

Fall 2017

**New Omega
Chapter House**



Active Chapter Reports - Distinguished Alumni - Fraternity Events - Officer's Reports - Fraternity Expansion Plans - Scholarship Reports - NEF Donations Last Year - 2017 MEF in Kansas City, MO

**The
Gold Rose**

Beta Sigma Psi National Fraternity for Lutheran Men



The Gold Rose

Fall Issue - December 2017

The Gold Rose is written and distributed 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:

Gary Raffety, Rudy Ristich, Larry Edwards, Chris Ristich, John Hatfield, Steve Hick, Rod Thompson, Jim Jorns, and the Chapter Presidents.

Beta Sigma Psi Headquarters:

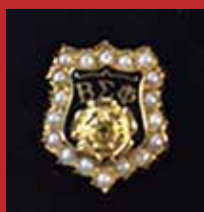
2408 Lebanon Avenue
 Belleville, IL 62221
 Phone: (618) 235-0014
 Fax: (618) 235-0014
 Email: office@betasigmapsi.org
 Online: http://betasigmapsi.org

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
Cover Design: Gary Raffety

In This Issue

President's Message	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Fraternity Expansion	4
Scholarship	5
Fraternity Awareness - The Pledge	3
Colorado Leadership Summit	9
Chapter Reports	10 - 19
NEF Donations for past year	20-22
MEF 2017 in KC	23-24
Beta Sigs to Nicaragua	12
Distinguished Alumni -	26-28
Nicaragua Mission 2017	29
Inspirational story	30-31



National Board of Directors

Contact Information

National President:

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

Pastoral Advisor:

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

Pastoral Advisor:

Pastor Mike Vinson
 330 W Fowler Avenue
 W Lafayette, IN 47906
 765-743-2398

Website / Marketing:

Wesley Smith
 1721 Shawnee RD,
 Indianapolis, IN 46033
 Phone: 260.452.6049
 Email: wesley.smith@betasigmapsi.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
 219 52nd St
 West Des Moines IA 50265
 Phone: 636.328.1488
 Email: nathan.leezer@betasigmapsi.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: jrffield@gmail.com

Alumni Relations:

Jake Vanderslice
 1201 Office Park Road, Apt. 808
 West Des Moines, IA 50265
 Phone: (913) 522-3527
 Email: jvslice11@gmail.com

Fraternal Foundations

National Educational Foundation:

Kirk Meyer, Chairman
 18034 Elm Rd
 Hoyleton, IL 62803
 618.493.6515
 mailto:kirkmeyer@netwitz.net

Beta Sigma Psi Housing Foundation:

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



Editor: Gary D. Raffety 62

President's Report

By: Rudy Ristich, National President



For many volunteers and professionals who work with Greek communities 2017 has been a year of frustration, grief and introspection.

Tragically, four men under the age of 20 have died in alcohol related hazing incidents since February. A media onslaught against Fraternity life in the several years prior has prompted national organizations to invest heavily in repairing our damaged image only to be set back further by the unfortunate truth that we often harbor a dangerous culture that normalizes binge drinking and bystander negligence.

While men of any Fraternity will be quick to draw attention to the fact the intentions of their founders and purposes of their brotherhood are based on strong morals and high standards, it is the incongruences to those values that most quickly place the relevance of fraternities under a magnifying glass. Now, more often than ever, those examinations of Greek life are accompanied by calls for abolition and Universities have begun to follow suit.

Greek organizations have effectively been relinquished of the right to self-govern. Today the defacto response to hazing incidents at institutes of higher education is to suspend not just the organization in question, but all Greek activities on campus until a safe environment can be reassured to the community.

As I draft this letter, a few universities have even pro-actively suspended Greek life including by vote of the student leaders at the University of Michigan. The blunt truth is that it is likely only a matter of time before a Beta Sig chapter is affected by a similar encumbrance of activity.

Fraternities, Beta Sigma Psi included, are organized on the intent of perpetuation values, building bonds and cultivating more socially responsible men. In order to reclaim the trust of our communities and campuses we must execute on aligning our actions with our values. No longer can it be acceptable that "boys will be boys" when our promise is to develop men with focus on life rooted in Christ.

The path to manhood is no easier now than in the past and it can be easy to critique actions or inactions of our brothers new and old. At Beta Sigma Psi we believe in facilitating the ideal environment for the college man of faith in Christ to grow spiritually, scholastically and socially. We do that by creating environments that are safe and focused on learning and service to church campus and community.

It is more important now than ever, that as you read in this issue of the successes our active men are enjoying, that you also reach out to your chapter leadership and encourage them, as we work with intention to be true to our values and provide an environment that reflects our high ideals.

Annual Chapter Dues:

On behalf of all BSP chapters, you should be aware that chapter dues are a secondary source of income for all chapters and it is important that all alumni send in their annual dues.

Annual dues payments help to pay for alumni chapter expenses and also help the alumni with their responsibility to help the active chapters with house maintenance and improvements.

Please pay your dues annually!

The following is a play that was written about a fraternity member that died as a result of chapter hazing and it's effect on his family and fraternity

The Pledge

By: Hank Nuwer

The Time: The Present

The Place: The farmhouse bedroom of Luke, newly dead in a hazing incident

The bedroom contains a number of props (hand weights, a kid's fishing pole, a ballbat, a pair of beat-up running shoes, an old computer on a table, a jar of pennies in a John Deere metal container, a journal, fraternity promotional materials, a folded quilt, chairs stage left and right, a small cot and a dresser).

An older but muscular man walks into the room. His step is slow. He tosses a newspaper on the bed and peels off his gimme cap and the coat of a workingman. He addresses the audience.

GRANDFATHER: I'll try to keep my voice down. My daughter-in-law is asleep in the bedroom upstairs.

GRANDFATHER: We put her son, my grandson, into the ground yesterday. We buried Luke in the family plot here on our farm. He's got good company. His daddy, my son John, is there. John died in Afghanistan fighting for people like you. It would have destroyed John to know that his boy is gone. Especially the way Luke died.

GRANDFATHER: Lots of other company to comfort him. His grandparents, great grandparents, great-great grandparents. My wife June who died while giving birth to John. This farm has belonged to our family since 1858, two years before the Civil War. Luke was proud of our history. He planned to run this farm for me after graduation. That's why he double majored in business and science.

GRANDFATHER: Also in the family plot rests my sister Rose. Maybe Luke is introducing himself right now. Rose was seven and playing on the hayloft long ago. She tried to catch a puppy that was about to roll out of the loft. She saved the pup but lost her balance and went over the side. My daddy was below with a pitchfork and mucking out the horse stalls. He heard a crack loud as a car crash. It was Rose's head hitting concrete.

GRANDFATHER: My mama and father never got over Rose's death. Now I guess I'm to know what something like that feels like. A man doesn't expect to outlive his son and grandson; you know what I mean?

GRANDFATHER: Oh shoot, I can hear my daughter-in-law walking around upstairs. I got a loud voice and that's a blessing and a curse. I used to be the umpire at Luke's Little League baseball games. One time he hit the ball way out of the park down the left field line. It got me so excited that I shouted "home run" but signaled foul ball.

GRANDFATHER: Well, Luke and the catcher are at home plate and both looking at me. "Which is it, Grandpa?" Luke yelled. "Fair or foul?"

GRANDFATHER: "Well, Luke," I said, "you heard me say 'home run' but all those folks in the stands saw me call

Continued on page 6

Past Presidents Report on Fraternity Expansion

By: Larry Edwards



Larry Edwards - Past National President

The National Fraternity finds itself in a dilemma. Scholastically, all of our chapters currently rank in the top one third of all fraternities on their respective campuses. Three of our 10 chapters (Epsilon, Nu, and Omega) are currently ranked as the best, or the number one Fraternity on their respective campus.

However, we were just rejected by the IFC office on a university campus where we had a chapter for 20 years, because they wanted a new colony with many chapters, lots of diversity, and someone that could bring new dynamics to the Greek community on their campus. In other words they wanted someone who would promise glitz and pizzas.

Other campuses we have looked at, where we haven't previously had chapters, have put Greek expansion on hold because of the recent spat of hazing incidents across the nation, leading to death, and sexual harassment of coeds. Title IX infractions are up and enforcements – real or imagined, are being actively pursued with a push from the US Department of education.

Fraternity publicity has never been worse, and interest in joining Greek houses is down at almost all schools where we have chapters. In fact, at K-State, the University has decided not to recognize any fraternity or sorority with the thought that it is not their responsibility.

Enrollment at most 4 years schools is down or declining. Freshmen enrollment at the University of Missouri is down 40%, causing the university in Columbia to close 7 dorms, and lay off 450 faculty and staff. Enrollment at most Community Colleges is up.

For the first time in several years, we are currently working with one group of young men who seek colony status at the Ohio State University, located in Columbus, Ohio. We are also exploring the possibilities at Northern Iowa U. which is located in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

What must we do, to go against the grain at each of our current Active Chapters?

1. We must continue to emphasize the three 'S's, plus philanthropies and community service. Some of our chapters really do make a difference.

2. One of the three 'S's is Scholarship and we assume all students attend college to eventually graduate. At least that is what all parents think. So, Scholarship achievement should be goal #1 for all of our members!

3. If you have a Chapter House, no matter what the campus rules are, consider making the house 'Dry'. In 5 years you will most likely be forced to do so by your university administration.

What are the benefits of a 'Dry House'? Higher scholastic averages, better retention of members, and creation of a better brotherhood are just a few of the benefits that come to mind. If you want to have a party at the house, make it dry for everyone in attendance.

4. Currently, only a few of our Chapters have Mother's clubs, **but every chapter should have a mother's (parents) club.** They take a very real interest in the house, and how it looks.

5. Designate a weekend, to invite High School Seniors, their parents, and pastors to visit your Chapter House and be proud to show it off.

The theme at the start of this article was to point out what we are up against in the court of public opinion **and what YOU can do to change that opinion.** The list of ideas above are just a few ways that you can accomplish this important goal. Remember, we are not just "another fraternity". We are unique and we can make a difference!

Treasurer's Report on Fraternity Finances

By: Chris Ristich



Chris Ristich - National Treasurer

Starting Fall of 2017, the National Fraternity re-instated fees to undergraduates for associate membership and activation. The aim of these fees is to cover our increasing costs in the near term, position us for growth in the long-term, and continue to keep a fair cost of membership at the same time.

For the past two years, we have raised active chapter dues each year to cover our increasing costs. These increases are largely driven by our efforts to increase National's involvement with the chapters in providing leadership development and membership education, as well as more tangible items such as providing framed certificates and pearl badges (beginning in 2018) for newly activated members.

In addition to these costs, we also see lower membership counts over time versus expectations, due to an increasingly common practice by which active members move out of house and transition to a non-active status prior to graduation.

In the past year we have made some great progress in reducing costs where we can (such as the cost of this Gold Rose), but more is needed to put us in the strong financial position that we require for continued growth.

We expect that re-instating these association and activation fees will improve our financial position while preventing continual increases to per-semester membership dues, with the goal as always to provide the best experience for our brothers to grow Spiritually, Scholastically, and Socially.

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



Scholarship Excellence

By: Steven Hick

Congratulations to Omega Chapter at Indiana University for being the top fraternity on campus last spring semester with an amazing 3.485 chapter-GPA.



Steven Hick - Dir. Scholarship

An emphasis within Beta Sigma Psi has been to focus on scholarship and keep our chapters at or near the top of all fraternities on our respective campuses. Beta Sigma Psi chapters should always place above the all-male GPA and all-fraternity GPA on

campus. After the Spring 2017 semester all our chapters were above the all-male grade point average.

The universities we call home have Greek communities and student populations of varying sizes making apples-to-apples comparisons tricky. Regardless, it is probably time to set some new goals. How about every Beta Sig chapter ranks among the top five fraternities on campus? Half of our chapters are already there and the chapters that “appear” far off are members of large campus Greek systems where it doesn’t take much improvement to quickly move to the top. Next year at this time – everyone top five!

It should be pointed out that a vast majority of our members are enrolled in engineering, science and other difficult majors, which makes our rankings even the more impressive, when compared to other fraternities that have far fewer members enrolled in the more challenging majors.

Chapter	Actives	Assoc.	Total	Capacity	Chapter Average GPA	All Men's Average	Rank
Alpha	21	4	25	33	3.27	3.09	4/55
Beta	29	4	33	45	3.02	2.95	29/46
Delta	16	8	24	16	3.50	2.95	2/31
Epsilon	47	20	67	54	3.27	2.91	5/34
Zeta	23	12	35	50	3.12	2.92	14/27
Eta	36	12	48	60	3.12	3.03	7/22
Iota	59	19	78	58	3.03	2.97	15/36
Nu	20	12	32	0*	3.44	3.03	3/28
Omega	44	22	66	14	3.49	3.03	1/40
Alpha - Alpha	16	6	22	0*	3.40	NA	NA
Totals	311	119	430	330	3.27		

NA - Not Available * = No Chapter house yet

Current Census and Chapter House Capacities

By: Gary Raffety

As you can see from the chart above, 8 of our 10 chapters currently have chapter houses and 2 do not. Nu chapter, at Kansas University, is currently growing in leaps and bounds and is in need of a chapter house, but more importantly it needs a supporting alumni chapter to help them in their search for a new house. Omega is also growing fast and is in need of additional room for all of their members.

Four of our chapters are currently not filled to capacity and have room for significant growth. Alpha (75% of capacity), Beta (73%), Zeta (70%), and Eta (80%) chapters together, have room for an additional 47 members, or eleven percent of the current total to reach capacity.

It is a lot more difficult to recruit new members now than in past years with the declining numbers of Lutherans and the current declining popularity of fraternities. This is due to the actions of a few bad apples that make us all look bad, the constant attacks from the media and Hollywood’s horrible depictions of fraternity men in their movies.

We have been in this situation before and have managed to survive, but I would like to ask all of the alumni every where to be on the lookout for potential new members for the fraternity. I will list the names of all of the chapter recruitment chairs for each chapter on the individual chapter pages, (pages 12 - 21) so that you can contact them with referrals. In today’s world, we all have to do our part if we want our fraternity to continue to prosper.

The Pledge - Continued from page 3

it 'foul.' I guess it's just not your day." Oh, he was upset, I tell you. At least I made the catcher happy.

GRANDFATHER gets up and walks around, picks up a baseball bat.

GRANDFATHER: One time Luke's in the utility room and takes this bat and says, "Look at my batting stance, Grandpa." He holds it high like this and bam, he knocks out an overhead bulb. "What did you do?" I said. "I just showed you my stance like this," he says. Bam, out goes another light. I stood there in the dark, sloshing glass in my coffee cup. My daughter-in-law walked in and caught us giggling like goofballs.

