As college students become more involved in the ongoing discussion about the changing landscape in American culture, two keynote speakers prepare Sigma Nu’s commanders to positively influence the discourse back on campus.
FEATURES

The Entertainer
Catching up with Ray Campbell (Kent State), the voice of the Harlem Globetrotters.

Seeking Cultural Intelligence
As college students become more involved in the ongoing discussion about the changing landscape in American culture, two keynote speakers prepare Sigma Nu’s commanders to positively influence the discourse back on campus.

Misdiagnosed
The emerging neuroscience research that helps explain the viral news stories of misbehaving teens.
From the Editor
An introduction to the Summer 2016 issue.

DeltaNu.org
The latest information and resources available at the fraternity’s website.

Updates From Lexington News from the General Fraternity.

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From the Editor
John Alexander Howard (North Georgia) (1857 – 1922)
Founding Editor

Editors in Chief
Brad Beacham (Texas Christian)
Brad Hastings (West Georgia)

Managing Editor
Nathaniel Clarkson (James Madison)
Associate Editor
Drew Logsdon (Western Kentucky)
Copy Editor
Barbara Hunter

Contributing Writers
Lawrence Don (Butler)
Bob McCully (San Diego State)

Creative Design and Layout
Tria Designs Inc.

Printed by Freepost Press

Contact
news@sigmanu.org
Editor, The Delta
PO Box 1869
Lexington, VA 24450
540-463-1869

www.sigmanu.org/publications
twitter.com/SigmaNuHQ
facebook.com/SigmaNuHQ

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From the Editor

Seeking Cultural Intelligence

As college campuses continue to serve as ground zero for hot button issues surrounding the changing landscape in American culture, preparing student leaders to facilitate thoughtful and informed discussion will only become increasingly important.

Our latest issue features a duo of stories that speak to some of these important conversations surrounding higher education and society at large. We open with a look back at two College of Chapters keynote speakers whose complementary themes urge student leaders to think about an old problem in a new way.

Shifting our attention to campus safety, our second feature story examines what the latest neuroscience research reveals about the development of the adolescent brain. Our story draws attention to a growing body of research that confirms why teens are prone to risk-taking behavior and why this tendency continues well into the 20s. With a deeper understanding of this phenomenon, stakeholders ranging from parents to policy makers can learn how to channel this tendency for novelty-seeking into more productive uses.

Rounding out our collection of feature stories is a profile chronicling one brother’s path to a unique job with a universally recognized cultural icon. As the voice of the Harlem Globetrotters, Ray Campbell (Kent State) travels with the team from city to city, igniting the crowd in every arena where they play. Among other lessons, Ray’s story offers useful guidance for thriving in a non-linear career path — work hard, be resourceful, and embrace serendipity.

Inside you’ll also find the latest dispatches from chapters and alumni around the country, along with the latest column from the editor.

Content Deadlines
Fall – July 1
Winter – September 1
Spring – January 15

* Note: Due to pre-press production schedule, submitted content may not appear for up to three issues. Submitted content is subject to change and is not guaranteed to publish.

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY SUMMER 2016

Volume 132, Number 2
THE DELTA
of Sigma Nu

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Send your address change request to:
news@sigmanu.org

SUGGEST A STORY
Send a story idea to news@sigmanu.org

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Letters should be no longer than 300 words.

SUBMISSIONS
Submit content to news@sigmanu.org.

THE DELTA’s mission is to serve theSigma Nu Fraternity and its members. The Delta of Sigma Nu, published quarterly, has been printed since 1861 when founding editor John Alexander Howard (North Georgia) published the first issue in Philadelphia before it was moved to Takoma Park, Md.

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 strives to challenge orientation, and urges our members to rededicate their lives to Love, Honor and Truth with every issue.

Our Past
The Delta of Sigma Nu’s most famous brothers.

Seeking Cultural Intelligence

From the Editor

Content Deadlines*
It’s all about connections and getting your name out there. Meet people who want to do what you’re doing because those connections can lead to new opportunities.

If you want to make movies then go out and do it. It doesn’t matter what you make, what matters is that you’re building skills from just shooting something.

Don’t be afraid to say, “This is what I’m doing and this is what I’m passionate about.”

Everyone loves watching movies and TV but if you want to get into the industry it takes more than sitting in your room and watching movies all day.

When your first IndieGoGo campaign was only about $1,000 short of their goal about two weeks left and it looks like they’re close to accomplishing one more goal on their way to their dreams.
Headquarters Property Update

Last year tragedy struck the Headquarters property in Lexington, Va. when the maintenance facility that houses many of the critical heating and cooling systems for the property caught fire and burned down. Over the course of the summer of 2015 work was completed to construct a new maintenance building as well as significant improvements to the grounds to increase the amount of greenspace at the Rock. These improvements were completed with the overall master plan for the Headquarters property in mind, including the future construction of the Spears Family Epsilon Epsilon Center for Excellence to replace the current Carriage House. The efforts to continually improve, maintain, and preserve the historical value of the Headquarters property will ensure that it stands as one of the premier Greek Headquarters for years to come and to benefit future generations of Sigma Nus taking pilgrimages to the place where Sigma Nu was founded.

DELTA NUMBERS

$8,800

Dollars raised for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital by Gamma Tau Chapter at University of Minnesota’s Border Battle.

3.28

Cumulative chapter GPA for Mu Iota Chapter at University of Hartford – the highest among all fraternities on campus.

400

Hours spent by members of Kappa Pi Chapter (Cal Poly San Luis Obispo) preparing for the Residential Construction Management Competition hosted by National Association of Home Builders (NAHB).

6,000

Collegiate members who completed the new Social Strengths workshop aimed at promoting healthy relationships and bystander intervention.

2016 Sigma Nu Institutes

This past spring marked another round of successful Sigma Nu Institutes. These regional programs build off of the Commander-specific College of Chapters curriculum to focus on the positions of Lt. Commander, Treasurer, Chaplain, Marshal, and Recruitment Chairman. The curriculum for this year’s program emphasized finances, goal setting, understanding Fraternity policy, values-based recruitment, candidate development, and The Ritual. This year’s program had an astounding 578 participants with 115 chapters sending representatives to attend programs at 12 different campuses across the country. Another critical piece of the Sigma Nu Institute experience is the involvement of alumni volunteers to participate in alumni-specific programming. This year 48 alumni participated in the program at nine different locations.
New Figures Present Encouraging News for Campus Safety

The General Fraternity office released participation figures in April following the launch last fall of a new educational development program aimed at promoting healthy relationships and bystander intervention.

Participation numbers were encouraging with over 6,000 Sigma Nu members completing the workshop. In a post-workshop survey, 94% of respondents said their fellow chapter members were more likely to say or do something to intervene in preventing misconduct. 94% said more brothers understood the importance of intervening. 93% expressed feeling more confident in intervening if presented with an opportunity.

“The national conversation surrounding campus safety is starting to shift from raising awareness to pursuing actionable prevention methods,” said Brad Beacham, executive director of Sigma Nu Fraternity. “This program was created and implemented to empower our members to lead these prevention efforts on every campus where we operate. We are encouraged by the positive feedback the program has received so far and look forward to continuing this progress moving forward.”

Participants offered the following comments when asked to reflect on the program:

“The Social Strengths workshop was a refreshingly different approach to discussing sexual assault and abuse in Greek life.”

“The Social Strengths workshop emphasized the importance of being the person to step in and not saying ‘it’s none of my business.’

“My favorite thing about the workshop was how it talked about how to properly intervene in a bad situation and aspiring to be like a man you look up to.”

The Social Strengths workshop is a sexual assault, relational aggression, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention educational program for collegiate members. The two-hour workshop is presented by trained Sigma Nu staff members and delivered to Sigma Nu-specific collegiate audiences as part of the on-site consultations offered to each chapter and colony.

Sigma Nu Fraternity has been educating its members to identify and prevent sexual assault for many years, long before recent media coverage brought the problem of campus sexual assault to the forefront of the issues facing higher education. Sigma Nu was influential in calling for the GreekLifeEdu program that prepares students to prevent hazing, sexual assault and alcohol misuse. Sigma Nu was an early adopter of the course when it launched in 2008. The Social Strengths Workshop was developed in partnership with Aaron Boe, M.S.Ed., a specialist in non-stranger sexual assault, relational violence prevention, healthy relationships, and bystander intervention. Aaron is the principal of Prevention Culture, where he develops and delivers bystander intervention and sexual assault prevention keynotes and curriculum.
History from THE DELTA

100 Years Ago... (Volume 33, Number 5)
The May, 1916 issue of The Delta begins with an essay titled "A Call to Achievement" by F.B. Linton (Mount Union) on citizenship and civic duty. He appropriately writes a statement that strikes true even today: "A democracy offers great opportunity for individual achievement. There are no arbitrary restrictions to stop the citizen from entering any field of service to which he feels called. The will of no man, except only his own, can hinder him from achieving to the full limit of his ability." This poignant topic was an appropriate lead into a listing of various Sigma Nus serving prominently in their government and communities including several sitting congressmen such as Charles G. Edward (Georgia), Harvey Helm (Central University), John M. Evans (Missouri), Randall Walker (Georgia), Clifton N. McArthur (Oregon), Whitmell F. Martin (Louisiana State/Virginia), and Henry B. Steagall (Alabama).

