. People want to deny the problem, but I keep going because I know what the truth is.”

A Bible verse from the book of Genesis reminds him to stay the course: “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good, to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of lives.” (Genesis 50:20) And, paraphrasing from Rick Warren’s The Purpose-Driven Life, which he read shortly after losing Taylor, Don says, “Sometimes you find your purpose in life as a result of some of the most painful things you’ve been through.”

Now, he hopes he can give other parents what he wishes he’d had 10 years ago: an awareness of the signs and symptoms of steroid use. 🌟

**What are the warning signs?**

Watch for these symptoms, and have an honest conversation with the young people in your life.

**Symptoms of Steroid Use:**
- Sudden mood swings
- Sudden muscle weight gain
- Working out multiple times a day
- Severe acne breakouts – especially on the back
2012 Oscar-winning documentary highlights one Brother’s impact on an inner-city Memphis football team.

By Merritt Onsa       Photos courtesy of TJ Martin/The Weinstein Company
Illuminating a Path

The Delta of Sigma Nu

Fall 2013   ///

page  15
“FOOTBALL DOESN’T BUILD CHARACTER.” Football reveals character.” It’s a common refrain for Bill Courtney (Mississippi). And he should know, since he’s spent most of his life playing or coaching the game.

“In a lot of ways, football is a microcosm of life. There’s pain, triumph and loss. You have to work with other people and listen to someone else’s instruction. You have to learn the difference between hurt and injured. And when you get hurt, it sucks, but you still have to keep going. Those are all the same things that happen in everyday life, and how you respond does, in fact, reveal your preparation to deal with those things,” he says.

Ever since *Undefeated* — the documentary featuring Courtney and his role in turning around the Manassas High School football team in Memphis — won the 2012 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature, Courtney has been invited all over the country for speaking engagements. He talks about leadership — as in, leading yourself and leading others — which is something he learned not only through football but also in Sigma Nu.

He regularly recalls what he first heard as a candidate: To believe in the Life of Love, to walk in the Way of Honor, to serve in the Light of Truth. “I remember thinking, ‘That’s an amazing creed; that’s something worth thinking about and implementing in your life. If you could just take that creed and walk the rest of your life doing those three things, by and large, you’d be successful.’ Those words have always meant something to me,” says Courtney.

As he coached the Manassas Tigers from 2003 to 2009, Courtney closed every team prayer with this challenge from the Sigma Nu Creed. It made no difference that the players didn’t know where those words originated; they still provide the guidance a young man needs in deciding how to live his life.

Before He Was “Coach” For as long as he can remember, Courtney played sports, especially football. Raised in a single-parent home — Courtney’s dad left when he was just four years old — the only male role models he had were his coaches and teachers.

He lettered in six sports and played competitive chess in high school. He describes himself as “a fair athlete but pretty bright.” At the time, that didn’t
necessarily seem like a good thing to Courtney. But one of his mentors, the chess coach and math teacher, had also played football in high school; he showed Courtney that being smart wasn’t necessarily weak. Courtney joined the chess team his freshman year, and four years later they won third place in the national tournament. “I learned a lot of valuable stuff from him. It was guys like him and my other coaches who formed my thinking as an adolescent,” he says.

Courtney was recruited out of high school to play football at several smaller colleges; but Ole Miss offered an academic scholarship. He accepted and planned to walk-on the football team, but six days before tryouts he separated his shoulder. And, as it turns out, once he saw the skill level of the guys on the team he knew he wasn’t good enough to play with them. “I just wasn’t that caliber of an athlete,” he says.

Courtney was recruited out of high school to play football at several smaller colleges; but Ole Miss offered an academic scholarship. He accepted and planned to walk-on the football team, but six days before tryouts he separated his shoulder. And, as it turns out, once he saw the skill level of the guys on the team he knew he wasn’t good enough to play with them. “I just wasn’t that caliber of an athlete,” he says.

So he got involved in other things during college; he wrote for the student paper and joined Sigma Nu, where he served as Lieutenant Commander in 1989. “What I remember most about Sigma Nu is living in the house and the relationships, fun and the understanding of people that I developed there,” says Courtney. He also played a key role in launching Epsilon Xi’s renowned Charity Bowl, which has raised more than $1.2 million since its inception. (See the sidebar about the history of the Charity Bowl.)

During his junior and senior years of college, Courtney coached soccer at Oxford High School and soccer, baseball, swimming, track and basketball at a private school, Oxford University School. When he graduated with a degree in psychology and English, he decided to be a teacher and continue coaching. By the age of 22, he was a head varsity football coach, the youngest in the state of Tennessee.

Once he got married, Courtney couldn’t afford to keep teaching and coaching. In 2001, he started a lumber business out of his living room. Classic American Hardwoods, Inc. sells lumber to companies that manufacture flooring, cabinetry, trim and furniture. His company, now with 120 employees and offices all over the world, is headquartered just blocks from Manassas High School near some of Memphis’ most underprivileged neighborhoods.

Building a Promising Football Program

It was two years later when an employee and fraternity brother Jim Tipton (Mississippi) had been volunteering at Manassas and asked Courtney if he was ready to get back into coaching. Tipton said there were 17 kids on the football team, some of whom looked promising; but in the last three years, they’d won only a single game. Courtney saw it as a challenge. “I didn’t go there to save anyone,” he says. “I went there to coach football. But it didn’t take long to realize the inherent dysfunction of those kids’ lives. That’s what turned ‘I’ll try it for a year’ into a six-year exercise.”

In his first year at Manassas, the Tigers won four games and went to the playoffs. Every year after that, the more success they had the more the program grew in terms of team members and local volunteers. And, at the same time, Coach Courtney fell in love with the perseverance of these kids who’d faced more than their share of hard knocks primarily because of where they’d been born.

According to Courtney, an 18-year-old male from the neighborhoods around Manassas is three times more likely to be incarcerated than go to college by the time he’s 22 years old. Most of the kids he coached didn’t have a father at home; many had at least one relative in prison. They were hungry to learn about life and how to be a man. Courtney understood those desires; he’d faced them growing up without his father.
“What builds character? It’s a commitment to integrity, hard work, honor and keeping your word. All of that comes straight out of the Sigma Nu Creed. The guy who wrote that meant it. The whole idea is to think about those words and make that a part of who you are.”
"I was able to say to them, ‘I know where you are. I came from where you are. I may be a white guy with a business and all that, but I really do understand what’s hurting you and what’s driving you. I was there; and if I can do it, you can do it,’” he says.

But he also knew from experience that “doing it” wasn’t something that happened in a vacuum. “The Lord put some unbelievable men in my life in the form of coaches. I don’t think I would be a third of what I am today if it weren’t for the men I played ball for, and that goes all the way back to elementary and junior high school,” he says.

Remembering that, Courtney knew he had an opportunity to reach these kids through something they cared about — football. Aligned with his mantra that “football doesn’t build character” he set out to help them figure out what does.

Committed to Character
What builds character? For Courtney, it’s living out those words he learned as a candidate. “It’s a commitment to integrity, hard work, honor and keeping your word. All of that comes straight out of the Sigma Nu Creed. The guy who wrote that meant it. The whole idea is to think about those words and make them a part of who you are. That’s where you build character. So when life hits you in the mouth, what you’ve built is revealed in how you handle those circumstances. The game doesn’t build character, but it will certainly reveal it.”

Day after day of hard work on the field and encouraging his players to keep their focus in the classroom, Courtney and his fellow coaches modeled what it means to be men of character. After reading Tony Dungy’s book Uncommon, Tipton introduced “The Uncommon Man Award” to help team members recognize the importance of doing well on and off the field. Every week, during their devotional time with the team, Tipton read a chapter from the book. The player who most illustrated what it means to be “uncommon” over the last week received the award before the pre-game meal.

Building a team of uncommon men wasn’t going to happen overnight; and it certainly wasn’t going to happen without help. Over time, at least 200 other volunteers served at Manassas in one way or another. Courtney eventually gathered a full staff of volunteer coaches; and members of local churches cooked pre-game meals, sent mentors to campus and hosted football camps for the team.

“Every day it seemed someone new was asking how they could help at Manassas. Over the course of six years, with so many volunteers surrounding the team, it became a program,” he says.

And that program was attracting some attention. In Courtney’s sixth year, documentary filmmakers T.J. Martin and Dan Lindsay had heard about O.C. Brown, a promising lineman at Manassas; they wanted to create a 30-minute film about him. But once they saw the bigger rising-from-the-ashes story of the Manassas Tigers, they decided to temporarily relocate to Memphis to film the whole story. What resulted was an inspiring documentary that is well-illustrated by its title: Undefeated.

Not Just about Football
The film, however, isn’t just about a once-failing football team’s rise to success. Courtney would be the first to tell you there were far more lows than there were highs in those six years. Four of his players were shot and killed in the course of his time at Manassas. This was about far more than the game of football.

In his words, “Undefeated has nothing to do with what happens on the field. It’s about being undefeated by your circumstances, and this group of people was not going to be defeated by their circumstances.”
And, it seems, the “people” he’s referring to aren’t just the kids on the team. “This is about two very diverse groups of people from very different socio-economic walks of life who put aside their preconceived notions and social inhibitions and just came together to work for a common goal. That’s the beauty of it.”

But just like football, it was a combination of pain and triumph. Every bit of those six years with the team was excruciating as Courtney worked and coached 16 hours a day before coming home to spend a few moments with his family. But he says it was all worth it.

“The rewards were immeasurable as more kids came to the program, as they started to win on the field and as they started to change the way they were approaching their lives. In our last two years, we graduated 36 seniors, and 35 went to college. When you see change happening in kids’ lives, you’re absolutely drawn to it. That’s the satisfaction you get by giving of yourself,” he says.

In those years Courtney changed, too. “Ten years ago I would have told you, if you don’t succeed in this country it’s your own fault. I’m here to tell you today, that’s just not true,” he says. “That sounds right, and it should be right. But the truth is, even in a country with all the opportunity in the world, until that opportunity is explained and that path is illuminated, you can’t expect a kid to just find it.”

To continue to help illuminate that path, Courtney and Tipton created The ManRise Foundation — a mentoring program for young men in Memphis schools. Mentors encourage morality, good character and responsibility through biblical principles and personal encouragement. Now that Courtney is no longer coaching at Manassas, several local churches continue to carry the torch and invest in the lives of the young people in Memphis through the foundation.

In 2003, he just wanted to coach football. A decade later, Courtney has a platform to spread the word about what it takes to impact the life of another human being. “All the money in the world is never going to fix this problem [of poverty]. This is a very human problem. The only thing that fixes it is in-your-face compassion, mentoring, real-life love and teaching about the healthy ways to live life. These kids are lost. But you light that human spirit with a little bit of hope and a little bit of guidance; and it’s amazing what can happen.”

And all it takes — is character.

**HISTORY OF MISSISSIPPI’S CHARITY BOWL**

In 1989, Roy Lee “Chucky” Mullins, a defensive back at the University of Mississippi, broke his neck and was paralyzed during the Ole Miss homecoming game against the Vanderbilt Commodores. It was one year before Bill Courtney served as LT. Commander for Epsilon Xi.

Around that time, Courtney and another fraternity brother, John Quaka (Mississippi), had been sharing stories they’d heard about a “Fraternity Bowl” at Ole Miss; they’d talked about bringing it back as the chapter’s philanthropy. When they witnessed the outpouring of financial support for Chucky after his injury — more than a million dollars raised in just one week — the idea stuck.

Courtney then heard about another significant football injury in Mississippi. Allen Moore was a high school student from Lauderdale, Miss.; he’d also broken his neck in a game. Courtney wondered what kind of financial support the Moore family would receive so he contacted the coach. That’s how he learned the family needed help with Allen’s medical bills.

Courtney went to the chapter and proposed a philanthropy event to raise money for Allen Moore in honor of Chucky Mullins — they’d call it the Charity Bowl. He then talked with Mississippi’s head coach Billy Brewer who said he’d provide the pads; and Oxford High School, where Courtney was coaching at the time, agreed to let them use their field. That first year (1990), Sigma Nu played the Phi Delts (and won!) and raised $16,000, awarding the funds to the Moore family at half-time.

Jason Greer (Mississippi), Courtney’s roommate, took over the event the following year, and they doubled the amount of money raised. Since 2006, the game has been played in honor of the late Clay Waycaster (Mississippi), a 19-year-old freshman and beloved fraternity brother who passed away in 2005. Each year, the Charity Bowl continues to grow, and today it’s the largest Greek philanthropy event in the country.

Since its inception, the Charity Bowl has raised more than $1.2 million dollars for individuals who have suffered paralysis injuries. Each spring, the event includes a sorority cheer competition and the presentation of the Charity Bowl Court, all culminating with a full-contact football game between Epsilon Xi Chapter and another campus fraternity.

The Charity Bowl means a lot to Courtney. It’s one of his fondest memories of being a Sigma Nu. “We did it to honor Chucky Mullins who broke his neck playing football for our school and raised money for those with similar injuries who didn’t have the support Chucky had when he needed it most. I did a lot on campus, but I am most proud of starting the Charity Bowl. It was one of my crowning achievements as a Sigma Nu,” he says.

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Undefeated is currently available on DVD, Blu-Ray and Netflix streaming.
By the time footage of a horrific tornado reached the airwaves, brothers from three different chapters in Oklahoma were already leading the rebuilding effort in their communities.

By John Bauernfeind (Indiana)
“There is no greater feeling than helping.”

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TORNADO THAT hit Moore, Okla., the city was a shell of its former self. Areas that the tornado rumbled through were flattened. The town was unrecognizable. There were no landmarks with which to judge one’s bearings in Moore. There were no trees either.

“It was horrifying,” said Sam Denyer, 21. “It was a war zone. Worse than a war zone, actually. I can’t explain how badly destroyed and mangled it was.”

After several weeks, the national media will have wrapped up its coverage of the disaster. Anytime a national tragedy or environmental crisis occurs, the media is all over it; current events are new and interesting, even sexy. But they die down, and what’s left at places like Moore, Okla., are people who genuinely care, for whatever reason or motive, about the wellbeing of the city and of the people who occupy it. People like Dylan Droege, who made the trip from his hometown of Longview, Texas, to Moore two times. There and back, it’s a twelve-hour trip.

“We immediately sent $2,000 to a Catholic charity up in Moore that went directly to the victims,” Droege said. “I’ve been there twice. We’ve been helping repaint and rebuilding fences. It was just crazy to see something do that much damage in such a short amount of time.”

Droege, only nineteen years old and a sophomore, is already the Lieutenant Commander of the Delta Epsilon Colony at University of Oklahoma. A native Texan and pre-dentistry major at OU, Droege has, come to love his adopted state during the rebuilding process.