GRANDFATHER: His mother brought Luke into the world right here in this room. His mom is old school and enlisted a midwife to deliver him. She wrapped him in this quilt that she made herself. Darn near took her the whole nine months to finish it, her working two jobs and all. She put in every stitch with love. He sits down heavily on the cot.

GRANDFATHER: You're probably wondering whom I blame for Luke's death. His fraternity and buds? The school? The administration? Nah, fact is I blame myself. If I had acted more like his grandfather and less like his pal, riding dirt bikes and telling each other corny jokes. I wish I could return Luke to his mama's womb and get a start as a role model all over again. Raised him right and a lot stricter like my Pa reared me. I was his freaking grandfather, I should have acted like I was.

GRANDFATHER: Thing is, before last week I would have told you I had done my best. I tried to prepare him in every way for college. Bought his books from the bookstore a week before his classes started. Paid for even the really stinking sociology text that Professor Boggs wrote himself and make all the kids buy for \$179.00. The one that had 30 pages printed upside down, and had more errors than last year's Chicago Cubs made. I told Luke that Boggs should have worn a mask to class when he held everyone up.

GRANDFATHER: He paces. My daughter gave me a job today. She wanted me to pick out a headstone and put something on it besides Luke's name. So I go down to the stone carver's shop in town. What do people write on those? I asked the man. "What's in your heart," he says.

"He never screwed up but once and it killed him," I say. "He had all the freaking potential in the world, but look where that got him?" He gives me this pained look. "You can't put something like that on a sacred stone," he says. "No, no... Do I sound bitter?" I ask the salesman? He nods at me.

Well, I am bitter. One day I'm reading a postcard from Luke asking if I could deposit money in his bank account for his fraternity chapter dues. Next day I'm picking out a casket. I talk to the salesman. "Luke Samuel Lysiak, 1997 to 2015. Well, that much I got down in my head to put on the headstone. I'll come back when I got the rest." Playwright's note: Years on the stone can be changed as time goes on and the years change.

GRANDFATHER: Jeez, what could Luke and Rose be talking about now up in heaven? I am thinking of them both up there but can't bring myself to pray. Even back in church I couldn't bring myself to pray. I had to be strong for my daughter-in-law sitting beside me in the pew. I tried to concentrate on the flowers, but it was hard, I tell you to keep the tears inside.

I listened to his buddies from high school come up one at a time. I loved the story one kid told about how Luke and his other buddies once tried to build a boat. They worked in my shop up in the barn and used my power saw and tools. GRANDFATHER: Came the big day to christen the boat out at the lake. Luke bought a bottle of energy drink and cracked it against the side of the boat. They pushed off, and the dang boat sunk like a rock. They had furnished the boat with stuff from my barn: oil lanterns, a cookstove, kitchen utensils. All gone to the bottom.

I pretended to be mad. But I thought it was a good lesson for Luke and his friends. Ask before you take something.

GRANDFATHER: The preacher told everyone that God asks us to do hard things. I wanted to scream from my pew: "Where was God the night Luke died?" But that wouldn't have been right. I'm even ashamed having to tell you I thought that, Lord. I know you are with me in the spirit, and it is not for me to question your purpose.

GRANDFATHER: I'd like to think Luke might have learned a lesson from his last night on earth. That is if he had lived. How alcohol is essentially a poison if you slug down enough of it.

What did his roommate tell me at the funeral home? That he and the other pledge brothers had to consume twelve bottles left at twelve stations in honor of their twelve founders? What Einstein brother came up with that screwball plan? I can't believe not one brother said, "Hey, guys, this isn't such a great idea."

GRANDFATHER: The roommate told me two other pledges went to the hospital that night. They had their stomachs pumped in emergency. They were lucky. Bet they and the others have learned a lesson now. Too bad it comes at Luke's expense.

GRANDFATHER: When Luke went off to school last August and said he wanted to rush a fraternity, his mother asked me if I thought he might have to go through hazing. "Nah," I said. "That stuff happens in the military."

He goes over to a laptop on the table and does a Google search on the word hazing. Optional: the playwright's web page listing all hazing deaths with photos projects projected on a screen visible to the audience.

GRANDFATHER: Lord, do I know different now. The Internet is full of horror stories. One researcher says there have been at least one death a year and sometimes many more deaths for well over three decades in the colleges. I should have researched this back when my daughter asked me that question, not answered her so quickly. The research says that 80 percent of the hazing deaths involve drinking. The others die of beatings, drownings, and road accidents during scavenger hunts or kidnappings. Yeah, crazy, right? And it's not just fraternities. It's sororities, bands, high schools and sport teams.

GRANDFATHER: You send your kid off to someplace you think is safe and then you bury him? If our schools are no longer safe then no place is safe.

GRANDFATHER: You see all this stuff in Luke's room? My daughter-in-law wants to leave the room just as it always was. I don't know about that. It's painful to see everything as he left it.

I know one thing for sure. Me and my daughter don't want to pick up stuff from his fraternity house. "Just pack it all up and ship it to me," I said to that fraternity adviser when

he showed up at the hospital after we closed Luke's eyes.

"Adviser?" I shouted at him there and then. "What in blazes kind of advice did you give Luke that done him any good?" GRANDFATHER: He goes left stage. Peers through an imaginary window. Old Tramp, Luke's dog, hasn't left his vigil atop the loose earth over Luke's grave. Luke was five when we gave him a pup. Those two ran the fields from sunup to sundown. One time Tramp ran into a rattler on our farm's back forty acres. The vet wanted to put Tramp down, but Luke would have none of it. The vet stayed. Luke sat with him and with the dog's head on his lap the whole night until Tramp pulled through.

Once Luke got to college, he missed Tramp so bad. He talked his mom and me into letting him take the dog to the fraternity house. Luke said Tramp used to visit all the guys' rooms every night. It was as if the old dog didn't want to hurt anyone's feelings. At the wake one of the pledge brothers brought back Tramp to the fraternity house. Just walked in with him on a leash.

GRANDFATHER: "That dog can't stay," this funeral director in a bow tie says.

GRANDFATHER: "Oh, yes, he can," I say. I walked Tramp over to the casket and let him lick Luke's hands. The dog began to tremble and then he just let out one long sorrowful sigh as he lay down in front of the casket. Just like right now he's out near the orchard. Won't come off Luke's grave even to eat. I had to put water and food out there for Tramp. A couple of the boys hugged Tramp, and they cried and cried.

[He picks up a dumbbell and does some curls.]

GRANDFATHER: I remember when I bought Luke these weights. One day I said to him, "How much can you lift?" Quick as a button he winked and said, "Ten pounds more than you, Grandpa."

GRANDFATHER: He was the most competitive kid I know. If someone did 100 situps, he'd do 101. Competitive, yes he was. Maybe too competitive? He was trying to show all those guys how much he wanted to belong. If he was going to drink with them, he was going to outdrink them. The coroner said he'd never treated anyone with so much alcohol in his body. Luke literally drowned in his own fluids.

GRANDFATHER: Trouble is, Luke wasn't a drinker. The only thing I keep in the house is brandy and that's as a flu remedy. I saw too many guys in the service drink away their careers. But maybe if I had talked to him about alcohol a little more. Maybe shared my view, even taught him how a real man stops at two or three drinks. Maybe he'd still be here. [He hits his head.] No, don't go there. Driving myself crazy I am. If Luke had been a serious drinker, he'd still be alive. Just had no tolerance for it.

He locates a pair of his grandson's well-worn athletic shoes.

GRANDFATHER: I know it's crazy but I think I have to slip these on. Maybe walk a bit in Luke's shoes so to speak. He puts them on. He had big feet like mine. Inherited them from me. Size 14's. Big as Gilligan's SS Minnow. He slips on a red baseball cap, adjusts it to fit.

GRANDFATHER: Luke always was crazy about the New York Yankees but when he was in the fourth grade someone told him about their rivalry with Boston. He made me buy him a Red Sox cap and a Yankees tee shirt. "Who are you for when those two teams play?" I asked him. "I'm for whoever's winning, of course," he said with a wink. He

looks at the cap. Wrings it.

GRANDFATHER: I picked this ballcap up at the emergency room. His mother and I got the call when we were in the kitchen about five in the morning. I was up of course. That's life on a farm. Cows to milk. Hogs to feed. Chickens need their grain. Then there's always something to fix. I never could afford to buy new equipment so there always is a tractor valve needing replacement or a milking machine breaking down.

GRANDFATHER: Fact is, for the longest time I didn't know how we were going to afford to send Luke to school. His grades were good, and the school helped him with a remission of tuition, but I had to take a second mortgage out on the farm. Luke and his mother never knew I did that, of course. They never would have let me do that for them. He tosses the hat on the cot.

GRANDFATHER: So the call came in, and I put down my fork and my daughter-in-law says, "Luke's in trouble. We got to go."

GRANDFATHER: I say, "What do you mean he's in trouble? Is he failing a class?"

GRANDFATHER: I see her fighting to get the words out. "That was a doctor over at Memorial Hospital on the phone. He said Luke had partied too hard and was on life support." I watch her and I'm speechless. She tenses up and gives out this odd sound, something between a whoosh and a scream. I never want to hear a sound like that again.

GRANDFATHER: I drive like a fool. A cop stops us and gives us an escort, and the two of us help my daughter-in-law walk because she's practically collapsing. We get to the emergency, and a nurse peels back a sheet, and there is Luke on a gurney. The doctor says Luke's had two heart attacks. We go over to our boy, and suddenly he starts to move. I mean move a lot. It's as if he's heard our voices and is trying to sit up.

GRANDFATHER: "He's getting better," my daughter-in-law says. "He's recovering. I can see it. Thank God."

GRANDFATHER: The doctor takes her hand. I wonder how many mothers' hands he's held like that. "No, he's not getting better. Part of his brain has gone into his spine."

GRANDFATHER: I watch all her hope go out of her. I look that Doc straight in the eye. "You saying our Luke is a vegetable?"

GRANDFATHER: "I'm saying he's in a vegetative state," the doctor says. "We can keep him like this a few more hours if you have the right insurance. [pauses] But I'm telling you the time will come when you have to let us turn off these machines and let him go. I am sorry."

GRANDFATHER: So that's what we did. My daughter-in-law kissed him for the last time. I held both his hands. We told him we loved him. Not long after I addressed the doctor. "Is he gone?" I said. The doctor wiped a tear. I'm sure he was thinking of his own grandson that moment. "He's gone."

GRANDFATHER: That's when I noticed Luke had some kind of writing on his legs. "What's that?" I asked the doctor.

GRANDFATHER: "The kids are always scrawling on each other with markers when someone passes out like this. We see it all the time."

GRANDFATHER: My daughter-in-law lifted the hospital gown and saw the crude and rude words written there. "Didn't they like him?" she said. "Didn't they even like him?"

GRANDFATHER: I tried to tell her they were just kids being kids, but she wasn't going to have any of it. "Luke would never have done that to them? Would he?" she asked. I didn't answer her. Grandfather goes back to the computer. Rubs his temples with worry.

GRANDFATHER: Now that Luke is gone, I have to figure how to pay the hospital stay and the funeral home. Then there's the doctor bill for my daughter-in-law so she could be sedated to attend the wake and funeral. We're talking thousands of dollars I don't have. I may have to sell off some of the farm equipment. I've been to several auctions where my neighbors had to sell what they had to make ends meet. Now it looks as if that will happen to me.

GRANDFATHER picks up a jar of coins.

GRANDFATHER: Luke always loved his coins. Every time he got change he would look at the date to see if he had a special old coin. One day he and his mom went shopping when he was five, and he asked if she could give him some pennies. He takes them and throws them as far as he can. "What did you do that for?" she says. "Well, Mom, someone has to put down lucky pennies for people to find."

GRANDFATHER locates a tiny fishing rod.

GRANDFATHER: I can't believe Luke kept this toy fishing rod. I used to take him to the lake to catch panfish. At fourteen he told me he didn't want to go. I thought it was a phase and asked him again to go. "No," he said. "I'm through tricking fish into committing suicide."

Luke thought he was disappointing me, but I was proud of him for thinking for himself.

GRANDFATHER's voice grows cold. "Why didn't you think for yourself your last night on earth, Luke?"

[He returns to the weights, taking a heavy one and pumping it over his head.]

GRANDFATHER: It was real hard for me to talk to those fraternity brothers at the wake. I wanted to wring their necks instead of shaking their hands.

But I saw the horror in their faces as they knelt by the coffin to show their respect. They understood they would have to live with what they did for the rest of their lives.

The adviser gave me a certificate with Luke's name on it as a full-fledged member of the fraternity. I balked for a second and almost pushed it away. But then I took it. I knew how much becoming a brother meant to Luke. I placed it in the coffin with him.

Grandfather picks up the newspaper.

GRANDFATHER: The paper said today the police may press charges against the guys that furnished the pledges with alcohol.

Luke wouldn't have wanted that. No, Luke wouldn't have wanted that at all to see his friends in jail.

I read that one band member in Florida got a six-year prison sentence for manslaughter after he helped beat a guy in another foolish hazing ritual on a bus. Six years is a long time to pay for bad judgment. The judge said the guilty party could have been sentenced to 22 years in prison. Don't

those kids think of that when they get caught up in their group mentality?

GRANDFATHER: Maybe I can talk to the boys, then talk to the police about making a deal to keep them out of jail. Or if they must serve hard time, maybe I can help them come back and find their lives again.

GRANDFATHER: Luke said the reason he wanted to join this frat was that the guys were so involved in community service. He sent me a picture of some fundraiser for a charity they were doing with a sorority. It looked like they were having a lot of fun.

GRANDFATHER: Yeah, maybe I will go back to the school and fraternity house. The school said something about holding a memorial service and maybe the national fraternity starting a scholarship in Luke's name. He picks up a red book.

GRANDFATHER: "This here is Luke's journal. I bought it for his high school graduation. I never opened it when Luke was alive." He reads and tries not to be overcome.

GRANDFATHER: "I will never be like Kurt Cobain and Heath Ledger and die so young. I love life too much. That will never happen to me—nope. I love life too much."

GRANDFATHER gives a low moan. Was it that important to you that you impress those new friends, Luke?

GRANDFATHER: That boy was always collecting quotations. He reads: You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result. Mahatma Gandhi. All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. Edmund Burke. How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world. Anne Frank.

GRANDFATHER: My daughter needs to see this journal. I can't bring Luke back. The boys can't either. But maybe I can help those kids do something positive to help other people and honor his name.

Maybe even one or two of the boys will speak out and say that hazing not only brings dishonor to the human spirit, but it can break a pledge, destroy a family. It destroyed mine. Hard to believe that now I am the end of our family line.

GRANDFATHER: I sure can't do anything for anyone locking myself up in Luke's room and playing with my memories. You'd think I'd sit down here and cry, but the pain is buried too deep. Now I understand my father better. He once was happy go lucky. After Rose's death he never smiled. He blamed himself for not dropping the pitchfork and catching her. [He picks up a bit of literature and scans it.]