50 Years Ago... (Volume 83, Number 4)
The summer issue of The Delta in 1966 serves as the annual report of Sigma Nu from Executive Director Richard R. Fletcher (Penn State). This report includes the milestone of a 20% increase in initiated members from the previous year resulting in 3,010 initiates during 1965-66 bringing the Fraternity's total initiates count to 94,514. Some other major achievements included acceptance of an invitation to colonize at the University of South Dakota giving Sigma Nu a foothold in the last continental state without a chapter, an average chapter manpower size of 65 men, 57.5% of living members receiving The Delta, and the birth of today's Leadership Consultant program with two alumni traveling across the country to conduct two to three day visits at 117 chapters!

25 Years Ago... (Volume 108, Number 2)
On the heels of the victory in Operation Desert Storm came the summer issue of The Delta in 1991 devoted solely to recounting the proud military history of Sigma Nu and the powerful stories of our citizen soldiers who we proudly call brothers. However, one story stands out. It is the story of U.S. Navy Captain Gerald L. Coffen (UCLA), Captain Coffen served as a naval aviation pilot on the carrier USS Kitty Hawk during the Vietnam War and was taken prisoner after being shot down during a reconnaissance mission in early 1966. "Our airspeed at ejection was 680 knots, and I was knocked unconscious immediately," Coffen recounts. Following his capture Captain Coffen was taken to the notorious Hoa Lo Prison, nicknamed "Hanoi Hilton," in the North Vietnam capital of Hanoi. The name may sound familiar as it also held Senator John McCain along with hundreds of other POWs. To say the accommodations were Spartan would be an understatement. "One small can in the corner of the cell was to take care of all my physical needs. The cell just reeked of the human misery—decades of human misery—that had been there before us." To stay physically fit Coffen recounted that he and his fellow prisoners would pace their small cells to walk several miles a day. "Three steps and turn, three steps and turn—that was as far as you could go in any direction. We called it 'the Hanoi Shuffle.'" To stay mentally fit the POWs took to memorizing anything and everything they could. "At one time, I had memorized in alphabetical order the names of over 450 prisoners there...we memorized the books of the Bible and, alphabetically, the capital of every state. We also learned poetry." By the time Coffen was released he had about forty poems committed to memory. Perhaps the most powerful symbol of solidarity during his stay in the prison was every Sunday when the prisoners would tap along their walls a "church call." "Every man would then stand in his own cell and, in some semblance of togetherness, we would recite the pledge of allegiance to our flag." Captain Coffen finally returned home in 1973 after seven years and nine days of captivity.
Seeking Cultural Intelligence

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By Nathaniel Clarkson (James Madison)
“This ideal has to come in to the recruitment and new member process. If you’re giving a bid to a guy who’s been telling insensitive jokes, he’s not going to stop telling those jokes once he joins the chapter.”

— DR. DIXON HALL
Bill Courtney graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1991, with a degree in Psychology. While at Ole Miss, he served as the Lieutenant Commander of Sigma Nu and was active in Psi Chi and Sigma Tau Delta. Additionally, he was one of the founders of the Sigma Nu Charity Bowl which has now grown to be the largest Greek philanthropy project in the US.

In 2003, Bill followed CAH employee and fraternity brother Jim Tipton to volunteer at Memphis’ inner city Manassas High School in an effort to turn its underperforming football team around. In the 2008 and 2009 seasons, the team’s record improved to 18-2, it boasted 75 players, and helped to bring hope to countless underprivileged, inner city youth. The story was so compelling that a Hollywood film was produced about it that won the 2012 Academy Award for Best Feature Length Documentary.

Today, Bill still operates as the President and CEO of Classic American Hardwoods overseeing its day to day operations. He is a nationally recognized and sought after speaker keynoting at a variety of venues from the Para Olympics in Colorado Springs to Nike, Frito Lay, FedEx, and other nationally recognized companies to churches, schools, and hospitals such as St Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Barrett School of Banking. He released his first book in 2014, Against the Grain, which has received national recognition as a best-selling manifesto covering leadership, service, character and other tenets that build the foundation for a meaningful personal, societal and professional life. Brother Courtney was featured on the cover of the Fall 2013 issue of The Delta.

This exchange was a crucible moment for Brother Courtney. From that point forward he realized the importance of authenticity as a necessity in bridging the divide on race. It wasn’t something that can be learned in a program – it’s the kind of learning that only comes from real-life interactions with people who are perceived as different. Coach Courtney encouraged all commanders to pursue such interactions.

Similarly, Dr. Dixon Hall encouraged students to seek out personal relationships in place of programs. “Cultural intelligence means asking intelligent questions you might be afraid to ask,” she said. “It means engaging with people in class who don’t look like you. It means placing yourself in situations where you listen, observe, and learn from people you don’t typically interact with. What it means is looking at the guy who’s in your accounting class and inviting him or her to be part of your study group.”

Courtney echoed this sentiment with a caution about the hidden blind spots that tend to occur in cultural bubbles: “When you surround yourself with people who look just like you, think just like you, dress just like you, act just like you, then every conversation and everything you engage in will be circular.”

Like Dr. Dixon Hall, Courtney identifies lack of leadership as the root cause of many problems. “We have an abject loss of leadership in our society today.”

Coach Courtney closed his keynote by articulating the difference between social clubs and fraternities, and the different skills required to run each one successfully. “Are you running a social club or are you running the Legion of Honor?” he asked the Commanders in attendance. “We need leaders. We don’t need club managers.”

Both keynote addresses come at a time when many college campuses around the country are in desperate need of student leaders who can discuss race thoughtfully, intelligently, and dispassionately. Student unrest has bubbled over at many institutions, revealing campus administrators who were unprepared to participate in the dialogue. Thanks to a duo of powerful and compelling keynote speakers, Sigma Nu’s collegiate commanders departed the College of Chapters better equipped to step up and facilitate these important conversations that will only become more relevant as student demographics continue to become more diverse.
IT’S 5:00 P.M. ET WHEN I CALL RAY CAMPBELL (KENT STATE). The phone rings an odd tone before going to voicemail. Ray quickly replies with a text, “On the tour bus I will call in about 10 minutes! We got out of the venue a little late.” When we finally connect it’s 5:30 p.m. and Ray’s voice sounds like he is on his fifth Red Bull. But you quickly find that it’s a natural enthusiasm, an unbridled energy that can’t be contained. We have never met in person and only previously exchanged a few emails, but Ray greets me like an old friend. He greets me like a brother.

His energy is even more astounding given the fact of where he is calling from: France. It’s 11:30 p.m. there and despite having a full day of work under his belt and operating on a drastically different time schedule it would be easy to confuse yourself and think Ray just woke up.

Nearly every night of the week the voice of Ray Campbell fills a new venue as he emcees a regular battle on the hardwood of a basketball court between the razzle-dazzle heroic Harlem Globetrotters and the nefarious World All-Stars. Like a lightning rod in a thunderstorm, Campbell’s energy travels from the microphone to the assembled crowd. The gravity-defying antics of the Globetrotters stoke nostalgia among older fans, while new fans are introduced to a world of theatrics and athletic ability rarely rivaled on the 94-foot length of a basketball court. For two hours Campbell conducts the crowd like a well-trained maestro, guiding them through the show with the taxing duty of continuously elevating the experience. “My favorite part of working in sports entertainment is the connection from energy that people get during a game that is completely organic. If I can be the bus driver to that moment, I will gladly accept that responsibility.”

The Globetrotters often use a translator while overseas, but that doesn’t matter, Ray says, because even if you don’t know the words you can feel the excitement in the phrase, “Here are your Harlem Globetrotters!” while dragging out the words in a rising crescendo. “Basketball itself is self-explanatory, but plot points in the show need to be guided and highlighted,” he explains. The answer is not just simple; it’s an epiphany. Enthusiasm, energy, and excitement are pieces of a universal language everyone understands.

THE PATH TO BECOMING THE official announcer of the Harlem Globetrotters started during Ray’s time at Kent State University and
“Basketball itself is self-explanatory, but plot points in the show need to be guided and highlighted.”

Enthusiasm, energy, and excitement are pieces of a universal language everyone understands.

His answer was a resounding yes. Ray researched Ahmaad Crump, the famous Harlem Globetrotters, and learned that he had to be a leader. Ray met with campers and discovered that they had hired someone they thought spoke fluent Spanish and when asked if they had any idea of what he was about to do, they asked him to lead the campers in Spanish. Ray passed along the Indian war whoop and the Globetrotters’ blackface routine that could quickly wear down to be entertaining. He was told prior to the game by several coaches to just go out and make sure the crowd was 1-5 down to be entertained for the families and fans who put their hard earned money down to be entertained by us for a few hours. For me, everyone from the Globetrotters, to the bad guy (Sen. Ted Cruz), to the stage manager, to the mascot, and to the bus driver – we all have a job to do and it is never quit. He did the LEAD session a week before he was flying out to Europe. He was in Denver and was unlikely to make the trip back to the chapter to be there in person. But Ray was there. He did the LEAD session via Skype. Ray says he was honored by the chapter invited him back to facilitate the session that he’s in the position to support the chapter as an alumnus.