“Personally, it makes me have more pride,” he said. “It didn’t matter that I didn’t grow up there. I absolutely love everything about Oklahoma.”

Zach Cissell is a twenty-two year old senior at the University of Central Oklahoma. He is studying industrial safety and is a member of the Mu Tau Chapter of Sigma Nu. He is also from Moore, Okla., the town that was decimated this past May by a
“When we went to clean it up, I realized that I was standing in what used to be someone’s kitchen, made into rubble.”

tornado that stretched over a mile wide. Cissell, who was at school at the time of the tornado, raced home to his parents and grandparents’ houses, where, unbeknown to him, one of them had already been destroyed.

“I headed down there when the storm was still hitting,” Cissell said. “It took me about an hour to hike in. Once I got there I went in to my grandparents’ house and tried to salvage anything I could. My grandparents had a pretty big house, and we tore it down last week.”

Cissell’s grandparents were not in the house at the time the tornado ran through. Cissell called his mother, who was home, and was relieved to learn the tornado missed her by about a mile. His father, who had been at work, and his brother, at graduation practice, were alright, too.

Colt Coldren, one of Cissell’s Mu Tau Chapter brothers, has visited ground zero of the tornado’s destruction multiple times.

“When it first hit, it was an absolute wasteland,” Coldren said. “It was definitely shell shock. I remember specifically a house that was demolished beyond recognition. When we went to clean it up, I realized that I was standing in what used to be someone’s kitchen, made into rubble.”

Coldren is a sophomore at Central Oklahoma. Last month he and several fraternity brothers went to Moore and actually knocked an entire condemned house down. Coldren says that his chapter has already completed over two hundred hours of community service, and estimates that they’ll be over five hundred at the end of summer.

“It’s been a marathon,” he said. “It’s going to take five years to put the neighborhood back together. We really appreciate everything that you guys do for us.”

Coldren is referencing the donations Mu Tau has received in the past several months. “A lot of man hours have been donated along with everything else we’ve received for the Save Moore Foundation.”

Coldren said that Mu Tau has received donations from various fraternities and chapters across the nation, most recently from schools in California, Georgia and Illinois.

Coldren said that five to fifteen people from Mu Tau Chapter would go to Moore at a time to help out. In the wake of the tornado, they sent multiple teams of brothers every week to the town.

“For some of us being from that neighborhood, to see where they spent their childhood leveled and smashed,” he said. “It’s definitely done a huge part in bringing us together.”

The Epsilon Epsilon Chapter at Oklahoma State University has also taken part in the rebuilding of Moore. Chase Snodgrass, Epsilon Epsilon Commander, said that he and his chapter are in it for the long haul.

“Our chapter is committed to helping our fellow Oklahomans,” he said. “The rebuilding process will take years and we plan on being a part of it.”

Snodgrass is a senior at Oklahoma State. He’s majoring in marketing with a minor in human resource management, and plans on attending law school in the fall of 2014. Snodgrass said that, in the immediate aftermath of the tornado, the responses his chapter got were overwhelming.

“We received phone calls and emails for over a month, from brothers, both collegiate and alumni, wanting to know how they could help,” he said. “With their help we had car loads of needed supplies that have been used and since donated to Serve Moore. Members of our chapter and their families have continuously been helping victims in Moore. In addition, our chapter had over twenty brothers and a handful of prospective members attend a full day of service in Moore and had the opportunity to help out many different people.”

The aforementioned Denyer is also a member of Epsilon Epsilon Chapter. Denyer is a senior and Lieutenant Commander of his chapter. He emphasized how proud he is of his chapter and its efforts to help the people of Moore who were thrilled when Denyer and his brothers came to help.

“I was really surprised,” he said. “But I think once we arrived, the trauma of the situation had blown over. Everyone was excited and grateful that we were there to help.”

One of the first people that Snodgrass and his brothers helped out was a widow and her infant.

“The very first person we had the opportunity to help on the ground in Moore was a younger woman with a one-year old baby boy. Her husband, a former track star at Moore High School, had passed away just before the birth of their child. The woman had hung all of his track medals on the ceiling above the baby’s crib. The tornado had completely destroyed her house. As we tore the house apart, moving it piece by piece to the curb, she had only one request: to look for the medals as we moved the rubble. Amazingly, we not only tore the house down to its slab and moved
Chapters in Oklahoma (Delta Epsilon, Epsilon Epsilon, and Mu Tau) reported receiving donations from various chapters and alumni across the nation, including schools in California, Georgia, and Illinois.

Photo by Chase Snodgrass
Cissell raced home from school to his parents’ and grandparents’ houses. One of them had already been destroyed.

Snodgrass estimates that Epsilon Epsilon has contributed over two hundred hours of community service towards the relief efforts in Moore. Still, the cleanup process has just begun.

“While much of the debris has been cleaned up along major highways, there is still much to be done,” Snodgrass said. “However, Oklahoma is not new to tragedy on this scale. Oklahomans always take care of their own.”

Cissell takes it a step further, comparing the destruction in his hometown to a war zone. “It’s still pretty level,” he said. “It’s kind of like a war zone still. You can definitely tell what was and what wasn’t affected by the tornado. It’s definitely getting better, but slowly.” Cissell remembers the moment he heard of the tornado. “I’d just gotten off work. My roommate had the TV on, and I saw Moore being shown on the station, debris clouds hitting the city. I called my mom and made sure she was okay. Then I told myself, ’I’ve got to get down there.’”

Among the uncertainty he faced on his way to Moore in that moment, Cissel said the support from his Sigma Nu brothers was consistent. “I instantly saw it, because all of my fraternity brothers knew that I was from Moore,” he said. “I kept getting texts and calls from them, asking me to let them know if there was anything they could do for me. Because it is my hometown, seeing the destruction that took place where I grew up puts you in shock. Seeing the outpouring help from the chapter, it puts everything in perspective. It’s really what I saw come out, everything we’ve been taught about brotherhood.”

Droege, Coldren, Denyer and Snodgrass spoke of similar circumstances. Their brotherhoods were strengthened through their shared experiences helping the victims in Moore.

“I know guys who went to Moore day after day and who grew a summer bond with one another,” Droege said. “It’s definitely helped to build a stronger bond with one another, and it gave us a sense of community and responsibility. From a chapter standpoint, we’re still a colony, but we’re really proud to give back to the community in any way that we could.”

“Personally, it’s definitely an experience you can never have unless you’re there,” Coldren said. “Seeing all the affected people, and to see how proud Oklahomans are, it’s crazy. It’s unexplainable how proud you are to be a part of such a great State that helps each other out.”

“I was very proud of our guys, and very proud of the number of people who showed up to help out,” Denyer said. “I’m extremely proud of the way our group performed. We really worked to help out and make their lives better.”

“There is no greater feeling than helping those in need,” Snodgrass said. “At Epsilon Epsilon we strive to live our values and the tenets of Love, Honor and Truth.”

In Oklahoma, amidst the wreckage, heartache and despair, the tenets that every Sigma Nu decrees by were on full display.
Brothers from the Kappa Lambda Chapter gathered this July for the annual alumni and active golf scramble. The brothers played 18 holes and concluded with a cookout at Brother Bob Keres’ house following the scramble.

Brother Joe Gimmarco was awarded the Outstanding Student Assistant by Akron University’s Division of Student Affairs. Several brothers are busy with summer jobs and internships. Brother Christian Perez recently completed a marketing internship working with Jim Tressel to promote the University. Brother Kirk Lutz is a marketing intern for Veyance Technologies and Chris Cesta is a Detention Analyst at JRayl Transport. Other brothers are interning in civil engineering, product and inventory control, and Brother Mike Sabo is a nursing student technician.

This past spring, the Gamma Upsilon Chapter at the University of Arkansas received several awards. The chapter received the Award of Excellence, Big Greek Man on Campus Runner Up (Samuel McClellan), and Top Fall President (Alan Matthews). In addition, the chapter won the Fayetteville Community’s Choice: Best Philanthropy Event 2012 (Pi Phi/Sigma Nu 5k), and was recognized at Grand Chapter 2012 with a Sigma Nu Manpower Award.

This summer, Brother William McComas represented Sigma Nu and the University of Arkansas in a study abroad program for pre-med students in Belize during the first summer session. The chapter is in the process of creating a new scholarship plan to be passed and implemented to help motivate members to strive to be top in their class.

President Martinelli of Panama recently donated $100,000 to the chapter’s scholarship fund which will be used to create scholarships and incentives for current members with good grades and good standing. The chapter is looking forward to the fall and hopes to better improve the 5k Philanthropy event which remains one of the best philanthropy events on campus.

The chapter earned a 2.94 GPA in the fall 2012 semester and a 2.75 in the spring of 2013. The chapter has substantially improved and maintained academic performance for a number of years now. Auburn has become much more academically competitive, and the chapter has done its part.

Three awards were given to graduating seniors in the spring. The E. Meade Wilson Award went to Trey Oliver, the Ray Spearman Cobb Award went to Clint Maroney, and the Travis Rabren Award went to Gibson Hand. All three were dedicated to improving the chapter and left it a better place than it was when they got there.

On April 24, 2013, the chapter voted to create the Maury D. Gaston Award. For over three decades, Maury D. Gaston, Beta Theta 1752, has proven to be an excellent brother of Sigma Nu Fraternity. There are many things that have changed since he pledged Sigma Nu in 1977, but his dedication and service has not once wavered. As an alumnus, he has done more than can be expressed in words. Yet, the chapter wishes to offer him a legacy in tribute to his hard work and unprecedented involvement.

Mr. Gaston served as Recorder and Treasurer as an undergraduate, planned the chapter’s 50th Anniversary in 1980, and received the E. Meade Wilson Award as the brother who best exhibited service and love to the fraternity. When he returned home after a number of years out of state, he was asked to serve on the house corporation and he is now the President. His leadership was soon evident to the General Fraternity and he has been honored as House Corporation Officer of the Year and as Division Commander of the Year. He has been appointed by Regents Durham and Etel to serve as Grand Chaplain. Mr. Gaston has distinguished himself and the fraternity on campus as well. Gaston is currently serving as Chairman of the Auburn Alumni Engineering Council and a member of the College’s capital campaign leadership team.

The award will read, “Very few brothers of Sigma Nu Fraternity are able to truly incorporate into their service the values of Love, Honor, and Truth learned through the Beta Theta Chapter as has Maury D. Gaston. This award shall be given to a brother who shows a passion for leadership through his actions of goodwill and determination, while never compromising the values which he pledged to uphold. The recipients of this award are those brothers of Beta Theta Chapter who left this chapter better than when Beta Theta found them.”

The chapter voted unanimously to award Mr. Gaston as the first recipient of the Maury D. Gaston Award. The chapter will present this to him before the Georgia game on November 16. At that same time, the chapter will recognize past Regent, Robert E. Durham, Beta Theta 2804 and Mu 1650 as a member of the John M. Ward Alumni Hall of Honor.
The Delta of Sigma Nu was able to achieve at Butler University.

Craig Fisher sworn in as SGA President at Butler University.

Bowling Green State

At the end of the spring semester, the Epsilon Chi Chapter participated in the BGSU Greek Weekend with Delta Gamma Sorority. Epsilon Chi took first place in the entire competition and took first place in Greek sing. At the end of July, members of the Epsilon Chi Chapter and alumni will be attending the annual “Sigma Nu Camp-In.” This is when brothers gather at an alumnus’ home in Richfield, Ohio, for a weekend. This is a great opportunity for the collegiate members to make personal and professional connections with alumni while still in college.

Butler

Epsilon Mu Chapter won a series of awards at Butler’s Greek Excellence Awards Ceremony this past spring. The chapter’s awards covered campus leadership, educational programming, new member education, scholarship, philanthropy, and community service. The chapter’s performance was highlighted in achieving Gold Status for campus leadership with over 50% of its members holding executive leadership positions in other campus organizations. The chapter is also proud to announce that it was the only 5 Star Greek chapter this past year. Additionally, the Epsilon Mu Chapter initiated 35 outstanding young men and is now the largest fraternity at Butler University. Epsilon Mu Chapter was able to achieve these successes by implementing LEAD and other risk reduction and hazing prevention programs. The chapter is also proud of the impact their renewed focus on philanthropy had on the surrounding community.

Epsilon Mu Chapter’s Craig Fisher was elected President of Butler University’s Student Government Association this spring. Craig, also Epsilon Mu’s Lieutenant Commander, has been involved with SGA since his freshman year, most recently as parliamentarian. Craig is the third Sigma Nu to be elected Butler’s SGA President in the past five years; previous SGA Presidents from the Chapter were Chris Ring and Chad Lesczynski. Officially inaugurated on April 24th, Fisher gave special thanks to his brothers for their never-ending support throughout the campaign. Serving on his campaign staff were fellow Epsilon Mu Brothers Scott Nemetz, A.J. Teare, and campaign manager, Alex Tallentire.

The Epsilon Mu Chapter of Sigma Nu had a tremendous 2012-2013 school year. The chapter looks forward to sustaining this success in the upcoming academic year.

California State, Fullerton

The brothers of the Lambda Upsilon Chapter participated in Camp Titan, a camp for underprivileged kids in the Orange County area. Every year around 150 kids come to the camp that is sponsored by the Greek system. The funds are raise through Greek week and other donations. This year the chapter had 11 brothers volunteer including two members who served on the camp’s staff and the rest who served as counselors. In addition to the eleven brothers, the chapter’s sweetheart was able to participate as a staff member.

Central Florida

Things are going great for the Mu Psi Chapter this summer. In preparation for the fall, the chapter has held a number of recruitment events in order to have a strong candidate class of men who show good character. Mu Psi has found that holding numerous events allows the chapter to know potential members better before extending a bid. The chapter won Chapter of the Year, awarded by the University of Central Florida, at the end of this past spring semester. The chapter is extremely excited to win this award for the third time and thrilled to have received it two years in a row. This year’s award was special to the chapter because it was recently reinstated after UCF put all of Greek life on suspension. There is one winner for fraternities and sororities.

Several brothers are extremely excited for their internships. Brother Matthew Guda had an exciting internship with the Florida Capital Office and worked for Congressman John Mica. Brother Michael McManus will be starting an internship in the fall semester with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

The chapter is planning a brotherhood retreat to Ginny Springs, a campground here in Florida. The brotherhood retreat was held here last year with great success. Sitting around a campfire was the best environment for brotherhood bonding and for holding LEAD sessions. The lack of technological distractions, cell phones, televisions, and computers, helped brothers communicate better. The brothers discussed why they joined Sigma Nu and why it was important. Additionally, brothers voiced any issues they had with the chapter.

