

Fall 2015

Beautiful
Canal in
Downtown
Indianapolis

Jan 2016 MEF Meeting in St Louis
Summer Board Meeting In Indianapolis
Presidents Report
Future Fraternity Expansion Plans
Alumni Profiles
Chapter Updates
MEF Awards
Annual Leadership Summit
Fraternity Archives

The Gold Rose

Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity



National President Rudy Ristich's Annual Message To Alumni



Brothers & Friends,

Welcome to another issue of the Gold Rose, the annual magazine of Beta Sigma Psi. I pray all of you have had a productive year growing with your family and friends. In this issue you'll find uplifting information about successes from around the Fraternity. Writing this letter has been an encouraging exercise for me personally. Surely, within the past year many of you have seen media coverage that features the more challenging and unfortunate aspects of college fraternal organizations. Preparing for this issue has allowed me to reflect on the growth that has happened in our own Fraternity to ensure that Beta Sigma Psi remains the ideal environment for the Lutheran college man where he can grow Spiritually, Scholastically and Socially.

In my time serving the Fraternity our young men have not been 100% void of poor decision making or behavior that would be deemed inappropriate. Recent negative media coverage of Greek organizations is almost entirely in the context of lifestyles that are contrary to the value systems of their mission statements. There is no question that our continued attention to a top down alignment of our goals, activities and recruitment to our values is resonating in the communities that we serve. We are blessed that this alignment is driving success for Beta Sig chapters on every campus we call home.

We have incredible undergraduate men that are leaders not only within their chapters but on their campuses, churches and local Lutheran ministries. These young men are being recognized for their hard work in scholastic achievement, school spirit and philanthropic endeavors and are not defined by the use of drugs or alcohol or the extent to which they haze.

As a fraternity we are gaining traction in the areas of recruitment and expansion. Last year's growth and retention within chapters was nearly 17% and the current pace will exceed that rate by the end of this academic year. Our expansion efforts are deliberate and promising leads have developed on campuses that would complement the needs of a colony. That is, they have strong local support from student ministries, campus services and alumni.

We are working in the next year to expand our roster of alumni volunteers at the Chapter level and to provide for them the resources and processes needed to sustain a collegiate group no matter if they have existed for decades and manage a facility or if they are newly chartered and are pursuing a permanent home on campus. Sourcing vested volunteers and qualifying them to serve in this new era of college fraternity is a challenging task but it is not a challenge I would exchange for the trials of any other fraternity.

What is most encouraging is that in the face of much change and adversity Beta Sigma Psi is doing what it should be doing: remaining true to our values, developing boys into Christian gentlemen, attracting those who leaders to serve our churches, our campuses and the Lutheran community.

Per Aspera Ad Astra.

The Gold Rose is written and distributed by volunteers once annually, if you would like to contribute articles or photographs, please contact the National Publication Editor. The Beta Sigma Psi National Board of Directors maintains complete editorial control of its content.

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Parents: Your son's magazine is sent to his home address while he is in college. If he is no longer in college and not living at home, please send us his new address.

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In This Issue

President's Message	2
BSP National Officers	3
Treasurers Report	4
Outstanding Alumni	5
Board Strategy Meeting	6
S. Dakota St Expansion	8
Colorado Leadership Summit	9
Beta Sigs to Nicaragua	10
Questions about NEF	12-13
NEF Donors	14-17
Fraternity Archives	18-19
Chapter Reports	20-35
Alcohol & Hazing	36-37
MEF 2015	38-43

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Moved or Moving Soon?

If you have already moved or will be soon, please contact your alumni or the national office with your current contact information. (See bottom of back cover for address for the National Office.)

Treasurer Gordon's Report

By: Lowell Gordon

Recruiting nationally has significantly improved each of the last 3 years since John Hatfield, Zeta's house father, was appointed as the National Chapter Coordinator by Larry Edwards. John visits each chapter at least once a semester and has worked diligently developing detailed recruiting plans tailored to each chapter and the results have been very rewarding.

In addition, this past year National has been able to afford to send him to assist at several recruiting and Philanthropic events of individual chapters in addition to his regular visits and John also scheduled regular conference calls with the rush chairmen of the various chapters to share best practices and answer any questions or discuss problems and suggested solutions.

This fall we have 423 members, up 7.1% from the previous fall and up from the 346 member the fall before he was appointed as National Chapter Coordinator, so we have had a 22.3% increase in membership during his three tenure. Great job John!!

Also, we have just completed a strategic plan for the addition of new Colonies over the next few years (See page 6 for more information). The additional members have increased National's cash flow and strict budgeting coupled with strategic planning is allowing us to accomplish programs that were unimaginable just 4 or 5 years ago. The most significant achievement in my mind has been the acquisition of comprehensive liability insurance.

Our policy covers the officers and members of every Chapter from liability claims arising out of Fraternity premises and operations, preparation and consumption of food and beverages, personal injury including libel, slander, hazing, sexual abuse, etc. except that the individual(s) who actually perpetrated the misdeed are not covered but everyone else is. It also covers National, its officers and Board members, the Education and Housing Foundations and their officers and Board members as well as all of the Alumni Associations and their officers and Board members.

The coverage is 1 million per occurrence, 2 million aggregate per location with an overall aggregate of 10 million. Last year I was able to negotiate an increase in the overall limit from 5 million to 10 million without an increase in premium.

The coverage is expensive, almost \$45,000 per year, but with-



**Lowell Gordon - '62 Zeta -
National Treasurer**

out the coverage a single claim in our overly litigious society could easily have resulted in the total extinction of Beta Sigma Psi. It is a tribute to the quality of our members that we have never had a claim, but we were one of the very few national fraternities that didn't have this type coverage and were clearly living on borrowed time.

In addition to the liability insurance, we have also added an accident policy for protection of the individual members of each Chapter. There is no charge to the members for this coverage. This is an accident policy and is not a substitute for health insurance. It covers only accidents and not sickness or disease. It also does not cover anything covered by any other insurance policy.

However, it will reimburse deductibles and co-pays on the individual's health insurance policy as the result of an accident. The policy has a zero deductible, and pays benefits for up to 52 weeks and a maximum of \$100,000 per injury. It also has a \$5,000 accidental death or dismemberment benefit.

Two years ago we instituted a 2 day National leadership conference during the summer and the program has been well received and attended by the various chapters. This year we were able to get a grant from the Educational Foundation to cover the cost of the event so there was no expense to the individual chapters or to National which had subsidized the prior conference. (See article page 9) We were also able to reinstitute the annual production of the Gold Rose three years ago.

Finally, I'm very happy to report that we have been able to create a rainy day reserve fund of \$30,000. National is very healthy financially, but we are desperately in need of volunteers to help with developing new programs and assisting with existing programs.

KSU Prof. Larry Erickson, PhD And Zeta Chapter Faculty Advisor - Retires after 50 years

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

At the last Manhattan Alumni Chapter board meeting in February of this year, I learned that fellow alumnus Dr. Larry Erickson '58 (Z-60) PhD in Chem E., has officially retired from K-State after 50 years of service. He was a long tenured professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering, an important environmental researcher throughout his career and has also spent 40 years as the Faculty Advisor to Zeta Chapter. As editor of the alumni MAC newsletter and the National Gold Rose Magazine, I felt that Larry's life and career should be written about so all of his fellow Beta Sig brothers could see what an outstanding fellow he truly is.

I spent some time talking with Larry's older brother Howard, who in his own right has had a very distinguished life and career, both in the U.S. Air Force and in the Vet Medicine profession. Howard told me about the early years when he and his younger brother were growing up in Nebraska. The more I learned the more interested I became. The Erickson story is like so many other stories of the bright and energetic Midwestern boys who grow-up to do great things in their lives. The following is the Erickson story as related to me by Howard and my own internet research.

The Erickson Family lived on a farm near Wahoo, Nebraska, in the Northeast part of the state, where the Erickson boys, Howard (Z-059 and class of '56) and younger brother Larry (Z-060, class of '58), spent their formative boyhood years growing up.

Howard the eldest of the two boys was born in 1936 and Larry was born in 1938. As Howard related to me, they lived the typical lives of many Midwestern farm boys of that time. They worked hard on their farm, walking the corn rows, cutting sunflowers and pulling cockleburs. Howard said "I think we were paid 10 cents an acre and a penny for every five we cut or pulled. As we grew older, we were permitted to drive the John Deere tractors and do field work. We also helped with the chores, feeding the cattle and hogs".

Growing up, they attended Grace Lutheran church, a Lutheran congregation which their great-grandfather helped to found. On

Sundays, Mr. and Mrs. Erickson would invite the other boys from the church to their family farm so they could all play flag football. Howard said that his father bought each of the boys a Schwinn bike when they were old enough to ride. They attended a one-room country school house for the first 8 grades. The school was about 2 miles from the family farm, so they walked or rode their Schwinn bikes to and from school.

Howard said that both he and Larry still have their old Schwinn bikes. Later, when the boys were older, their father bought them a Whizzer, a Schwinn bike with a motor, which could reach speeds of 50-55 mph downhill. Howard said that, "We used to tow each other with the Whizzer by holding on to the handlebar". Of course, there were no helmets in those days, but like all of us old guys, they survived the dangers of childhood.

Howard also remembered that because there were so few students in the one room schoolhouse, the teacher taught them to play chess. Guess who the eventual champ was? Larry beat the teacher, his dad, even the county superintendent. "I think Larry was in the third or fourth grade and had a very analytical mind and so was destined to become an engineer."

Larry was reportedly an outstanding student at Wahoo High School. I don't think anyone would want to question that. Howard said he quite possibly was the class valedictorian, but didn't remember for sure as he was away from home then and it was a very long time ago. What surprised me and what may surprise many of his fraternity brothers who knew him is that he also played football for Wahoo High School. Older brother Howard said he thought he played at the guard or tackle position on both offense and defense. He was also on the basketball team.

I also learned from Howard that Larry also had a keen interest in baseball and knew all



of the major league players as a kid. They did not have the opportunity to play much baseball, except in grade school since their high school did not have a baseball team. Howard remembered that we did go watch the Wahoo team play with future major leaguer Bob Cerv. Howard commented that Larry and his wife Laurel often go to see the KC Royals play, but that he thinks Laurel is more interested in them than Larry is.

After High School, Larry attended Luther College, a Junior college and academy established by the Augustana Synod in Wahoo in 1883. Luther merged with Midland Lutheran College in 1962. I think our great-grandfather helped found Luther. After one year there, he transferred to K-State. He received his B.S. in Chem. E. from Kansas State University in 1960 and his Ph.D. also from KSU in 1964. He was a member of Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity, Zeta Chapter.

Dr. Erickson still directs the Center for Hazardous Substance Research, which provides long - and short - term environmental

His professional memberships include:

Institute of Food Technologists, American Water Works Association, Society for Indus-

Continued on page 43

National Board Strategy Meeting in Indianapolis

By: Gary Raffety

1



The weekend of August 28th to the 30th, 2015, the National Board of Directors held it's summer Board Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. President Rudy Ristich, Past President, Larry Edwards; (Expansion); Vice President, Scott Gessell; Treasurer, Lowell Gordon; and Directors Steven Hick, (Scholarship); Ken Leudtke, (Alumni Relations); Nathan Leezer, (Recruitment); Westley Smith, (Web & Social Media); Andrew Rusch, (Youth Events), and Gary Raffety, (Publications) all were present to discuss plans for the coming year.

The directors arrived in town early Friday evening and joined together for the Traditional Friday Night Director's Dinner. Saturday morning early, following breakfast, we all met in the hotel conference room for a full day of meetings. During the course of the day, we discussed, Chapter by Chapter, the status of their reports to National and their current progress.

Andrew Rusch headed up the discussion on Lutheran Youth gatherings, and their value to recruitment efforts. John Hattfield and Larry pointed out the need for creative new ways to reach potential associate members such as personal contact with Youth Directors of larger Lutheran Congregations. The reality is that there is significantly less members of the Lutheran Church than 25 or 50 years ago, and we need a new strategy to reach those Lutheran youth.

Considerable discussion was held on the challenges to Greek life in general and Beta Sig in particular. We must be aware of the Government's role to make fraternities more inclusive. We see the need for training and education programs to address the problems of drug and alcohol use, hazing, sexual harassment and date rape in general. The number one goal for Beta Sigma Psi in the future is to insure that our graduation rate stays above 90 %.

Larry Edwards outlined his plans for expansion. He stated that South Dakota State was at the top of the list for expansion and that Wichita State was a close second. Other potential locations are the U. of Missouri – Kansas City, Valparaiso U, and Ball State – Muncie. Other possible sites might include Augustanna at Sioux Falls, SD and Rock Island, IL, and in Minnesota Mankato State, St. Cloud, and St. Johns as future locations. The rest of the Directors gave brief reports on their areas of responsibility and the group spent time discussing each.

Larry Edwards and John Hatfield, who is employed by national as our Leadership Consultant, briefed the group on their successful efforts at the University of Kansas in their presentation to the Greek Expansion Committee and their subsequent approval of Beta Sigma Psi to become a new member of the Greek movement.

Saturday night was another group dinner, this time downtown in the heart of Indianapolis, which was really rocking. There is a branch campus associated with Purdue University on the edge of the CBD, so young and old were everywhere. It was a great weekend for all.

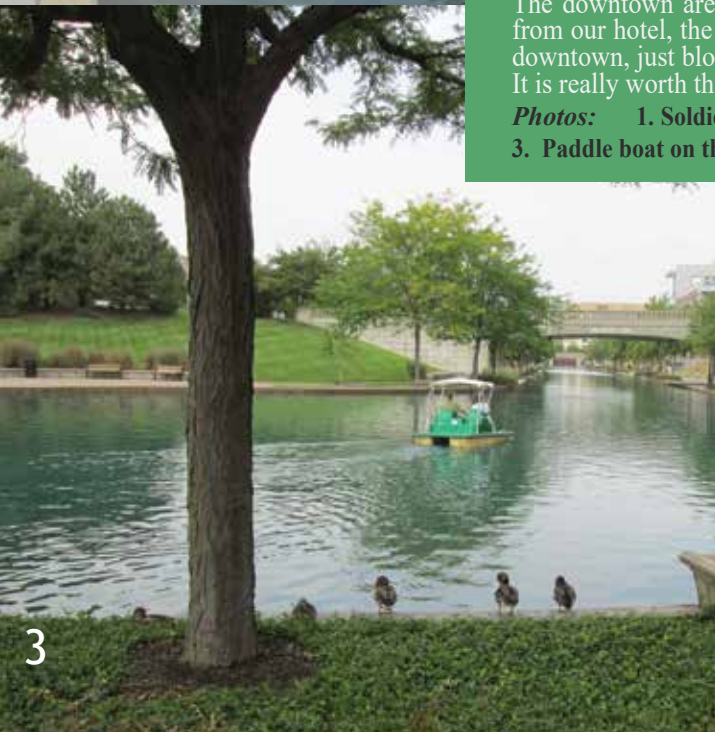
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The downtown area of Indianapolis was really impressive. The State Capital was one block from our hotel, the 1.5 mile long canal was just below the hotel parking area, and the heart of downtown, just blocks away, was full of sidewalk cafes, shops and lots of people everywhere. It is really worth the trip to see.

Photos: 1. Soldiers & Sailors Memorial in center of downtown; 2. Condo area along canal. 3. Paddle boat on the canal; 4. Univ. Of Indiana Health Facility on the Canal.

3



4



South Dakota State University Potential Expansion Site for Beta Sigma Psi

By: Larry Edwards '55 - Zeta

I visited this Campus on Thursday, September 23, & 24th. This was after visiting the campus of the University of South Dakota at Vermillion the day before. I am recommending that we begin the efforts to establish an interest group at South Dakota State immediately and make it our number one effort for this school year.

South Dakota State has an undergraduate enrollment of 12,500 students. If we assume that the enrollment follows the state population, then proportionately, 28% of that number would be Lutheran or 3,500.

Women represent 55% of the student body, so the undergraduate Lutheran male population would be about 1,500. The campus is very attractive, with a golf course attached, gardens, and a large expansion of the athletic facilities. The Student Union complex is 8 years old. There is free campus parking for almost every student (large lot).

The Program Advisor for Greek Life is Alan Haarstad, SSU 136, Box 2815, 1023 Student Center Lane, Brookings SD 57007. Phone is 605-688-4425, and E-mail of Alan.Haarstad@sdstate.edu.

Alan is a native of South Dakota and a member of Farm House – the largest Fraternity on campus. Fraternities on campus are Pi Kappa Alpha Colony, AGR, Farm House, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Delta Chi, and Sigma Phi Epsilon, for a total of six. The rules for fraternity membership are fairly simple compared to the University of Kansas. And far less protective than South Dakota University.

I told Alan that if we elected to first help the Lutheran Churches in starting an interest group, they wouldn't be ready for approval for colony status for at least a two to three years. He indicated that any "interest group" would be welcome as an organization on campus. I came out of this meeting with the distinct feeling that if we had the numbers and the grades like KU, we would be a welcome addition to the Greek Life at SD State.

