



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Spring 2016

Housing Corporation and Alumni Advisory Board Make Change to Prepare for Progress

Chapter Sets Plans in Motion for Long-Term Success

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On behalf of the Housing Corporation and our Zeta Phi brothers, I am excited to bring to you another edition of *Sigma News*. There are several updates I'm eager to share, including the transition of our Housing Corporation treasurer, the establishment of a new online alumni directory, and the introduction of our Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) leadership. These achievements add to our ongoing mission of maintaining a safe and secure chapter for our undergraduate brothers.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP BOOSTS CHAPTER MORALE

After more than 30 years of selfless service and numerous capital campaigns, **Gary Bergman '69 (ZΦ340)** has passed the reigns of Housing Corporation treasurer on to **Dr. Marty Morris '77 (ZΦ455)**, who is a professor at the university. I want to thank Gary for his service and commitment over the years and I wish him well as he continues to expand his business and dedicate his time on family. I am excited to assist Dr. Morris in this transition as we focus efforts on bringing responsibility back to Peoria, modernizing our accounting systems, and improving our financial reporting.

I'd be remised without acknowledging the ongoing efforts of our local Housing Corporation members, **Pod O'Shea '03 (ZΦ940)**, **Nial Johnson (ZΦ1049)**, and **Jim Bixby '64 (ZΦ254)**, who work hard to repair doors, lights, plumbing, and electrical appliances to ensure our chapter is safe and in compliance with Bradley policy and local fire code regulation.

Zeta Phi's new AAB president is former Eminent Commander, **Nathan Crabel '13 (ZΦ1147)**. The Advisory Board is established to provide guidance and support to the undergraduate

chapter regarding all fraternal operations. Nathan has hosted introductory meetings with the chapter and has recruited several new board members. The AAB is in the process of defining its board structure, roles, and goals for the chapter. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Nathan at nathancrabel@gmail.com.

CHAPTER INTRODUCES ONLINE DIRECTORY

I encourage you to check out our new online directory. The secure, searchable, self-service directory is a means for all alumni to stay connected and promote the bonds of lifelong friendship. Please register with the directory and update your information at <http://sigmanubradley.kintera.org/directory>.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2016—WILL YOU BE THERE?

I hope to see many of you at our alumni golf outing on Saturday, April 16, at Weaver Ridge or connecting with the chapter through our private Facebook group, Sigma Nu (Zeta Phi Chapter) Bradley University. I welcome any feedback or questions. Thank you for your tireless dedication to making Zeta Phi Chapter one of the best, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Fraternally,
AJ Brown '06 (ZΦ1012)
President
Sigma Nu Housing Corporation
(309) 339-9184
audiejbrown@gmail.com

HOW SIGMA NU CHANGED MY LIFE

Joe Zgonina '65 (ZΦ284) Encourages Brothers to Remember Their Zeta Phi Roots



Work hard at all times, be fair and diligent, and treat others the way you want to be treated. These are just a few of the important lessons that **Joe Zgonina '65 (ZΦ284)** gained in Sigma Nu at Bradley University. "The members' genuine, welcoming nature was ultimately why I decided to join Zeta Phi," he says. "The fraternity became my home away from home and provided me with lifelong friends whom I am proud to call my brothers."

Being surrounded by role models such as **Chris Barkulis '64 (ZΦ 228)**, **John Wineapple '64 (ZΦ 224)**, and **John Bodnar '66 (ZΦ257)** inspired Joe to

pursue leadership in Zeta Phi as house manager and become more involved on campus. "My brothers motivated me to excel not only in the fraternity but in all aspects of life," Joe says. "Their commitment to upholding Zeta Phi's values and becoming better men made a significant impact on my personal and professional endeavors and I certainly wouldn't be where I am today without their unwavering support."

Oftentimes, the fondest memories aren't the big events, but the small moments that, when put together, make up the bonds that stay with you

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Turning Dreams into Reality: Founders

Bob Knott '91 (ZΦ699) and Jeff Hoffmann '91 (ZΦ698)

Attribute Success to Their Fraternity Experience

Very few people have the opportunity to not only develop lifelong friendships with fraternity brothers, but also to work with them. For **Bob Knott '91 (ZΦ699)** and **Jeff Hoffmann '91 (ZΦ698)**, this is a remarkable journey that began in Sigma Nu at Bradley University. "Zeta Phi provided me with the opportunity to learn valuable skills that prepared me for much of my personal and professional success," Jeff says. "In addition to participating in various aspects of the fraternity, I developed some of the most cherished friendships I could ask for." Bob had similar experiences in Zeta Phi and says, "It was the guys in the chapter who inspired my involvement in the fraternity. Zeta Phi members were leaders on campus and routinely the best house for grades, sports, and social events. It was inspiring to be around such a talented group of guys. To this day, my best friends are from Zeta Phi. It is my hope that future generations will take advantage of these opportunities and create friendships that last a lifetime."



different from today's modern, fast-paced businesses," Bob says. "Like a successful business, Zeta Phi had a strong culture and set of values that helped drive success. It is an honor to be a Sigma Nu and it was a privilege to serve as Commander of Zeta Phi."

