



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Spring 2017

Zeta Phi on the Right Path

~ *Housing Corporation Sets Groundwork for Future Financial Investments*

~ *Join Us in Peoria April 22 for Our Annual Meeting and Golf Outing*

Welcome, brothers and friends, to the spring 2017 edition of *Sigma News*! There have been many exciting accomplishments over the past several months that we are eager to share throughout this publication. The undergraduates continue to excel both on campus and in the community, efforts are underway to host our largest alumni golf outing yet, and the Housing Corporation continues to build on the foundation laid through the operating focus.

As I shared with you in a previous newsletter, the Housing Corporation elected **Dr. Marty Morris '77 (ZΦ455)** last year to serve as treasurer. Since his appointment, the Housing Corporation developed and approved the 2017 operating budget, established a capital account, and modernized our financial operation through improved online treasury management capability. These improvements lay the proper foundation to continue to mature our financial processes, while enabling the proper financial transparency needed to best prepare for future campaign efforts. If any alumni have questions, or would like additional information regarding the financial health of the Housing Corporation, please contact me by phone at (309) 339-9184 or e-mail at audiejbrown@gmail.com.

Preparation is already underway to host the largest alumni Golf Outing in our history! Our 2017 annual alumni Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, at Weaver Ridge in Peoria. This date will also coincide with the annual meeting of the Housing Corporation. This meeting is open to any interested alumni, so I encourage you to make plans for the weekend trip to Peoria. Be on the lookout for additional details, but if you have questions in the meantime, please reach out to Golf Outing Coordinator **Jack Koeppe '17 (ZΦ1216)** at jkoeppe@mail.bradley.edu.

Finally, I'm very pleased to share that our chapter was recognized as one of the leading fraternities on campus by receiving Bradley's Four Star chapter designation. This designation recognizes chapters that excel in all aspects of fraternity and campus leadership.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Sigma News*, and are excited to see our progress as a chapter and alumni community. Please send me any feedback or ques-



The Balancing Act

Sigma Nu Gave Eric Petersen '03 (ZΦ948) the Foundation to Pursue His Dreams

Eric Petersen '03 (ZΦ948) found his calling for entertaining at an early age, so when he visited Bradley University, he knew it was the place for him. "I only visited a few schools, but once I saw a beautiful fall day with a bunch of students hanging out on the quad as the sun was setting, I was hooked. I loved the theatre department, which is what I was going to be studying, and I just loved the vibe of the school."



What Eric didn't know was that Sigma Nu was also the place for him. "During rush week, I loved what I saw at Sigma Nu and all of my friends were joining. But I was a bit of a contrarian, so I decided to join a different fraternity. Don't get me wrong, I liked the guys in that other fraternity, but once I had a first pledge meeting, I quickly realized I had made a mistake. I spoke with some buddies and they said it wasn't too late, so I switched over to Sigma Nu. From that point on, Sigma Nu became who I was and I embraced it. I loved the brotherhood, service, and leadership of the chapter. It was constantly inspiring."

(Continued on page 2)

tions and I hope to see many of you on April 22 for our Golf Outing!

Fraternally,
AJ Brown '06 (ZΦ1012)
President, Sigma Nu Housing Corporation
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Eric Petersen '03 takes on the role of Dewey Finn in the Broadway production of *School of Rock*.

The Balancing Act

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Once Eric found his home in Zeta Phi Chapter, he learned the balancing act of managing his time and energy. "For a while, I was the only theatre major in Sigma Nu and that was hard to juggle. My major, and all that came with it, demanded a lot of my time. The fraternity also demanded a lot of my time. But I made both a priority and it was for the best. It's cliché to say, but some of those guys from my pledge class are still lifelong friends today. Sigma Nu was always my home base."

Learning how to balance his priorities has helped him manage life as a professional actor. "I've been very lucky in my career. I have worked on television, Broadway, and in shows around the country. I have a beautiful wife, Lisa, and two amazing children, Sophia (6) and Miles (2). Being a professional actor is amazing and challenging. This life is a roller coaster. When it's going well you can feel on top of the world, but when you have those down times, which all actors do, you truly have to buoy yourself up and trust that you have talent and that you will work again. Without the support of my wife and kids, family, friends, and fraternity brothers, it would be impossible to make it. I've loved doing television, and working in musicals on Broadway, because I love making people laugh. If you boil it all down, that's really what it's about for me."