The ELCA Student Center is directed by Rev. Herb Wounded Head, Lutheran Student Center, 1408 8th St., Brookings, SD 57006 Phone is 605-692-4880, and E-mail : Herbwh@gmail.com. Pastor Herb is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and grew up on the Pine Ridge Reservation in SW South Dakota. He is a very per-

sonable minister, and has a large facility adjacent to the campus. He has been checking about Beta Sig, and has heard lots of good things about our Fraternity from Pastor Adam White in Lincoln. Pastor Herb is in his early 30's.

The LCMS is represented by Rev. Matt Wurn, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 629 9th Ave, Brookings, SD 57006: Phone 605-692-2678, Cell- 605-691-1885, E-Mail: Pastormc@Swiftel.net. Pastor Matt' congregation is away from the campus, and is the only LCMS congregation in Brookings. The parish has no parking space so I have no idea what they do on Sunday morning. He is in his late 20's, and met his wife while he was a vicar at Mt. Calvary. He is very enthusiastic about his opportunities and is very interested in getting an interest group formed.

Where do we go from here?

From my experience all of the elements are in place to form a colony. We have enough Lutheran Men on campus as a pool, we have a open and welcoming campus, and two Lutheran Pastors who are young and eager to see their youth ministry strengthen. What are the steps?

1. I have asked Leslie (Beta Sigs new Nat. Office Mngr. - see pg 8 for profile) to send to both ministers the up-dated Expansion Manual for further information. I have also provided Pastor Herb with the new Membership Manual.
2. By E-mail, I am going to ask them to compile a list of Lutheran men on campus, who are not affiliated with a fraternity
3. By mutual consent I will ask them for dates (1st and 2nd choice) of weekends which would work for a canvas by members of Delta and Epsilon Chapter
4. Dan Jacobi, President of Epsilon, and Zach Lusinski , President of Delta have both responded to my previous request for help in establishing an interest group.
5. When (and if) a group is formed, than we will schedule a meeting at a convenient time, headed up by John Hatfield, Rudy, or myself, to answer any questions and invite the group to attend our Midwinter Conference in Columbia.
6. Delta & Epsilon men who attend the canvassing phase in Brookings will be reimbursed for gas and food. We would plan for them to

bunk at the Lutheran Student Center. If you have any questions or comments, please E-mail me or call me at 303-979-662. I think the trip of 1760 miles was very worthwhile. South Dakota University will be put on hold until a future date, and until we are met with a more positive response from the administration.

The ELCA at Vermillion is looking for a new pastor, and I met with the vacancy minister, while the LCMS pastor was a no show for my appointment and did not respond to my phone message.



**South
Dakota
State
University
Campus**



Fraternity Profiles

Prof. Erickson - Continued from page 5

trial Microbiology, Association of Ground Water Scientists and Engineers, Air and Waste Management Association, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He became a full professor after only eight years on K-State's faculty.

Dr Erickson has too many Honors to his credit to list them all, a few include:

Halliburton Education Foundation Award of Excellence, 1985-1988; College of Engineering Advisor of the Year, 1987-1988; Sigma Xi Outstanding Scientist Award, K-State, 1988; Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity Lienemann Award, 1994; Phi Tau Sigma Outstanding Food Scientist Award, K-State, 1995; Fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, 2001; Commerce Bank Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award, 2003; Engineering Research Excellence Award, 2003; Best Theoretical Paper Award, Practice Periodical of Hazardous Toxic & Radioactive Waste Management, 2004; Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Scholar Award, K-State, 2006; AIChE Environmental Division, Lawrence K. Cecil Award, 2006; Luther Achievement Award, Midland Lutheran College, 2007; ACEE Award for Excellence in Conservation and Environmental Education, 2008; International Phytotechnology Society Milton Gordon Award, 2010.

His fields of Research Competence include:

Mathematical Optimization Techniques; Transport Phenomena; Process Design; Biochemical Engineering; Desalination; Biological Waste Treatment; Food Engineering; Environmental Engineering Sustainability.

In his more than 50 years of service to the field of chemical engineering, Erickson has co-authored more than 400 papers covering a wide range of topics and has consulted with numerous international industrial clients and academic institutions. He is co-author of chapters in six books.

A few of the prominent clients and agencies which he worked for or received grants to study from include:

Mobil Oil Co., Humble Oil & Refining Co.,

Esso Research & Engr. Co., National Science Foundation (NSF)- Dupont, NASA; US Dept. Energy; US Dept. of Agriculture, US Dept. of Defense; Kansas Water Resources Research Institute; Public Health Research at U. Penn.; Visiting Professor, Chem. Engr. Dept at U. Cal. Berkley,; Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment; Visiting Scientist in USSR, National Academy of Sciences Exchange Program; visiting scientist in Nutrition & Food Science, MIT; US-USSR Cooperative Research Program in Microbiology.

Professor Erickson has long been one of the most respected faculty members in the College of Engineering and on the entire KSU Campus. Annually, he is responsible for extremely large sums of money being donated to the College of Engineering and the University in general. His name and his reputation are the reason why so many give so much back to the school they attended and love.

With respect to Larry and his relationship to Zeta Chapter, as a current and twice past alumni board member, I know for a fact that had it not been for Larry, our chapter would have folded. He has been very generous with his ideas, his time, and his money. He has loaned money at times when others were avoiding all who asked for financial help.

When times got better, he forgave his loans. Had Larry not been willing to step up when we were in our darkest days, some other group would now be living in our chapter house. We owe Larry a tremendous amount of gratitude and thanks.

Beta Sigma Psi is not a large national fraternity and never will be, but being small has not prevented her from producing many extremely successful people like Professor Erickson, in all areas of society. Professor Larry Erickson is only one example of the many outstanding alumni which have been produced by our fraternity. In future issues, you will read about our other outstanding alumni and their personal success stories.

If you care to recommend others for appearance in the Gold Rose, please feel free to send me their names along with some background and they will be considered for a future issue. Send to me at: theraffis@kc.rr.com.

BSPNF Hires new Office Manager for National Office



Leslie Sramek - Office Manager

I was born in Seattle, Washington. The oldest of two with a little sister to follow about seven years later. I attended Concordia College (now university) in St Paul, MN where I studied to become a Director of Christian Education with a major in theology, a minor in Greek and an emphasis in evangelism.

I have been blessed with three children - two sons and a daughter. My oldest two children were born while I was still in college with the youngest to follow ten years later. My daughter is a deaconess and psycho-therapist, my oldest son serves in the United States Navy and my youngest son works with computers.

Besides working at Beta Sigma Psi, I handle the accounting for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Southern Illinois District and am employed as an accountant and tax specialist at Elafros Financial Group in O'Fallon, IL..

I enjoy travelling and spending time with my now grown children and one grandson with another grandson due the first part of January. Given the opportunity, I still enjoy horseback riding and hiking.

To contact Leslie, call her or email her at the national office:

Office: 618.235.0014
Office@betasigmapsi.org
Fax: 618.235.0014

2nd Annual Colorado Leadership Summit

By: Rudy Ristich and John Hatfield

The second annual Beta Sigma Psi Leadership Summit was held at the University of Denver's Mt. Evans Field station near Echo Lake in Colorado from July 23rd – July 26th. The leadership summit event is made possible by grants from the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation and connections of our Scholarship Director, Brother Steve Hick of Iota Chapter, who is a professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at Denver University.

The facility at the Mt. Evans field station is an ideal location for the leadership retreat, situated on the edge of the Mt. Evans wilderness area and just out of the range of most cellular service providers. The environment is focused and uninterrupted where brothers holding or seeking executive positions can engage in self-discovery exercises and work together to develop different leadership styles.

Every July we are now bringing men who hold offices from all of our chapters to Colorado for a time of leadership development. Developing these men has direct correlation to how they lead on their respective campus and in their chapter. The summit involves times of challenge experiences, critical thinking exercises, workshops, devotionals, and lots of dialogue between the men around what is working and the struggles they deal with at their chapters.

Learning from each other and forming brotherhood relationships has been a highlight. The culmination of what they are learning about leadership and to enhance bonding revolves around climbing a 14,000-foot peak. It is always an extreme challenge and for many the toughest thing they have ever done. It provides lots of great leadership principles, a sense of accomplishment, and unity.



The summit began with a casual gathering in downtown Denver where the men completed a strengths and values assessment before driving about an hour to the Field station at around 11,000 foot elevation to acclimatize. The following day begins with devotion and has the men explore and challenge their leadership abilities through a variety of exercises that leverage active learning techniques both in individual and group settings. Leadership concepts present in popular culture and on campus are also discussed and analyzed.

Saturday morning ushered in an early start as the men headed further west to the Mt. Bierstadt trail head for a day long hike that challenges their physical limits. Although regarded as one of the easiest of the 14,000 ft plus peaks to summit on the Front Range, Mt. Bierstadt proved a worthy challenge for most of our young leaders who grew up in flat terrain near sea level. Despite the struggles many encountered nearly all the men listed the challenge of the hike as the most memorable part of the event.

Several attendees were grateful to receive instruction from their peers who were alumni of the event and returned to facilitate workshops, inspiring them to do the same in future events. The most valuable aspect of the event as reported widely by the attendees was the ability to build intra-fraternal relationships with their peers at other Chapters as they grow their servant leadership skills in a memorable environment.

My favorite part of the leadership summit was the fact that we got to network and learn from other chapter leaders. It allowed us to bounce ideas off of each other and have points of contact in chapters that we are not usually around.” Dillon Shaffer, President, Omega

“Attending the Leadership Summit gave me a new outlook on leadership, one that I now use in my everyday life.” Brady Hoffman, VP, Zeta

“Fun, open environment where you learned as much about your fellow brothers as you did about yourself.” Zachary Lusienki, President, Delta

“I would say the leadership summit and hiking the mountain were the two most memorable moments as a Beta Sig!” Jake Vanderslice, IFC leadership chair and VP, Epsilon

One of my goals as the national leadership consultant is to provide the best leadership development in a variety of venues of any fraternity! Its an honor serving!

Participants - Left to Right:

Steven Hick (Iota), John Hatfield, Zack Lusienki (Delta), Landon Schultheis (Epsilon), Collin Evans (Omega), Dillon Shaffer (Omega), Hunter Senior (Nu), Dan Jacobi (Epsilon), James Crowder (Nu), Rudy Ristich (Beta)

Beta Sig Partnership in Nicaragua

By: John Hatfield - National Fraternity Consultant

“I would say the biggest thing I learned from Nicaragua is in seeing their conditions versus ours. It showed me that we are blessed so that we can be a blessing. Its just luck that we were born into the conditions we are in and their luck that they were born into theirs.



I see it more as our duty now. Luke 12:48 say's, from everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded, and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much will be asked.”

Braden Trimpe, Omega

We stated an international service learning leadership experience two years ago for our men. It fits beautifully with our commitment and sacred values to service and rising up Christian leaders.

We partner with Amigos' for Christ (www.amigosforchrist.org and check out Youtube) During the day we dig trenches and lay pipe to bring water into villages that do not have clean water. Additionally, we build on schools for education. In the evenings we look at scripture and dialogue on what we learned that day. We work side by side with the Nicaraguans, go into their

homes, and experience life in a developing country.

The infant mortality death rate is extremely high from birth to five because of the contaminated water. Our men are changing this death rate! This experience is teaching our men life long lessons about themselves, their faith in Christ, and the world. Hopefully, it will have lifelong impact and equip them to better serve their local congregation as bible study leaders, youth leaders, mission committee members, and for those who might be called into the ministry.

“Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among the peoples” Psalms 96:3.

It is an honor to serve

BETA SIG PROUD



Photo to Right:
(L-R) Braden Trimpe Omega
Nicaragian, John Hatfield, and
3 Nicaraguans.

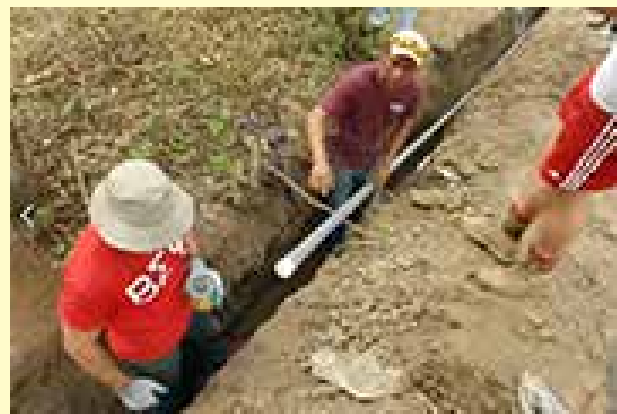
Photo to Right:
John Hatfield, Dustin
Douglas (Zeta)
Vytas Kriauciunas
(Omega, Rudy Ristich,
Nat. President

Left:
Braden Trimpe and
Nicaraguan



Above: Dustin Douglas (Zeta), John Hatfield (National Advisor)

Below: John Hatfield & Nicaraguan



Past National President Rick Meyer Runs In First Bill Snyder Half Marathon Highway Race

AS reported by: Rick E. Meyer - Zeta '88

The Bill Snyder Highway Half Marathon, is the first and only half marathon in Manhattan. A half marathon is 13.1 miles. As stated on the website, the 2015 race raised money for Coach Snyder's selection of the Homecare & Hospice of Manhattan.

As a runner who graduated from both K-State and Manhattan High, this race immediately captured my attention. I eagerly anticipated running on the streets of Manhattan that we once ran on during our 1983 and 1984 - 6A State Cross Country championships along with my years of running while attending K-State and serving as an assistant coach at Manhattan High while living in the Beta Sig house.

Because I spoke at seminars in California the week of the race, I slept less than twenty minutes two nights before the race, the most important night for adequate sleep for maximum performance, due to flying from Los Angeles Thursday night with layovers in Las Vegas and then Dallas Friday morning. On the 9:10 AM flight to Manhattan, I sat by a young lady from India who in 2012 chose to pursue her doctorate in chemistry at Kansas State because of all the schools that she considered, K-State had the best football and basketball teams.

Friday's packet pick-up occurred at the store of race's organizer and director, The Manhattan Running Company located on west Anderson. That afternoon I engaged in my traditional pre-race day run, recognizing additional soreness and fatigue from traveling, lack of sleep and running the Boston Marathon on April 20th. I quickly reminded myself that the purpose of running a race, like everything in life, resides in glorifying God through doing our best possible in performance and relationships (Mt. 22:37-39). Performing well often opens opportunities for relationships in every sector of life.

The half marathon began on Bill Snyder Highway immediately north of I-70. Consequently, the race management rightly required all runners to board busses at The Bill Snyder Family Stadium for a ride to the starting line Course Map. Once the race commenced, we remained in the right hand lane of the highway. We received abundant cheers from those at water stations as well as travelers cheering and encouragingly honking horns while passing in the left lane.

I duplicated my trademark of starting slow—relative to intended pace—gradually moving up from approximately twelfth position. My pace increased near eight miles and entered town, moving into fourth place after catching runners in their mid to late 20s. I never did see third place and unfortunately became inadvertently complacent with my pace. The race finished with a loop around the outside of the east parking lot before crossing the finish line in front of The Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

Despite running slower than desired, I am pleased with finishing fourth overall and the first Masters. Moreover, I enjoyed wonderful conversations with fellow race participants.

Additionally, I remained especially excited in knowing that I would have the opportunity to meet Coach Bill Snyder during the awards ceremony. His sincere greeting and authentic personal-warmth epitomizes the Kansas State family and explains his enormous success in enhancing and developing character in young men from all walks of life.

I have met many world-class athletes and coaches over the years; Bill Snyder ranks among the best in every way. Yes, Character, Confidence and Conviction separate the great from the good.

Past National BSP President Rick Meyer talks with K-State Football Head Coach Bill Snyder, after he received his award for his 4th place finish in the first annual Bill Snyder Half Marathon Race.



Annual Membership Educational Forum (MEF) Will Meet in Columbia, MO - Jan. 15 - 17, 2016

By: Gary Raffety

Time is running out for all you Beta Sig underclassmen to register and pay your entry fees if you plan to attend the 2016 MEF in Columbia, Mo and I would highly recommend that you do. *All registration information is included in this article - see column at right for complete instructions.*

Attendance at the annual MEF should be required for as many active Beta Sig members as possible because it offers a tremendous opportunity for personal growth and some very good leadership training. It will definitely help you become a better student leader and Beta Sig.

It also offers a great opportunity to meet the National Officers, the Leadership from the other chapters, as well as the active and alumni members from the other chapters.

If you contemplate ever holding a national office some day, or if you happen to hold office in your chapter now, or perhaps will want to in the near future, then this should definitely be considered a requirement on your list of things to do to help you become the best leader that you can be.

The first time that I attended an MEF conference was about 5 years ago as one of the grey hairs who by then had become a part of the national fraternity leadership. The extended weather forecast for that January

weekend was for bitter cold and snow. As the weekend approached, I began to have second thoughts about my decision to attend the MEF and had thoughts of the many other things I could be doing. But, I had committed and it was too late to back out.

I could go on and on about my personal experiences at my first MEF, but I will not bore you with all of that. I will just say that my weekend was full of learning, surprise at all of the great classes that were offered, and very pleased with all of the new relationships I was able to create in one short but busy weekend.

In closing, I just want to say that if you can -- you should definitely attend this year's MEF. I believe that you will see that you will have improved yourself, both as an individual and as a Beta Sig --- AND I am quite sure you will not regret it.

