



SIGMA NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE ZETA PHI CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

BRADLEY UNIVERSITY ▲ Spring 2019

HOUSE CORPORATION WELCOMES THREE NEW MEMBERS

Prominent Alumni Keep Close Ties with Zeta Phi

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Welcome to the spring 2019 edition of *Sigma News*! One of the primary reasons we started our biannual alumni newsletter is to help improve our alumni engagement, connectedness, and communication. Throughout this past year we've seen some incremental improvement through the recruitment of new House Corporation members and consistent alumni programming, all while sharing and celebrating the accomplishments of our brothers. This edition of alumni news takes stock on some of these small wins while we continue to build on the momentum and highlight what's ahead.

This past year we welcomed three new members to our House Corporation. Each of these brothers brings unique experience and diverse views that further enrich our House Corporation leadership while sustaining our future. The House Corporation welcomed **Joe Chambers '07 (ZΦ1033)**, **Wes Zobrist '06 (ZΦ1023)**, **Phil Lattanzio '87 (ZΦ626)**.

- Joe served as Lieutenant Commander when he was an undergraduate and is now serving as the Assistant Treasurer of the House Corporation. He is an engineer with Caterpillar and resides in Dunlap with his family.
- Wes comes from a construction family. His construction expertise is an invaluable addition to the House Corporation building committee. Wes made a similar impact on the chapter as an undergraduate when he was the house manager. His family resides in Morton, where Wes serves as a Superintendent for Zobrist Construction.
- Phil joins the House Corporation as a director-at-large. He really helps mature the House Corporation operations with his experience as president and COO of NACM Connect, one of the largest trade

associations for credit professionals in the nation. I encourage you to read more about Phil in his alumni spotlight article below!

The chapter welcomed **Eric Petersen '03 (ZΦ948)** back to the Bradley campus for his performance, *Eric Petersen Sings Broadway*. Eric has performed on Broadway, in movies, and on television. He took time prior to his performance that evening at the Hartman Center to conduct a Q&A session. The chapter room was packed, and several local alumni came back to the chapter to attend the meet-and-greet with Eric.

Zeta Phi is honored to congratulate and recognize former Bradley men's golfer **Andy Mickelson '03** as an inductee into the Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame. Andy recognized his brother **Tom Mickelson '00 (ZΦ877)** and Sigma Nu in his acceptance speech during the Hall of Fame inductee luncheon.

We hope to take the momentum of our increased alumni engagement and plan the largest Sigma Nu Alumni Golf Outing this April. The outing tees off with a shotgun start at noon on Saturday, April 27, at Weaver Ridge Country Club in Peoria, Ill. The outing is \$30 and includes nine holes, cart, range balls, and lunch. To sign up, please contact **Nick Konow '19 (ZΦ1242)** via email at nkonow@mail.bradley.edu or by phone at (773) 294-8873.

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

Faternally,

AJ Brown '06 (ZΦ1012)

President

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Leaping into Leadership Opportunities

Phil Lattanzio '87 Enjoys Giving Back to Zeta Phi as New House Corporation Member

When **Phil Lattanzio '87 (ZΦ626)** embarks on a new journey, he always enjoys the rush of excitement that comes with it. Phil has felt that rush several times over the last 20 years while working at NACM Connect, a trade association for commercial credit professionals. However, the success Phil has achieved in association management correlates to one literal leap of faith that he took back in college.



changed in a flash when Phil met the men of the Zeta Phi Chapter of Sigma Nu. A few days later, Phil jumped off the stage in Robertson Memorial Field House into a sea of Sigma Nus to confirm his pledging to Zeta Phi.

"I just gravitated toward those guys," Phil said. "From the start, they really helped me be a better student, develop my leadership skills, and be an overall improved person. I really owe a lot to the chapter and the men of

Sigma Nu."

Joining a fraternity wasn't on Phil's radar when he stepped on campus at Bradley University. That

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Leaping into Leadership

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Phil fondly remembers how Sigma Nu was the top-ranked fraternity in GPA and always in the top three in sports. He cherishes the fun times he had hanging out and playing interfraternal sports with his brothers. Sigma Nu won the interfraternal football championship during Phil's senior year.