Currently, Eric is starring in *School of Rock* on Broadway as Dewey Finn, the Jack Black role from the movie. "It keeps me busy, but I'm having so much fun. I will be doing this role for the remainder of this year." For more information, pictures, and clips of Eric's other adventures in acting, visit his website, www.EricPetersenOnline.com.

In his limited free time, Eric spends time with his family and tries to stay in touch with Sigma Nu brothers. "I see a few of them whenever we live in the same city, but Facebook helps us stay up to date with each other's lives. And a lot of them have come to see me in shows when I am performing on Broadway or on national tours. I always get a lot of friendly messages from my brothers if one of my TV appearances is running. I wish I could see them all more often."

To contact Eric, send him an e-mail him at ericpete@mac.com.

Commander Drew Hitson '18 (ZΦ1234) Gains Perspective at College of Chapters

Over winter break I attended the annual Sigma Nu College of Chapters in Roanoke, Virginia. This was a great opportunity for me to connect with Commanders from all around the country and get some much welcomed advice and tips from others in this position. I had the chance to attend multiple leadership sessions as well as educational sessions about our fraternity. We also got the chance to take a trip to Lexington, Virginia, where we visited the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and Sigma Nu Headquarters. This was an amazing experience to see where Sigma Nu began and the history behind our fraternity. I highly recommend that anyone who has not been to Lexington and visited VMI and Headquarters should absolutely make it a top priority to go there at some point. You'll be glad you did.

Fraternally,
Drew Hitson '18 (ZΦ1234)
Commander

Welcome, New Members

Dylan Beccue '20
Tremont, Ill.

Justin Limoges '20
Troy, Vt.

Aidan Blassage '20
Stillman Valley, Ill.

Ryan Palubin '20
Naperville, Ill.

Jake Breitenreiter '20
Mundelein, Ill.

Christopher Peters '20
Naperville, Ill.

Adam Duvendack '20
Canton, Ill.

Noah Ryan '20
Downers Grove, Ill.

Alex Fuentes '20
Sauk Village, Ill.

James Thoennes '20
Mundelein, Ill.

Brandon Hedrick '20
Aledo, Ill.

Brandon Vasquez '20
Morris, Ill.

Louie Hirlinger '20
Springfield, Ill.

Kal Wilson '20
Mishawaka, Ind.

Dylan Horswell '20*
Springfield, Ill.

*Legacy; relative in parenthesis

(Stepfather Bob Kolpin '75 (ZΦ374))

Undergraduates Take Key Leadership Roles on Campus and Receive Recognition for Outstanding Achievements

The men of the Zeta Phi Chapter have continued to succeed on campus and as a chapter. We excelled as campus leaders, gave back to our community, received recognition from Bradley, and secured plans for the alumni Golf Outing. We have high hopes for this semester and plan to build on our achievements from last fall.

Undergraduates Elected to Interfraternity Council Executive Board

Three members of the Zeta Phi Chapter recently took positions on the Bradley University Interfraternity Council (IFC). **Robert Harris '18 (ZΦ1232)**, **Nicholas Konow '19 (ZΦ1242)**, and **Michael Tadros '18 (ZΦ1256)** have all accepted their positions on the IFC executive board. Rob has taken over as the acting IFC president, Michael is treasurer, and Nick is sports chairman. We are proud of our members for stepping up and taking on a bigger role on campus and in the Greek community.

Chapter Presents Children's Hospital Nearly \$15,000 at Gameball Run

After months of fundraising, the chapter conducted another highly successful Gameball Run philanthropy that coincided with the Bradley vs. Illinois State Basketball Game. The chapter presented a check for nearly \$15,000 center court during halftime to the Children's Hospital of Illinois. The chapter has donated well over \$100,000 to the Children's Hospital through the philanthropic efforts of the chapter. We are passionate about helping the local community and are always excited to give back to the Children's Hospital of Illinois.

