



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Fall 2017

Chapter House Improvements Keep Zeta Phi on Track for Success *Long-Term Plans Gain Momentum*

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As another academic year gets kicked off, we are pleased to welcome our new class of candidates recruited this fall to begin their journey into our brotherhood. This is also the time of year that I want to look back and share some of the significant progress we have made as a board and provide an update on how we will continue to use this momentum to secure the long-term viability of Zeta Phi.

In the fall 2016 newsletter, I shared our *Six Pillar Continuity and Stability Plan* for our chapter, and I'm very pleased to report that through the selfless contribution of our board member volunteers, we have achieved, and in many areas exceeded, our goals for the year.

Several highlights from this past year include:

- Updated our bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to align with our 501(c)(7) registration
- Produced our biannual alumni newsletters
- Sponsored the travel of our active chapter leadership to national leadership conferences
- Established and approved annual operating budget
- Established a dedicated capital improvement fund, operations account, and long-term investment accounts
- Coordinated the floral arrangement and volunteers for the **Bob Michel '48 (ZΦ90)** memorial service
- Continued to make property improvements through partnered investment with **Bob Kolpin '75 (ZΦ374)**, including:
 - Installation of upgraded security camera system
 - Replacement of kitchen door and lock sets
 - Roof caulking and repairs
 - Ongoing fire and safety maintenance services
 - Purchase of new active room furniture

- Installation of new large screen TV and portable sound system
- New patio furniture and grill

The Zeta Phi alumni and undergraduate leadership are developing an exciting plan to address the long-term viability of the Sigma Nu experience on the Bradley University campus. With careful study, assessment, and planning, the Sigma Nu Housing Corporation is working on a tactical approach for our future that will keep Zeta Phi at the top of Greek life at Bradley for decades. We will be sharing the details of this plan in the near future.

"With every end is a new beginning..." and after 42 years of service to the university, including 15 years to our chapter, **Nial Johnson (ZΦ1049)**, our academic advisor, is retiring from Bradley University. I had the honor to knight Nial into the Legion of Honor as a non-matriculate member during my tenure as Commander. I want to thank Nial for his service and his willingness to work directly with our undergraduate members, attend chapter meetings, and roll up his sleeves to provide "on the ground" support for our chapter house maintenance. I wish him well as he enjoys his well-deserved retirement.

In addition to transitioning our academic advisor, we are actively seeking board members with background or interest in real estate, construction, accounting and finance, or law. If any alumni are interested in learning more about the House Corporation or would like to get involved, please contact me at audiejbrown@gmail.com.

Fraternally,
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President, Sigma Nu Housing Corporation
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CHAPTER OFFICERS

Commander
Christopher Chaidez '19 (ZΦ1246)
christopherchaidez@gmail.com

Lieutenant
Nick Konow '19 (ZΦ1242)

Treasurer
Brycen Fischer '19 (ZΦ1245)

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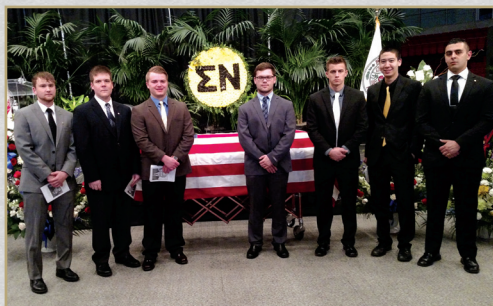
Alumni Chairman
Bryan Fouts '18 (ZΦ1233)

Gameball (Philanthropy) Chairman
Aidan Blassage '20 (ZΦ1261)

Scholarship Chairman
Robert Harris '18 (ZΦ1232)



Robert “Bob” Michel ’48 (ZΦ90) Left a Heartfelt Impression on All Who Knew Him



Undergraduates serve during the services for Robert “Bob” Michel ’48 (ZΦ90).



Sigma Nu brothers attend Bob's memorial service.



Former U.S. Rep. Ray LaHood remembers his predecessor and mentor Robert “Bob” Michel ’48 (ZΦ90).



To the multitudes of staff and family to whom Robert “Bob” Michel ’48 (ZΦ90) connected with, his lessons and influence will be shared and continue on for years to come. Bob’s career in politics began softly—much like many described. In 1949, he was the administrative aide to Peoria’s congressman, Rep. Harold H. Velde. After Velde declined to run for the 1965 re-elections, Bob challenged the Republican chosen successor. After an easy victory, Bob stated he had tried to steer clear of high-profile, all-consuming jobs to avoid the accusations of ignoring the people he vowed to serve and represent, while gaining national exposure. But his desire to serve his country and people was too strong and this was unmistakably evident early on after graduating from Peoria High School.