As much as Phil loved his undergraduate experience with Zeta Phi, the circumstances never really lined up for him to give back to the fraternity until recently. Now that the time is right, though, Phil is again taking the all-hands-on-deck approach as a member of Zeta Phi's House Corporation. He had nothing but positive things to say about his first few months on the board.

"When I was approached, I didn't have to think twice. It was one of those things where I definitely wanted to be involved and give back," Phil said. "They were looking for some new blood and new ideas. I'm very excited about it."

Phil had a great deal of respect for the House Corporation as an undergraduate. He has an even better appreciation for it now that he's a member himself and better understands how the chapter house functions. Working with the undergraduates has been a delightful experience for Phil. He has been impressed with their involvement on campus and philanthropic efforts.

"The Chapter started the Gameball Run in 1998 where they donate over \$10,000 annually to the Children's Hospital (of Illinois)," Phil said. "To me, it's really exciting that the active members continue this annual tradition running from Illinois State back to Bradley."

Along with dedicating his time to Zeta Phi, Phil enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, cheering on the Chicago Cubs, and the daily challenges as the president and chief operating officer of NACM Connect.

"It's been a wonderful experience working with the members of the Association, helping them grow from an educational standpoint while providing them with the products and services that they need," Phil said. "Just being a resource to the industry has been very rewarding."

You can reach Phil at phil.lattanzio@nacmconnect.org.



Eric Petersen '03 (ZΦ948) with the Zeta Phi Chapter at a chapter luncheon in December.

FROM BRADLEY TO BROADWAY

Eric Peterson '03 Returns for Zeta Phi Luncheon

The acting career of **Eric Petersen '03 (ZΦ948)** has him living in Los Angeles and New York City, but there is another home that is still very special to the Bradley alumnus.

He returned to his roots during the weekend of November 30-December 1 when he starred in *Eric Petersen Sings Broadway* at the Hartmann Center for Performing Arts on Bradley's campus, but that was not the only stop he made while he was in Peoria. Eric shared a few words of wisdom with dozens of Sigma Nu alumni and undergraduates for a Zeta Phi luncheon.

After Avanti's was catered in for lunch, **Jake Breitenreiter '20 (ZΦ1257)** introduced Eric to the chapter before holding a Q&A session with the renowned actor. The questions ranged from Eric's experience with Sigma Nu to his time on Broadway.

Since graduating from Bradley, here are a few highlights of Eric's career.

Musicals: *Shrek: The Musical*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, and *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Broadway shows: Played Dewey Finn in *School of Rock* and was in *Escape to Margaritaville*, which featured music from Jimmy Buffett

Movies: *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*

Television: Played Arlo Barth on the TV Land sitcom *Kirstie* and has appeared in *Big Bang Theory*, *Modern Family*, *CSI*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *GCB*, *As the World Turns*, *Jessie*, *Pair of Kings*, and *Kirby Buckets*

Eric was a theater major at Bradley. He is married to actress Lisa Marie Morabito. Eric and Lisa have a daughter, Sophia Petersen, and a son, Miles Petersen.

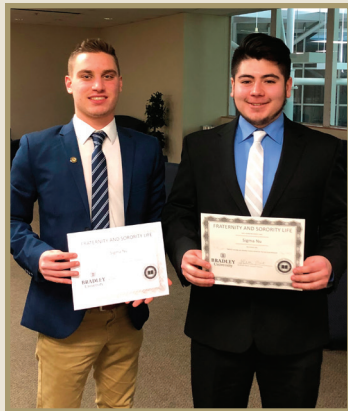
Andy Mickelson '03 Enshrined into Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame

The 2018-19 Bradley Athletics Hall of Fame Class was a special one for the Zeta Phi Chapter, as **Andy Mickelson '03** was inducted along with five other BU sports legends.

Andy ended his college golf career with a bang by earning All-Missouri Valley Conference first-team honors as a senior. His scoring average of 73.28 was the best in BU history, eclipsing the previous mark that was set by Tim Sweborg

37 years earlier. Andy's career average round of 75.16 also stood as the school record for 12 years.

The former Bradley golf great played professionally for two years. Andy, who is now the director of golf at Mistwood Country Club, won the 2015 National Car Rental PGA Championship and the 2016 TaylorMade National Championship.