GRANDFATHER: Here are some of the recruiting materials the fraternity sent to Luke right before he rushed.

Almost every other line here talks about fraternal values and principles and loving your brother but holding him accountable. I don't see a word in here about drinking yourself stupid.

GRANDFATHER: Yeah, I think I will visit the fraternity house and sit and talk with their adviser and them. Maybe I can help transform that bunch, maybe make this a chance

Continued on next page

The Pledge - Continued from page 7

for them to show me Luke didn't make a mistake in wanting their company. He picks up the journal.

GRANDFATHER: Here are some quotes Luke put down from the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. ... We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. ... There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate our enemies.

GRANDFATHER reads more slowly. "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." He repeats the line. "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." Yes, that's the one. Perhaps I'll pay that gravestone carver another visit.

GRANDFATHER: Maybe I need to admit to myself that if Luke had survived that night, he might have put another pledge through that initiation and broken some other family's hearts. Perhaps he might have giggled as he wrote on another passed-out pledge with a colored marker.

I don't see how it's going to help me live the rest of my life being mad at them. I can't stay bitter at them forever. I can't be like my own father. If I can forgive them, maybe they can someday forgive themselves.

GRANDFATHER: I think I'll box Luke's weights up and take them to the fraternity house. Those boys I saw at the funeral looked kind of puny. He laughs wryly. I'll bet I can lift ten pounds more than any of them. He goes to the window.

GRANDFATHER: I'll take Tramp with me and give him to the boys. He won't live long if he keeps draping himself over Luke's grave like he's doing. I bet those boys miss him. I know he misses them. Yeah, I bet those boys miss him. He picks up the coat and cap and diary. He exits the room.

Acknowledgements: This play was first acted by Hank Nuwer as an Anne Frank fellow at Buffalo State College. Special thanks to my publisher Major Mitchell and to hazing activist Gregory Danielson for allowing his photo of his own close call at a University of North Carolina initiation to be used. And special thanks to the parents of hazing and alcohol victims Chuck Stenzel, Harrison Kowiak, Joe Bisanz, Scott Krueger and Nick Haben whose experiences in many ways went into this play.

Editors Note: Fraternities are under scrutiny all over the nation at the present time and it should send a clear message to all of our active and associate members that their behavior must conform to the standards set forth by the national fraternity and the local universities to avoid serious trouble. Violating the rules could be fatal to both the national fraternity and the individual chapters and it could also destroy the life of students that make the wrong decisions.

Penn State Strips Beta Theta Pi of recognition in wake of student's death

by Matthew Stevens -- Friday, February 17th 2017

UNIVERSITY PARK - Penn State University has revoked all recognition of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity as the criminal investigation into the death of student Timothy Piazza continues. According to a statement from the university, the decision to revoke recognition came after an inquiry by the Office of Student Conduct. Penn State officials corroborated with the chapter's national headquarters in making the decision.

The loss of recognition means that the chapter and its members are no longer part of the Greek letter community at Penn State. The revocation will last a minimum of five years. This comes just after Beta Theta Pi's house manager Braxton Becker had a preliminary arraignment Friday morning on drug charges, including seven counts of manufacture, delivery or possession with intent, three counts of criminal use of communication facility, four counts of possession of a controlled substance, and one count of possession of paraphernalia, court documents say.

The Penn State Interfraternity Council have released a statement supporting the decision.

The Interfraternity Council views the actions of the Beta Theta Pi chapter contradictory to both the Interfraternity Council's and University's values. For that reason, we support the decision of the Beta Theta Pi's National Organization to revoke Beta Theta Pi's charter. The Interfraternity Council will continue to work with the University to make our community safer, as this our number one priority.

"The information available to us about the actions that led to Tim's death is deeply disturbing, and no sanction or restriction from the University can levy is equal to the gravity of his death or the circumstances which we believed led to it," said Damon Sims, vice president of Penn State student affairs.

University officials said they have implemented measures that will affect all fraternities including, continuing a ban on all social events involving alcohol for the rest of the semester, an immediate end to all "new member programs" underway and continued unannounced compliance checks by school officials.

University officials said that they have put into effect the following long-term changes:

- No attendance at indoor or outdoor social events at chapter houses in excess of the legal occupancy limits stated for the facility;
- No hard liquor at social events, only beer and wine, if alcohol is permitted;
- Bartenders certified through the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's Responsible Alcohol Management Program at all social events at which alcohol is served;
- Effective monitoring at social events to prevent underage and excessive drinking; and
- Probation and immediate revocation of recognition for failure to follow requirements.

State College police and Penn State student affairs will continue the investigation into Piazza's death. No charges have been filed at this time, but police have requested three search warrants and previously said that hazing and alcohol consumption might have played a role in the 19-year-old's death.

2018 MEF in Chicago

Due to uncontrollable circumstances, the Gold Rose was not able to be published in late November - early December as usual, so the normal information on the MEF is probably pointless as many of you will not receive this issue in time to do you any good if you are planning to attend. We will be sending out emails to the chapters so the word will get out. We hope to see all of you in Chicago for what will be an exceptional opportunity for you to learn more about leadership, the fraternity and most of all, brotherhood.

Outstanding Year for Beta Sig Chapters

By: John Hatfield - National Leadership Consultant

This was probably one of the most outstanding years in recent Beta Sig history for campus award recognition!

Omega, Indiana University, received the most campus awards of all our chapters. They were number ONE in grades! They were number ONE in intramurals! And their president (Alex Trimpe) was voted the best fraternity president!

Alpha, The University of Illinois, received the recognition as the number ONE small fraternity on campus! They had superior grades (3rd) and great philanthropic involvement.

Epsilon, Iowa State University, was voted the BEST fraternity at ISU! They are strong academically, highly involved on campus, outstanding service and have seats on IFC! Reed Bures, 2016 Chapter President, was awarded President of the Year in April. Also, Epsilon paid off it's 20 year mortgage this past year - in a 7 year time span.

These three chapters set the bar of fulfilling our mission and vision and made us proud at their respective campuses!!

Leadership Summit - July 2017

Rafting a wild Colorado river, climbing 14,000 foot Mount Evans and hanging in the mountains for 3 days describes our National Leadership Development Summit!.

Officers from all our chapters converge for three days discussing leadership, officer job responsibilities and current issues dealing with being Greek. It's a bonding experience like none other! Every man walks away challenged and changed!



ALPHA CHAPTER

University Of Illinois, Urbana, IL

President's Report

By: Nathaniel Stoll - President

Greetings from Alpha Chapter! There is a lot that has happened here over the past year! To begin, the current size of our fraternity is 26 men: 21 active members and 5 associate members. Compared to last year, our fraternity size hasn't changed much. However, the important change to note here is the increased number of men living in our house. For the first time in over a decade, our chapter house has a person living in every room. With 20 men living in our house, we now have to start worrying about "doubling up" rooms... which is a good problem to have.

Scholastically, our house has been doing well. In the fall of 2016, we placed 2nd out of 44 IFC fraternities for GPA rankings with an average GPA of 3.4257. A big part of our academic successes during the fall semester came from our pledge class, which had an average GPA of 3.6972! Very impressive! In the spring of 2017, we placed 4th out of 42 IFC fraternities with an average GPA of 3.3278, making this the 6th semester in a row we have placed top 5 in fraternity GPA rankings!

In addition to our academic successes, we were fortunate enough to walk away with some hardware for our chapter. First, we would like to congratulate our Alumni Advisor, Travis Schiess, on being given the "Alumni Volunteer Service Award" at MEF and for winning "Advisor of the Year" at Greek Oscars here at the University. He played a large role in renovating our chapter

room and went above and beyond the call of duty in his tasks as an advisor. Now, to move onto our chapter awards. At MEF in 2017, we received the Hingst award for scholarship achievement, and at Greek Oscars, we earned "Top 3" in Scholarship and New Member Education. Perhaps the greatest achievement we earned, though, was during Greek Oscars when we were awarded "Chapter of the Year" amongst all other small fraternities. We are very blessed to have earned the awards we did, and we are thankful for all of the recognition we have been given.

Outside of the hard work we have put into our fraternity and academics, we've had our fair share of fun along the way, too. In the spring of 2017, we decided to leave the state to travel to Nashville, TN for our Gold Rose formal. It was a refreshing break from school, and a good time was had by all.

Also, over the past year, we have participated in indoor soccer, outdoor soccer, basketball, flag football, and broomball. We would mention our win-to-loss ratio, but like our Illinois sports programs right now, we feel that's better left unsaid. Additionally, over the past year, we have had exchanges with 4-H House, Sigma Alpha, the women's water polo team, and Stratford House, to name a few. We have enjoyed getting to meet new people, and we hope to continue to build relationships as time goes on.

Overall, it has been a fun and exciting year here at Alpha Chapter! We thank God for all of the blessings we have been given, and we give Him the glory for our successes this past year! Here's to another great year in the books! Per aspera ad astra!



Ben Swanson, Alpha Chapter quarterback, jukes a defender in flag football game



Homecoming Tailgate 2017



Beta Sig Community Leaf Raking Event -Mike Schwingbeck helps Dylan Young fill leaf bag.



Fall 2017 Alpha Chapter Associates: (L-R): Carson Dodd, Clayton Vought, Johnny Wheeler, Mantas Balakas, Michael Hrabak, Jacob Connor

Photo - below right: John Hatfield visits Alpha Chapter to go over goals for the semester.



Fall 2017 Leaders: Dylan Young (Sr. Recruitment Chair), Tilo Lamken (2nd Vice President), Nathaniel Stoll (President), Michael Bengston (1st Vice President), Grant Wetherton (Treasurer), and Mike Schwingbeck (Social Chair).



Fall 2017 Alpha Chapter Membership

President's Report

By: Kevin Schiff - President

Being President of Beta Chapter here at Purdue University has been a rewarding leadership opportunity. I have gotten to work with many other leaders of the chapter on finding ways to further improve the greek community across campus, but even more importantly, work hard to improve ourselves and our presence

One of the main ways we did this was by hosting University Lutheran Church services on our front lawn while the process of moving and renovating the sanctuary took place. We had a lot of fun hosting events like the church picnic as well. It was a great opportunity to make a stronger name for ourselves in the Lutheran community around campus.

As expected, we have continued to show academic excellence in scoring well above the fraternity average and the all men's average gpa on campus. This fall, we have made additional strides by incorporating more campus resources into our Scholastic plans.

This year, brothers and new members participated in many philanthropic events. Cole Postell used his culinary skills to compete in a grill off with some of the best pulled pork I have ever had,

and we pulled together a team to defend our 3-year reign in the Football FrenXi where we unfortunately couldn't make it a four-peat. I'm sticking to the story that we decided it was only fair for another team to finally win it!

Purdue University, West Layfayette, IN

It was an honor to be Chapter President this semester and I know there are many good things coming for Beta chapter this next semester and year to come.

Photo at right: Beta Chapter Brothers and Parents made a trip to wrigleyville to cheer on the Chicago Cubs during this year's postseason



Photo Above: Beta Chapter Brothers and new members attend the first service held in the new University Lutheran Church sanctuary.

Photo at Right: Brothers (from left to right) Nik Kiess, Evan Selking, Robby Ehlerding, Micah Koeneman and Dan Gunckel, after winning 1st in Sand Volleyball. The team went on to win championships in two different sand volleyball leagues this season.



Beta Fall Exec Team - From Left to Right: Ethan Ernst, Kevin Schiff, Larsh Henderson, Jake White, Dillion Greiwe, Ben Scholer, Andrew Ephlin, Andrew Ahlersmeyer. Not Pictured: Cody Gatewood, Micah Reynolds, Conley Utz



Fall 2017 Associate class: From left to right: Nate Witmer, Chandler Parrish, Patrick Hopkins, Case Evanson

President's Report

By: Nathaniel Stoll - President

It's been a busy year for Delta Chapter here at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, one full of opportunities for significant character growth. From pinning to intramural sports to camping trips, we have further developed a sense of brotherhood amongst our members.

In an effort to connect with the Lutheran community here in Lincoln, Delta Chapter has participated in several group worship experiences. Our members put on suits and attend the church service of a different local Lutheran church every month.

We have also reached out to students of the catholic fraternity on campus, Phi Kappa Theta, and held our second annual reformation bowl. Through a hard-fought game of flag football, we regret to report Delta Chapter lost in the very last play by 1 point.

Scholastically, Delta Chapter is coming off of a spring semester of tremendous academic success. We finished with one of the top two GPA's of all fraternities here in Nebraska at 3.497. We look forward to continuing our pursuit of scholastic excellence and reaching that number one spot.

As far as recruitment, we recently associated eight bright new members into Beta Sigma Psi. We look forward to growing with them in faith and brotherhood. Delta Chapter has been able to increase the number of members living in our house. Our house now holds thirteen members, over half our active membership.

Delta Chapter is blessed to have active alumni who express interest in the state of the active chapter. This past September, we had several alumni and active teams participate in our annual golf scramble. It was a great opportunity for current students to connect with alumni and learn about the history of our fraternity.

Lastly, in regards to service, Delta Chapter was able to host two philanthropies over the past year. These included a fish feed in the spring to benefit the

Orphan Grain Train and our 5th annual Wings for Wings philanthropy in the fall to benefit the Wings of Hope home for mentally and physically disabled orphans in Jacmel, Haiti. Additionally, we have taken to helping out our local community by working through organizations such as the People's City Mission and Put a Sock in It. We hope to touch the lives of our neighbors and the less fortunate to improve their well-being.



Above: Members Phu Nguyen (front) and Clay Blank assist in organizing socks for the organization Put a Sock in It that will be given to the homeless.



Above: Delta Chapter Leadership Team. From left to right: (Back) Will Dudley--Vice President, Alex Meier--2nd Vice President, (Front) Cody McCain--Treasurer, Conner Beyersdorf--President, Tom Gremel--Recruitment Chair, Brady Mailand--Secretary.



Delta Chapter Associate Class. From Left to Right: Andy Mason, Anthony Quandt, Jacob Philips, Ryan Champoux, Reid Samuelson, Andrew Blum, Connor Sears, Michael Griffith.



Delta Chapter pictured with Phi Kappa Theta after our flag football game for the 2017 Reformation Bowl.

President's Report

By: Caleb Mueller

Another year has come to pass in Ames, and Epsilon chapter has enjoyed another year of prosperity. This year had many high lights, with the largest being that we paid off our mortgage.

Epsilon chapter has focused strongly on academics, for the last few years, and our chapter continues to move in a positive direction and reach great heights. In the spring semester, our fraternity ranked 5th among all fraternities with a 3.27 GPA. For the fall semester, we are hoping to make the leap to top 3.

Spiritually, we continue to stay very involved with Memorial Lutheran Church. We provide ushers and parkers every week, and on Spring Break, 7 brothers went on a Church trip to New Orleans to help preserve the coasts from erosion. We also helped usher at a 500 year reformation event that saw nearly 1000 people fill an auditorium.