Bob was a veteran and joined the Army during World War II, invading Normandy and was present at the Battle of the Bulge. Destined to lead, Bob was a platoon leader but was wounded in his right arm and leg during a mission along the Ruhr River. His military career may have been cut short, but ended with two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart before he was discharged in 1946. He was also presented with the Citizen’s Medal in 1989 by President Ronald Reagan, and President Bill Clinton awarded Bob the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1994.

After returning to Peoria, Bob joined Sigma Nu and graduated from Bradley University the same year he married Corinne Woodroof in 1948. The year 1949 was the beginning of his next venture that would lead to 38 years in Congress. Bob was the longest-serving House GOP leader in history. During his time in Congress, Bob worked with many known political figures, such as House Speaker Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill Jr. (D-Mass) and President Richard Nixon. He was named Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee by Richard Nixon, after demonstrating his expertise on appropriation for health, education, and welfare.

Although his knowledge in politics was great, others would say Bob’s talents went beyond



Robert “Bob” Michel ’48 (ZΦ90) in his office after he was elected House minority leader in 1980.

a governmental role. His ability to be humble and fair with everyone he met was unequalled. As a family man and a father to four children, his son, Scott Michel, of Chicago, remembers him as a “one-of-a-kind role model.” He recalls the phone calls from his father while at Capitol Hill, inquiring about him and his siblings’ day-to-day chores and education. Kim Riggensbach, Bob’s nephew, remembers him by the dignity and respect that he used in his interactions with others. Scott recalls the lessons learned from his father as fair, yet strict related to his expectations of anything they were involved in. Scott knows those traits are deep in his core and are reflected in his daily life.

Bob will not only be missed by his family, but also by the many staff he interacted with. Ray LaHood, Bob’s successor, said, “Bob taught us that the head and the heart are necessary to be a good congressman and staffer.” Bob once told his colleges, “My job is to orchestrate your many talents. But our measure of success is how well we harmonize.”

Bob was born in Peoria, Ill., on March 2, 1923. He entered Chapter Eternal on February 17, 2017, at the age of 93, in Arlington, Va. He is survived by his children, Scott Michel of Chicago, Robin Michel of San Francisco, Bruce Michel of San Antonio, and Laurie Michel of Alexandria, Va., who hold their memories of their father dearly.

GOLF OUTING ENJOYED BY ALL

The chapter had 12 groups of alumni and active members participate in the golf outing this spring. The catered breakfast allowed alumni and active members to interact and catch up before heading to Weaver Ridge for the outing. The weather was great for golf in Peoria, and the next golf outing is planned for April 2018. More details to come; stay tuned.

Fraternally,

Christopher Chaidez ’19 (ZΦ1246) | Chapter President | christopherchaidez@gmail.com





The men of Zeta Phi.

Zeta Phi Makes a Positive Impact on Local Youth Through Philanthropy

Undergraduates Team up with Greek Chapters

The Zeta Phi Chapter achieved a 3.06 GPA for the spring semester, which is above the Sigma Nu national average. Fall recruitment resulted in welcoming 19 new candidates. Last Grand Chapter at Bradley, Sigma Nu was one of only two fraternities to receive a four star chapter accreditation, out of 14 fraternities on campus, and received an award recognizing the chapter for the Most Outstanding Philanthropy for Gameball Run.

The Gameball Run philanthropy coincides with the Bradley vs. ISU men's basketball and involves chapter members dribbling the gameball from ISU in Bloomington to the Children's Hospital in Peoria. Local high schools and middle schools in the area have followed our lead, and have joined us in raising funds for Children's Hospital of Illinois. As a chapter, we presented a check to the Children's Hospital of Illinois for \$15,000. Together with local schools, we have accumulated well over \$100,000. We have also invited high schools in the area and the Sigma Nu chapter at Illinois State University to participate in the last mile of the run with us, showing unity and striving to promote philanthropy for the Children's Hospital of Illinois.

Over the summer, the chapter house underwent a revamping in order to be in the best possible shape to help with recruitment and the overall image. Some of these improvements included external work (repainting the large front bench, various smaller benches, new windows and window shutters) and other internal work. The active room underwent a complete transformation, newly furnished and much more welcoming. Other improvements included improving the bathrooms, a company grade printer, and small everyday repairs.



Zeta Phi undergraduates clean up the neighborhood with Pi Beta Phi.

This fall, the Zeta Phi Chapter hosted an open house for Family Weekend, allowing parents of new members to visit and find out more about the chapter and its members. Members of the executive board were present to answer any questions or concerns. This was also a great opportunity to make connections with the families—something that is essential to progressing the chapter. After the open house, Zeta Phi held a tailgate at the Bradley Homecoming game, open to alumni and parents.

Last spring, the chapter hosted its annual Golf Outing, with over 12 groups of alumni and active members attending after a prepared breakfast for alumni. Sigma Nu also hosted a neighborhood cleanup event with Pi Beta Phi sorority and has two more planned for the rest of the semester. Next spring, the chapter plans on having Dennis Gillman, a suicide awareness speaker, come host a campuswide event. The chapter is co-hosting this event with Gamma Phi Beta.