Ray’s entire story seems larger than life. In fact, it’s hard to believe this person truly exists once you start hearing anecdotes from his chapter brothers like the time Ray made the cover of Kent State’s magazine because he was so well known on campus that he would get stopped 25-35 times a day on his way to class. While some of that may be hypebole and the effect of stories getting grander over time, it’s not too far from the truth. “He is truly one of a kind person. He is always an amplified version of himself,” Andrew Meeks says of him. There is another video on Campbell’s YouTube channel of him announcing the starting lineup of the Globetrotters at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. There is a buzz from the crowd and Campbell sits at his microphone with a smile on from ear to ear. He kicks things off with “Let’s get this party started” dragging the final word out for effect. After he introduces the starting five players the crowd claps in unison. The show begins and it’s being guided by the man behind the mic, the quintessential entertainer who never quit.

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CAMPBELL’S EXPERIENCE IN SIGMA Nu greatly influenced this philosophy of making every endeavor a team effort. In Sigma Nu, Ray was the first to come forward with an idea to lead without holding an official position or sitting at the head of the table. “I was always the person who was keen to be front and center,” he says. “I learned through Sigma Nu how to be an effective leader which created a bigger player team. I learned that the opinion of the newest guy is just as important as the opinion of the oldest guy in the chapter. Every single person truly exists once you start hearing anecdotes from his chapter brothers like the time Ray made the cover of Kent State’s magazine because he was so well known on campus that he would get stopped 25-35 times a day on his way to class. While some of that may be hypebole and the effect of stories getting grander over time, it’s not too far from the truth. “He is truly one of a kind person. He is always an amplified version of himself,” Andrew Meeks says of him. There is another video on Campbell’s YouTube channel of him announcing the starting lineup of the Globetrotters at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. There is a buzz from the crowd and Campbell sits at his microphone with a smile on from ear to ear. He kicks things off with “Let’s get this party started” dragging the final word out for effect. After he introduces the starting five players the crowd claps in unison. The show begins and it’s being guided by the man behind the mic, the quintessential entertainer who never quit.

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This year the chapter had eight brothers elected to serve on the Student Government Association including Brian Chube, Zach Grayer, Spencer Eimerling, Mike Grovias, Alexander Minasian, Garrett Ake, Leo Rodriguez, and Jacob Smith. Austin Finley also served as SGA President. Zach Grayer was also elected as Secretary for the IFC Executive Board. The chapter paired with Delta Zeta Sorority to pick up litter and build a wheelchair ramp at The Hayes Nature Preserve and Goldsmith-Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary, Huntsville’s largest and most undeveloped park.

The chapter did exceptionally well at the annual Frat Week Banquet, winning the IFC Sports Trophy, IFC Best Chapter of the Year Trophy, IFC Best Campus Involvement Trophy, IFC Best Community Service Event Trophy, Best Social Event, Best Mix and Best Scholarship Program. Austin Finley was recognized as IFC’s Man of the Year for the second time in a row and the chapter was recognized as the top IFC Fraternity with the University’s Standards of Excellence, recognizing excellence in philanthropy, brothers, scholarship and community relations.

Over 150 students, faculty, and community members showed up watch the chapter’s annual Jessee’s Gift Tournament at Kress Gymnasium. Jessee’s Gift raises money for mental health and tutoring in the Atlanta community. Going for over ten years this event has raised over $100,000 every year since its inception. The event was toped off with a win for Sigma Nu over Alpha Tau Omega.

The chapter received Black & Gold status with the University’s Standards of Excellence, recognizing excellence in philanthropy, brothers, scholarship and community relations.

This past semester three brothers of the chapter, Lee Koonce, Jason Radulovich, and Jason Pollock, were all chosen as Alpha Phi Alpha State University Ambassadors. Isaak Barmouq is the shaq coach of two time winning National Shah Dine Collegiate Challenge team.

The chapter had a wonderful time supporting the brothers of Beta Iota (Mount Union) Chapter at their annual Mike Hardy tournament and look forward to a new Phi Sigma Alpha event this fall.

In October, the chapter and Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a sister organization, hosted the speaker Adam Ritch, who gave a presentation “Mo One Is Inivisible.” Adam is a successful journalist who speaks with professional athletes, colleges, and people all across the U.S. This program talk about social media and how social media can negatively affect your Greek organization. It is an eye-opening program. The program takes unexpected twists and turns leaving a lasting impression on those who see it.

For the Founders Month of Service, members went to Simpson Gardens in Bowling Green to help with misthuis and landscaping.

In February, the chapter also celebrated the 10th anniversary of re-chartering. In February, collegiate members of the chapter met with alumni, friends, and family to discuss the chapter’s growth. The chapter has over 15,000 alumni and is counting. The chapter has a large alumni presence as well as active members who are now, and have been, working in the fields of business, law, medicine, and engineering.

The chapter also held a Rake-A-Thon in September to raise money and awareness for the Children’s Hospital, their chosen philanthropic organization. The chapter raised $5,096 for the Special Olympics through their participation in Butler Spring Sports Polar Plunge in February.

The chapter also raised $4,000 in one day. The capstone event for the chapter’s efforts to fulfill their philanthropic duties.

Avery successful Annual Weekends began on Friday with a social event in the chapter house, where active members could meet and interact with alumni. The following morning, the chapter hosted an alumni golf outing at Weaver Ridge Golf Course located in Pecora, Ill., where fifty alumni golfed with members from the active chapter. Finally, on Sunday, the chapter hosted a successful networking event at the Housing Corporation, established a relationship with each other, and set goals for the upcoming year.

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The chapter was accepted into Phi Sigma Alpha Fraternity.

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a wide variety of accomplishments, from sending several brokers to study abroad in different countries to entering national collegiate competitions. The Residential Construction Management Competition is hosted by National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and requires undergraduates to simulate the extensive process of building a home or building. The students were expected to conduct research and marketing analysis, make project management decisions, return on investment and cash flow and the cost of building, and create an land acquisition proposal with a construction plan.

Entrepreneur stories like Ryan’s are not uncommon but the path to success is never guaranteed. It takes hard work, creativity and sometimes a bit of luck to succeed. Entrepreneurs need to find a mentor who has done what you want to do. Make sure you have a solid business plan. Don’t just jump in because you have a good idea.

Ryan’s long-term vision is to build an online platform for language learning. If Amazon can do it, why can’t he? He has a deep interest in the world of entrepreneurial. He has noticed that a lot of people are looking for ways to learn languages. He wants to help them achieve their goals.

Building off this discovery of a more effective teaching method, Ryan expanded to apply this innovative learning model to include Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish, with plans to launch Russian soon. Each course has been customized for the unique dialect of each language, as opposed to one method for many different languages. BRC is just now getting to the point of influencing the market, particularly in New York City where speaking these languages is a valuable tool in the business community. Ryan’s long-term vision is to do for language learning what Amazon did for the book industry—a feat he acknowledges will take several years of work to achieve.

McMunn’s success can be credited to his ability to learn Mandarin Chinese, and chief among them is the natural tone where every sound has four distinct pronunciations. As a vice president of Asian operations for a U.S. manufacturing company based in Shanghai, Ryan spent five years struggling to learn Mandarin. Other language learning programs didn’t seem tailored to his needs, which is what made online training without instructors. This model began to change that model by having every class customized for the unique dialect of each country whose native tongue is the language he needed to learn. Within twelve months of work to achieve.

The Delta of Sigma Nu is a national collegiate non-profit. The chapter was also living in a foreign country.

McMunn credits his experience in Sigma Nu as a key to his success today. “I realized what it means to be a member of this organization that fosters Love, Honor, and Truth.”

In February, the chapter was awarded an Honorary Service Award from Sierra Vista Elementary for their volunteer work with the school, for a GPA above a 3.85 and for the year. It made him proud to be part of an organization that fosters Love, Honor, and Truth.

In December, the chapter wasrecognized for several awards at the annual Cal State Fullerton Student Life and Leadership Pursuit of Excellence Banquet. Awards included the Dean’s Cup, Leadership Program of the Year, Brotherhood Program of the Year, Service Program of the Year, and Scholarships Program of the Year. In addition to his award, Michael Ramos was recognized for a GPA above a 3.05 and Alexander Foy was recognized as the MCRP Leader of the Year as well as being recipient of the Fall 2016 Pursuit of Excellence Scholarship.

Challenges, setbacks and mistakes are part of the process. Don’t just jump in because you have a good idea. Ryan’s long-term vision is to build an online platform for language learning.

Mandarin Chinese routinely ranks as one of the hardest languages for English speakers to learn. But Ryan McMunn’s (Colorado) BRC Language Systems seeks to bridge that gap in a new way. Many attributes contribute to the difficulty of learning Mandarin Chinese, and chief among them is the natural tone where every sound has four distinct pronunciations. As a vice president of Asian operations for a U.S. manufacturing company based in Shanghai, Ryan spent five years struggling to learn Mandarin. Other language learning programs didn’t seem tailored to his needs, which is what made online training without instructors. This model began to change that model by having every class customized for the unique dialect of each country whose native tongue is the language he needed to learn. Within twelve months of work to achieve.