Bob and Jeff's friendship strengthened after graduation as they became co-founders of Advanced Information Solutions in 1992, an information technology consultancy focused on delivering application development services to mid-market clients. They eventually sold the company in 1998

and Bob went on to take over management of SWC Technology Partners in Chicago, Illinois, as president of the company in 2005. Shortly after, Bob asked Jeff to join the company, and the two fraternity brothers have been a driving force in the success of SWC Technology Partners. "It has been an absolute pleasure working with Jeff and building the company," Bob says. Jeff values his involvement with the company and says, "SWC Technology Partners is comprised of 185 intelligent and ambitious employees who consistently rank the company as one of the best places to work in Chicago. This would not be possible without Bob and his commitment to excellence in all aspects of the company."

Zeta Phi encouraged Bob and Jeff to gain invaluable leadership experience. Jeff wasted no time getting involved in the chapter and was elected as treasurer, social chairman, and Lieutenant Commander. "As a leader in Zeta Phi, I learned how to manage a large organization and deal with conflict management. Interacting with people of different perspectives, ideas, and interests helped me become more open-minded and has benefited me greatly in the professional world." Bob served in a variety of leadership roles, including treasurer and Commander. "I didn't fully appreciate it at the time, but I learned a lot about being a leader while at Zeta Phi. We had to make tough decisions from time-to-time and building a consensus was critical to keeping everyone together. This is not any

Bob and Jeff take great pride in the numerous awards SWC Technology Partners has received, including a top five ranking in Crain's Chicago Top Places to Work, with recognitions spanning from 2012 to 2015, ranking 14th in the small business category for the Top 100 Workplaces in the *Chicago Tribune*, earning a spot on the Inc. 500 and Inc. 5000's Fastest Growing Companies In America from 2012 to 2015, and being named one of Chicago's 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For the past seven years. You can contact Bob at bob.knott@swc.com and Jeff at jrhoffmann1@yahoo.com.

HOW SIGMA NU CHANGED MY LIFE

Joe Zgonina '65 (ZΦ284) Encourages Brothers to Remember Their Zeta Phi Roots

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throughout your life. For Joe, his most cherished memories were participating in Greek Week, being named Greek God in 1965, and representing Zeta Phi as a student athlete and letter winner in varsity football. "It was a huge honor to represent Zeta Phi in a positive light through my campus involvement, and it is my hope that future generations will maintain Zeta Phi's respected image on campus," he says.

As an alumnus, Joe stays connected with **Wally Wollnik '65 (ZΦ252)**, **Larry Martin '66 (ZΦ267)**, **Ken Gardstrom '65 (ZΦ249)**, **Jim Bixby '64 (ZΦ254)**, and **Dick Nitto '66 (ZΦ262)** on a regular basis, and encourages alumni to rekindle old friendships and become more involved with Zeta Phi. "For many of us, the friendships we gained during our time in Zeta Phi played a major role in defining our fraternal experience,"

Joe says. "Our chapter thrives off of alumni involvement and unmatched camaraderie, which serve as a unique advantage to our chapter. In order to preserve our prominent standing at Bradley University, it is important that we take time to remember our Zeta Phi roots and contribute our time and efforts toward the future of our fraternity."

In his spare time, Joe is an advocate follower of baseball and football. His love of sports began at an early age and has family members who played for and are still tied to the NFL. Joe and his wife, Sandra, have three children: Joe, Christine, and Mary Catherine. They live in Inverness, Illinois. "Zeta Phi changed my life for the better. The fraternity will always be a significant part of my life." You can contact Joe at jez@marchris.net.

UNDERGRADUATES AWARDED FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS

The men of Zeta Phi Chapter have hit the ground running this semester and we look forward to continuing our reign of success at Bradley University.

Chapter Sets Plans in Motion for Academic Success

Members earned a 2.99 GPA last fall, just shy of a 3.0. We are working together to improve our grades this spring and will continue to uphold our commitment to academic excellence.

Members Recognized as Scholar of the Year

Zeta Phi was one of seven fraternities recognized as a three-star chapter on behalf of the university, which recognizes our fraternity's hard work over the past year. At Bradley's Grand Chapter awards ceremony last January, **Evan Powell '16 (ZΦ1204)** was awarded Scholar of the Year for Interfraternity Council. **Kody Krupps '16 (ZΦ1198)** received this award last year, which marks the second year in a row that a Zeta Phi member has taken home this honor.



Zeta Phi undergraduates showcase their awards at Bradley's Grand Chapter awards ceremony.

Brothers Raise over \$11,000

Our chapter's community service and philanthropic efforts are booming. In one semester, we raised over \$11,000 dollars for Gameball and the donations haven't stopped there. Each member attained an average of six community service hours last semester. We look to build upon the great success of volunteering in the community this year so we can continue making an impact in the lives of others.

