

Beta Kaptions

Official Newsletter of the Beta Kappa Chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity



To Believe in the Life of Love, to walk in the Way of Honor,
to serve in the Light of Truth ~ This is the Life, the Way, and
the Light of Sigma Nu - - this is the Creed of our Fraternity



Dear Alumni Brothers:

It was great to see many of you this fall at the house. Since then, I have had an opportunity to visit with the active membership, the national fraternity and many of you alumni brothers about addressing the great need for improvements to the chapter house. We need to bring the house up to the current standard of a modern student residential facility if we expect Beta Kappa to continue on the K-State campus.

First of all, you should know that the actives have taken steps recently to insure that the membership body is sound and accepting of the values of Sigma Nu. There is a renewed commitment to these values, along with the importance of scholarship and service to the fraternity, the university and the community at large. Recently, several alumni have endowed a scholarship fund for Beta Kappa through the Kansas State University Foundation, the Sigma Nu Excellence Fund. We are developing a much stronger working relationship between the active and alumni, to support and mentor our collegiate brothers as they pursue their educational goals as a member of Sigma Nu.

Secondly, the house will soon be 75 years old and just like any building, it must be updated and maintained. The present condition is not acceptable to anyone whether they are prospective members, parents, actives, or alumni. We cannot compete for quality members if living conditions are not up to par. This being the case, we will begin a major fund raising campaign during the next few months to completely remodel and update the house into a modern collegiate residential facility.

Although we are not officially underway with fund raising, you can never start too early, particularly with a project as large as this one. As we are at year end and tax planning is on our minds, I would strongly encourage you to make a tax deductible donation to this building campaign. Many of us have employer gift matching plans so don't forget to leverage your gift if possible.

**Sigma Nu Educational Foundation
Beta Kappa Building Fund
9 North Lewis Street PO. Box 1869
Lexington, VA 24450
www.sigmanufoundation.org**

We are underway with the planning phase of our project and as we progress, we will soon be updating you. This will be an exciting undertaking, as every brother I have spoken with wants to help bring us back to our position of leadership on campus. The alumni brothers before us provided a home in which to advance our Brotherhood and the ideals of Sigma Nu. Now it is our turn to do the same.

Fraternally,

Dean Bergquist
Beta Kappa 908

1970-1980 Alumni Reunion



During the weekend of October 5-7, approximately 50 alumni from the 1970-1980 era spent time renewing the bonds of brotherhood and sharing good times with their

sweethearts at a reunion at the Beta Kappa Chapter House. The weekend began Friday evening at Kite's Bar and Grille where they were serenaded by the K-State marching band as it made its way through Aggieville. **Doug Orth, BK 986**, assisted the band by resurrecting his Willie persona to lead the crowd in the K-S-U chant followed by the Willie dance. It was great fun! The event continued on Saturday with a meet and greet at the house in the morning prior to game time. After K-State's victory over KU, alumni and their guests were joined by active members for delicious food catered by Cox Brothers and interesting conversation as the alumni shared stories of their time at the chapter house much to the house mother's chagrin. A large tent decorated with twinkle lights was erected on the basketball court and served as the venue for dinner. **Dave Gnaegy, BK 985**, emceed a brief program that included a few words from chapter adviser, **Mike Finnegan, BK 1342**, and a contest for prizes. Alumni Chair, **Zach Pitts, BK 1622**, conducted the contest comprised of questions from the pledge manual. **Matt Dolliver, BK 981**, led the group in the before dinner prayer and chapter eternal for alumni from the era who are

deceased: **Bill Barbe, BK 1001**; **Kelly Green, BK 1007**; **Doug Wittmer, BK 921**; and **Charles Winger, BK 992**. Brownies baked by the chapter's cook, Carla Bachman, and Purple Pride ice cream from Call Hall were served for dessert. Members of the 1975 pledge class in the photo above are: back row-**Tom Baldwin, BK 977**; **Jeff Ridder, BK 980**; **Mark Berning, BK 979**; **Matt Dolliver, BK 981**; **Rich Harp, BK 982** and **Dave Gnaegy BK 985**; front row-**John Murry, BK 978**; **Doug Orth, BK 986** and **Dan Bennett, BK 983**.



Pledge Class from 1975

Homecoming Winners!