Carnegie Mellon

Brothers worked with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership in November to help cleanup downtown Pittsburgh. Additionally, brothers worked with the local non-profit Stop Run-
The chapter and its collegiate members were recognized with several Greek Awards for the 2015 calendar year. Caden MacFarlane was recognized as one of 16 members of the IFC community for Academic Excellence and Kevin Zell was recognized as the Greek Man of the Year.

Cornell
This year, members of the chapter were honored in several ways across campus. Brother Sam Tumer was elected Vice President of Recruitment for IFC and Brother Julian Gallo received a local record label’s “Electric Book Nerd Code.”

Florida
The Epilson Zeta Chapter contributed to University of Florida’s Dance Marathon 2015, fundraising total of $2,434,315.18. Brothers Zach Ginsburg, Ryan Gruszczynski, Cory Hansen, Harrison Magoutas, and Matt Sajor participated in the Relay for Life to raise funds and awareness for cancer research, while their work at Louves and Fishes soup kitchen, and will be throwing their annual PowerPuff FootBall Tournament, which generates proceeds for St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

Eastern Washington
This year at Eastern Michigan University’s 36th annual undergraduate research symposium, Brother Matt Leddy conducted research that investigated generational transitions in a family business. His research involved completing a case study analysis on Shepler’s Mackinac Island Ferry Company, a company that has been in business for 71 years, and currently operating in their third generation of ownership. The case study investigated practices and traditions of this company’s transition process and included interviews from current leadership consultant, Dr. Dan Steele, as well as members of the Shepler Family. This topic was especially important to Matt as he discovered most family businesses fail when transitioning ownership among different generations.

Florida
The chapter organized fundraising pages for every brother so that family members could donate online. This year the chapter came out and met with Sigma Kappa Sorority to promote their dance marathon message of Dance Marathon. The chapter, teaming up with Sigma Kappa Sorority, took first place. The Blue Bench spirit points and second place in Blue Bench fundraising for 2018 and hopes to take first place next year for both categories.

Brothers also achieved distinction in campus involvement. Ryan Schiller was elected Treasurer of the University of Florida chapter’s American Medical Student Association (AMSA), Jody Weldon was recognized as the 2015 campus representative, senator, congressmen, and Governor of the University of Florida, and has made it his priority to focus on increasing awareness of Florida’s schools, its neighborhoods, safety, and protect Florida’s environment.

Another brother represented the chapter’s legacy of Greek Man of the Year. Zach Ginsburg achieved a UF Senate seat this spring. He won his Engineering Senate Seat with 576 votes. He joins brothers Anthony Close, Jimmy Kripalani, and Anthony Boe, who are already members of UF’s Senate.

Several brothers will spend their summers studying abroad. Danny Weldon is participating in the spring semester in Beijing, China, taking a year’s leave from work. He is being paired with a host family to provide treatment for children’s hospitals. The chapter is participating in this year’s Blue Bench, the chapter’s ultimate mission, which generates proceeds for Florida Children’s Hospital. The proceeds for St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

Mu Chapter
Mu Chapter continues to bring in new alumni, Logan Duncan for graduating with a degree in finance this past December. Along with his degree, Logan graduated with certifies in Legal Studies, Personal and Organizational Leadership, and Business Professionalism. The chapter’s legacy of distinguished Terry College alumni.

Fresno State
Alumnus Antonio Sa-Jose was honored as the Stockton, Calif. police department’s new captain. Sa-Jose is a Master of Arts degree in criminology and criminal justice, and has made it his priority to continue his college education.

Florida
Epilson Zeta Chapter wins Florida’s Service Cup.

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The Delta Sigma Nu

Gettysburg
Sigma Sigma’s Relay for Life team.

High Point
A snowy but successful 3rd day for the High Point University Colony.

Georgia Tech

The chapter has recently seen great steps taken by brothers in and out of the Georgia Tech chapter. Mica Matusevets and Tommy Peterson won the Defensive MVP and Offensive MVP awards respectively, during the 2015 Football Spring Game. The chapter also had an impressive showing at the IFC Spring 2016 Gala, where the chapter was awarded the Most Creative Table, the Most Creative Booth and the Best Overall Event. Additionally, the chapter was recognized as the IFC Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row and a Five Star Chapter for the second year in a row. Other awards include the Outstanding Leadership Award, Outstanding Brotherhood Award, Outstanding Civic Engagement Award, and Outstanding Academic Success Award. These awards comprise five of the eight SUU IFC major awards this year.

Georgia State

The chapter capped off their calendar year with a successful showing at the 2016-2017 SUU Greek Awards ceremony. The chapter was recognized as the IFC Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row and a Five Star Chapter for the second year in a row. Other awards include the Outstanding Leadership Award, Outstanding Brotherhood Award, Outstanding Civic Engagement Award, and Outstanding Academic Success Award. These awards comprise five of the eight SUU IFC major awards this year.

Georgia Southern

The chapter has been recognized as the IFC Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row and a Five Star Chapter for the second year in a row. Other awards include the Outstanding Leadership Award, Outstanding Brotherhood Award, Outstanding Civic Engagement Award, and Outstanding Academic Success Award. These awards comprise five of the eight SUU IFC major awards this year.

Malone Kaak, VP of Public Relations.

The chapter once again managed to maintain its 100% campus involvement rate for the 2016 Order of Omega Awards Ceremony, the 31st Annual All Sports Trophy, Scholarship Award, and the Campus Involvement Award. The chapter also swept the Individual awards with Olle Saywash taking home Greek Man of the Year and Bennett Brantley receiving the Future Fraternity Leader of the Year Award. This is the 5th consecutive time the chapter has won Future Fraternity Leader of the Year Award and a Brother has taken home Greek Man of the Year 4 out of the previous 5 years.

Idaho

The Delta Omicron chapter at the University of Idaho started the year off with a strong showing at their first IFC event, filling the house to maximum capacity and placing among the top four fraternities in grades. Over the course of the academic year chapter members have enjoyed the opportunity to help mold candidates into the next generation of ethical leaders. To recognize the achievements of its members, two were elected to serve on the IFC Judicial Board, one was selected to be on the Student Alumni Relation Board, and another is now the treasurer of the Pre-Law Society. Additionally, both brothers are a part of different financial organizations.

The Delta Sigma Nu

High Point

In April, the chapter will be hosting their first ever IFC Poster Show, a large scale community event bringing the chapter’s programming, local businesses and the local community together. The chapter’s Division Commander, John Kotwicz (Case Western), was one of the attendees at the event.

High Point

The chapter has had a fantastic academic year thus far with no signs of slowing down anytime soon. In October, the chapter hosted their Cornhole Tournament for Wounded Warriors. The event was a success, drawing in a large crowd to witness its inception. The chapter also had numerous brothers who were elected to high profile positions around campus. In unadorned fashion, Austin Stacey was elected not only as SGA President, but also to serve as IFC President. He is one of four brothers to serve on IFC including Taylor Baldow, VP of Administration, Tristan Thompson, VP of Finance, and
Together they helped and Delta Delta Delta. The chapter had two brothers, Andrew Polito and Steve B. Moon, who were elected as IFC President and Vice President, respectively, of the prestigous Madison Investment Fund. Throughout the past year, the chapter has continued to host events and create a community-centered environment. An event that was particularly impactful was the 2015 SUSU Games, a sports tournament that brought together students from across the state. This event was organized by the Iota Pi Chapter with the assistance of the alumni chapter.

Georgia

The recent academic achievements of the chapter were impressive, both in terms of participation and service. The chapter continued to grow and strengthen its ties with the University of Georgia, and Delta Delta Delta. The chapter was proud to announce that in the fall of 2015, the chapter had raised over $3,000 for the Special Olympics, an organization that supports athletes with disabilities. This was a testament to the chapter’s commitment to community service.

In the fall of 2015, the chapter hosted its second annual LEAD Day event, which provided students with the opportunity to learn about leadership and professional development. The chapter was able to have over 25 sponsors and was able to have over 25 sponsorships, and was able to raise over $1,000 for the Special Olympics. This was a testament to the chapter’s commitment to community service.

In the fall of 2015, the chapter hosted its third annual Greek Week competition, which brought together students from across the state. The chapter was able to host over 25 events, including a Greek Life ball organization. In the fall of 2015, the chapter hosted its second annual LEAD Day event. During the event each brother and candidate participated in three leadership and development sessions facilitated by local employers, notable KSU facility, and alumni of the chapter. These days investment groups, was adored by a few “fun-draisers on campus, and remain active in a multitude of honor society. Josh Newcomb and Chad Filler were named as finalists for the KU rugby team, and also represented on the Interfraternity Council. The brothers served as representatives in the office of Fraternity and Sorority Life. The chapter also boasts three brothers, including Kenneth Smith, who was elected as IFC President for the 2016-2017 academic year.

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have proved to be extremely effective. The Lola Pi Chapter brother that the chapter’s program gives students the experience of working in a professional theater company. Held every three years, Repertory Theatre Term, or “Rep Term,” is the only college program of its kind in the country. It involves students and faculty working collaboratively over the course of a term to fully produce two plays. No academic classes are taken by students who participate in the term. The brothers of Delta Theta Chapter worked on multiple aspects of theatrical production—acting, costume, lighting, props management, stage management, sound design, and set construction. One of the keys, Neil Gaiman’s Neverwhere, was shown in Knox’s Harbach Theatre, a 450-seat auditorium. The Secret in the Wings, was shown in a smaller 135-seat space. Both shows ran for six nights and each night were either sold out or almost so.

