



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Fall 2015

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By Alumni for Alumni Zeta Phi Chapter Launches New Alumni Relations Program

Oftentimes when we meet new people, it's common to ask what college they attended, and presumably, the question of whether they were Greek usually comes up. But the question is often posed in the past tense and is usually along the lines of "What fraternity were you in?"

I'd like to begin to challenge us to think in the present tense—that we *are* Sigma Nus. But without a solid alumni relations program in place, our members lack the means for staying present in the Fraternity.

I'm excited to welcome all of you to the first formal newsletter publication, focusing on communication with our alumni. The Housing Corporation (HC) has committed to leading the alumni relations program and will mail two newsletters each year containing alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter activities, and current lists of undergraduate new members and officers.

In addition to the newsletter, we will also send a biographical update, requesting alumni to update the information we have on record. These biographical updates provide the means to collect information for the alumni news section of the newsletter. The updates play a vital role in maintaining our records and ties with one another.



Bill Kemper '16, Drew Hitson '18, Sean Nolan '17, Brian Haas '17, Kody Krupps '16, Matt Greer '17, Daris Anthony '16, Dan Larson '16, Evan Powell '16, Fernando Navarro '16, Rudy Casas '18, Harry Keane '16, and Brad Boland '18 participate and volunteer at the Give 'Em a Breath 5K to support the Flynn Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis.

The HC recently completed a study to assess the feasibility of major upgrades to the chapter property. Several of our alumni contributed input to the study, and the results provided strategic guidance to HC on the next steps necessary to stay competitive on campus. Be on the lookout for additional information in the coming year as we dive into the planning process.

Through efforts to reinvigorate our alumni relations programming, we hope to strengthen our fraternal bond and reignite our commitment to brotherhood. We want you to not only be proud of your

Sigma Nu experience, but also to be confident to say that you are a Sigma Nu.

I welcome your feedback on the newsletter and encourage you to get more involved. We are actively seeking alumni interested in serving on the HC or assisting as alumni advisory board members.

Fraternally,
AJ Brown '06
President
Sigma Nu Housing Corporation
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(309) 339-9184

**Turn to page 3
to read about
what our
undergraduates
are up to!**

Patrick Baikauskas '74 Reflects on Unforgettable Support from Brothers and Remarkable Community Involvement

When Patrick Baikauskas '74 joined Zeta Phi, he did not know at the time that he would develop a lifelong support system and powerful friendships with individuals, whom he is proud to call his brothers. "As a member of Zeta Phi, I was surrounded by men who encouraged me to succeed academically and socially, build leadership skills, and become the best version of myself. They were, and continue to be,

my biggest supporters; I wouldn't trade the brotherhood I gained from Zeta Phi for anything," he says.

As an undergraduate, Patrick demonstrated tremendous involvement in the chapter as recruitment chairman, song chairman, chaplain, and Commander for two terms. This extensive leadership experience provided Patrick with a high level of skills and confidence to pursue future

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CONTINUING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Dick Nitto '66 Thankful for Memories Made in Zeta Phi

Coming to Bradley University, **Dick Nitto '66** was in search of a place he could call home and well-rounded friends he could call brothers. For Dick, Zeta Phi not only provided a safe haven and lifelong friendships, but also provided him with the confidence and encouragement to excel in academics, leadership, sports, and social skills. "The men of Zeta Phi exemplified everything that I hoped to become and so much more. The unmatched camaraderie and friendships that Zeta Phi has provided me makes me feel truly blessed to be part of an organization that will continue to thrive for years to come," he says.



One asset that sets Zeta Phi apart from other chapters is the long-lived tradition of excellence and dedication to recruiting members who will carry on the chapter's legacy. "As an undergraduate in Zeta Phi, we strove to build a reputation of excellence and leadership that would be recognized campuswide. Maintaining those elements of our chapter by both active and alumni members is a significant driving force in the legacy that Zeta Phi carries today."

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During his undergraduate career, Dick demonstrated leadership in the chapter and on campus as pledge trainer, student body vice president, student body president, and president of the Missouri Valley Student Government Association. This involvement continued after graduation as Dick served as president of the Bradley National Alumni Association and is a volunteer for the Housing Corporation. Dick has had the unique opportunity to connect with various undergraduates and alumni from the chapter, having maintained friendships with a few brothers for over 50 years, and he encourages alumni to reconnect with the chapter and renew friendships. "The future of Zeta Phi is dependent on the support and dedication of alumni. Take the time to make a positive difference and give back to the chapter that gave you so much."