MEF Registration Facts & Figures You Need to Know

Registration is now being accepted for this coming MEF in Columbia. The \$60 registration fee or alumni members covers educational and development sessions and food all day Saturday (including the Awards Banquet on Saturday night.)

The Hampton Inn in Columbia will be the lodging for this year's event located at **1225 Fellows Pl, Columbia, MO 65201**
Phone: (573) 214-2222.

[Request the Beta Sigma Psi group rate.](#)

Please make your check payable to:
[Iota of Beta Sigma Psi](#) -- and mail to:

Marberry and Eagle, 414 E Broadway, Ste. 200, Columbia, MO 65201.

All checks must be received by the Iota Chapter's Accountant prior to Sunday, January 10th, 2015

Questions??? Contact: Connor Smith at registrations@betasigmapsi.org or call at 913-645-0916

Hope to SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

Photos left and below are well known landmarks on the MU Campus and downtown Columbia.



Questions About The National Educational Foundation

Reprinted from the Fall 2007 Gold Rose

Twenty (Plus) Questions About The Educational Foundation

1. What is the Educational Foundation?

The BETA SIGMA PSI EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION is a non-profit corporation chartered in the State of Illinois for educational, literary, religious, scientific, and charitable purposes.

2. Who are members of the Educational Foundation?

You.....all initiated members of Beta Sigma Psi. In addition, any person can become a member with a \$30 annual donation.

3. How or from whom did the Educational Foundation receive its first funds?

The Erck Foundation, named in honor of Rev. Henry Erck (1881-1959) preceded the Educational Foundation and provided the first contribution of \$698.26 upon its dissolution in 1983. Rev. Erck's widow gave permission to change the name and status of the Erck Foundation to further advance the causes of Beta Sigma Psi.

4. When was the Educational Foundation established?

It was incorporated in March of 1982. The Internal Revenue Service granted temporary tax exempt status in April of 1983 and upgraded that status to a permanent ruling in April of 1985.

5. Are gifts to the Educational Foundation deductible for income tax purposes?

Yes, to the extent allowed by law. We are classified as a publicly supported organization as described in section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code.

6. How does the Educational Foundation obtain funds?

Through tax-deductible gifts from Beta

Sigma Psi members, their families, and other friends. Some corporations provide matching gifts for their employees who contribute. Active and alumni chapter members also assist in fundraising activities.

7. May I designate how my gift will be used by the Educational Foundation?

Yes, provided it is for an educational purpose consistent with the purposes for which the Foundation was organized and is operated. To endow funds in a permanent chapter or other special program endowment account, a minimum gift of \$200 is required. For more information about available endowed program accounts, please contact the Foundation.

8. May I make a provision in my will for a bequest or gift of securities, insurance policy, real estate, or personal property that would help the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation?

Yes. Yes, Yes. And Yes! You can find some suggested wordings to add to your will on the National Website, or contact the Foundation.

9. May I designate a contribution to the Educational Foundation as a memorial?

Yes. We ask you to include the following information:

- a) In memory of
- b) Name and address of person to be notified
- c) Your name, address, and chapter
- d) Endowment designation, if over \$200
- e) Make checks payable to: Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation
- f) Mail to: Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation, 2408 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221.

10. Does the National Educational Foundation accept gifts honoring persons?

It does! Please give the same information as in (9), except use "In Honor of." The Educational Foundation also welcomes contributions honoring new arrivals..... children, grandchildren.

The Educational Foundation acknowledges contributions honoring birthdays, new associates, or initiates. Here too, as with all recognition and memorial gifts, a card is sent.

11. Does the Educational Foundation have an asset manager?

The Treasurer of the Foundation works with an investment management company to administer the endowed funds of the organization. Each chapter has monies permanently endowed to perpetuate gifts to that chapter, in addition to other national-level endowments. The Foundation Directors are committed to increasing the funds in each endowment.

12. Who administers the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation?

Directors compose the Educational Foundation Board and are elected in staggered three year terms. One advisor serves as a liaison by virtue of his office, namely the Beta Sigma Psi National President. Officers of the Board are elected from within the Board of Directors.

13. How many persons are employed by the Educational Foundation?

The Educational Foundation has no full-time employees. The officers and Directors of the organization donate their time. Administrative services are provided by the National Fraternity Office and the Educational Foundation reimburses the Fraternity for the value of those services.

14. Does the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation have priority programming?

Yes. The Educational Foundation is committed to helping the undergraduate chapters of Beta Sigma Psi in their endeavors through a variety of educational programming.

15. What other programs does the Educational Foundation support?

- a) scholarships for qualified students
- b) certain National awards for outstanding performance
- c) grants for chapter libraries and computer systems
- d) alumni address files
- e) support for The Gold Rose
- f) Beta Sigma Psi Leadership Academy
- g) Beta sigma Psi Educational Forum
- h) alumni Seminarian scholarships

Continued on next page

Things You Need To Know about The NEF

Continued from Previous Page

i) partial funding of the Coordinator of Collegiate Development position

16. Where does all the money come from?

From contributions and interest income only. The majority of the donations come as response to the annual Phonathon, which takes place in November each year. We're limited in our accomplishments only by our fundraising.

17. Does the Educational Foundation qualify for matching gifts from corporate employers?

Yes, in some cases. If you work for a "matching gift" company, please check with your payroll officer. Many people may be able to have a matching gift sent to the Educational Foundation courtesy of their company. The Fraternity Headquarters will assist with the necessary paperwork.

18. What are the future plans of the Educational Foundation?

The immediate plan is to increase the endowments of the Educational Foundation so that the Foundation:

- a) will be able to underwrite many more educational programs
- b) can provide larger and more scholarships to students
- c) can provide financial assistance (loans) to students based on need
- d) can perpetuate funding for the educational programming of the Fraternity through the future.

19. How do I find our more about the Educational Foundation, its purposes, and goals?

Write and mail to the Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation, or visit the National website.

20. Does the Educational Foundation create and administer educational programming?

In general, the Foundation does not actually create and administer educational programs.

Most programs, such as the Leadership Academy and Membership Education Forum, are created and administered by the National Fraternity's Board of Directors. The Educational Foundation merely provides funding assistance for the programs. It also administers the National scholarship programs.

21. Does the Educational Foundation accept donations by credit card?

Yes, credit card donations can be accepted through Thrivent's Simply Giving program. We can process one-time donations by you simply giving us your credit card number, name on the card, expiration date, and billing address.

22. Can I spread out a larger donation over time?

Yes, we can spread donations over as long as five years through Thrivent's Simply Giving program by automatic monthly debits to a credit card or bank account. Contact the Foundation for more information.

23. What are the various endowment sub-funds to which I can designate a donation?

Each currently operating Active Chapter has a sub-fund, plus National Scholarships, National Programs, Ethical Leadership Education, Expansion and Recruitment, Kettler Award, and William Welge Scholarship Loans.

Donations must be \$200 or more to be endowed. Also, a donation of \$400 could be split between two sub-funds, \$600 among three sub-funds, etc.

24. Does the Educational Foundation participate in the Thrivent Choice programs?

Yes, you can designate your Choice Dollars to the Foundation as you can to any

other participating congregation or organization. We have also applied to participate in upcoming Voting Events.

25. Does the Educational Foundation have a capital campaign in order to achieve its funding goals?

Yes, the Educational Foundation launched the John Judge Memorial Campaign For Excellence in 2007, with a goal of \$1,000,000.

Achievement of the goal will provide perpetuated full funding of the primary annual National-level educational programs and expenses. To donate to the campaign, please contact the Foundation.

Article excerpted and updated by Kirk Meyer from a previous Gold Rose.

Thank You Very Much For Your Contributions

The Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation would like to sincerely thank all of our donors. The following is a list of our contributors during the Educational Foundation's 2015 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015):

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William Pfaff

Patron

John Trautmann Jr
Jonathan Riethmeier
Jonathan Siebrasse
DDS
Kim Nelson
Timothy Jackson

Member

Brent Toellner
Charles Kuntz
David Lieb
Dennis Boehne
Donald Krusemark
Gary Thurnau
James Dunkmann
James Schaper
Jared Anderson
John Wussler
Mark Harms
Merle Schnelle
Robert Friday
Thomas Hohenstein
Todd Meyer

Donor

Donald Paske
Jonathan Rolf
Mark Hohenstein
Paul Schnare
Stewart Wirth

Kappa Chapter - \$860

Concordia Club

William Kurschat

Wittenberg Club

John McClurg
Rudolph Blakeman

Patron

Donavon Hess

Member

Bruce Erickson
Gerald Sietsema
Paul Wilhelm
Rev. James Walburg

Donor

Robert Huber
Mark Hochsprung
Earl Sorenson

Lambda Chapter - \$100

Wittenberg Club

Philip Roekle

Mu Chapter - \$1,360

Founders' Society

Robert Hillard CPA-CMA

Wittenberg Club

Michael Baum

Robert Mattheessen

Member

Kenneth Schaal
Terry Schuldt
Rev. Ronald Martin

Donor

Everett Freeberg
Roger Heitman

Nu Chapter - \$365

Wittenberg Club

Christopher Hahn
Merlin Stigge

Patron

Marvin Bredehoft

Member

John Larson
Ronald Kettner

Xi Chapter - \$585

Wittenberg Club

Arlyn Uhrmacher
Dale Filsinger
John Rohwer

Member

Kenneth Troester

Donor

Mark Larson
Steven Harms

Omicron Chapter - \$100

Member

Dale Pfeiffer
Randall Heine

Pi Chapter - \$670

Concordia Club

David Davis

Member

Kevin Zirges
David Lenz
Leslie Wolpers

Wittenberg Club

Randy Kanoy
Victor Koenig Jr

Member

David Lenz
Kevin Zirges
Leslie Wolpers

Donor

Kirk Haffer
Michael Boehmer
Roger Fuchs

Rho Chapter - \$50

Member

Terry Wangen

Sigma Chapter - \$40

Donor

David Noyes
Eugene Beerbohm
Russell Ropte

Tau Chapter - \$280

Wittenberg Club

Kurt Schmeckpeper
Steven Grundmann

Member

Brent Roggow

Upsilon Chapter \$195

Patron

John Gehrke
Kevin Carriere

Member

Randall Peters
Rev. Chad Lueck

Phi Chapter- \$160

Wittenberg Club

Clay Fancher

Patron

Terrell Miller

Omega Chapter - \$3,500

Founders' Society

Philip Krug
Cory Baumhardt

Psi Chapter- \$50

Member

David Payne

Donor

Robert Schultz

Alpha-Alpha Colony - \$130

Wittenberg Club

Jacob Clark

Member

Carl Schaffner

Beta Alpha Colony - \$30

Member

David Fortmeyer

Editor's Comment

The National Education Foundation donations are 100% Tax Deductable and can provide a major recruiting resource for the chapters. It is important that our alumni continue to support the NEF annually because scholarships are now one of the biggest rush entitlements used today for attracting new associates into Greek Houses.

Most of our competitor fraternities have dozens of scholarships available each semester and in some cases are able to offer scholarships to all of their new associates. Beta Sig Chapters **DO NOT** have a lot of scholarships (if any) available, so we need to continue to build our Educational Fund so that we can begin to offer more scholarships. Please do what you can to contribute annually to our Educational Fund.

Thank You Brothers

Gary Rafferty -

Editor

The Editor wants to express his thanks to Rod Thompson '74 (Epsilon), the keeper of the fraternity archives for finding and forwarding this article to the Gold Rose. Date of this address: March 18, 1921

Note: *The author of this address was not annotated on the copy retained in the National Archives. At some later date the author may be identified based on a handwritten note on the document. Please note the date of incorporation for Beta Sigma Psi as a Greek letter fraternity was April 17, 1925 and from the articles of incorporation, "the object for which (Beta Sigma Psi) is formed is a social fraternity, limited to Lutheran students banded together for the purpose of promoting the social welfare of the members."*

Fellow Concordians and Initiates:

Since every initiation, be it into a fraternity or literary society, carries with it some form of torture, I have decided to ask you this evening what form of torture you choose, physical or mental?

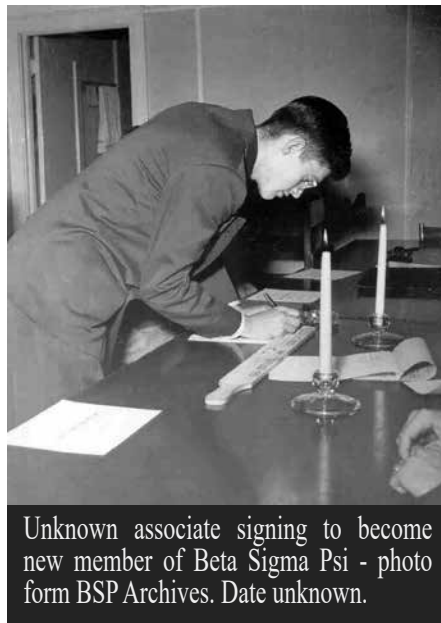
You have heard statements about the house to the effect that torture at our initiations was not recommended, but this is not exactly true, for in reality it has been expressly forbidden, not only for the present but for all times to come.

We feel that Concordia is built upon sounder principles, and it is my problem tonight to review with you the code which prompted this and other conservative measures.

About a year ago there was no Concordia. She had a humble beginning, indeed, and that we are now about to celebrate her first birthday, is due to the untiring efforts of a mere handful of staunch workers, among whom our Rev. Pastor Stiegemeier stands head and shoulder above all.

This small group formulated a constitution, they shaped each article and each section carefully, chipping and hammering into shape each rock, as it were. Then they anchored them securely in the bed-rock of pure Lutheranism and built a foundation upon which Concordia will and must stand as long as there is a Concordia'.

Soon new members were to be added to the structure. Here, at an early period, the rocky



Unknown associate signing to become new member of Beta Sigma Psi - photo from BSP Archives. Date unknown.

base was severely shaken, and for a time it seemed as though the boulders would be severed, but it was merely a threat, and the foundation survived the test.

Concordians, just a word of warning here. Do not be too confident and think that the period of test is past. No, Concordia is still in a process of development. Here tonight we are raising the walls of our structure by adding this group to our membership.

The walls, as well as their base, needs to be strong in order to resist further wind and weather. In order to gain strength, it is first necessary that these new members be firmly joined to our structure. They must understand the why and the wherefore of our policies and they should know above all in what respects we differ from the prevailing Greek letter fraternity

Concordia is not a fraternity, but in spite of this fact we bear a more intimate relation toward each other than is found in fraternities generally, because we are bound not only by material ties but by spiritual bonds as well. We have taken a definite stand against all secret organizations and bar from membership any person affiliated with such organizations.

Why do we call ourself Concordia and not I.C.C. or some other Greek name like fraternities do? Let me explain this matter to you. In this respect we want to stand alone. What would I.C.C. mean to us and what would it mean to any one else? You must admit that it would be meaningless, while the beautiful sonorous word Concordia is full of meaning to

both us and to our fellow-students.

Furthermore, I want you always to bear in mind that the days of the Greek letter fraternity are nearly over. At numerous institutions they are forbidden, and why? Because the Greek letter fraternity has come to stand for rodyism, and, while they are in comparatively good standing at Illinois, we must admit that they have a bad reputation.

Why then should we follow in rank and file and cause ourselves to be condemned with the rest, and later, when anti-fraternity legislation is enacted, to be swept away, - the innocent with the guilty!

Let us conduct ourselves in a manner such that when this legislation is enforced, Concordia may withstand the attack, and survive the onslaught with flying colors.

Our policy of initiation is another issue upon which we stand alone. Hazing or foolishness is strictly forbidden, because it too has been one of the objectionable practices of the Greek letter fraternities, and its toleration would prove harmful to us. Concordia is democratic, even toward her freshmen.

We feel that we can teach you campus customs and manners by manly or grown-up methods, without pressing you into involuntary servitude or making a fool of you. In other words, we will treat you as gentlemen, and, in return, expect you to act as gentlemen.

It will be up to you later to carry out this policy, and since this one will be very difficult to adhere to, I beg you, as well as you other Concordians, to observe especially well this policy of conservative initiation.

The last, but by far the most important of your duties, is to attend the services at our local church regularly and to behave as Christians. I feel that you fully understand this, and therefore I will not dwell upon this point any further.

Bear these various points in mind always, for within a few years you will be seniors, and upon you will depend the future welfare of Concordia. Hand these policies and customs down to the incoming members and teach them to adhere to them. Then Concordia will soon stand as a magnificent edifice to commemorate the untiring efforts of this group of loyal workers, who saw Concordia through its first year of trial.

Fraternity History Is Important, We Need Your Help To Preserve Our Past

For over fifteen years, Rod Thompson '74 (Epsilon), of O'Fallon, Il., has managed and organized more than 90 years of Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity history from the den in his basement.

The many things that Rod has accumulated include a variety of artifacts, ranging from the fraternity's original charter at the University of Illinois to hard-to-find chapter memorabilia.

The records include the minutes from every National Council meeting since 1925, a beanie worn by a freshman at Alpha chapter, speakers' notes from some of the past conventions, a time capsule from a 1970s national convention, every pledge manual published (minus the first edition, which he still is in search of), every edition of The Gold Rose dating back to the 1950s, and countless other documents and valued pieces of the fraternity's history collected through the years by various alumni.

