

# Fall 2016



Colorado Summit 2017

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MEF in KC - Jan. 13th - 15th



- Outstanding Alumni
- Nat. Board Strategy Meeting in KC
- Chapter Reports
- National Officer Reports
- Academic Reports - All Chapters
- Colorado Leadership Conference

# The Gold Rose

Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity





# President's Report 2016

**BY: Rudy Ristich - National Pres.**

## National President Rudy Ristich

**It was** 16 years ago this fall at Purdue University that I accepted a bid to become a brother of Beta Sigma Psi. From the very first recruitment event I attended during my first weeks of college I vividly recall how much pride my would-be brothers took in the alumni of our chapter.

They spoke with great enthusiasm about the contributions they made to campus over time, their success in business life and of their commitment to leadership in the church. Alumni of all eras would return to campus on Saturdays, enjoy the football game, but spent most of their time enjoying the company of each at the chapter house with their families.

Throughout my undergraduate experience the commitment of our alumni would become more apparent as they offered constant mentorship and guidance in operating the house. Many would accompany and assist us with visiting parents of recruits and spoke passionately about the positive impact Beta Sig had had on them in their lives.

Other alumni would network for fundraising drives or make connections necessary to find brothers their

first job post college. The variety of ways that our brothers connected was a differentiating factor in joining Beta Sigma Psi and was a driving force in my decision to continue to serve the Fraternity after college.

Without question, the most gratifying part of serving on the National Board is the opportunity to regularly interact with the bright undergraduate leaders we have today. For the better part of this decade we've been heavily emphasizing values based recruitment and the results are crystal clear.

If you have the opportunity to speak with the men who serve on our awards committee, they will tell you both about the joy they have in meeting these young men but also of the tough decisions they must make on account of all the excellent programming being led at the chapters. You'll read about many of these men and programs in this issue of the Gold Rose.

As well as our active men are performing on campus they are facing significant changes in the Greek community. With all the negative media attention directed toward Fraternity life, programming beyond scholastics and athletics are being emphasized more now than ever before.

I encourage everyone to reconnect with their chapters on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks. Our men will be posting frequently about their success and we need your help to share

and promote these with your networks. Not just for the good of Beta Sigma Psi but for all of those observing Greek life so that they might regularly see all the great achievements and gain a positive perspective on the value of the Fraternity experience.

This summer the National Board met with alumni advisors in Overland Park, KS to inform them of changes afoot and arm them with the tools they need to adjust to the growing demands placed on not only their undergraduate chapters but on their role as advisors.

One area of opportunity we discussed was expanding the involvement of our alumni and reconnecting them to the Fraternity experience. In 2017 let's strive to be more deliberate in sharing our brotherhood.

Sadly, family and other commitments often make it difficult for many alumni to participate on campus in a capacity they would like. There are still countless opportunities to reach out and reconnect to your pledge brothers, to share photos and memories of your experiences with brothers on social media groups.

I challenge those of you who are able to take time from your routine this year to plan an outing with brothers, go meet other alumni in your metro area and make new friends, or attend a homecoming celebration on campus and share in the success of our young men, I guarantee you'll be impressed.

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.

## Contributors:

Larry Edwards, Lowell Gordon, John Hatfield, Steve Hollrah, Kirk Meyer, Rick E. Meyer, Rudy Ristich, Rod Thompson, Chapter & Colony Presidents.

## Beta Sigma Psi Headquarters:

2408 Lebanon Avenue  
Belleville, IL 62221  
Phone: (618) 235-0014  
Fax: (618) 235-0014  
Email: office@betasigmapi.org  
Online: http://betasigmapi.org

**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.

**Editor:** Gary Raffety  
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**Cover Photo:** Gary Raffety

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### National President:

#### Rudy Ristich

1140 Dorset Drive  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
Phone: 630.220.0837  
Email: rudy.ristich@betasigmapi.org

### Past President:

#### Larry Edwards

7092 S. Owens Way  
Littleton, CO 80127  
Phone: 303.810.9293  
Email: larryredwards12@gmail.com

### Vice President:

#### Scott Gesell

2923 E. 134th Street South  
Bixby, OK 74008  
Phone: 303-881-7332  
Email: scott.gesell@hotmail.com

### Treasurer:

#### Chris Ristich

PO Box 88238  
Carol Stream, IL 60188  
Phone 630-776-7350  
Email: treasurer@betasigmapi.org.

### Pastoral Advisor:

#### Robert Smith

6600 N Clinton Street  
Ft Wayne, IN 46825  
Phone: 260.452.3149  
Email: robert.smith@ctsfw.edu

### Website / Marketing:

#### Wesley Smith

1721 Shawnee RD,  
Indianapolis, IN 46033  
Phone: 260.452.6049  
Email: wesley.smith@betasigmapi.org

### Director of Publications:

#### Gary Raffety

9228 W. 73rd  
Merriam, KS 66204  
Phone: 913.831.3842  
Email: theraffis@kc.rr.com

### Director of Recruitment:

#### Nathan Leezer

5 Pioneer Point  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
Phone: 636.328.1488  
Email: nathan.leezer@betasigmapi.org

### Director of Scholarship:

#### Steven Hick

3685 E. Wesley  
Denver, CO 80210  
Email: steven.hick@du.edu

### Director of Youth Outreach:

#### Andrew Rusch

310 N. Park Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
Phone: 765.714.4203  
Email: ajrusch@indiana.edu

### Leadership Consultant:

#### John Hatfield

1200 Centennial Drive  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
Phone: 719.233.1668  
Email: jrfield@gmail.com

### Alumni Relations:

#### Jake Vanderslice

1610 North Willow Street  
Avoca, IA 51521 Apt.2C  
Phone: (913) 522-3527  
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## Fraternl Foundations

### National Educational Foundation:

#### Kirk Meyer, Chairman

18034 Elm Rd  
Hoyleton, Il 62803  
618.493.6515  
mailto:kirkmeyer@netwitz.net

### Beta Sigma Psi Foundation:

#### Larry Edwards, Chairman

7092 S. Owens Way  
Littleton, CO 80127  
Phone: 303.810.9293  
Email: larryredwards12@gmail.com



Editor: Gary D. Raffety

# 2016 Past President's Report .....

By: Larry Edwards

**Beta Sigma Psi** has some very vexing problems facing us as a National Fraternity as well as a local Active/Alumni Chapter. For example, there has been a general reduction in membership of the Active chapters especially our older chapters such as Alpha and Beta.

While Scholarship has been exemplary, in many cases it has been undermined by upper-classman with high grades moving out of the chapter house, and dragging down the average of those men left behind. Why don't we consider bonus reductions in cost for 3rd and 4th year students.?"

Fraternity recruitment is down across the country due to very bad press. Dorms are building luxury suites for student, charging outrageous prices for room and board, and at the same time slandering some of the Greek Activities such as a quest for scholarship

Quite often the fault is ours! Many of our chapters have sub-par chapter houses, without much of a plan for renovation or moving to a new home. We must as a National Fraternity develop a plan to front-end load dues/initiation costs so that perhaps in the Junior/Senior year national dues can be held to a minimum. We must rely on our Alumni to help the local chapter and develop planning for the future.

It is recognized that many times our house bill is 60 to 75% below what the dorms charge. For example, at Colorado State University the cost for room, a 20-meal plan, and tuition (instate) is \$11,500/semester.

How does that compare with your house bill, and are you publishing that information to Associate Member Recruits? What are your grades like and how does that compare with the graduation rate from the University? What is your chapter's strengths and have you identified your weakness? Have you put them in writing?

Make no mistake – fraternities across the country are under attack by the media, and by your biggest competition – your host university.

I have suggested to the National Board that we add to the three's -Spiritual, Scholastic, and Social the 4th S – Service. Service to the community, church, and other areas of philanthropies that can make a large difference to an organization or need that need your help.

Read the attached comments about How Do We Become Number One, and very simply begin making the changes necessary on your campus, to make you the best Fraternity.



Larry Edwards - Zeta -'55

## How Do We Become Number One?

By: Larry Edwards

**A possible new** approach for the MEF in January, would be to devote a significant amount of time to workshops to answer the above question. In lieu of the usual top-down approach for lecturing the undergraduates in attendance, perhaps we should enlist their thinking to ideas that just might work as we meet the challenges of the new year..

### First:

Define the Problem – Reduction in membership, dorms vrs. Chapter Houses, Scholarship, Very bad press, etc.

Develop a Strategy to Implement solutions for the defined problems

Execute - and keep records of our progress

These are broadly lumped into a new category – the 4'S. Spiritual, Scholastic, Social, and Service

### Possible Programs of Support for the Above areas could include:

1. Recruitment
2. Scholastic Involvement
3. Spiritual Involvement
4. Social Responsibility
5. Serving Others – Philanthropies
6. Diversity
7. Chapter & National Publicity
8. Alumni Relations

# 2016 Treasurer's Report .....

**I always find** it interesting to look at an organization's P&L to get a sense of the membership's priorities, and ultimately, what they value.

When coming into the office of National Treasurer I was glad to see that two of the largest expenses for the National Fraternity are leadership development and programming for our chapters, as well as maintaining connections and communication with our alumni.

An ample surplus from the year before last was used primarily in these areas, as well as for some one-time expenditures that had been put off in previous years. As

a result, we operated at a net loss this past fiscal year, but we saw expenses closely match revenues over the two year period. Going forward we'll seek to deliver the same value while being mindful of costs.

Another measure to help understand the activities of an organization is cash flow. The largest single expense for the National Fraternity continues to be liability insurance for the active chapters, and while it is for the most part reimbursed by alumni chapters, this large outlay often creates a cash flow challenge in the fall semester.

My focus will also be on finding ways to better predict our revenue streams and costs from year to year and start



**Chris Ristich, Beta '04**

every year off in a strong position. Overall, I am very excited at the efforts I see being put forth by our National Fraternity and hope to continue the work done by my predecessor Lowell Gordon, to ensure we are in a strong financial position to meet our objectives and adhere to our values.

## National Looks to Save Costs

Would you be willing to accept a digital PDF Gold Rose in place of a printed copy?

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

**One of the steps** that national has taken to help better inform the alumni and to help present an improved image to out-siders that see our magazine, is to go all color, increase the coverage of all chapters, feature articles on our outstanding alumni, more color photos, expanded coverage of our awards dinner at MEF each year, and expanding the size of the Gold Rose Magazine to increase coverage.

Instead of two smaller black and white issues, a process that doubles the cost of postage and increases the cost of printing, we have gone to an expanded all color magazine that is sent out only once a year.

We also have decided to send our magazine to the larger Lutheran Congregations that lie within the six-state area where we have chapters, as well as the Lutheran High Schools.

This means more printed copies than what we used to print. We hope this expanded mailing will help spread the word about Beta Sig to the Lutheran youth within the key six state area, who for the most part, know nothing

about Beta Sigma Psi, and even if they have heard of us, it quite likely it is a biased view of us, what with Hollywood and the Media constantly distorting the truth about fraternities.

The decision to mail the Gold Rose to the larger congregations and Lutheran high schools within the six state area where we have chapters, has increased our costs to print and distribute the Gold Rose. At our last national board meeting in Kansas City, the decision was made to look for ways to reduce costs associated with the Gold Rose.

We don't want to eliminate color, and we don't want to reduce the size too much, so it seems that one of the best ways to cut costs would be to reduce the number of Gold Rose magazines that have to be printed and distributed.

To those that we want to reach to inform them about what Beta Sigma Psi is all about, a printed copy is the better choice. But, for many of our alumni, especially the more recent graduates who are very much into the new digital age, I would think a digital copy of the Gold

Rose might be preferable to a printed copy.

If we had a sufficient number of alumni that would be happy with a PDF, then we could start to make some significant cost reductions without reducing the size and quality of the current magazine.

***So, what this is all about is a request to hear from all of our alumni, young and old, that would be willing to forgo the printed Gold Rose for a digital version.***

***If you are one of our alums that would be willing to help the cause, please email me - the editor at: [zetaalum139@kc.rr.com](mailto:zetaalum139@kc.rr.com) and tell me that you want a digital copy of the Gold Rose rather than a printed copy.***

This one option has the potential to save National Beta Sig a sizeable amount of money in reduced costs, so I encourage you all to please make a decision and reply if this works for you. This is really a small matter for most individuals, but collectively a big matter for those of us at the National Level.