For the third time in four years, Sigma Nu won Homecoming! This year's theme was Wildcat Adventures and our Greek partners were Gamma Phi Beta and Kappa Sigma. Our Greek pairing took first



Pledge Seth McDaniel with women from partner Gamma Phi Beta

place in the Pant the Chant and Paint the 'Ville competitions and second place in the Spirit Sign competition. A big thanks to homecoming chairs, **Terry Ogren, BK 1618** and **David Berry, BK 1636**. For more information on this year's Homecoming events visit the homecoming page of the K-State Alumni Association website at <http://www.k-state.com/s/1173/start.aspx>.

2013 Beta Kappa Officers

Alex Newell, BK 1631 – Eminent Commander
Nick Drake, BK 1630 – Lieutenant Commander
Hunter Like, BK 1634 – Treasurer
Tommy Pledge, BK 1611 – Alumni Chairman

Sigma Nu Excellence Fund Endowed

Thanks to all the alumni who have contributed to the Sigma Nu Excellence Fund with the KSU Foundation. In November, the fund exceeded the \$25,000 minimum for an endowment. You may recall the article in the Spring 2012 *Beta Kaptions* about the lead gift of twenty thousand dollars to the Excellence Fund which came last Spring from Kay Ballard in honor of her father **Gerald Patrick, BK 435**. Since then, many other alumni have made contributions and the fund currently has a balance of \$27,087.75. Interest earned from the endowment will fund annual scholarships used to recruit and reward active members for excellence. If you would like to contribute to this visit the giving page of our website at www.k-state.edu/sigmanu. Your gift is tax deductible. The KSU Foundation will provide you with a charitable contribution receipt at the end of the year.

Beta Kappa, 100 Years at KSU!



Although the Beta Kappa Chapter was established in 1892 making it 120 years old this year, it moved from Southwest Kansas College to Kansas State Agricultural College now known as Kansas State University in 1913. To mark the occasion, the active members are

planning a centennial anniversary celebration March 1-3, 2013. The weekend will begin Friday evening for drinks and hors d'oeuvres in heated tents on the basketball court behind the chapter house followed by a trip to Aggieville if you are so inclined. On Saturday morning, alumni have the option to compete in a golf tournament at Colbert Hills or take a tour of campus via the Manhattan Trolley. Families may choose to visit the recently opened Flint Hills Discovery Center instead. In the afternoon, we will host a meet and greet at the chapter house followed by a banquet at the KSU Alumni Center including a program with representatives from the national organization and the KSU Alumni Association. Alumni are welcome to stop by the house again Sunday morning for coffee and breakfast treats.

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Parkwood Inn and Suites, 785-320-5440, at a rate of \$85 per night at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785-532-9116, at a rate of \$109 per night. Be sure to mention that your reservation is for the Sigma Nu Centennial Celebration. Invitations will be mailed in early January. We hope to see you there!

Help us update our mailing list

A little more than one hundred of the "Save the Date" cards mailed in October were returned and marked undeliverable. If you are aware of brothers who are not receiving mailings from Beta Kappa, please ask them to forward their current contact information to us via email at sigmanu@ksu.edu, snail mail at 513 Sunset, Manhattan, KS 66502, or phone at 785-320-6193.

Sigma Nu Spotlight



This spring, pledge brothers **Alex Beemer, BK 1613**; **Tyler Maddox, BK 1615** and **Zach Pitts, BK 1622** are jumping the little pond, headed to the Czech Republic to study abroad for the semester. All are majoring in finance and plan to continue their educational pursuits at the University of Economics in Prague. Each received scholarships but Alex received a full-ride for the cost of tuition. Although the semester in Prague begins mid-February, they will leave for London on January 15th and plan to backpack to Prague stopping in various locations along the way including Amsterdam and Italy.

A Note from Zach:

We are very much looking forward to this trip. Last year, I decided that I wanted to study abroad, and when I found out that Alex and Tyler were already planning their trip, I jumped in. We are all very excited to travel to another country together. Alex has traveled to Europe before while Tyler and I are new to international travel. As of now, I am super pumped for our backpacking experience. We are carrying everything we will need for a month on our backs and going wherever the wind takes us.

One of my favorite things about the trip is the flexibility we have all agreed to. The only thing we have booked is our plane ticket to London and a room at the hostel the first night. Once we are there, we will decide where we want to stay and what we want to do. Our tentative schedule is traveling to London then to Amsterdam then somewhere in Italy before arriving in Prague.