Dick retired from Caterpillar Inc. after a fulfilling 33-year career that allowed him the unforgettable opportunities to live in London, Geneva, Belfast, Melbourne, and Sydney, Australia. He and his wife, Trish, live in Peoria in the spring and summer, where Dick volunteers for various school charity and fundraising events, and Naples, Florida, in the winter. In his spare time, Dick enjoys golfing, extensive reading, frequent traveling, and visiting family in the east and south. Dick has two sons, Ryan (42) and Reed (40), who have both pursued careers in the financial industry. You can contact Dick at rdnitto@msn.com.

Patrick Baikauskas '74 Reflects

(Continued from page 1)

professional and personal interests. Patrick credits much of his success as an undergraduate to the Dean of Students at Bradley University, Ed King, who is a Sigma Chi alumnus and "an outstanding example to all fraternity men," and to his English professor, Dennis McNeriney, who continually demonstrated genuine compassion and concern for all students at the university.

The support that Patrick received during his undergraduate career encouraged him to develop a passion for giving back to the community and helping those in need. Patrick serves as an active fundraiser for the Greater Lafayette Hunger Hike, an event that fights hunger in the local community and in Haiti, and for the Special Olympics. He encourages others to become involved in their own community and says, "Making a difference locally and internationally has been one of the most exciting things I have ever done in my life. I am blessed to be able to take the things I learned as a Sigma Nu and apply them toward my personal and professional endeavors. Recognizing the importance of your role in the community and giving back to others is absolutely rewarding, and it is something that I live by every day."

"We got so much out of our experience in Sigma Nu—good men who demonstrate genuine care and compassion for one another and encourage you to become successful in every aspect of your life. It is my hope that Zeta Phi alumni will continue to help provide these same opportunities for future undergraduate men in the chapter and make sacrifices that were made for them during their college years."

As an alumnus, Patrick maintains strong connections with **Ian Malatesta '74, Michael Romano '73, George Jasinski '76, Sam Palumbo '75, Andy Charles '76, Bob Carlstedt '75, David Karmis '76, Greg Schmitt '76, Tod Althoff '76, and Tom Smith '74**, and makes it a priority to attend alumni gatherings that are hosted every few years. "We got so much out of our experience in Sigma Nu—good men who demonstrate genuine care and compassion for one another and encourage you to become successful in every aspect of your life. It is my hope that Zeta Phi alumni will continue to help provide these same opportunities for future undergraduate men in the chapter and make sacrifices that were made for them during their college years."

Patrick serves as the pastor and director of campus ministry at St. Thomas Aquinas, which is the Catholic center at Purdue University. At a young age, Patrick developed a love for sports and his fondest childhood memory was attending his first Chicago White Sox baseball game in 1959. His love for sports remains strong today, as Patrick enjoys running marathons and participating in bicycling trips. You can contact Patrick at patrickop@gmail.com.

ZETA PHI UNDERGRADUATES MAKE A MARK ON CAMPUS AND IN THE COMMUNITY

Zeta Phi had a fantastic fall semester, and our chapter is extremely excited for what's to come.

Academic and Philanthropic Excellence

Our chapter started the school year on a very high note by achieving a 3.11 overall grade point average in the spring, which is a vast improvement from previous semesters. On top of that, the chapter continues to raise philanthropic donations for the Children's Hospital of Illinois through our annual Gameball Run philanthropy. The chapter philanthropy consistently raises more than \$10,000 year after year.

Recruiting Future Leaders

We welcomed 19 new candidates this fall after a successful recruitment. Despite a small freshman class, we were able to find 19 impressive and worthy men who were eager to join our brotherhood. We look forward to their successful candidacy through LEAD Phase 1 programming.

Zeta Phi Welcomes Radio Host Adam Ritz

This semester we hosted an alcohol and sexual awareness seminar in the Student Center, where

we brought in nationally syndicated radio host Adam Ritz. The event was very successful as Adam delivered his message to a large audience of Bradley students. We look forward to welcoming him back in the future, so that his message can be spread further throughout campus.

Setting Goals for the Future

This semester, we will continue to improve in each aspect of operation. We want to build upon our GPA from last spring, raise more money for Gameball, volunteer our time to the Peoria community, and encourage our members to be the best possible versions of themselves.

