

SAGA MONTHLY

SIGMA TAU GAMMA FRATERNITY

POLAR VORTEX IS NO MATCH FOR PHILANTHROPY

VOL. 4 | ISSUE 6

FEBRUARY 2019



The last week of January brought subzero temperatures across much of the Midwestern part of the United States, with some temperatures in Chicago and Minneapolis reaching a high of only -14 degrees. The week-long stretch of cold weather did not stop chapters from their philanthropic efforts with Special Olympics.

Two chapters, the Gamma Tau Chapter at Millersville University and the Zeta Beta Chapter at the University of Cincinnati kept their commitment to participate in local Polar Plunge efforts. The Polar Plunge is an event held during the winter months where participants submerge in a body of water at frigid temperatures. Brothers of Sigma Tau Gamma take the plunge to raise funds for our national philanthropy Special Olympics.

Gamma Tau Chapter President Justin Yerkes, Millersville, said that the Capital Area Polar Plunge is an event the chapter looks forward to each year.

"The Polar Plunge is our biggest event of the year. We have been participating since 2013 and raise thousands of dollars every year," Yerkes said.

Each year, the local Special Olympics chapter presents the Cool Campus Award to the college or university team that raises the most money. The Gamma Tau Chapter raised \$3,500 and took home the Cool Campus Award for the fifth year in a row.

Justin said that not only are the undergraduates involved with the Polar Plunge efforts, but alumni come back and are involved as well.

"It's great to know that alumni are backing our efforts and it means a lot to us for them to step in to donate and help."

While the brothers at Millersville were taking the plunge, so were the noble men of the Zeta Beta Chapter at Cincinnati. Just across the Ohio River in Bellevue, KY, nearly 40 Cincinnati brothers helped raise funds for the chapter's polar plunge efforts.

Director of Community Engagement David Pannier, Cincinnati said that it was a rewarding experience for all involved.

CHAPTERS THAT HAVE PLUNGED IN 2019

EPSILON CHI CHAPTER
Auburn

ZETA BETA CHAPTER
Cincinnati

GAMMA TAU CHAPTER
Millersville

DELTA PSI ASSOCIATE CHAPTER
Robert Morris

GAMMA PHI CHAPTER
Southern Indiana

KAPPA CHAPTER
UW - Whitewater



"The most rewarding part is showing up for the plunge and getting to see the smiling faces of the athletes and their families. Talking to them, it is obvious how much this event means to the athletes and their parents, and being able to contribute to that, even if it's in a small way, fills my heart."

Through their efforts, the chapter raised \$2,426 for the Special Olympics. While it is fun to share in the brotherhood experience of plunging into the frigid waters, Pannier said for the men of Cincinnati; it goes back to our Principle of Citizenship.

"Participating in the Polar Plunge is a great way to endeavor towards the Principle of Citizenship, sharing hope, smiles, and determination with these, kind-hearted souls," Pannier said.

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SIG TAU THIS MONTH

1

HEADQUARTERS IS HIRING

Have you thought about working for Sigma Tau Gamma Headquarters? Currently, there are openings for multiple positions. Apply today online at sigtau.org.

2

FELLOWSHIP DAY IS FEBRUARY 28TH

Save the Date for Fellowship Day, February 28, 2019! Fellowship Day is the day during the academic year when we commemorate the Founding of our Fraternity on June 28. It is a day devoted to the Principles of Brotherhood and Citizenship.

3

ENDEAVOR REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Endeavor Atlanta. Remember the early bird deadline is March 15, 2019. Visit sigtau.org to learn more.



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1

SIGTAU.ORG

BROTHERS FROM ALABAMA CHAPTER FEATURED ON ESPNU

From Tuscaloosa, AL to Atlanta, GA, brothers Jim Weiss, Alabama and Matt Nutley, Alabama were focused on one thing; cornhole. What started as a lawn and tailgating game where players take turns throwing bags of corn at a slightly raised platform with a hole in the far end has turned into a niche sport. There are professional cornhole players and an American Cornhole League (ACL), a nationwide league for competitors.



This winter, the ACL hosted a campus-wide tournament in the backyard of the on-campus Sig Tau house. Multiple teams competed for a chance to earn a free trip to the SEC Championship game, and the opportunity to compete against cornhole competitors from the University of Georgia for scholarship funds in the Southern College Cornhole Championship. Jim and Matt, along with brothers Mike Orso, Alabama; Logan Dauphin, Alabama; and Baryn Rasberry, Alabama were all a part of teams that qualified for the tournament in Atlanta.

The match was set, the top seven cornhole teams from Alabama squared off against the top seven cornhole teams from Georgia, all being broadcast on ESPNU. Jim and Matt secured one of Alabama's victories against Georgia.

"It felt amazing. Our match definitely changed the vibe of the tournament, showing everybody that when money is on the line, we don't mess around," Weiss said. "Additionally, it felt good to know that I did my job to earn the team winnings, as they were to be split among us evenly."

Matt knew they had a good chance of winning; they just needed to stay focused.

"Right before starting, Jim and I just reminded each other not to let anything get to us and just focus on the basics as we were pretty confident the only way we would lose is if we beat ourselves," Nutley said.

Ultimately, Georgia won the Southern College Cornhole Championship by a narrow 4-3 margin. The competitors from Alabama still left Atlanta with \$9,000 in scholarship money, and of course, free tickets to the SEC Championship game. While this experience was fun, Jim and Matt both said the brotherhood experience would be one that lasts a lifetime.

"Being invited to the weekend itself was astounding but being able to go to the SEC Championship with a good group of guys really made the difference," Weiss said.

"The cornhole and football and festivities are fun, but what makes it memorable is being able to do it with brothers," Nutley said.