Along with all of this, the chapter is thrilled to move into a new house this fall. Brothers will be moving into the house this August and cannot wait to see what opportunities this will bring.
Colorado State

The Delta Rho Chapter, won several awards presented by the Colorado State University IFC. The awards included Excellence in Academics, Excellence in Membership Development and Retention, Excellence in Risk Management and Accountability, and Excellence in Fraternal Values. As a highlight, Delta Rho was awarded Chapter of the Year, and received the only Gold Status IFC Seal of Approval.

Some of the members were also recognized by the CSU IFC for outstanding character. Luke Allen was awarded Up and Coming Leader of the Year, Zack Schrag was awarded Living the Ritual, Jonathan Ng received Outstanding Campus Involvement, and Cameron Delphia was named Outstanding Chapter President of the Year.

Columbus State

Mu Xi Chapter Marshal John Andrew Pollock IV won Columbus State University's Legacy Award in Diversity Leadership and was awarded Greek Male Leader of the Year last spring. Pollock has served the chapter as Sentinel and Marshal, and has served the Greek community as IFC Secretary and Vice President. Pollock is the first Sigma Nu to be awarded the Legacy Award and the second Sigma Nu in a row to win the Greek Male Leader of the Year. The other was J.P. Dockter. Speaking after the awards banquet he said, "Without many of the older brothers, Andy Knight, Fabian Vazquez, and J.P. Dockter, I would not be where I am today and for that I thank them. A 'thank you' is not enough to cover the impact they have had on my life as well as Sigma Nu has had in my life. Now I will look to pass on what they passed on to me with the new candidates and newer brothers."

When Leadership Consultant Alex Taylor came down this past spring, Commander Conner Davis listed three goals the chapter needed to accomplished to retain their dominance on campus and one of those goals was to sweep the competition in Greek week. The brothers found it to be an easy task. Mu Xi Chapter also came first in Greek week.

On May 11, the Mu Xi Chapter created and installed its alumni chapter. May 11th is also the day the chapter was originally chartered. About 50 alumni and all active brothers were present. The chapter is now 17 years old and many of the alumni wanted to stay involved with the growth of the chapter. The first task completed by the alumni chapter was creating a scholarship for incoming freshmen dedicated to founder Michael Joyce (Mu Xi 33). Brother Joyce passed away due to leukemia. Michael Joyce’s family was contacted for their blessing of the scholarship. They were ecstatic and thanked the chapter for keeping his name and badge number relevant and to Sigma Nu. The scholarship is funded and managed by the alumni chapter.

The alumni chapter has been helpful in this year’s upcoming fall rush. They doubled the chapter’s recruitment budget which should help the chapter get 15-20 candidates.

This summer Mu Xi Chapter held its 2nd annual Snake Bite Scramble Golf Tournament. Proceeds from the tournament benefitted St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Around 14 teams managed to raise about $3,000. This is up from ten teams last year. Next year the chapter hopes to double the amount of teams and raise $5,000-$10,000 for St. Jude.

Cornell

Brothers from the Gamma Theta Chapter are all in the middle of their summer internships. Several brothers are interning in finance this summer. Brian Murray is a summer intern with Credit Suisse, Nick Baccile is with Ares Management, Will Hutton with L88 Investments, and Ty Bostain is with G.E. Capital. Brother Ryan Ur is with the real estate company Related Companies and Max Tave is interning with The Renaissance Hotel in Thailand. Lastly, Brother Michael Wolcott is with Seneca Foods and Chris Shei is with AV Nightclub. The brothers look forward to the upcoming academic semester and returning to campus.
Outstanding Alumni Award was presented to Brother Christopher Gabel. Josef Katzman, a recent graduate, was named Greek Man of the Year. In addition, the chapter came in 3rd place in the Greek games and Greek sing.

Several brothers have internships with law enforcement agencies including Brother David Stanek with the Secret Service in Lexington, Ky., and Hoai Robinette who just finished an internship with the U.S. Marshals in Lexington. Brother Nicholas Jensen has an internship with Janus Fire Protection Engineer in Indiana and Brother Aaron Spencer has an internship with the Rehoboth Beach Country Club in Delaware.

Theta Theta is preparing for one of its best semesters ever this fall. With many recent changes in committee chairmen, necessary and proper planning, the initiation of seven great candidates, and the motivation and drive fueled from the summer meeting and retreat, the chapter brotherhood is going to be leaders on campus and very active within the community.

This past spring, the Lambda Pi Chapter at Eastern Michigan University was recognized as a Chapter of Excellence in the Greek Standards and Assessment Program. They achieved excellence in the categories of Positive Relationships, Integration of Purpose, and Civic Engagement. They were the only fraternity recognized with the award at Greek awards. Furthermore, Brother Josh Richardson was selected as the Greek Man of the Year for his contributions to the community as Commander of Lambda Pi and as the Vice President of External Affairs on IFC. Lambda Pi has traditionally struggled with being recognized for awards by the University, despite meeting the criteria for excellence in most categories. With 25 members, the chapter is smaller than most on this campus, the average being around 35 members. It was important that the chapter show the campus that Sigma Nu is a hard working chapter, that it is doing twice the work of larger chapters with less members. The chapter wanted to prove it was a force to be reckoned with this year. The chapter was able to affirm this.

This year, Lambda Pi looked at the University’s standards and awards program in tandem with Pursuit of Excellence, and realized that many of the goals were the same. Therefore, the chapter worked on reaching goals for both of the programs. This included hosting more service and philanthropy events, putting on diversity programming for the winter candidate class, and having values congruent discussions both before and after any events to ensure that Sigma Nu’s programming was in alignment with the ideals of Love, Truth, and Honor. Other obstacles to overcome included removing $15,000 in debt, raising manpower from eight members to 23, getting off probation for the first time in three years, and raising the chapter GPA by .5.

The chapter’s goals for next year are simple: improve and achieve excellence in the other two GSAP categories (Intellectual Development and Leadership Development). The chapter was very close in both categories, but did not achieve the necessary scores this year, and would like to next year. Lambda Pi knows what to do to achieve excellence and be considered a chapter of excellence for 2013-2014, and plans to do whatever it takes. The chapter strove for excellence and will keep striving for excellence.

Three brothers of Mu Chapter were recently accepted into the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business Institute for Leadership Advancement (ILA).
Sean Gilrain and Wes Roberts were accepted into the Leonard Leadership Scholars Program. The Leonard Leadership Scholars Program (LLSP) is a highly selective two-year leadership development program designed exclusively for Terry undergraduates. The program provides personalized leadership training through innovative courses, enriching extracurricular activities, and challenging service opportunities.

Alex Kellams was admitted to the ILA Fellows Program – a one-year course-based program that results in a graduate certificate upon successful completion of the ILA courses.

Sean, Wes and Alex follow a number of Mu brothers who have been accepted to the prestigious Terry leadership programs. Such success is another example of the Sigma Nu brotherhood at UGA – with older brothers extending the helping hand to improve the opportunities afforded to the younger members in the chapter. The brothers are proud to present this as another example of the chapter’s 140-year commitment to excellence on River Road.

On April 13th, 2013, the Eta Gamma Chapter held its 3rd Annual Sigma Nu Smoke Out benefiting St. Jude Children’s Hospital. The chapter nearly raised $5,000 with the help of Eta Gamma alumni and brothers, fellow Greeks, and nearly 50 sponsors from around the Atlanta area. This total put the chapter at over $15,000 raised for St. Jude in only three years.

Along with this, the Eta Gamma Chapter held its 41st Annual Sigma Nu sweepstakes which helped raise nearly $4,000 for the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School. This event calls on the participation of all Greek organizations on campus competing in a week-long event consisting of different events that not only help raise funds towards the Charter School, but also are point based to crown a champion for the week. This year Phi Mu Sorority, Theta Beta Chapter, was crowned Sweepstakes champion. Along with these efforts the chapter’s members participated in over 700 hours of community service towards organizations such as Trees Atlanta, Mad Housers, St. Jude, The Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School, and Gigi’s Playhouse.

Congratulations to the brothers of Eta Gamma on their achievements at this year’s Greek awards banquet. For the second year in a row Eta Gamma was the only IFC chapter recognized. Brother Ozaer Faroqui was recognized as the chapter president and Brother Kabir Faiz for his service as IFC President for the year. Brother Faiz also won Greek Life’s Executive Officer of the Year Award, while the chapter was awarded IFC Chapter of the Year. Eta Gamma was also the only IFC chapter to achieve the Five Star Status of Excellence for the 6th consecutive year! Along with this accomplishment, the chapter brought home the Jernigan’s Cup for the best overall intramural team at Georgia State, and captured its 18th overall IFC all sports trophy, the most in the history of the council at GSU.

Maryland Members of the Delta Phi Chapter after receiving the Most Improved Chapter of the Year and Best New Member Education Program.
Oscar ceremony this past spring. Before Alumnus Robert Hart took over the position of House Director in late 2011, the physical state of the house was in extremely poor condition. As soon as he and two other alumni took on the task of running the house corporation, he immediately became a daily presence within the house. He is a recently retired electrician who has spent 8 hours a day, 5-6 days a week since January 2012 working to modernize the house and make it a place people have a deep desire to live in. Over the course of the past year and a half, he has acted as foreman, as well as primary laborer, to ensure the quick, effective installation of the chapter house’s new fire protection system, restoration of the public areas of the first floor, rewiring of the entire house, new ceilings in both the second and third floor hallways, and other general repair. His tireless work has shown the brothers, and now the Greek community as a whole through this award, that being a brother of Sigma Nu does not end upon graduation. In fact, as Bob has shown to all of the brothers of Gamma Mu, the pursuit of excellence is a lifelong commitment that should never falter.

**Kent State**

Zeta Gamma Commander Joshua M. Cherok was one of nine student leaders selected as Kent State University’s Student Leader of the Year. Cherok is the first Sigma Nu to receive this award in over three years.

**Louisiana State**

Last spring, Phi Chapter held its first Annual “Sigma CaNu” at Louisiana State University benefiting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. This is Phi Chapter’s first philanthropy event of this kind. In prior years, the chapter held crawfish boils and golf tournaments. Sigma CaNu is a series of canoe races for sororities held on the lakes near campus. All sororities participated with at least one team of eight girls while some contributed multiple teams. The philanthropy raised $1,500 with the help of several corporate sponsors. Tri Delta placed 1st, winning the coveted oar trophy that now hangs proudly in their sorority house.

The idea for the event sparked during a chapter meeting two years ago. Phi Chapter’s house sits on the LSU Lakes and discussion was brought up on how to utilize it for philanthropy. Sigma CaNu was born.

Phi Chapter officers spent an entire year gaining University approval to make the event happen. The chapter plans to hold the event every spring with a goal to increase the donation annually.
Chi was awarded as Lynchburg’s Chapter of the Year and DJ Bowles was named Greek Man of the Year. In addition the chapter received the highest cumulative GPA award, Most Improved GPA, and Outstanding Risk Management. Brother Billy Saulle was awarded Best New Member, Jonathan Fries was named Outstanding Greek Advisor, and Tim Barzditis was given the individual award for community service. Additionally, Wil John received the Sigma Sigma Sigma Stand Up award and Tim Barzditis received the Sigma Sigma Sigma Senior Set Sail award.

Maryland

The Delta Phi Chapter won several awards at this past spring’s awards week. The chapter won Most Improved Chapter, Outstanding New Member Education Program, and Best Community Service Programming.

Summer is going very well at the Delta Phi Chapter as the chapter prepares for the upcoming semester. The executive board is quite excited about completing its semester goals and both the Philanthropy Chairman and Recruitment Chairman have already hit the ground running as they work to match the successes the chapter had in the spring. After hosting another successful philanthropy event this past spring as well as recruiting the largest candidate class in recent years, these officers appear to be using this momentum to their advantage as the fall semester approaches.

Several of the chapter brothers are in the middle of their summer internships. Several brothers are working in finance over the summer including Ryan Streilein who is an intern at Convergent Wealth Advisors, Luke McNally at Fannie Mae working as a forecasting analyst, and Aaron Williams who is with Tate and Tryon as an auditor. Brother Keith May is working with Techno-Sciences on GPS satellites. Additionally, Brother Maks Berger is working in the finance department of Dow Jones and Scott Zlotnick is interning at news station WTOP in Washington D.C. Many more of the chapter brothers have internships and all look forward to returning to campus for the fall term.

M.I.T.

Several of the Epsilon Theta Chapter brothers have internships this summer. Four chapter brothers are working in software engineering. Henrique Ponde is with Dropbox, Ulziibayar Otgonbaatar is interning at Facebook, Jorge Ornelas is interning at Bloomberg in New York, and Lt. Commander Anthony Adams is with DirecTV. Also, Brother Eli Kosminsksy is working at Rapid7, a cyber-security company in Boston.

The Delta of Sigma Nu's Man-of-the-Year for 2012-2013, is pursuing a Ph.D. in quantum computing at MIT and Adam Vickers will be working at a machine shop near his home in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada.
while saving money to travel abroad in New Zealand.

**Miami Ohio**

The Epsilon Nu Chapter at Miami University in Ohio has made exciting progress in the past few months. Recently, the chapter was recognized for its 56% increase in manpower due to a chapter-wide effort in recruitment this past year. In addition, the chapter was able to raise over $40,000 in alumni donations for their “Raise the Roof” campaign. The chapter is happy to report that the roof of the fraternity house will be replaced before the active chapter returns for classes in mid-August, along with several other projects that will take place to give the Epsilon Nu house a collective $100,000 make-over. The active chapter and alumni are excited to see this progress continue over the coming months.

**Middle Tennessee State**

This summer, the Theta Iota Chapter’s house went through a series of renovations including new floors in the social room and hallways, wall repairs, and common area painting thanks to the chapter’s capital campaign.

Theta Iota wishes to maintain the quality of their house because of the cherished time the actives and alumni have had while living there. This also ensures the opportunity is available for future brothers in years to come.

The capital campaign, which has raised approximately $90,000 in donations and commitments, provides brothers, alumni, parents, and friends with an easy and rewarding way to make gifts to the Theta Iota Chapter. By 2017, the goal is to raise over $150,000 to meet the chapter’s debt repayment obligation to Middle Tennessee State University and provide for house repairs, renovations, furnishings and collegiate scholarships.

**Mississippi State**

After being away from the chapter for almost 6 months, Brother Charles Hussey graduated basic training on June 20 and will return to school in the fall. Charles Hussey graduated One Station Unit Training as a Cavalry Scout at Fort Benning, Ga., on June 20. Lt. Commander Jonathan Jackson continues his work with BankPlus as an Accounting and Finance Intern in Jackson, Miss.

Plans have begun for a candidate retreat early in the semester followed by a brotherhood trip to include the entire chapter. The Iota Gamma Chapter is working with the housing corporation, General Fraternity, and another fraternity on campus to secure the chapter’s first on-campus house.