(Left) Frank Jaeger '21 (ZΦ1280), left, and Brandon Vasquez '20 (ZΦ1265), right, at Sigma Nu Headquarters for College of Chapters.
(Center) Frank Jaeger '21 (ZΦ1280) and fellow Commanders from other chapters at Sigma Nu Headquarters for College of Chapters.
(Right) Frank Jaeger '21 (ZΦ1280) at Sigma Nu Headquarters for College of Chapters.

FRANK JAEGER '21 CHERISHES EXPERIENCE FROM COLLEGE OF CHAPTERS

Zeta Phi Aims High for More Academic, Philanthropic Achievements

As I write the chapter report for this edition of *Sigma News*, this comes as my first report as newly elected Commander of the Zeta Phi Chapter after taking the reins in December. After being elected, I had the privilege to attend Sigma Nu's College of Chapters in Lexington, Va. This was an intensive three-day leadership training course for all new Sigma Nu Commanders. This experience helped me develop a vision and goals for the chapter focused on improving our intellectual development, brotherhood, and community relations.

The vision for our chapter is to create a well-rounded, involved chapter in good affiliations with Bradley, the Interfraternity Council, and external stakeholders through the means of improving intellectual development, financial stability, and chapter operations. We will pursue this vision by focusing our effort on the following goals for the next year.

1. Improve house/individual GPA by implementing incentives, honor board, advisor involvement, new form of midterm check-ins, and study tables.
2. Improve our chapter operations through better budgeting and limiting our expenses/liabilities.
3. Create new committees, encourage all chapter representation, and establish committee goals.

Reflecting on this past semester, we have two specific accomplishments that I'm honored to share that are related to our academic achievement and philanthropic efforts. Both accomplishments are a testament to the core values of our chapter.

Zeta Phi made tremendous academic progress from the spring 2018 semester to the fall 2018 semester. Our fall active member GPA was 3.04, which matched the Bradley IFC average. For these efforts, the chapter had the privilege to be recognized at Bradley Grand Chapter for **Most Improved Interfraternity Council GPA** for the fall 2018 semester.

Philanthropy has been and will continue to be an essential aspect of Sigma Nu-Zeta Phi. The annual Gameball Run from Illinois State University to OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois has raised more than \$200,000 since its inception. This year the chapter raised \$8,405 and presented the check at the Bradley vs. Illinois State basketball game in January. For these efforts, Sigma Nu was recognized as having the **highest average money raised per member for the fall 2018 semester**.

The chapter will continue to set the bar higher each semester and expects to exceed its goals and expectations. Love, truth, and honor will always prevail and set the foundation for which our chapter stands. Each brother has a powerful impact on the direction of the chapter, and I very much look forward to a strong, united, and successful year.



Fraternally,
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JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL ZETA PHI ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

All alumni are welcomed to the annual Zeta Phi golf outing on Saturday, April 27. The day will begin with brunch at 10 a.m. at the chapter house. A free shuttle bus will then depart at 11 a.m. for WeaverRidge Golf Club in Peoria, Ill., before a shotgun start at noon.

The \$30 registration fee will cover nine holes, a cart, and lunch. To sign up for the outing, please contact **Nick Konow '19 (ZΦ1242)** at nkonow@mail.bradley.edu or by phone at (773) 294-8873.

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.

Welcome, New Members!

Jake Beaty '20
Canton, Ill.

Jake Fitch '22
Morris, Ill.

Brian Leonard '21
Palatine, Ill.

Mark Milewski '22
Tinley Park, Ill.

Corey Novander '22
Mundelein, Ill.

Leo Ng '21
Chicago, Ill.

Tyler Rieger '22
Buffalo Grove, Ill.



CHAPTER ETERNAL

William Wieland '71 (ZΦ391) entered Chapter Eternal on November 6, 2018, after a long fight with pancreatic cancer. After Bill's days as an undergraduate at Bradley, he served in the United States Military Reserves. He later moved to Tampa, Fla., and entered the health care management industry. Bill was a member of the Healthcare Information Management Systems Society and the Florida Association of Realtors.

James "Mike" Norris '74 (ZΦ421) entered Chapter Eternal on January 13, at Jersey Community Hospital. Mike was the son of James and Juanita Norris. After growing up in Jerseyville, Mike took his artistic talents to Bradley University. Following his graduation in 1974 and a short stint at a Peoria television station, Mike spent 43 years working with his father at Wells-Norris Tire in Jerseyville. Mike's favorite times were spent with his family.

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