## 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 2016 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016):

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Gregory Schurig  
William Vasilauskas

**Donor**

Gerald Benedict  
Kenneth Pedde

**Iota Chapter - \$5,925**

**Founders' Society**

Douglas Hick

**Concordia Club**

Warren Harms  
Kenneth Haubein  
Timothy Husby  
Warren Pflantz  
Michael Potts  
Joseph Potts  
Kenneth Reiter  
Michael Springer

**Wittenberg Club**

Daniel Balzer  
Kyle Clower  
Keith Dierberg  
Roger Flandermeyer  
Robert Finck  
Mark Haubein  
Morris Heitman  
David Heisterberg  
Rev. Paul Hoemann  
Thomas Keel  
Bruce Knoernschild  
Jeffrey Mueller  
William Pfaff  
Roger Plackemeier  
Alan Rowold  
Steven Stadelman  
Joe Strickert  
Kevin Tullberg

**Patron**

Mark Cherry  
Charles Kuntz  
Arthur McLaughlin  
Kim Nelson  
Thomas Pfaff  
Jonathan Siebrasse

**Member**

Steve Burchard

James Dunkmann  
Mark Harms  
Thomas Hohenstein  
Timothy Jackson  
David Lieb  
Rodney Mais  
Dennis Mall  
Todd Meyer  
Jonathan Riethmeier  
Merle Schnelle  
John Thomsen  
Gary Thurnau  
Brent Toellner  
Keith Weinhold  
John Wussler

**Donor**

Neil Breite  
Donald Paske  
Jonathan Rolf  
Stewart Wirth

**Kappa Chapter - \$1,021**

**Founders' Society**

William Kurschat

**Wittenberg Club**

Rudolph Blakeman  
Donavon Hess  
John McClurg

**Member**

Tracy Close  
Bruce Erickson  
Robert Huber  
Gerald Sietsema  
Rev. James Walburg

**Donor**

Mark Hochsprung

**Mu Chapter - \$2,645**

**Founders' Society**

Robert Hillard

**Wittenberg Club**

Michael Baum  
Robert Mattheessen  
John Popp

**Patron**

Everett Freeberg

**Member**

Rev. Ronald Martin  
Kenneth Schaal  
Terry Schuldt  
Donald Tate

**Donor**

Roger Heitman

**Nu Chapter - \$300**

**Wittenberg Club**

Christopher Hahn  
Merlin Stigge

**Patron**

Marvin Bredehoft

**Xi Chapter - \$900**

**Concordia Club**

John Rohwer

**Wittenberg Club**

Dale Filsinger  
Kenneth Troester  
Arlyn Uhrmacher

**Member**

Steven Harms  
Rodney Ochsner

**Omicron Chapter - \$175**

**Wittenberg Club**

Randall Heine

**Member**

Dale Pfeiffer

**Donor**

Ronald Iseler

**Pi Chapter - \$515**

**Wittenberg Club**

Steven Hollrah  
Randy Kanoy  
Victor Koenig Jr  
Donald Mueller

**Member**

David Davis

David Lenz

**Donor**

Kirk Haffer  
Dean Harkrader  
William Minford

**Rho Chapter - \$20**

**Donor**

Douglas Sprayx

**Sigma Chapter - \$30**

**Donor**

David Noyes  
Eugene Beerbohm

**Tau Chapter - \$380**

**Wittenberg Club**

Steven Grundmann  
Kurt Schmeckpeper

**Member**

Roger Bentz  
Richard Burling  
Brent Roggow

**Upsilon Chapter - \$295**

**Wittenberg Club**

John Gehrke

**Patron**

Kevin Carriere  
Todd Coleman

**Member**

Douglas Tschauder

**Donor**

Randall Peters

**Omega Chapter - \$128**

**Founders' Society**

Philip Krug  
Andrew Rusch

**Member**

Jason Merica

**Zeta Pi Chapter - \$400**

**Founders' Society**

Stephen Cordes

**Beta Alpha Colony - \$60**

**Patron**

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 enticements 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 up our Educational Fund so that we can begin to offer more scholarships. Please do what you can to contribute annually to our Educational Fund and help our chapters to compete.

Thank You  
*Gary Raffety* -  
Editor



## List of Chapters and Map Key

1. Alpha - Univ. Illinois
2. Alpha-Alpha - Midland Univ.
3. Beta - Purdue Univ.
4. Delta - Nebraska Univ.
5. Epsilon - Iowa State Univ.
6. Eta - U. Missouri S. & T.
7. Iota - U. Missouri
8. Nu - Univ. Kansas
9. Omega - Indiana Univ.
10. Zeta - Kansas State Univ.

## Map of Chapter Locations in 6 State Area



## Beta Sig GPA Above Average At Nearly Every Chapter

BY: Gary Raffety - Editor

**Grades are what** the college experience is all about, or at least it should be, what with the exorbitantly high price of a college education today. Some of our chapters are consistently at or near the top of the GPA charts on their campuses and that speaks highly of our fraternity.

However, a few of our Beta Sig chapters have been falling short of their set goals recently, but it is not really what you might be thinking the problem is. There is a trend now that many of the upper classmen, the ones typically with the highest GPA averages, are hurting the chapters because many are not included in the house average. We all know that the entering freshman, while they may have high grades in high school, are most susceptible to lower GPA's as they transition to college, which then pull down the house averages.

As I said above, the juniors and seniors in all fraternities are now moving out of the fraternities to live the good life, free to shake off the restrictive rules and regulations imposed by the fraternities they joined. What this does is eliminate from the house average the older brothers that have proven themselves scholastically and who generally have the highest GPA's.

If Beta Sig upperclassmen move out and do not pay any dues to the chapter or the national fraternity, then their grades cannot be counted in the chapter GPA. This means that the chapter GPA is more heavily influenced by the freshman and sophomores, who as I said earlier, typically have more of the lower grades. Only one or two freshman with really bad grades can drastically reduce the chapter GPA and that has happened at several chapters recently.

As an example of this situation that we are dealing with now, Zeta chapter dropped way down into the third quartile rankings (about 16th place) for fraternities because of one associate with really bad grades not being removed before the deadline and many upper classmen with excep-

Chapter	Actives	Assoc.	Chapter Average GPA	All Men's Average	All Greek Average	All Fraternity Ave.	All IFC Ave
Alpha	24	8	3.44	3.10	3.27	3.14	3.15
Beta	38	8	3.04	2.92	3.03	2.91	2.92
Delta	18	10	3.35	2.95	3.28	3.13	3.13
Epsilon	48	20	3.16	2.95	3.15	3.04	3.05
Zeta	22	10	2.96	2.88	2.96	3.13	3.29
Eta	34	40	3.20	3.01	3.14	3.13	NA
Iota	51	25	3.02	2.98	3.24	3.06	NA
Nu	21	14	3.64	2.97	3.26	3.12	3.1
Omega	32	9	3.13	3.11	3.11	3.14	NA
Alpha - Alpha	15	8	2.95	2.94	3.15	3.0	NA
Totals	303	152	3.19	2.98	3.15	3.08	3.10

NA - Not Available

tional grades not included because of the dues issue. Had the associate been dropped and the upperclassmen been included, Zeta would have been in the top quartile, at about 4th or 5th place. So, this is a really critical issue for all chapters to watch.

All fraternities today are having to deal with the upperclass move out, but they seem to be dealing with the grade issue in different ways. We have a couple of chapters that need to re-evaluate the way in which they are dealing with the out-of-house upperclassmen to take advantage of their better grades. One way to do this is to have the out-of-house upperclassmen pay their dues to national to meet the requirements of the university to be considered a member of the fraternity.

The National Board discussed this upper class move out trend at some length at our recent Board Strategy meeting last September in Kansas City. We think we have a plan for our chapters to follow that will help them become more competitive with the other fraternities on their respective campuses. Time will tell but by our next issue, we should be able to report the results of the new approach to qualifying upperclassmen in our overall chapter grades.

# National Board Strategy Meeting in Kansas City

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

**The weekend of** September 17, 2016, members of the National Board of directors gathered at the *Marriot Courtyard in Overland Park, KS* to strategize and plan for the future.

Most of the board members arrived on Friday afternoon and later that evening the group traveled to *Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbeque in Overland Park* for good food and conversation.

At 8:00 AM Saturday morning, everyone assembled in the downstairs dining area for breakfast. Then at 9:00 AM, everyone migrated down the hall to the meeting room to begin a full day of work sessions.

To begin the day, President Rudy Ristich asked for Chapter Reports from the members present. This took up the first hour of our morning session.

At 10:00 AM and for the remainder of the morning session, we spent the time reviewing our individual goals. Rudy asked each member to outline their personal goal for the next year.

Specifically, he asked us to define our goal, explain what needed to be done in our focus area for this semester, and explain how the goal is "The Right Thing" for Beta Sig. Also, he asked each member to explain who is effected by the program and who needs to be informed of the program.

At noon we moved to the lobby lunch area for sandwiches and more informal conversation. In my opinion, the food is often somewhat deplorable, but I have to say that I thought the food this time was very good.

At 1:00 PM, we reconvened in the meeting room and spent 3 hours discussing how to adjust the strategic plan for the future.

We also discussed our blue print for growth, a Treasurer's Report and a review of our finances. This led to an expanded discussion for the need to reduce the cost of printing and distribution of the The Gold Rose to the alumni and friends of the fraternity. As a Marketing Tool, it is important that we maintain the best quality possible within the limits of the current tight budget.

The final hour of the business day was spent discussing the broad brush plans and goals for the upcoming MEF Convention which will be held in Overland Park, KS, the weekend of January 17 & 18, 2017. I hope that you all will make plans to attend this year's work sessions and evening Awards Banquet.

For those of us that did not have to hit the road for home at the end of the



*Some of the guys visit with each other after lunch.*



*Left & Clockwise: Out of photo- treasurer Chris Ristich, Steven Hick, Scholarship Dir., Alum Jake Vanderslice, Nathan Leezer, Dir. Recruitment; Rudy Ristich, Nat. President.*

work day, we all gathered again in South Overland Park at Spin Neopolitan Pizza restaurant for a very relaxing meal on the outdoor patio. After dinner, we called it a day and we either headed for home or it was back to the hotel.



*Above: John Hatfield discussing a topic at the white board with (Left and clockwise) Chris Ristich, Steven Hick, Nathen Leezer, Rudy Ristich, Larry Edwards, and yours truly taking the photo.*



*Above: At lunch, Nathan Leezer, John Hatfield, Jake Vanderslice and Steven Hick relax and enjoy each other's company as they chow down before returning to work.*

## Returning To Old Policy on Chapter Activation Certificates

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

**Back in the** early 60's, our past National President Larry Edwards started a new national fraternity policy for assigning badge numbers to new members.

The rule was simple – all activation class members' names were to be listed alphabetically (by last name) and the numbers applied (from smallest to largest) consecutively by last name - from A-Z. The certificate number is preceded with a letter indicating the chapter.

However, with the passing of time and as leadership and our secretarial staff changed over and over, the rules were ignored and National, by default, let the chapters assign badge numbers, and NOT in a uniform way.

We now have a significant number of alumni with duplicate badge numbers and worse, we have dozens and dozens of unused numbers because some chapters assigned numbers before the associate members were qualified for activation.

As frequently happens, sometimes associates do not make their grades – or they decide to drop out of school and the end result is that we have been left with a lot of skipped over numbers. If badge numbers had been assigned by the National office after the associates were officially approved by their corresponding universities and the chapter, the skipped number problem would not have happened.

To add to the problem, quite a few chapters during the past decade, have frequently been delinquent in reporting data to the National office as they are required to do. When asked to produce copies of their files to National, we often only get excuses or NO response at all. This lack of co-operation with National is disturbing to this old school guy and it really needs to stop. If the leaders in our chapters and alumni chapters are not willing to comply with our rules, then we should ask them to step down and let others who will accept responsibility take over.