Robyn Murphy worked up to 6 hours a day. The chapter’s LEAD Day was a success. The other shows as an actor, assistant stage manager, set constructor, costume designer, and lighting designer. He said that working so intensively gave him a strong sense of satisfaction. “Knock is the only place that does something like this. It allows you to focus.” Murphy also re- mastered for Rep Term operates as a professional theater company and has the additional function of job training.

Missoula

After being named a Chapter of Distinction, the Missoula Chapter was named a Theta. Named as New Member of the Year, Murphy was a consistent program of the Year, and the chapter was recognized as the Institute of the Year. The chapter presented the chapter with obstacles but with the help of outside forces and the potential for success was presented.

Knox

Last winter, six brothers from Gamma Delta Chapter visited the Rock this spring and were an immersive theater essay that finally gave rise to a football tournament that engaged other Greek organizations and prevent stagnation and prevent stagnation during recruitment. The candidates are making their way through Phase I of the LEAD program with confidence. Consistent practices and high standards during recruitment and Phase I allow for Gamma Tau’s success everywhere.

As everything a fraternity does starts with recruitment, Gamma Tau placed more emphasis this year on ensuring quality program to provide students the experience of working in a professional theater company. Held every three years, Repertory Theatre Term, or “Rep Term,” is the only college program of its kind in the country. It involves students and faculty working collaboratively over the course of a term to fully produce two plays. No academic classes are taken by students who participate in the term. The brothers of Delta Theta Chapter worked on multiple aspects of theatrical production—acting, costume, lighting, props management, stage management, sound design, and set construction.

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The Delta of Sigma Nu chapter at the University of North Carolina has received recognition for their outstanding academic and social achievements. The chapter is particularly proud of its alumni who have taken on leadership roles in various fields and industries. For example, Brother Reed Jantzen was elected as anttorney general, and Brother Michael Upton was elected as Blue Crew President.

The chapter is also recognized for its contributions to the community, with members participating in philanthropic events such as Kappa Delta Sigma’s Give a Ton event. This event helped lead the effort to promote sexual assault awareness at UNC. The chapter is committed to making a difference and will continue to do so in the future.
Summer 2016
The Delta of Sigma Nu

The Gamma Zeta chapter at the University of Oregon had a fall Candidate class of 34 men, putting membership at over 100 men. In the fall of 2016 they had two men elected to the Initiates, Kevin Kunzwolf and Kevin Murtz, who are the Vice President of Membership Development and the Vice President of Community Outreach, respectively. The chapter had several individual and chapter wide awards at the annual fall 2016 awards in the Alumni/Northwestern State chapter. Dan McCarthy was the Outstanding Chapter Advisor and Kevin Kunzwolf was the Young Leader of the Year. The entire chapter was Outstanding Chapter Philanthropy, Outstanding Leadership Development, Outstanding Community Integration, and Chapter of the Year.

Pennsylvania

This school year, the chapter held an annual philanthropy Kickball game. The chapter will go to the Norwegian Foundation, a program focusing on men’s health. The event had a great turnout and participation, and raised over $33,000, which will be used for various mark of just over $10,000. The chapter had several individual and chapter wide awards at the chapter at the annual fall 2016 awards. The chapter was Outstanding Chapter Advisor and Kevin Kunzwolf was the Young Leader of the Year. The entire chapter was Outstanding Chapter Philanthropy, Outstanding Leadership Development, Outstanding Community Integration, and Chapter of the Year.

Georgia

Tutt, Jack Livens

The chapter has been very involved in community service. Chase Calvert, Nicky Bonson, and JT Serby have served on the Fraternity’s Board of Directors, including Hudson Kuykendall, Chase Calvert, Connor Williams, and Carter

Oklahoma State

This past academic year the Ep- sihon Epsilon chapter has been very involved on campus. Chase Calvert, Nicky Bonson, and JT Serby have served on the Fraternity’s Board of Directors, including Hudson Kuykendall, Chase Calvert, Connor Williams, and Carter

Ohio State

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Texas Christian
The re-founding fathers of Lambda Epsilon Chapter at their chartering banquet.

Texas Christian
Historic alumni of the Lambda Epsilon Chapter have a strong tradition of service. This year, the chapter once again received a variety letter in tennis. Of campus recognition was received for brothers involved in the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology ROTC program. Breunell Miller, Adam Bambos and Jordan Doman competed on the ranger team and won against their rival opponent Purdue University. This year Adam Damboski received gold in the German Army Forces Proficiency Badge and Breunell Miller completed the Norwegian hot heart march. The chapter would also like to congratulate Joseph Monhart and Trevor McEntire on commissioner and becoming ship lieutenants in the United States National Guard. Finally, the chapter congratulates Paul Dunaway on receiving the John D. Winders Scholarship from the Mechanical Engineering Department as well as the Bill Sisson Scholarship, an award granted from the chapter.

Southern Mississippi
The Theta Gamma Chapter has a great start to their year in Spring 2016. At the annual Greek Week the chapter brought home the Joseph S. Paul Chapter Transition Recognition Award recognizing the most improved IFC chapter on campus. Elijah Martin was awarded New Member of the Year for IFC for his accomplishments in the chapter and in Greek Life on campus.

In March, Franky Lopez was elected treasurer for the Student Government Association. Brother Lopez’s victory in the election marks the third consecutive year that a chapter brother served on the IFC Executive Board. In addition to Brother Lopez, several other brothers were selected to serve in various positions in IFC. One of the most inspirational stories of the past two years is Brother Andrew Malinous, who uses the roof of the English department to perform his routine. He is an incredibly rare form of bone cancer. Malinous, a US Army Captain, was diagnosed with the condition in August of 2015. The chapter has been heavily involved with raising money and awareness for Brother Malinous’s treatment. In mid-March, alumnu Mike Moulder presented Malinous with a personalized framed crest of Sigma Nu signed by broth- ers and alumni of the chapter. Malinous has been an inspiration to our chapter as well as all who have had the privilege to meet him. In short, he is a true American hero.

South Florida
This year the chapter saw amazing recruitment performance for their fall and spring classes, totaling 39 new members for each recruitment class. In addition to the remarkable recruitment efforts, the chapter has also continued to maintain and utilize their outstanding alumni base. Well-renowned alumni such as Les Muma, Shawn Harrison, and Jim Harvey have continued to interact with the chapter through alumni events and influential LEAD Sessions.

The chapter continues to look forward to a promising future as they continue to lead the Greek community. Their annual philanthropy event, the White Rose Bowl (formerly known as "Friday Knight Lights"), was held in April. This flag football tournament is aimed at raising thousands of dollars for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. The chapter looks to surpass their total of $15,000 raised at last year’s event.

Florida
This last fall, the Delta Mu chapter had the highest overall man’s GPA with an overall GPA of 3.11. They also successfully ran several philanthropy events, including building a playground for the children of Deland, Fla. The chapter added over 20 new members, and now sits at over 65 members, the most the chapter has had since the 1960’s. The chapter and various members were also recognized for awards within the Straton Greek community including Taylor Hague as New Member of the Year, Will Gibson as Unsung Hero, Greg Dverzin as Officer of the Year, and Daniel Humphrey as Fraternity Member of the Year. The chapter was also recognized as Fraternity of the Year as well as Most Improved GPA.

Tennessee at Chattanooga
The Colony at UTC is pleased to announce that three brothers, Brandon May, Drew Kell, and Graham Alexander, currently serve on IFA. Brother Drew Kell is also the Parliamentarian for Freshman Senate and Graham Alexander serves as the campus Observations chairman is currently running for Student Body President. Brother Colton Hobbs serves as the Executive Vice President to the IFC Executive Board. In March, the colony won two consecutive philanthropy awards as well as won an award for having the highest GPA on the surface of what these ambitious men were able to achieve in one academic year. After reaching out to Kelsey Patterson, the wife of TCU’s head football coach, the Lambda Epsilon chapter paired up with the Saving Hope Foun- dation to effectively raise funds for shelterless dogs. In what was called “Sigma Nu Dog Days,” this event attracted campus-wide attention both for the cause, and for the dogs brought on campus. Not setting for only that, the chapter got involved with Habitat for Humanity, spending their Saturday painting several houses for the community of Fort Worth.

In an effort to develop into a distinc- guished presence on campus, the chapter encourages each
The Delta of Sigma Nu

Western Kentucky

Activities and Candidature.

Chapter & Alumni News

John Dolan and alumnus Andy Jones are leaders of an on-campus club called “Out of the Darkness – Students Against Suicide.” This spring they will be hosting the 2nd Annual UC Davis Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to raise money for the American Foundation for Suicide’s research and education programs to prevent suicide and save lives, increase national awareness about depression and suicide and provide support for survivors of suicide loss.

Davis students and improved services for disabled students.

UC Irvine

The chapter took home plenty of awards at their annual Greek Awards in March including: Chancellor’s Cup, Excellence in Risk Management, Excellence in Alumni Relations, and Excellence in Ritual Practice. Chapter Advisor Jeffrey Yu was also recognized as Chapter Advisor of the Year.

UC San Diego

To highlight Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October the brothers teamed up with Chi Omega to participate in the annual Making Strides March Against Breast Cancer.

