Future Vision

Eminent Commander Josh Guinn speaks on the future and direction of the active chapter. Page 2

State of Chapter

Lieutenant Commander Joe Chambers reflects on the chapters continued success. Page 2

Housing Corp.

The Zeta Phi Chapter Housing Corporation remains strong through the continuous dedication of its officers. Page 2

House Renovations

Renovations on the chapter house continue through generous alumni donors like yourself. Page 2

50th Anniversary

With over +100 alumni in attendance, the event was filled with a night of fine dining, dancing, and memories. Page 3

Gameball Run ‘06

The tremendous success of Gameball Run has spurred the active chapter to set a lofty goal for this year’s annual philanthropy. Page 4

If You Build It, They Will Come...

This will be the motto of the chapter for the 2005 – 2006 year regarding its alumni relations. Understanding that the survival of any fraternity lies within a strong and involved alumni backing, we have made it a priority to promulgate a true and lasting appreciation for our alumni brotherhood. Coming off of a great turnout for the 50th Anniversary, we look forward to continuously improving our communication and programming of events for the alumni chapter members.

The foundation as been laid and now is the time to advance and move forward for the betterment of our fraternity. This year, we hope that you can join us and support the alumni chapter in its various programs and events. In this next year you can expect to receive two alumni newsletters, this one for the fall, and another in the spring semester. We hope that you were able to attend the Fall 2005 Sigma Nu Fraternity Alumni Weekend that coincided with the Bradley University Homecoming. If not, we hope to see all of you at the Sigma Nu Alumni Golf Outing to be hosted April 22, 2006 at Coyote Creek Golf Course in Bartonville, IL.

As you can see, the active alumni chapter is busy programming many activities and ensuring that correspondence to each alumnus is made. Through this outreach we hope to engage more alumni in supporting the active chapter. Whether it be through serving on the Housing Corporation Board, Alumni Advisory Board, supporting the annual Gameball Run Philanthropy, or facilitating a leadership development / team-building workshop for the active chapter... your help is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in getting involved and would like to extend “the helping hand,” please contact A.J. Brown, Alumni Relations Chairman, at 309-339-9184 or by email: abrown2@bradley.edu.

Remember, a members association with the fraternity does not end with college. In fact, true appreciation for the fraternity does not come instantly; often it takes years to gain a complete understanding and appreciation for the values of the fraternity. The bonds of true lasting friendship have no boundaries with age, space, and time. Therefore, if we truly care about our brotherhood we will continue to offer the one thing most important to each alumnus... to be remembered.

From Strategy To Reality:

Headlining the Fall 2005 issue of The Delta is an article entitled "Excelling with Honor", which introduces National’s strategic plan for the future. In response to Regent Densborn’s question of how Sigma Nu Fraternity will be relevant in the future, the High Council responded by identifying the following 10 strategic and imperative goals:

- Excellence through education
- Anti-hazing
- Alumni & Volunteers
- Recruitment
- Operations
- Alcohol & Substance abuse and misuse
- Expansion
- Real Estate
- Image
- Interfraternal Leadership

Within the Alumni & Volunteers goal, it is stated that Sigma Nu will engage alumni and volunteers to support the work of chapters and develop a corps of leaders to continue the work of the Fraternity while also enhancing alumni membership value. As I enter into my fifth year as advisor, it has been my good fortune to work along side active and alumni brother in projects that have supported the growth and good fortune of Zeta Phi. As the active chapter works with our alumni board directors to develop initiatives to support this goal, what can we all do to keep the principles of Sigma Nu part of our daily lives?

- Nial Johnson
  Chapter Advisor
VISION FOR THE FUTURE!

Greetings Zeta Phi Alumni! My name is Josh Guinn and I am the current Commander for the Zeta Phi Chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity at Bradley University. I hope this first newsletter finds you all in as good of standing as the chapter, and that as many of you as possible will be joining us on October 28th–29th for Alumni Weekend here at Bradley.

We have had a very successful year thus far, beginning with a great summer at College of Chapters. Joseph Chambers (Lieutenant Commander), Brad Conner (L.E.A.D Chairman), and David Losby (Recorder) all spent an extended weekend in Lexington, VA going through intense leadership training, exchanging ideas and methods, and of course enjoying themselves from time to time. The three did not return from College of Chapters empty handed. In the past academic year Zeta Phi earned Excellence in LEAD Phase I, Phase IV, All Chapter, and once again the Pursuit of Excellence. This year is a Rock year and we have the chance to win an unprecedented third Rock Award in a row. We look to continue this tradition by sticking to one of my favorite quotes. This was the quote on the back off Sigma Nu’s rush shirt the day I pledged in 2003. It stated, “Our only inspiration is not to outdo others but to outdo ourselves; this is victory.”

Alumni brothers, please enjoy this newsletter with the knowledge that your chapter is in great standing and eagerly awaits your return to witness first hand in what the Zeta Phi chapter has been doing the past few years.

