



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Fall 2019

CHANGING OF THE GUARD ZETA PHI WELCOMES NEW HOUSE CORPORATION PRESIDENT

Alumni Support Fosters Positive Environment for Leadership and Growth

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The fall 2019 edition of *Sigma News* is here! I hope this edition finds you well and eager to hear how the active chapter is continuing its focus on being the best fraternity on campus.

NEW HOUSE CORPORATION MEMBERS

I am excited to join the House Corporation as the newly elected president. I am a 2006 graduate and served as house manager during my tenure as an undergraduate. I bring a passion for Sigma Nu and a wealth of construction knowledge as I work as a project manager for Zobrist Construction.

Additionally, the House Corporation elected a new treasurer, **Joe Chambers '07 (ZΦ1033)**. Both Joe and I are local to the Peoria area and can provide the necessary support and ongoing mentorship required to help advise our active chapter.

SUMMER UPDATES KEEP CHAPTER HOUSE IN TOP SHAPE

Since our last newsletter, our active chapter focused on obtaining a strong group of candidates during fall recruitment who we can one day call brothers. Back to school work week was a huge success preparing the chapter house for the fall recruitment season. The landscaping was trimmed, the exterior of the house was pressure washed, interior walls were painted, and floors were cleaned to their original shine. During the summer we also replaced the hot water storage tank which was from 1978.

ZETA PHI BROTHERHOOD GAINS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

With great excitement, I am pleased to announce that we welcomed 18 candidates this fall who already share our core values as Sigma Nus. Our candidate marshal is hard

at work grooming these men to be active scholars and leaders at Bradley University, while also instructing them on how to be the best Sigma Nus they can be. In the words of our division manager, **Chris Graham**, "Love. Honor. Truth. Nothing less. And you don't need anything else."

COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO CHAPTER'S SUCCESS

Our House Corporation maintains the strong foundation through transparent financial management, healthy reserve contributions, and leadership succession. As mentors to the active chapter, I found the current executive board engaged and deliberate in their updates during our last House Corporation meeting. This is due to the efforts of our chapter advisor, Rick Sander, who continues attending chapter meetings and guiding our actives not only as fraternity brothers, but young men.

BROTHERHOOD ACTIVITIES AHEAD

The active Gameball chairman is already hard at work raising money for this year's Gameball Run. The men of Sigma Nu will present a check to the OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois at the ISU versus Bradley men's basketball game on January 22nd. I encourage all alumni to attend the game to support our active chapter and alma mater. The alumni chairman is also working on scheduling next spring's Alumni Weekend, including a golf outing and open house.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Sigma News*, and I also hope to see many alums at our golf outing in April!

Faternally,

Wes Zobrist '06 (ZΦ1023)

President, Illinois Sigma Nu Building Corporation
(309) 696-1389

wes@zobristconstruction.com

We Want to Hear from You!

What keeps you connected to Sigma Nu? Have you seen your Zeta Phi brothers lately? How do you lend a hand in your community? Got a favorite memory from your time in the Zeta Phi chapter house? What's your biggest accomplishment since graduating from Bradley University? By sharing what you've been up to, you can be featured in an upcoming issue of *Sigma News*.

Do you have photos from your "wonder years" to share? We'd love to include throwback photos in future newsletters. Be sure to provide a caption and names of those pictured when submitting photos.

Submissions may be sent to **AJ Brown '06 (ZΦ1012)** at audiejbrown@gmail.com.

A Grand Experience for the O'Grady Brothers

Sigma Nu Strengthens Bond Between Tom and Sean O'Grady

When **Sean O'Grady '91 (ZΦ697)** was serving as the IFC recruitment chairman at Bradley University, he was put in a tough spot with being unable to recruit specific potential new members to Sigma Nu. There was one person in particular who was going through recruitment during the fall of 1989 who Sean really wanted to join Zeta Phi Chapter—his younger brother, **Tom O'Grady '93 (ZΦ754)**.

While Tom did keep his options open during recruitment, he realized that Sigma Nu was the best fraternity for him. Tom and Sean will always be thankful for the two years they lived together in the Zeta Phi chapter house.

"Tom and I became closer because of Sigma Nu," Sean said. "Once he joined the house and we had the shared experiences of the chapter and friends in common, we became even closer."

By joining Sigma Nu, Tom surrounded himself with a group of like-minded, driven, hard-working, and competitive individuals, forcing him to raise his performance level in all aspects.