Many of the documents are already showing their age. "For some stuff, I feel I should be wearing white gloves. Some of these records wouldn't hold up to a number of people touching the items. They're pretty fragile," Thompson said. "But if alumni call me when they are in the St. Louis area, I'll show them some really neat materials."

He also takes some materials "on the road," for example, Zeta Chapter's 50th anniversary and the celebration in October at Alpha for their 50th anniversary of re-establishing the chapter. Prior to being accumulated in his basement, the archives were held mostly in the hands of various notable alumni: Dave Jackson (Zeta), Bill Bunte (Alpha) and Brent Seifert (Beta).

The fraternity owes a great debt of gratitude to past executive directors who managed the collection, like Tom Schlange (Delta) and Del Lienemann, Sr. (Delta). Other notable alumni have assisted in various capacities, including John Hingst (Beta), Larry Edwards (Zeta), and Del Karneier (Alpha). Kirk Meyer (Alpha) and Matt Kreps (Zeta) helped Thompson recover the records from the various storage sites.

There are still small pockets of collections in the hands of alumni that Thompson hopes to eventually include in the national archives. In his search, he continually asks families of deceased alumni for anything related to the fraternity they can donate to the archives. "It's kind of delicate in a way to ask them, but it's important for the fraternity to reclaim, as much as we can," he said.

A way for alumni to add their own collections to the National Fraternity's archives, he said, is to include a provision in their last will and testament for the fraternity so their family is aware of the bequest.

Thanks to the devotion and stewardship of alumni

across the nation, the collection continues to grow. The work of sorting out the most valuable pieces of history from the growing body of artifacts, though, is not really work for him. "It's truly a labor of love to go through all these records," Thompson said, who completed a 20-year career in the military as a Commander in the Navy. "I've always had an interest in history - I minored in history in college.

For me, it's like going through your grandfather's trunk in the attic. You're reliving history. That's why they saved all this material for us. Someone wanted us to enjoy this treasure of information. "His search for the remnants of the fraternity's history is unrelenting.

The national archive has always had a better collection of the entire fraternity's history than the collective amount held at the individual chapters. In his visits to the chapters across the Midwest, Thompson has eagerly explored through each of the chapter's collections. The national archives, he said, has virtually everything the chapters have, and more.

There are still a few select items Thompson is searching for that will add immense value to the archives. Topping the list is a taped interview with Bill Welge, one of the founding fathers of the fraternity. John Hingst and Larry Edwards spent an entire weekend talking with Welge about the fraternity's history. The tapes, though, have yet to be located.

He also is searching for more artifacts from chapters that have closed, more items from the pre-Beta Sig days when the fraternity was organized as the Concordia Club, and more memorabilia and photographs with documentation. But through the years, some of the fraternity's most valuable artifacts or documents have vanished.

The greatest loss is the original Alpha Chapter memorabilia Tom Schlange and other alumni have been in search of for years. During the Great Depression after the chapter house at the University of Illinois was closed and sold at auction, the members were not allowed back inside to retrieve the remainder of the fraternity's belongings.

The artifacts to this day have never resurfaced. "We lost a lot of the original stuff when the house was sold," he said. "But we still have all the records and minutes of the national conventions from day one."

What worries Thompson now is not so much what past Beta Sigs have or have not recorded or collected, but the changing forms of how Beta Sigs communicate today. The "electronification" of communication, such as e-mails and instant messaging, mean fewer and fewer documents to collect. And what is written is not always coherent thought. E-mails are more like little snippets or fragments of conversations often omitting detail and context.

As time goes on, it will be increasingly difficult to collect information, he said. Even when the entire collection is archived electronically, it is easier

to touch and look at paper documents. Having a complete and accurate chronicling of the fraternity pays dividends. "When you read the fraternity's history, you can observe the time when a chapter got in trouble. Then later on, see when the chapter came back to life," he said, adding that having the fraternity's history in focus gives it a reference point to know where it has been and to help it develop a better idea of where it needs to go. T

he gradual disappearance of solid documentation ultimately means less that future generations can learn from. For that reason, Thompson makes extra effort to document fraternity activities and to be thorough and accurate.

During his service on the National Board of Directors, he meticulously recorded the meetings of the National Council. "Summarizing doesn't really serve the fraternity 50 years from now. A future historian wasn't there and memories fade over time. That's why I typed between 10 to 15 pages of minutes at the National Council meetings," he said.

Though he is no longer on the board of directors, his ambition for the archives has not diminished. For the fraternity's 100th anniversary in 2025, Thompson hopes to have ready a book encompassing the entire history of the fraternity, bringing Beta Sigma Psi into context with a documentary like other national fraternities have done.

He also dreams of a permanent home for the archives in a national office building complete with office space, a conference center, an auditorium and a place to properly display the fraternity's most treasured artifacts to be shared with all Beta Sigs. "We must keep in mind the fraternity continues to make progress and evolve," he said. "We can't dwell on the archives. "We need to be making history today."

Editor's Note:

History is very important to some people and not so important to a lot of others. That being said, as one who loves all kinds of history, like family history, American history, World history, I have come to be concerned about our Beta Sig History. It is really important that we document as much of the daily goings on at our chapters as possible. Why - Because it's History and it is important.

So, I am asking all alumni that have pieces of chapter history to make them available to the national fraternity for inclusion in our growing archives. Photos, minutes, deeds, etc. should all be saved for posterity. Contact Rod Thompson if you have donations at;

Rod Thompson
753 Deer Creek Rd
O'Fallon, Illinois 62269
ph. 618-628-8806
rod.thompson@charter.net

Alpha Chapter

Nick Schwingbeck Chapter President

The fall semester at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has started off great for the men of Beta-Sigma Psi Alpha Chapter. There has been a great buzz throughout the chapter for many reasons.

In terms of recruitment, we currently have a total of 30 active and associate members. We have just activated one new member from last spring, and welcomed in 7 associates this semester. This is the first time in recent memory that our chapter has an all Lutheran pledge class, which has both our actives and alumni very excited.

These men are already showing great dedication to the chapter by taking on leadership roles, and showing a passion to want to become actives. In addition, with the help of John Hatfield, we restructured our chapter's recruitment strategies; he has been a great asset to our chapter in the past year. He also helped us organize a leadership speaker series modeled after that of Beta and Omega Chapters.

Unfortunately, we did not get the numbers we had hoped from this recruitment tool, but are currently taking it as a learning experience and learning how to improve it for next fall. Overall, our recruitment was fairly successful, but we have bigger expectations for ourselves in the future.

Alpha Chapter has had a strong track record in the recent past when it comes to our academic performance. This past semester we ranked 1st out of 47 fraternities on the campus, a statistic we are very proud of. We had not been on top in two

years, and made it a point to get our house GPA back up. However, that is not to say our grades were slipping, we have been top 5 in IFC for the past three years.

We do our best to hold our members to high standards academically and it is reflected in our consistently high ranks for GPA. We have a mentor program that pairs upper and under classmen in our chapter, allowing for collaboration between members in the same major. Our members truly take pride in their performance in the classroom, and hope we can continue our successes well into the future

.In terms of our social involvement on campus, we continue to stay involved in various Greek philanthropic events, as well as hosting our own. We have not yet hosted our semesterly event yet, but we are in the process of organizing one. Also, a few of our members, myself included, have organized a house rock band, playing at various campus establishments. At this year's campus Battle of the Bands, we made it into the finals and are scheduled to compete for the top prize in a few weeks. In addition, we are participating in numerous intramural sports over the past year, including flag football, indoor soccer, basketball and broomball.

Our members really enjoy competing with other Greek Houses and have fun playing all different kinds of sports. We have even had members place 3rd place in our fall semester tennis tournament on campus. We try to uphold our third "S" to the best of our ability, and do our best to stay as involved as we can in different campus events.

As stated previously, there are great things going on at Alpha Chapter right now, and we have big expectations for the future in terms of our recruitment. Hopefully we can continue our trend of success in the future. If you have any more questions, feel free to contact be email at schwngb2@illinois.edu

Per aspera ad astra



Photo Above:
Alpha Chapter
Leadership Team.



Photo Left:
Group Photo of
Chapter Member-
ship.

Alpha - Alpha Chapter

Evan Christensen, President Alpha Alpha Chapter

The Brothers of Alpha Alpha Chapter started the year running! Our school, Midland University, is a small private school with roughly 1200 undergrads.

With a small student body, opportunities to get involved are around every corner, and our brothers are excelling in football, the arts (including choir, marching band, play productions, musical productions, and improv), ministry, and as residential assistants.

Despite our extensive involvement within our school's community in areas that are not directly related to Beta Sigma Psi, we have demonstrated the three S's (plus Service) in the following ways:

Spiritual: Our chaplain, MeKota Fogg is currently interning with a local church, Salem Lutheran, as part of his Youth Ministry degree. Part of his placement includes giving the sermon for both services, which he did on November 7th.

Our President, Evan Christensen is also leading 6th Grade confirmation at his church, Bethany Lutheran. Finally, our chapter set a goal at the first meeting of the year to reaffirm our Spiritual "S", as we collectively felt it was something lacking. We have held ourselves accountable with more regularly scheduled devotions, prayers, and the customary Beta Sig Sunday.

Scholastic: Alpha-Alpha won the Blue Key Academic award last year for the 13th year in our 14 years on campus with a chapter GPA of 3.4. While this is very exciting, it is actually three-tenths of a point lower than our GPA was the previous year.

In response to this, our chapter established an Academic plan, something new for our chapter. We look forward to achieving our fall semester goal of a 3.5 GPA and maintaining the Blue Key Academic Award.

Social: This recruitment season saw

the association of four gentlemen that exhibit a Beta Sig as a man of conviction, character, and confidence. We also have the great addition of a past President, Alex Vasa, accepting a position with Residence Life as a Hall Director. He is helping lead Associate classes for our new guys. Also, in exciting, albeit old, news Alpha Alpha won Midland's Greek Week and Greek Games last spring. We hope to continue the success this spring, too.

Service: As part of our Greek Council Bake Sale occurring in around Final's Week. The Brothers of Beta Sigma Psi have invited our loving mothers to come to campus to help provide the Midland community with honest-to-goodness home baked cookies made with Mom's love. The money raised from this event will be used to enhance the Greek experience at Midland's campus with a new Winter Formal as well as Greek Week.

Though this is just a snapshot of Alpha Alpha's activities this semester, we hope it gives you an idea of who we are and why we love being a Beta Sig. Alpha Alpha Chapter.



Alpha - Alpha Chapter - Midland University

Beta Chapter

By: **Jacob Hahn, President**

To the esteemed Alumni of Beta Sigma Psi,

I'm proud to report that Beta Chapter has been making large strides over the past couple of years in a wide variety of areas. This year in the combined Spring and Fall new member classes we have successfully recruited 14 new Christian gentlemen, bringing our house roster count to 33 active members and 10 associate members.

We have continued to produce net increases in membership for two years now and expect to reach a stable target range of 50-60 within a year. Part of our success can be attributed to our new "Hingst Scholars Program." The Hingst Scholar's Program is a weekly seminar series that lasts during the recruitment season put together by the active chapter and offers various talks about succeeding and adjusting to college life.

The participants who attend all of the seminars receive a \$500 scholarship, and many who participate in the program accept bids to become associate members. If you know of any young promising men who may be interested in joining Beta chapter you can contact our recruitment chair David Peck at Peck3@purdue.edu.

Philanthropic pursuits have been one of our larger recent improvements. As a means to keep in line with our first S, we as a chapter have decided to start tithing every semester, and have donated \$1000 to University Lutheran Church.

This Fall, we kicked off our first "Rockin' Out Alzheimer's" philanthropy in which we sold lemonade and hot chocolate while sitting in rocking chairs. Between selling drinks and accepting donations, we raised over \$500 for Alzheimer's research. We've also been heavily involved in the philanthropies of other Greek houses.

This year we won, for the second year in a row, Alpha Xi Delta's "Football Frenxi" football tournament that benefits Autism Speaks. Finally, for the first time in many years, we have a representative for Zeta's "Big Man on Campus" philanthropy. Our

brother Sam Hathaway is a prominent member of Purdue's Glee Club and will be singing in the talent show towards the end of the competition.

Despite being numerically compared to most other fraternities on Purdue's campus, Beta chapter consistently excels in intramural sports, making it to at least the quarter finals of the fraternity bracket in almost every sport. As of right now, we're in the finals for sand volleyball and the quarter finals for flag football.

Scholastically, we've been working substantially to increase our house GPA. Last semester over half of our members were above the all men's GPA average and several of our members made the Dean's List. We've recently completely revamped our

academic program, complete with required study table hours based on a GPA scale that takes into account both the brother's term and semester GPA and various incentives for demonstrating improvement in school work.

I'm optimistic that this semester's GPA will improve drastically and that we'll rank highly amongst Purdue's other fraternities.

Overall, Beta Chapter has been improving across the board and I suspect that we will continue to grow and carry out the ideals set forth by Beta Sigma Psi.

Fraternally,
Jacob Hahn
Active President of Beta Chapter



Kicking off the first "Rockin' Out Alzheimer's" Philanthropy Event - we sold lemonade and hot chocolate while sitting in rocking chairs.



We won, for the second year in a row, Alpha Xi Delta's "Football Frenxi" football tournament that benefits Autism Speaks. Finally, for the first time in many

Omega Chapter

By: Dillon Shaffer, President

The beginning of the 2015-2016 academic school year has gotten off to a great start for the men of Beta Sigma Psi Omega Chapter here at Indiana University. This semester has been positive for several reasons including...

Recruitment: This semester we accepted the largest Associate Class of Omega Chapter history with a total of 12 men. This was possible thanks to the hard work of our Recruitment Chair Alex Trimpe, several general chapter members, and the leadership of Mr. Hatfeild.

With their leadership several key changes were made in Omegas recruitment procedure, including a two week Leadership Series for freshman, and a rebranding of the Chapter as the highest quality small fraternity on campus.

Now that recruitment is over and Associate Membership has begun, I am excited to say that this group of 12 men are some of the brightest young men I have ever met, and I am very excited to see how they will lead and shape Omega Chapter in the future.

Growth With the increase in the size of Omega Chapter this semester and with plans for Chapter expansion in the future, it has caused us to start looking outside of the walls of our current location.

We are excited to announce that we have been able to secure another rental location a block north of our current house, allowing a larger portion of our brothers to be living in Beta Sig housing next year.

With the expectation of consistent growth into next year we will continue to look into other housing solutions, and are eager to see what may come of it.

Scholastics: We started this semester as the number 6 house out of 34 IFC Fraternities here at Indiana University with a GPA of 3.27. This semester we have set the bar

even higher with a house GPA goal of 3.5 to allow Omega Chapter to take the number one or two spot scholastically in IFC Fraternities here at IU.

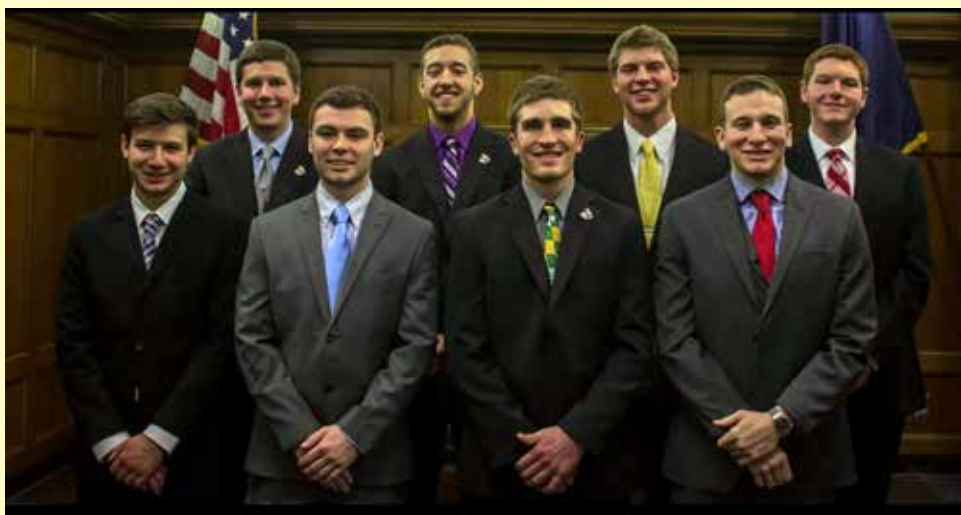
With the addition of our high quality Associate Member class, and the overhaul/transformation of our Scholastic Chair to Membership Development Chair headed by Trent Wagoner, and the addition of our Academic Advisor Professor Paul Brunner, we believe that our goal is very attainable and we look forward to competing for the top academic spot in IFC.

Philanthropy: Omega Chapter has excelled philanthropically this semester as well. Through the leadership of our Philanthropy Chair Will Hughes, our members have been active not only in Greek commu-

nity events, but in the general community as well by participating in events with Habitat for Humanity and other organizations. This semester we started our first annual Car Smash titled "Smash out Homelessness" benefiting Habitat for Humanity. This year we destroyed an old Pontiac Montana minivan.