Socially, Epsilon chapter stays as busy as it can be, with involvement in many places. Our chapter enjoyed another round of Greek Week and Homecoming. This homecoming was extra special, because at the end of March, we paid off our mortgage for the house on 2132 Sunset Drive. To celebrate, alumni and active members had a mortgage burning party at a local winery. Members from as early as the 60's all the way up to our newest members were in attendance for this celebration.

I continue to be amazed by our membership and their buy in to Beta Sigma Psi and the college adventure. Beta Sigs are

involved in all sorts of organizations, including presidents of clubs, and IFC executive board members. We continue to live out our fraternity values in everything we do. It has been an incredible experience leading this chapter for 2017, and I want to thank everyone who helped us succeed this year!



Associate Class of 2017 - Back row (L-R): Colin McKay, Marcus Reecy, Jake Larimore, Cameron Johnson, Aaron Gerdtts, Charlie Magee, George Youngwirth, Ryan Stapleton, *Front row (L- R):* Seth Jackson, Mike Malek, David Schweitzer, Matthew Poppens, Ivan Rasmussen, Justin Jones, Alex Retallick, and Stephen Sabharwal.

Not pictured: Matthew Rettenmaier, Jack Kovach, Logan Hull



Beta Sig Exec Board: *(from left to right)* Ethan Laughery, Cameron Green, Joshua Prentice, Nathan Kimle, Reed Bures, Caleb Mueller, Andrew Wilmes, Ian Gessel, Ty Smith, Caleb Fails.



How do we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation? We ate 500 chicken nuggets of course!



We love Habitat for Humanity!

President's Report

By: Michael Devoe

If the beginning of this semester is any indication of the next few years to come, Zeta chapter will have quite the exciting time. After last semester's slightly less than satisfying completion, this semester has really been setting up to make up for the last and then some.

In the way of numbers this semester we have initiated a healthy associate class with 9 in house and 3 out of house, with one planning on moving into the house at the beginning of next year. This is up from a class of 10 for Fall 2016, and the 3 from Spring 2017. On top of that, we already have an outrageous amount already signed for the Spring 2018 class comparatively, which can be read about in our Recruitment update from our wonderful recruitment chair, Jake Jones.

Academically, Zeta chapter is edging its way ever closer to those coveted top places in the rankings. Last Fall we sat at 13th with a 3.102 cumulative GPA, this past Spring we may have dropped a single space to 14th overall, but raised our cumulative GPA to an exceptional 3.124. If that positive trend continues, we will most definitely be in the top 10 in no time. Nevertheless, we are still putting up strong competition against larger houses in a manner I have yet to see from a house our size.

Socially, we are excelling in making our presence known across the Greek community. From mutual friends within our homecoming partners,

Alpha Gamma Ro and Delta Delta Delta, I have heard nothing but good things about our men participating in events, including their go-getting attitudes and friendliness towards all members of other organizations they come across. More recently we had a social gathering with all houses on the block planned by the near sororities, which included Alpha Tau Omega, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Kappa Delta, Kappa Alpha Theta, and Chi Omega. From that event, many new house relationships were made, and future events have already been planned with almost all involved.

Along with that, we have just finished many house updates that leave it in the 21st century instead of stuck in the 70s (which still wasn't that bad). Along with a brand new set of sleek, energy efficient windows, and a renovated suite for our honorary active member, national advisor, and Housefather, John Hatfield, we are replacing the old wood panelling lining the first floor walls with new drywall, a fresh coat of paint, and finishing it off with new lighting that brings it all together perfectly.

I believe this accurately sums up all the great things that are working their way into Zeta chapter at this time that will continue to foster great growth for this house and its strong and long standing principles. Please feel free to get in contact with me or any member of the house, and stop by for a visit to see our upgrades and to meet

the great men that carry on the traditions of Beta Sigma Psi. Until then, thank you for your support, have a great year, and God bless.

Rush Report

Jake Jones, Recruitment

The recruitment team has refocused following a fall class that fell short of expectations. Though we fell short of our fifteen-man goal, we brought in twelve fantastic Christian gentlemen that will undoubtedly do great things for the house.

We have gotten off to a very encouraging start to the semester in terms of recruitment. Having been dissatisfied with our fall numbers, we had set our goal for the Spring class at 10 men. In September alone, we have signed six exceptional Christian gentlemen, all set to move into the house in January. We have doubled last Spring's recruitment numbers in one month.

The men in this house are determined to raise our in-house membership. In my three semesters as rush chair, I have never seen as much collaboration regarding recruitment between the members of Beta Sig as I have seen in these past few weeks. We are working on new recruitment events that we hope will yield even more quality men. We are working hard to get our in-house numbers back to where they need to be, and I believe we will get there



Photo Below:

Zeta Chapter Flag Football Team - at the Intramural Complex East of the KSU Football complex.



Pledge Class Above:

Photo Names (Left to Right):

- Jason Willbrant
- Cameron Smith
- Kyle Tollefson
- Jeffery Reed
- Paxton Gordon
- Vincent Buchanan
- Adam Bourne
- Alex Westrope
- Carson Tjelmeland
- Ryan Wolters
- Nate Pirner



Exec. Board Above:

Names (Left to Right):

- Mike Devoe, President
- Trent Pirner, 1st Vice
- Griffin Rohlfing, 2nd Vice
- Josh Smothers, Secretary
- Seth Jennings, Treasurer
- Jake Jones, Recruitment

Missouri Univ. of Science & Tech., Rolla, MO

President's Report

By: Gabriel Bohnert '13

This spring brought yet another exciting and eventful semester for the gentlemen of Eta Chapter. The semester was filled with many activities, including St. Patrick's week, brotherhood events, service opportunities, and intramural activities. This fall we welcomed our new members and celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Chapter House, while continuing to build exemplary Christian gentlemen for the future!

Philanthropy and Service Events

The spring semester found a new service opportunity in the Annual Camp David Banquet. Several members spent the evening acting as waiters for the banquet.

As always, the spring semester brought Eta Chapter's annual Rajun Cajun. The event was a success and raised nearly \$800 toward Lutheran Family and Children Services.

Finally, members spent a weekend participating in yard maintenance and cleanup for local veterans. If any alumni have any service opportunities, please don't hesitate to contact the Chapter as we are always looking

Academics

This spring the Chapter had success academically, finishing the semester with a 3.122 GPA, good for sixth among IFC member fraternities. Of course, being scholastically superior is always a goal of the active body, and we look to continue our success in the up coming semester! A big shoutout goes to all 8 of our members who finished the semester with a 4.0 GPA.

St. Patrick's Week

If there is one thing Missouri S&T undergraduates love in the spring semester, it would be St. Pat's! As always, St. Pat's week was filled with numerous activities and opportunities to grow as brothers. For several weeks prior, active and associate members spent countless hours working on

Eta Chapter's St. Patrick's Day float. The theme was Americana and our members knocked it out of the park with a replica 1950s diner complete with a bar, jukebox, and spinning milkshake. We achieved second place!

Member Activities

Beta Sigs are always trying to get our name out there and gain some valuable life experience. This semester Donnie Morard '15 spent the semester in a study abroad program in Estonia. Throughout his time there, Donnie got to travel throughout Eastern Europe taking classes and learning the culture, all while representing Beta Sigma Psi.

Also, Cameron Ziegler '16 and Kevin Schmidt '16 spent a week in Nicaragua with Beta Sigs from other chapters helping build a school for impoverished people while sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Great job on being Christ-like examples! Keep up the good work!

Intramurals/Greek Sing

As always, Beta Sigs in intramural activities on campus. This semester Eta Chapter participated in basketball, soccer, golf, and many other sports. Congrats to our basketball team for placing fourth in the gold bracket!

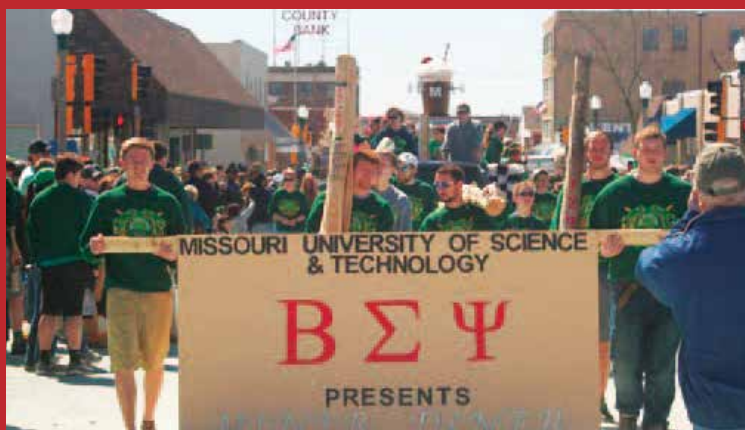
Another activity Beta Sigs love to participate in is Greek Sing. The theme this year was British bands. Our band played two classic songs: "The House of the Rising Sun" (Animals) and "Bad Company" (Bad Company), and rocked the stage.

Thank you to all undergraduates and alumni who helped make this semester a success. We appreciate all that everyone does to continue to build and grow Eta Chapter and its members. We are looking forward to another great semester. Thanks again and God's blessings!

Saint Patricks



Members preparing the St. Patrick's float for the annual St. Pat's parade.



Eta Members Lead the float in St Pat's Parade



Eta Chapter at a weekly Chapter meeting.

President's Report

By: Eric Graves, President

The men of Iota Chapter were very excited to get back to 206 South College Avenue after a long summer, especially after a great semester this past spring.

The previous semester at the University of Missouri was very eventful for Beta Sigma Psi- Iota Chapter. We earned fourth place in the annual Greek Week competition paired with the women of Kappa Delta and the men of Phi Gamma Delta.

Greek Week was a blast this year with members competing in skit, dance, sports and several other competitions. We also earned second in RAMS, Rocking Against Multiple Sclerosis, a competition in greek life where houses compete with each other in several different activities. We also began a new philanthropy, where we asked all sororities throughout campus to donate items to our military overseas. We collected all of the items and awarded the house who donated the most items with \$500 to their philanthropy.

Iota Chapter is currently at a membership of 72 with 39 members living in house. We have 16 new members for the Fall Semester of 2017. With the drop in enrollment at MU recently combined with our high standards for new members we did see a decrease in pledge class size. Despite this, the new members are all of high quality and they make me, personally, excited for the future of Iota Chapter.

The chapter GPA is currently at a 3.01, which ranks 16th among all MU fraternities. Even though we were above the all male average at MU we knew our GPA had to be higher. So, our academic chair and myself sought out to rework our current academic system. We increased study hours for both new members and actives, created an academic team competition and began utilizing more campus resources.

We have set our goal GPA for this semester at a 3.15, which would set us firmly in the top 10 best GPAs in greek life. We also added a new position to our executive board, the Public Relations Chairman. With social media being such a large part of the recruitment process as well as being a good tool for displaying chapter accomplishments, we saw it fit to create this position officially.

The men of Beta Sig are still enjoying the renovations made to the chapter house over the past few years, including the kitchen, foy-

er, new hallway floors, etc. This past summer the showers were remodeled and all of the locks in the house were replaced so everything could be under one master key. These renovations have been greatly appreciated by our in-house members. Currently, we are working on remodeling our study rooms to make it more accommodating. I speak for all of Iota in thanking the many alumni who have helped to make these renovations a reality, we are extremely grateful for all of the hard work.

With everything going on in Greek Life nationwide, Iota Chapter continues to have its sights set on producing strong, Christian gentlemen each semester. We would like to thank all of the alumni for the continued support and help we received throughout each semester. As my time as active body president winds down I cannot even begin to describe my excitement for the chapter's future. If anyone has any questions about the current state of Beta Sigma Psi- Iota Chapter or the University of Missouri feel free to reach out to me at eegbpc@mail.missouri.edu.



Top photo:

Phi Mu Basketball tournament in which Beta Sig participated.

Bottom Photo:

Alpha Delta Pi Kickball Tournament in which Beta Sig placed first.



Fall Semester New Assoc. Member class picture From left to right Top Row: Cameron Wiggins, Champlain Smith Middle Row: Wyatt Fields, Alec Craven, Shane Brannigan, Eric Hoagenson, Augustus Baumer, Kyle Quattrocchi. Bottom row: Michael Phillips, Ryan Meitz, Matt Hardt, John Limbaugh, Sidney Suarez, Jack Allen, Not pictured: Drake Batcher



Exec Team: Top Row (l-r): Eric Graves (President), Tim Wiant (Risk Manager), Ben Borst (Senior Recruitment Chairman), T.J. Hoffmeister (Treasurer). Bottom Row: Michael Van Schoik (Academic Chairman), Michael Huston (Second Vice President), T.J. Hakenjos (First Vice President), Kyle Meyer (Junior Recruitment Chairman), Ian Lever (Junior Recruitment Chairman) Not pictured: Troy Gilbert (Public Relations Chairmen)

Presidents Report

By: James Nguyen - Nu President

As president of the Nu Chapter here at the University of Kansas, I have seen our members grow and thrive as young leaders for the future. While still being considered a new (or should I say Nu) chapter at KU, we have accomplished a lot and established ourselves as a prominent fraternity. Thanks to our founding fathers back in 2014,

I have been able to use their base to expand our membership and brand. Currently, we have 31 Beta Sigs for the 2017-2018 academic year. Throughout my term, Nu Chapter has been able to achieve a 3.44 GPA, while it is still not close to our all-time high of 3.64 from a year ago, I

am glad to know that our brothers have been working hard to be in IFC's top 3 best fraternities academically. Thanks to another strong recruiting effort and getting 11 new

outstanding members, I am optimistic that we will reach that elusive 3.64 GPA once again.

Not only have we been successful in academics, we have also been heavily involved in the KU community. Thanks to another successful "Pizza and Puppies" Philanthropy, we have been able to raise over \$1,100 to donate to the Humane Society. Additionally, in only our 2nd year participating in Homecoming, we got 2nd place in Greek Life.

Finally, Beta Sigma Psi has not only been able to grow its relationship with IFC, but also with other councils, such as with MGC, NPHC, and NPC. As I near the end of my presidential term, I have nothing but confidence and pride for where Nu Chapter is going. I look forward to the future of Beta Sigma Psi. Rock Chalk!

Special thanks to the many organizations that we have worked with as well my executive team throughout my term, you all are what makes Beta Sigma Psi so special.



Nu Chapter 2017 Leadership Team. *Back (L-R):* Joey Lesko, Colton Lagerman, Christopher Siedel, Jake Schmidt. *Front (L-R):* Ty Smith, James Nguyen, David Chacon. *Not Pictured:* Andrew Growney, Joe Shroer



KU's Nu Chapter visits Epsilon Chapter in Ames



Assoc. Class - Back-(L-R): Alden Vogel, Ryan Ferares, Brandan Murray, Austin Armstrong, Payton Berans. *Front (L-R):* William Creamer, Andrew Lawrence, Aaron Murray. *Not Pictured:* Evan Haas, Hunter Cussigh, Samuel Campbell, Gavin Walker

Ty Smith (*at right*) during Pizzas and Puppies Fund raiser in Lawrence.