**Missouri Science and Technology**

Garret Cozad — Gamma Xi Chapter’s Commander in 2012 — received Missouri S&T’s Outstanding President Award this spring. Presidents from Missouri S&T’s 17 fraternities were nominated and one recipient was chosen at this year’s Greek award ceremony. Garret is a fifth year senior in civil and architectural engineering.

This past fall, the Delta Eta Chapter helped to kickstart the fundraising and momentum for Jack Hoffman, the winner of the Best Moment award at the spring 2013 ESPY awards. Jack’s touchdown run at Nebraska’s...
The Delta of Sigma Nu spring game was featured for multiple weeks on SportCenter’s top ten countdown as the top video.

The Delta Eta Chapter dedicated its homecoming float to Team Jack. The entire chapter helped out by building the float, selling Team Jack t-shirts, and raising awareness about Jack Hoffman. Delta Eta was able to host Jack and his family at the chapter house before every home football game. The proceeds raised were donated to pediatric brain cancer research.

The chapter got its motivation from Delta Eta’s house mother, Pat Madsen, who is good friends with the Hoffman family and suggested the idea to the chapter. Through this, Delta Eta realized the impact that it could have to help fundraising for Jack Hoffman. Brothers decided to stand out and lead the charge for Jack Hoffman.

The Delta Eta Chapter continues to represent Jack in any way possible; wearing the Team Jack t-shirt, selling Team Jack t-shirts, hosting Jack whenever he is able to make it to Lincoln, and continuously donating money towards pediatric brain cancer research.

Kappa Chapter at North Georgia College organized a chapter-wide fundraiser to help classmate Katelyn Pitts and her friend Sunny Carey with a recent mission trip to Uganda to provide counseling, rehabilitation and medical aid for abused women.

Speaking about the fundraiser, Billy Hallowes said, “The chapter recognized an opportunity to branch out beyond our normal philanthropies to make a difference beyond our own community. “Katelyn was a stranger to Greek life until some Sigma Nu classmates heard about her cause and decided to enlist the chapter to help out.”

The Gamma Beta Colony was recolonized in the earliest months of 2013. It could be said that the Alpha class came together in opposition to the current stagnant Greek life that exists in many chapters at the University. Instead of joining other fraternities with the stereotypical motives of partying and meeting sorority girls, the men of Gamma Beta came together as reformers with a mission to be heavily involved both on campus, within the community, and around the country. Since the first chapter meeting, the colony has been hard at work putting together a petition for its chartering. As a byproduct of its efforts, the colony has gained a significant amount of recognition from sororities, school officials, and members of the Evanston community.

The Gamma Beta Colony began its recolonization efforts in January of 2013 with the guidance of Brother Spencer Montgomery and, later, Brother Bill Morosco. Since then the colony has worked hard brainstorming new and innovative ideas to introduce to Greek life at Northwestern University.

Like mentioned earlier, the men of Gamma Beta came together in stark opposition to the stagnancy of many chapters on the campus. In fact, many current brothers turned down offers from other chapters so that they could create the stronger and more sincere chapter that would become Gamma Beta. Every man brought with him to Gamma Beta an opposition to hazing, a passion to serve the community, and a desire to grow as men. It was the search for a place that supported an environment such as this that drove the recolonization of Gamma Beta.

The colony began with elections of the executive board and committee chairmen. From there the colony quickly pressed forward assigning committees, brainstorming new initiatives, and making campus-wide connections. With the guidance of some incredible committee chairmen, Gamma Beta laid down a solid foundation on which to grow. Once the foundation was built, it was just a matter of pushing forward with the same intensity with which the colony began its journey.

Community Service and Philanthropy Chairman, Danny Callison, is working with his committee to piece together a 5-10 kilometer race to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital this upcoming October. Additionally, the colony is excited to be one of the first fraternities within the IFC to build strong relationships with the other Greek councils and non-Greek student groups.

Delta Epsilon Colony is participating in its first summer recruitment after being recolonized in the fall of 2012. The colony has been contacting members who have signed up through the IFC database, along with contacting legacies and any other referrals received by their website, ouhsigma.org.

The Recruitment Chairman, Austin Buonasera, is being assisted by every member of the colony, with extra help from members Andrew Mercer, Charles Sager, and David Heins. Delta
Epsilon is committed to excellence, and one of the first steps is to ensure that message resounds through every candidate class that is accepted into the colony.

Oregon

Two brothers of the Gamma Zeta Chapter were hired after a competitive process to be a part of the student orientation staff for the incoming freshman class. Brothers Jere Dietz and Marc Caputo were chosen to not only represent the University as a whole but the fraternity and sorority life community. During the month of July, they helped approximately 4,000 new freshmen acclimate to the University of Oregon.

Penn College of Technology

Mike Spear, a new member of Sigma Nu, was elected SGA President replacing outgoing President, Brother Ryan Enders. Mike Reese — also a new member — filled the role of Vice President of Internal Relations for SGA. He replaced Brother Justin Eberhart. Sigma Nu has taken involvement in SGA seriously the past three years. Several brothers have held positions on the executive board and in the senate. Involvement in SGA has been a great recruitment tool for the chapter. The chapter’s goal is to fill the entire SGA executive board with Sigma Nu members.

Penn College of Technology

Gamma Zeta brothers showing off the chapter’s recent awards. The awards included Fraternity Man of the Year, President of the Year, Most Community Service Hours, and Best Chapter Relations.

Presbyterian College

Zeta Theta Chapter recently won Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award, Academic Excellence Award, Educational Program Award, and the Greek Freshman of the Year Award at the Greek life awards banquet at Presbyterian College this past spring. For the past year the chapter worked diligently to go above and beyond the requirements for these honors. Award winners are selected by the campus life administration.

Penn College of Technology

The advisor for the Nu Gamma Chapter, was named Advisor of the Year by the student activities department at Penn College.

Presbyterian College

Zeta Theta has accomplished on paper. Throughout the academic year Zeta Theta dedicated itself to being more involved on campus with philanthropy, service events, educational programs, and Greek events. The chapter’s dedication combined with driven, efficient leadership led the chapter to the awards.

Presbyterian College

The chapter’s dedication combined with driven, efficient leadership led the chapter to the awards. Zeta Theta aims to continue winning awards from campus life every year. Ultimately, the chapter wishes to operate on a high level, regardless of recognition.

Samford

The Iota Chapter received the Greek award for best philanthropy for its “Swoll for Soldiers” event that raised over $4,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. The Iota Chapter hosted multiple LEAD Sessions this past semester. These sessions included “Networking,” led by Dale Brakage, and “Managing Money After Graduation,” led by Deep South Division Commander Maury Gaston.

Rhodes College

Congratulations go to Brothers Andrew Tait, Brendan Tyler, and Bailey Kimmett (all sophomores) for their induction into Order of Omega. Order of Omega is a Greek honor society where candidates must prove their scholarship, leadership, and service to the Rhodes community in an extensive application process.
was featured in several Student Leadership month at the Sewanee award earlier this Service Involvement Overall Community Outstanding the Outstanding Beta Omicron Chapter. This spring Theta Alpha held its 3rd annual Friday Knight Lights flag football tournament benefiting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The chapter had approximately 200 University of South Florida students attend this event. South Florida

This spring, the Mu Kappa Chapter received the 2013 Presidents Award, presented each year to the top fraternity at Southeast Missouri State. Mu Kappa Chapter has been working diligently for the past few years to reach this level of achievement at SEMO. Southeast Missouri State

This spring, the Mu Kappa Chapter received the 2013 Presidents Award, presented each year to the top fraternity at Southeast Missouri State. Mu Kappa Chapter has been working diligently for the past few years to reach this level of achievement at SEMO.

Stevens Institute of Technology

The chapter has graduating seniors working for companies such as Verizon, J&J, Fisher Price, Lumis Technology a CB&I company, and Cosentini Associates. Despite the tough job market, 85% of seniors were employed at graduation this year.

Current Gamma Delta undergrads have internships with companies such as Viking Yachts, Anheuser Busch, Hunter Roberts CG in NYC, Prudential, Hayward Baker, MediaCom, and a NYC record label. There are also a handful of students doing research for the school this summer.

This year the chapter has an updated history for the 113th anniversary. A draft of this work was sent to the Grand Historian. In doing the research, many materials were found that date back to the early 1900’s that are relevant to both Gamma Delta and Sigma Nu as a whole. One of the most interesting items is the New York Alumni Association’s Secretary book dating from about 1908-1922 which contains some extremely interesting pieces of Sigma Nu history. There were multiple successful Chaplain events this year, but the most memorable was a paintball trip in New Jersey with 15 brothers in attendance.

This year the chapter inducted 13 great gentlemen who represent some of the very best men from across Stevens’ campus. They compete on a variety of athletic teams: varsity wrestling, varsity baseball, club soccer, club lacrosse and intramural basketball. Additionally, they embody service and leadership with some candidates becoming senators of the Student Government Association and brothers of Alpha Phi Omega, the national co-ed service fraternity. Lastly, these new members are all in very good academic standing with the institute and represent the chapter’s dedication to a balanced life of academics and involvement.

Virginia Wesleyan College

Preparing for this new school year has been different for the Iota Beta Chapter. This past May, the only remaining active Brother from Iota Beta’s colony days graduated. Though the chapter is confident that the alumni will provide needed support, there is an urge among the new members to step up and be leaders among students.

Sewanee: University of the South

Beta Omicron Chapter was recognized with the Outstanding Overall Community Service Involvement award earlier this month at the Sewanee Student Leadership Awards Ceremony. Beta Omicron Chapter was featured in several local newspapers this semester for a service project that helped rebuild bridges and trails with the Sewanee Outing Program.

Tommy Healy, Sigma Nu Commander, served as keeper on the Sewanee Lacrosse team, along with 17 other members of the chapter on the team. On April 27, Sewanee lacrosse won the Division III Southern Athletic Association Championship in a double-overtime victory over Berry College. Healy finished the game with 10 saves.

On the football team, along with two more brothers competing in track and field and another brother serving as a student coach for the basketball team.

The Gamma Delta Chapter’s GPA was a 3.159, with 37 brothers on the Dean’s list and one brother on the President’s list. For an Engineering curriculum this is quite the accomplishment.

Seven brothers play on the Stevens men’s volleyball team which finished 7th in the nation for Division III. The team not only competes against Division III teams but also played and defeated teams from Division I. The team has gained national recognition and was invited to play in Puerto Rico and Luxembourg.

Four brothers from the chapter have now been elected to the SGA. Brother Mark Scalzo was elected Vice President, Angelo Shambilides a Senator, Anthony Montular the Public Relations Chair, and Owen Hayes as Secretary.

Sewanee: University of the South

Brothers from Sewanee pictured building a bridge during a community service event in the spring semester.
The Delta of Sigma Nu

fill the empty spaces of some of the most respected alumni. The chapter is extremely excited to see what progress can be made in the next year and the new ideas that will be put forward. The brothers of Iota Beta will continue to be men of honor and be held to the highest standards, but the chapter is looking to make some changes in order to create an Iota Beta that is fully reflective of the current members’ values and personalities.

The chapter currently has an active membership of 15 brothers, with one new brother potentially transferring to Virginia Wesleyan from Lynchburg College. It is believed that the chapter is poised for a strong recruitment this fall.

In the meantime, the brothers have been making the most of the summer. Most brothers are taking time to recuperate from extremely busy schedules last semester and save up money. A few brothers are also attending summer classes to knock out a few pesky general studies requirements. Brothers Lewis Myers, Allen Bays and Ben Freller are about to enter their final academic year at Virginia Wesleyan. Five chapter brothers worked as student-orientation staff for Virginia Wesleyan’s summer orientations. Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Snow, is not only working as a summer Residential Assistant on campus, he is also interning with the City of Norfolk’s Marshal to gain more experience in criminal justice.

The Iota Beta Chapter was honored to receive the following awards from the General Fraternity. The chapter received the Regent’s Award for Academic Excellence for its fall 2012 grades, Excellence in Values Based Leadership, and Excellence in Personal Development and Membership Value.

The chapter has been preparing for fall recruitment since the spring. The events have already been scheduled and a back-up plan is in place. Virginia Wesleyan’s fraternities and sororities will have their rush on the same week this year, making it easier to plan around other organizations’ events.

Iota Beta is in the process of creating another major philanthropic event in the fall. Most of the brothers believe that there should be a large event every semester. Last year the chapter had several small philanthropic events throughout the year and one major philanthropic event, the “Sigma Nu Fashion Show” in the spring.

The chapter is preparing to set up a Sigma Nu tent during homecoming for returning alumni.

This past spring, Gamma Omicron Chapter competed in the annual ThurtenE Carnival at Washington University in St. Louis. The ThurtenE Carnival has existed since 1908 and is the oldest student-run carnival in the country. Every year a fraternity and sorority pair up to build a large structure called a facade. The facades hold an hour-long production and are then judged for multiple categories (construction, production, spirit) and there is an overall winner, the Burmeister Award.

This year Delta Gamma and Sigma Nu team took home the Burmeister for the first time since 2010! Sigma Nu and Delta Gamma traditionally partner together for the ThurtenE Carnival.

Washington and Lee

This winter, Lambda Chapter was recognized for having the highest GPA at Washington and Lee University. Lambda Chapter has received this honor for three out of the past four terms.

“The brothers of Lambda Chapter pride themselves on their academic excellence, but not just to pursue their individual academic goals. Austin Peterson, Lambda Chapter’s junior Recruitment Chairman, commented, “Success breeds success. We know that if we are academically successful, the academically successful will be interested in rushing Sigma Nu. With academic success comes dedication, intelligence, and honor, all qualities that make a good brother.”

Lambda Chapter ascribes this success through individual dedication, but also to fraternity-sponsored study events and a culture of academic excellence that permeates the chapter. Lambda Chapter looks forward to academic excellence in the future, hoping to continue increasing Lambda Chapter’s overall GPA and maintaining its top academic status in the terms to come.

The chapter is currently working to plan its recruitment calendar and is exploring options for a fall philanthropy event which could include partnering with a local drive-in movie theatre. Multiple chapter brothers are currently interning across the country. Several brothers are conducting research at universities across the country, one brother is working with the Republican National Committee, and another brother is working with fishing conservation groups in the Adirondack Mountains in New York.

Washington State

Several chapter brothers are currently in summer internships or are studying abroad. Brother Colton Messer has an internship with the Houston Astros in the ticket operations office. Multiple brothers recently returned or will be returning soon from their time studying abroad in Spain, Japan and the Dominican Republic. The chapter is proud of their accomplishments in their work while representing the Legion of Honor. This fall the chapter will be taking its first ever white water rafting trip as a brotherhood event and that is sure to be memorable.