Washington State

Over the last year the chapter is proud of their recent accomplishments, earning a chapter GPA of above 3.0 for the last two semesters, as well as completing BSU community service hours last semester.

The members also engage in opportunities to better themselves and the community. Former Commander Clayton Simundson has taken on the role of College’s Grand Counselor for the Hugh Council and looks for ways to serve Sigma Nu nationally. Donor van Aldridge and Kyle Medina spent their spring break in Los Angeles preparing and serving food to homeless individuals. Members also look for new experiences, and a great opportunity for this is to study abroad. Traveling to Thailand has been an eye opener for Kevin Simeon.

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The Mine
Author: John A. Heldt
ASIN: B00781580G
Publisher: John A. Heldt

In May 2000, Joel Smith is a cocky, adventurous young man who sees the world as his playground. But when the college seniors, days from graduation, enters an abandoned Montana mine, he discovers the price of recklessness. His emerges in May 1941, with a cell phone he can’t use, money he can’t spend, and little but his wits to guide his way. Stuck in the age of swing dancing and a peacetime draft, Joel begins a new life as the nation drifts toward war. With the help of his 21-year-old best friend, Mitch Malone, Travis begins a search for the truth about the mother he never knew. With the help of his best friend, Mitch Malone, Travis begins a search for the truth about the mother he never knew. The Delta of Sigma Nu
Author: John A. Heldt
ASIN: B00781580G
Publisher: John A. Heldt

A Brilliant Death
Author: Roland Yezur (Bowling Green State)
ASIN: 978-1633881285
Publisher: Seventh Street Books

Amanda Baron died in a boating accident on the Ohio River in 1953. So did she? While it was generally accepted that she had died when a coal barge rammed the pleasure boat she was sharing with her lover, her body was never found. Travis Baron was an infant when his mother disappeared. After the accident and the subsequent publicity, Travis’s father scoured the house of all evidence that Amanda Baron had ever lived, and her name was never to be uttered around him. No in high school, Travis learns to know more about his mother. With the help of his best friend, Mitch Malone, Travis begins a search for the truth about the mother he never knew. The Delta of Sigma Nu
Author: John A. Heldt
ASIN: B00781580G
Publisher: John A. Heldt

Dustoff 7-3
Author: Erik Sabiston (Virginia Wesleyan)
ASIN: 978-099796365
Publisher: Warriors Publishing Group

This book is for heroes. Dustoff 7-3 tells the true story of four unlikely heroes in the ruthless mountains of Afghanistan, where medics are forced to descend on wires to reach the wounded and helicopter pilots must fight wind, weather, and enemy fire to pluck casualties from some of the world’s most difficult combat arenas. Complete opposites thrown together, cut off, and outnumbered, Chief Warrant Officer Erik Sabiston and his flight crew answered the call in a race against time, not to take lives—but to save them. The concept of evacuating wounded soldiers by helicopter developed in the Korean War and became a staple during the war in Vietnam where heroic, unarmed chopper crews flew vital missions known to the grateful grunts on the ground as Dustoffs. The crew of Dustoff 7-3 carried on that heroic tradition, flying over a region that had seen scores of American casualties, known among veterans as the Valley of Death. At the end of Operation Hammer Down, they had rescued 14 soldiers, made three critical supply runs, recovered two soldiers killed in action, and nearly died. It took all of three days.

A Brilliant Death
Author: Roland Yezur (Bowling Green State)
ASIN: 978-1633881285
Publisher: Seventh Street Books

Louisiana Wind
Author: Randy Willis (Texas State)
ASIN: 978-1523214310
Publisher: Outpost:Space Independent Publishing Platform

The best men I’ve known have been cowboys. There’s a code they live by—it’s their way of life. It starts with an abiding reverence for the Good Lord and the wisdom of others blows where it wishes—like a Louisiana Wind. “—Daniel Hubbard Willis Jr., 1900

Notes from the Corporate Underground: Paradise is not for Sissies
Volume II: Work for a Jerk and Love It!
Author: Stan Switich (San Diego State)
ASIN: 978-1523214327
Publisher: Trafford Publishing

Most of us are cautious at work. We don’t reveal who we really are. We don’t think out true selves will be accepted or valued. Throughout our working population, there exists a subterranean culture of honest human feelings, thoughts and beliefs. We may share these hidden treasures with one or two others in our place of work. But we hardly ever reveal ourselves. And almost never to our bosses. It’s just too risky.

The Rise & Fall of the American Medical Empire: A Trench Doctor’s View of the Past, Present and Future of the U.S. Healthcare System
Author: Dr. Robert Linden (Cornell)
ASIN: 978-0985910701
Publisher: Sunrise River Press

There are four major dilemmas at work in the decline of the US healthcare system: the disappearing primary care sector, healthcare insurance reform, the influence of the pharmaceutical industry on medicine, and the reform of malpractice litigation. Dr. Linden analyzes what’s wrong, provides an impartial review of solutions, and looks at how other countries have reformed their systems.
THE PUBLIC SEEMS TO HAVE A boundless appetite for titillating stories of misbehaving teens, and news organizations are more than happy to oblige. Readers and viewers are left scratching their heads, wondering what sort of derelict parenting could have led to such behavior, and meanwhile assuring themselves that their kids would never behave in such a way. As it turns out, emerging neuroscience research reveals there's more to the story than what we hear from drive-by journalists only interested in stoking public outrage for page clicks. Journalists, parents, and shocked observers tend to overlook a unique feature of brain development that offers crucial context for understanding why these events keep happening. When public discourse washes over important nuances it does a disservice to the young adults who need more enlightened direction from their parents, educators, and mentors.

Teens are naturally prone to risk taking behavior

A defining feature of the teen brain is the ability to adapt to new environments by modifying networks that help different regions of the brain communicate. While this trait allows major progress in terms of critical thinking and socializing, the teen brain is also prone to dangerous behaviors. Few examples illustrate the phenomenon more clearly than the data behind accidental drownings, which are more common among teens than grown adults. As Temple psychology professor Laurence Steinberg notes in a recent NPR broadcast, the disproportionate drowning rate is not due to lack of skill or energy. “Adolescents are quite strong. So there’s no good reason why 16-year-olds should drown more often than 35-year-olds, but they do,” he said. “We think that it probably has to do with bad judgment and bad decision-making, and it’s that kind of thing that really threatens the well-being of teenagers, here and in other countries, as well.”

Recent studies have shown that the riskiest behaviors can be traced, at least in part, to a mismatch between development of networks in the limbic system and prefrontal cortex. The limbic system drives emotions, and during puberty development of this region accelerates disproportionately compared to other regions. Meanwhile, networks in the prefrontal cortex, which controls judgment and impulses, develop later. This mismatch is a crucial factor driving the tendency towards risky behavior among teens. During adolescence brain development is driven by complex processes, providing opportunity for the brain to polish and refine itself for surviving in new environments. As different parts of the brain develop better connectivity, this development facilitates communication among the different regions, allowing more sophisticated integration between the various parts. The changing relationship between brain systems that govern emotion sparks an increase in risk taking and desire for social interaction.

Appreciating the interplay between limbic and cognitive systems is imperative for understanding decision making during adolescence.

While these adaptive behaviors, common among most mammals, encourage adolescents to eschew the familiar in favor of novelty, they also present dangers that come along with exploring new territory. Combined with the complexities of navigating contemporary life, the pitfalls of this natural tendency towards risk-taking is compounded by unsupervised alcohol use and later amplified by social media.

“As a result,” notes a recent New York Times story, “adolescence is both a time of opportunity and vulnerability, a time when much is learned, especially about the social world, but when exposure to stressful events can be particularly devastating.”

Dr. Frances Jensen, professor of neurology at University of Pennsylvania, summarizes the paradox of the adolescent brain succinctly in her book “The Teenage Brain”: “The teenage brain has an overabundance of gray matter (the neurons that form the basic building blocks of the brain) and an undersupply of white matter (the connective wiring that helps information flow efficiently from one part of the brain to the other) — which is why the teenage brain is almost like a brand-new

Misdiagnosed

The neuroscience that offers a window of opportunity for understanding teen misbehavior.

By Nathaniel Clarkson (James Madison)
“We had discovered that the effect of peers on adolescent risk taking may be hard-wired in the adolescent brain because of the impact of peers on the brain’s reward centers.”

— LAURENCE STEINBERG

Brain regions mature along different timetables, and important developments are still ongoing during the early 20s.

Learning more about unique qualities of the adolescent brain will help us all learn how to separate useful behavior that is appropriate from that which might indicate illness. Scientific American offers optimism on the fruits of deeper understanding: “Such awareness could help society reduce the rates of teen addiction, STD, motor vehicle accidents, unplanned pregnancy, homicide, depression and suicide.” Indeed, clinical psychologists are already using this research to help parents communicate with their kids to proactively prevent risky behavior. Judges, attorneys, and social workers in the juvenile criminal justice system are working with state legislators to develop policies for rehabilitation in place of incarceration.

The applications of this research touch many of the biggest problems the world is trying to solve today. Across all cultures adolescents are the most vulnerable to be recruited as terrorists and soldiers. Conversely, young adults are most likely to be influenced to become teachers and engineers. Greater understanding of the teen brain could help steer younger adults towards a more productive life path. Improved public awareness could also help judges and jurors reach more empathetic decisions in criminal trials.