Fraternally,

Joshua D. Guinn
Eminent Commander

State of the Undergraduate Chapter

Zeta Phi continued its tradition of setting the standard both on Bradley University’s campus and nationwide during the 2004–2005 school year. In November of 2004, Zeta Phi won the “Ed Kind Award of Excellence,” which is given to the most well rounded chapter on Bradley’s Campus. We were honored to accept this award for the third time in the past four years.

Zeta Phi excelled on Bradley’s campus as well as nationwide. During the summer of 2005, three executive board members, had an opportunity to attend Sigma Nu’s international convention, College of Chapters. This event is held in the quaint town of our Headquarters and national founding, Lexington, Virginia. Zeta Phi was honored to receive an award for one of the top ten of 200 applicants in “The Pursuit of Excellence”. The Pursuit of Excellence was established two years ago and is a national standards program designed to better Sigma Nu chapters by maintaining certain guidelines, such as GPA and financial stability. Zeta Phi has won an award for our Pursuit application since its establishment, two years in a row.

“Being able to see the roots of our fraternity and actually walk the footsteps of our great founders was a priceless journey,” said Joe Chambers, one of the three members to attend the convention. Before the week was over, the brothers also witnessed Chris Wetterman, knighted as an Alpha Affiliate. “Chris was an influential member of our chapter, and it was a great experience to see him get knighted,” remarked Joe.

As the fall 2005 semester gets underway and fraternity recruitment commences, this year looks to only improve on the past as Sigma Nu welcomes 22 new members to the brotherhood (the largest pledge class on campus)—raising the Active Chapter membership to +90. It has never been about the numbers, as quality membership is the primary focus for the chapter. This facet is truly displayed by our actions on campus and in the community, whether it be outstanding academic achievement, intramural championships, community service, or campus involvement, the Zeta Phi Chapter of Sigma Nu continues to strive to be one of the strongest chapters on campus and in the nation.

Housing Corp. Built on Strong Leadership

Since the time the local Bradley University Alpha Phi Pi fraternity transitioned to become the nationally recognized Sigma Nu in 1963, the Housing Corporation (HC) has worked hard to make sure that the Zeta Phi chapter remains as one of the best fraternities at Bradley. For over 50 years now, the HC has done much to ensure that the fraternity at 1300 West Frederick maintains the standards and ideals that make Sigma Nu so special.

The Housing Corporation became a reality through the hard work and support of many, especially the first HC president, Russel Peters. Peters, in 1962 and 1963 personally supervised the planning and building of the fraternity and carefully monitored every aspect of the construction project. Few realize that it was brother Peters who selected the prestigious south-east corner lot of Frederick and demanded the upper level of the house be the highest of any fraternity on the street. His vision was to make Sigma Nu the best Greek house at Bradley and one that everyone would notice.

In modern days, Jim Bixby (class of 1964) has worked to support the Housing Corporation for the past 40 years. Gary Bergman (class of 1969) has served almost 30 years and Chuck Weyhenmeyer (class of 1969) has done excellent work as HC president for the past 10 years! The newest member is Marty Morris (class of 1977).

Renovations Continue

The Housing Corporation is finalizing some big plans to assist Sigma Nu in the 2005–2006 year. The HC expects to spend a record one-year total of $50,000 for building enhancements. This is in addition to the $45,000 spent for repair work in 2003–2005.

Projects scheduled for completion this year include a new heating system (with the special help of several alumni), a new roof, new double sliding dining room door, upgrading electrical for the smoke/fire alarm system, new steel fire retardant doors with self closing hinges (to meet upgraded fire code regulations), wood flooring for the Active room and work on the bathrooms.

All projects are funded by Sigma Nu alumni from across the country and with additional help from the active chapter. Each year, donations originate from over 150 alumni ranging from $25 to $2,000. 100% of funds raised go directly to the fraternity for capital improvements. Alumni wishing to assist the HC should contact Gary Bergman at 516–299–3230 or e-mail gbergman@liu.edu.
This past February, the Zeta Phi Chapter of Sigma Nu celebrated the 50th Anniversary of its local founding at Bradley University on May 21, 1955. The history of the Zeta Phi Chapter extends well beyond that of its local founding. Originally it began as a local fraternity known as Alpha Pi, which was established at Bradley a few months following the opening classes at the University. Alpha Pi was the oldest existing group of any sort at Bradley, and proved its justification through fifty-seven years of growth and maturity, unbroken except for a short lapse during both World Wars.

The 50th Anniversary united the past and the present Alpha Pi’s and Sigma Nu’s to celebrate our fraternity’s colorful history. The active chapter initiated the planning and organizing of the historic occasion through the formation of an ad hoc committee. In October of last year the committee comprised of members from both the active and alumni chapters. The goal of the committee was to re-charge the alumni strength through the creation of the most successful alumni event in our fraternity’s history.