Because of this non-compliance in the past, the current National data base is an absolute mess. Trying to resolve the problem has been multiplied and compounded because of the haphazard way in which the chapters have carelessly assigned numbers. I have been told that some chapters assign numbers according to GPA, I think others do it according to the buddy system. Regardless of the way, there definitely does not seem to be

any consistent method being used. To correct the problems of the past and to ensure that our data base is properly maintained, the National office will again be in charge of assigning all badge numbers. Badge numbers will be assigned only after, *a) the National Secretary receives proof that all candidates have officially met the GPA requirements of the University and Chapter, and b) only after all chapters have submitted the required activation forms to National on each member as required for activation.*

Three years ago, I approached the National Board with the idea that the National Fraternity be responsible for framing and double matting all certificates, plus laminating all Lifetime Membership Cards and presenting them to the new members as part of their activation. I felt that it would be good fraternity PR, plus a moral booster for our new members, to be able to display a beautifully framed membership certificate in their rooms while in school, and later on their office walls for outsiders to see. This could also be good for our public image if displayed where the general public could see them. Once the treasurer and board were assured that the costs could be sustained on an annual basis, they unanimously approved the plan.



*Sample of Double Matted Activation Certificates given to new members.*

In March of 2013, I went to the local Michaels frame shop to get an estimate to have our activation certificates framed, using a hardwood, lacquer finished frame, non-glare glass, foam core backing for the documents, a dust cover on the back, and a saw-tooth hanger. Their full price to complete the job the same as we get now, was \$280 each. If you timed your order to conform to their 50% off sale, which occurs a couple of days each month, then it would be about \$150 each. My contact here in Kansas City, an old friend from my K-State days, agreed to do them for us at \$40 each including packaging and delivery to the chapters. We have the certificates printed, sent to the framer and they do the rest.

We are getting a tremendous deal thanks to my friend and he is doing this as a favor to us. If the young men in our chapters wish this to continue, then they are going to have to do a better job of following the rules passed down from National.

**Framing will be done twice a year, once in the spring and again in the fall.** The names and date of activation, along with the forms for activation shall be sent to the National Office as soon as possible so that we can get the printing and framing done quickly. Your cooperation is requested.

## MEF 2017 in Kansas City, MO Time To Make Plans To Attend

By: Gary Raffety

**This coming** January, on the 13th, 14th, and 15th, Beta Sigma Psi will convene for its annual MEF Conference at the Marriot Downtown Hotel in Kansas City, MO.

Details about reservations, costs and locations of activities were not forth coming at the time the Gold Rose went to print, so please go to the Beta Sigma Psi web site at: [betasigmapsi.org/mef](http://betasigmapsi.org/mef) for all the details.

If you have questions, contact Leslie at the national office at **618-235-0014** or email: [office@betasigmapsi.org](mailto:office@betasigmapsi.org).

This year's key note speaker is Phil Krug '72, Zeta Alum and President of the Manhattan Alumni chapter for the past 9 years. For all you Zeta alums that were in school with Phil who have worked with him over the past decades, we hope to see you at the MEF in January. To attend just the awards dinner and to hear Phil, call the national office to make reservations for dinner.



*Above: Marriot Downtown, KC, MO - located at 200 W. 12th Street, KC, MO. and the phone number is 1-816-421-6800.*

## Moved or Moving Soon?

*If you have already moved or will be soon, please contact your alumni or Leslie at the national office email:*

[office@betasigmapsi.org](mailto:office@betasigmapsi.org)

*with your current contact information.*

# Third Annual Trip With 'Amigo's For Christ' In Nicaragua

By: John Hatfield, National leadership Consultant

**"Generous hands** are blessed hands because they give bread to the poor" Proverbs 22:9

This was our third year to take Beta Sig men on an international service trip. We partner with Amigo's For Christ and are involved providing manual labor digging ditches to bring clean water to communities that have contaminated water. The contaminated water is causing a high infant death rate of children between the age of newly a born infant through the age of five.

Beta Sig men are lowering this death rate! Additionally, we are involved in the building of a school, assisting in the educational availability and academic achievement for the less fortunate.

The villages near Chinandega are where the volunteers work.



I love this cultural international experience for our men. They learn through experience and the experience is transformative. Everyone who participates in this trip comes back changed. Service is a Beta Sig value and ties directly to our purpose and mission as a fraternity. Men have attended from the following chapters, Zeta, Omega and Epsilon!



The photos left, right and above should help give you a good feel for what the trip is like. The map showing the red circle north and west of Managua, illustrates the general area where the villages are located that are receiving the benefits of this exchange program.



# Third Annual Colorado Leadership Conference A Big Success

## Leadership Summit

BY: John Hatfield and Steve Hicks

Mount Evans west of Denver is where we have planted the FLAG for our National Leadership Institute called LEADERSHIP SUMMIT! We have been here for the last three years. Men who are holding an office in our chapters are invited. Thanks to Steve Hicks (Iota) who is a professor at Denver University and the director of the high altitude research lab at the base of Mount Evens we are able to meet in a great Colorado setting in the mountains!

Being in the mountains provides a unique, memorable experience for our men as we have numerous leadership and personal development workshops, challenge initiative experiences in the woods, white water rafting, and 14,000 foot mount Evens to climb!

This past summer we studied the life of Joseph, looked at retention issues, culture, challenged with the concept of leadership first begins with leading ourselves, and talked through various scenarios that occur in our chapters and how we should respond.

Larry Edwards always attends and has key leadership tips for the men from his years of experience. Additionally, our national president Rudy Ristich is committed to this development and has never missed this event and always has incredible insights to share with the young men. It is a terrific bonding time for the men from our various chapters around the country, all learning from each other.

We are now bringing in our men who have attended this event to lead workshops providing another leadership equipping experience. Jake Vanderslice (Epsilon) a recent graduate has attended all three and is a key contributor. Jake was both the recruitment chair and leadership chair for IFC at Iowa State. I believe and am committed to Leadership development with our men in numerous forms. Our goal is to build better men personally, for our chapters, our communities, churches, and our world.



Above: Looking down at the rapids from above



Above: Cueing up for the float down stream



Above: Guys in raft 3 bringing up the rear



Above: Hand fishing for trout no doubt?



Above: Jake Vanderslice, one of the alumni leadership mentors gives a thumbs up for the successful trip down stream and not losing anyone in the process. Well done Jake!

Beta Sig Leadership Participants enjoyed Friday afternoon Kayaking in a cold Colorado stream. The photos above show the timeline of the activity and the fun that the guys were having.



Above: Some great new memories were created by the 20+ attendees to the 3rd annual Beta Sig Leadership Conference Friday afternoon kayaking and bonding. Next year all Beta Sig chapter leaders should plan to attend.

## Brother Lloyd Karmerier Becomes Chief Justice of Illinois Supreme Court

**Lloyd Karmerier**, Alpha '59, recently became the first Beta Sig to become the Chief Justice of any state supreme court in America. This is a very big deal, a super accomplishment and something that we as brothers should take a lot of pride in, knowing that one of our brothers reached the summit in the law profession in a major state like Illinois.

Justice Karmerier is another example of a fellow Beta Sig, a midwestern boy, that grew up in a rural environment, was educated in a one room school house and after a lifetime of hard work and dedication, rose to heights in his chosen field unknown to most of us. This is not to say that many of our brothers are not successful, it is just that this is truly a remarkable feat.

Karmerier, 76, who grew up in rural Washington County before graduating as valedictorian from Okawville Community High School in 1958 and going on to earn his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Illinois, was sworn in Monday, October 31st, 2016, as the 120th chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court.

In his position, which he'll fill for three years after being elected by his fellow justices on the seven-member court, Karmerier will serve as the top administrator for Illinois' judicial system, which includes more than 900 judges statewide.

Karmerier, a Republican who became a judge in 1986, received high praise from his fellow justices for his integrity, work ethic, sense of humor and collegiality.

"He respects and honors the traditions of the history of the court," said Justice Anne Burke, a Chicago Democrat. "He respects and honors his own personal background, and he respects and honors his colleagues. To put it simply, Lloyd Karmerier is the salt of the earth."

"When I ran for this office a decade ago, I made only one promise," he wrote. "It was a promise to the People of Illinois and the voters of the Fifth Judicial District that if elected, I would decide every case free of outside influence and based solely on the law and the facts. I have honored that pledge."

Perhaps the highest-profile decision Karmerier has written since becoming a justice was the 2015 ruling overturning a pension reform law the General Assembly passed in late 2013. The court ruled unanimously that it violated the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution.

State Sen. Dave Luechtefeld, R-Okawville, who's been friends with Karmerier for more than six decades and played high school basketball with him, attended the ceremony. Luechtefeld said Karmerier's integrity is without question. "He does what he thinks is right all the time," Luechtefeld said. "And he's been that way since he was young."

Justice Karmerier and his wife live in Nashville, Illinois. They have 2 children and 6 grandchildren.

### Associations:

- Is a member of the Illinois Judges' Association;
- the Washington County, St. Clair County, East St. Louis and Illinois State Bar and past member of the American Bar Association and the American Judicature Society.
- He served as a member of the Assembly of the Illinois State Bar



*Lloyd Karmerier - Chief Justice of Supreme Court of State of Illinois*

- Association from 1996 to 2002,
- Chair of the Bench and Bar Section Council.
- Served on the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Pattern Jury Instructions in Criminal Cases, chairing the committee from 2003 to 2004.
- A member of the Southern Illinois American Inn of Court and served as President of the Executive Committee from 2003 to 2007.

### Awards and contributions:

- Karmerier is a member of the Illinois Judges' Association; the Washington County, St. Clair County, East St. Louis and Illinois State Bar Associations;
- **2006: Citizen of the Year, Nashville, Illinois**
- **2010: Harold Sullivan Award for Judicial Excellence, Illinois Judges Association**
- **2015: The Joseph Bartylak Award from the Lawyer's Assistance Program**
- **2016: Chicago Lawyer Magazine's Person of the Year**

An article about this appointment as Chief Justice in Illinois Lawyer Now wrote, "Throughout his tenure on the Supreme Court, Justice Karmerier has made frequent appearances before school, civic, and professional organizations to speak about the court's work. He regularly lectures at continuing legal education programs and contributes articles to the ISBA Bench and Bar Section Council Newsletter."



*View of the Supreme Court of Illinois - Judge Karmerier is situated two seats in from the right end of the bench.*

## Beta Chapter Alum Speaker of The House in Indiana Legislature

By: Gary Raffety - Editor

**Fellow Beta Sig**, Brian Bosma, (Beta '77), has been, and still is, living a life that is full of outstanding accomplishments.

After graduating from High School in his home town of Beech Grove, Indiana, Brian attended Purdue University, where he joined Beta Sigma Psi National Fraternity, (Beta '77) and graduated with an Engineering Degree.

Three years later, in 1984, he received his Juris Doctor from the Indiana University School of Law. That same year he became a member of both the Indiana State Bar and the American Bar Association.

He was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1986. His fellow Republicans elected him the House Republican Minority Floor Leader (1994 – 1999) and was then selected to serve as the Republican Minority Leader from 2000 to 2004 and again from 2006 to 2010.

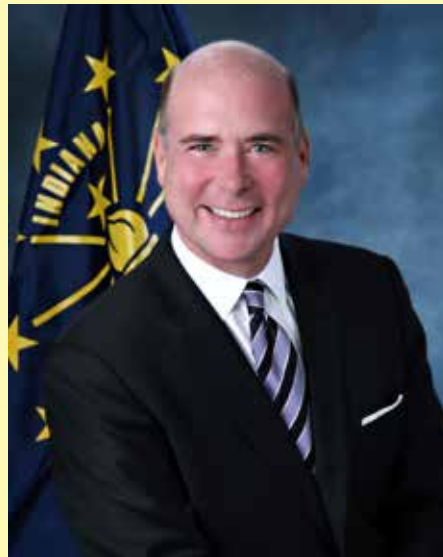
In 2004, when House Republicans assumed a 52-48 majority, Bosma was elected Speaker of the House by his peers. After serving as Republican Leader following the 2006 and 2008 elections, Bosma was again elected Speaker of the House where he remains today.

Brian was born in Beech Grove, Indiana on October 31, 1957. He was the grandson of Dutch immigrants. His grandfather came to America along with his 11 brothers and sisters, was a dairy operator and founded **Bosma Dairy**, where Brian worked growing up.

Brian's parents Margaret and Charles Bosma, were both professionals and successful in their own right. His mother was an elementary school teacher. His father, also a Beta Sig (Beta Chapter 1940-1943) was an Army Officer in WW II, a businessman and an Indiana State Senator, from 1962-1980.

After passing the bar, Brian began his law career as an associate attorney, joining the firm of **Bingham Summers Welsh and Spilman** where he worked from 1984-1985. He then became a legislative adviser in the Indiana Department of Education where he served as the legislative liaison to Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction, (1985-1986).

