



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Fall 2018



From left: AJ Brown '06 (ZΦ1012), Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265), and Alex Fuentes '20 (ZΦ1264) stop by The Rock during a tour of the Sigma Nu headquarters as a part of Grand Chapter in Washington, D.C.



Active chapter delegates Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265), left, and Alex Fuentes (ZΦ1265), right, at the Sigma Nu's 68th Grand Chapter in Washington, D.C.

A Grand Time at Grand Chapter

Zeta Phi Brothers Learn More about Sigma Nu Values

Welcome to the fall 2018 edition of *Sigma News*! This past summer was filled with exciting Sigma Nu events and activities—both nationally and locally. I had the privilege to attend Sigma Nu's Grand Chapter with two of our active chapter delegates in Washington, D.C., to learn about the state of our national fraternity. We participated in a very special non-matriculate initiation ceremony with several 1970s era alumni for one our newest initiates. I can confidently say that our national, alumni, and active chapter operations have established a solid foundation to continue to excel with honor and build our next generation of leaders.

STATE OF THE NATIONAL FRATERNITY

Like most college students, when I first joined the fraternity a little over a decade ago I didn't really comprehend the rich history and expansiveness of our national fraternity. Having just attended Sigma Nu's national convocation this past summer, I can confirm that I not only joined the best fraternity on Bradley's campus, but simply one of the strongest national fraternity organizations. For example, we are all one of nearly 250,000 lifetime initiates from nearly 280 chapters across the United States and Canada with an average chapter size of 72 men. The General Fraternity reported that seven new colonies were established, and four dormant chapters were reinstated. In a time in which many national fraternities are fighting to maintain purpose, our Sigma Nu national fraternity is thriving.

STATE OF THE ALUMNI CHAPTER

One of the most rewarding parts of my service to our House Corporation is continuing to meet and interact with our alumni. Improving our alumni relations and communication is a strategic imperative for our House Corporation board. A great example of this improved alumni engagement coalesced with the recent non-

matriculate initiation ceremony of **Anthony Colletti '74 (ZΦ1279)**. This was a very special event that reminded me of the true value of lifelong friendship and brotherhood.

STATE OF THE ACTIVE CHAPTER

A pilgrimage to the Rock is one of the most enlightening experiences that any Sigma Nu brother can partake in. One of the more memorable highlights of attending Grand Chapter this summer was taking a three-hour bus trip with two of our active chapter delegates from Washington, D.C., to Lexington, Va., to tour the headquarters shrine, Virginia Military Institute, and learn about our history. This trip allowed us to discuss ways in which we can continue to build on the chapter's strong foundation, which includes a current manpower of 50 members, a well-recognized philanthropy that consistently donates \$10,000 annually to the Children's Hospital, and significant campus leadership and involvement experience.

The Rock of Sigma Nu symbolizes more than just the founding of our fraternity. It's a symbol of the strength and values of our fraternity. It reminded me that I belong to something much bigger than myself. Simply stated, Sigma Nu changed my life, and for that, I am forever indebted to this organization. And it's because of this indebtedness in which I feel compelled to help serve our fraternity and create an environment in which future brothers can develop the best versions of themselves. I am hopeful that all of you can commit to a small action to push our fraternity forward or extend the helping hand to continue our strong legacy.

Fraternally,
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FOLLOW THE LEADER

*Dave Mainella Continues to Lead by
Example for Zeta Phi Chapter*

When Dave Mainella '91 (ZΦ713) transferred to Bradley University to run varsity cross-country, he joined the Braves with a front-runner's mentality. Leading has always come naturally to Dave, but he found himself following a few of his teammates on another path shortly after he arrived at BU.

After Dave found out what life was like as a Sigma Nu from Eric Suender '91 (ZΦ691) and Rob Drew '93 (ZΦ686), he followed their lead by pledging to the Zeta Phi Chapter.

From there, Dave went on to further enhance his leadership skills at Bradley and with Sigma Nu. As a proud Sigma Nu alumnus, he's calling upon his brothers to give back to the fraternity.



"I felt that Sigma Nu had brothers who cared about each other and believed the fraternity would help me adjust to a new school," Dave said. "I stayed active with Sigma Nu because of the close friendships and the support from brothers."

Dave has spent the past three years as the Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations at Emory University's Goizetta Business School. Leadership started to intrigue Dave when he was in middle school, and he's been driven to lead ever since.

"I've always been fascinated by groups and how you can build a high-performing team," Dave said. "The master's program in leadership at Bradley led me into working in higher education in fundraising."