Nu Chapter's Fall 2017 Associate Class is pictured. See below photo for their names.



Below: Nu Chapter 2017 Brotherhood Retreat Lock-in



KU's Nu Chapter 2016-2017 Membership Class standing in front of Good Shepard Lutheran Church after Sunday services.

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

President's Report

By: Patrick Carver, President

Omega had 43 active members this Fall, with one abroad. We have 30 living in the two properties we lease on North Park Avenue, which are totally at capacity. The new associate class is our largest yet with 20 members, who are all extremely promising young men.



At the 2017 #GAAP awards we won the Values Integration award and our very own Alex Trimpe won IFC President of the year!

The class had a GPA of over 3.4 at mid-term checks, and have very good academic records from high school. The chapter is very happy with the size and quality of this associate class, and has already started recruiting for next Spring, with a goal of 10 plus new members.

Brothers helped out at the University Lutheran Church with an event that packed meals for hungry kids around the country. Between packing meals and helping with set-up and tear-down, the brothers of Omega had a large role in helping to support a program that packed over 1.5 million meals for kids.

We are in the process of planning a winter clothing, food, and toiletries donation event with a fraternity and sorority on campus for the last week of the semester, with all donations going to the homeless shelters of Bloomington. Lastly, several brothers put in community service hours at the Habitat for Humanity Re-store in Bloomington, helping the center process donations and sell to the community.

Omega had its first homecoming pair with ASA this semester, and also had a very successful dads weekend paired tailgate with Theta Phi Alpha. Both organizations dads had a great time tailgating the game and getting to know each other.

Omega won the IU recreational sports fraternity championship last semester, and hope to win it again next Spring. We have been very involved in rec sports again this semester, and is a great way for brothers to have a good time and bond. The associate members have also really enjoyed the opportunity to play, and they've been involved on active member teams, as well as a freshman basketball team.

Omega Exec Board-
Left to right :

- A J Brougham,
- Sam Kaefer,
- Evan McDonald,
- Patrick Carver,
- Lee Enkoff,
- Johnny Hodson,
- Nick Monesmith,
- Mason Shaffer



At right: Omega won the Hoosier Grail - trophy for the fraternity intramural sports competition.



Collin Evans (Left) and Patrick Carver (right) at the summit of Mount Evans during the Leadership Summit this past summer.

Omega had the top fraternity GPA on campus the past two semesters with a 3.47 and 3.485 respectively, and hope to continue this trend heading into final exams this semester.

We hosted a bubble soccer tournament this fall to raise money for Habitat for Humanity of Houston, and had a lot of fun while also raising over \$600 for the hurricane victims.



Omega Chapter 2017 Associate Class -

Names left to right: Adam Duckworth, Grant Handloser, Mike Echausse, Ben Wilkerson,, Aldair Sanchez, Mason Phillips, Brandon Bellen, Jack Stewart, Jackson Nagel, Keegan Freestone, Phil Serikow, Richard Johnson, Colin Legault, Ben Westenberger, Bryce Duffett, Brandon Wildman, Andrew Reale, Nick Heger, Zack Andreou, Brian Chrystal (no longer associate member), and Jacob Antoine.



Below right: Omega Chapter 2017 Membership

Presidents Report

By: President

This year has been a very good and eventful year for us here at Alpha-Alpha Chapter. We are currently sitting at sixteen active members with five new recruits, currently in education and hope to be activated before the end of the year.

Our grades are also at a very steady increase in our chapter thanks to our newly implemented scholastic plan that is showing amazing results. With our former president, Alex Vasa still the Midland's Greek advisor we continue to have a dramatic hold on both Greek Counsel and IFC.

We would like to congratulate Taylor Johnson, Michael Wilson, and Shane Heyen for graduating Midland this past spring. We will miss them and wish them the best in their future careers.

We also want to acknowledge Sean Graves, Frank Perrone and Keaton Kreikemeier on their advancement into alumni status this past fall. Special kudos go out to active brother Cutty Castillo, and alumni Keaton Kreikemeier and Ryan Dusso on their recent engagements. We are all looking forward to attending their wedding in the near future. Finally, we wish to send our best wishes for the future to our past president, Evan Christensen, on his marriage this summer.

Here at Alpha-Alpha Chapter we have a very strong faith and we really keep that fire

alive during the summer months while not in school. This past summer, eight actives and alumni of Alpha-Alpha chapter had the opportunity to work with Carol Joy Holling, at a Lutheran camp held during the warm summer months near our Fremont location in the town of Ashland, NE.

All eight brothers have kept connections with both the students and counselors through the school year through various meetings and hang-out sessions. They all say it is a rewarding experience and we hope that many more of us will work there in the future.

This fall we are looking forward to holding a T-Shirt fundraiser with The Hope Center for Kids here in Fremont, NE. The Hope Center for Kids strives to faithfully inspire hope in the lives of youth and children through education, employability, collaboration, and faith.

We are very excited about the quote that we chose to really inspire the public in the same message that the Hope Center for Kids uses to inspire their kids and the quote is "Beta Sigma Psi Stands for Hope". We at Alpha-Alpha Chapter are very excited to host this fundraiser and hopefully look forward to more connections with them in the future.

This past spring our Chapter participated in yet another Greek Week here at Midland with all of Greek life at Midland University. We look forward to participating in the newly added Greek events that our Greek Counsel is creating to bring the houses together as well as a Fall Ball in early December.

Midland University, Fremont, NE

The Editor Requests that more brothers sign up for a Digital copy of the Gold Rose!

Digital Copy of the Gold Rose

By: Gary Raffety

It is my hope that we will be able to continue to produce high quality, full color magazines for our alumni, but it is expensive and the costs continue to increase annually. The cost of the Fall 2016 issue was just over \$21,000. I had hoped that we would have received more requests for the digital copies because the savings per copy is substantial.

There are a few advantages to reading the Gold Rose on line. You don't have to worry about it getting damaged by the machines at the post office and with the ability to enlarge the text size of the computer image, it is much easier to read on computer than it is to read the hard copy, something for our older alums with tired eyes to consider.

Currently, we have just under 200 alums that are signed up to receive a digital copy of the Gold Rose. At approximately \$6.00 a piece to print and deliver each copy to your doors by the US Postal Service, we are only saving about \$1,200 or about 5% of the total cost.

It would be nice if we could increase our digital delivery numbers to around 1500 or more, which would reduce our costs by about one fourth, or round \$5,000 per issue. In the interest of saving the national fraternity money, I encourage you to sign up for the digital copies. To sign up for the digital copy of the Gold Rose, send your **name, chapter affiliation, and year of activation to me at: GoldRoseEditor@kc.rr.com**.

It is possible that I might have missed a few of the emails that came in last year so if you received a printed copy but signed up for the digital, please resend your request and I will make sure that I get your name on the digital mail list. I get busy and sometimes fall behind on my email and it is possible that I might have missed a few of your emails. If you have not signed up before, please do so and help us save money.



Alpha Alpha chapter brothers out for a break from studies.

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, 2016 through June 30, 2017):

Founders Society

Alpha Chapter

Jonathan Link
Craig Sorensen
Michael Welge

Beta Chapter

Robert Hingst
Ted Hingst
William Hingst
Rudy Ristich
Steven Witte
Randall Hahn
Wade Ledbetter
Gary Ligman
Loren Felten
Brian Bosma
Ryan Thieme

Epsilon Chapter

Rodney Thompson
Duane Grummer
Larry Garberding

Eta Chapter

Arthur Giesler

Zeta Chapter

John Skarda
Quincy Wiley
Michael Unger
Haven Rolander
Michael Dove
Larry Erickson
Clifford Ascher
Russell Barefield
Charles Blaser
Lowell Gordon
Michael Jackson
David Jackson
William Jorns
Kent Oliver
Jeffrey Pierson

Kappa Chapter

William Kurschat

Mu Chapter

Robert Hillard

Omega Chapter

Philip Krug
Cory Baumhardt

Concordia Club

Alpha Chapter

John Foote
Robert Mulch Jr
John Bernhardt
Robert Bloechle
Terry Brakhane
Edward Bucnis
Brian Bunte
David Campbell
Ralph Folkerts

Brian Garkie
Wade Harrison
Robert Herschbach
Joel Kahling
Judge Lloyd Kar-meier
Patrick Kirchofer
Ardell Nease
David Scheiter

Concordia Club Continued

Beta Chapter

Matthew Sommerfeld
Paul Davis
Paul Wagner
John Nichols
Richard Guhl
Thomas Daseler
Robert Frey
Ronald Otte
Timothy Bescherer
Jake Allen
Edwin Bescherer Jr
Jeff Finke
Dale Kline
Donald Meinheit
Marshall Meyer
Andrew Ortstadt
Brian Paul
Daniel Porter
Alvin Wilken
James Winkelman
Jared Witte

Delta Chapter

Gregory Gesell
Lee Anderbery
Mark Hahn
Douglas Martin
Roger Meyer
Rick Schmidt
Dennis Stelzer
Philip Johnson

Epsilon Chapter

Jason Lantz
Rudolf Herrmann
Mark Hofer
Joel Peterson
Steve Vander Sluis
Johann Willers

Zeta Chapter

William Maskus
Noel Boye
Larry Edwards
Ronald Hagerman
Scott Helmke
John Reynolds
Clair Schwerdtfeger
Shawn Weeks

Eta Chapter

Steven Jackson
Matthew Bremmerkamp
Mark Bruss
John Komlos
Michael Roth
Jane Meehan
John Spencer

Iota Chapter

Warren Pflantz
Warren Harms
Timothy Husby
Kenneth Reiter

Editors Note:

It is common today for most fraternities to offer scholarships to all new associate members. We need to compete in this process for new members, so your donations to the NEF are critical if we are going to to compete. Remember, these are tax deductible donations, so please donate and help our guys compete with the big boys.

Membership Levels:

Founders' Society: \$500+; Concordia Club: \$250 - \$499; Wittenberg Club: \$100 - \$249;
Patron: \$60-\$99; Member: \$30-\$59; Donor: \$1-\$29.

Chapter Donations

Alpha Chapter - \$12,069

Founders' Society

Jonathan Link
Craig Sorensen
Michael Welge

Concordia Club

John Foote
Robert Mulch Jr
John Bernhardt
Robert Bloechle
Terry Brakhane
Edward Bucnis
Brian Bunte
David Campbell
Ralph Folkerts
Brian Garkie
Wade Harrison
Robert Herschbach
Joel Kahling
Judge Lloyd Kar-meier
Patrick Kirchofer
Ardell Nease
David Scheiter

Wittenberg Club

Daniel Jenkins
Ronald Sokol
Thomas Mueller
Daniel Ross
Edward Runge
James Withrow
Gregory Wyss
Timothy Tappendorf
Blake Aper
Don Bienfang MD
Bill Bunte
Joseph Doninger
Dale Durfey Jr
Roger Fliege
Larry Heyen
Scott Kempin
Michael Kesselmayer
Duane Kolbus
Scott McKorkle
Thomas Mulch
Chris Nack
Douglas Phares
James R. Pitman
Gary Showers
Kevin Smith
Stuart Young

Patron

Kevin Kothe
Russell Niemi

Jerald Borchers
Kevin Donoho
Richard Heinkel
Randolph Lange
Dale Rust
Donald Sommerfeld
Dale Wachtel

Member

Thomas Hecht
Kirk Meyer
Eric Moxon
David Nuernberger
Wilbur Stamberger
David Ward
Lee Yarbrough
Helmut Welke
Stephen Eggerding
Warren Hecht
William Keel
Mark Keel
Michael Madsen
Mark Vitalis Hoffman

Donor

Norman Harms
John Holtz
Noel Manhart
Michael Rosborough
Gerald Skoglund
Gary Weimer
Rev. Rick Milas
Aaron Johnson

Beta Chapter - \$48,302

Founders' Society

Robert Hingst
Ted Hingst
William Hingst
Rudy Ristich
Steven Witte
Randall Hahn
Wade Ledbetter
Gary Ligman
Loren Felten
Brian Bosma
Ryan Thieme

Concordia Club

Matthew Sommerfeld
Paul Davis
Paul Wagner
John Nichols
Richard Guhl
Thomas Daseler
Robert Frey
Ronald Otte
Timothy Bescherer

Jake Allen
Edwin Bescherer Jr
Jeff Finke
Dale Kline
Donald Meinheit
Marshall Meyer
Andrew Ortstadt
Brian Paul
Daniel Porter
Alvin Wilken
James Winkelman
Jared Witte

Wittenberg Club

Kenneth Bischoff
William Braun
Jacob Cronauer
Larry Dennis
Garth Hawkins
Kenneth Luedtke
James Muhl
Lawrence Olson
Tobin Ortstadt
Greg Perko
Lcdr. Dennis Schepman
Jeffrey Van Voorhis
Adam Rusch
Lester Peters
Jon Whisler
Ted Gruenhagen
Aavo Agur
Douglas Bovee
William Bussing
John Cooke
Duane Dippon
Albert Grathwol
James Harless
Alan Hedegard
Roger Schepman
Jeffrey Schuetz
James Shortle
Harry Wolter

Patron

Steven Magnusen
Andrew Simerman
Jeffrey Hoeverer
Scott Kammeyer
Brent Lahey
David Struckman-Johnson

Member

Jeffrey Decker
Timothy Finke
Robert Hoch
Nicolas Humphrey
Dr. John Thomsen
Scott Bosecker
Kevin Brueck
Adam Griebel
David Gross
William Hitchens
Kevin Mickleby

Bryan Schroer
Michael Schuller
Charles Strube

Donor

Paul Finke
Michael Moore
William Plaehn
Nicholas Whitney Jr
Jeremy Bannwart

Delta Chapter - \$6,040

Concordia Club

Gregory Gesell
Lee Anderbery
Mark Hahn
Douglas Martin
Roger Meyer
Rick Schmidt
Dennis Stelzer
Philip Johnson

Wittenberg Club

Wayne Anderbery
Oliver Block
Richard Eggert
Don Holle
Robert Lueking
Steven Meints
Brian Kelpé
Dr. Kenneth Barjenbruch
John Dietze
Jeffrey Grubbe MD
Burton Holthus
Harold Hormann
Roy Josoff Jr
Larry Middendorf
James Monson
Boyd Stuhr Jr

Patron

Harlan Broekemeier
Frederick Chael
Gary Stover
Douglas Willoughby
Alan Bauer
Lance Bloedorn
Oscar Bredthauer Jr
Charles Brummund
Dr. Bradley Gloystein
Alexander Koehler
Douglas Parrott
Gary Stevens
H. James Tonjes