Zeta Phi Receives Four Star Accreditation at Bradley Grand Chapter Awards

The chapter was recognized as one of only two fraternities awarded a four-star accreditation from the Bradley Grand Chapter awards ceremony. Along with this accreditation, the Zeta Phi Chapter also received the award for most philanthropic dollars raised during the spring 2016 semester.

Join Us April 21-22 for the Alumni Golf Outing

The chapter is excited to invite all alumni to our annual alumni Golf Outing. The outing will be on Saturday, April 22, at Weaver Ridge Golf Course, and will begin at noon. We will have an open house on Friday, April 21, for those alumni who would like to come back to see the chapter house. We hope to see you all there! Any questions or concerns can be directed to Golf Outing Coordinator **Jack Koeppel '17 (ZΦ1216)** at jkoeppe@mail.bradley.edu.

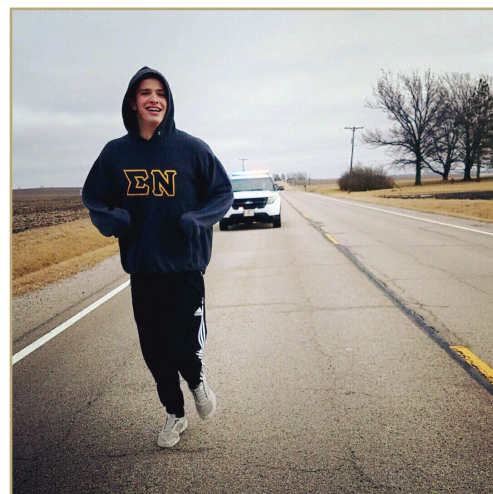
We will continue to build on our momentum this semester and look forward to reconnecting with you all at the alumni Golf Outing.

Fraternally,

Drew Hitson '18 (ZΦ1234)

Commander

(815) 263-5645 / dhitson@mail.bradley.edu



Parker Richmond '19 (ZΦ1243) participates in the annual Gameball Run from ISU Redbird Arena to the Children's Hospital of Illinois.



The chapter presenting the Gameball Run check during the Bradley vs. ISU basketball game.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Commander

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Recorder

Christopher Chaidez '19

(ZΦ1246)

Gameball Chairman

Aidan Fahrenkrog '19

(ZΦ1249)

LEAD Chairman

Alexander Kryah '17

(ZΦ1214)

Pledge Marshal

Donald Algozine '17 (ZΦ1227)

Golf Outing Coordinator

Jack Koeppel '17 (ZΦ1216)

jkoeppe@mail.bradley.edu

Risk Chairmen

Rudy Casas '18 (ZΦ1236)

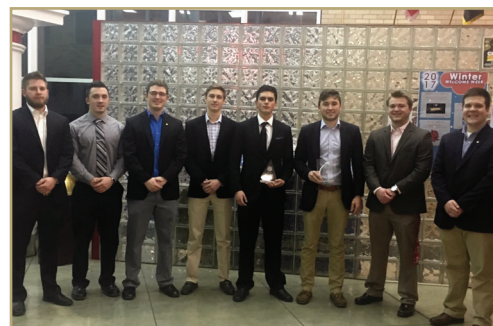
Luke Lesny '19 (ZΦ1254)

House Managers

Rosario Nasca '18 (ZΦ1235)

Andrew Brockmann '19 (ZΦ1248)

Luke Lesny '19 (ZΦ1254)



Members of the executive board received the Four Star award at the Bradley Grand Chapter Awards ceremony.

Join Us!

Open House Friday, April 21

Open house will begin at 8 p.m. for those who would like to come back to the chapter house.

Golf Outing and Annual Meeting Saturday, April 22

Alumni are invited to join us for the annual meeting of the Housing Corporation, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 22.

Zeta Phi's annual alumni Golf Outing will be held later that day at Weaver Ridge in Peoria at noon. We anticipate the largest turnout to date, so contact pledge brothers and make plans to attend!

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Golf Outing Coordinator **Jack Koeppel '17 (ZΦ1216)** at jkoeppe@mail.bradley.edu.