West Texas A&M

The Eta Delta Chapter of Sigma Nu won the 2nd Annual West Texas A&M Greek week earlier this spring. Eta Delta Commander Leif Kertis played an important role in organizing the event as the Greek Week Committee Chairman.

The Gamma Pi Chapter won a total of six awards at the 28th West Virginia Greek Awards Banquet last month. The awards the chapter received were the Academic Excellence Award, first place in number of community service hours, Special Program Award, Outstanding Leadership Development, IFC Greek Man of the Year, and IFC Outstanding Alumnus.

After receiving their charter in October, the members decided to use that energy to do bigger and better things, which put them in position to work towards these recent honors. Earlier this year the chapter held a strategic planning session where all members were given a chance to offer opinions on the direction of the chapter. Officers and committee chairmen used this strategic planning session to develop a set of goals that would drive their efforts for the year. The chapter plans to build off this momentum next year with hopes of winning its first Rock award. ♦
In the midst of the economic downturn, Jessie Rodriguez (Cal Poly Pomona) sold 2,500 homes in the last five years. He’s been recognized nationally for his tremendous career success, but not before losing everything to get there. By Merritt Onsa

AT JUST 30-YEARS-OLD, JESSIE
Rodriguez (Cal Poly Pomona) owns Cal American Homes, www.calamericantimessaries.com, a real estate investment firm in Southern California. Last year, Jessie was recognized among the 2012 “30 Under 30” by the National Association of Realtors®. At the same time, Cal American Homes ranked #286 on the 2012 Inc. 500, which is Inc. magazine’s list of the 500 fastest-growing private companies in the U.S.

Jessie got his start in college while still a member of Kappa Gamma Chapter. Two alumni brothers spoke at a chapter dinner; they were looking for Spanish-speaking assistants for their mortgage business. Jessie fit the bill and started work the following day. For the next year he worked as an assistant mortgage broker, eventually earning his license and becoming a loan officer.

After partnering with his employers to purchase a Re/Max real estate firm, Jessie quickly realized he preferred the mortgage side of the business. In late 2005, he started his own mortgage company; but when the housing market crashed, he lost everything. By December 2007, he’d shut down his company.

At the time, Jessie and his wife had been married just five months. They had to short-sell their home and move in with her parents. With a college degree and on-the-job experience, Jessie probably could have found a management position with another company. But his entrepreneurial spirit won out; he decided to fight through the fear and start over in real estate.

“You feel so beat down when you go under and lose it all. The hardest thing was having the confidence to go at it again, to take the chance and not give up. It was a humbling experience; but I knew I had to try,” says Jessie.

In 2008, especially in California, the inventory of available homes was mostly bank foreclosures. Fortunately for Jessie, his experience on the finance side of the real estate transaction put him steps ahead of realtors who were accustomed to dealing with consumers rather than corporations and banks.

Jessie formulated a plan and began cold-calling and visiting banks like Wells Fargo and Bank of America. He spent his time stopping by offices, bringing goody bags and presenting his disposition plan for their foreclosed properties. His persistence paid off. By the end of the year he’d sold 30 homes. In 2009, he was up to 150. Last year he closed 415.

But it was more than just being in the right place at the right time. Jessie approached this new role with a plan that addressed the needs of the market and played to his strengths. “I had a good presentation and a proper disposition plan. It wasn’t going to be easy to get the meeting; but I knew if I did, I could close them on my services,” he says.

That plan worked. In the last five years, Jessie has sold 2,500 homes. Along the way, he’s reinvented himself and the company to stay on top of current trends, especially when foreclosures started to dry up. His success garnered the attention of large corporations who hired him to assist with their real estate assets. That led to managing real estate investments for Wall Street hedge funds. Today, he manages an acquisition team and runs construction crews in order to quickly buy, renovate and put houses back on the market for sale or rent. In every case, he meticulously provides comprehensive reports demonstrating that he’s investing his clients’ money wisely.

Today, 60-percent of Jessie’s business is buying homes for hedge funds. The rest are homes he purchases for his own company to fix up and resell — up to 40 per year. The next evolution has already
begun; he’s purchased nine acres of land on which to build 28 new homes.

After all he’s been through, no one is more surprised about Jessie’s success than he is. “Five years ago I never would’ve thought I’d be where I am today,” he says.

Looking back, he says his biggest mistake was not keeping an eye toward the future. “I was 24-years-old when the market was just rocking. I was larger than life, but I was not actually saving. I had no plan in place for the company if everything went sideways. Now, I have very large reserves, and I’m forecasting 12 months out,” he says.

The ability to adapt and change has been vital to his recent success. “My head is constantly on a swivel looking at what’s going on with the market, why it’s changing, and asking ‘how do I change with it’ so I don’t go under again.”

Even with the ever-present desire to keep his business in the black, Jessie places a high priority on family. He’s home every day by 6:00 p.m. so he can spend time with his wife and two-year-old son. “It’s easy in this profession to become a workaholic, but it’s not worth losing my family,” he says.

Jessie relates the experience of growing a successful company to building a strong Sigma Nu chapter. He believes both stem from recruiting or hiring the right people and keeping them pointed toward the same mission and vision. “You have to have a very clear mission statement — like Sigma Nu’s Love, Honor and Truth — and pass that message on so it continues to compound over time. It takes more than one person to help a company — or chapter — grow.”

“you have to have a very clear mission statement — like Sigma Nu’s love, honor and truth — and pass that message on so it continues to compound over time.”

Jessie says he owes his career to having joined the Fraternity. “As recruitment chairman, Sigma Nu was the first business I was a part of. I do what I do today because of Sigma Nu and those two guys who brought me into their company,” he says. He continues to carry on the tradition; currently, Jessie has two Sigma Nu employees; and he’s employed more than half a dozen fraternity brothers over the years.

Although Jessie believes he was born an entrepreneur, he suggests anyone with a dream should jump at the opportunity to achieve it, especially recent graduates. “I’m only 30, but today’s Sigma Nus just coming out of college have so much opportunity. Technology compounds the way they can do business. If you know how to market yourself online you can take your business to another level,” he says.

Jessie met his wife Tina at a Sigma Nu event in the first quarter of his freshman year. Today, they live in Southern California—in their own home—with their son Carter. •
BROTHERHOOD IS FOR LIFE

On June 8, a large group of alumni gathered from Mu Chapter’s (Georgia) “Greatest Generation” (pictured above). The group was made up of alumni from the 1950s and 1960s and the de facto theme of the event was, "Brotherhood is for Life." In addition to the alumni gathered from this era, there were several alumni representing Mu Chapter’s younger generations. Brothers Mike Malcom, George Hearn IV, current Vice Regent John Hearn, George Hearn III, past

Illinois State Reunion

June 21-22, 2013, was the weekend selected by the Theta Rho Alumni Chapter of Sigma Nu (Illinois State University) for a long overdue reunion. Theta Rho chartered on May 21st, 1972 and remains one of the fastest Sigma Nu colonies to obtain its charter. The chapter boasts the 1976 Talent-of-the-Year, two former regional consultants, and one Alpha Affiliate. The chapter had initiated 458 men when the charter was suspended in 1994.

Alumni Brothers Jim Mounier, Gary Kreiger, and Dan Heinz were instrumental in driving the reunion. Nearly 100 brothers and spouses began the weekend with a Friday night gathering continues on pg. 67
The Delta of Sigma Nu  

Mario Madness Raises $17,000

Two members of the Lambda Omicron Chapter of Sigma Nu, along with a dedicated team, hosted a three-day video game marathon called Mario Madness to raise money and awareness for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The event – held in July – was a great success with over $17,000 raised for the hospital!

Mario Madness is an independent, fan-run event created by Kyle Lambky. The event was run by Kyle Lambky and Michael Carlson, both alumni members of the Lambda Omicron Chapter at University of California, Irvine. Mario Madness is an approved event working in full partnership with St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The goal for this year’s event was to raise $10,000, which was met and exceeded.

During the event, the Mario Madness team played various Mario games for three days straight, broadcasting the games live from their website, www.mariomadness.com. Participation in the event is as simple as going to the website and watching the team work their way through Mario video games. Donations were made on the website and all proceeds went directly to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. The event was designed to be completely audience interactive with a live chat on the website that allowed anyone to interact with players and contribute to the success of the event.

Dukes Selected as Clemson Trustee

David E. Dukes (Clemson), of Columbia S.C., chairman of the executive committee and former managing partner of South Carolina’s largest law firm, was selected to serve as a trustee at his alma mater last year. His appointment began in May 2012. Dukes chairs the executive committee of Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough LLP, one of the nation’s largest law firms with more than 450 lawyers and 1,000 employees. The firm has 13 offices from Florida to Massachusetts.

“I am honored to have this opportunity to serve my alma mater. My education and experience at Clemson provided a solid foundation for me to pursue opportunities in the law and business world. I look forward to being able to give back to Clemson,” said Dukes.

Dukes succeeded Thomas B. McTeer, 75, of Columbia, who retired after more than 35 years of service as a trustee — making him one of the longest-serving trustees in Clemson history. Like McTeer, Dukes has been an active and engaged Clemson student and alumnus, having...
MEG JAY HAS A STERN WARNING for the young college graduates casually meandering through their twenties. “The deceptive irony is that our twentysomething years may not feel all that consequential,” she writes in her new book The Defining Decade. “It is easy to imagine that life’s significant experiences begin with big moments and exciting encounters, but this is not how it happens.”

Jay goes on to explain why 30 is not the new 20, and how twentysomethings must seize the most developmental years of their lives to achieve the optimal career trajectory.

Dr. Jay, a clinical psychologist and assistant professor at the University of Virginia, submits that twentysomethings are often paralyzed by possible career choices because of an identity crisis. This identity crisis is best overcome by developing “identity capital,” explained by Jay as “how we build ourselves -- bit by bit, over time. Most important, identity capital is what we bring to the adult marketplace.”

Dr. Jay uses the example of Erik Erikson, a famed psychoanalyst and Pulitzer Prize winner who lived a life familiar to many young Americans. Erikson traveled the world prior to pursuing his career, and lived on very limited means for a brief time. Jay lists his many accomplishments while in his twenties and uses this to show how Erikson used this time to develop identity capital. Jay shares her own story of working for an outdoor adventure company while she explored possible career paths. Though the industry wasn’t what she ended up pursuing, she took several leadership roles that she credits with preparing her for graduate school interviews. Far from an identity crisis; it’s procrastination.

Much of Dr. Jay’s research also looks at the way dating and love influence the other challenges of being a twentysomething. Through marriage people can pick their family, she says, and you have control over who you choose.

Dr. Jay tackles the changing trends of cohabitation. Nearly half of twenty-somethings want to live together prior to marriage and a similar number follow through in these plans. Jay argues that this trend – which she calls “sliding, not deciding” – is harmful to the development of stable and healthy relationships as couples casually – and sometimes carelessly – slide into relationships without reaching a formal decision to be with that

Though The Defining Decade is written for twentysomethings, the book offers insight that’s equally useful for those who regularly interact with the demographic.

Why young alumni need to make their twenties count.

By Alex Taylor (Huntingdon)
one person. Cohabitation is easy to slide into, she says, but people become trapped in relationships with no defined expectations and no direction. The longer the relationship lasts the harder it is to leave and the less likely it is to end in marriage. The twentysomething girlfriend or boyfriend does not also become the thirtysomething wife or husband.

Jay also addresses what she calls “dating down,” in which people choose partners for convenience in place of more practical reasons, leading to empty relationships based on physical attraction but devoid of true compatibility.

The third and final section of Jay’s book discusses the brain and the body. Biological clocks are real, she argues, and she encourages twentysomethings to be more forward thinking, using logical thought in place of rash emotional decisions.

To avoid emotionally-driven decisions, Jay encourages twentysomethings to learn to calm themselves and avoid dumping emotional problems on whoever happens to be near. She describes how to build the confidence that so many young Americans lack.

“Whether we are talking about love or work, the confidence that overrides insecurity comes from experience,” she writes. Confidence comes not from delaying adulthood, but from deciding to invest time and effort into being a member of society.

Though The Defining Decade is written for twentysomethings, the book offers insight that’s equally useful for those who regularly interact with the demographic. The current generation of twentysomethings is coming of age – Millennials are expected to account for 36 percent of the workforce by 2014. Dr. Jay has a special message for those twentysomethings who may have it together, and a definite message for those who seem to be drifting along. Ultimately, adulthood and life is within one’s own control, and when the trajectory and aim are chosen early, there is a much better chance of hitting the target.

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**Sigma Nu Authors**

**Phantom Mesa**

Jim McMillen (Texas)  
Publisher: Telemachus Press  
ISBN: 978-1-938701-10-8

Aging Southwest Texas rancher Clovis Carlisle is met with unexpected resistance when news spreads that he is considering a lease contract that would place up to 80 towering wind turbines atop the one-and-a-half square mile mesa that towers 200 feet above the rest of his four-and-a-half square mile ranch.

He is confronted by environmental and other issue-driven protesters, electricity-sensitive neighbors, and a pot-smoking, ex-college professor who manufacturers meth in his remote cabin. Augusto Klemen, a Mexican drug lord, formerly a freshman cadet at Clovis’ military boarding school, discovers Clovis’ location through wind farm news. Severely burned by Clovis over 50 years before in a hazing incident, Klemen seeks revenge. Making matters worse, a coldblooded Russian hit man is contracted to kill Clovis.

Atop Phantom Mesa are ancient Comanche burial grounds, once called La Mesa Fantasma by Spanish explorers who reported ghosts there. Widower Clovis experiences several strange happenings there and visits his wife’s cremated remains at the mesa, talking with her as if she was alive. One visit ends with a cliff-hanging episode of survival, including a confrontation with a straying cougar.

The storyline visits Texas scenes in Houston, San Antonio, and Kerrville. Chilling episodes in Atlanta, Georgia, Ft. Pierce, Florida, and New Orleans, Louisiana lead to a series of circumstances that threaten the humble West Texas rancher.

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**Seaside Dream Home Besieged**

T.G. Berlincourt (Case Western)  
Publisher: Trafford  
ISBN: 978-1-4269-0478-3

Captivated by the spectacular natural beauty of northern California’s Mendocino coast, the author and his wife, Margie, residents of Virginia, purchase a magnificent eleven-acre promontory high above the Pacific Ocean near the remote village of Elk. On retiring years later, they decide to build their dream home there. Seeking no more than what’s sanctioned by law, they nevertheless encounter fierce opposition from County and State Parks officials, a hostile faction of Elk citizens, and the local media.

In a six-year battle that ignites civil war in the little village, Margie and TG fight back. Well into the conflict they discover the hidden and improper motivation behind much of the opposition. That paves the way for a settlement with the County. But opponents promptly appeal the case to the California Coastal Commission, and there the final showdown takes place.

