

SAGA MONTHLY

OF SIGMA TAU GAMMA FRATERNITY

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EPSILON LAMBDA TAKES POLAR PLUNGE



Plattsburgh, NY – On Sunday, November 13, 2016, the Epsilon Lambda Chapter at Plattsburgh State University had 36 members participate in the Polar Plunge. The Polar Plunge is an event that helps raise money for the state of New York Special Olympics. Each year, people join teams to raise as much money as they can and then take the plunge into freezing Lake Champlain.

“Our chapter had the experience of helping set up and running this event for a great cause. It really opened our eyes to what Special Olympics does and how Sig Tau really helps Special Olympics,” said Jacob Merrill, Plattsburgh State. “Everyone was very grateful they could be a part of it.”

The group had an initial goal of \$2,000 but exceeded that amount by raising an incredible \$2,655 for the charity. Amongst 53 teams, the Epsilon Lambda Chapter achieved third place overall and first place out of the collegiate teams for the third year in a row.

🏠 This is the eighth consecutive year that the Epsilon Lambda chapter has participated in the Polar Plunge.

5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SIG TAU THIS MONTH

1

Giving Tuesday Recap

On November 29, 2016 the Foundation raised a total of \$5699.20. Thank you to all who donated

2

New HQ Hours

Beginning January 3, 2017, Headquarters new business hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST.

3

Webb Academy

Webb Academy will take place January 13-15. This is a leadership program for newly initiated Presidents, Vice Presidents of Finance, and Vice Presidents of Membership.

4

Austin, TX Reception

A reception will take place on February 3 for Austin, TX area alumni.

5

Staff Visits Alpha Gamma Rho and FarmHouse

Staff visited Alpha Gamma Rho and FarmHouse HQ in Kansas City during the holiday retreat to sustain interfraternal bonds.



BETA PI HONORS WAR HERO

Frostburg, MD – On the balcony of the Lewis Ort Library at Frostburg State University sits a memorial commemorating Captain James A. Graham, Frostburg State an original founder of the Beta Pi Chapter. Captain Graham was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously. He heroically attacked enemy positions allowing for the withdrawal of wounded marines to safer areas. In addition to being a highly respected military officer, Captain Graham was a loving husband and father, and a man of faith with a lifelong dedication to helping his fellow man.

The monument was originally dedicated in 2012, but due to extenuating circumstances, had to be re-dedicated in December of 2016. One brother, Donnie White, went above and beyond to put his heart into this project. Due to his passing on November 30, 2016, he was never able to see this project finished. His wife, Karen, continues to carry on the love and passion for Sig Tau that her husband once exemplified.



Brother Graham and Brother White were living definitions of the Principle of Integrity. Because of their dedication, Sig Tau will forever have a legacy at Frostburg State University.

BOSTON ALUMNI RECAP



Boston, MA – Nine staff members representing both the Fraternity and Foundation attended the Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors' (AFA) Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts from November 30 – December 3.

While at the Annual Meeting, Sigma Tau Gamma hosted a reception to showcase and update the broader community on the recent changes. President Proehl, UW-River Falls and CEO, Steve Latour, Central Missouri provided remarks to the 60 advisors and alumni in attendance. Notable Alumni in attendance include brother Chip Traynor, Truman State, and WPN Board Member and UMass alumni Aaron Kearney and James Salvador. Attendees learned of our new Mission and Vision Statements, evolution of our existing principles, new educational programs, staffing updates, and more. The reception also allowed Sig Tau to present Brandon Cutler with the Interfraternal Leadership Award, which he was originally awarded at Grand Chapter in Orlando, FL but was unable to attend.

The advisors in attendance represented universities that Sig Tau currently calls home and prospective campuses alike. The meeting garnered a lot of additional excitement and enthusiasm for Sig Tau.



The AFA Annual Meeting is the largest meeting and gathering of fraternity and sorority life professionals, which includes both advisors from universities and headquarters staff members.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: AN INTERVIEW WITH RUSSELL DAVIS

Q: What initially inspired you to get involved in the bar industry? How did you get your first start?

A: I came from a dry county in east Texas and at the University of Texas I just fell in love with the bars that I was introduced to. Especially the ones that hosted Sig Tau events. It just became this thing for me and I finally took a job at this place that was right across the street from the fraternity house called Cane and Able's.

Q: Is there anything you learned as an undergraduate or as an active member of Sig Tau that has helped with your successes?

A: A sense of comradery was something that helped. I loved the way that we operated. It was very interesting because when the founders of Sig Tau came out of World War I there was very much a military brotherhood that it was built on and I always felt the same way about the bar industry. I never said that I necessarily wanted to be the best, but if you were fighting those trenches behind the bar and you're fighting the biggest war of your life, I would want you to help me and work with me and that you would pick me to be one of those people that was either on your right or your left fighting that war with you. And a lot of that was based upon the comradery that I would try to have to create the confidence behind the bar and a lot of that I learned in the fraternity. So yes, I did take a lot of that with me and I still use a lot of the principles in everyday business and life, especially integrity.