Member

Michael Cloeter
Ralph Knepper

Karl Kostbahn
Stanley Miller
Dennis Peterson
Bradley Petzold
Kenneth Schmidt
Dennis Wolf
Phillip Goering
Bruce Fischer
James Hellbusch
Ronald Jessen
Ronald Lamberty
Gordon Maronde
Daniel Meyer
Bruce Nelson
Les Roberts
Christopher Schroeder
Howard Selk
Steven Wobken
Isaac Zohner

Donor

Roger Cole
Douglas Hartmann
Robert Schultz
Richard Benzel
Willard Spech
Robert Reed

Epsilon Chapter - \$8,621.06

Founders' Society

Rodney Thompson
Duane Grummer
Larry Garberding

Concordia Club

Jason Lantz
Rudolf Herrmann
Mark Hofer
Joel Peterson
Steve Vander Sluis
Johann Willers

Wittenberg Club

Kent Dvorak
Richard Harrison
Jerald Johanson
Michael Peterson
Jonathan Hoback
Kurt Buhr
James Covey
Dewayne Ehler
William Jentzen
Douglas McKechnie
Brian Meyer
Greg Michel
Eldo Schornhorst

Patron

Dennis Licht

Richard Noble
Carl Yoder

Member

Terry Fett
Norman Malmberg
Terry Martinson
Mark Olson
Leland Rieck
Scott Sump
Joshua Watt

Donor

Alexander Cutler
Brian Keys
Gerald Radek

Zeta Chapter - \$23,330

Founders' Society

John Skarda
Quincy Wiley
Michael Unger
Haven Rolander
Michael Dove
Larry Erickson
Clifford Ascher
Russell Barefield
Charles Blaser
Lowell Gordon
Michael Jackson
David Jackson
William Jorns
Kent Oliver
Jeffrey Pierson

Concordia Club

William Maskus
Noel Boye
Larry Edwards
Ronald Hagerman
Scott Helmke
John Reynolds
Clair Schwerdtfeger
Shawn Weeks

Wittenberg Club

Harold Dorssom
Dr. Howard Erickson
Scott Johnson
Daniel Kuhlman
Laurence Miller
Larry Nelson
Kenneth Quade
Jon Root
Galen Doud
Andrew Bowman
Roger Burjes
Gordon Carlson
Larry Dannenberg

Brandon Hagman
Thomas Henrichs
Dr. Richard Kohlschreiber
Dr. Layle Lawrence
Jerry Meng
Jared Miller
Dr. Tim Millsap
Alan Peitsch
Steven Schultz
Gary Sims

Patron

John Terrill
Douglas Helmke
Kenneth Schmanke
Ellerd Niemeyer

Member

Harold McGrath
Dirk Ricker
Rev. Glenn Bitter
Keith Bryan
Norman Elliott
Gary Neuschafer

Donor

Gary Gabrielson

Eta Chapter - \$5,600

Founders' Society

Arthur Giesler
Jane Meehan

Concordia Club

Steven Jackson
Matthew Bremmerkamp
Mark Bruss
John Komlos
Michael Roth
John Spencer

Wittenberg Club

Russell Goldammer
John Heidbreder
Peter Sanocki
Peter Sauer PhD
Stephen Tempe
Keith Konradi
Anthony Seris
Al Panhorst
Jeremy Murrish
David Goldammer
Gerry Grommet
Gary Hoffman
Richard Schmelig
Omar Stuenkel Jr
Thomas Uhlmansiek
Michael Weidner

Jason Welker
Gerald Wiegmann

Member

Douglas McCune
Marvin Monday
Ronald Mueller
David Schlarman
Mark Schoedel
James Shildmyer
Dr. W. Wayne Siesennop
Karl Ziegler
David Berg
Dennis Hartman
Nathaniel Leezer
Gregory Nichelson
Alan Shaffer
Clint Stanerson

Donor

Wayne Benitz
Joseph Craig

Theta Chapter

Donor

Kenneth Pedde
Gerald Benedict

Iota Chapter - \$2,975.00

Concordia Club

Warren Pflantz
Warren Harms
Timothy Husby
Kenneth Reiter

Wittenberg Club

Morris Heitman
Roger Plackemeier
Kyle Clower
Robert Finck
Roger Flandermeyer
David Heisterberg
Rev. Paul Hoemann
Jeffrey Mueller
Thomas Pfaff
Steven Stadelman

Patron

Jonathan Riethmeier
Timothy Jackson
Kim Nelson

Member

Steve Burchard
Dennis Mall
Todd Meyer

Continued on page 24

Chapter Donations - Continued

Continued from page 23

Brent Toellner
John Wussler
Arthur McLaughlin
James Dunkmann
Mark Harms
Rodney Mais
Andrew Meyer

Donor

Donald Paske

Kappa Chapter - \$977.00

Founders' Society

William Kurschat

Wittenberg Club

Rudolph Blakeman
Donavon Hess
John McClurg

Member

Tracy Close
Rev. James Walburg
Bruce Erickson
Robert Huber

Mu Chapter - \$2680.00

Founders' Society

Robert Hillard

Wittenberg Club

Robert Mattheessen
John Popp
Donald Tate

Member

Kenneth Schaal
Terry Schuldt

Donor

Everett Freeberg
Roger Heitman

Nu Chapter

Wittenberg Club

Merlin Stigge

Patron

Marvin Bredehoft
John Larsonx

Member

Ronald Kettner

Xi Chapter

Wittenberg Club

Kenneth Troester
Dale Filsinger
Arlyn Uhrmacher

Member

Steven Harms

Donor

Mark Larson

Omicron Chapter

Patron

Dale Pfeiffer

Member

Ronald Iseler

Pi Chapter

Patron

David Davis

Member

David Lenz

Donor

William Minford
Kirk Haffer

Rho Chapter

Member

Terry Wangen

Sigma Chapter

Donor

Russell Ropte
Eugene Beerbohm
David Noyes

Tau Chapter

Wittenberg Club

Kurt Schmeckpeper

Member

Richard Burling

Upsilon Chapter

Wittenberg Club

John Gehrke

Patron

Kevin Carriere

Member

Douglas Tschauder
Rev. Chad Lueck

Donor

Randall Peters

Phi Chapter

Patron

Terrell Miller

Omega Chapter - \$1730.00

Founders' Society

Philip Krug
Cory Baumhardt

Member

Jason Merica

Alpha-Alpha Chapter

Wittenberg Club

Jacob Clark

Member

Dustin Stehl

Your Tax Deductible donations to the NEF builds our Scholarship Fund which allows our chapters to compete for new associates by offering scholarships. We are way behind our competitors and need your help. Thanks.

Membership Levels:

Founders' Society: \$500+; Concordia Club: \$250 - \$499; Wittenberg Club: \$100 - \$249;
Patron: \$60-\$99; Member: \$30-\$59; Donor: \$1-\$29.



2017 MEF Awards Held in Kansas City, MO.

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. The weather did not cooperate this year as most of Missouri was covered with ice and prevented Eta and other chapters from attending the event.

This year our keynote speaker was Phil Krug who delivered a very emotional message about his lifetime experiences with Beta Sig. He provided a testimonial of how Beta Sigma Psi followed him through his career and helped sustain him through his entire lifetime in family sadness and triumph along with business highs and lows.

The Tiemann Award is presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession over a lifetime of accomplishment. This year's Tiemann honoree was **Phil Krug**, a distinguished alumnus from Zeta Chapter. Phil is a native of Kansas and spent his entire life in Kansas. He graduated from Hoisington, Kansas High School where about 7 to 10 alumni have graduated from.

He attended Kansas State University from 1972 to 1976 and graduated with a Business Management degree. He was the Recruitment Chairman his sophomore year and pledged 20 men who had a cumulative GPA of 3.2 and this class was ranked the 5th that year among pledge classes.

Phil was President of Zeta Chapter in 1975 and the house had 37 men in 1972 and reached 60 men living at Zeta Chapter when Phil graduated in 1976. Phil has been active with the Manhattan Alumni Board since 1978 when he was elected Treasurer, and for the past 9 years or more has served as the President. Phil has enjoyed a 37 year career in the commercial insurance agency business. The early years were in Garden City and Great Bend. The remainder has been in Salina since 1985 and he has been an agency owner for over 30 years.

Phil has served the First Presbyterian Church in Salina as an Elder and a Trustee for over 15 years. He has been elected to the Board of Directors for the Salina Regional Health Center Foundation in 2014 and is currently the Vice Chairman. Glenda, Phil's loving wife of over 25 years, passed in 2005.

They are certainly proud of their children. Alex and his wife Alana, along with Estelle who is 2½ years old currently live in New York City. Their daughter, Katie, and her husband Ashley Jarvis and their children Jack aged 7 and Charley Sue age of 3 all live in Salina. Phil has certainly enjoyed a distinguished record in his professional career and in service and accomplishment for the Fraternity.

We chose to honor **Michael Cooper** with the **Karmeier Award** this year. The award was presented by Brian Clark at Epsilon's homecoming in the fall. Michael, along with Mark Anderson and Chad Winterhof, provided advice and leadership to Epsilon Chapter. The chapter has earned a great reputation and the respect from the Iowa State administration. They were instrumental in the move from 223 Lynn Avenue to their current location on Sorority Circle, a prestigious location in a historic fraternity house. They updated the facility and provide all of the modern conveniences on the newest student housing but maintain a competitive price for our undergrads at about 10% lower than the university dormitories.

Under their leadership, by making accelerated mortgage payments, the sale of the 223 Lynn Avenue property and fund raising, the chapter home will be without a bank mortgage for the first time in over 30 years. The alumni from Epsilon have been blessed with their leadership and providing a stable anchor of a strong chapter for the National Board to leverage in their recruiting and expansion efforts.

A special Director plaque was presented to **Scott Gesell** from Delta Chapter to acknowledge and express our appreciations for three years of service on the National Board from 2013 to 2016. **Alex Trimpe**, an undergraduate from Omega Chapter, was recognized for setting the standard of a chapter's web presence and his help for the Chi Chapter interest group's website. **Wesley Smith**, National Board member and alumnus from Omega Chapter, used his camera to photograph the awards presentation and the banquet event again this year.

Recognition was provided to those who assisted **Jake Vanderslice** in setting up this year's **Membership Education Forum**. Presenters included Rudy Ristich, Jake Vanderslice, John Hatfield, Rod Thompson, Dan Jacobi, Caleb Mueller, Reed Burress, Clay Blank and Alex Trimpe. Registration was coordinated by Austin Rahn and Ben Halley assisted with photography for the event.

The Awards Committee members this year included Rod Thompson (Epsilon), Art Giesler (Eta), Phil Krug (Zeta), Mike Unger (Zeta), Adam Rusch (Beta) and Jay Holle (Delta). Many thanks for these alumni who attended the weekend festivities and who graciously volunteered their time to deliberate on the awards selections. Here is the list of the awards presented to the undergraduate members and chapters:

The Erck Award to the outstanding undergraduate in the Fraternity was presented by Rudy Ristich, National President, to Clay Blank from Delta Chapter. Others nominated by their chapters for this honor included James Crowder (Nu), Frank Perrone (Alpha-Alpha), John Works (Zeta), Alex Trimpe (Omega) and Dan Jacobi (Epsilon). In any other year any of these young men would

have been our Erck Awardee but the caliber of our leaders was exceptionally high again this year.

The Kettler Award for outstanding undergraduate management in the Fraternity was presented by **Jay Holle**, a distinguished alumnus from Delta Chapter and newly elected to the National Board of Directors, to **Caleb Mueller** from Epsilon Chapter. Others competing for this award included James Nguyen (Nu), Eric Graves (Iota), Conner Beyersdorf (Delta) and Collin Evans (Omega).

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 Awards Committee remarked that meeting this group of young men 20 years from now would be very fascinating to see how far each of them went in their professional journeys and their support for the Fraternity.

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 Phil Krug, this year's Tiemann Award Honoree, to Delta Chapter.

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

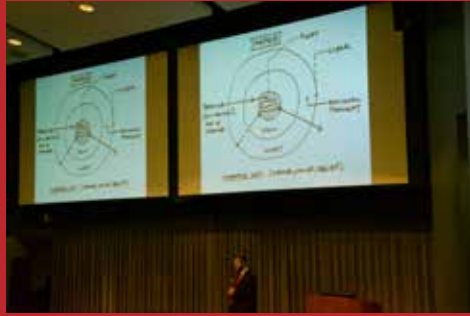
The Hingst Award for chapter scholarship was presented by Steven Hicks, National Board Scholarship Chairman, to Alpha Chapter.

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

The Hillard Award for exceptional chapter achievement was presented to Iota, Nu and Omega Chapters. Assisting in the presentation were Mike Unger (Zeta Alumnus), Andrew Rusch (Beta Alumnus) and Gary Raffety (Zeta Alumnus).

The Glee Club Award was presented by Rod Thompson to **Epsilon Chapter**. This award was created to encourage singing and serenading in the Fraternity. Delta Chapter also contributed a song for the evening as part of the competition.

We awarded the **Alumni Volunteer Service Award** to **Travis Schiess** for his support of Alpha Chapter. Travis was instrumental in the renovation of Alpha Chapter's study room and also his support and compassion for one of the Alpha Chapter's undergraduates.



2017 MEF in KC

Photos from a busy weekend of Education, Awards, Celebration and Comradery.



MEF 2018 will be in Chicago - Be sure to register and reserve your rooms soon.

Educational Foundation Financial Statement Summary for year ending 6/30/2017

By: Rod Thompson, Treasurer, Educational Foundation



We have a generous group of alumni who donate on an annual basis to provide funding for the Educational Foundation, National Board support, scholarships, and monetary grants to chapters and colonies. I have been the Treasurer for the Educational Foundation for many years and witness this generosity every day I balance the checking account, write checks and prepare the end of year financial statements for review by our accounting firm.

I would like to recognize those who serve on the Educational Foundation Board of Directors: Kirk Meyer (Alpha) – Chairman, Dave Jackson (Zeta) – Vice Chairman, Adam Rusch (Beta) – Grants Chairman, Mike Nolte (Alpha) - Scholarship Chairman, Bill Braun (Beta) - Secretary, Scott Gesell (Delta) –Spiritual, Stevin Dahl (Epsilon) - Proposal Writer and Steve Hollrah (Pi) – Past Chairman.

Here is the overall summary of the financial status of the Foundation. We provide the chapters/colonies with their sub-fund balances when that is available after the financial statements have been reviewed.