Seaside Dream Home Besieged makes a clear and compelling case for land-use reforms designed to achieve a more just and harmonious relationship between scenic preservation and property rights. Included are extensive contending quotes from both sides of the conflict, providing insight into the legal and ethical points at issue, as well as into local coastal culture and obstructive human behavior. With its mystery, sleuthing, assorted (non-lethal) casualties, and colorful real-life scoundrels, Seaside Dream Home Besieged provides suspenseful and entertaining reading. Moreover, it’s an indispensable guidebook for those who dare to enter the land-use minefields in pursuit of a building permit.
Celebrating the brothers whose extraordinary accomplishments and dedication to Love, Honor and Truth brought distinction to The Legion of Honor this year.
MERIT AWARDS

MAN-OF-THE-YEAR
Michael P. Walsh,
Alpha #599
(MIT)
Michael Walsh graduated with a 3.68 while studying physics and computer science at MIT. Michael served the Epsilon Theta Chapter as Commander, Sentinel, and Governance Chairman. On campus Michael took multiple leadership roles, serving as Captain of the tennis team, Chair of Athletics for student government, one of three undergraduates on the MacVicar Faculty Fellows selection committee, and Vice President of the student government.

Michael's work with Sigma Nu and the student government led him to see the world in a broader perspective. As Michael said recently, "one commonly held humanistic goal of the day is to leave the world in better condition than when we arrived... my experiences at MIT and Sigma Nu have nourished my philosophical view that there is no other recourse."

For Michael's work with the student government he was named Senator of the Year and was given the Student Leader award by Student Life. Speaking about Michael, University President L. Rafael Reif said, “Michael has done outstanding work for the MIT Undergraduate Association, where he was involved with everything from advocating for better shuttle service to promoting athletics and building community events.”

Michael is now pursuing his Ph.D. in quantum computing at MIT. He plans to pursue a career in consulting or science policy advocacy.

SCHOLAR-OF-THE-YEAR
Thomas M. Briggs,
Epsilon Epsilon #2350
(Oklahoma State)
Thomas Briggs finished his academic career at Oklahoma State University with a 4.0 GPA and degree in nutritional sciences. Thomas served the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter as Marshal, Scholarship Chairman and on several committees such as the Brotherhood, Bylaws, and Scholarship Committee. Thomas was also a part of several academic and honorary societies including Blue Key Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honors Fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, and Alpha Epsilon Delta Honorary Society. Thomas served as Treasurer of Phi Eta Sigma.

Thomas was on the President’s Honor Roll for eight semesters for having a GPA of 3.75 or higher. Thomas was named a finalist for IFC’s Outstanding Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman member. His senior year he was selected as part of the Homecoming Royalty.

Part of Thomas’ life experience has been to grow through service and mission trips. Thomas has taken trips abroad to Guatemala, Mexico, and Honduras. Taking these trips caused his interest in pursuing medicine as a career path to pique. “I realized that skilled physicians are needed everywhere, and by becoming a doctor, I would be able to serve people around me with a much needed skill,” said Thomas. Chris Cooper, a mentor to Thomas, said recently, “The beautiful thing about Thomas...he doesn’t do things for praise or accolades, he does them because he loves people.”

Thomas is now in medical school at University of Oklahoma.

“The beautiful thing about Thomas...he doesn’t do things for praise or accolades, he does them because he loves people.”

— Chris Cooper

“Michael has done outstanding work for the MIT Undergraduate Association, where he was involved with everything from advocating for better shuttle service to promoting athletics and building community events.”

— L. Rafael Reif,
President of MIT
**ALPHA AFFILIATE**

In 1962, the Grand chapter adopted a proposal by Brother Ora Baldinger, an initiate of the Alpha Chapter at VMI, to create the Alpha Affiliate Awards. Brother Ora Baldinger made the proposal based on a conversation he had many years earlier with Founder Hopkins in 1909, on the occasion of Alpha Chapter's second installation. Hopkins' request of Baldinger was, "Don't ever let Alpha Chapter die, don't ever let it die." Regrettably, not many years later, VMI abolished fraternities permanently. Baldinger conceived of the Alpha Affiliate Award as a means of symbolically meeting Founder Hopkins' request. The program was designed to award an Alpha Chapter initiate number to the Fraternity's most outstanding graduating seniors in recognition of their achievements.

**JAKE E. BECHERT, ALPHA #590 (HUNTINGDON)**

Majoring in accounting and business administration, Jake was able to achieve a 4.0 GPA while serving as the Nu Beta Chapter's Commander, Lt. Commander, and Treasurer. Jake was also heavily involved in several leadership roles on campus, serving as the Student Government President, Vice President, and Treasurer; President of the Order of Omega; and as the IFC Secretary. For Jake’s involvement and academic achievement he was awarded the Accounting Achievement Award and was named Greek Man of the Year in 2011. Reflecting on his Sigma Nu experience Bechert said, “Sigma Nu represents the highest attainment that a man can hope to achieve.” Jake is attending graduate school in Birmingham and aims to attain his CPA.

**ANDERSON E. BROWN, ALPHA #591 (VIRGINIA WESLEYAN)**

Anderson (Andy) Brown majored in psychology and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.7 while serving as Iota Beta Chapter’s Commander, Lt. Commander, Marshal, Sentinel, and House Manager. In addition to his involvement in the chapter, Andy served as the IFC Vice President for Standards, Student Government Treasurer and Senator, and Psi Chi Vice President and Treasurer.

In 2012, Andy was named Greek Man of the Year at Virginia Wesleyan and was able to accept a Rock Chapter Award on behalf of the Iota Beta Chapter. “Being the man to accept the first Rock Chapter for the Iota Beta Chapter is one of the most special moments of my life because of how much it means to our chapter,” remarked Brown on the experience. Following graduation Andy intends to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology and work in a therapeutic setting.

**ROBERT L. CORBAN, ALPHA #592 (MISSISSIPPI)**

Robert served in several roles of prominence for the Epsilon Xi Chapter including Commander and Lt. Commander. This did not detract from his studies, as he double majored in history and sociology and attained a GPA of 3.86. For Corban’s strong academic achievement he was inducted into the prestigious Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society in the spring of 2013. He was also honored as the top graduating senior in the department of sociology.

Speaking of Robert Corban, Chapter Advisor Dr. James Davis said, “In the twenty years that I have served as faculty advisor, he is without doubt the strongest brother to hold the office.” Robert is pursuing his Ph.D. in history at Syracuse University.

**J. WELLS ELLENBERG, ALPHA #593 (GEORGIA)**

Wells Ellenberg served the Mu Chapter as Commander, LEAD Chairman, and Recruitment Chairman, while achieving a GPA of 3.74 in political science. In addition to his chapter involvement, Wells was able to serve on three separate boards of directors as a student. Wells served as a Collegiate Grand Councilman for Sigma Nu’s High Council, as a board member of the Fraternity and Sorority Political Action Committee, and as a member of the board of the University of Georgia Athletic Association.

Placing a capstone on his college career, Wells was selected as the Man-of-the-Year for Sigma Nu in 2012 and Man of the Year for the Southeastern Interfraternity Conference. As a keynote speaker for Sigma Nu’s College of Chapters in 2013, Wells set the pace for future chapter leaders. During his address he remarked, “Leaders with vision and courage survive, leaders with vision and courage succeed.” Wells has begun an internship with COMM360 after completing an internship with The Coca-Cola Company in government relations.

**AUSTIN HARRISON, ALPHA #594 (MISSISSIPPI)**

While maintaining a GPA of 3.5 in public policy leadership, Austin Harrison served the Epsilon Xi Chapter as Lt. Commander, Recruitment Chairman, and Candidate Class President. Outside of Sigma Nu Austin served as the President of Omicron Delta Kappa, President of Freshman Focus, and on the executive committee of the University of Mississippi Food Bank.

During Austin’s senior year he was bestowed with the honor of Campus Favorite and in the fall of his senior year was elected Mr. Ole Miss. Speaking of Austin, Dr. Thomas Reardon, a campus administrator said, “Austin Harrison epitomizes every virtue that a college administrator looks for in a student leader. He is above all honest and a man of high integrity.” Austin will be enrolling in the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service to pursue law and public service degrees.
“Don’t ever let Alpha Chapter die, don’t ever let it die.”
— Brother Ora Baldinger, Alpha Chapter

Ramin Nejadddehghan, Alpha #595 (Maryland)
Serving as Commander, House Manager, and Social Chairman, Ramin Nejadddehghan was able to maintain a 3.5 GPA in government and politics. In addition to Ramin’s service to his chapter, he was able to serve as the team Captain of the Maryland Mock Trial for two years, found a chapter of Face Your Challenges (a suicide prevention organization), and served as the Fundraising Chairman of Terp Thon.

Ramin was inducted into the Kalegethos Society, an honorary society for outstanding Greek students at the University of Maryland. Speaking about Ramin, Delta Phi House Cooperation President Brian Saroken said, “When I think about the amazing development of the Delta Phi Chapter over the past few years and the outlook for the next few, it is largely due to the hard work, strong character and positive influence of Ramin.” Ramin will work for the law firm of Krooth & Altman for the next two years as a paralegal and then attend law school following two years of service to the firm.

Kyle J. Sikes, Alpha #596 (Oklahoma State)
Kyle Sikes served the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter as Lt. Commander, LEAD Chairman, and Recorder while maintaining a 3.5 GPA as an honors biology major. Kyle was involved in several different endeavors including serving as the Vice President of the Arts and Sciences Student Council, Treasurer of the Blue Key Honor Society, and Secretary of Phi Eta Sigma.

In 2012, Kyle was named Sigma Nu’s LEAD Chairman of the Year and was chosen as one of five men to serve as Homecoming Royalty. Speaking about his Sigma Nu experience Kyle said, “Sigma Nu is the greatest thing that ever happened to me.” Kyle is now attending dental school.

John B. Stuart, Alpha #597 (Oklahoma State)
John (J.B.) Stuart graduated from Oklahoma State with a 3.51 GPA in finance. He served his chapter as Commander and Recruitment Chairman. Outside of his chapter, J.B. served as a college leader for Young Life, was a member of Resolutions Committee at Grand Chapter 2012, and was a member of Blue Key Honor Society.

During J.B.’s senior year, he founded the Greek Faith Council and a clothing ministry for the homeless called “The Vine.” Michael Decker, a mentor of J.B.’s recently said, “As a father of both a son and daughter I can only wish that my son will strive to have the same vision that J.B. does; and one day my daughter will find a young man like J.B.” J.B. will be attending Dallas Theological Seminary in the fall pursuing a master’s in divinity.

Robert M. Tudor, Alpha #598 (Eastern Kentucky)
Graduating with a 3.68 GPA and a degree in homeland security, Robert (Matt) Tudor served his chapter as Candidate Class Commander, Sentinel, Recorder, and Commander. On campus Matt was the advisor to the VP of Risk Management of IFC, a member of President’s Roundtable, and a member of Order of Omega. In 2012-2013 he served as Collegiate Grand Councilman on the High Council of Sigma Nu.

In 2012, Matt’s executive council was awarded as the most outstanding on campus by the IFC. Speaking about his love for Sigma Nu, Matt said, “As long as I have breath I will praise the name of Sigma Nu…I love this Fraternity with every last piece of my being.” Matt is currently working at the University of Kentucky Police Department while pursuing his master’s degree.

Michael P. Walsh, Alpha #599 (MIT)
Michael Walsh graduated with a 3.68 while studying physics and computer science at MIT. Michael served the Epsilon Theta Chapter as Commander, Sentinel, and Governance Chairman. On campus Michael took multiple leadership roles, serving as Captain of the tennis team, Chair of Athletics for student government, one of three undergraduates on the MacVicar Faculty Fellows selection committee, and Vice President of the student government.

Michael’s work with Sigma Nu and the student government led him to see the world in a broader perspective. For Michael’s work with the student government he was named Senator of the Year and was given the Student Leader award by the Office of Student Life.
Beta Iota has had sustained Himmelein is the reason that Matt Miller said, “To me, Dr. past Beta Iota Commander in chapter brotherhood events. cars broke down, and participated given rides to members whose has officiated member’s weddings, valuable asset to the chapter. He has been at two levels: chapter and the chapter alumni. Dr. Keller has spent significant time on helping alumni understand the changes that have taken place on the college campus since their time as an undergraduate. This is helped by Dr. Keller’s work as a higher education professional at Cal. State, Northridge.

Speaking about his role with Sigma Nu Dr. Keller said, “I think for me the rewards have been at two levels: chapter and individual. Leading a chapter through strategic planning and goal setting and seeing members make key decisions that they’ve reached on their own and then seeing them achieve their goals and potential is very rewarding.”

Dr. Keller’s work has been focused on managing the relationships with the undergraduate chapters in the Southwest Alpha Division and the chapter alumni. Dr. Keller has spent significant time on helping alumni understand the changes that have taken place on the college campus since their time as an undergraduate. This is helped by Dr. Keller’s work as a higher education professional at Cal. State, Northridge.

Speaking about his role with Sigma Nu Dr. Keller said, “I think for me the rewards have been at two levels: chapter and individual. Leading a chapter through strategic planning and goal setting and seeing members make key decisions that they’ve reached on their own and then seeing them achieve their goals and potential is very rewarding.”

To me, Dr. Himmelein is the reason that Beta Iota has had sustained success for the past decade.”

— Matt Miller, past Beta Iota Commander
GREEK ADVISOR OF THE YEAR
Clarybel Peguero (Duke University)

Clarybel Peguero began her career as a higher education professional at the University of South Carolina as a graduate assistant. After receiving her graduate degree Clarybel has worked at American University, Johns Hopkins University, Boston College, and the University of Virginia. In 2008, Clarybel Peguero became the Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life at Duke University. Clarybel has been recognized by a variety of organizations for her service to the Greek community. In 2008 Clarybel was named Undergraduate Chapter Advisor of the Year for Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. and was also named the Chapter Advisor of the Year at the University of Virginia in the same year.

Speaking about her work with sororities and fraternities Clarybel stated, “Being able to work with students that are high achieving and are called to be a part of something that is so much larger than them is great. Watching them navigate their local culture and instilling the values of their national organization is very powerful. These young men and women are given a daunting task and when they get it right it is amazing. They are able to bring to life what the founders believed in and integrate it in daily life through service and the brotherhood/sisterhood. This is going into year six for me at Duke, and I absolutely love my interaction with students.”

“Being able to work with students that are high achieving and are called to be a part of something that is so much larger than them is great.”

— Clarybel Peguero, Greek Advisor of the Year
VALOR IN ACTION

By Grand Historian Bob McCully (San Diego State)

Navy Medal of Honor.
What is “valor”? It’s a word we’re all familiar with; in fact it’s used in our ritual. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines it as “great courage in the face of danger, especially in battle.” In other words, it is the ability to keep moving forward even though the results of your actions could result in your own death.