After leaving the state education department, he returned to the legal profession and joined, as a partner, the Indianapolis-based



**Brian Bosma - Beta '77**

law firm of Kroger, Gardis and Regas, LLP. His law practice is concentrated in the areas of complex business and municipal transactions, municipal finance and environmental matters. He chairs the Government Practice Group of Kroger Gardis & Regas, and serves as general or special counsel to dozens of municipalities and business entities throughout the State of Indiana.

Mr. Bosma is a founding director of Bosma Industries for the Blind and serves as the Chairman of the Bosma Visionary Opportunities Foundation. He is a frequent author and lecturer on environmental, corporate, construction and municipal matters, and has served for nearly two decades as a lecturer for young lawyers preparing to take the Indiana Bar Exam in the areas of corporations, partnership and agency law.

Brian and wife Cheryl call Indianapolis home. Their daughter Allison is a Purdue graduate and son Christopher is a medical student at the Indiana University School of Medicine.



*Brian, Cheryl, Allison and Christopher*

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

(A partial Listing as we do not have space enough for the entire list.)

- National Legislative Chair, Republican State Leadership Committee, 2009 – 2012

- National Association of Bond Lawyers, 2008 - Present.
- Indiana Municipal Lawyers Association, 2003 - Present
- Bosma Industries for the Blind, 1989 – Present Board of Directors
- Bosma Visionary Opportunities Foundation, 2010 – Present Chairman
- American Bar Association, Corporations, Banking, Business Law and Natural Resource Law Section
- Indiana State Bar Association, Corporations, Banking, and Business Law Section
- Indianapolis Bar Association, Business and Environmental Law Section
- Indiana State Republican, Platform Committee, 1988 – Present
- Indiana Supreme Court Character and Fitness Committee, 1988 – 1996
- Indiana Youth Leadership Forum, 1996 – Present

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- "Indiana Super Lawyer" Selected to Indiana Super Lawyer list 2007-08; 2013-16
- Leadership in Law Distinguished Barrister Award, Indiana Lawyer, 2012
- Sagamore of the Wabash, Governor Mitch Daniels, 2012
- National Champion for Charters, National Alliance for Public Charter Schools, 2012
- Guardian of Small Business, National Federation of Independent Business, 2012
- Chairman's Award, National Federation of Independent Business, 2003, 2001
- National Public Official of the Year, Governing Magazine, 2002
- Legislator of the Year, Indiana Ophthalmology Academy, 1999
- Top Forty Leaders Under Forty", Indianapolis Business Journal, 1995
- Leadership Award, Indiana Youth Services Association, 1992
- Sagamore of the Wabash, Governor Robert D. Orr, 1988
- Outstanding Young Hoosier, Indiana Jaycees, 1987

### **PUBLISHED WORKS**

- "Legal Issues for Redistricting in Indiana", Indiana Municipal Lawyers Association, 2012
- "Mergers, Consolidation and Cooperation", Indiana Municipal Lawyers Association, 2012
- "Restoring Common Sense", Res Gestae, Indiana State Bar Association, 2011
- "Interlocal Cooperation Agreements in Indiana : Law, Practice and Strategy", Indiana Municipal Lawyer's Association, 2011
- "Weathering the Financial Crisis – Options for Local Government", National Business Institute, 2010
- "Seizing Opportunities in the Downturn", Purdue Engineering Impact, fall 2009
- "Environmental and Natural Resources Laws Affecting Your Practice", Indianapolis Bar Association, 2000
- "The Law of Corporation, Agency and Partnership in Indiana", BAR/BRI, 2000-2009
- "Selecting and Contracting with Environmental Consultants", Indiana Bar Association, 1995
- "Environmental Regulation in Indiana", Institute of Business Law, 1995
- "Hazardous Waste in Indiana", National Business Institute, 1993
- "Leadership and Law", Robert H. McKinney School of Law, 2007 – 2009

## Zeta Alum, Mayor Larry Wolgast Revitalizing Downtown Topeka

By: Morgan Chilson

Reprinted with permission of: *The Topeka Capital Journal*

Mayor Larry Wolgast was among a small group of people who began meeting every Friday morning in 2009 to talk about downtown Topeka and its future.

Wolgast, then a member of the Topeka City Council, said those meetings evolved into a more organized, structured process that birthed Heartland Visioning, a downtown summit and, ultimately, the 2012 council vote that resulted in the infrastructure improvements to S. Kansas Avenue.

Like many in the community, he has carried the torch for downtown through disappointing council votes, doubts about the project's economic viability and months of torn-up streets.

Today, with such projects as the Cyrus Hotel in the offing, "sold" signs in most downtown buildings and nearly complete beautification projects, Wolgast said it is time for "breathing deeply" before moving forward.

The path forward isn't clear-cut from a city perspective, he said, because it isn't always evident what the city should be doing or even what needs to be done to ensure success.

Numerous questions have arisen about the city's role. "I would say we're looking at that," Wolgast said. "The city has a commitment to downtown. It's an economic development issue. I have been looking at what other cities do to support their downtowns.

When there are events, what is the role of the city? It's like with parades — there's the cost, the police, all the barricades, all these things that have to be done. How do cities do this? I don't think it's appropriate to expect the private sector to do this, or DTI (Downtown Topeka Inc.). It's something that the city is doing."

Wolgast can roll out many questions that need to be tackled: how do you handle events, who pays for them, how do you get the right mix of tenants and

work to become an entertainment center, to name a few. Even something as simple as who develops a walking map to tie the downtown area in with the Kansas Statehouse, which sees 100,000 visitors each year, can be complicated.

It isn't as simple as doing step one, two and three, he said. It requires planning, and he said he has been talking with others, both in the city and in a variety of organizations, about working together to plan. Some of that planning is happening. Vince Frye, president and CEO of Downtown Topeka Inc., said, for example, that the city is participating in a committee about the possibility of moving Topeka's farmers market downtown, along with DTI, state officials and other organizations.

Frye said DTI also is meeting with Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce officials about what types of businesses should be recruited downtown and how to do so.

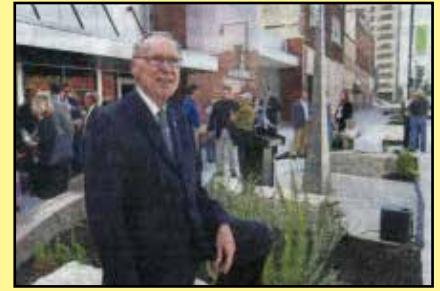
"Those things are all happening. We're all talking, we're all on the same page in what we would like to see," he said. "From that standpoint, there's a real cooperative effort. A lot of the places that we visited on inter-city visits, the city plays a key role in their downtown as far as staffing responsibilities, entertainment, farmers markets, a lot of things of that nature.

That has not been the case really here, but there's no reason it couldn't be. We have certainly talked with the mayor, the city manager and others that there might be an opportunity for the city to be more involved in making some of those things happen."

Wolgast said it will take some planning and decision-making to determine the city's role. Some cities have created departments that work on their downtowns, for instance. Moving forward, is important to determine the city's involvement.

"We take our time," he said of the process. "We all want it now. Immediately. But I think we worked by taking this a step at a time — now we're at this point, now we start taking those next steps."

Wolgast, who is familiar with the many steps, patience and diligence required to get to this point, is excited to see the change in attitudes. Those will contin-



**Top photo:** Mayor Wolgast standing in the BNSF pocket park the day of its dedication.



**Bottom Photo:** Mayor Wolgast talks standing next to a statue of Cyrus K. Holliday, the former mayor and president of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway, during the unavailing of the BNSF pocket Park at S.W. 10th and Kansas.

ue to change because there have been years of a "this won't work" and "this can't happen" feeling, he said.

"Vince will tell you they've had calls from developers in Kansas City. They see this is where things are happening now, and they want to be part of it," he said, adding that as restaurants and other businesses open downtown, changes will continue.

"I believe when we have those excellent restaurants, they will have business," he said. "They left downtown because there was no downtown left. But it's coming back.

I've had a couple of people tell me since the Sunday stories, 'I never felt Kansas Avenue would come back or happen, but now I see it is.' It takes a while to change your thinking about it."



## National Beta Sigs Are Looking At Expansion to South Dakota and Ohio

By: Larry Edwards

As most Alums are aware, our efforts in expansion are slow and deliberate with a goal of one new interest group/colony established each school year. This makes a lot more sense than our frenzied efforts in the 60's with all of the lost chapters in the 70's.

**South Dakota State University** - Brookings. The University has welcomed our efforts which fit their model. This means stretching our efforts over 2-3 years till chartering, much like KU.

After a visit to the campus last September, we thought we could get a small group together with the help of the LCMS and the ELCA campus ministry. For a variety of reasons that didn't work out.

Now, however, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (MS) has installed a Pastor to work with the students on campus. Rev. Micah Bauer has been sent literature and material about Beta Sig with the goal of finding a small group of about 5 students who might want to spearhead our efforts. They would be invited to MEF in January to see how we function as a National Fraternity. We will keep you posted as our efforts unfold.

**Ohio State University** - Columbus. Due to the hard work of Brent Siefert, we probably have an interest group of about 4 young men. We have Alumni Pastors in the area, with positive feedback from the Greek Affairs Director. One problem that has just come up is the requirement of the University for Sophomore men as well as freshmen to live in campus dorms. That is a certain way to stifle the fraternity system.



*The Ohio State University Campus*

If you know of names of students at either one of these schools, or you live in close proximity, please contact me at Larryedwards12@gmail.com

## 'THE INNER RING'

Beta Sig Presidents Conclave  
July 5-7, 2017 in Chicago

The Inner Ring experience involves outgoing presidents equipping incoming presidents with what they learned and wish they would have known before taking the office of president. Additionally, we will have leadership development specifically targeted to the position of president.

### SAVE THE DATE:

We will begin **January 5th** at 5PM and end **January 7th** at noon.

### COST:

The only cost will be your transportation.

**The Educational Foundation will cover hotel, food, and materials**

### REGISTER

Please register with **Leslie** at our National Office.

### Contact National Office:

Leslie's email is: [office@betasigmaps.org](mailto:office@betasigmaps.org):

She will need your **Name, Phone, Email, and your Chapter**

***You should make every effort to attend this great opportunity.***

## Fourth Annual Beta Sig Leadership Summit - July, 20 - 23, 2017

The Fourth Annual Leadership Summit will be held near Mount Evans, Colorado, this coming July and this is one event all future chapter leaders should attend.

The Colorado leadership summit is a real unique experience! It is offered to any Beta Sig who is or will soon be in a chapter leadership position.

This will be the fourth year for this conference. The attendance has continued to grow each and every year and we expect the upcoming session to be our largest to date.

All attendees and Beta Sig leaders will gather at a base camp next to Mount Evans. During the course of three days, you will experience numerous leadership classes and also experience recreational events together as a group.

We will go on a rafting trip and hike 14,000 foot Mount Evans! You will not want to miss this incredible experience bonding with Beta Sig men from other chapters and creating a lifetime memory in beautiful rugged Colorado!

***To Register, you must contact Leslie at the National Office. You will be required to give your Name, email, phone, and chapter. Contact Leslie at: [office@betasigmaps.org](mailto:office@betasigmaps.org).***

2016 attendees of the summit rafted down a local stream, (*see photo at right.*) If you enjoy water sports, this is definitely for you.



Last summer's attendees (shown at left) all finished the hike up Mount Evans and reached the summit, elevation 14,264 feet. Plan on making the hike next summer, it will be an experience you will never forget.

# Scott Gesell Receives Beta Sig's Top Reward The Lienemann Award

Acceptance Speech by Scott Gesell '78 - Delta Chapter

**Let me open** by saying "Thank you" and letting you know what an honor this is for me to be selected for the Lienemann Award.

Understanding the importance and the commitment of the man for whom this award is named, and looking at the list of prior recipients, most of whom I know or have known and many of whom I have had the pleasure to work with over the years, I realize how blessed we are as a Fraternity to have had these men in our organization.

I want to recognize a few people who attended the awards banquet and by their presence made it extra special for me. First, my wife - Betty. She is the love of my life, and has been a strong supporter of our fraternity. She never questioned or challenged the time or commitment of our resources to Beta Sigma Psi. But for Beta Sigma Psi, we likely would never have met and most certainly would not have developed a relationship.