If you know someone in Europe who would be willing to show us around their city or could provide guidance regarding which cities we should visit, feel free to contact me at zpitts@k-state.edu. Also, you can catch up with us on our blog at wildcatsczechingout.blogspot.com.

Message from the Chapter Adviser



Reflecting back on the fall semester, I am reminded of how incredibly thankful we are to have Monica Strathman as our house mother. Monica has been a consistent figure in providing a home like atmosphere for the men of Sigma Nu. She has high standards for our men and has utilized her “activator” strength to connect with alumni and the Parents Club. Please join me in thanking Monica for all of her contributions

to the Sigma Nu fraternity. She cares, she listens, and she encourages our men to get involved on campus. Monica, we don’t say it enough..... “Thank You, Thank You, Thank You”! Monica can always be contacted by e-mail at monicap@ksu.edu.

I would also like to thank **Henry Specht, BK 1567** and **Ben Meyer, BK 1540** for their recent work with the Housing Corporation. Both Henry and Ben have been active in focusing their talents on the physical improvement of our house. They also mobilized many of our other alumni to help our active chapter work through some membership issues. Having the support of alumni is critical to our sustainability as a chapter. If you would like to get more involved in Housing Corporation please contact Henry at hspecht2@gmail.com.

We continue to make progress on our goal of being one of the top fraternities on campus. We define success through our academic performance, on-campus leadership involvement, philanthropy, and social connections. A student’s peer group during college is the single most influential relationship across campus. These relationships have more meaning than research with faculty, time with advisors, or working with a mentor. Therefore, it brings me great satisfaction and encouragement that our men seek the opportunity to travel abroad, hold leadership positions across campus, and engage in service oriented activities. The more men who engage in these types of activities will influence and encourage younger members of the fraternity to do the same. K-State has a tremendous amount of extracurricular opportunities and we will continually stress being involved in honor societies, college clubs and organizations, partnerships with faculty, international travel, and service opportunities.

If anyone is planning a trip to campus this spring, I would strongly encourage you to contact Tommy Pledge, alumni chairman, at tap02@ksu.edu to schedule a time to share your story with the active chapter. All of us have a positive message highlighting how our fraternity experience enhanced our personal and leadership development. These stories need to be shared with our active chapter as we continue to create a meaningful experience for our current members.

Fraternally,

Mike Finnegan, Chapter Adviser
Beta Kappa 1342



Members

Rob Lippold	BK 1553
Matt Beemer	BK 1558
Kyle Davis	BK 1561
Dominic Francia	BK 1574
Ben Post	BK 1576
Kyle Cook	BK 1578
Phil Scheuerman	BK 1581
Devin Baer	BK 1582
Michael Sullivan	BK 1584
Jordyn Sherman	BK 1591
David Abel	BK 1593
Joe Yates	BK 1594
Brice Harrison	BK 1596
Ned Godsey	BK 1597
Nick Jordan	BK 1598
Sean Carolan	BK 1599
Sam Barker	BK 1600
James Doull	BK 1601
Paul Holthaus	BK 1602
Greg Guthrie	BK 1604
Ben Kostroske	BK 1605
Ben Gloe	BK 1606
Jake Dodds	BK 1608
Bobby Treece	BK 1609
Christopher Peters	BK 1610
Thomas Pledge	BK 1611
Corey Chesley	BK 1612
Alex Beemer	BK 1613
Danny Peete	BK 1614
Tyler Maddox	BK 1615
Craig Gihring	BK 1616
Robert Hudson	BK 1617
Terry Ogren	BK 1618
Andrew Fraser	BK 1619
Spencer Dressman	BK 1620
Jake Walsh	BK 1621
Zachary Pitts	BK 1622
Joe Freige	BK 1623
James Marks	BK 1624
Steven Bish	BK 1625
Daniel Ecklund	BK 1626
Kyle Bonham	BK 1627
Jacob Cronenwett	BK 1628
C.J. Dimarco	BK 1629
Nicholas Drake	BK 1630
Alex Newell	BK 1631
Carter Kerr	BK 1632
Adam Treece	BK 1633
Hunter Like	BK 1634
Michael Tuschhoff	BK 1635
David Berry	BK 1636
Thomas Haefele	BK 1637
John Stiles	BK 1639
Mathew Stack	BK 1640
Evan Morris	BK 1641
TJ Nee	BK 1642