"Sigma Nu checked all the boxes of what I was looking for in a fraternity," Tom said.

"It was a great group of guys that valued education but also excelled in athletics, philanthropy, and knew how to balance it all out on the social scene."

The O'Grady brothers have thrived in their respective careers, thanks in part to the impact Sigma Nu has had on them. Tom sought advice from **Trevor Hart '93 (ZΦ759)** and **Matt Didomenico '93 (ZΦ765)** when he was looking for a job in trading and markets. He's been a speculator in the financial markets for the past 22 years. Much of Tom's time lately has been dedicated to launching a caffeinated sparkling water brand called Phocus.

The past two years have been a great opportunity for Sean to grow in the healthcare industry.

In February of 2018, he was promoted to be the chief clinical operations officer at NorthShore University HealthSystem.

"It's a privilege to work with talented people to deliver on our vision to be the most trusted and indispensable health partner to the communities we serve," Sean said. "People have a lot of strong feelings about health care—and the system is very broken—but I think our team at NorthShore is making great strides to make it better."

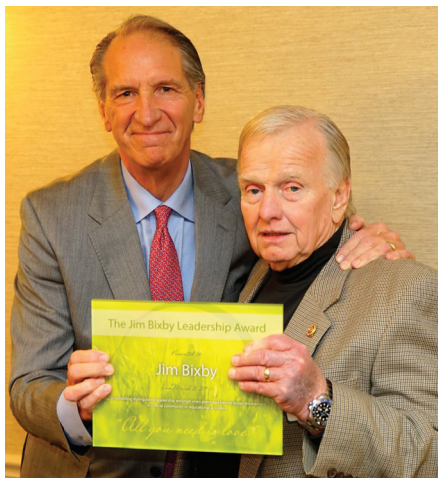


Sean O'Grady '91 (ZΦ697) and Tom O'Grady '93 (ZΦ754) on a family vacation together in the mountains.

Sean and Tom are proud to be a part of another great team, the Zeta Phi alumni base. They recently hosted a 50th birthday celebration for a few of their brothers and often reconnect with brothers in Chicago.

"My four years at Bradley, and as part of Sigma Nu, will always be some of the memories I hold closest to my heart," Tom said. "The friendships I created will last a lifetime."

You can connect with Sean at sogrady@northshore.org, and Tom at togrady1371@me.com.



Jim Bixby '64 (ZΦ254) receives The Jim Bixby Leadership Award this spring. Jim was recognized as the namesake of the award and the Jim Bixby Scholarship Fund.

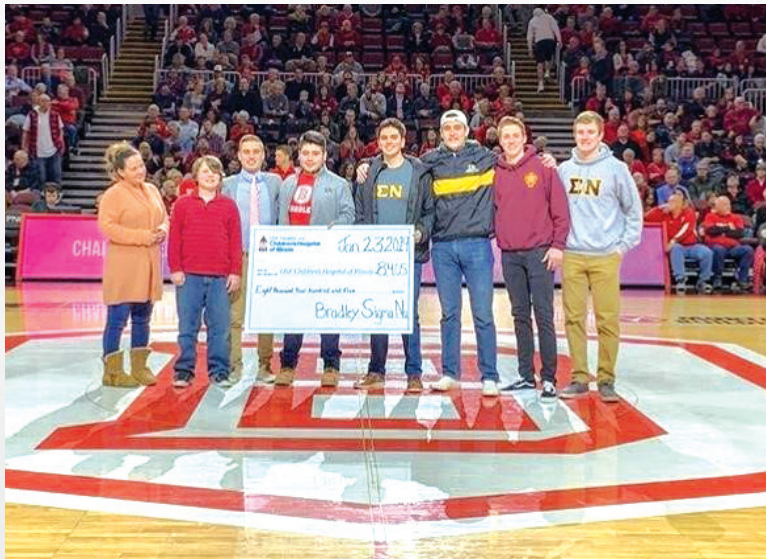
JIM BIXBY '64 (ZΦ254) SERVES IN THE LIGHT OF TRUTH

In March, **Jim Bixby '64 (ZΦ254)** was recognized and announced as the namesake of the Jim Bixby Leadership Award and Scholarship Fund at the Journey Like No Other event for Peoria Regional Learning Center (PRLC).