To my best friend and fellow pledge brother, Ross Nelson (and his lovely wife, Shawne), and my pledge brothers Jay Holle and Mark Hahn, thank you for being a part of my life and being part of the celebration with me - I would not have been receiving the award if not for you and our fellow brothers, nor would it mean as much to me.

To my nephew, Ian, who is an active at Epsilon chapter, a special thanks. To the men of Delta chapter, whom I have had the pleasure to get to know and work with these last few years - thanks - you remind me of why Beta Sigma Psi is so important and so relevant today. Beta Sigma Psi truly is a family affair for me - 2 brothers, a nephew and 3 cousins have all been members.

Times have certainly change since I pledged in the fall of 1977. While we, as a fraternity, have had our ups and downs over those years, we are at a point of success on many fronts that appears unprecedented in our history.

We have as strong a membership top to bottom, and financially we are on the soundest footing, that I can ever remember. We have some great leaders and advisors with our organization - starting with Rudy (Ristich) and John (Hatfield) and including the rest of the boards of our various entities.

I would be remiss if I did not give out a special salute to Larry Edwards. He has stepped in time and time again to grasp the rudder and help chart the course. He has challenged and encouraged me to get and stay engaged. He has been the greatest teacher for me regarding the history of our fraternity.

As well as things are going today, we cannot and should not take it for granted that this will continue. Fraternities in general are constantly

under attack from the public and also from certain campus administrations, and often, with some justification.

In the ever changing, politically correct world in which we live, the old adage of "boys will be boys" is no longer a recognized justification for less than good behavior. Societal expectations have altered the historically acceptable activities of many fraternities. Additionally, religiously affiliated entities have not fared well in many instances.

But still, we currently prosper. One can ask why and there are a number of reasonable responses, but to me it breaks down to a few important attributes of which I hope and pray we do not lose sight or focus.

The first is found early in our constitution - an understanding that a life rooted in Christ is the only true goal of human existence. Bob Hillard constantly brought that concept home as a leader in our fraternity when I was coming up through the ranks, and it still resonates today.

Second, is the understanding of what it means to be Christian gentleman, and more importantly, knowing when one has gotten off that path, and making appropriate amends and corrections to set things right. Our focus on the three S's is unique in the fraternity world, and an understanding of the important balance between the spiritual, scholastic and social aspects of college life helps us to develop well-rounded members.

The third is a desire to be a leader by example in our chapters, schools and communities. When these base elements are brought to bear, we have a product to offer that is not available in any other form on our respective university campuses, and there is still a significant group of young men and their families who are looking for this culture and experience.

We are not necessarily "better" than other fraternities because of these attributes, but we do stand apart and do



Scott Gesell '78 Delta

avoid many of the pitfalls and distractions others experience, and we have an organization that is able to support its members when support is needed.

Last, we have been blessed with some dedicated members who continued to devote time, talent and resources to our organization throughout their adult lives.

We have a permanent challenge in the life of our fraternity - something that we have had to confront and deal with since day two of the existence of our organization - the "Lutheran clause" - the requirement that all active members be in communion with the Lutheran church. This is complicated enough by the fact that the various Lutheran organizations are not "in communion" with each other. Great debates have raged, and continue to rage about whether this should remain a requirement of our organization, and, if so, what does it mean, and how is it applied.

To best understand this issue, one needs to study the history of the founding of our fraternity. We were formed to give Lutheran men an option that allowed them to meet the requirements of the Lutheran church with respect to membership in a "secret society" and to promote the values of a Lutheran-based life, rooted in the Christ element, in the daily college life. At the time of our founding, there was not an option or alternative in the Greek community that was acceptable to members of the Lutheran church who strictly followed its teachings.

We need to understand that we joined the fraternity, Beta Sigma Psi, not that the fraternity joined us. What we joined is very clearly spelled out in our governing documents. One does not have to be in communion with the Lutheran church to become an associate member of Beta Sigma Psi, and one does not have to be in communion with the Lutheran Church once one becomes an alumnus of Beta Sigma Psi or to remain active in the affairs of the Fraternity. However, if one is to be an active member of Beta Sigma Psi, one must be in communion with the Lutheran church. We are not a social fraternity for Christian men, or a Christian fraternity for the social man - we are a social fraternity for Lutheran men.

Continued top next page



Above: Scott receives a handshake and congratulation from previous Lienemann Award Winner Larry Edwards.

Continued from previous page

I am a lawyer by profession, and often spend a good part of my day rationalizing marginal or bad behavior and try to make it look or sound acceptable or even good. After 32 years of practice I understand the process of rationalization, its strengths, weaknesses and shortfalls. I was also a history major in undergrad, and have spent a great deal of time studying history – and its most important lesson – those who do not study and understand history are doomed to repeat it.

If you are an Active member of Beta Sigma Psi today, and do not self-identify as a Lutheran, then I challenge you to show me how you meet the baseline requirements for membership in our National fraternity. I recognize that at a number of our chapters the university administration has required us to take the “Lutheran” provision out of the charter for the local chapter. That being said, if one is committed to our fraternity and what it stands for, one must square how they meet the requirements for membership. The Army, Air Force and the Navy are all military organizations, and they often undertake joint operations, but members still identify with the branch of service in which they serve, not an amorphous “military”.

There have been “Christian” fraternities before us – look at Sigma Chi and ATO as examples, who chose to abandon that element of their formation – fine organizations for the most part in their own right, but not true to the purposes on which they were founded. I know that if you stand for nothing, you fall for everything, and I am worried as I see those who seek to erode the pillar on which this organization was founded and stands.

I know Luther did not want those who followed his teachings to call themselves “Lutherans” but he acknowledged that if by doing so they announced a commitment to the concept of salvation by faith alone, he could accept the practice. I recognize that there are other Christian organizations that share this belief system, but they were not a part of the founding or purpose of Beta Sigma Psi.

We have the ability to amend our governing documents, and have over the years, and we could take out the “Lutheran clause” – element

of our requirements. I posit to you that if we do that, then at the same time we need to change our name from Beta Sigma Psi because we will have so altered our purpose that we will no longer be the organization that meets the objectives or purpose for the founders had when we were established.

While this appears to be a challenge for some, I think it is a great opportunity for us to continue down a path to success. Being “in communion” with a Lutheran church today is not the undertaking it was in the past. Today, one can be “in communion” by simply attending and participating at many Lutheran churches. My challenge to each Active member is to find that Lutheran church in which you feel most at home, and be in communion with it during your days as an active.

I think this is also an opportunity for us as an organization to meet our obligations as a social fraternity for Lutheran men. It has been pointed out to me, and I would confirm it by my life experiences, that those who come to the church by their own choosing are often more involved and engaged than those who are “born” into the church through their family ties.

When one joins by choice and selection, they have a tendency to make the experience a greater part of their life. The Lutheran church today faces the challenge that it is in many places dying a slow but steady death. If we infuse the church with new members who are proven leaders and engaged in their faith as a daily part of their life, we help stem that trend and ensure that we are providing the church with good leaders for its future.

I have been blessed to experience many emotional highs and lows as part of my involvement with this organization. One of the darkest days in my life was when I got the call that we were closing Delta Chapter at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln.

We lost our focus and commitment, and we paid the ultimate price. Every time I went back to Lincoln after that or attended a Beta Sig event there was a hole in my heart and in my experience. Thankfully, and through the hard work of some very dedicated people, that hole was filled with the re-chartering of the chapter and the witnessing of its success and growth.



**Above:** Scott giving his Acceptance Speech

The men in that chapter today are the Beta Sigs our mothers wanted us to be, and I am very proud to have them as part of our family.

I recently attended the Delta Alumni Golf Tournament – it was great to see the turnout and again experience the fellowship that only comes when two or more of us are gathered together – in this case, 70 of us. I had a great talk with one of my brothers, Dan Lindstrom, at the post golf outing after the tournament at the house.

Dan was a year ahead of me in the house, played football at Nebraska, and was a guy I admired and respected during my time in the house. We had a great discussion about how the house had positively impacted our lives at a critical juncture, and set us on the road to the rest of our life in a much better context.

We were also blessed to have Bernie Bauermeister attend and receive his Tiemann Award and have him share the significance of Beta Sigma Psi in his life experience. We talked about the continuing relevance and need for our organization in the lives of young men today.

Bernie and Dan are people that I have no doubt would have been successful in life without Beta Sigma Psi, but their statements regarding how much the experience enriched their respective lives hit home with me and echoed my experience.

In closing, I would again state that receiving the Lienemann Award is truly a great honor for me. I would challenge each of us to remember the important role that Beta Sigma Psi has played in our personal lives, and recognize that there are continuing opportunities and needs for us to be involved with this great organization.

In today's college world, more than ever, there is the need for an organization with our beliefs and values on college campuses. Our strength is in our commitment – we are a largely volunteer organization. Let's embrace and meet the challenges of continuing our fraternity to serve the purposes for which it was founded. Thank you.



**Above:** Scott Receiving Lienemann Award and Congratulations from previous fellow Lienemann Award Winners

# Alpha Chapter Update

By: Joe Baldwin 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 33 active and associate members. We have just activated 2 new members from last spring, one member in transition, and welcomed in 8 new associates this semester. This is the largest group of first semester freshman, six, that we've seen in recent years and are excited to watch them develop throughout the next four years.

These men are already showing great dedication to the chapter by taking on leadership roles, showing a passion to want to become actives, and creating friendships between each other. In addition, with the help of John Hatfield, we continued to strengthen our chapter's recruitment strategies; he has been a great asset to our chapter in the past years.

We conducted our second annual Leadership Series based on the models set by Beta and Omega chapters. With our learning experiences from last year, we re-evaluated our selection process and recruited a large majority of the series participants.

The big story this fall at the University of Illinois was the hiring of Lovie Smith as the new head coach of Fighting Illini football. All our members stay active with Illini sports and are excited to see what Lovie does with the team in the next few years. Many members have season tickets for football and basketball, showing a deep sense of pride for the Fighting Illini, which we also use as a recruitment tool.

Overall, our recruitment was fairly successful, but we have bigger expectations for ourselves in the future. On a positive note, for the first time in many, many years, the Alpha chapter house is looking to have every room occupied with at least one member for the spring semester and moving forward.

Alpha Chapter has had a strong track record in the recent past when it comes to our academic performance. This past semester we ranked 2nd out of 47 fraternities on the campus, a statistic we are very proud of.

We have been consistently in the top 5 for grades and have a few number one titles here and there; we always make it a point to get our house GPA as high as it can be. We do our best to hold our members to high standards academically. 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.

We also brought home some hardware at the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs awards ceremony, Greek Oscars, where Alpha chapter won awards for achievement in Scholarship and New Membership Education, as well as one of our members, Nick Schwingbeck, winning the 1872 Legacy Award for leadership. Our chapter is extremely dedicated to academics, and is reflected in our high GPA and awards

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 hosted a few philanthropic events of our own this semester and are always looking for new ideas to support Habitat for Humanity and various other groups.

Also, a few of our members, myself included, have organized a house rock band, playing at various campus establishments. In addition, we are participating in numerous intramural sports over the past year, including sand volleyball, indoor soccer, basketball, broomball, and dodgeball.

Our members really enjoy competing with other Greek Houses and have fun playing all different kinds of sports. Many of our members stay active at church by volunteering to assist in ushering, communion, and singing in the choir as well as many other church activities and service opportunities. 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. We try our best to develop our members to have deep pride for the fraternity and for the university, and to grow from young men to Christian Gentlemen.

We have big expectations for our new members and can't wait to see what they bring to Alpha Chapter. If you have any more questions, feel free to contact by email at jsbaldw2@illinois.edu.

Go Illini!!



*Executive board from left to right: Nathaniel Stoll, Recruitment Chair; Ryan Rodgers, 2nd Vice President; Joe Baldwin, President; Vince Maxwell, 1st Vice President; Charles Tierney, Treasurer; Luke Hanselman, Social Chair*



*Associate members from left to right: Phil Hietter, Michael Bengston, Ben Norton, Justin Keel, Chris May, Zach Miller, Dylan Young, and Michael Scwhingbeck*

# Beta Chapter Update

By: Robert Ehlerding, President

**Throughout** the last year, Beta Chapter has made large steps in a great direction in a variety of areas. From recruitment, to academics, to involvement on campus, Beta chapter has been an excellent representative of Christianity on Purdue's campus. We have increased our active members to 35 active members, and six members who are currently in the new member education program. With new recruitment tools, and help from a variety of resources, we expect to be over 50 members by next fall.