The committee’s hard-work and long-term planning paid off. With over 100+ of the Sigma Nu / Alpha Pi alumni in attendance for the occasion the active and alumni chapter brothers united for an unforgettable event in Zeta Phi Chapter history. The excitement and energy that was resonated through the 50th Anniversary cannot be reproduced through the retelling of typed words. Our only hope is that those who were unable to attend had the opportunity to speak with those who did. Through this interaction, we hope those that were absent discovered that the true value of life-long fraternal membership is as enduring as the flame of the alumni chapter.

As it is the special obligation of the active chapter’s collegiate members to promulgate true and lasting appreciation for their alumni brotherhood, it is just as important as the duty of the alumni to encourage and support the undergraduate chapter. Thus, our goal is to continue to have each alumnus say that he is a Sigma Nu, rather than he was. The choice is yours, please help keep the flame alive!

Nial is also father to Zeta Phi Chapter alumnus, Brian Johnson a class of 2004 graduate. Nial has contributed over five years of selfless service to the chapter through his academic advising, mentoring, and counseling of candidates and active members alike. In addition to his role as academic advisor, Nial also serves on the current Zeta Phi Chapter Housing Corp. as one of its members—at-large. “Nial is well deserving of this knighting, and is an exemplary figure of what it truly means to live by the ideals of love, honor, and truth; to be charged with the privilege to initiate one of my mentors was an honor I will never forget,” says A.J. Brown, former Eminent Commander of the Zeta Phi Chapter.

The 50th Anniversary scroll to the Zeta Phi Chapter on behalf of the International Fraternity. In addition to Regent Densborn’s speech, the program allowed for the formal recognition of the alumni in attendance, the presentation of the Zeta Phi Alumni Chapter charter, an update from long-term Housing Corporation officer Jim Bixby, and a local state of the fraternity address from the chapter Commander.

Prior to the formal reception, the active chapter conducted an initiation ceremony knighting its long-term academic advisor, Nial Johnson, as a non-matriculate member into the Legion of Honor as Zeta Phi 1049. Nial is the current Executive Director of Institutional Technology and Media Services at Bradley University.

The weekend was full of events and activities to celebrate our founding. On Friday, February 18, the active chapter welcomed the alumni chapter back to the fraternity house with a cocktail reception and live entertainment provided by “Curbside,” an acoustic band comprised of Sigma Nu members. The evening concluded with festivities at Sullivan’s, Peoria’s downtown Irish pub. The informal setting allowed alumni to re-ignite old ties, swap stories, and celebrate the value of life-long friendship. On Saturday, February 19, the weekend climaxed with a formal reception at the Hotel Perre Marquette in downtown Peoria. The Zeta Phi Chapter was honored to welcome Sigma Nu Fraternity Regent Don Densborn, who delivered the concluding remarks and presented the 50th Anniversary Sets Record Alumni Turnout

Pictured above is Sigma Nu Fraternity, Inc. Regent, Don Densborn who addressed the +100 Zeta Phi Chapter Alumni and friends in attendance and presented the chapter with its 50th Anniversary recognition scroll.

Recent grads enjoyed the festivities (left), Jim Bixby addresses the attendees (center), and Corey Luke presents the Alumni Chapter Charter to Brad Marshall (right).
Gameball Run 2006
Sets Goal of $20k for Children's Hospital

Every chapter is defined by what it does for the school, the community, and themselves. Gameball Run is one of the aspects that defines the Zeta Phi chapter. Thirteen years ago Zeta Phi started what is now one of the most successful philanthropies at Bradley University. The event coincides each year with the Bradley vs. Illinois State basketball game, which is better known as “The war on 74.” Zeta Phi’s mission is a simple one. We relay a basketball 50 miles from Redbird Arena at Illinois State University to the Children’s Hospital in Peoria.

The upcoming Gameball Run will be held February 1, 2006. Zeta Phi take the utmost pride in this event. Over the past four years, the active chapter has provided $40,000 to the Children’s Hospital of Illinois at St. Francis Medical. Furthermore, the active chapter raised over $16,000 alone during last year’s Gameball Run. Gameball Run has been recognized both locally and nationally as one of the most successful philanthropic events organized, winning Bradley University’s Interfraternity Council Best Philanthropic Event award and Sigma Nu International Fraternity’s Education in Community Service Award.

This philanthropy would not have the success it does if it were not for the dedication of our members as well as the huge support we gain from our alumni each year. We can only hope that every member who has supported or taken part in a Gameball Run understands that for every mile we run, we are making a difference in the lives of many central Illinois families. If you are interested in supporting Gameball Run 2006, please send a check to: Sigma Nu Fraternity c/o Gameball Run 2006, 1300 W. Fredonia, Ave., Peoria, IL 61606.

Sigma Nu Alumni Golf Outing
April 22, 2006
Coyote Creek Golf Club
Bartonville, Illinois
(8 Miles from chapter house)
www.golfcoyotecreek.com