The scholarship will assist graduates of PRLC with post-secondary educational expenses and honor the career and legacy of Jim. In July, Leaders Change Illinois awarded a \$1,000 grant to the Jim Bixby Leadership Award and Scholarship Fund.

PRLC is a high school for students who are at risk of not completing their diploma. The goal of the PRLC is to reduce the drop-out rate by improving students' academic performance, cultivating their self-concepts, and enhancing their knowledge of potential careers. PRLC enrolls 65 students per year from Peoria County Schools.

To learn more about Peoria Regional Learning Center and the work Jim is doing, contact the school at (309) 495-6800 or email Jim at jbixby@peoriaregional.com



Members of Sigma Nu present a check to the OSF Children's Hospital during halftime of the Bradley vs. Illinois State game last spring.



Zeta Phi brothers after running 43 miles from Illinois State to OSF Children's Hospital for the Gameball Run philanthropic event.



Sigma Nus enjoy the weather while playing bags and cooking burgers during a formal recruitment event this fall.

Zeta Phi Celebrates 21st Annual Gameball Run, Raises \$9,000 for Philanthropy

Brothers Focused on Chapter Growth Through Academics and Campus Involvement

Zeta Phi has many accomplishments to boast about this past year. Our annual philanthropic event, the 43-mile Gameball Run from Illinois State University to the Peoria Children's Hospital, had another great outcome. In the 21 years we've hosted this event, we've donated nearly \$200,000. Our chapter raised nearly \$9,000 this year for OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois. The money we earned goes directly to a child dealing with an illness and who needs financial assistance to help pay for his or her treatment.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Sigma Nu was rewarded with the most improved GPA by Bradley's Interfraternity Council. Academics have been a point of emphasis in our fraternity and we plan to continue improving our overall GPA.

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

This fall, our chapter worked tirelessly on recruiting freshmen. We're pleased with securing 18 new candidates into our fraternity. Our chapter has high hopes that these candidates will be active, engaged members following their new candidate process. Additionally, we have a few freshmen who are still considering joining this semester or next semester—this class could reach over 20 candidates.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT

The beginning of the school year is always a prime time for members to get involved in other campus organizations. Zeta Phi asks each of its members to join at least one organization. This year, we have members in a diverse range of clubs. Ranging from baseball and basketball to pre-med and Engineers United, our members are becoming well-rounded men.

It's been a successful year so far, and our chapter plans to finish this semester strong. Should you find yourself in Peoria, feel free to come by and meet the active members.

Fraternally,
Frank Jaeger '21 (ZΦ1280)
 Outgoing Commander
 (847) 814-8470
fjaeger@mail.bradley.edu

Chapter Officers

Commander

Jayson Podschweit '21 (ZΦ1273)

Lieutenant Commander and Recorder

Corey Novander '22 (ZΦ1283)

Treasurer

Jake Breitenreiter '20 (ZΦ1257)

Recruitment Chairmen

CJ Johnston '21 (ZΦ1271)

(630) 359-1222

cjohnston@mail.bradley.edu

Anthony Ryan '21 (ZΦ1272)

Candidate Marshal

Noah Ryan '20 (ZΦ1267)

Scholarship Chairman

Josh Rodriguez '20 (ZΦ1269)

LEAD Chairman

Adam Duvendack '20 (ZΦ1259)

Gameball Chairman

Jake Fitch '22 (ZΦ1282)

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.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Jonathan Cortez '23
Orland Park, Ill.

Timothy Johnson '23
Downers Grove, Ill.

Peter Mifflin '23
Mokena, Ill.

Jackson Pirowski '23
Tinley Park, Ill.

Ben Westerkamm '23
Indianapolis, Ind.

Kyle Craig '23*
St. Louis, Mo.

Josh Manning '23
Peoria, Ill.

Ryan Newstrom '23
Downers Grove, Ill.

Jack Simms '21
Downers Grove, Ill.

Tyler Zidron '21
Des Plaines, Ill.

Paul Crosson '23
Downers Grove, Ill.

Jaden McCreary '23
Lake Zurich, Ill.

Andrew Pellettiere '23
Orland Park, Ill.

Ethan Smith '23
Lake Villa, Ill.

**Legacy*

Drake Fraser '23
White Hall, Ill.

Tyler McMahon '23
Mokena, Ill.

Jacob Peters '23
Peoria, Ill.

Tristin Vidican '23
Minooka, Ill.



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