The event was the first of its kind on campus, and got a lot of attention from the community, allowing Omega Chapter to raise several hundred dollars for Habitat for Humanity.

With these just being some of the highlights of this semester so far, Omega Chapter is enthusiastic about what the future holds.



Omega Chapter Executive Officers



Omega Chapter
Group Photo

Chad Pfister

Active Membership: 1999-2002

Major & Graduation: I graduated in 2002, with a bachelor's of arts in political science.

Memorable Moment as an Active: This question is like being asked to pick your favorite child; there is no good answer. I can't say there is really one most memorable moment. I will never forget the way the chapter came together on September 11 for Jar Jar's 2000 election dance.

One of the most important memories for me though is lavaliering Marci, who is now my wife, at the Gold Rose Formal at the Lake of the Ozarks in 2002.

Family: Marci, wife; Adrian, son, age 7; Hayden, son, age 4

Career & Volunteerism: I am associate circuit judge in Johnson County, Missouri. I handle a wide variety of cases from criminal to civil to domestic. I serve as the probate judge and the juvenile judge for the county.

Running for Office: The possibility of running for public office has always been in the back of my mind since high school. It was not until several years ago that the possibility of running for public office really presented itself.

Running a campaign, especially your first one, is a full-time job on top of the full-time job that you already have. A political campaign is a challenge as it puts every aspect of your life and every relationship you have to the test.

One has to balance work life and family life up against the demands of a campaign. Without a strong support network, and especially a strong family, it would not be possible to go through a campaign.

Beta Sig Experience: One of the greatest things about Beta Sigma Psi is the ability to take on leadership positions at the local and national level at any point in your life.

The opportunities to lead, whether as chapter treasurer or national president, greatly assisted me in undertaking any challenges that I have faced in my personal and professional career.

I had the opportunity to attend the Undergraduate InterFraternity Institute in 2000 on a scholarship. Part of the requirements included attending the National Convention



in Chicago, where I met influential members of Beta Sigma Psi history, brothers like Larry Edwards (Zeta), John Hingst (Beta), Del Karmeier (Alpha).

Coming back from that convention I was motivated to not only have an impact on Iota Chapter but at the national level. Many of the brothers I met at the convention encouraged me to continue my participation with national and were key supporters when I decided to run for national president in 2004. I served as regional vice president 2002-2004 and national president 2004-2010.

Steve Hick

Active Membership: I pledged Beta Sigma Psi on my 18 birthday and arrived at Iota in August 1977. (Elvis died a few days later.) I lived in the house all four years, and as we were often heard saying, "A good time was had by all!"

Major & Graduation: I earned my bachelor's degree in recreation and park administration and graduated in May 1981.

Memorable Moment as an Active: I think one of the most "publishable" moments was the nightly M*A*S*H viewings in Mom Stoic's apartment before dinner. She was such a great housemother and really got to know the guys.

Another memorable moment is when she was escorted into the TV room to meet us new pledges that hot August day. She "read us the riot act", laying down the law on how we were to behave. I still attribute many of my manners and social skills to the life lessons Mom Stoic taught us.

Family: I've been married to my loving and

tolerant wife, Launa, for over 17 years. I have two great children: Shelby, a freshman this year at Denver South High School, and Zachary, a seventh grader at Denver's Merrill Middle School.

Career & Volunteerism: I am a professor in the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Denver. I have been with the University for 21 years. Having initiated a fairly robust Geographic Information System (GIS) program, we now conduct research and offer a certificate of advanced study in GIS and a master of science degree in Geographic Information Science, for both of which I serve as the Academic Director.

I am now on the Beta Sigma Psi National Board of Directors serving as the scholarship director. I've been serving for nearly two years, and I've really enjoyed connecting again with the fraternity and visiting chapter houses.

Beta Sig Experience: Beta Sigma Psi has definitely been a positive force in my life. The brotherhood and camaraderie that forms in a pledge class and carries over into active and alumni life can't be overstated. I love sharing



with family, friends, and colleagues that I still ski every winter with five of my Beta Sig brothers. This brotherhood we commit to will last a lifetime.

As a Beta Sig we have to remain focused on our fraternity's three S's; spiritual, scholarship, and social. We learned to focus on these values as fraternity men, and those values carry over into our personal and professional lives.

We have a responsibility to serve Christ and our community as Christian gentlemen and to pursue lifelong learning in what vocation or calling interests us.



Conner Smith
Iota Chapter Pres.

As the active chapter begins another successful school year, we hope that all of the alumni share our excitement and enthusiasm for the great things Beta Sigma Psi has planned in the coming year.

We welcomed 26 new members this fall. Hats off to our recruitment chairs for their success! With these numbers, Iota Chapter will submit a final roster of over 100 men for the first time in the chapter's history. This number is significant; however, our active chapter is not concerned about the quantity of men we have in the chapter, rather the quality of their character. Thus, the recruitment chairs are already working hard on a new class for next semester.

The active body returned home with excitement to 206 South College Avenue this fall after seeing the chapter house's brand new commercial kitchen. As the representative of the active chapter, I speak on behalf of all of us here in Columbia as we say THANK YOU to all of the alumni who made this possible.

Renovations only make our chapter more appealing and provide a safer environment for our members as our house nears its 100 birthday in a few years. We'd like to give a special thanks to Chris Lohmann and Tony Zehnle for leading the charge on this year's projects.

Homecoming is two weeks earlier this year than it has been in the past, and the active chapter is looking forward to welcoming you back home to Mizzou! It is always fun to visit with alumni during this time and hear your experiences from your days at Beta Sig. We are truly hoping for a great turnout and look forward to seeing you all on October 10!

This summer I reached out to the president of Beta Sigma Psi at the University of Kansas, a chapter that just recolonized a year ago, with the idea of recreating the Border War Rivalry. We both agreed that a friendly competition would benefit both of our chapters, so this fall Iota Chapter will host the First Annual Border War Rivalry Flag Football Game. We're very excited to expand our brotherhood outside of Iota Chapter (and beat up on Kansas).

The active members of Iota Chapter would again like to thank all alumni for your continued support for the fraternity that we all love! It has been a great pleasure to serve as the active president for the past semester, and I'm looking forward to the final semester in this role. If you have questions about anything related to Iota Chapter or Beta Sigma Psi please feel free to contact me (cws7dd@mail.missouri.edu). See you all at Homecoming!

Per Aspera Ad Astra,

Tony Zehnley
Iota Alumni President



With record membership numbers and an unprecedented house improvement initiative underway, these are very exciting times for Iota Chapter.

Thank you to all of the alumni who have made contributions of their time and money to help with the capital campaign and the house improvement effort. Specifically I would like to recognize Chris Lohmann for the significant amount of time and energy that he has devoted to the renovation this summer.

There is just over a year remaining in our capital campaign. The alumni board and a few gracious volunteers are kicking off a final push toward our \$250,000 goal. I am happy to announce that moving forward 100 percent of all donations to the campaign will be tax deductible through the Iota Development Foundation.

Donations to the IDF can be earmarked for the campaign by filling out the form at the end of the Inklings and writing in the memo line, "Attn: Iota Capital Campaign."

Online donations through the alumni website will also be 100 percent tax deductible and forwarded to the IDF. Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity as we approach the final year of our campaign.

Homecoming at Mizzou is coming early this year. The annual alumni homecoming meeting will be at 10 a.m. (9 a.m. if there is a morning football game) on Saturday, October 10.

Please join us for the meeting and take the opportunity to tour the new kitchen. Brunch and beverages will be provided by the alumni board and prepared by our new house cook, Justin. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Per Aspera Ad Astra,
Tony Zehnle, I-548

Editors Note:

The profiles on pages 12 & 13 were copied in tact from the recent Iota ENewsletter. My thanks to the Iota Newsletter Editor for these fine stories.

Delta Chapter

By: Zach Lusinski,
Chapter President

The men of Delta Chapter Beta Sigma Psi here at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln are pleased to announce we have had another successful year here in 2015 with hopes of an even greater future ahead.

This summer gave us a great opportunity for networking and expansion as our recruitment chair Zach Beire worked hard to bring in a fresh set of associate members here to Delta Chapter.

With the biggest incoming class we've seen in over ten years, we are happy to announce the addition of 7 new members to the 2015 fall rush class. With their activation anticipated this coming spring, Delta Chapter will be up to a total of 30 members, a great achievement after graduating 6 members last spring.

We are also pleased to announce our total number of men living in our fraternity house for our second year of occupancy is up to 15, an increase of 6 people from last year.

On campus Delta Chapter continues to be at the top of the scholastics list, becoming known for our academic success. For the past four semesters we have ranked number 1 in GPA out of 23 IFC fraternities with a 3.527 this last fall, which also landed us 5th out of 43 combined fraternities and sororities at the university. With a Grant Moehlenhoff coordinating an effective scholastic policy, we hope to reach a cumulative GPA above a 3.55 for this fall semester, a goal we find to be very achievable.

Other involvement on campus includes participation in Greek Week triads every spring, support of multiple Greek philanthropies on campus, and contribution to our teams every fall in the various Greek homecoming competitions.

We are also very excited to announce Delta chapter had one of our members make the list of candidates for homecoming

royalty this past fall. Brian Klintworth of Seward was one of 20 students here at the university to be a finalist and represented the chapter well as he looked to bring home the crown. Although he was not selected as king, the nomination did not only show a great accomplishment individually, but displayed the type of men we aim to recruit here at Delta. We applaud Brian for the recognition and thank him for his support to the chapter over his semesters at UNL.

Athletically, we have also found great success this past calendar year in our various intramural activities. Although we have not won a title since the spring of 2014, we have had undefeated regular seasons in the B league of both basketball last spring and football this fall.

Runs into the playoffs did not end short as we made it to the third round of basketball losing by only 4 points to end our season last spring, and look to make a run deep into the football post season this year.

Less successful, yet equally enjoyable sports include sand volleyball, softball, and the ever-entertaining broomball. This is a sport similar to, but instead of hockey sticks, players are given rubber paddles fixed to the end of broomsticks, and are used to hit a ball into the opponents goal. With no feel for the icy terrain, we have never had much success at winning the matches, but each game is always a conversation piece at every meeting.

We hope to keep the continued success of the past semesters going into the 2016 calendar year. With high expectations for recruitment and academics we know Delta chapter has a bright and positive future ahead.

None of this would be possible without a great alumni support so we thank them for all the time and dedication they continue to pour into the active chapter. They are a true representation of what it means to be a fraternity member for life.



Delta Chapter attendees at MEF displaying their many awards won by their Chapter.



Fall 2015 Delta Chapter Activation Ceremony

Zeta Chapter

By: Andrew Foerster,
Chapter President

The men of Zeta Chapter are very excited with the current direction that the house is moving. We were very excited to activate 11 new members into Zeta Chapter this past January. We are making many great strides to make sure that we are the best fraternity that we can possibly be.

This past spring we made a very large stride in the area of scholarship. With about 40 members, including both in and out of house members, we received a cumulative GPA of 3.15 for the spring semester. That is a GPA that the house was very pleased with.

We were also excited to find out that our GPA ranked 10th on campus among 29 fraternities. This is something that we can use to aid us in recruitment this spring. The active body has set a goal of a 3.2 GPA for this fall semester.

On the recruitment side of things we are very confident in the strength of our recruitment program. Our current fall associate class has 20 associate members and they have been absolutely outstanding so far through the semester. This is one of the strongest new member classes that I have seen since I have been a member of Beta Sigma Psi.

For this spring's recruitment our goal is to add 8 new members. If you have any men that you know that are currently at K-State that you think would be a good fit for our spring class please feel free to email or call Matt Hanson our recruitment chair **His phone number is 913-499-9974 and his email is mphanson@k-state.edu**.

Also we are starting to get names of guys that will be freshman in the fall. If you know anyone that is coming to K-State in the fall feel that would be a good fit for Zeta Chapter please feel free to email or call our recruitment chair for next semester **John Works**. **His phone number is 785-230-6930 and his email is jb-works@k-state.edu**.

Zeta Chapter also continues with its on campus involvement and also involvement within the Greek Community. We continue to support other Greek Chapters by participating in many different philanthropy throughout campus. We are currently working on planning philanthropies for the next spring.

This fall we hosted our Bubble Soccer Philanthropy. We had a great turnout with 14 sorority teams and 4 fraternity teams participating in the event. It was a lot of fun and is an event that we will look to try and start as an annual event.

I would also like to take this moment on behalf of Zeta Chapter to thank all of the alumni for all of the support that you have given us. We look forward to doing everything we can to continue to make Zeta Chapter the best fraternity that it can be.

We would not be able to do everything that we do without such a strong network of alumni support. Everything that is being done through the Capital Campaign drive has already made a huge impact on Zeta Chapter.



Zeta Assoc. Member Class Fall 2015

First Row: Trent Pirner, Wichita, KS; – Josh Smothers, Manhattan, KS; – Trevor Frankenfield, Olathe, KS – Zach Barkoviak Olathe, KS – Tyler Brennecke, Olathe, KS;

Second Row: Austin Crowder, Olathe, KS; – Charles Shockley, Lawson, MO; – Jacob Burrow, Overland Park, KS; – Jake Jones, Kansas City, KS; – Brian Kassin, Lenexa, KS; – Byron Ashley, Topeka, KS;

Not Pictured: Bryan Willis, Udall, KS; Daniel Rowland, Overland Park, KS; – Drew Surface, Topeka, KS; – Josh Kohl, Overland Park, KS; – Josh Springer, Derby, KS; – Michael Devoe, Topeka, KS; – Shane Davis, Salina, KS

Zeta Chapter Exec Board:

From Left to Right:

Jorge Soto-Gomez – 2nd Vice President,
Brandon Keller – 1st Vice President,
Andrew Foerster – President,
Matt Hanson – Recruitment Chair,
Riley Clark – Scholarship Chair,
Adam Osheim - Secretary



Manhattan Alumni Complete Successful Capital Campaign

By: Jim Folkerts - Campaign Director

This is an article from the Fall 2015 Manhattan Alumni Chapter Newsletter



Dear Brothers,

It is with great pleasure that I announce on behalf of our campaign committee the successful completion of the last span of our bridge, the largest and most fruitful capital campaign in the history of Zeta Chapter. Thanks to your magnanimous donations, as of September 30, 2015, our campaign reached \$908,620, subject to final audit, or 91% of goal. (Current pledges are at \$930,000+/-) That's a remarkable achievement! If you would still like to make a contribution or increase your donation, it's not too late.

Donations continue to flow in and are heartily welcomed by a grateful alumni board and active chapter. We have been truly blessed. This is an accomplishment that couldn't have been completed without the generous contributions of so many alumni coupled with the hard work and loyal dedication from the more than 30 alumni volunteers that made this very successful campaign outcome possible. Our final participation rate was 27.2% against our goal of 25%. 193 brothers generously contributed to this campaign. In addition, 10 widows and friends also contributed. This level of participation is historical and unparalleled for fraternal groups, and speaks volumes about the caring spirit of our brotherhood. You should be very proud of this level of involvement. To place this achievement into proper perspective, fraternal fund raisers historically average only 10 – 11% alumni participation.

A very large national fraternal fund raising consultant suggests a maximum 15% target participation rate at best. So pat yourselves on the back, and again, a hearty THANK YOU to all that participated and made this campaign such a success. And a special tribute of gratitude to Larry Erickson and Phil Krug who generously agreed to support the matching challenge for our campaign.

It is also important to reiterate that our campaign chose to avoid the use of an outside fraternal fund raising consultant with an estimated savings of about \$150,000. All funds raised, therefore, will go directly to house improvements, scholarships and debt reduction.

It has been over a year and one-half since the Manhattan Alumni Chapter President, Phil Krug, Larry Edwards, Jim Folkerts and Lowell Gordon convened in Denver to formulate a strategy and plans that resulted in the Zeta Chapter Capital Campaign which kicked off July 1, 2014.

The outcome of this meeting led to the establishment of a unified goal to raise \$1 Million from our 710 active alumni base over an intensive twelve month period. Our campaign theme, Building A Bridge To Tomorrow, was established for the express purpose of providing future young Zeta Brothers with the same wonderful opportunity we were once blessed to experience at Zeta. An environment to grow Socially, Scholastically and Spiritually. Of course these are the three pillars of our unique Christian Fraternity.

A final note of thanks. Without the foresight, wisdom and determination of our local Manhattan alumni leadership to guide a revitalization of Zeta Chapter, this campaign would not have occurred nor would the active chapter have flourished as it has.

Zeta Chapter is thriving and it is once again a major fraternity on campus. Zeta Chapter's remarkable turnaround success story became the cornerstone for the launch of this initiative.

The next time you see Phil Krug, the Zeta MAC Board members, and Larry Erickson, please tell them THANK YOU for their leadership in securing our wonderful brotherhood for future generations. Finally, please consider a role that you might play in keeping our fraternity great for future generations. God bless Beta Sigma Psi.

MAC Capital Campaign To Be Fully Documented

By: Gary Raffety

The successful MAC Capital Campaign recently completed, spanned nearly 18 months, starting with the initial strategy meetings in Denver in early spring of 2004 until the final days of the campaign in late fall of 2005.