Through our rigorous renovating of the chapter scholarship program, and the dedication from the brothers, Beta Chapter was able to raise its cumulative GPA by 0.21. Academic Chairman Lars Henderson '15, a pharmacy student, has put in countless effort to the program and assistance to the brothers to create this success. Beta Chapter is currently ranked 17th out of the 42 fraternities on campus, and has been on an upward path for the last 4 semesters. With a new member class coming in with an average high school GPA of over a 3.9, the academic future of Beta Chapter is looking bright.

Throughout this last spring and fall semesters, Beta Chapter help an esteemed position on Purdue University's campus. Between involvements with University Lutheran Church, admirable clubs, and intramural sports, Beta chapter continues to improve on its long standing traditions. Brother

ment, Purdue Club Baseball, Boiler Gold Rush, ROTC, and Purdue Lutheran Ministries.

So far, into the fall semester, Beta Chapter has been the champions of two intramural sports, the men's Greek sand volleyball, and co-ed sand volleyball. Brothers Dan Gunkle '15, Logan White '14, Micah Koeneman '15, Alex Werling '16, and

Nik Kiess '15 brought the team to championship this fall, beating the Sigma Chi team in two sets in the finals.



*Sand Volleyball Champions*

The co-ed team consisted of brothers Dan Gunkle '15, Micah Koeneman '15, Nik Kiess '15, and Robby Ehlerding '15 and ladies from the neighboring sorority Alpha Xi Delta. The team brought home the championship by defeating the Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Kappa Alpha Theta team in three sets.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Beta Chapter is involved in a wide range of philanthropy events on campus. This fall, Beta Chapter participated in Alpha Xi Delta's philanthropy, the Football Frenzi benefitting



*Alpha Xi Delta Football Frenzi Champions*

Autism Speaks, where we won for the third year in a row.

The chapter has participated in the Delta Upsilon and Alpha Xi Delta Paint Wars where a third place was taken home. Brothers participated in Purdue University Dance Marathon where over \$1.1 million was raised for Riley Children's Hospital.

Beta Chapter is currently in the planning stage for a Spikeball tournament, where the event will be benefitting Alzheimer's Research. The event is slated for the end of November.



*Brothers at University Lutheran Church for New Member Initiation*



*Fall 2016 Beta Chapter Pledge Class*



*Below: Fall 2016 Beta Sig Barn Dance.*



*(At Left);* Brothers take a trip to Turkey Run State Park for a day of hiking (Kevin Schiff '16, Nik Kiess '15, Alex Werling '16, Ryan Hockemeyer '15, Josh Porter '15 Logan White '14, Robby Ehlerding '15, Micah Koeneman '15

Brother Samuel Hathaway is a current member of the Purdue Musical Organizations' Varsity Glee Club, where he is a respected leader, and a member of the elite solo group, Ba Na Na. Brothers Robby Ehlerding '15, Nik Kiess '15, Jon Adair '14 currently are a part of the College Mentors for Kids program, where they are 4th grade mentors for at-risk children.

Beta Chapter Brothers are involved with a range of other organizations that are, but not limited to, School of Management Employers Forum, the Inter-Fraternal Council, Purdue Student Govern-

University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE

# Delta Chapter Update

By: Clay Blank, President

**This past** year for Delta Chapter has been one where records have been broken and new ideas and changes have taken place for the better of the group.

Personally, I couldn't be more proud of the direction that Delta Chapter is moving. If it wasn't for the countless hours and dedication from alumni, actives, and pastoral advisors, we would not be in the position that we currently are in.

In this past year, Delta Chapter was blessed to sign our biggest pledge class since re-colonizing. Ten lucky men will be able to go through our "Beta Sig" experience and one day be able to look back on their time and be appreciative of what Delta Chapter offered them. We couldn't be more thrilled at this time for the direction recruitment is going.

Because of the improvement in size for our pledge class, we will be able to move more members into our house, which we have had the honor of being able to live in for the 3rd consecutive year.

The addition of the new pledge class will fill the house to capacity, which is a trend we want to set for future members of Delta Chapter.

Lastly, Delta Chapter members have worked hard with our scholastics and we were able to produce one of the top 5 GPA's among all Fraternities on campus for the past 6 semesters (We were 1st in 4 of those semesters!).



Three Brothers from Delta Chapter traveled to Jacmel, Haiti and helped out at Wings of Hope!

Delta Chapter was able to hold its 4th annual Wings for Wings Philanthropy this past fall semester. The philanthropy raises money by selling chicken wings for Wings of Hope in Jacmel, Hatii. Wings of Hope is an organization that houses children and adults with physical and mental disabilities who are left out on the streets with no hope. We are blessed to be able to serve this organization and just this past summer, we were able to have a couple of members from Delta Chapter travel to Jacmel, Hatii and help at Wings of Hope.



Beta Sig - Delta Chapter House, Lincoln, NE, with a full compliment of members now living within. This is the third consecutive year that Beta Sig has been in their new house.



Beta Sigma Psi, Delta Chapter, 2016 Pledge Class



Beta Sigma Psi, Delta Chapter 2016 Leadership Team

# Epsilon Chapter Update

By: Reed Burre, President

**It's hard** to believe that we are already over half way through the fall semester here at Iowa State University. The Good Lord has had his hand over us and has helped guide us down the road that we are on.

The support that we have had from our alumni is truly sensational; the alumni presence within the chapter now is the highest that I have ever seen. With that being said I would like to ask that older brothers continue to challenge themselves and work to create new opportunities for their younger brothers and members still within the active chapter. Once a Beta Sig, always a Beta Sig!

This summer our Recruitment Chairman, Harry Daubitz and Nathan Hollander worked to overcome adversity and recruited a pledge class of 21 Christian men. I am very excited to see how each and every one of our new members will rise to the challenge and step up to the plate and leave their own mark on the fraternity within the next few years.

Epsilon chapter placed 8th academically within the Interfraternity Council chapter standings this past semester. It will be fun to see how the chapter can improve on this ranking this semester.

This year for Homecoming we are paired with Beta Theta Pi, Alpha Phi, and Alpha Sigma Kappa. This Homecoming Pairing will present the chapter with a unique opportunity to work towards building new friendships, making memories that will last a lifetime, and maybe even win a little Homecoming hardware! Please keep in mind that Homecoming is just around the corner and that we would love to reconnect and reminisce on stories from the past.

I cannot wait to see how things further progress as the semester continues on. Please stay posted and be on the lookout for an update email regarding the annual Greek Alumni Alliance get together, it should be another great event for the Greek Community.

As always I really would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of Epsilon Chapter's Alumni and Parents. We truly do appreciate everything that you do for us and without you we could not do the things that we do, once again thank you, and feel free to stop by if you're ever in Ames!



*Above: Fall 2016 Epsilon Chapter Executive Board Members*



*Above: Beta Sigs participate in our annual canoe trip at the beginning of the year for our new members to get their feet wet.*

## Scholarship

By: Jacob Vogts E-863

**Last Spring** was a very successful semester for the fraternity from a scholastic standpoint. We finished the semester with a house GPA of 3.16, which was up 0.10 from the fall semester. This placed us as eighth out of all the IFC chapters. We have set the house goal for this semester at a 3.25 GPA, which the executive board feels is a good goal for the fraternity.

Last semester we made substantial changes to the scholarship bylaws. We increased the minimum GPA requirement for members from a 2.50 to 2.70, to work towards meeting changing national requirements. Along with this, we adjusted the punishments and requirements for members who failed to make grades, creating what we believe is a program which helps instill better academic habits and practices in the members.

Finally, we passed by-laws which increased the incentives for members to get tutors, which resulted in more members, particularly freshmen, getting tutors this semester.



*Fall 2016 Epsilon Pledge Class*

## The Public Relations Minute

By: Spencer Betts E-893

**Hello everyone!** My name is Spencer Betts, and I'm pleased to say that I am serving as the Public Relations chair this semester for Epsilon chapter.

Seeing as how we're rounding out October, I'd like to go into more depth on what our members have been up to this semester thus far. This year, we've developed a relationship with Habitat for Humanity and our organization will donate to it the proceeds from our Beta Sig Brunch. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, different people go and help them out in their "Habitat Store" because they receive a lot of business and thrive on volunteers.

As usual, our members are very active in the church, providing their services as ushers and parkers, being Sunday School teachers, playing in the bell choir, or even just being in attendance to worship our God. We had our semi-formal dance earlier this month at the Prairie Meadows horse racing track. Fittingly, we had a derby theme. It was a great deal of fun.

Our new members have been attending their new member education and have been actively and engagingly learning about Beta Sigma Psi as a whole, and within Epsilon chapter. As much as we love informing you on what we're up to, we also enjoy having a look into your lives and seeing what our older and recent alumni are up to. If you feel so inclined, you may send me an email with a snippet of what you're up to these days so that I can inform the chapter and show them what life beyond college looks like. This could also allow our members to learn more about a position or career path they're interested, and would allow them to ask a brother about it.

If this sounds like something you would be willing to do, please send me something at sbetts@iastate.edu. I hope to hear from a lot of you in the near future! The groundwork you've laid and what you've done for the fraternity has allowed us current members of Beta Sigma Psi to thrive and succeed here at Iowa State, and I speak for everyone when I say, we are very thankful for that.

# Eta Chapter Update

By: Kyle Moellenhoff, President

**2016** has been another exciting and busy year for the gentlemen of Eta Chapter here at Missouri University of Science and Technology. The spring semester brought a number of successes and reasons for celebration. It was an excellent semester academically, with a chapter GPA of 3.2, placing us fifth among all fraternities on campus.

Eta Chapter also participated in the annual St. Pat's celebration at Missouri S&T as we always do. After winning the whole St. Pat's competition in 2015, we came together again for another good showing. Though we didn't win overall this year, our float for the 2016 St. Pat's Parade took first place for the second year in a row.

Another notable development during the spring semester was the institution of our chapter's first Judicial Board. This is a group separate from our executive board whose duty is to handle all disciplinary issues in the house. We think this will be a very effective way to manage our chapter going forward.

This summer our members went their separate ways for internships, vacations, and other adventures. For the first time we sent two members (myself and our first VP Ben Foster) to the annual Beta Sigma Psi Leadership Summit in Colorado. This was a valuable experience for both of us. We were able to go whitewater rafting and survey the gorgeous Colorado landscape from the summit of Mt. Evans while also learning leadership techniques and meeting fellow Beta Sigs from other chapters. As someone who had never been to Colorado, it was something I won't soon forget.



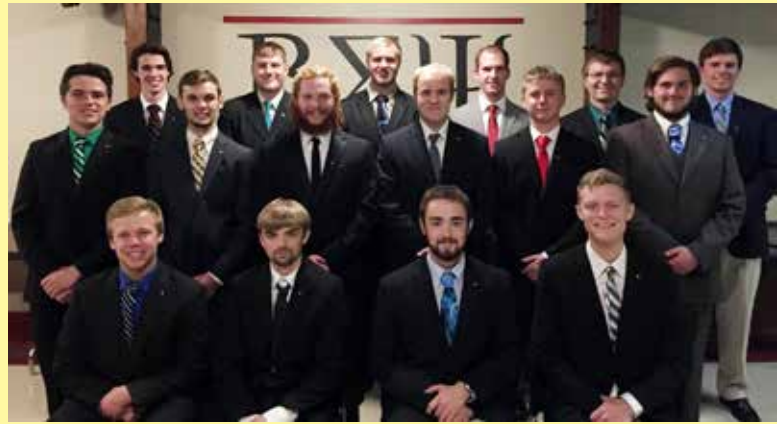
2016 also brought some sadness to Eta Chapter as we had to unexpectedly say goodbye to our beloved house dog Emmet. He passed away this July, and his warm presence around the chapter house is certainly missed.

Fall semester has been going well, with our chapter participating in Greek Week and Homecoming. Recruitment has been excellent this year; we activated 3 new members from the spring and we have a fall associate member class of 17.