Prior to accepting his current position at Goizetta, Dave gained valuable experience working at Duke University, North Carolina State University, Johns Hopkins University, and Bradley.

"I really enjoy working with donors and getting to know them, their passions and what they want to achieve in their philanthropy," Dave said.

Even though Dave eventually moved on from working at Bradley, he stayed connected at his alma mater through his work with Sigma Nu. Dave volunteered as Zeta Phi's recruitment advisor right after he graduated, and then served as the alumni advisor for seven years. One of Dave's favorite aspects about Sigma Nu is the fraternity's LEAD Program.

"The brothers in the chapter were motivated to participate in some of the new sessions that I helped develop and that led to me working for Sigma Nu's headquarters as a consultant to the LEAD Program for 15 years," Dave said. "After I left Bradley, I stayed involved by serving as a Division Commander for Sigma Nu, which is a position where you work with six to eight chapters in the area that you live in. From there, I went on to serve on Sigma Nu's High Council."

Working at Goizetta and with Sigma Nu's LEAD Program occupies a great deal of Dave's time, but he makes sure that he also excels as a husband and father. Dave and his wife, Felicia, strive each and every day to lead a positive example for their daughters, Kennedy and Keira. He credits Sigma NU for instilling the key character traits that he has passed on to Kennedy and Keira.

You can contact Dave at davidmainella@gmail.com.

A MARINE-MADE BRADLEY BRAVE

Rick Sander Steps in as Chapter Advisor



As of spring 2018, the active chapter has benefited from the guidance of new chapter advisor, Rick Sander. Rick, who is the director of communications and engineering services at Bradley University, has been an active member of the school for the past 26 years. He is an alumnus of DeVry University with a degree in telecommunications management. Rick has been a very active voice in Housing Corporation and active chapter meetings and the Bradley community as a whole.

Although Rick was not in the Greek system as an undergraduate, he spent four years as a Marine, which he believes is a strong brotherhood that taught him accountability, responsibility, and how to be a true leader. Rick is already the boss of many Sigma Nu brothers in his office, who have been able to work under his supervision as student workers.

Rick is a true believer of our values of truth, love, and honor. He believes that truth is very important, as lying shows weakness of character. Rick holds honor as a core value, as it was the basis of his time as a Marine. Finally, he is actively involved in martial arts, where love and compassion is the central focus of everything he does. Rick hopes to bring his strong belief in these values to the chapter, while motivating them to success in a scholarly and brotherly manner.

Rick hopes to become a strong resource for the chapter, not just internally, but externally as well. He has strived to help with many aspects already, from having meetings with the Greek life advisor to helping the chapter prepare for fire inspections. He hopes to work with the scholarship chairman to improve the chapter's GPA, and wants to ensure that every brother is working to better his future.

Welcome to the Brotherhood

NEW MEMBERS

Jacob Beaty '20
Kanton, Ill.

Jake Fitch '22
Morris, Ill.

Michael McCutcheon '22
Ladd, Ill.

Corey Novander '22
Mundelein, Ill.

Tyler Reiger '22
Buffalo Grove, Ill.

NEW INITIATES

Lewyane Frierson '21
Chicago, Ill.
Undecided

Frank Jaeger '21
Chicago, Ill.
Marketing

Rodrigo Ramirez '20
Chicago, Ill.
Electrical Engineering

Academic Progress Set as High Priority



Michael Tadros '19 (ZΦ1256) accepts an award for outstanding academic achievement in the accounting department. Michael also won an award over the summer during his internship with Caterpillar.



Adam Duvendack '20 (ZΦ1259), Alex Fuentes '20 (ZΦ1264), Tyler Hess '20 (ZΦ1276), Jimmy Thoennes '20 (ZΦ1262), Rodrigo Ramirez '20 (ZΦ1281), Jayson Podschweit '21 (ZΦ1273), Wyatt Gibbony, and Anthony Ryan '21 (ZΦ1272) celebrate the new members accepting their bid into Sigma Nu.



Josh Rodriguez '20 (ZΦ1269), Justin Limoges '20 (ZΦ1266), Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265), and Jake Breitenreiter '20 (ZΦ1257) participate in work week as they get ready for the 2018-19 school year.

From the spring semester, the chapter had an overall GPA of 2.9. In comparison to the other fraternities, the chapter ranked 14th out of 15. Sigma Nu ranked 23rd out of 26 for all Greek houses at Bradley. The scholarship chairman, along with the executive board, are in the process of implementing new incentives to encourage better performance toward academic activities. The scholarship chairman has also developed a plan to meet with any member below a 3.0 GPA to schedule library hours and tutoring sessions. "We understand the struggles with grades in the previous semester and are eager to make a change. Through monthly meetings with each member and better time management with academic and social lives, we expect to have a significant increase in academic performance," Scholarship Chairman **Josh Rodriguez '20 (ZΦ1269)** said.