At the outset, the initial team was selected, then expanded to include regional coordinators. The coordinators were provided with their regional boundaries and given a list of the alumni living within their region. Then two training sessions were held in Manhattan prior to the June 1st kickoff date.

During the early months of planning, many full color publications and special pledge cards were designed and prepared by yours truly for distribution to the alumni. Special letterhead and pre-addressed envelopes were printed in preparation for the start of the campaign. Then a large packet was assembled and mailed to all the alumni, containing the color documents, a letter from the director, pledge cards, return envelope, and other materials This officially kicked off the campaign.

During the campaign itself, the directors held twice monthly conference calls to discuss the status quo and to strategize future moves Hundreds of emails were sent back and forth during the campaign and dozens of phone calls were made weekly between individuals. Communication was very good.

Much of this information is being preserved and documented in a MAC booklet that we are going to produce real soon. Also, PowerPoint presentations will be available. This is likely to be one of the best documented campaigns ever done, as we are documenting all phases of the process.

We are doing this for Zeta Chapter in anticipation of another campaign sometime out into the future when all of us old guys are no longer around to tell our story. This will be available to other chapters for their use if desired.

Contact Phil Krug or Gary Raffety with the MAC Board of directors and we will get you in contact with the right people if you wish to discuss our campaign.

Zeta Founder Ken Gnadt '51 Still Going Strong at 83.

By: Gary Raffety '62 Editor

Ken Gnadt began his life on a small 60 acre farm located 8 miles SE of Paxico, KS. When he was 3 years old, his parents sold the farm and purchased the Alma, Kansas Hotel. His mother managed the hotel and his father started a J I Case Implement Business and traded for horses and mules. This was the families' way of life until the war years. In 1943, Ken's parents sold the Hotel and the Implement business and went back to farming. His father rented for cash or share and had the reputation of being a very progressive farmer.

Ken attended public grade school through the 6th grade, but went to the local Lutheran Parochial school in the 7th and 8th grades. While a student in Alma High School, Ken was active in FFA (after 4 H), baseball, basketball and track. His Senior year, Ken had an urge to buy a new car, so he sold 17 Angus calves and ordered a 1950 Chevy Hardtop – the first year for this model, and also the first of it's kind in the County. Ken used his car to chase after the local girls in Alma and the surrounding towns within a 25 to 30 mile radius. Ken must have been a real ladies man during this period of his life.



Before Ken graduated from high school, the principal of Alma HS encouraged Ken to attend K-State, and he did. Ken's cousin Harvey Arand '51, Z-014 was a Vet Student at KSU at the time and he encouraged Ken to join the Syconia Club (which became Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity the following year). Ken joined Syconia and the next year became a founding member of the fraternity. Ken studied Agriculture and eventually graduated with a bachelor's and master's degree in Animal Science.

But while a student at K-State, Ken tried out for the basketball team but was dropped in the last cut, just missing the 15 man roster by 2 players. Ken didn't give up, he tried out for the track team in the low and high hurdles, but again, he missed out on the final cut. Finally, Ken found his place, he became a member of the Pershing Rifle Team that was very competitive in the then Big 7 Conference.

At the end of his freshman year, Ken met his future wife Bonnie. She was the drum majorette with the Manhattan High School Band which was performing at half time of the K-State Homecoming Game. The following summer (in 1952), after Bonnie

graduated from high school, Ken and Bonnie (Bonita) Brannagan married. Following graduation, Ken entered the US Air Force as a 2nd Lieutenant to serve a 3 year commitment. He was sent to Chanute Field, Chanute KS, for Aircraft Maintenance Training. Following maintenance school he was stationed at Smoky Hill AF Base in Salina, KS. The Korean War was winding down and Ken got lucky and was released from the service after just 2 years. Following the service, he went home to Alma and helped his father on the farm, but after a couple of years, things were not too good, so both Ken and his father went into sales with a local Coop, which would later become Farmland Industries. After a few years in sales, Ken moved into banking, becoming an agricultural loan officer for the First National Bank in Alma, Kansas. While working at the bank, he entered a summer graduate program at the Univ. of Wisconsin and after 3 summers of study, received a graduate degree in banking.

Operating the family farm with his father, Ken had first hand experience to bring to a career in agriculture. Beginning in agricultural sales for Farmland Industries, followed by a few years of banking in Alma, then a number of years with Nutrena Feeds in Fort Worth, Texas, Sioux City, Iowa and Grand Island, Ken became an expert in his field. On special assignment for Cargill Japan Inc. in Tokyo, Japan, Ken conducted a national study of the animal feed business leading to a multi-million dollar feed mill. During his career in business, Ken and his family spent almost seven years in Taiwan where he saw firsthand the importance of Nebraska's economic partnership with Taiwan. In 2003, he was appointed by Secretary of State John Gale as Representative for General Assembly of the Taiwan-United States sister Relations Alliance.

Serving as the Mayor of Grand Island from 1994 to 2002, Ken was instrumental in securing the I-80 South Locust Interchange, instituting the Wood River Flood Control Project, launching the first "Hike and Bike Trails" in the area, and promoting the building of the Heartland Events Center.

As Mayor, Ken worked to keep the Case-IH manufacturing plant located in his community. During his term as Mayor, Ken served as President of the Nebraska League of Municipalities. A Rotarian for over 50 years, Ken has been honored by Rotary International, the Nebraska Diplomats, the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Island International Visitors and the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival. Ken has been an active volunteer in numerous organizations. He has served as a board member for Husker Harvest Days, the Nebraska Nature and Visitor Center and Saint Francis Medical Center Foundation. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Stuhr Museum, the Nebraska Children's Ground Water Festival, the Hall County Historical Society and Former Park. He is on the advisory boards for the Grand Island Independent and the Grand Island Public Schools Superintendent.

As a member of the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce Committee, Ken was active in promoting Grand Island as the new location for the Nebraska State Fair. He was co-chairman of the effort to raise funds from private, corporate and charitable foundations to secure the location of the Fair to Grand Island.

Recognizing his contributions to agriculture and agribusiness and service to his community and the State at large, the NEBRASKALAND Foundation honored Ken Gnadt as the 2012 Distinguished NEBRASKALANDer.

Ken's career has stretched from agricultural trade and commerce to local government. He has worked successfully in the heart land of America and the Far East, Japan and Taiwan. Ken has accomplished much in his life and we are extremely proud to call him a Beta Sig Brother.

Awards & Achievements

2006 - Nebraska Diplomats - A state wide group of Manufacturing CEO's (75)

2012 - Nebraskalander Award - Previous winners:

- '82 - Tom Osborne, '87 - Pres. Gearld Ford
- '92 - V. P. Dick Cheney '93 - Bob Deaney
- '94 - Peter G. Peterson '97 - Sen. James J. Exon

2006 - Lifetime friends of the State Fair Award;

Presented by the State Fair Foundation

Ken was Co-Chair for the Million Dollar Fund raiser for City of Grand Island and the local County, to raise money to bring the State Fair to Grand Island. They raised over 1.4 Million with 3 year pledges, with no defaults.



Left: Rotary International President, Gary Huang; Middle: Alen Beermann, NE Press Assoc. Right: Ken Gnadt, Former Sec. of State

Epsilon Chapter

By: Dan Jacobi - E-873
Chapter President

It has been a great 2015 for Epsilon Chapter so far, and we look forward to continuing that as we welcome 21 new members this fall to help build off of last semester's successes.

Academics are on the up-swing, as we posted a 3.10 GPA last semester, good for eighth in the community out of 30 fraternities. In addition, our new member class had the third highest GPA among new member classes in the community last fall. We started a new philanthropy this past semester called Sunset Cookout.

It was a joint effort with Phi Beta Chi, our sister sorority, and we were able to raise \$2,000 for Wounded Warrior Project and Bethesda Lutheran Communities. The current plan is to continue this philanthropy in addition to our annual Beta Sig Brunch, which was on September 27th and raised an additional \$2,025.

In addition to our philanthropic efforts, we have also worked towards continuing to serve the Ames and Iowa State communities. Epsilon Chapter was awarded the Outstanding Commitment to Service Award this past year by the Student Activities Center for having the best service program among the over 800 student organizations on campus.

Members participated in Habitat for Humanity build days, volunteered at the Northcrest Retirement Community in Ames, and continued to stay heavily involved at Memorial Lutheran Church.

Epsilon Chapter has also continued its push towards getting members involved on campus, and currently has members involved on the Interfraternity Council, the Emerging Greek Leadership Council, Freshman Leaders in Engineering, Business Council, and several other organizations on campus.

It's been a very busy and successful year so far. Thanks again to all of the parents and alumni for their continued support of the chapter. We really do appreciate it. Feel free to stop by the house during Home-coming or anytime you're in the area!

House Mom - 'MOM B' - Councils Men of Epsilon

By: House Mom - Mom B

The population of Ames has grown in just a few weeks with 36,001 students arriving on campus. The hustle and bustle of summer being over and the fall semester starting is bringing new faces and ideas to Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity. Twenty-one new freshmen have arrived and settled in. They have become a part of the daily routine of meetings, kitchen and house duties. We have a total of fifty three men in the house this fall. All of the men have gotten back into using their time well with priorities on classes and assignments.

Parents visited the house on Parent's Day which was on September 26th. Plans are being made for Dad's Day on October 17th. Our annual philanthropy, Beta Sig Brunch, was held on Sunday, September 27th. John and the men were ready for the hungry crowd to arrive. John's (Cookie) famous cinnamon rolls were a hit this year yet again. Campus activities offer opportunities to get involved. Yell Like Hell has started with Homecoming to follow. Yard displays need to be made, serenading, band activities, singing in choruses, various clubs on campus and interest groups leaves little time for video games!!!!

These are amazing men, ready for EVERYTHING!!!! They are men learning the roles of leaders. They have character and values, also, the abilities and desires to learn. Beta Sig Men have the energy and passion with God's inspiration to accomplish worthwhile goals. 2132 Sunset Drive is a wonderful place to be. Come and see us. You will be inspired.

Blessings,
Mom B



Watch out!! The men of Epsilon Chapter are rubbing and bumping and having an absolute blast at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, MO.



Above: Beta Sigs got down and dirty to help clean up a portion of Highway 30 during the Annual Highway Clean Up day.

Recruitment Updates

By: Nathan Hollander E-894

Recruitment had a successful last summer bringing in 21 new members. 15 of these members have taken up residence in the house and 6 members will be living out of house. This new recruitment class is built around a mixture of different personalities that can hopefully continue to improve the fraternity.



One thing the fraternity tried to recruit hard on this summer was service, in an effort to try to promote more service participation by the members of the fraternity. Hopefully these 21 will prove to us that they have what it takes to become members of Beta Sigma Psi and become active members of the chapter.

Recruitment also had an exciting start to the school year picking up several contacts at Iowa State's Fall Fraternity Recruitment (FFR) event. We are excited to get the guys from FFR over to the house to try to continue to build upon the foundation that we already have here at the chapter.

I look forward to being able to continue to recruit during the school year and to possibly add a spring pledge class. We are still trying to decide as a chapter whether a spring pledge class is in our best interest, but even if it doesn't happen, I hope we can continue to add great men to the fraternity in the upcoming year.

This coming summer holds a lot of excitement for me as I will get to select the guys for next year's pledge class and try to continue to improve the image of Beta Sigma Psi at Iowa State. I'm hoping to continue to pursue good Christian gentlemen that will be able to take Beta Sigma Psi to new heights both on campus and within the fraternity.



Members of Epsilon Chapter having a blast during Sorority Serenade

Intramurals and Athletics

By: Ben Halley - Athletic Chair

The men of Beta Sigma Psi have been exceptionally involved in intramurals and athletics, and we are only in our third week of classes! Out of 8 intramurals, we have at least one team in 6 of them.



Almost all of the fraternity has gotten involved, with 40 individuals on at least one team, and I expect that number to grow as the year continues and more intramurals present themselves.

The most popular sports are Ultimate Frisbee and Flag Football, with 21 and 22 men involved, respectfully. Not only that, but the teams we have fielded bring successful runs, with one of the more surprising successes being a team in curling that is currently in the semi-finals of the tournament. Beta Sigma Psi has a definite presence in intramural sports, and we will continue this trend of involvement throughout the academic year.

Scholarship Report

BY: Jake Vanderslice, E-847

Beta Sigma Psi has once again proven itself within the Greek community, which is now home to over 60 different Greek letter organizations. Last spring the men of Epsilon chapter achieved a cumulative chapter GPA of a 3.10, placing 8th within the IFC community! This was well above the IFC fraternity average of a 3.01 and the "all men's undergrad average" of a 2.94.

We are also proud to announce that 14 members achieved a GPA above a 3.50 and were recognized on the Dean's List! We would also like to congratulate the members who graduated in May and have found jobs in locations all over Iowa and anywhere from New Orleans to Minneapolis! Many of the undergraduate members also had a successful summer with internships all over the Midwest! And finally, there will be four seniors graduating in December!

Epsilon chapter has also seen some recent updates to the facility to better serve scholastic achievement. Some recent additions to the chapter house include updated printers for the library, second and third floor.

Another scholastic improvement has been the addition of a 10 foot white board within the library. Looking ahead, we are very optimistic about the fall semester and have set a chapter goal to be first place within the IFC community!

When I was elected president in April, I was worried that with an already busy engineering schedule, I wouldn't have time to accomplish everything that Nu Chapter wanted to do.

What I didn't count on, however, was the overwhelming support I received from other members, including the freshmen. I am honored to represent such a hard-working and dedicated group of young men.

When I helped found Beta Sig with only four members just two short years ago, I never could have imagined that we would grow to our current size of 27 members, be hosting successful philanthropies on campus and have such a diverse group of leaders in such a short time. As long as we continue to attract more committed members, the our future looks bright.

Nu Colony Letter From The President

By: John Lesko

Letter from a Member

by: David Chacon

As a first generation college student, I had no idea what to expect of college. As legend had it, the infamous Calculus soon dominated all my studies and the famed freshman 15 pounds was a concern. But not all the stereotypes about KU were correct. As a senior in high school,



I had minimal interest in joining Greek life. I had the negative connotation of Greek life being about nothing but terrible hazing obligations and constant party environments,

but that stereotype could not have been any more wrong once I found Beta Sigma Psi.

One day, I came across one of my fellow classmates from high school, James Nguyen, while playing soccer at the Rec Center. He invited me to play soccer with his team, which I later found out was actually made up of his fellow brothers in Beta Sig. I had a blast playing competitively while getting to know the guys.

After that, James invited me to several other events, such as a brotherhood dinner at Burger Stand, where I was introduced to a majority of the other members of Beta Sig. I immediately felt welcomed and at home with the guys. I could tell, Beta Sig was an organization I wanted to be a part of. I then had the privilege of receiving a bid to join the fraternity.

Since then, Beta Sigma Psi has given me the opportunity not to just meet new friends and connections in social events, but to be more active in the KU community as a whole.

I have participated in many Greek events as well as volunteered with the Humane Society and Habitat for Humanity. More importantly, they have also pushed me to excel in every way possible: scholastically, socially and spiritually.

They treat me as if I truly have an equal voice among the members and give me the opportunity to make decisions for the future of the organization. As a result, Beta Sig has really started to mold me into a man of the greatest nobility, and I am truly honored to be a part of Beta Sigma Psi.

Reaching Nu Heights

written by James Crowder and Hunter Senior

This summer, members of Nu Colony ventured west for Beta Sigma Psi's annual Leadership Retreat. Members Hunter Senior and James Crowder joined national leadership consultant John Hatfield as well as brothers from across Beta Sig chapters for the retreat on Mount Evans in Colorado.

After long days of travel, the young men spent what was left of their days cooking dinner together and resting up for the days to come.

The following day was spent diving into bible study and leadership programming on honesty and integrity, and issues facing fraternities nationally, such as retention and risk management. The young men were encouraged to understand themselves better, in order to recognize and pursue their goals as leaders more effectively.

John Hatfield reminded them of one of his favorite quotes by Norman Schwarzkopf: "Ninety-nine percent of leadership failures are failures of character." These words set the tone for the weekend and the learning to come.

The evening was spent in brotherhood and bonding as they prepared for their trek up Mount Evans. At 14,265 feet tall, it was daunting, but an attainable challenge for the young men. The men rose with the sun and summited the mountain by noon.

The descent saw disaster when John Hatfield hurt his ankle and was no longer able to walk on it. With a team effort though, everybody was able to make it down from the mountain safely, and otherwise free from harm. The trip was a success, and Hunter and James have already imparted many of the lessons that they learned in Colorado onto the next generation of Nu Colony leaders and send more members to conquer the montains in the future.



Recruiting at the Royals Game

by Colton Lagerman - Nu Colony

For the first recruitment event during the summer of 2015, the members of Beta Sigma Psi travelled to Kauffman Stadium for a day of baseball and brotherhood as the Royals hosted the Texas Rangers.

Members of KU Beta Sigma Psi, potential new members, and other members from the Kansas State and Missouri chapters gathered to tailgate and enjoy the Royals game that was taking place later that afternoon. Everyone arrived early to socialize, cook hamburgers and hotdogs and enjoy the warm summer day.

The current members had a chance to catch up with their friends from Kansas State and Missouri, and it was a great opportunity for potential new members to meet the current members and talk to them about Beta Sigma Psi and becoming a member for the upcoming school year.