We look forward to continuing the great legacy Sigma Nu has built here at Bradley over the years, and we are excited to see what the coming year has in store for us. If you are ever in the area, feel free to stop by for a visit. We welcome the opportunity to hear stories of the past and share our vision for the future.

Fraternally,
Alex Kryah '17
Commander
(317) 796-1899
akryah@mail.bradley.edu



Sebastian Al-Naif '17, Josh Glaum '17, Ross Nasca '18, Brian Haas '17, Matt Greer '17, and Rob Harris '18 volunteer at the Greek grill welcome week activity.



Zeta Phi partnered with Epsilon Sigma Alpha service sorority to host a campuswide speaker featuring radio personality Adam Ritz and his speech, "No One Is Invincible."

WELCOME, NEW CANDIDATES

John Akers '19
Morton, Ill.

Aiden Fahrenkrog '19*
Tulsa, Okla.
(Father **Rick Fahrenkrog**,
Gamma Xi '80)

Parker Richmond '19
Peoria, Ill.

Christian Aldinger '19*
Aledo, Ill.
(Brother **Zach Aldinger '17**)

Brycen Fischer '19
Morton, Ill.

Michael Tadros '18
Darien, Ill.

Jared Bakken '19
Bloomington-Normal, Ill.

Nick Konow '19
Chicago, Ill.

Kenny Vonckx '18
Elgin, Ill.

Andy Brockmann '19
Bloomington-Normal, Ill.

Michael Kowalski '19
New Lenox, Ill.

Matthew Weeks '19
Aledo, Ill.

Chris Chaidez '19
Morris, Ill.

Luke Lesny '19
Harwood Heights, Ill.

Logan Welling '19
Luxemburg, Iowa

Chris Conrad '19*
Springfield, Ill.
(Father **Jon Conrad '77**)

Jared Leubbers '19
Breese, Ill.

Zac Wietrzykowski '19
Plainfield, Ill.

Sully McKee '18
Rockford, Ill.

**Legacy; relative in parentheses*



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Evan Powell '16

Lead
Brian Hass '17

Philanthropy
Chairman
Sean Nolan '17

Marshall
Dan Larson '16

Recorder
Rob Harris '18



Attention: This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Bradley University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address. Thank you.

Now Is the Time to Reconnect!

Enclosed you will find an alumni records update request. To stay connected to your Zeta Phi roots, please fill out the form and drop it back in the mail to us. We value your responses as they will help us build content for future issues of *Sigma News* and deepen our database. We encourage you to stay up-to-date with the fraternity and your brothers and hope this program helps you in doing so!

**Zeta Phi Chapter of Sigma Nu
Bradley University**
Alumni Records Update Request - Fall 2017

Dear ,

In an effort to update our alumni records so we can better serve our members, the Zeta Phi Chapter is asking you to review the contact information listed below. Please correct or add information on this form. If you are correct, please indicate "OK" on the form. Fold this previous business, occupation, and title. If the information is complete and correct, just mark "OK" on the form. Fold this self-addressed envelope to the "Sigma Nu Fraternity" delivery address is on the front, place a stamp on it, and drop it in the mail to us. Thank you for helping us update our records!

First Name: <input type="text"/>	Middle Name: <input type="text"/>	Last Name: <input type="text"/>
Preferred first name: <input type="text"/>	Children: <input type="text"/>	Spouse: <input type="text"/>
Birth date/year: <input type="text"/>	Birth date/year: <input type="text"/>	Graduation year: <input type="text"/>
Home address: <input type="text"/>	Home phone: <input type="text"/>	Cell phone: <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Home e-mail: <input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Employer: <input type="text"/>	Title: <input type="text"/>	Work phone: <input type="text"/>
Retired? <input type="text"/>	Work phone: <input type="text"/>	Work e-mail: <input type="text"/>
If so, what year? <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Work address: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

☐ Check here if all the above information is correct. (Indicate name of organization and year(s). If you have already provided this information, please disregard.)

Awards, honors, elected offices college (include name of organization and year(s). If you have already provided this information, please disregard.)

We would like to hear from you! Please let us know what is happening in your life. Look for news items about you and your Zeta Phi brothers in the "Alumni News" section of the Sigma Nu.

To return this form, fold this page so that the outside delivery address reads: Sigma Nu Fraternity
P.O. Box 5741, Peoria, IL 61601-5741. Then stamp and drop the completed form in the mail to us. It's simple to stay in touch!

— Zeta Phi Chapter of Sigma Nu