We will host our annual Gameball run in April, which will include members running from Bloomington all the way to Peoria. We will present the check at a Bradley baseball game against Missouri State, which will be broadcasted nationally on ESPN.

Zeta Phi Initiates 13, Looks to the Future

The new member class has taken a more active role in leadership within our chapter. We initiated 13 members on February 11 and we are eager to see what they accomplish in Zeta Phi.

It has been an extremely rewarding experience to serve the men of Zeta Phi for the last year and I am excited to see where our future leadership will take us. I look forward to seeing you at alumni weekend, April 15 through 17!

Fraternally,

Alex Kryah '17 (ZΦ1214)

Commander

(317) 796-1899

akryah@mail.bradley.edu



Alex Kryah '17 (ZΦ1214) stands outside of the Sigma Nu Headquarters at College of Chapters in Lexington, Virginia.

ZETA PHI CHAPTER



BRADLEY UNIVERSITY

Dedicated to Zeta Phi at College of Chapters

My trip to Lexington, Virginia, for College of Chapters was certainly one for the books. I learned valuable leadership skills that have not only transferred over to my role as Commander but also to other aspects of my life.

College of Chapters was an intense program filled with various workshops and leadership training. I learned how to properly motivate our members and how to set future goals for Zeta Phi. Our vision is, "To build well-rounded men today for tomorrow." Through our LEAD program, candidate education, and countless leadership opportunities in the chapter, we are striving each day to live up to that vision.

I had the privilege of visiting The Rock and the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where Sigma Nu Fraternity was founded. It stands on the exact spot where Ora Baldinger blasted the rock nearly a century ago. Having the opportunity to explore the campus where Greenfield Quarles, James Hopkins, and James Riley began the Legion of Honor was incredible.

I enjoyed interacting with over 200 Sigma Nu leaders who share similar experiences and interests, and learning how to be an effective leader. My experiences at the College of Chapters have significantly impacted the personal experiences I've had with Zeta Phi, and I wish every member could attend this program. If you are ever in the area, I highly recommend visiting VMI or the Headquarters shrine.

Fraternally,

Alex Kryah '17 (ZΦ1214)

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY

JOIN US FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND APRIL 15-17

Zeta Phi Open House
Friday, April 15, at 8 p.m.

Alumni Golf Outing
Saturday, April 16, at noon (shotgun start)
Weaver Ridge Golf Club
Green fees for 9 holes will be \$35 and
include a golf cart and range balls.

To register for the golf outing,
please contact Alumni Relations
Chairman **Evan Powell '16 (ZΦ1204)** at
epowell@mail.bradley.edu or
(309) 299-4097.

Housing Corporation Meeting
Sunday, April 17, at 9 a.m.
Chapter House

We are excited for another successful alumni
weekend and we hope to see you there!

SIGMA NEWS

SIGMA NU FRATERNITY
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Peoria, IL 61601-5741

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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

James H. Cromwell '51 (ZΦ37) transitioned into retirement after a
fulfilling career at the Morton Blackwell Leadership Institute in Arlington,
Va. Jim and his wife, Molly, live in Ashburn, Va., and take pleasure in all
the community has to offer. E-mail: jhcromwell8917@gmail.com

Daryl J. Godke '52 (ZΦ48) lost his wife, Linda, to cancer earlier this year
and now lives in a nursing home near his son, Bruce, in the Kansas City
area. E-mail: darylgodkekc@gmail.com

Thomas W. Althoff '76 (ZΦ442) enjoys reading *Sigma News* and seeing
what his brothers are up to. "Congratulations to **AJ Brown '06 (ZΦ1012)**
and the undergraduate chapter for this new alumni effort!" Tod says.
E-mail: tod@althoffind.com

John J. Baroni '76 (ZΦ425) cherishes the opportunities he's had to travel
the world. "I'm just trying to age gracefully," he teases. John values his
Zeta Phi experiences and maintains connections with several brothers.
John lives in Nolensville, Tenn. E-mail: johnjbaroni@yahoo.com

Charles V. Erml '87 (ZΦ613) stays connected with Zeta Phi brothers
and is eager to see what the Housing Corporation has in store. He and his
wife, Donna, have three children and live in Rocky River, Ohio. E-mail:
charleserml@gmail.com

Eric S. Gunderson '94 (ZΦ774) is proud to announce that he started
a new company, Guardian Owl Digital Marketing, which specializes
in search engine marketing and paid online media. Eric encourages
alumni to check out the company website at guardianowldigital.com to

improve their company's ROI from online marketing efforts. Eric and
his wife, Jenny, have two children and live in Louisville, Ky. E-mail:
eric@egunderson.com

William B. McCluskey '05 (ZΦ975) has worked at Microsoft for the
last two years and helps Fortune 500 customers take advantage of cloud
solutions. In his spare time, Billy enjoys traveling and spending time with
his wife, Colleen, in Chicago, Ill. E-mail: mccluskey24@gmail.com



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ZETA PHI CHAPTER
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To update your profile information, please click [here](#).

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our new alumni directory. See page 1 for more details!