Assets:

\$1,373,977.00 Investment Portfolio amount as of 6/30/2017
 39,544.48 Checking account balance on 6/30/2017
\$1,413,131.85 Total Assets as of 6/30/2017

1,265,095.24 Total Assets as of 6/30/2016

\$148,036.61 Change in net value from 6/30/2016 to 6/30/2017

Revenues:

30,000.00 Transfer from checking to investment portfolio
 95,230.00 Investment income for year ending 6/30/2017
 46,229.00 Direct contribution to the investment portfolio - some alumni do this with large amounts.
 29,559.30 “unrestricted” donations from phonathon, other donations (i.e. interest, Thrivent \$\$)
 37,553.62 “restricted” donations from phonathon (generally chapter and “special” sub-funds)
 36,875.00 Donations other than phonathon to restricted sub-funds

\$275,466.92 Total Revenues

Disbursements:

\$53,060.37 Educational Programs - Includes \$31,700.37 for Chapter Grants, \$15,000 Scholarships, \$6,000 for annual awards (Kettler, Erck & Hingst Awards)
 9,940.50 Fund Raising costs for phonathon
 34,409.44 Administrative Costs (includes Ed Foundation fair share for National Consultant)
 30,000.00 Transfer from checking to investment portfolio

\$127,410.31 Total Disbursements

\$148,036.61 Change in net value from 6/30/2016 to 6/30/2017

Editors Note:

Our chapters must compete with the big national fraternities who, with their deep pockets, are able to offer scholarships to all of their new associate members, entire classes of 30 or more members. We are not yet able to do this, but with your continued tax deductible donations to the Scholarship Fund, we will one day get there. Thanks for your donations.

Jim Jorns, Zeta '51, Founder of Major Lutheran Service Organization - Children Christian Concern Society

By: Jim Jorns

This is the life Story of Jim Jorns, a founding member of Zeta Chapter, (class 1951) and who is also the name sake of the BSP Fraternity Award - The Edie and Jim Jorns Award, which is presented for chapter philanthropy.

Jim and his wife Edie are retired and living in Manhattan, KS. I was not able to meet with Jim so I asked Jim to write his own story. What follows is his outstanding life, summarized in the following columns.

Early life:

Born on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 1931 in the farm home which my paternal Grandfather had built and where my father was also born.



Jim in 1937 - first grader at Preston Consolidated School

We were a German Lutheran family and members of a small German Lutheran community in Pratt County, Kansas. Within a month of my birth I was baptized in St. Paul Lutheran Church, claimed by Christ as His own.

They tell me that my first language was German which changed as soon as my older sister started going to school. I also have a younger sister,

still living, and as children we were buddies, climbing on top of every building on the farm and most of the trees. In response to later inquiry, my mother said that of course she worried but that she just chose not to look.

I feel certain that my folks would not have approved of "child labor" in the sense of young children being sent to work in factories. On the other hand, however, as a young boy I was expected to start doing age appropriate "chores" with dad and even though I had two sisters, that did not exempt me from doing my share of the house work as well.

At a fairly early age I contracted scarlet fever and must have been quite ill. Mom and I were confined to the house while dad and the girls set up house keeping in one of the small out buildings. There were large "quarantined" signs posted on the house and after it was all over some agency came and sealed and fumigated the house.

While I attended public school in the nearby town of Preston, for my seventh grade confirmation year parents in our corner of the parish organized a carpool where one of the parents drove a small group of us to and from the parochial school next to the church. I had to ride my bike two miles to where I would be picked up by this carpool. Given the nature of bikes at that time and the condition of the sandy roads, I feel certain that that experience contributed to my running ability in later years.

Social life was pretty much confined to church and school activities and frequent family gatherings.

The "teen" years:

I suspect that my teen years in our small rural community were typical of most kids of that era. Church, the church youth group (Walther League for those of you who are or were LCMS), 4-H activities and the usual school activities including playing trumpet in the band, three sports with track being the only one in which I was able to excel, school plays, etc.

I was an indifferent scholar and will record a story that has remained, without rancor, in my memory all these years. At a classroom break time and in the midst of the general chatting it came to the teacher's attention that a girl in the class and I were cousins. This teacher remarked "well, if you are cousins, why aren't you as smart as she is?"

Outside of school and church I worked with dad on the farm with increasing levels of responsibility and longer hours but always had time out for hunting and in the summer the fast pitch softball league in Pratt. Dad had been a very accomplished baseball player in his day and he saw to it that we would break early from working on the evenings I had a ball game.

I expected to farm after high school but the folks felt that I needed some exposure to the larger world so insisted that I go to college for at least one year but wouldn't let me go to the Pratt Junior College feeling that I would simply keep bumming around with the same bunch of guys. My older sister had gone to St. John's College in Winfield so that is where I spent my first college year, discovering to my surprise that it wasn't such a bad experience.

At a conference of some sort I happened to meet a guy who was transferring from Kansas State College to St. John's because he planned to go into the ministry. In the course of our conversation that evening he explained that K-State had a

two year Agriculture Program and that there was also an independent house of Lutheran students where I would be able to live.

College years:

Arriving late evening in Manhattan with my folks and driving up to 1623 Fairchild I had no idea what to expect so I was probably a bit anxious. As I got out of the car one of the guys out on the porch came quickly down saying "Hi, I'm Norm Wilms and really glad to see you, let me help you with your stuff" or words to that effect. I can remember saying to my folks as they drove away that I was going to be OK.

Being in such a big school, just under 5,000 that Fall of 1950, was a big adjustment for this farm boy and as I look back, being a part of a relatively small group of Lutheran guys certainly made the adjustment to college a lot easier and may have made the difference in my staying in school. Being a transfer student and in a two year Ag program I had almost no academic counseling but did have to enroll for one year of ROTC.

Important events of the following three years and one semester I can do quickly. Meeting Edie Schmid that first Sunday was the most important and life changing event. This was also the time of the Korean War and that first summer at home I was "advised" by my dad "You WILL enroll in advanced ROTC" which was another life changing event and which made the two year Ag program a non-starter so I ended up in the Animal Science curriculum. Going from being an independent house to being a national fraternity was a big deal and being a Charter Member of Beta Sig was a major event.

Making the K-State Varsity Track Team brought further opportunities as well as a very small scholarship. I held various offices in the Beta Sig Chapter and the Gamma Delta program. Many of the friendships established within the fraternity are still very highly cherished.

I graduated in January of 1954 with a degree in Ag and a 2nd Lt. Commission in Uncle Sam's Army. I was called into active duty in March of



Young girl from Chad

1954 and eventually assigned to an anti- aircraft artillery unit in Sault St. Marie, Upper Peninsula, Michigan. Also by that time Edie and I were engaged.

Early professional years:

While I was still in the Army and after Edie taught school one year, we were married June 5th, 1955 in St. John's Church in Topeka. I received my honorable discharge in March 1956 with an obligation for six more years in the In-active Reserves.

While I was still intent on farming as my career my dad and I had decided that the mid-50s was not a good time economically to expect the farm to support two families so I made arrangements to go back to K-State and become qualified as a High School Vocational Ag teacher. After spending the summer helping dad on the farm Edie and I moved back to Manhattan in September 1956 and I began my new career in the field of education.

Our first child, Mark, was born that Fall and in January we had the opportunity to be the first occupants in N-10 Jardine Terrace. Following the



Victor Verruck, Director of Lutheran Hour Ministries Office in Paraguay. Speaks to Sunday school class held at local city dump in Asuncion.

school year of 1956-'57 and the summer school of 1957 I was certified and took my first Vo Ag teaching position in Udall, Ks. In the next three years I completed my Masters Degree in Education, we welcomed our 2nd child Ann and in 1960 I took a new position as the High School Vo Ag and Community College Ag Teacher in Pratt, KS. It was during this assignment that our third child, James, was born.

In 1963 after much prayer, discussion and soul searching, Edie and I responded to an ad in one of the LCMS church papers seeking applications for a three year position as an Agricultural Missionary in Guatemala, Central America.

Long story made short, we were accepted for the position, finished the 63-64 school year in Pratt, attended the six week Mission School at the Seminary in St. Louis and in August of 1964 left for Guatemala, all three kids in tow.

The Guatemala Experience

The Board For Missions didn't really have much experience sending Ag missionaries so there was not a very specific position description, more like "see what you can do to help the



Outside Home in Zacapa

village communities and farmers." While in St. Louis we were provided some very basic Spanish language instruction but after arriving we quickly realized that we had a long way to go before we would be able to do much of anything except learn the language.

Our assignment was in the town of Zacapa, a city of about 20,000 people and the Capital of the Department (State) of Zacapa. The original Lutheran Mission work in Central America was in this community in the 1940s and there was an established Lutheran Church, a home for the missionary family and a small 6 grade Lutheran school of about 100 students with three teachers. We also had the privilege of working with the first ordained National Lutheran Pastor in Central America, Rev. Ciro Mejia, a wonderfully patient man who willing put up with this Gringo family none of whom could even speak Spanish.

Instead of trying to tell of our life and experiences there, which would end up as a book, I will relate a few stories which ended up driving our total experience.

First, this cannot be just my story as it has to be our family's story, primarily the story of Edie and Jim's experience.

Our first job was to learn the language which the children did very quickly, Edie fairly quickly and which I did quite slowly. I would drive a tough old Jeep station wagon out to one of the several villages where there were small Lutheran Churches and visit with individuals I had gotten to know and try to learn about their lives and their agriculture and gradually pick up the language. One such individual was Don Chico ("Don" as in "loan" is a respectful title much as we would use "Mr"). One day he came to me and said that his wife was sick and he needed some money to buy medicine for her and he would pay me back as soon as he sold some of his chickens. One rule for us as Missionaries was not to loan money but of course I did. Not much later Don Chico came to report that a disease (cholera) had gone through the village and killed all the chickens. That gave me the opportunity for starting a fairly successful chicken program in various of the villages.

Early in 1965 the missionary in the Caribbean port city of Pto. Barrios invited me to go with him to visit some of the preaching stations which were along the Caribbean coast. Edie and the kids stayed with his wife and in about a 15 ft boat and at most maybe a 25 hp motor we took off. In the 2nd village, really just a collection of houses, the missionary held services and did some teaching and counseling. We stayed with the village Elder and wife who had their 10 yr old grand-daughter living with them. Again, a long story made short, I did a very uncharacteristic thing and asked these folks if they would let their grand-daughter come to Zacapa where we would see that she had a place to live and could go to school. They said that they would check with the mother who was living in Pto. Barrios and let us know. Probably a month or so later we got a message from the missionary that they would be bringing Gloria to live with us.

My work took me to various small villages and as I became more conversant began to learn a lot about their daily lives and struggles. I was usually home in the evenings to be with the kids and Edie often went with Pastor Mejia to the different villages for evening services each week and started teaching the children Bible stories and she too came to know and understand the village families' situations.

We began to understand the plight of the children as often there was no school in the smaller villages or if there was, there was often no teach-



The CCCS bikers gather at end of day for group photo and to exchange stories of the days ride.

er provided. We often talked about what would happen to Gloria after we returned to the U.S. Out of all of this and conversations with Rev.



At end of 65 mile bike ride across KS.

Mejia the idea was generated of a "Boarding Home" there in Zacapa for the village children so they could live there during the week, attend the Church School and return home weekends.

Again, a very long

Continued on next page.

Distinguished Alumni

story made very short, Pastor Mejia was able to get local and missionary approval and we petitioned the Synod Mission Board for approval. That long awaited letter finally came giving permission but saying that they would not provide any funds.

My design for the building was sent to an architect uncle in Colorado who did the working drawings. Support from the Kansas LLL and LWML, various congregations, family and friends and some anonymous gifts, a local builder and lots of prayers resulted in the dedication of the "Edie Jorns Home for Students" (naming done by the locals and in Spanish of course) in April of 1968.

The program became organized as a 501 (c)(3) organization named the Children's Christian Concern Society, now doing business as LeadaChild and is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS.

Our three year assignment plus one year extension terminated in 1968 and we returned to Kansas in June to an uncertain future.



Jim and Edie now in retirement

Professional Career

I am fairly certain that my father had figured out long before I did that my earlier plans to return to farming would not happen. By the time we left Guatemala I had applied to several universities for graduate school. My choice was North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC in the Department of Adult and Community College Education.

Over the next three years I earned my EdD and Edie was given a Fellowship at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill where she earned her Masters Degree in Social Work. There are lots of stories from our three years in North Carolina which I will forgo relating.

After graduation I was offered a position in the Staff Development unit of the Cooperative Extension Service at KSU which also included a three tenths teaching assignment in the College of Education Department of Adult Education. We arrived in Manhattan in late August, 1971.

By this time our two oldest children were in the 8th and 9th grades respectively and James starting 3th grade. Beginning our 3rd year in Manhattan Edie was employed by the Manhattan School District to develop a School Social Work Program where she remained professionally until her retirement in 1996.

In 1978 I accepted the position as Assistant Director of the International Agricultural Programs at K-State. I was named Acting Director in 1991 and in 1994 returned to the Staff Development unit in the Cooperative Extension Division of the College of Agriculture until my retirement in 1997.

Post Professional

After our professional retirements we were able to put our energies into the CCCS program as projects started to increase in Guatemala and then various other countries from the simple Boarding Home for Students in Zacapa.

In 2010 Edie and I stepped back from any personal involvement in the CCCS management and the program continues to grow and strengthen under the leadership of now its 2nd executive director and the dedicated Bd. of Directors. LeadaChild is now helping to provide Christian Education for over 25,000 children each year in numerous individual projects in 28 countries. You can get details at LeadaChild.org.

Looking back, it is obvious that this program could not have succeeded without of course the Lord's blessings, but also the support of countless volunteers in the recipient country programs, the volunteers and financial supports here in the U.S.

In addition to my professional work and partly because of our involvement with the CCCS we have had the opportunity for a good bit of travel and related activities. A few highlights over the years include an African Safari in Botswana plus the opportunity of seeing Victoria Falls, trips to various countries in South America, Africa and S.E. Asia, hiking the Grand Canyon, and a few trips of Biking Across Kansas, the BAK.

The biking venture has turned into a major annual fund raising event for the CCCS LeadaChild. After about seven years of doing the BAK, however, I decided that that much biking was for the younger folks.

Edie and I have been married for 62 years, have three children, nine grand-children, two great grand-children and have been blessed beyond measure. The Lord is good.

Fraternally,

Jim

Beta Sig Students with Lutheran Scholarships go to Guatemala to Help Jim and Edie Jorns

By: Ervin Gnadt

During the summer of 1967, while I was a junior at Kansas State University, I applied for a scholarship through the Lutheran Laymen's League to spend six weeks in Zacapa, Guatemala with the Jim Jorns family, which included their three young children. They were serving as ag missionaries there.

Jim Leising, from Arapahoe, Nebraska, a senior at the University of Nebraska, and I were recipients of these scholarships and had the privilege of traveling there to stay with the Jorns family.

Most of our days were spent traveling around the countryside with Jim in a 4-wheel drive Jeep visiting with people in different villages around Zacapa, explaining the value of adding fertilizer to their crops and helping to develop water wells.