It also provided an opportunity to learn what the fraternity was like from the perspective of members at the other universities. As the game neared, everyone entered the already crowded Kauffman Stadium to find their seats. The group sat together in the upper level and enjoyed a 4-3 Royals victory over the Rangers to cap off an already outstanding day.



Group Photo At the "K" before the Game

Tailgating with the Parents

By: Jason Kor

Late in September on a brisk Saturday morning, Beta Sigs and their parents came together for a pot-luck breakfast and breakfast tailgate before the KU football game that afternoon. We enjoyed spending the morning with our fraternity brothers' families. It was a great experience to get to know the people that raised our best friends. Getting a real breakfast for once wasn't too bad, either. All the food was delicious, and was a nice change for many of the members to have a home cooked meal for once this semester. Fan favorites included Anne Lesko's breakfast casserole and Wendy Kor's breakfast ham sliders.



Thanks to all the parents who provided food or beverages to share that morning. Overall, the event was well attended and well received. Although the Jayhawks could not pull out a win on the football field, the tailgate was definitely a success. All of the Beta Sig's that were there thoroughly enjoyed the morning. We look forward to many more opportunities to get parents and family involved at KU and hope to make this parents tailgate an annual tradition.

Nu Colony Initiation Ceremony

by James Nguyen

On October 24, 2015, Ty, Mariel, Armin, Cameron, Tanner, Matthew (not pictured) and I became official active members in the Nu Chapter. While I cannot speak about the specific events that took place during the initiation process, the excitement for the days leading up to the event was indescribable.

I had heard stories of sketchy initiation events from other fraternities around the nation. I remember talking with Tanner about what could happen to us at the initiation, we became nervous; however, I trusted my founding fathers, and that trust paid off. The process went by smoothly. After the initiation, I realized I had gained a new sense of pride and accomplishment. It also reaffirmed the three pillars that Beta Sigma Psi follows.

As an active member for the fraternity, I can now focus on developing the fraternity to its fullest potential and inspire others to follow the leadership of the chapter. This whole process would not be possible without the tremendous support from our home church community at Good Shepherd, the teachings of the leadership members of the Beta Sigma Psi national organization and the members who went through this process in the past

This moment will forever be one of the best of my life and I am excited to participate in future initiations for incoming members, so they too can feel as deeply connected to the fraternity and its brothers as I now do.



An International Perspective

by Yuxuan Wu

Being a Beta Sig means a lot to me. In fact, it means more than I ever thought it would. First of all, it means that I made the right decision to follow my instinct and join even though I was told by many people that it would not be right for me. It also means that I have finally found a sense of belonging, which is hard to find in a foreign country.

Last but surely not least, during the philanthropy events and community service I have the opportunity to be involved with now that I am a Beta Sig, I've realized that I truly have the ability to do something positive for this world. As an international student from China, living and studying in a different country is far from easy. I had to overcome a daunting language barrier and figure out a new educational system. Besides that, I also had to overcome the extra levels of pressure that adds to my everyday life. Before I came to the United States from my hometown of Guangzhou, I watched a lot of American movies and read a lot of English books in order to improve my English and help me to get to know more about the American culture. In some of those movies and books, I learned about fraternities at American universities, but most of that information was negative. All I heard about fraternities from other Chinese students who had visited the United States was negative. Many of the things they mentioned included excessive alcohol and drug use, wild party accidents and new member abuses.

When I started showing interest in joining Beta Sigma Psi at the beginning of this semester, none of my fellow international students or other friends supported me. Since I am from a different country and grew up in a totally different culture, no one believed that I could truly fit in at a fraternity. After I told my family I wanted to join, they were scared. This was mainly because I have an aunt who has been living in the United States in Maryland for over 13 years, and when I told her about my desire to join, she did not want me to join a fraternity because she also heard some bad news and was aware of recent scandals involving fraternities at American universities, so she was very worried about me.

Although no one supported me, I still believed that I should find the truth about American fraternities by myself. After attending a couple events with Beta Sigma Psi, I soon found out that the truth was not like what I had heard before; everyone in Beta Sigma Psi is very warm and genuine. However, after Beta Sigma Psi interviewed me, I did not think I would be accepted. After all, we still had some differences in culture and I was not sure if I was good enough to become a Beta Sig. Fortunately, I successfully became a Beta Sig. That was a great honor to be asked to join, and I accepted immediately once I was given the chance. Beta Sigma Psi is very different from other fraternities because they never treat the new members differently than they would an older member. I enjoy being pushed by Beta Sigma Psi to become a better person and have a positive effect on society. I am so glad I made the decision to join and can't imagine what my college experience would be like without it.



Beta Sigma Psi



Associate Members

132

Active Members

287

Average GPA

3.12/4.00

Membership

+22%
YTD Over 2014

Noun Project Icons by milky-Digital Innovations, Arthur Shalin, Jasmin Jones, Gonzalo Bravo, & Nathan Driskell

Alcohol - Hazing Lead to Death of Fraternities

Restructuring

Reprinted with permission from "The Beta Theta Pi" magazine, Convention 1997 issue, by John Carter-North

"Every year during pledging we had a Rag Man (RM). The RM's job was to humiliate and browbeat the pledges," a young alumnus confided to an older brother. "At line-ups, the RM would tell me how stupid I was and ridicule me about everything from grades to politics. Even after I was activated he was a jerk. That was his job. I disliked him then and I dislike him now."

A chapter of Beta Theta Pi? Yes

A pledge education program with complete hazing? Yes When will it ever end? Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

That chapters fade to near extinction is a sorry analysis, with the RM or a similar example, one of a host of contorted propositions that become "the way things are done" in chapters about to go under.

The Cycle

It is a losing cycle: alumni shy away from chapters which are primarily dependent on alcohol and social life for brotherhood. The chapter evolves into something unrecognizable — Beta in name only, often creating and building upon local rituals and hazing year after year.

Without sufficient genuine Beta brotherhood to sustain a clean house, members choose to live elsewhere. Ultimately, declining numbers bring the house corporation into the foray.

On any given Saturday, house corporation members enter Beta houses to find evidence of a chapter in ruins: "Where are the real Betas?" they ask. "How does a chapter ebb to such a point? Is the front door about to be locked?"

"Many chapters become dysfunctional cultures," said Don DiPaolo, Michigan '78,

sociology instructor at Michigan, former chapter counselor and district chief, currently one of 22 members of Beta's Strategic Vision Steering Committee. "Good people do bad things, and this climate feeds itself," DiPaolo noted. He describes a culture that places alcohol — euphemistically called "social" — first.

He talks about chapters that haze, then wonder why the brotherhood is too weak to maintain fundamentals — finances, a clean house, grades. He talks about individuals placing themselves ahead of the group:

"I'm 21, and I can drink anywhere I want."

"We were hazed, and that's a part of being a Beta."

"I already spent my time cleaning the house."

"Nationals are just Beta police. We've got to keep them off our backs."

The Road Back

How chapters recover is intriguing and complex. Some never rebound. Nebraska, Michigan, Purdue, and Colorado State all recoiled from various precipices of oblivion to renewed greatness and have done so with uncommon brotherhood and leadership from alumni and undergraduates alike — and via very different paths.

John Henry, Nebraska '70, found a once-strong Alpha Tau chapter at Nebraska awash in the typical dregs when social functions (read alcohol) dominate: a thin attachment to Beta Theta Pi, a disorganized and apathetic brotherhood, little or no contact with alumni and an unclean house. Though some wanted to close the chapter, John thought changes could be made to keep it open.

"I felt that Nebraska first needed dedicated alumni who believed in and lived by our three great principles," said John, who was asked to head the house corporation in 1995, "and we spent much time re-dedicating and recommitting ourselves to the principles and objects. It was not easy because many alumni had lost sight of themselves," he added.

Four Criteria

Four premises arose from the alumni training, and they guided restructuring:

1. Alumni and undergraduates must know the ritual and principles and must use them in working toward acceptable chapter standards.
2. Alumni must believe in and practice the principles.
3. Undergraduates must agree to the principles..... or leave.
4. Alumni must have the resolve not to allow the chapter to lower its standards.

A Nebraska alumnus who worked for the Gallup Poll was called upon. He developed 17 objective questions which formed the core of a review process. Undergraduates who "scored" below a certain level were not invited to return. Those who remained formed the core of the newly structured chapter.

Lambda chapter at Michigan and Beta Mu at Purdue both accumulated problems similar to Nebraska's but approached the crisis through different doors.

"We asked every undergraduate to return to school a week early to participate in a week-long retreat facilitated by General Fraternity Education Consultants (formerly called Chapter Management Consultants) Jayson Gaddis and Forrest Green and dedicated alumni," DiPaolo said. "We felt we could educate them out of the mess they were in," he added.

Purdue's Core of Brothers

Beta Mu at Purdue was dealt a new hand by the university.

"When Purdue banned kegs, our chapter crumbled," said Nick Economos, Purdue '93, "because we could no longer have our weekly parties with sororites, and week-ends were impossible without kegs. I

t was the end of the line. Brothers had joined a party house, and now it was impossible to party without kegs." It was a familiar scenario usually described as "like cultures recruit like cultures."

Kegs. Those chilled, shimmering aluminum gods — dare we say it? — seemed to have replaced the Beta principles.

Nebraska reviewed 53 members and 40 were not invited to return. Following the retreat, Michigan lost many members but, like Nebraska, had a committed and "fired

up" core group at the end really the beginning.

The undergraduates who remained designed their own pledge education program, void of hazing and anything less than solid, genuine Beta spirit — and Lambda's spring '97 newsletter, an eight-page, full-size newspaper with 26 articles, spills over with Beta enthusiasm and pride.

A lead article lists their accomplishments since the first of the year: first in Greek Week, first in intramurals, a Lambda IFC president and an invitation from the General Fraternity to present their pledge education program at the 158th General Convention. They did so to great applause.

Steve Petrevsky '98, Michigan vice president and rush chair said, "When we wrote down what we wanted in our pledge program, Jayson and Forrest helped us realize that hazing was the backward way to get where we wanted to go.

By working our new program, we took the second largest pledge class ever. The program is simple and positive, and it has brought the house together."

"It's amazing to see," said Michigan's District Chief Paul Puckett, East Carolina '89. "They have a superior pledge education program which has caused a change in attitude. The trust has to be there with the officers first, and at Michigan it was."

Further West

Several members of Colorado State's Epsilon Kappa chapter were expelled from the General Fraternity following hazing and alcohol violations serious enough to warrant university and General Fraternity sanctions. Pledges were initiated immediately to avoid the possibility of more hazing. Morale was low.

"A few older members of the house decided to step up and take the initiative to rebuild our once-strong chapter," said Steve O'Doriso '98. "Together with the new actives they set some goals and worked to achieve them," he added. The goals?

1. To get the charter back.
2. To work toward a good relationship with the General Fraternity and the university.
3. To regain its place as one of the strongest houses on campus.

Designing a new pledge program without the mixture of alcohol and hazing— as Michigan had — created a new and proud attitude. Owning up to past mistakes, the brothers of Epsilon Kappa create and enforced new risk management policies which have worked. The core group and the newer initiates have made a difference.

The new pride has inspired members to run for campus positions. Steve O'Doriso was elected student body president last spring. Justin Bell '98 was elected IFC president; Eric Lovett '98, IFC secretary/treasurer; Pete Beckmann, IFC assistant rush coordinator, and the student government director of finance is John Gregory '98.

"We are feeling good about our progress and feel more united than ever," Steve concluded.

Empowered by Beta Principles

Purdue? Thanks to the kegs — or rather the absence of them — those only interested in kegs left, leaving a core group empowered with Beta principles, a credit to Nick Economos and his successors and other officers and brothers who could see the Three Stars through the haze of the past.

Scott Hayes, Purdue '67, a member of the Purdue house board for 20 years, said, "The important thing for alumni to do is to get to know the responsible kids. Reward them for successes. Get them to be leaders. But they have to know what's expected."

Paul Puckett put it this way: "Tell 'em what you want and then stand behind it." Bill Peterson, Michigan '96, now an EC for the General Fraternity, offered a perspective:

"Restructuring is difficult because brothers join one kind of house and changing it into another — especially without alcohol — makes it a different culture altogether."

Hazing caused a division in my chapter. I fought against it. Then I'd be fighting against the pledges I had fought for the year before."

Hazing doesn't empower or form a close bond. It divides. Hazing, coupled with free-flowing alcohol, makes for a diluted and deluded brotherhood.

That style of brotherhood can last only so long before its structure must be given the vitality of encouraged alumni, the Beta

principles, and undergraduates who sense that it's the right thing.

And now, Alpha

A football field away from where the Founders signed Beta Theta Pi into preeminence in college fraternities is the Alpha chapter.

After several tough years, a recolonization was begun on July 15, 1997, with the initial orientation by Martin Cobb, EKU '96 and Bill Peterson, Michigan '96, EC's intent on making Alpha strong again.

From a chapter size of more than 75, the restructured group numbers 38, mostly sophomores, with a bright future ahead of them.

"The new Alpha has the potential to be a superior Beta chapter, and quickly," Cobb said enthusiastically. "In all my work at the NIC and with other chapters of the Fraternity, I have never seen a chapter with leadership talent spread so well within the group."

Restructuring isn't punishment; it is all about identifying those who want to put a chapter back on the right track.

"Simply stated, restructuring is a function of self-governance and responsible leadership in the chapter," noted General Secretary Jerry Blesch, Centre '60.

"We have felt in most cases that each chapter has people who care about self-governance, about personal responsibility, and about what Beta really stands for.

"On the other hand, where there appears to be no one to stand up for our Beta standards, then we are prepared to close down those chapters until someone can be found.

"Restructuring, together with those chapters we are bringing back (Clemson, Washington at St. Louis, Northwestern) will make us stronger than ever," he added.

Editors Note:

This article was first printed in the 1999 Winter-Spring Gold Rose. Even though it is 16 years old, it is still very relevant today.



Awards Committee Chairman
Rod Thompson

2015 MEF Awards

By: Rod Thompson

One of the highlights at the Membership Education Forum (MEF) is the awards banquet. This is the time we set aside each year to celebrate success for the Fraternity. Even though our alumni identifies strongly with their chapter affiliation, the chapter awards provide recognition in the form of a celebration instead of a competition.

And the quality of the keynote addresses has been superb over the years. This year we again heard the message of what Beta Sig means to me from two distinguished alumni, Kirk Meyer and Steve Hollrah.

The **Lienemann Award** is the Fraternity's highest honor and named in the honor of Del Lienemann, Sr. This year the Lienemann Committee chose to honor **Kirk Meyer**.

Kirk has served as both our National President and Chairman of the Educational Foundation, and the first Lienemann Honoree to have served in both of these leadership positions for the Fraternity.

Kirk's contributions to the Fraternity are numerous and impactful, from his steadfast support of Alpha Chapter and hands-on renovations he has done, National Publications Director and Editor of The Gold Rose, administration of the annual Educational Phonathon for many years, moving the office from Columbia to Belleville, and organizing the 75th Anniversary celebration are just the highlights.

Kirk provided a testimony of how his life has been enriched by the many opportu-

nities to contribute back to the Fraternity over the years.

We chose to honor two deserving alumni with the **Karmeier Award** this year. Lowell Gordon is a Zeta Chapter Alumnus and currently serves as the National Treasurer, a very time consuming position.

Lowell has worked tirelessly as our Treasurer in building a sustainable process for how the active and alumni chapters, Educational Foundation and National Board contribute to the operation of the National Fraternity in financial matters.

Steve Hollrah, the MEF Keynote Speaker, Pi Chapter Alumnus and the outgoing Chairman of the Educational Foundation, was instrumental in the Educational Foundation finally passing the \$1,000,000 mark in assets.

A great leader, he had the vision and ability to stay the course on many issues facing the Educational Foundation and the Fraternity. Steve was also presented a silver Beta Sigma Psi medallion to recognize his contributions and service to the Educational Foundation.

The **Tiemann Award** was presented to Henry Fred Bauermeister Jr., a Delta Alumnus. Barney was a very successful businessman and didn't forget how important the Fraternity was in the very important college days.

Barney has contributed \$200,000 in a special fund designated for Delta Chapter scholarships. The scholarships are determined by the Lincoln Alumni and the money is administered by the Educational Foundation.

The Awards Committee members this year included Rod Thompson (Epsilon), Steve Hollrah (Pi), Ricky Reed (Zeta), Bob Hillard (Mu), Steve Hicks (Iota) and Brett Mahnke (Delta).

Many thanks for these alumni who attended the weekend festivities and who graciously volunteered their time to deliberate on the awards selections. Here is the list of the awards presented to the undergraduate members and chapters:

The **Erck Award** to the outstanding undergraduate in the Fraternity was presented by Rudy Ristich, National President, to Mitchell Goedeken from Delta Chapter. A bronze Beta Sigma Psi medallion was presented to Rudy to recognize his service to the Fraternity and donations to the

Educational Foundation by establishing a sub-fund to provide scholarships to educational events outside of the Fraternity such as the IFC Leadership Academy.

The **Kettler Award** for outstanding undergraduate management in the Fraternity was presented by Ralph Folkerts, Past National President and Lienemann Honoree, to John Hansen from Delta Chapter.