Fortunately, it’s a situation that most of us will never have to face. We hope we’d react with great courage if ever necessary, but until actually faced with it, we never know for sure.

Many of our brothers, particularly those who have served in the military or as policemen or firemen, have faced those situations. In this column, I’ll talk about two of them; men who exhibited uncommon courage at a time of great danger to themselves and thus will always bear the title - Medal of Honor winner.

**The Medal of Honor**

Other than those who have served in the armed forces, most of us know very little about the Medal of Honor - why it’s awarded and why its recipients are so revered. The Congressional Medal of Honor is the highest honor that a member of the military can receive. Although termed "Congressional," it is now bestowed upon the recipient, or posthumously to his family, by the President of the United States. At the ceremony, it is customary for the President, the Commander-in-Chief of our entire military, to salute the recipient first, rather than vice versa. In addition, forevermore, the recipient when wearing the medal is saluted first by all military men and women no matter what rank they hold.

So what does it take to be awarded a Medal of Honor? First of all, it is awarded only to an individual who distinguished himself “conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity” – meaning bravery and fearlessness in an action involving conflict with an enemy. In addition, he must have put his own life on the line and acted "above and beyond the call of duty." It is this last phrase, "above and beyond the call of duty," that makes this medal so special. It cannot be awarded to someone for having acted, no matter how heroically, under orders – he must have acted on his own accord and with utter disregard for his own life.

The first Medal of Honor was awarded during the Civil War. At that time, they were awarded more liberally than they are today. To date, over the 150 years they have been awarded, 3,469 have been issued – almost one-half of them during the Civil War. Of the 3,469, just 124 were awarded in World War I out of the 4.7 million men who served. During World War II, only 464 were awarded out of the over 16.3 million men who served. Many of them have been awarded posthumously. In fact, more than half of the men awarded the Medal since the start of World War II did not survive the action for which they were honored. The medal is not restricted to U.S. citizens and at least 59 Canadians are Medal of Honor recipients.

Sigma Nu is honored to have two of these men among our initiates – Christian Frank Schilt (Rose-Hulman) and Nathan Green Gordon (Arkansas).
Christian Schilt was born March 18, 1895 on a farm near Olney in Richland County, Ohio. If ever a man was destined to fly, it was Schilt – unfortunately, planes hadn’t been invented yet. It wouldn’t be until he was eight years old that the Wright brothers flew the first manned flight. However, it’s likely their success caught his attention as a young boy.

In September 1915, Schilt entered the department of civil engineering at Rose Polytechnic Institute (now Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology) in Terre Haute, Ind. Athletically inclined, he was elected captain of the freshman basketball team. He pledged our Beta Upsilon Chapter that fall and was initiated on February 21, 1916 as badge number 139.

However, his time at Beta Upsilon and Rose was limited because of the entry in April 1917 of the United States into World War I. Two months later, in June 1917, he enlisted in the Marine Corps where he continued to serve for the next 40 years rising from buck private to the rank of four-star general.

After enlisting, he went through the same basic training as other recruits, all hoping to join the action in Europe as soon as possible. For Schilt, the Marine Corps decided his talents were better used elsewhere and he was assigned to the first American air unit of any service sent overseas – to the Azores Islands in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There, his unit, a seaplane squadron, was assigned the task of anti-submarine patrols and he served as a machine gunner on the planes.

His time in the air during these patrols, as well as his exceptional mechanical skills, convinced him that piloting planes would be a lot more interesting than just riding in them. So, at the end of the war, he decided to stick around with the hope of being allowed to attend pilot training. He was accepted and by June 1919, he had earned the designation “aviator,” eligible for “duty involving actual flying in aircraft, including dirigibles, balloons and airplanes.”

A Flying Ace

In Caribbean deployments he honed his skills until he was considered one of the top pilots in the Corps. His timing was fortuitous because the 1920’s were the heyday of air speed races and the armed services participated in them as well – in fact, entry was encouraged. Flying was still very young at the time and few people had experienced it as passengers. Thus, spectators lined up to watch the amazing stunts and speeds of these still relatively new inventions. As plane designs and speeds improved, the public could not get enough of watching them and the men and women who flew them.

Due to his exceptional flying skills during the period 1923-1927, Schilt flew in most of the national air races and usually was among the top finishers. In 1925, as part of the Pulitzer Race of that year, he finished second to another Sigma Nu, the great Army flyer Lieutenant Earnest Harmon (Bethany). When not racing, Schilt was winning trophies in aerial bombing competitions and serving as a test pilot for new aircraft. Schilt at the time was considered among the top flyers in the country along with Charles Lindbergh, Eddie Rickenbacker and Jimmy Doolittle.

A Hero Emerges

His rendezvous with destiny occurred in 1928 in a small village, with the name Quilali, in the mountain jungles of Nicaragua. In the late 1920’s, Nicaragua, an important strategic Central American country, had recently been engaged in a civil war between the rebel Sandinistas and the government. The U.S. brokered a peace between the warring parties with U.S. Marines serving as guarantors of the peace. However, in 1927 the rebels attacked the Marines and the government forces in bloody engagements throughout the country.

On January 3, 1928, a large force of rebels ambushed a Marine patrol in Quilali. Heavily outnumbering U.S. forces, they pinned the Marines into the tiny mountain village, encircling them in the jungle. There was no escape route and they were running low on food and water. In addition, they sustained heavy casualties that needed medical attention. Staying put meant the troops would eventually be whittled down through well placed shots or starvation. The only way of getting medical attention to the wounded and supplies for the troops was via air.

The Marines sent a signal requesting aerial bombardment of the rebels and a plane to bring supplies and remove the wounded. However, no landing strip was anywhere near the village. With no place to land, it was an almost impossible request. The men, while still under siege and under the cover of darkness, set about building a landing strip on the small dirt road that ran through the village. Over three days
they cleared the houses on one side of the street to make it wide enough for a plane – however, it still wasn’t long enough. At one end of the dirt road was the jungle and at the other a sheer drop into the valley below.

To further complicate the situation, the seaplane (O2U-1 Corsair) used by the Marines required modifications to replace the landing pontoons with wheels from a different plane – meaning it wouldn’t have brakes to slow it down on landing. The difficulty of the task would not be made any easier by hostile fire on landings and takeoffs, steep mountains on either side, low-hanging clouds and tricky air currents.

First Lieutenant Christian Schilt volunteered to single-handedly fly the mission.

Due to the lack of brakes and the short landing strip, each landing required Marines on the ground to rush the aircraft and grab the wings to slow it down before it plunged over the cliff. In addition, takeoffs were just as spectacular with four Marines hanging onto the wings while Schilt raced the motor to allow for maximum speed during takeoff to compensate for the short takeoff strip.

Over a three-day period, at the risk of his own life during every flight, he made ten flights into and out of the village under constant enemy fire and almost impossible conditions. Ultimately he evacuated eighteen wounded Marines and delivered 1,400 pounds of food and medical supplies.

A First

In recognition of his heroism, on April 5, 1928, Lieutenant Christian F. Schilt received his Medal of Honor from President Calvin Coolidge at the White House. It was the first time a Medal of Honor recipient was awarded the medal personally by the president at the White House and set the tradition from thenceforth.

Brother Schilt would continue to serve in the Marines until his retirement in 1957 — a career of over 40 years. In addition to his service in World War I and Nicaragua, he also served in World War II and the Korean conflict. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he earned 19 more medals over his illustrious career including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with combat “V” (for heroism), the Distinguished Flying Cross, a Bronze Star with combat “V” and five Air Medals — making him possibly the most decorated Sigma Nu in our history.

Christian Schilt joined the Chapter Eternal at the age of 91 on January 8, 1987.
Nathan Green Gordon

Nathan Gordon was born on September 4, 1916 in Morrilton, Ark., the son of a distinguished trial lawyer. After graduation from high school, he attended a community college, Arkansas Poly. A natural athlete, he starred in football (as end) and baseball (at third base) and was named to the all-state team in both sports.

Gordon transferred to the University of Arkansas in the spring of 1936 when offered a football scholarship. He was a key player for the Razorbacks during the 1936 (their first Southwest Conference Championship) and 1937 seasons. On May 7, 1938 he was initiated into the Gamma Upsilon chapter of Sigma Nu at the University. He was elected as their Eminent Commander for the 1938-39 school year. In June 1939 he graduated with a law degree and returned to Morrilton to begin practicing law.

With war clouds rumbling in Europe, Gordon knew it was likely the United States would eventually become involved. In May 1941, slightly more than six months before Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Naval Reserve. After initial flight training in Louisiana, he transferred to Florida and in early 1942 was designated a naval aviator. He became a member of the Black Cat Squadron, a group who often flew night missions. Their planes were black and featured a cat’s face with its jaws chomping down on an enemy cargo ship.

Over the next few years, Gordon flew day and night missions in the Caribbean, protecting the Panama Canal. Upon his promotion to squadron patrol plane commander he received orders to the Pacific front. In February 1944, he was assigned to the allied base at New Guinea adding air-sea rescue to their bombing missions. The rescue called for the planes to fly into the target areas during airstrikes, land in the water and pick up downed crewmen.

A Dangerous Rescue Mission

It was on February 15, 1944, during one of these rescue missions that Gordon earned his Medal of Honor with a display of amazing courage. To rescue several downed B-25 bomber crews, he had to fly his plane into the mouth of the heavily-armed Japanese harbor at Kavieng on the island of New Ireland on Papua New Guinea. His plane was a slow and ungainly Catalina seaplane, unaffectionately known as “The Dumbo” or flying elephant. It had a cruising speed of 110 knots, equivalent to an automobile traveling at around 125 mph.

Gordon piloted the plane into the harbor and directly into close range fire from enemy guns. To make matters worse, there were heavy swells in the harbor and almost no wind. To rescue the men, he had to position the plane to land correctly among the 18 foot swells to keep it from breaking apart.

Flying low over the harbor, the crew frantically searched for signs of the wreckage and the downed men. Finally they spotted a partially submerged life raft, but saw no survivors. Knowing that men in the water are often hard to spot from a moving plane, Gordon decided he had to land near the raft to be sure. They dropped smoke bombs near the raft and circled around to land. However, on the approach, he didn’t see the raft in time and had to drop the plane suddenly from too high an altitude. The resulting hard landing caused several of the plane’s rivets to pop and the plane to break apart.

The resulting hard landing caused several of the plane’s rivets to pop and the plane to break apart. Gordon suddenly realized that the engines not restarting when the time came to take off (at the time, a not infrequent occurrence). If the engines refused to restart the plane would be a sitting duck for the Japanese artillery. Believing it was the only decision he could make to save the men, he cut the engines, the plane stopped and the plane would be a sitting duck for the Japanese artillery. Believing it was the only decision he could make to save the men, he cut the engines, the plane stopped and the men, some badly injured, were pulled safely aboard. We can only imagine his relief when he flipped the switch and the engines restarted.

Taking off for the second time under heavy enemy fire, the plane traveled no more than 20 miles towards home when Gordon received a third message about a downed bomber crew. Upon returning, the crew spotted three men in a life raft and Gordon made another landing into the swells. Again he had to cut the engines to pull the men aboard. After rescuing the men, Gordon had an additional concern.
The nine rescued men, and his own crew of nine men, severely overloaded the plane and might make it impossible to take off, leading to almost certain death for all of them. Fortunately the engines restarted again and Gordon gave it full throttle. After what must have seemed like an eternity, the plane slowly lifted off above the waves and harbor defenses and once more headed toward home base with cheers from every man aboard.

**Uncommon Courage**

However, once again Gordon’s valor was severely tested. For the fourth time on a single mission he got a radio call about six more downed airmen. Knowing that his plane was severely overloaded and that he had already rescued nine men, should he turn around and risk it all to try and save the additional six men from an almost certain death. Certainly no one would have faulted him at that point for continuing towards the safety of his home base.

While none of us know what went through his mind, he fearlessly turned the plane and headed once again straight into the jaws of death. There was just no way he could leave the six men behind to the “mercy” of the Japanese troops. This time the men were only 600 yards offshore, virtually under the very nose of the Japanese guns. To position himself correctly for landing, Gordon had to fly directly over the town and the Japanese antiaircraft guns. How he managed without a fatal hit is one of those miracles of war.

For the fourth time, under heavy artillery fire, he landed his plane in the harbor and for the third time turned off his engines. The six men scrambled aboard, shouting their gratitude, but it’s doubtful Gordon even heard them — he had larger concerns at that point. Would the engines restart for the third time and would the plane take off with the extra passengers aboard — 24 men on a plane designed for a crew of nine?

He flipped the switch to start the engines and likely held his breath. Fate once again smiled on Gordon and the men and the engines came to life. Under continuing fire, the plane slowly began taxiing and finally rose a few feet above the waves but could get no higher. Finally, groaning under the weight of its load, it started to climb and Gordon must have breathed a sigh of relief as they finally headed towards home.

For his rescue of the 15 men and remarkable heroism, his superiors cited him for “exceptional daring, personal valor and incomparable airmanship under most perilous conditions.” His entire crew was given Silver Stars and he was awarded the Medal of Honor from a grateful nation.

After the war, Gordon returned to his hometown to once again practice law. In 1946 he ran for lieutenant governor of Arkansas and he won election to a two-year term. He was reelected to that position by the voters nine more times and finally retired in 1967. He still holds the record as the longest serving lieutenant governor in Arkansas’s history.

On September 8, 2008 at the age of 92, Gordon passed away. For initiates in the Legion of Honor, he left a legacy of unforgettable bravery and courage.
Honoring Our Fallen Heroes

These two men showed valor “above and beyond the call of duty.” Although I’ve highlighted Sigma Nu’s two Medal of Honor winners, many of our initiates over the past 145 years have stepped up when called upon to defend our liberties. Some have even paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives.

We plan to remember and honor these men who gave their lives by enshrining their names forever on the walls of the Memorial Flag Pavilion at The Rock in Lexington. The Flag Pavilion was originally established to serve as a tribute to honor all American and Canadian Sigma Nu servicemen who’ve done so much for so many. It will be enlarged to provide the space for these memorial plaques for those who fell.

To accomplish this task, we need your help in identifying brothers who died in the many conflicts fought by the United States and Canada. Some were listed in The Delta, mostly from World Wars I and II, but we want as complete a list as we can put together. Perhaps there is a plaque hanging on the chapter room wall or you may have known someone who died. In any case, let us know so we ensure they are appropriately honored and remembered. You can send the names and chapter to news@sigmanu.org. Additionally, if you are interested in getting involved with this project, please let us know at the same email address.