While the Jorns were there, they saw the tremendous need for financial help for the children, so they started an organization called the Children's Christian Concern Society to raise scholarship money for students. What started out as a very small fund-raising effort over fifty years ago by Jim and Edie, the organization has grown to where it is providing help to 25,000 children in 28 countries.

God has truly blessed the Jorns and many other people who became involved over the years in their effort to spread the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ. Jim and Edie have always been very humble in accepting credit for their remarkable accomplishment, but they truly deserve the recognition."

A Prosperous New Year Wish

to all of our Beta Sig Brothers and friends of the fraternity that receive the Gold Rose Magazine.

And-on behalf of the National Officers, a special thanks to all of you who have donated time and money in support of our organization this past year. Please accept our wishes for a healthy and very prosperous Happy New Year.

The Gold Rose Editor

Nicaragua Mission 2017



Alumni and Active Members Travel to Nicaragua on Mission Trip

The Eta Chapter Alumni Board agreed to sponsor Eta Chapter members and their mission trip to Chinandega, Nicaragua, to complete work in Christ's name. Kevin Schmidt '16 and Cameron Ziegler '16 were accompanied by Nathan Leezer '10, Sam Kaefer, Omega from Indiana University, Nathan Kimle, Epsilon from Iowa State University, Rudy Ristch, Beta from Purdue University, and Beta Sigma Psi National Advisor John Hatfield.

Work included building schools for local children. Specifically, the group helped pour three concrete floors for classrooms and utilized masonry skills to build walls. What really struck Kevin Schmidt (2016) was that the locals "live in mud floor shelters made of scraps that they call home, but through it all, the joy of the Lord shines through them."

The group hopes the work they completed will positively impact the children and potentially help them escape poverty with the knowledge learned in school.

The group of Beta Sigs worked along with Amigos for Christ, enjoyed the local food, and climbed a volcano! Brotherhood in Action is a section where we highlight Beta Sigma Psi members continuing the Three S's after graduation.



Below: Small color specs in background are adult people climbing the mountain slope



Editors comment: When I was a young man, young boys and girls were taught discipline at home, church and school. Also, they were taught to be responsible for their own actions. Over the past decades, this has all changed, thanks to the liberalization of our society. The following article addresses this problem. The following speech was given in Nashville in 1996 to over 4,000 baseball coaches.

How Wide Is Home Plate? Seventeen Inches

Written by: Chris Sperry

In Nashville, Tennessee, during the first week of January, 1996, more than 4,000 baseball coaches descended upon the Opryland Hotel for the 52nd annual ABCA convention. Nineteen times since, many of the same professional, college, high school, youth, and a slew of international coaches from passionate and developing baseball nations have gathered at various convention hotels across the country for two-and-half days of clinic presentations and industry exhibits. Sure, many members of the American Baseball Coaches Association have come and gone in those years; the leadership has been passed, nepotistically, from Dave Keilitz to his son, Craig; and the association — and baseball, in general — has lost some of its greatest coaches, including Rod Dedeaux, Gordie Gillespie, and Chuck “Bobo” Brayton.

I have attended all but three conventions in those nineteen years, and I have enjoyed and benefited from each of them. But '96 was special — not just because it was held in the home of country music, a town I'd always wanted to visit. And not because I was attending my very first convention. Nashville in '96 was special because it was there and then that I learned that baseball — the thing that had brought 4,000 of us together — was merely a metaphor for my own life and those of the players I hoped to impact.

While I waited in line to register with the hotel staff, I heard other more veteran coaches rumbling about the lineup of speakers scheduled to present during the weekend. One name, in particular, kept resurfacing, always with the same sentiment — “John Scolinos is here? Oh man, worth every penny of my airfare.”

Who the hell is John Scolinos, I wondered. No matter, I was just happy to be there.

Having sensed the size of the group during check-in, I woke early the next morning in order to ensure myself a good seat near the stage — first chair on the right side of the center isle, third row back — where I sat, alone, for an hour until the audio-visual techs arrived to fine-tune their equipment. The proverbial bee bee in a boxcar, I was

surrounded by empty chairs in a room as large as a football field. Eventually, I was joined by other, slightly less eager, coaches until the room was filled to capacity. By the time Augie Garrido was introduced to deliver the traditional first presentation from the previous season's College World Series winner, there wasn't an empty chair in the room.

ABCA conventions have a certain party-like quality to them. They provide a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with old friends from a fraternal game that often spreads its coaches all over the country. As such, it is common for coaches to bail out of afternoon clinic sessions in favor of old friends and the bar. As a result, I discovered, the crowd is comparatively sparse after lunch, and I had no trouble getting my seat back, even after grabbing a plastic-wrapped sandwich off the shelf at the Opryland gift shop.

I woke early the next morning and once again found myself alone in the massive convention hall, reviewing my notes from the day before: pitching mechanics, hitting philosophy, team practice drills. All technical and typical — important stuff for a young coach, and I was in Heaven.

At the end of the morning session, certain that I had accurately scouted the group dynamic and that my seat would again be waiting for me after lunch, I allowed myself a few extra minutes to sit down and enjoy an overpriced sandwich in one of the hotel restaurants. But when I returned to the convention hall thirty minutes before the lunch break ended, not only was my seat not available, barely any seats were available! I managed to find one between two high school coaches, both proudly adorned in their respective team caps and jackets.

Disappointed in myself for losing my seat up front, I wondered what had pried all these coaches from their barstools. I found the clinic schedule in my bag: “1 PM John Scolinos, Cal Poly Pomona.” It was the man whose name I had heard buzzing around the lobby two days earlier. Could he be the reason that all 4,000 coaches had returned, early, to the convention hall? Wow, I thought, this guy must really be good. I had no idea.

In 1996, Coach Scolinos was 78 years old and five years retired from a college coaching career that began in 1948. He shuffled to the stage to an impressive standing ovation, wearing dark polyester pants, a light blue shirt, and a string around his neck from which home plate hung — a full-sized, stark-white home plate.

Seriously, I wondered, who in the hell is this guy? After speaking for twenty-five minutes, not once mentioning the prop hanging around his neck, Coach Scolinos appeared to notice the snickering among some of the coaches. Even those who knew Coach Scolinos had to wonder exactly where he was going with this, or if he had simply forgotten about home plate since he'd gotten on stage

.Then, finally ... “You're probably all wondering why I'm wearing home plate around my neck. Or maybe you think I escaped from Camarillo State Hospital,” he said, his voice growing irascible. I laughed along with the others, acknowledging the possibility. “No,” he continued, “I may be old, but I'm not crazy. The reason I stand before you today is to share with you baseball people what I've learned in my life, what I've learned about home plate in my 78 years.” Several hands went up when Scolinos asked how many Little League coaches were in the room. “Do you know how wide home plate is in Little League?” After a pause, someone offered, “Seventeen inches,” more question than answer.

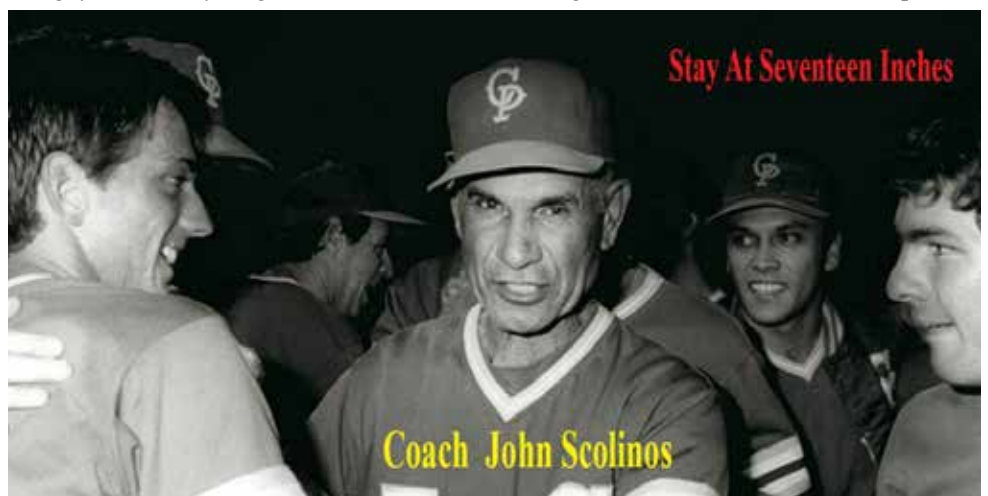
“That's right,” he said. “How about in Babe Ruth? Any Babe Ruth coaches in the house?” Another long pause.

“Seventeen inches?” came a guess from another reluctant coach.

“That's right,” said Scolinos. “Now, how many high school coaches do we have in the room?” Hundreds of hands shot up, as the pattern began to appear. “How wide is home plate in high school baseball?”

“Seventeen inches,” they said, sounding more confident.

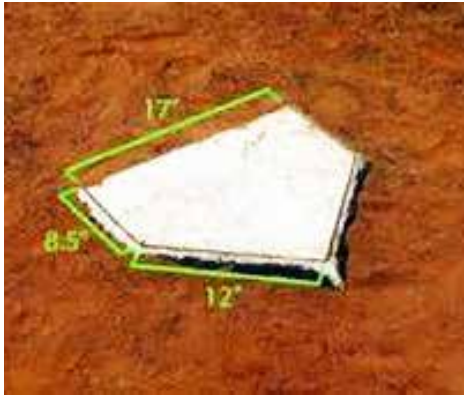
“You're right!” Scolinos barked. “And you college coaches, how wide is home plate in



college?” “Seventeen inches!” we said, in unison.

“Any Minor League coaches here? How wide is home plate in pro ball?” “Seventeen inches!”

“RIGHT! And in the Major Leagues, how wide home plate is in the Major Leagues?” “Seventeen inches!”



“SEV-EN-TEEN INCHES!” he confirmed, his voice bellowing off the walls. “And what do they do with a Big League pitcher who can’t throw the ball over seventeen inches?” Pause. “They send him to Pocatello!” he hollered, drawing raucous laughter.

“What they don’t do is this: they don’t say, ‘Ah, that’s okay, Jimmy. You can’t hit a seventeen-inch target? We’ll make it eighteen inches, or nineteen inches. We’ll make it twenty inches so you have a better chance of hitting it. If you can’t hit that, let us know so we can make it wider still, say twenty-five inches.’” Pause.

“Coaches ...”Pause.

” ... what do we do when our best player shows up late to practice? When our team rules forbid facial hair and a guy shows up unshaven? What if he gets caught drinking? Do we hold him accountable? Or do we change the rules to fit him, do we widen home plate?

The chuckles gradually faded as four thousand coaches grew quiet, the fog lifting as the old coach’s message began to unfold. He turned the plate toward himself and, using a Sharpie, began to draw something. When he turned it toward the crowd, point up, a house was revealed, complete with a freshly drawn door and two windows. “This is the problem in our homes today. With our marriages, with the way we parent our kids. With our discipline. We don’t teach accountability to our kids, and there is no consequence for failing to meet standards. We widen the plate!”

Pause. Then, to the point at the top of the house he added a small American flag.

“This is the problem in our schools today. The quality of our education is going downhill fast and teachers have been stripped of

the tools they need to be successful, and to educate and discipline our young people. We are allowing others to widen home plate! Where is that getting us?”

Silence. He replaced the flag with a Cross.

“And this is the problem in the Church, where powerful people in positions of authority have taken advantage of young children, only to have such an atrocity swept under the rug for years. Our church leaders are widening home plate!”

I was amazed. At a baseball convention where I expected to learn something about curveballs and bunting and how to run better practices, I had learned something far more valuable. From an old man with home plate strung around his neck, I had learned something about life, about myself, about my own weaknesses and about my responsibilities as a leader. I had to hold myself and others accountable to that which I knew to be right, lest our families, our faith, and our society continue down an undesirable path.

“If I am lucky,” Coach Scolinos concluded, “you will remember one thing from this old coach today. It is this: if we fail to hold ourselves to a higher standard, a standard of what we know to be right; if we fail to hold our spouses and our children to the same standards, if we are unwilling or unable to provide a consequence when they do not meet the standard; and if our schools and churches and our government fail to hold themselves accountable to those they serve, there is but one thing to look forward to ...”



With that, he held home plate in front of his chest, turned it around, and revealed its dark black backside. “... dark days ahead.”

Coach Scolinos died in 2009 at the age of 91, but not before touching the lives of hundreds of players and coaches, including mine. Meeting him at my first ABCA convention kept me returning year after year, looking for similar wisdom and inspiration from other coaches. He is the best clinic speaker the ABCA has ever known because he was so much more than a baseball coach.

His message was clear: “Coaches, keep your players — no matter how good they are — your own children, and most of all, keep yourself at seventeen inches.” He was, indeed, worth the airfare.

John Scolinos (b. 3/28/1918) in Los Angeles, California, coached college level baseball at Pepperdine U. (1948 – 1960) and Cal Poly Pomona (1962 -1991).

He won 3 Division II national championships at Cal Poly in 1976, 1980 and 1983, was a Hall of Fame College Baseball Head coach who coached at Pepperdine University from 1948 to 1960 and Cal Poly Pomona University from 1962 to 1991.

He died at age 91 in 2009. Scolinos totaled 1,198 victories. While coaching Cal Poly Pomona, he won Division II national championships in 1976, 1980 and 1983, six California Community College Athletic Association championships and was named Division II coach of the year three times.

Scolinos was the pitching coach for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Baseball team.

Investment Tip

Editor’s note: Recently I was cleaning out one of my file cabinets, disposing of some old files when I came upon an old newspaper clip that I saved many years ago. The clip was about the ‘Rule of 72’. Most of our younger brothers probably have not heard of the ‘Rule of 72’, so I have decided to use it to fill in a blank space on the page. I hope that his will be beneficial to some of you.

‘Rule of 72’

How long does it take for an investment to double in value? You can get a good idea by using the ‘rule of 72’.

Divide 72 by the interest rate your investment is earning. For example, if you put \$1,000 in a certificate of deposit earning 5 percent, you would have \$2,000 in about 14.4 years (72 divided by 5 equals 14.4).

Use this rule when setting goals. Say you had \$1,000 that you wanted to double in 10 years. What rate of return would need?

To find out, divide 72 by the number of years the money will be invested. In this case, 72 divided by 10 equals 7.2. You would need to earn 7.2% each year for your \$1,000 to double in 10 years

Beta Sigma Psi Fraternity
2408 Lebanon Avenue
Belleville, Illinois 62221

NON-PROFIT
BUS POSTAGE PAID

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



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 Lutheran Univ.
Missouri S&T
Purdue University
University of Illinois
University of Kansas
University of Missouri
University of Nebraska



Rolla, Missouri



Ames, Iowa



Manhattan, Kansas



Lincoln, Nebraska

Beta Sigma Psi National Lutheran Fraternity

2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221

Office: 618.235.0014

office@betasigmapsi.org

Fax: 618.235.0014

BetaSigmaPsi.org