Fraternally,
Christopher Chaidez '19 (ZΦ1246)
 Chapter President
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CELEBRATING LIFE-LONG BROTHERHOOD

Another Sigma Nu reunion is now in the history books. Thanks to the organizational efforts of **George Schmid '75** several brothers came together in the Las Vegas desert for a weekend filled with laughter and libations.

The weekend of October 6-9 kicked off with 15 brothers casually meeting up at Beer Park on the Vegas strip before hitting the links the next day at the Las Vegas Country club followed by dinner that evening overlooking the Bellagio Fountains. The weekend culminated with a Sunday evening send-off dinner with 31 guests on the patio of Carlos and Charlies with a special slide-show presentation and heartfelt speeches from several brothers.

Overall, the reunion was highly successful and long overdue! The call is to do it all again in Chicago in 2019.



Sigma Nu reunion 2017.

Welcome, New Members

Paul Collins	Jack Martinez
Lewayne Frierson	Keifer McCaw
Sami Ghantous	Jayson Podschweit
Wyatt Gibboney	Anthony Ryan
Brett Griffin	Avi Saini
Andrew Haynes	Kyle Tucker
Tyler Hess	Mike Weeks*
Frank Jaeger	(Father Kevin Weeks, Delta Theta '86)
Cj Johnston	Devin Wheeler
Mateo Jones	<i>* Legacy, relative in parenthesis</i>
Abraham Manappallil	

REUNITED AT THE ROCK

After more than 50-plus years, we finally made it to see the Rock and visit the Sigma Nu Headquarters in Lexington, Va.

It all started when we were planning a road trip to visit some of the Civil War battle sites in Virginia. A good place to start was Lexington, where General Robert E. Lee and his famous horse, Traveller, are buried on the grounds of Washington and Lee University adjacent to VMI, not far from the Sigma Nu National Headquarters.

We had a great visit with Todd Denson, Director of Alumni Advisory Programs, who gave us a tour of the special rooms within Sigma Nu National Headquarters and was kind enough take a picture of us standing by the Rock. We learned a lot and were moved by the inspiring visible and storied elements of our fraternity. Todd also presented each of us a 55-year Sigma Nu pin that we will add to our bag of memories. Great building plans are afoot at the national chapter. This was a fun trip indeed.

Fraternally,

Denny Lewis '65 (ZΦ270) and
Don Schuette '64 (ZΦ200)



Denny Lewis '65 (ZΦ270) and Don Schuette '64 (ZΦ200) return to the "Rock" after 50 years.

SIGMA NEWS

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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.

ALUMNI NEWS

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Alfred "A.J." Sikma '90 (ZΦ672) entered Chapter Eternal on February 24, 2017, as a resident of Princeton, N.J., after a long battle with brain cancer. A.J. was an investment banker and spent the majority of his career with Merrill Lynch. While he loved baseball, history, and travel, his great loves were his wife, Tara Jennifer, and his two daughters, Molly and Katherine. A.J. was a loyal and trusted friend. The courage with which A.J. lived his life and faced his illness will continue to be an example to all those who knew and loved him.

ALUMNI NEWS

Bill Pohlson '58 (ZΦ68) and his wife, Carol, are doing well in Madison, Wis. Bill is proud to say he was part of the very first pledge class when Sigma Nu came to Bradley in 1955.

Robert H. Vogt '64 (ZΦ243) has been happily married to his wife, Susan, for 52 years, living in Wheaton, Ill. They enjoy spending time with their adult children and attending their four granddaughters' school activities, including cheerleading, volleyball, basketball, track, and tennis. Robert loves to play golf and travel abroad with Susan. E-mail: bobsuecat@yahoo.com

Carl "Cork" Damrau '66 (ZΦ273) is enjoying life in Marietta, Ga., with his wife, Harmony. "I really enjoy reading the *Sigma News*! Keep up the hard work!" E-mail: 66cork@comcast.net

Lawrence Martin '66 (ZΦ267) says his brother, **Cal Martin '64 (ZΦ227)**, a top national ranking basketball team, and excellent pre-med education led him to choose Bradley University in 1962. "It's been just over 50 years since graduation. I've had a successful out-patient surgical practice for 40-plus years. I have pride in the potential of our basketball team and treasure the friendships I have with my Sigma Nu brothers—it keeps me coming back to Peoria by boat or by car." E-mail: fpsmartin@sbcglobal.net

Robert E. McDonnell '10 (ZΦ1098) is a registered nurse for Bolingbrook Hospital near his home in Darien, Ill. He is excited to report he is getting married in November 2017. Robert has filled the last few years with traveling to Brazil, China, Bermuda, Australia, the Philippines, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic. He has also worked as a nurse touring WWII and Korean War veterans around the Washington, D.C., monuments and memorials. E-mail: sportsape@aol.com