Q: Is there any advice that you have for aspiring bar owners / mixologists?

A: Yeah, I mean there's a lot of pieces of advice that I wish I could just nail down to a single one. But, the biggest piece of advice that I could give is to have a life outside of the bar. Too many people get chewed up and spit out. And it's hard for people to realize that you must have a life outside of it and you can't let it control you otherwise it's very dangerous for it to get in the way. You know, take a break from the bar and take a break from drinking. Don't sacrifice yourself too much to the point where you're bending over backwards and killing yourself. Take some time off and visit your fraternity brothers, get yourself away from it. Too many people get whipped up in the lifestyle.

Q: Have you learned any life lessons along the way?

A: Absolutely. You know drinking, partying, women, it's all fleeting and temporary. Just remember the only person you go to sleep with at night is yourself.

Q: How was your experience with Spike TV and Bar Rescue?

A: It was good. But, there just came a time where I had to move on to my own projects and that's what I've been doing. You have to know when it's time to split off and do your own thing. It was a great experience and I got a great family out of it. I was a really good, positive experience and they've done great with the show but it was my time to move on.



Who is Russell Davis?

Russell Davis is a Bar Industry entrepreneur. He attended the University of Texas-Austin where he was a member of the Delta Gamma Chapter. Mr. Davis was a Bar/Mixology Expert (Cast, Season 3) for Spike TV's "Bar Rescue." He was given "2012 Bartender of the Year" by Nightclub and Bar Awards. Russell Davis is also President of Unlimited Liabilities, a Night Lifestyle company for the spirits/bar industry that assists with development, media production, design, & training.

Russell on Success - "I just really tried to take an industry and a profession and elevate it to a level that no one had taken it before and I continuously strive to do that every day. But no matter what you're doing or what's going on, try to elevate what you're doing. Never think there is a glass ceiling, break right through it. I use this term, "know your own velocity" and definitely take that with you. Velocity is your direction and speed so no matter what you're doing you know what you can achieve by being you. Once you do have a certain momentum, never slow down. Too many people don't strike while the iron is hot."



HQ UPDATE

Due to staff departures and new hires, Headquarters will be undergoing a new staff structure. These Headquarters changes will enable more efficient departments and will provide a structure that Sig Tau HQ will be able to grow into. The new positions of Headquarters employees are below. If you have any questions about the structural change of the staff please contact Headquarters at noblemen@sigtau.org

Kim Acree
Chapter Reporting &
Records Management
Coordinator
kacree@sigtau.org

Dean Anderson
Director of Recruitment
& Growth
danderson@sigtau.org

Jill Carrel
Director of Foundation
Operations
jcarrel@sigtau.org

Brett Conrow
Accounts Receivable
Coordinator
bconrow@sigtau.org

Jose Contreras
Recruitment & Growth
Coordinator
jcontreras@sigtau.org

Jesse Cromer
Digital Media
Coordinator
jcromer@sigtau.org

Rick Day
Associate Director of
HQ Operations
rday@sigtau.org

Angel Gonzales
Recruitment & Growth
Coordinator
agonzales@sigtau.org

Jeremy Harrington
Creative Director
jharrington@sigtau.org

Jake Jenkins
Collegiate Services
Coordinator
jjenkinst@sigtau.org

Erik Kahl
Director of Collegiate
Services
ekahl@sigtau.org

Adam Kowalski
Director of
Member & Growth
Engagement
akowalski@sigtau.org

Steve Latour
Chief Executive Officer
slatour@sigtau.org

Alek Norman
Recruitment &
Growth Coordinator
anorman@sigtau.org

Vanessa Ryan
Director of WPN
Housing
& HQ Operations
vryan@sigtau.org

Angie Sanders
Director of Finance &
Human Resources
asanders@sigtau.org

Victor Ugarte
Recruitment & Growth
Coordinator
vugarte@sigtau.org

Greg Ward
Director of
Communications &
SAGA Editor
gward@sigtau.org

Kassi Ward
Associate Director of
Recruitment & Growth
knward@sigtau.org

Kayley Ward
White Rose
Property Manager
kward@sigtau.org

Jamie Yust
Archives Coordinator
jyust@sigtau.org

Steve Young
SAGA Managing Editor
syoung@sigtau.org

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

January 13-15: Webb Academy, Kansas City, MO

February 3: Austin Area Alumni Reception, Austin, TX

June 22-24: Endeavor Conference, Minneapolis, MN