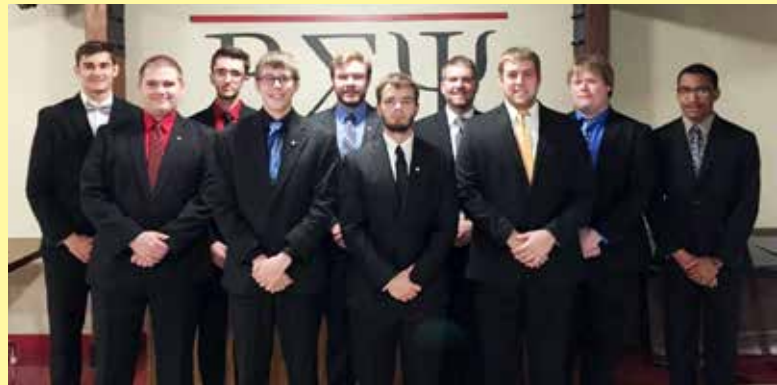
As we finish 2016, we have a lot to look back on and be proud of. I will be graduating in December, but I believe that I am leaving this chapter even better than I found it, and the gentlemen of Eta Chapter can look forward to a bright 2017.



*In June, 2008 and 2009 pledge class members traveled to Chattanooga, Tenn., for a whitewater rafting trip on the Ocoee River. When the group wasn't on the river, they were exploring the city and surrounding area.*



*New Eta Chapter Associate Class - Fall 2016*



*Fall 2016 Executive Board*

*Back row left to right:* Ben Angell, Director of Recruitment; Jonathan Eaton, Scholarship Chair; John Beckwith, Service Chair; Austin Beers, 2nd Vice President; Austin Scheer, Secretary; Rashad Scales, Fall Rush Assistant

*Front Row left to right:* Jordan Williams, Risk Management Chair; Kyle Moellenhoff, President; Ben Foster, 1st Vice President; Sam Meyer, Steward; not pictured: treasurer, Kenny Sherman.



*Above: Beta Sigma Psi at our Chapter's home church, Immanuel Lutheran, with our pastoral advisor, Stephen Kamprath.*

## Rafting Trip



# Iota Chapter Update

By: Justin Rodriguez President

As Beta Sigma Psi, Iota chapter, embarks on another school year, we continue to be optimistic about the current state and future of the fraternity! We hope all of the alumni share our excitement for the upcoming events and standing of chapter.

Despite a substantial drop in overall enrollment at the University of Missouri and formal recruitment, we were able to sign 23 new members for this fall. Very impressive work by our recruitment chairmen Jonathan Selby and Logan Schmidt overcoming the obstacles and leading the charge in signing a class matching our recent average.

Despite a large graduating class, our membership will remain strong and above 80 members. We hope to bring in a solid spring class, and our rush chairs have already begun work on accomplishing this.

Renovations made to the house this summer included roof repair, hallway flooring, and a new first floor bathroom. On behalf of the chapter, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of the alumni that made this possible, as well as Chris Lohmann for taking charge in coordinating these projects. It is exciting to see the new renovations as the house becomes more attractive both for members living in house and visiting family and friends.

While Iota chapter continues to maintain a good quantity of members, we also have made an emphasis on producing excellent quality of men. We were able to again finish above the all-male and all fraternity average for grades as a house.

Additionally, we added a philanthropy soccer



tournament this fall which we are making into an annual event. Our on campus presence continues to be strong, and we were, for the second year in a row, the "big house" in our homecoming pairing. We placed fifth overall with the women of Kappa Alpha Theta.



*Iota-Nu Chapter Flag Football Game renewed*



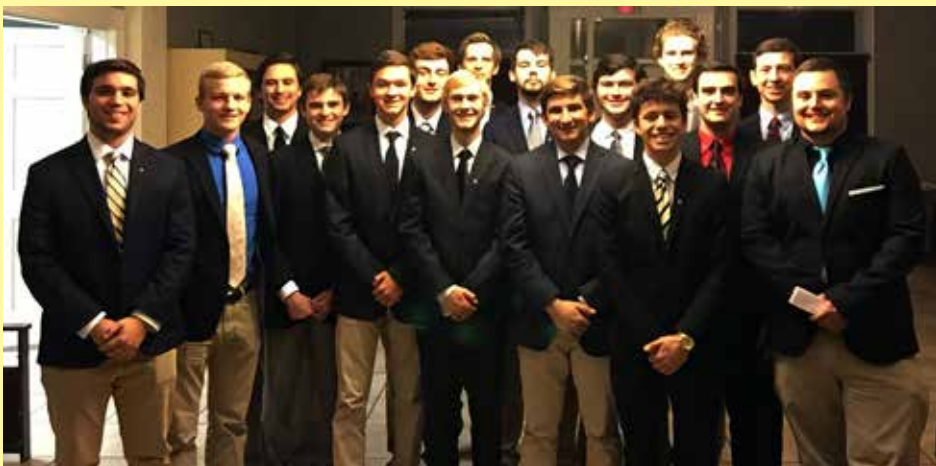
*Fall 2016 Iota Flag Football Team won the game vs Nu Chapter from KU*

Our flag football game we started with Nu chapter at the University of Kansas was renewed again this year and the traveling trophy will stay in Columbia. We look forward to maintaining this brotherhood event with Nu chapter and it was great to have them up.

It continues to be an exciting time to be a Beta Sig at the University of Missouri. The active body would again like to thank all of

the alumni for your continued support that makes everything happening possible!

I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as active body president to this point, and look forward to the remainder of my time in this role. I am always open to answering any questions you may have about Iota Chapter or Beta Sigma Psi and can be reached at [jjrg46@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:jjrg46@mail.missouri.edu).



*Fall 2016 Iota Chapter Pledge Class - (Seven new assoc. are not pictured)*



*Fall 2016 Iota Chapter Leadership Team*

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

# Omega Chapter Update

By: Alex Trimpe, President

**This past** year has been a fantastic year for Omega chapter here at Indiana University. I wanted to first give a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us get to where we are, from our generous alumni to our amazing parents, who have all donated their time, talents, and gifts to help us grow and become successful.

In this past year, we have gained 23 new men into our organization. This last fall we had our largest pledge class to date with 12 men, and then in the spring we were blessed enough to have another 11 join us, another record for the largest Omega pledge class in the spring.

Because of this fantastic growth, we have completely outgrown our house, with 32 men wanting to live with us, so we had to get another house down the block to hold everyone, and are currently looking for a third close by.. We are also blessed to only have 3 men graduating this spring, so we will be starting next semester with our largest starting number of 43 men this coming fall.

In addition to having our most prosperous year, you can see from the picture that we were finally able to negotiate the ability to



hang our Greek letters on the exterior of our house and really establish our presence

on campus with this. It was an extremely tedious process but now 310 N Park Ave. is recognized as the official address of Beta Sigma Psi - Omega chapter. If you would like to see a tour of the house, the YouTube channel College Weekly just came to our house for a video which has already been seen by thousands in its few days on the internet.

Another great accomplishment of Omega Chapter this academic year is that we were the first house to participate in an anti-sexual assault campaign, organized by MARS (Men Against Rape and Sexual Assault), amongst all Greek organizations on campus.



Alex Trimpe & Zachary Underwood

This involved all IFC fraternities on campus hanging banners on our houses with messages raising awareness of sexual assault on college campuses.

This year, Omega chapter had two men come to Colorado for the Leadership Summit, Alex Trimpe (President) and Zachary Underwood (Secretary) (pictured in photo bottom left). It was an absolutely breathtaking experience, literally because we were so high up and oxygen was so thin, but it was absolutely gorgeous. The scenery was beautiful and our men were able to take away critical leadership skills that they have been able to utilize and spread throughout the chapter.



This fall semester we held our first annual "Beta Sig Sliders" philanthropy at our house. We sold unlimited sliders, fries, and drinks as well as t-shirts and were able to donate just under \$500 to support Habitat for Humanity.

It was a great turnout for our first year and would not have been possible without the tireless work of our Philanthropy Chair, Nathaniel Irons.

Lastly, as most of you know, one of the largest events of the year at Indiana University is the Little 500 bike race.

Through the hard work of our four riders, Jacob Kelley, Collin Ebel, Keegan Fessenden, and Jackson Fessenden and coach Trent



Wagoner, we qualified for our second year in a row, taking the 29th spot out of the 33 teams that made it, and the 43 that competed for a chance to race. We are very proud of our men who finished 28th in the race and look forward to improving each year!



Above: Fall 2016 Omega Associate Class



Above: Fall 2016 Executive Board Members for Omega Chapter.



Above: This spring 2016 Omega Chapter group photo (35 men) is the largest membership to date for the chapter which will require seeking another annex for the chapter.

# Nu Chapter Update

By: John Lesko, President

On its surface, the fraternity I joined three years ago looked nothing like it does today. From our humble beginnings of nine freshmen meeting on a dorm floor, we have grown to a brotherhood of 35 strong competing in homecoming and earning the best grades on campus.

Beta Sigma Psi at KU has certainly surpassed my wildest expectations. When I look closely, however, I find the same familiar values and close-knit brotherhood that sparked my interest so long ago. I still feel that tight bond with each and every member, knowing we are accomplishing great things together.

In each brother I see a lifelong friendship, borne from an incredible four years spent building and preserving this unique fraternity. In a month's time, I will step down as president knowing that Nu Chapter will pass into more than capable hands with ever-loftier goals for its future.

I want to thank my brothers, our advisers and always supportive parents for making this fraternity what it is today, and for giving me some of the best years of my life.

## Homecoming

An exciting first for the Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi was getting to participate in Homecoming this year. Our brotherhood teamed up with the lovely women of Alpha Chi Omega and our fellow gentlemen at Delta Tau Delta to form a powerhouse coalition to compete in the events.



We set our homecoming goals low and merely wanted to participate, but we surprised ourselves and ended up going all out. When all was said and done, the team Beta Sig was on finished third overall out of eight participating Greek coalitions.



Above: Nu Chapter Brothers traveled to Noel, Missouri, for a float trip for their annual brotherhood retreat.



Above: Nu Chapter pledges gather together with their new pledge dads to have the fraternity values read to them and to get to know each other.

## Academic Powerhouse

Nu Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi, at the University of Kansas, has achieved the highest fraternity GPA (3.64) in the recorded history of KU Greek Life. This is a testimony to a unique group of young men who are also in the fourth year of a rebuilding process for Nu Chapter.

This was accomplished while pursuing professional degrees with difficult and challenging course work. With the Fall semester now fully underway, these men hope to continue their dominance and fossilize their position as the Hill's smartest house. Well done Brothers.



Above: Nu Chapter invited family members for a pot luck morning tailgate. After good food and drink, the families attended the KU football game against Oklahoma State with their sons.



Above: As many members of Nu Chapter graduate, including all nine members of the original founding father class, the members of the Chapter will look to the new emerging leaders to continue building the fraternity's success for years to come!

## Sean Murray Finalist for KU Campus Award



Sean Murray Nu '15

Among the brothers of Beta Sigma Psi, one member in particular has gone above and beyond the call of duty in many ways, and in turn is deserving of recognition.

As our recruitment chair, President of the Student Endowment Board, and Vice President of the advertising club, Sean Murray has been selected as a finalist, with nine other seniors, for the University of Kansas' Ex. C.E.L Award!

Sean embodies all characteristics that are a resemblance of this award: from being a great leader to possessing effective communication skills, he continues to go the extra mile in everything he does.

Sean further extends himself to be widely involved, not only around KU's campus, but also around the Lawrence community through different means of volunteering. Sean serves as a positive role model for members of Beta Sig and KU students in general.

# Zeta Chapter Update

By: John Works, President

The 2016-2017 school year has gotten off to a fast start. Zeta Chapter is enthusiastic with the current direction that the house is moving. We were ecstatic to initiate 5 new men this past August into our chapter. We have our chapter goals set and we are working as diligently as possible to make Beta Sigma Psi the best fraternity we envision it to be.



Preparing to white water raft at the leadership retreat in Denver.

*Left to right:*

John Works, Corey Johns, Brian Kassin, Jake Jones, Matt Heffel, Dallas Hyder, Gavin Jorns.

Scholarship continues to be a strength, as we finished with a 3.0 GPA this past spring semester. We set an academic goal for the 45 members living in and out of house, our goal for this semester is to finish with a 3.25 cumulative GPA. We will rely on academics to help us with our recruiting efforts for this upcoming year.