Philanthropy: In the spring of 2018, the men of Sigma Nu presented a check of \$8,392 to the Children's Hospital of Illinois. The chapter will participate in the annual Gameball run on Wednesday, January 23. Running 43 miles from Illinois State to the Children's Hospital in Peoria, we dedicate our time and efforts to the kids. The chapter is also participating in philanthropic events on campus through other organizations like the Moonball tournament hosted by Gamma Phi Beta on October 13 and the Strike Out Cancer softball tournament hosted by Chi Omega on October 28. "Planning for the Gameball run has already begun. I have a committee of members who are helping me create an agenda for our philanthropy week. I look forward to working with alumni in our efforts of raising as much money as we can for the Children's Hospital of Illinois. I am very excited for this year's Parents Weekend where we will be having a guest speaker as always and will be raising funds," Gameball coordinator **Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265)** said.

Membership: We have had three members from the spring become initiates this fall. Furthermore, the chapter has developed a new recruitment strategy for the 2018-19 school year. We are focusing on a 365-day recruitment plan. So far, the chapter has hosted frequent events to attract new potential members. With five new members, the chapter is dedicating a lot of its time to recruit and maintain a class that promotes the values of love, truth, and honor. "The chapter has implemented many strategies that had not been previously emphasized as much as possible. This includes a more extensive 365-day recruitment-

based approach, more chapter feedback and workshop sessions, and more alumni involvement," Rush chairman **Chris Chaidez '19 (ZΦ1246)** said.

Chapter Activities: In July 2018, Brothers **Alex Fuentes '20 (ZΦ1264)** and **Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265)** attended the Sigma Nu Grand Chapter event in Washington, D.C. The chapter has planned community service events with various sororities on campus, and intends to volunteer at the local Peoria food pantry. Lastly, Brother **Jake Breitenreiter '20 (ZΦ1267)** dedicated much of his time over the summer to volunteering for his hometown baseball team, as he umpired at the Cooperstown baseball tournament in New York. He dedicated over 60 hours of community service for the week-and-a-half-long event.

Member Activities: **Chris Chaidez '19 (ZΦ1246)** was the former president of Sigma Nu and is currently the vice president of the Interfraternity Council. **Adam Duvendack '20 (ZΦ1259)** currently holds a position on student senate for the class of 2020. **Logan Welling '19 (ZΦ1239)** is president of the engineering organization, APICS.

Alumni/Parents Event: The members of Sigma Nu would like to thank all the fathers that participated in the Spring 2018 Dad's Weekend. Mom's Weekend will be held in November and next year's Dad's Weekend will be in March. The chapter also will be hosting the annual alumni golf outing in April 2019. Finally, Sigma Nu Parents Weekend is scheduled for end of October/early November. We appreciate all the parents and alumni who attend our events and support our accomplishments.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Zeta Phi Chapter plans to only go up from here. The chapter will be making an impact in the Peoria community through community service as well as upping participation in campus organizations to make a well-known presence on campus. We appreciate the help of our alumni through this past spring semester and look forward to more visits from our Zeta Phi alumni.



Faternally,
Jake Breitenreiter '20 (ZΦ1257)
Eminent Commander
jakebreity23@gmail.com

Chapter Officers

Commander
Jake Breitenreiter '20 (ZΦ1267)
Mundelein, Ill.
jakebreity23@gmail.com

Lieutenant Commander
Alex Fuentes '20 (ZΦ1264)
Sauk Village, Ill.

Treasurer
Tyler Hess '20 (ZΦ1276)
Roscoe, Ill.

Recruitment Chairman
CJ Johnston '21 (ZΦ1271)
Downers Grove, Ill.
cjohnston@mail.bradley.edu

Recruitment Chairman
Chris Chaidez '19 (ZΦ1246)
Morris, Ill.
cchaidez@mail.bradley.edu

Recorder
Brett Griffin '21 (ZΦ1274)
Haslet, Texas

Candidate Marshal
CJ Aldinger '19 (ZΦ1255)
Aledo, Ill.

LEAD Chairman
Luke Lesny '19 (ZΦ1254)
Chicago, Ill.

Gameball
Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265)
Morris, Ill.