Weekend in Las Vegas October 6 to 9

Mark your calendars for October 6, 7, 8 and 9 to join your Zeta Phi brothers in Las Vegas, Nev. **George Schmid '75 (ZΦ428)** is coordinating this gathering in memory of **Joseph T. Parisi Jr. '74 (ZΦ416)**, **Tom "Smitty" L. Smith '74 (ZΦ408)**, and **Bruce R. Meckler '77 (ZΦ458)**, all whom passed on to Chapter Eternal this past year.

This event is still in the planning stages with more information to come. If you have questions, please contact George at georgeschmid@cox.net.

ALUMNI UPDATE

Chapter Eternal

Robert H. Michel '56 (ZΦ090) of Washington, D.C., passed on to Chapter Eternal on February 17. He was 93. Robert was a republican member of the United States House of Representatives for 38 years and served as the House minority leader for 14 years, starting 1981. He was known for his non-confrontational leadership style. Before his political career, he served in the Army during World War II. After his retirement from politics, Robert worked as a lobbyist and adviser in Washington at the law firm Hogan Lovells. He is survived by his four children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Joseph T. Parisi Jr. '74 (ZΦ416) of Saylorsburg, Pa., passed on to Chapter Eternal on October 20, 2016. His principal career was in computer programming and he worked for A.M. Best Co. in Oldwick, N.J., for 25 years, retiring in 2015. He was a former member of the Branchburg Fish and Game Club.

Tom "Smitty" L. Smith '74 (ZΦ408) of Oakland, Calif., passed on to Chapter Eternal on February 1 after a battle with throat cancer. **Francis "Chip" Donahue '76 (ZΦ447)** was by his side. **George Schmid '75 (ZΦ428)** says "Chip and I were both

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.

Smitty's pledge sons and the help he gave to both of us over the years will never be forgotten."

Bruce R. Meckler '77 (ZΦ458) of Chicago, Ill., passed on to Chapter Eternal on November 3, 2016, after privately battling an illness. Bruce was a prominent attorney for over 35 years. He was the co-founder and co-chairman of Meckler Bulger & Tilson, was a managing partner at Cozen O'Connor, and was recognized as a national expert on legal fee management. He is survived by his wife, Marcy; his daughter, Barisa; and son, David.

Alumni News

Daryl J. Godke '52 (ZΦ048) moved from St. Joseph, Mich., to the Kansas City area three years ago to be near his son and his family. "My new address is 13840 W. 91st Terrace, #128, Lenexa, KS 66215, and I would be thrilled to meet any brothers in the KC area." E-mail: darylgodke@gmail.com

Larry W. King '64 (ZΦ266) and **Brewster Johnson '65 (ZΦ230)**, **John Shane '65 (ZΦ275)**, and **Al Lauth '65 (ZΦ216)** gathered for their annual golf reunion in Brighton, Mich., in August 2016. John, Al, and Larry all played on the Bradley golf team. Next stop is St. Louis, Mo., for the 2017 reunion. E-mail: larryking71@sbcglobal.net

Karl K. Brunsman '75 (ZΦ434) spends his time hunting, fishing, watching his grand-

daughter for his oldest son, Mason, and taking care of his house on five acres. His wife, Shellie, has five more years teaching before she can retire. His youngest son, Connor, is a Marine and deployed until next year. Karl still keeps in contact with a few of his Sigma Nu brothers. "The years I spent at Sigma Nu were some of the happiest years of my life." E-mail: k.brunsmann@comcast.net

Steven "Steamer" J. Stanley '83 (ZΦ573) and his wife, Joan, are doing well in Carpentersville, Ill. Steamer is a sales manager for Fenzel Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Motor Sales. He is proud of his sons; both are Bradley graduates. Robert graduated in 2011 and will marry a fellow Bradley graduate in August 2017. His son, John, graduated in 2013. E-mail: sjstanleymotors@aol.com

Matt MacDonald '98 (ZΦ835) got married in fall 2016 and moved to Wilson Point, Conn. Matt is the EVP executive creative director for BBDO Advertising. "This past fall, I had one of the biggest advertising pitches in history—the nearly \$2 billion AT&T creative and media account." E-mail: matt@mattmacdonald.net

Matthew Gorbach '12 (ZΦ1133) is in his first year of medical school at the Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tenn. He plans to graduate in 2019. In his free time, he is a volunteer firefighter. E-mail: mgorbach@mail.bradley.edu