The **Edwards Award** for chapter management was presented by Larry Edwards, Past National President and Lienemann Honoree and for whom the award was named, to Delta Chapter.

The **Welge Award** for chapter membership education was presented by Steve Hollrah, Past Chairman of the Educational Foundation, to Iota Chapter.

The **Edie and Jim Jorns Award** for chapter philanthropy was presented by Phil Krug, distinguished alumnus from Zeta Chapter, to Delta Chapter.

The **Baehr Award** for best historical record was presented by Adam Rusch, distinguished alumnus from Beta Chapter and Grants Chairman for the Educational Foundation, to Alpha Chapter.

The **Hingst Award** for chapter scholarship was presented by Steven Hicks, National Board Scholarship Chairman, to Delta Chapter.

The **Founders' Cup** for best membership education was presented by John Hatfield, consultant to the National Fraternity, to Epsilon Chapter.

The **Hillard Award** for exceptional chapter achievement was presented by Bob Hillard, Past National President and Lienemann Honoree and for whom the award was named, to Beta, Zeta and Omega Chapters. Assisting Bob in the presentation were Brett Mahnke from Lincoln Alumni and Ricky Reed from Manhattan Alumni.

An **Alumni Volunteer Service Award** plaque was presented to Joel Zinnecker, an alumnus from Delta Chapter and a volunteer serving the Lincoln Alumni. Bringing back Delta Chapter was the goal and dream of many from our Lincoln Alumni chapter.

The number of awards garnished by Delta Chapter is an indicator of all the work that was done by many to reestablish a chapter with a proud tradition.

MEF Awards

Editors Note:

I would like to thank those individuals who were present at the MEF Awards Banquet who volunteered to take the photos and also to Rod Thompson for providing the award winner and award presenter information to me. Thanks to a well coordinated event again this year, everything came together very nicely. I hope that we are able to provide the same coordination at the upcoming MEF in St Louis. in January as it makes for a great event.

Gary Raffety



Edie & Jim Jorns Award

Phil Krug presents to Delta Chapter



Karmeier Award

Larry Edwards presents to Lowell Gordon



Karmeier Award

Del Karmeier presents to Steve Hollrah



Lienemann Award

Kirk Meyer receives Lienemann Award



Welge Award

Brian Clark presents the Welge award to Iota Chapter



Founders Cup.

John Hatfield presents the Founders Cup.



Baehr Award

Adam Rusch presents the Baehr award to Alpha Chapter



Delta Chapter Showing off the many awards they won in 2015 MEF.



Lienneman Award winner Kirk Meyer with fellow active brothers of Alpha Chapter

Kirk Meyer Receives The Lienemann Award

Acceptance Speech Follows

Thanks to past Lienemann recipients, particularly Rod Thompson, who I suspect spear-headed my receiving this honor. I am honored, humbled, and gracious to have this bestowed on me.

I'd also like to thank my wife for putting up with me spending time on Beta Sig stuff, and my children as well, who have started to ask questions and learn about Beta Sigma Psi.

Thanks to a number of alpha alumni who inspired me to seek involvement from my early active days – Del Karmeier, Bill Bunte, Ralph Folkerts, and a number of alumni from the 1980's.

And I can't leave out the three people who steered me into Beta Sigma Psi in the first place. My shirt-tail cousin Tim Holtan, who nonchalantly recruited me 25 years ago, and my parents, who encouraged me to go straight to U of I and supported me joining Beta Sigma Psi. Finally thanks to my brother, following me and making my first few years' efforts worth it.

Rod gave me a heads' up a few months ago that I was going to receive this, but I haven't really been inspired with a monumental speech. I'll share a little background and some snippets of advice I've acquired so far.

I grew up on a small farm near a small town called Hoyleton about 80 miles east of here in Southern Illinois. My parents worked hard and instilled a solid work ethic in my siblings and me. They also taught us the importance of going to church and Sunday School each week plus being involved within the church. My parents have each taught Sunday School for about 40 years and my dad was the volunteer high school youth leader for 22 years.

I went to a small Lutheran grade school and then to a fairly small public high school. Beta Sigma Psi was exactly what I needed to help me transition to a college of more than 40,000 students. It gave me a place to belong, plus a "family" and support system to help me adjust and get through school. Being part of Beta Sigma Psi helped give me various professional and social skills and learn how to deal with others.



From the beginning, being part of Beta Sigma Psi helped me see better the close-knit aspects of the Lutheran community, which I had glimpsed through my parents. Through my involvement at all levels, I now have my own many connections and interweavings through the Lutheran community.

General advice, especially for the Actives: When dealing with others, seek first to understand, then to be understood. Issues can be resolved better by understanding first rather than just forcing your stance.

Each person has an emotional bank account. Make sure you make deposits in the accounts of others, not just withdrawals. Be sure to monitor your own balance and don't overdraw yourself, which can be easily done if you tend to be a giver and have a servant mindset.

Seek input from others in order to improve buy-in and feelings of ownership.

Don't assume "someone else will do it" and ignore areas which need help and attention. But also don't try to "do it all" since you can't and your efforts won't be successful if you're spread too thin. Others need to do their part, and INVITE them to do so.

Lead by example. It's easier to lead from the front, demonstrating how and what should be done than it is to bark orders from the back. The old saying "do as I say, not as I do" doesn't work. Think of all the political stuff we heard before the November elections and occasionally otherwise. Wouldn't the world work better if everyone did as they said?

Winston Churchill once said, "Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it." While it sounds very cliché, there is much truth to it. There are many things which have been tried by those before you. Ask and learn from them and save yourselves time and effort from either having the same failures, or to achieve success sooner.

Do what you enjoy, not just what you think will make the most money. It's been said that a person who loves his vocation never WORKS a day in his life, because it isn't work to him. But you need to do something which will pay the bills. Sitting on a beach each day won't pay the bills.

I heard an expression once "dress for the job you want, not for the job you have." There is some literal truth to this, but there are practical aspects which lend this to be more so figurative.

Prepare yourself for that promotion or other job or career. You won't get it if you don't have the skills for it. But on the literal side, a lawyer couldn't expect a promotion to junior partner someday if he tries to wear shorts and T-shirts to work.

Be confident God has a plan for you and you are where he wants you to be, as long as you walk in his ways and do as he desires. If you stray away from him and follow illegal, unethical, and immoral pathways, you may no longer be where he wants you. It's easy to get frustrated sometimes when you feel like you're trying to do things right and things still aren't going your way, but God will work in his time, on his schedule.



As is written in Psalm 37:7, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes." The rain falls on the fields of both the righteous and the wicked, and sometimes the righteous have to wait a little longer to receive their blessings.

Through the most challenging and difficult times, keep Romans 8:28 handy, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Thirteen years ago my dad fell off the roof of a building, breaking his arm and pelvis. He ended up in the spinal cord rehab area of the hospital instead of the orthopedic area and figured out why when a friendly blonde nurse was assigned to him one day and asked him about the Lutheran Brotherhood stress ball he was using to exercise his grip.

A couple weeks later when he gave her his email address and my business card and confided his realization to her, she was a bit skeptical, but not completely closed minded. After a couple emails between the two of them, I met her at the church I was going to at the time. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Remember and appreciate those who have gone before you to give you the opportunities you have. Give back and ensure others who follow you will have the same or even better opportunities.

Keep the three S's in their stated order – Spiritual, Scholastic, and Social. They are in that order for a reason, not randomly done. The same applies once you're out of college also, just with college replaced by your job and family. If you get them out of order, things won't work the way they are supposed to.

Finally, remain true to our founders' vision – a Lutheran fraternity of Lutheran men, of the church and within the church. That is Beta Sigma Psi's very definition by our founders. If we don't follow it, then we are no longer Beta Sigma Psi. Embrace our Lutheran aspect and utilize the closely-connected community we are part of.

Thank you, and may God bless Beta Sigma Psi.

Photos of MEF 2015 Weekend In St Louis, MO.



This collection of MEF photos shows the attendees in seminar, in business meetings, at their work stations packaging food items for starving children and at the Awards Dinner Saturday night.

PASS IT ON – IT'S A PRIVILEGE

BY: STEVE HOLLRAH - PI CHAPTER ALUM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 2015 MEF

I was asked to be the keynote speaker at the MEF last January in St. Charles, MO. I was very apprehensive because I wasn't a speaker; I was just a Brother like everyone else in the banquet hall would be. It finally dawned on me that this meeting was a celebration of the 90th anniversary of our fraternity. It was also my 45th anniversary of having been activated in 1970.

I have had the privilege of being around for half of the fraternity's life. This would be a great opportunity to talk with several hundred associates, actives, and alums. I would be able to share my journey and experiences in the fraternity.

I was rushed my sophomore year at Central Missouri State University when a friend from grade school showed up at my dorm room. I had known Nathan Seay for a lot of years and had no idea that he was in a fraternity. He invited me to a smoker, which was very common then. I told Nathan that I was "GDI" and would stay that way. But, because we were friends, I would accept his invitation.

I stopped my speech at that moment and asked all of the brothers in the hall to think back about the person who got them involved in Beta Sigma Psi. It did not take long for everyone in the hall to smile. Everyone had remembered that special person in their life. Even though Nathan passed away a couple of years ago I still hold that memory of him in my heart. I told everyone in the room to hold onto that thought and the image of their special brother.

I was quite excited when they asked me to pledge the fraternity. There was just one problem; my grades were not high enough for the National Fraternity or the University. But I found out there was a way around this. I would be a "Ghost Pledge". I could join the pledge class and participate in everything they did but I could not be activated until my grade point average came up.

So that's how I started my life journey in Beta Sigma Psi, as a ghost. Now, suddenly, my life in college had a purpose, besides getting an education and I had proved by my GPA that I really wasn't taking the ed-

ucation part very seriously. I was issued a pledge manual, which I still have, and a pledge pin that a ghost could not wear on campus, which I still have. I started putting together my pledge book, yes I still have it, and entered the pledge program. We learned the history of the fraternity, social skills, and a lot of items I didn't think were too important back then. But, the most important thing I had to do was study.

My pledge trainer, pledge father, and all of the actives made sure I did that. I asked everyone present to remember their pledge class and the many things they did together. Well it took a little longer for those smiles to pop up this time, but it was clear to me that everyone was remembering their experiences and pledge brothers.

The most important thing for me was that I was in an atmosphere with a group of young men that cared about you and wanted to me succeed. I did not let them down as being a part of this group was very important to me. Yes, you guessed it, my grades came up and I actually made the Dean's list. What a great feeling. Now I could be activated and proudly announce to everyone that I was a part of this unique organization.

I will never forget my activation ceremony, but first there was a vote. I can still hear the marbles being dropped in the voting box as the actives cast their votes, hopefully all white balls. The president came to me with the box in his hands and opened the lid. My stomach was in knots as I looked into the ballot box. I looked and looked and they were all white. I had made it. I could now see from the reaction of all the actives and alums in the room that they were reliving the same moments.

Prior to activation we were asked to write on a piece of paper the reason we wanted to join the fraternity. Once again, I had mine with me but I wouldn't read it because each person in the room had their own reason to join.

You might have been a legacy, you had a friend in the fraternity, perhaps your parents wanted you to join a Lutheran organization. What ever the reason was, it was



ultimately each individual's decision. Once again I asked that everyone think about why they joined. I told all of the associates that the remainder of my speech was a listing of things they could look forward to for the rest of their college life. I explored the three S's of our fraternity. I started with scholarship, after all it is the reason we went to school. It ended up being the most important to me because it helped me earn my degree and stay a part of the fraternity.

The spiritual aspect of our fraternity is a unique one. After spending 8 years in a Lutheran grade school and going to church every Sunday morning I thought it was time to take a break. But there was something very different about this spiritual thing when you shared it with your brothers.

Attending church together, taking communion together, and yes, just talking about our faith with each other. We were not a bunch of choir boys but we knew that we had something else that the other fraternities on campus didn't have. And then there was my favorite of the three S's.

The social aspect of the fraternity bound us together and helped us get to know each other. I asked each person in the room to remember our social moments in college. Homecoming, Gold Rose Formal, Walk Outs, Greek Week, Parties (planned and unplanned) and just sitting around with a few brothers. I truly think the Social Chairman was the busiest person in the fraternity.

I watched the crowd as almost everyone was nodding in agreement. I stopped again and asked everyone to remember their favorite social moments. Was it homecoming parties, or just getting together with the brothers for some impromptu social moments? This was asking a lot from the crowd, having them remember their favor-

ite social moments in college. That was like asking a parent to name their favorite child. I gave everyone a little extra time as I think several were getting a headache.

Every one of the brothers at Pi chapter had affected my life at that point in time. There were, of course, a couple of brothers that I was closer to than others. I did not know it at the time, but these brothers would be there for the rest of my life. They would be the best man in my wedding, the godfather to one of my children, and lifelong friend's.

On the other side of the coin I was in a lot of brother's weddings and other events throughout their lives. These are all people that I would never have known if I had never been asked to that smoker by Nathan. I asked the brothers to think about someone who is very important in their life that they would never have known if they had not pledged this fraternity. Perhaps you met your wife through a brother or gotten a job because of them or an alum. Everyone in the room has someone that they have the privilege of knowing because of the fraternity.

Now I could relate to the alums in the room and tell the actives and associates things that they could look forward to. When I left college the National Office was located in St. Charles, my home town. I got to know the people at the office and especially our Executive Director, Walt Rose. He got me involved in the national fraternity.

I served as a Vice President, National Treasurer, Historian, and served on the National Board. I have served as Chairman of the Educational Foundation. I was the Chairman when we topped the one million dollar mark. I met Bill Welge, one of our founders, Larry Edwards, John Hingst, Bob Hillard and a lot of other people who have served the fraternity for many years.

I am very privileged that I can still count those people as my brothers and friends. I served on the 50th anniversary committee and had the honor of attending and listening to Bill Welge talk about the founding of the fraternity. I even had the opportunity to be the editor of a few Gold Rose's.

Now it was test time. I asked all of the associates to remember that person that called or knocked on their door as well as the members of their associate class. I asked all of the current underclassmen to not only remember the person that contacted them,

but the many memories they have of close friends and their undergraduate experience with Beta Sigma Psi.

All of the alums knew that they were next, and you could see in each of their faces that they were already remembering all of the lifelong friends, their experiences they have shared because one person contacted them or knocked on their door.

Being asked to join Beta Sigma Psi was truly a life changing event for me as well as all of the alums in the room. The associates and actives were just beginning to realize that the same thing was true for them. They have brothers that will be a part of the rest of their lives. Brothers that will influence decisions that you will make in the future.

They may not stay involved in the national fraternity after graduation but they cannot avoid how Beta Sigma Psi has enriched their lives through events and friendships. I can close my eyes and see the faces of all my brothers from Pi Chapter.

I mourn some deaths of my brothers at a young age. I especially mourn for Nathan Seay who died unexpectedly a couple of years ago. I remember Nathan knocking on my door in the dorm and inviting me to that "smoker".

Nathan didn't knock on my door because he had an obligation to rush people. He knocked on my door because he wanted me to share the experience and life in Beta Sigma Psi.

I informed everyone in the room that being involved in rush and bringing new brothers into the fraternity was not an obligation. "It was a privilege". Each of us needs to think about that from time to time. Rush is not limited to the person that the chapter elects to do that function.

It is for all of the actives and alums to take part in and enjoy. It can be as simple as sending the name of a recent high school graduate from you congregation to the chapter or national office. It is as simple as going to someone's home or room and knocking on the door or picking up the phone and making a call.

I have found that pastors are pleased to give an alum, or active, the names of graduating seniors in their congregation and where they may be attending school. They know that we will keep the student "in the fold"

while he is away from home.

Each active in the room has the privilege to help with rush and bring in someone new to experience the life in Beta Sigma Psi. Each of the actives and associates can also realize their life after college. The lifelong friends they now have. It is inconceivable not to want others to have what each one of us has.

Bringing new members into Beta Sigma Psi is not an obligation. It is truly a privilege to be able to give someone else a life that each of us has. ----- Steve Hollrah

Grant to help develop solar powered charging stations

A foundation for engineering and construction firm Black & Veatch has awarded Kansas State University a \$200,000 grant to help develop solar-powered charging stations for electric and hybrid vehicles.

The solar panels will be power charging stations for plug-in vehicles, and they will provide shade from the sun and protection from rain, snow and ice. The Kansas State University stations will be used for research, development, education and charging vehicles.

The project will allow researchers to better understand the technical, social, environmental and economic issues surrounding plug-in vehicles. Possible research topics include the environmental impact, consumer attitudes and the distribution of electricity.

The project was led by Dr. Larry Erickson, K-State professor of chemical engineering. Larry has now retired from the department. He was Zeta Chapters Faculty Advisor for over 40 years. See the article on Dr. Erickson starting on page 5 of this issue.

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Columbia, Missouri



Bloomington, Indiana



W. Lafayette, Indiana

Campus Locations:

Indiana University
Iowa State University
Kansas State University
Midland Lutheran Univ.
Missouri S&T
Purdue University
University of Illinois
University of Kansas
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska



Rolla, Missouri



Ames, Iowa



Manhattan, Kansas



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