In a future edition of The Delta, we will publish all the names by individual chapter. Please help us with this important mission to identify and honor those who fell on our behalf. ✯
What You Should Know About Renting a Car

These tips could help you save money the next time you need temporary wheels. Brought to you by Nationwide Insurance®

If you rarely rent a car, the whole experience can be complex and anxiety-provoking. Given the wealth of insurance upsell attempts, gas options and other choices, you need a game plan to prevent yourself from signing away a large chunk of cash before you even get your keys. Try these ways to avoid paying more than you should.

- **Inspect the car yourself.** You’re responsible for any vehicle damage. So make sure your rental ride is in good shape before you leave the lot. “Always inspect the vehicle with an employee before signing anything,” says automotive industry expert Lauren Fix, a.k.a. “The Car Coach,” who serves as Time Warner’s national automotive correspondent. “Car rental offices should have a vehicle inspection form for you to sign before the car leaves the lot. Unfortunately, many customers are blamed for damage they did not cause.”

- **Upgrade for free.** Always reserve an economy or compact option, as long as it will fit you and your gear. When you reach the counter, ask whether you can upgrade for free. “In many cases, the car rental agent may upgrade your vehicle to a bigger size at no charge since the lower-priced cars run out quickly,” says Regina Novickis, a consumer-savings expert for PromotionalCodes.com. “I travel on a weekly basis—many times to multiple cities—and there has only been one time where they were unable to upgrade me for free.”

- **Ensure you’re insured.** Most rental car agents will encourage you to buy additional insurance coverage. But keep in mind these agents are motivated by financial incentives, so they often neglect to tell you that you probably don’t need more insurance if you have full coverage on your own vehicle; your agent can tell you if your policy covers rental vehicles. “In most cases, the coverage is unnecessary and declining it will save you some money,” Fix says. “Also, many credit card companies offer rental car insurance protection as long as the entire rental car transaction is charged to that specific card. So check to see if this is the case with your credit card.”

- **Avoid the airport location.** Off-airport rental car locations are usually cheaper because they don’t have to pay fees to use airport space, Fix says. If you can book a car with an off-airport site that’s not too far away, and you can get to and from there inexpensively, you should strongly consider this option.

- **Pump your own gas.** The rental agent will promote a prepay option for fuel. It’s usually cheaper to head to a pump yourself, though. “Opt out and just make sure to return the car with a full tank to avoid additional charges,” Novickis says.

Another way to avoid paying more than you should is to get a quote on your auto insurance from Nationwide. Did you know Sigma Nu brothers receive an exclusive discount? Check it out today!

Nationwide Insurance is proud to partner with Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. Join the Nation today and receive a special discount – just for being a Sigma Nu brother!

www.Nationwide.com/SigmaNu
In every level of his NBA tenure – tireless player, hard driving coach and esteemed executive – Pat Riley (Kentucky) has inspired excellence among his fellow coaches, players and teammates. Riley has found ways to get buy-in from all players with his uniquely positive approach to leadership.

A Legacy that Defines Excellence
By John Bauernfeind (Indiana)

Riley became a star at University of Kentucky where he earned SEC Player of the Year in his third season before being drafted by the San Diego Rockets in the first round of the NBA draft.

Photo: Howie Grapek / Grapek.COM
“[Lebron] James did not end up in Chicago thanks in large part to Riley’s role as team president.”
Riley became known for his tireless work ethic, to the point where teammate Jerry West would occasionally have to coach Riley in harnessing his intensity during practices.

Riley then went on to coach the New York Knicks, leading the team to the 1994 NBA Finals where they lost in seven games. Riley spent another year with the club before moving on to be the head coach of the Miami Heat, where he has served in various roles ever since.

Riley is often pictured in telecasts of Heat playoff games, usually sitting behind the Heat bench, but not too close to the players. Riley is stoic; rarely do you find him offering the slightest emotion on his face.

Riley coached the Heat from 1995 to 2003. Before the start of the 2003-2004 season, Riley stepped down as head coach and took over as the team’s general manager. Under Riley, the team drafted Dwayne Wade in 2003, and saw him turn into one of the league’s most dominant players.

At the start of the 2005 season, head coach Stan Van Gundy resigned from his duties, and Riley assumed the head coach position once again. Riley took the Heat to the NBA Finals, where the Heat defeated the Dallas Mavericks in six games.

After last season’s championship, Riley has amassed nine NBA titles; one as a player, five as a coach (one as an assistant coach), and two as a team executive.

In every level of his NBA tenure – tireless player, hard driving coach and esteemed executive – Riley has inspired excellence among his fellow coaches, players and teammates. Pat Riley has found ways to get buy-in from all players with his uniquely positive approach to leadership.

If LeBron James is the face of the Heat franchise, then Riley is its protector behind closed doors.

After being named Coach of the Year three times, Riley was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2008. In 2012 he was honored with the Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award, presented each year by the National Basketball Coaches Association to the coach who best exemplifies integrity, competitive excellence and relentless promotion of professional basketball. Riley is also the only person in American sports to have won a championship as a player, coach and executive. That makes for an outstanding career and legacy, one that won’t be forgotten by the basketball world or Riley’s Sigma Nu Brothers.
A study about ant colonies reveals a possible exception to the wisdom of crowds. By Nathaniel Clarkson (James Madison)

It's generally assumed that groups make better decisions than individuals. The more minds working together to solve a problem, the more likely they'll arrive at the best answer. This idea, known as the “wisdom of crowds,” is supported by extensive research that’s been turned into bestselling popular psychology books like Predictably Irrational (Dan Ariely) and The Wisdom of Crowds (James Surowiecki).

A new study, the subject of a recent article in The Atlantic by Olga Khazan, released by Arizona State University, in cooperation with Uppsula University (Sweden), offers a possible exception to this assumption. Researchers set up a study in which ant colonies would choose between two different “houses.” Knowing that ants tend to prefer darker abodes, researchers gave ant colonies a choice between options with varying degrees of light to see which they would choose. In the first trial the difference between the two options was subtle; but in the second trial the ants were presented with two choices where one was considerably darker than the other.

Researchers wanted to know how the varying levels of contrast between the two options would influence the choice made by a crowd of ants compared to the choice made by individual ants. Researchers found that crowds of ants tend to make better decisions than individual ants when it comes to choosing between two options with subtle differences. But when faced with a choice where one option is clearly better than the other, crowds actually performed worse than individuals. It seems the “wisdom of the crowds” theory fell apart for ant crowds when faced with an easier decision.

When there was only a slight difference between the two dwelling options, the ant crowd performed better than the individual ant by picking the darker abode more often. But when faced with a stark difference between the two dwelling options, the ant crowd made the wrong decision more often than the individual ant by picking the lighter abode.

Researchers theorize that when a number of ants in the crowd found the inferior abode first, their choice was sufficient to influence the remaining ants in the crowd. In contrast, the individual ant made the right decision more often, theoretically, because there were no other ants present to influence the decision.

This study of ant colonies begs the question of whether the results have any application to human decision-making. Khazan, in her piece for The Atlantic, writes, “Personally, these ants reminded me of soccer riots, mob attacks, or even the decision to join terror groups. Or, perhaps less dramatically, inexplicably crowded brunch places with low Yelp ratings.”

The anecdote for sound decision making includes a combination of preparation and patience.
The study offers a possible lesson for fraternities and other member organizations which must make simple and challenging decisions weekly. Obviously poor risk reduction decisions, for instance, have a tendency to originate in small factions, outside the chapter’s formal meeting. By the time a meeting occurs, faction members may have already won over enough other members to neutralize rational decision-makers who recognize the obvious risk of such a poor decision.

Guarding against such decision-making failures requires a combination of preparation and patience that can restore the wisdom of the crowd. Some chapters employ a governance procedure whereby major decisions such as bylaw changes must be approved by a vote over two consecutive weekly meetings, thus ensuring that an irrational decision is not made due to the pressure of time. Other chapters have assigned one or more members to play the devil’s advocate for all major decisions to make sure the group has considered the possible consequences of all options.

Khazan again: “We can sometimes be conned into making an extremely poor choice – even when a much better alternative is clearly available – simply because those around us have made rash decisions and we’re following their lead.”

Though humans and ants have little else in common, the ant study reveals an important lesson for leaders: groups that exercise patience in weighing all the options will be rewarded.

When ants worked individually they didn’t make the same mistake as frequently as the group because no one was there to mislead them.
Up to 40% of businesses never recover after experiencing a major disaster. Do you have a plan to keep your business running if disaster strikes? For a free online tool that helps you develop an emergency plan, visit Ready.gov/business.
past Division Commander Speer Mabry, and Mu Chapter Commander, Ben Booth were all in attendance.

Old stories were told and all in attendance were pleased to rekindle the fraternal fire while conversing over a BBQ lunch. Also, spouses and significant others were in attendance, which together boasted a crowd of over 80. The event was held at Fairweather Farms in Monroe, Ga. and was hosted by Betty and George Hearn.

at the University Union supported the Illinois State University Foundation. The group was first addressed by Al Bowman, University President, which was followed by a memorial of those brothers from Theta Rho who have joined the Chapter Eternal. The evening concluded with a select group of brothers being presented with Sigma Nu 40 year membership pins.

Saturday was another full day of catching up, a golf outing at DA Weibring Golf Course, and another cocktail party and formal dinner.

Duke's Selected as Clemson Trustee

previously served on the university's Board of Visitors and the President's Advisory Board. He is a longtime supporter of IPTAY and the Clemson Fund.

Other leadership and service positions include membership on the boards of First Citizens Bank, the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Math Foundation, the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts Foundation, the Business Partnership Foundation of the University of South Carolina's Moore School of Business and the National Foundation for Judicial Excellence.

Duke's also has served as past president of Washington D.C.-based Lawyers for Civil Justice; past president of DRI, a 22,000-member national professional organization of lawyers who defend companies and individuals in civil litigation; and on the board of the Georgetown University Law Center Advisory Committee of the Law Firm Pro Bono Project in Washington, D.C.

He earned his bachelor's degree in financial management from Clemson in 1981, where he served as president of the Interfraternity Council; on the Student Alumni Council; and was named to Mortar Board, Blue Key honor society and Tiger Brotherhood. He earned his law degree from the University of South Carolina Law School in 1984.

emerging in the valley below. All were proud that they remembered the words to "The White Star of Sigma Nu." This was promptly followed by a rousing "Hull-a-ba-loo, ter-ri-ka-hoo, etc.," with which the desert creatures around were treated. It was not a bad performance for a bunch of 80+ year olds.

Tours of local attractions, culinary delights (Mexican food and Mariachis, of course, in Tucson) and much reminiscing filled the next three days, which flew past in a flash. Backs were slapped, hands were shaken and hugs went all around with promises to meet again next year, as the group parted on Friday.

Bonds of friendship which were established through fellowship in Sigma Nu have survived for many years for this band of brothers. They still have great times and enjoy one another – a grand testimony to the principles of this Fraternity.
3 QUESTIONS

Foundation Board of Directors Chairman
Joe Gilman (Morehead State/Georgia)

The Past Regent shares his thoughts on hazing prevention, the traits of excellent leaders, and what fraternities must do to remain relevant.

1 How will fraternities remain relevant as higher education changes?
Higher education is facing a number of challenges today that may cause the experience to change drastically in the future. The rise in student debt and the onslaught of online courses and degree programs pose some serious challenges to the higher education experience that many of us have had. Fraternities will be challenged as a result. Our physical properties—our beloved fraternity houses—may be more gathering spaces than living spaces. Our development programs will need to be very focused on interactions through online capabilities. And our alumni must step up to Educational Foundation contributions to fund educational program costs to keep the fees to our collegians as reasonable and competitive as possible.

I am concerned about a future without some level of classroom and campus interaction. I believe that there will continue to be a demand of the campus-based experience, assuming universities are able to deal with the spiraling costs. I also believe that fraternities will continue to be necessary to bring an important aspect of social development to complement the classroom or distance learning experience.

For fraternities to remain relevant, we must do two things. First, we have to live our values. We have to be about what we say we are about. Second, we have to find ways to work with students who interact primarily through digital communication rather than face-to-face conversations.

And we need to clearly communicate what we stand for to all constituents—members and non-members alike. We have to find ways to continue to do the things that we’ve always done and do them better than any other organization on campus.

2 How do we prevent hazing?
Hazing is an insidious problem. By insidious I mean that it’s a problem that is cultural. It’s very difficult for one person to truly change a culture; it has to be a movement. I’ve worked a lot with HazingPrevention.Org (HPO) and we are aware of some aspects of chapters with a hazing culture. In such chapters, hazing practices are passed down from class to class and from alumni to the collegians. The mindset becomes, “Let’s make it harder on the next group.” It just continues to snowball. And I’m a believer that a bystander is just as much a hazer as a person who participates in the act itself. When you put all that together it makes it very difficult for one person to change. But that doesn’t say that one person should not try. To fight the hazing culture you should begin by gathering up others in the chapter of a similar mindset. Talk with them about the way things can be better. Talk about the values and why the values are important and that hazing is not a part of those values. Hazing is often the outgrowth of a chapter already in decline. These chapters can’t show their achievements in athletics or academics, so they resort to having their “fun” in a different kind of way.

Hazing prevention is often as simple as saying, “Live our values” rather than “Don’t haze.” Given that we are the only Greek organization founded on opposition to hazing, which remains one of our cardinal principles, we have the challenge of being that organization on any campus whose values-based leadership can be the cornerstone of a hazing-free campus environment.

3 What are the common traits of excellent chapter leaders?
Excellent chapter leaders clearly state what they believe in, set goals for themselves and their chapter, measure and celebrate their success, provide an example for others, and lead through inclusion rather than self-centeredness. Excellent chapter leaders inspire others by the way they live their life and the ideas they put forth in terms of bringing the group with them to accomplish those goals. They set very high goals for themselves as well as the organization. Excellent chapter leaders then explain to the chapter why it’s important to achieve those goals. They measure their progress against those goals on a regular basis, celebrate success, and recognize the achievements of others. And finally, chapter leaders go back and re-evaluate actions after progress has been made.

It’s a lot like the strategic planning cycle. Start out with a vision or a broad view of what you want the chapter to be—or what you want your particular aspect of the chapter to be—and then translate that into strategies and goals. Finally, translate those goals into specific actions that you measure. You then assess your results before going to the top to start the process again, modifying your strategies as necessary. 🌟
Save the Date

66th Grand Chapter
Nashville • July 16-20, 2014

The Maxwell House in Nashville, Tenn., site of Sigma Nu's first Grand Chapter in 1884.
Following his son’s suicide, Don Hooton (Louisiana-Lafayette) started the Taylor Hooton Foundation to educate students, parents, teachers and coaches on the dangers of steroid use among youth. Today the Foundation’s mission is supported by MLB and the NFL.