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Zane Grey was born on January 31, 1872 in Zanesville, Ohio, a town named after his great-grandfather, its founder. While he was born Pearl Zane Gray, his father later changed the spelling of the family’s last name to “Grey.” The basis for his first name is not clear; however, one story is that Queen Victoria during her mourning period for Prince Albert was said to have worn “pearl gray” colored clothes, and his mom liked the word combination. He used the name Pearl through college but dropped it when he turned seriously to writing.

His father—a farmer and backwoodsmen—studied to become a dentist and wanted his son to follow in his footsteps, feeling dentistry was a very practical way to earn a living. At 15, Zane wrote his first story on pieces of wallpaper; but when his father found it, he immediately tore it up not wanting his son to become a writer. Zane grew up in the great outdoors, loving baseball, fishing and hunting. He was a natural pitcher and hitter whom the University of Pennsylvania recruited and awarded a scholarship to play.

Sigma Nu

By nature a shy and unsocial young man, he became fast friends with the other players on the team. They encouraged him to join a newly chartered fraternity; and in the fall of 1894, Beta Rho Chapter at Penn initiated the future novelist. He was initiate number 14.

In a 1936 discussion with the editor of The Delta, Grey said, “Not until I achieved the Varsity baseball...
team did I have any acquaintance in college, let alone friends. Then the bitter loneliness of my college days seemed to change. Danny Croogan, the great Varsity catcher, made me a member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity; Al Bell, the center on the famous football team that beat Yale and Princeton and Harvard, selected me for a roommate. It was in rooms occupied by Al Bell, Zane Grey and other members of Beta Rho that chapter meetings were held.

Zane was not a good student being more interested in baseball than studying. His dream of playing professionally after graduation ended when a rule change foiled his plans. Officials moved the pitching mound ten yards further from the batter’s box to reduce the dominant pitching of Cy Young. When the effectiveness of Zane’s pitching declined with that additional distance, it became evident he would not pitch anymore. In 1907, he had a breakthrough that beat Yale and Princeton and Harvard, when he finally decided to self-publish it, which he did in 1903. Subsequently, he wrote five more novels, but his would-be publishers rejected all as well.

Hollywood Beckons
In 1916, he started his connection with Hollywood when a studio purchased the rights to Riders of the Purple Sage. To be closer to the film studios, he moved his family to California; however, he chafed at the studio’s adaptations and took control by forming his own motion picture studio. He made seven films before selling his studio to a partner of Paramount Pictures’ founder.

Eventually, he was to write a total of over 112 films, many of them in the 1930s. During that period, many actors — like Gary Cooper, Randolph Scott, William Powell, Wallace Beery, Buster Crabbe, Shirley Temple and Fay Wray — got their start in his films.

Television studios also developed his books into two early television episodes and a series — Dick Powell’s Zane Grey Theatre, which ran for 148 episodes. Adaptations of his books were also the basis in the 1950’s for two very popular television series – The Lone Ranger and Sergeant Preston of the Yukon.

Family
Dolly and Zane Grey had three children: two sons, Romer and Loren, and a daughter, Betty. In 1935, his son Loren Grey was also initiated into Sigma Nu by our Epsilon Omicron Chapter at the University of Southern California. Zane was proud of his son’s achievement and in the 1946 interview with the Delta stated, “I gave him a jeweled pin last year when he was initiated, and now his girl wears it.”

Zane Grey died of heart failure on October 23, 1959 at his home in Alameda, California. He was 67 years old and was one of the first millionaire writers. At the time of his death, he was considered “the greatest selling author of all time,” and only the Bible and the Boy Scout Handbook exceeded him in sales. In 1982, Sigma Nu inducted him into its Hall of Fame.

THE PROFESSOR
The second brother was a university professor, one who left a legacy as a teacher, a well-known writer, and an ardent conservationist. Of him, author Edward Abbey said that Wallace Stegner was “the only living American worthy of the Nobel,” and Evelyn Rosswell deemed him “The Dean of Western Writers.”

Wallace Earle Stegner was born on his grandfather’s farm in Lake Mills, Iowa, on February 18, 1909 — the second son of George and Hilda Stegner. From bootlegging to gambling, his father was an unsuccessful fortune hunter, always looking for ways to make a buck. His on-going quest meant the family was always on the move for better opportunities elsewhere. Stegner said they lived in 20 places in eight states and Canada while he was growing up. He was a thin, sickly youth whose father verbally and emotionally abused and berated him; however, his mother, always protective of her boys, made them feel loved despite their father’s constant harangues.

During high school in Salt Lake City, Stegner enrolled at the University of Utah. Initially he wanted to be an actor, many actors — like Gary Cooper, Randolph Scott, William Powell, Wallace Beery, Buster Crabbe, Shirley Temple and Fay Wray — got their start in his films.

Eventually his books would be adapted into over 112 films, many of them in the 1930s. During that period, many actors — like Gary Cooper, Randolph Scott, William Powell, Wallace Beery, Buster Crabbe, Shirley Temple and Fay Wray — got their start in his films.

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After Graduation
When his professional baseball dreams ended, he succumbed to his father’s wishes and graduated with a degree in dentistry, set up a dental office in New York City, and practiced for over a decade. However, his thoughts were constantly on the outdoors and subjects to use in his writings.

After studying at the University of Utah, he entered a short story contest sponsored by the Salt Lake Telegram newspaper and won first prize. In announcing the winner, “the judges praised Mr. Stegner’s story as remarkably reflecting the psychology and conversation of youth.”

In 1930, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Utah. Upon graduation he took a teaching assistant job at the University of Iowa. From Iowa, he went on to teach at Augsburg College, Utah, Wisconsin, and by 1945 he was at Stanford.

He came to Stanford in 1945 as a Professor of English and in 1947 initiated the highly successful Creative Writing Program, of which he served as the director. This program made it possible for many of the most talented young writers in America to develop their skills.

During his writing career, he published 11 novels, 16 non-fiction works, and six collections of short stories, as well as numerous articles and prefaces for other authors. In 1972, he won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel Angle of Repose. In 1977, he received the National Book Award for Fiction for his novel The Spectator Bird. In 1980, he won the Los Angeles Times Robert Kirsch Award for career contributions by a western writer. In 1984, Sinclair Lewis said that he was “one of the most important novelists in America.” According to James Hewport, “Stegner was one of the America West’s preeminent historians and arguably the most important of its novelists.”

Conservationist
Stegner was passionate about the West wherever he grew up and wanted to preserve it for future generations. The treatment of the wilderness areas by the government, developers, and others disturbed him greatly. He once said, “I grew up careless, like any frontier boy. I grew up killing...
things. I don’t kill anymore, and I have been getting less and less careless about country. So I have any cause that tickles me more than any other, it is conservation.”

In 1935, he edited the book This Is Dinosaur: Echo Park Country and Its Magic Rivers, which helped persuade the government not to build dams to destroy Echo Park and Split Mountain Canyon on the Utah/Colorado border. In 1940, he wrote an eight-page letter, which may have done more to save the remaining American wilderness than any other single document. It was called the Wilderness Letter and is a reasoned articulation of why the wilderness is so important to human beings and us as Americans. It was significant in the passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

When Stewart Udall became Secretary of the Interior in the Kennedy Administration, he talked Stegner into serving as a Special Assistant to Udall dealing with conservation matters. Stegner, however, chaffed at the bureaucracy and stayed only a short time. He later served on the Board of the Sierra Club and chaired the Advisory Board for National Parks, Historical Sites, Buildings and Monuments.

Family

Throughout his life, he gained tremendous support from his wife, Mary. They married in 1934 and had one son, Stuart Page Stegner. He said his wife was always willing to tell him the truth about his writing, no matter how difficult that was. James Hewthrop, in an interview, asked Stegner about death and whether one life is ever enough. Stegner said, “I would like to think that one life is enough, and that when I see it coming to an end I can meet the darkness with resignation and perhaps acceptance. I have been lucky. I came from nowhere, and had no reason to expect as much from this one life as I have got. I owe God a death, and the earth a pound or so of chemical. Now let’s see if I can remember that when the time comes.”

For Wallace Stegner, that time came on April 13, 1993 at a hospital in Santa Fe, New Mexico. He had been severely injured in a car crash 16 days before and never recovered from his injuries. He was 84 years old. He died a rare individual in his field - both a well-known writer and a famous teacher of writing.

THE “MURDERER”

The final brother tried his hand at many jobs after college: in a automobile factory; a lumber camp; a dance orchestra and as a journalist before moving to Hollywood where his rise to fame began. Subsequently, he became best known for his “murderers and other crimes.”

George Harmon Coxe was born in Okan, New York, on April 2nd, 1910. In 1939, he entered Purdue University planning to become a mechanical engineer. Our Beta Zeta Chapter at Purdue recruited and initiated him into Sigma Nu on March 27, 1920. One year at Purdue cured him of becoming an engineer, and he transferred to Cornell University where he pursused a liberal arts program. Upon entering Cornell, he affiliated with our Gamma Theta Chapter. Unfortunately, he found pursuing a liberal arts degree not to his taste either, and left after a year. His most poignant memory of his time at Beta Zeta was that he was the first guy out there to play the tenor banjo. This instrument, a banjo with a shorter neck, was just becoming popular in dance bands because its sound fit well with other instruments at the time. In a letter to The Delta editor in 1943 he stated, “... being a Freshman, I played when the Brothers said, “Play,” and liked it. Unfortunately, I could also sing a passable barbershop baritone and there was a pretty good trio in the house … and I wish I had a buck for every time those guys hauled me out of bed and made me come shivering down the stairs to round out the quartet and keep singing until they got ready to go to bed. Luckily at Cornell there was no trio.”