We are proud and excited with our recruiting efforts this past year. Our current fall associate member class has 10 associate members and they have been a great addition to our chapter. We look forward for them to be Zeta's future leaders. This is the strongest new member class I have seen in my time with the house.

For this spring our goal is to recruit 7 new associate members. If you know of any quality young men currently at K-State and you think they would be a good fit for our spring pledge class, please feel free to email or call Jake Jones our recruitment chair. His phone number is 913-850-8975 and his email is kckpride@gmail.com.

Jake will be our recruitment chairman until the end of next summer. We have already hit the ground running for fall rush for next year. If you know of any good men coming to K-State next fall, feel free to email or call Jake about any potential new members for our chapter. Jake's goal is to recruit 15 to 20 new members for next fall.

This October we will host our second annual bubble soccer philanthropic event. We expect to have a great turnout. Last year bubble soccer was a huge hit on campus so we decided to make it an annual event. We are also excited to announce that this past semester we hit our goal of \$25,000 for the Brett Mock Scholarship Fund. This Scholarship will be available for all K-State students.

We would like to take a moment and thank our alumni for their countless hours that they put in for our chapter, without their hard work and contributions we would not be as successful as we are today.

On behalf of our chapter we look forward to the future as we continue to uphold Zeta chapter to the best standard possible.



*Associate Member Class (Left to right):* Sam Fritz, Ryan Shamburg, Ben Kohl, Dominick Lucito, Kevin Hernandez, Corey Johns, Ethan Carney, Seth Jennings, Trevor Jackson, Jordan Doebbeling



*Zeta Chapter Executive Board: Left to right:* John Works, Trevor Frankenfield, Griffin Rolfling, Matt Heffel, Jake Jones, Brian Kassin. (Not pictured: )

# Alpha-Alpha Chapter Update

By: Frank Perrone, President

**This year** has been a very good and eventful year for us here at Alpha-Alpha chapter. Over the past year our membership has dramatically increased and our chapter retention is the best it has ever been. Our GPA average has shown a steady increase, thanks to our newly implemented scholastic plan that is showing amazing results.

We are also proud to report that our former president, Alex Vasa, is now Midland's Greek advisor. This means that he is in charge of all Greek houses and his charge is to make sure Greek Life has a positive image and that all Greek houses continue to grow and thrive at Midland.

We also would like to congratulate Chris Kenny and Evan Christensen for graduating this past year. We will miss them and wish them the best in their future careers.

We also would like to congratulate our esteemed secretary, Frank Perrone, who recently received a Scholarship from our national chapter. And finally, a number of our recent alums have gotten engaged to be married, namely Lee Olson, Evan Christensen, Logan Meisinger, and Ryan Dusso. Congratulations to newlyweds: Chris and Katina Kenny, and Michael and Samantha Wellman.

In the Spring of 2016, Beta Sigma Psi took home the Greek Week Runner-up trophy after the annual event at Midland University, with our proudest moment coming Friday afternoon. Our chapter's participation raised over \$500 for MS research. This total is equal to the amount raised by all of the other Greek houses combined. While we did not win, we are proud of this accomplishment and hope that our future philanthropic events are as successful as this has been for us.

Alpha-Alpha Chapter is glad to report that we are having a very successful year at Midland University in Fremont, Nebraska. The retention percentage of our chapter has remained rather high in addition to a membership growing by nearly one hundred percent. Currently our chapter membership consists of fifteen actives and eight associates that are scheduled to be activat-

quality men, we have also seen a rise in our chapter's academic progress through the implementation of a scholastic plan.

In the Spring of 2016, Beta Sigma Psi took home the Greek Week Runner-up trophy after the annual event at Midland University with our proudest moment coming Friday afternoon. A short afternoon fundraiser to profit

The summer months were not wasted either as six Alpha-Alpha brothers spent time in the great outdoors as camp counsellors at Carol Joy Holling, the Lutheran camp for youths located in Ashland, Nebraska. Always a rewarding adventure full of memorable experiences, we hope to keep the tradition

of sending men to inspire the youths to investigate the Christian Faith.



**Fall 2016 Alpha-Alpha Membership**

ed by the end of the calendar year. In addition to the focus on the recruitment of



**Fall 2016 Alpha-Alpha Chapter Pledge Class**



**Fall 2016 Alpha-Alpha chapter Leadership Team**



**Fall 2016 Alpha-Alpha recruitment party**

# 2016 MEF Awards

by: Rod Thompson, Awards Committee Chairman

**One of** the highlights at the Membership Education Forum (MEF) is the awards banquet. This year we had a very competitive awards process which is indicative of a very strong year for our chapters and our alumni groups. This year our keynote speaker was Scott Gesell who delivered a very emotional message about why Beta Sigma Psi is a National Lutheran Fraternity. From his experience as a lawyer, he made the case of why we must stay the course as a Lutheran Fraternity, continuing the gift our founding fathers provided to us some 90 plus years ago that we need to maintain for future generations of Beta Sigs.

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 Scott Gesell.** A bronze Beta Sigma Psi medallion was presented to Scott in recognition of his many financial contributions to the Educational Foundation over the years. Scott has served on the Educational Foundation in some capacity since 1986, including Chairman and the Secretary. Scott serves on the National Board of Directors as the Vice President in charge of risk management since 2013.

In the mid-80's he served on the National Board as Recruitment Chairman. He was the recipient of the Erck Award in 1980, serving as Delta Chapter President among other offices and also President of his Pledge Class. He also served as an Alumni Advisor for Delta from 1981 to 1984. Certainly, a distinguished record of service and accomplishment for the Fraternity.

We chose to honor Rudy Ristich with the Karmeier Award this year. During his term as President of the Fraternity, positive change and outcome have been possible due to his leadership. He has been a long-standing member of the National Board. A silver 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.

A special Director plaque was presented to Lowell Gordon from Zeta Chapter to acknowledge and express our appreciations for four years of service as our National Treasurer. Lowell was also presented with a bronze Beta Sigma Psi medallion by the Educational Foundation to express gratitude for his advice on special matters over the years. The other special Director plaque was presented to Ken Luedtke from Beta Chapter to recognize six years of service to the Fraternity on the West Lafayette Alumni Board and the National Board of Directors.

The Tiemann Award was presented to Brian Bosma, a Beta Alumnus. Brian is the Speaker for the House of Representatives for the State of Indiana and also a successful lawyer. In this political year, we are pleased to honor one of our alumni who has honored us with his integrity and service to his fellow man.

The Awards Committee members this year included Rod Thompson (Epsilon), Chris Ristich (Beta), Scott Gesell (Delta), Lowell Gordon (Zeta), Tim Weinstock (Iota) and Warren Pflantz (Iota). Many thanks for these alumni who attended the weekend festivities and who graciously volunteered their time to deliberate on the

awards selections. A bronze Beta Sigma Psi medallion was presented to Warren Pflantz to recognize his financial contributions to the Educational Foundation over the years and his service to Iota Chapter. 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 Jason Kor from Nu Chapter. Others nominated by their chapters for this honor included Jacob Hahn from Beta, Lucas Johnson from Epsilon, Zachary Lusinski from Delta and John Belt from Omega. In any other year any of these young men would have been our Erck Awardee but the caliber of our leaders was exceptionally high this year.
- **The Kettler Award** for outstanding undergraduate management in the Fraternity was presented by Scott Gesell, Senior Vice President and Lienemann Honoree, to **Clay Blank** from **Delta Chapter**. Others competing for this award included Dillan Schaeffer from Omega Chapter, Dan Jacobi from Epsilon, Riley Clark from Zeta and James Crowder from Nu. The future of our Fraternity is in good hands based on the quality of leadership these young men demonstrate in their accomplishments and in their faith journeys.
- **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 **Epsilon Chapter**.
- **The Welge Award** for recruitment was presented by Brian Clark, past National Board Member and a leader in the Fraternity for recruitment strategies and implementations, to **Omega Chapter**.
- **The Edie and Jim Jorns Award** for chapter philanthropy was presented by Lowell Gordon, National Treasurer, to **Nu 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 **Delta 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 **Zeta Chapter**.
- **The Hillard Award** for exceptional chapter achievement was presented to **Iota, Nu and Omega Chapters**. Assisting in the presentation were Tim Weinstock from Iota Chapter, Chris Ristich from Beta Chapter and Warren Pflantz from Iota Chapter.
- **The inaugural Glee Club Award** was presented by Rod Thompson to **Epsilon Chapter**. This award was created to encourage singing and serenading in the Fraternity. Alpha Chapter also contributed a song for the evening as part of the competition. In future glee club competitions, the songs will consist of our Beta Sig songs.
- We awarded two **Luther Awards** this year. The Luther Award was presented to **Reverend Ted Mosher**, Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lawrence, KS for supporting Nu Chapter. The Luther Award was presented to **Jeff Schacht**, Campus Minister at the Lutheran Campus Ministry – Indiana University in Bloomington, IN for supporting Omega Chapter.

**PLAN TO ATTEND MEF 2017 IN KANSAS CITY**  
See page 11 for additional information.

*Award Winners at MEF 2016*





*Photos From MEF 2016*

This collection of MEF photos shows the attendees in seminar, in business meetings, and at the Awards Dinner Saturday night.









*Beta and Alpha Xi Delta Sand Volleyball Teammates Celebrate their team championship*



*Eta Chapter members at the Lake of the Ozarks for their annual alumni outing.*



*The 2008 and 2009 Eta Chapter pledge class members traveled to Chattanooga, Tenn., and visited the first distillery since prohibition.*



*Nu Chapter at Kansas Univ. spent the day at Royals Stadium on Rush Weekend.*



*Fall 2016 Nu Chapter Soccer Team*



*Delta Chapter members with Sigma Alpha at Defy Gravity, which is a large warehouse with trampolines in it.*



*Spring 2015 Omega Chapter - Philanthropy Project - Car Smash Fund Raizer.*

## Nu Chapter Alumni, Their Wives and National Beta Sig Officers Gather for Lunch at Oread Hotel

On Saturday, April 9th, five members of the Nu Chapter alumni, plus many of the Beta Sig National Officers, gathered at the Oread Hotel, in Lawrence, KS, to celebrate the Reactivation of Nu Chapter.

According to Past National President and Nu alum, Larry Edwards, “We marked a very important date for Beta Sig with the reactivation of NU Chapter”.

The Active Chapter had not been a part of the University’s campus for almost 50 years. We have 44 known alums of the original NU Chapter, but we need many more.

The Active Chapter is a dynamic group of talented young men. Besides all of the other activities associated with today’s Beta Sig Active Chapters, they are looking for campus housing in Lawrence. That is the most pressing need for Alumni – to provide guidance, counsel, and help in securing good quality housing for a new chapter.

If you live in the Lawrence/Topeka/Kansas City area and you want to see Nu Chapter of Beta Sig flourish, then join with some of the original Nu Alums to form a new Lawrence Alumni Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi.

You might be surprised at what your support will do for the Active Chapter’s long term growth.

If you are interested in getting involved, Contact Larry Edwards at: [Larryredwards12@gmail.com](mailto:Larryredwards12@gmail.com) with your commitment.

## NU Chapter Alumni Are Needed!

By: Larry Edwards, Zeta '55 - Past Nat. President



### Nu Alumni and Beta Sig National Officers Attend Luncheon

*Left to right:* Nu Alums Ed Flynn and Ron Kettner, MAC Alumni Pres. Phil Krug, Nu Alums Marvin Bredehoft and Ed Kettner, Nat. Pres. Rudy Ristich, Nu Alum & Past Nat. Pres. Larry Edwards, Director Jake Vanderslice, National Consultant John Hatfield and Director Gary Raffety.



### Nu Chapter Alumni and Wives Attend Luncheon

*Left to right:* Ed Flynn, Marvin Bredehoft, Mindy Kettner and husband Ed Kettner, Linda Kettner and her husband Ron Kettner

Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity  
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Belleville, Illinois 62221

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## *Beta Sigma Psi National Fraternity Chapter Houses*



Urbana, Illinois



Columbia, Missouri



Bloomington, Indiana



W. Lafayette, Indiana

### Campus Locations:

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



Rolla, Missouri



Ames, Iowa



Manhattan, Kansas



Lincoln, Nebraska

**Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity**  
2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221  
Office: 618.235.0014      [office@betasigmapsi.org](mailto:office@betasigmapsi.org)  
[BetaSigmaPsi.org](http://BetaSigmaPsi.org)