Alumni Update

CHAPTER ETERNAL

David Middendorf '68 (ZΦ286) of Jacksonville, entered Chapter Eternal on August 23 at Lavender Ridge. He was born March 3, 1944, in Jacksonville, the son of Alvin and Lois Rigdon Middendorf. He married Carol Kirsch on August 12, 1967, in Homewood and she survives. He also is survived by two daughters and five grandchildren, Valerie (Brian) Holland and their children, Gabriel, Nicole, and Samantha of Dayton, Ohio, and Allison (Brent) Johnson and their children, Kailey and Brynn of Gulfport, Mississippi; two brothers, Richard Middendorf of Jacksonville and Garland Middendorf of Rocheport, Missouri; and eight nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. David was a 1962 graduate of Jacksonville High School and a 1968 graduate of Bradley University. He spent most of his life in Jacksonville as a partner in the Middendorf Bros. Auctioneers, Real Estate and Appraisal Business. He also had served in the Illinois National Guard and the Army Reserve. David's favorite times were the hours spent on Lake Norfolk with family and friends.

ALUMNI NEWS

Gary B. Colboth '58 (ZΦ67) earned his master's degree at the University of Pittsburgh, served as an Army officer, graduated Northwestern University Law School, practiced law, and retired as professor emeritus California State University. He resides in Long Beach and travels extensively. Email: gary.colboth@csulb.edu

Frederick Meers '64 (ZΦ189) is excited about his grandson, Ben Jones, pledging Sigma Nu at Eastern Carolina University. He is the third member of the family to pledge Sigma Nu. Email: fmeers@comcast.net

Peter McClelland '68 (ZΦ302) is a United States Marine Corps veteran. He earned his master's of science at Buffalo State and master's of arts at Anna Maria College. He's a retired police K9 handler. Email: mac9@comcast.net

Tony Colletti '74 (ZΦ1279) is excited to finally be an active member after serving as a pledge for over 40 years!! Email: tony@colletti-associates.com



Sigma Nu alumni gathered for the initiation ceremony of Anthony Colletti '74 (ZΦ1279) at the Parkridge Country Club.

Gregg Bredesen '98 (ZΦ897) recently completed MBA from the University of Nevada, Reno. Email: gwbredesen@gmail.com

Matthew MacDonald '98 (ZΦ835) won the biggest advertising pitch in history. He's working on the second biggest. Email: matt@mattmacdonald.net

Kyle Harris '06 (ZΦ1003) works in the Kansas City area for Kiewit on power and industrial projects as the civil/structural estimating department manager. Kyle and Bri just celebrated their 10-year

SIGMA NEWS

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY

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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.

STANDOUT SPORTSWRITER

*Marty Maciaszek '88 (ZΦ635) Selected as
IHSA Distinguished Media Service Recipient*

The countless hours that **Marty Maciaszek '88 (ZΦ635)** has spent reporting on high school sporting events over the 31 years has not gone unnoticed by the athletes and coaches throughout the state of Illinois.

Marty was recognized for his dedicated work in September when he was named as one of four winners of the Illinois High School Association's Distinguished Media Service Award.

"There is nothing quite like the excitement of a big Friday night football game or packed gym for a basketball game," Marty said in an IHSA press release. "So many kids and coaches put so much time and energy into what they are doing that people don't see and they are doing it because it brings them great joy. The fact that the athletes and coaches are so accessible and willing to share their thoughts and stories made it tremendously appealing to me."

Marty launched his sports reporting career while he was still a senior at Bradley University, when he joined the *Peoria Journal Star* sports department in 1987. He then accepted a job with the *Chicago Tribune* in 1990 before settling in at the *Arlington Heights Daily Herald* in 1992. Marty served a 12-year stint as the preps sports coordinator for Cook County from 2000-2012.

While Marty no longer works full-time in the newspaper industry, he has still remained active on the Illinois high school sports scene as a stringer. Joining Marty in receiving the award were Don Chipman, Kurt Pegler, and Chris Duerr.

"They are all incredibly deserving and have contributed to high school sports in Illinois in so many ways, but the one thing that really sets this group apart is their sheer work ethic," IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha said in the press release.

wedding anniversary and have two boys: Oliver, 4, and Graham, 2. Email: kharris7@gmail.com

Steven Reis '12 (ZΦ1130) works for Waymo (Google's self-driving car project) as a technical program manager. Email: sreis@mail.bradley.edu

Nathan Crabel '13 (ZΦ1147) is getting married in February. He is the Institute of Industrial and System Engineers Young Professional community president, is the Sigma Nu Alumni Advisory Board chairman, and is personally mentoring the Commander and LEAD chairman. Email: nathancrabel@gmail.com