After dropping out of Cornell, he knocked around at odd jobs until starting his career as a journalist, working for newspapers in California, Florida and New York. After five years of newspaper journalism, he took a job for a New England advertising firm. His stint there lasted five years, during which time he met his future wife, Elizabeth Fowler. They were married in 1929 and had two children, a daughter Janet and a son George.

Hollywood and Fame

In the early 1930’s, he decided that writing was his true love and he moved his family out to Hollywood, where he was under contract to the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) film studio. He supplied stories, but the studio produced few of them and after two years he left. He began free-lance writing, which he would continue for most of his life.

He started out by writing stories for nickel and dime pulp fiction publications. Initially he wrote in many genres including romance and adventure stories, but he mostly enjoyed writing crime fiction and had made it his trademark. He sold his short stories to the pulp mystery magazines before he started writing novels. He was said to have “strong complex plots, and tough but likable heroes.”

His most well known protagonist was the newspaper photographer Jack “Flashgun” Casey. Casey first appeared in the March, 1934 issue of Black Mask magazine. He was the crime photographer for the Morning Express newspaper and solved numerous murders and crimes in Coxe’s stories.

Films, Radio and Television

Hollywood made two films of his Flashgun Casey stories: Women Are Trouble (1936) and Here’s Flash Casey (1938). After appearing in the two films, Casey was given further life on CBS radio. The show ran from July 1943 through November 1950. CBS replaced the radio show in April 1951 with a series on early television starring Darrin McGavin. It ran just over a year until June 1952. Subsequently, the radio show was relaunched in April 1944 and ran until April 1955. In the 1940’s, a Marvel comic series was also run that featured Casey.

Novels

Between 1937 and 1975, Coxe authored 63 books. During that time, you could go into almost any public library and find many of his books on the shelves; he was that popular a mystery writer. In addition to Jack “Flashgun” Casey, other protagonists included Kent Murdock, again a newspaper photographer, and Jack Fennier, a private eye.

In 1964, The Mystery Writers of America awarded Coxe a Grand Master Award in recognition of his significant work. This Award is for lifetime achievement and consistent quality of work and is considered one of the highest honors a mystery writer can earn. Other notable recipients include Agatha Christie, Ellery Queen, Alfred Hitchcock, John in Carré, Mickey Spillane, and Stephen King.

He was well respected by other mystery writers as evidenced by a quote from Erle Stanley Gardner (famed for his Perry Mason series). “George Harmon Coxe is a first magnitude star in the mystery field. His work is uniformly entertaining, gripping and exciting. He is one of the few authors that have the knack of hitting a fast pace, keeping it up from chapter to chapter and book to book.”

Coxe died on January 31, 1984 at the age of 82 years in Old Lyme, Connecticut. His career as an author spanned over 50 years, from 1922 to 1975. His ability to write realistic crime novels featuring murder, mayhem and a fascinating array of charters made him one of the best at this genre of fiction. We are fortunate to have all 63 of his books in our Sigma Nu Authors Collection at headquarters.

ALL OF THESE AUTHORS WERE published works.

Zane Grey – 102 novels, books on fishing and children’s stories

George Harmon Coxe – 63 novels

Wallace Stegner – 35 novels, short story collections and non-fiction books

This summary of books published doesn’t take into account the many many articles, short stories, book reviews and prefaces written by these men. Based on the volume of literary output and awards received, they certainly qualify as our top literary giants.
Bridging the Skills Gap:

How fraternities instill the skills employers are looking for

By Lawrence Don (Butler)

This ongoing problem presents an opportunity for fraternities to step up and solve the skills mismatch. Fraternities and sororities around the country are answering the request by offering in-depth leadership programs to equip their members with interpersonal skills that can be put to use in any organization after graduation.

Sigma Nu offers the LEAD (Leadership. Ethics. Achievement. Development) Program, a comprehensive ethical leadership development program designed to ensure participants learn by doing. Sigma Nu encourages all of their collegiate chapters to use the LEAD program to the fullest extent possible. It has four phases and an all-chapter portion to complete over their undergraduate career.

Additionally, to members of Sigma Nu who are elected Commander, the fraternity offers a program called College of Chapters. This program focuses on chapter management, leadership and core competencies. Fraternity members can also use resources provided by the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values (AFLV), North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) and FOCUS Training. All of these organizations exist to stimulate the growth and development of fraternity/sorority councils, chapters, and members by promoting leadership, educational and values based experience and resources for student leaders, their advisors and the larger fraternal market. Also, the organizations are driven to foster a more engaged community to lead an ethical and positive impact at their respective institution.

Leadership programs and resources of this caliber showcase how fraternity men want to make a positive impact in their personal and professional lives. Badal, a report produced by Oxford Economics, lists the qualities employers need most in future employees, furthermore below is a checklist of what employers are deeming important in new hires.

Future college graduates need to focus on critical interpersonal and enterprising skills that will empower them to be successful in their workplaces as a new hire. The Gallup-Lumina Foundation article mentioned above provides a web-based assessment tool used to aid in identification of talent competencies desired by employers for the job-seeker. The Entrepreneurial Profile 10 (EP10) strategy is designed to identify and build an entrepreneurial mindset among college students, supporting them in developing the qualities employers are looking for in the workforce of the future. Gallup offers several ways to start validating strengths and recognize future opportunity to grow.

Prepare for the workplace by promoting leadership, educational and values based experience and resources for student leaders, their advisors and the larger fraternal market. Without instilling values or a pathway to develop skills, fraternity members miss out on an ample opportunity to grow. Without instilling values or a pathway to develop skills, fraternity members miss out on an ample resource to identify and discover invaluable traits that could impact their future workplaces. If your workplace agrees with core values, it will make work more enjoyable throughout your career. With these resources individuals are equipped to succeed in their workplace or start a new initiative in their fraternity through dedicating personal and professional development as part of their fraternity membership.

Future Hire Checklist:

- Relationship Building
- Dealing with Complexity and Ambiguity
- Balancing opposing views
- Team and Collaborations
- Co-Creativity
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Diverse Employee Management

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Colorado State University Director of Fraternity & Sorority Life
Lindsay Sell (Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority) shares insights on what the best student leaders all have in common.

1. What do you think is the best student leaders have in common? I believe the best student leaders are good critical thinkers. They are able to ask complex questions, think originally, and consider multiple perspectives to solve complex problems. College students have to learn how to think critically, and fraternities are a beautiful site to develop this important skill.

2. What about chapter advisors? What do excellent advisors have in common? How do they earn the trust of the chapter members? From my experience both as a university administrator and a chapter advisor, I think excellent advisors work to build relationships on many fronts (with campus administrators, HQ professionals, beyond the officer they advise, etc.). Excellent advisors guide and mentor instead of demand and enforce. They listen, set aside their own collegiate experience, and seek to understand the realities facing those students on that campus. Finally, excellent advisors think beyond helping a chapter achieve administrative excellence and help individual students develop as humans as a result of the fraternity or sorority experience.

3. What do you think is the biggest challenge currently facing fraternity and sorority life? As a movement, we need to continue developing as humans as a result of the excellence and help individual students on that campus. Finally, chapter advisors seek to understand the realities facing those students on that campus. They listen, set aside their own collegiate experience, and seek to understand the realities facing those students on that campus.

4. How can fraternities and sororities build strong relationships with the university administration and ultimately support the school's long-term goals? Most fraternity and sorority students haven't asked what the institution's long-term goals are. To get on the same side of the table, assume positive intent as a starting point, and ask good questions to better understand what everyone's goals are in a good first step. In my experience we all want fraternities and sororities to be excellent and contribute to the health and vitality of the college campus. We sometimes misunderstand each other's viewpoints about how to achieve that goal. In such cases we could do a better job seeking to understand the many considerations and pressures that exist for each party.

5. What advice would you offer to a student leader who wants to transform his or her organization, but feels as if they're all alone or facing an insurmountable obstacle? I have found myself in this situation a couple of times, and the best advice others gave me was to take the long view. While immediate relationships absolutely matter, keeping the future of the organization at the forefront of my decision making was essential. Ultimately, the values of the organization that have persevered for longer than I've been alive are central to the work moving forward, even when that work is hard. Those values and that long view act as a compass to navigate what appear to be insurmountable obstacles. I also believe it's important to think about what is in one's sphere of influence. It can be easy for outstanding student leaders to shoulder a great burden of organizational change, but understanding what is actually within one's power to change and building a coalition with others (wherever they can be found — sometimes it's surprising!) can help address some of those issues that appear outside our ability to change.
“I learned through Sigma Nu how to be an effective leader while being a bigger team player. I learned that the opinion of the newest guy is just as important as the opinion of the oldest guy in the chapter.”

— Ray Campbell (Kent State), the voice of the Harlem Globetrotters

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