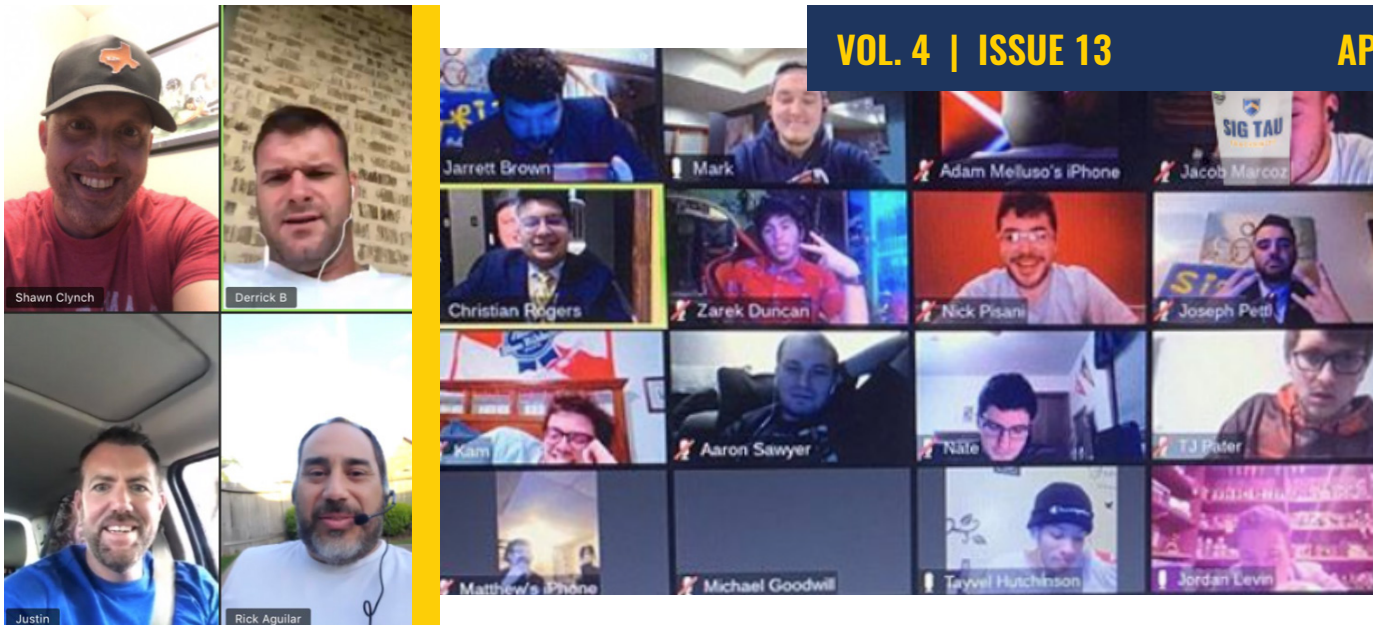


SOCIAL DISTANCING = BROTHERHOOD BONDING

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"No one has a new norm yet. We thought it would be good to re-connect and to make this a part of our new normal."

The lives of thousands of brothers have been disrupted and impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19) and have caused students to move out of residence halls, return home, and move to remote learning. As you can imagine, building brotherhood over computer or phone screens is vastly different than in person. What does our brotherhood experience look like in a virtual setting? A group of alumni from the Gamma Pi Chapter at Stephen F. Austin (SFA) have determined to make the best out of a bad situation.

"A group of the guys from SFA has had a group chat for the last couple of years, and we decided it was time for a Zoom call and everyone was on board," Shawn Clynych, Stephen F. Austin, said. "We have done a

couple of calls now, and each time guys are making jokes, having fun, and catching up."

Not only are our alumni finding new ways to build brotherhood, but undergraduates are doing the same. The men from the Delta Psi Associate Chapter at Robert Morris recently held a Zoom call to discuss future events and to honor their graduating seniors.

"While we wish everyone were in person, being able to see and speak to all the brothers was good for our chapter," Chapter President Mark Hollinger, Robert Morris, said. "We have not had in-person classes since March 16, and our last chapter meeting was March 9. We decided it would be best for everyone to find their new normal for a bit, but we knew how important it was to see each other."

During the Zoom call for Robert Morris, it was the last chapter gathering before finals, and the

last time the graduating seniors would be seen as undergraduate brothers.

"We ended our call with what each brother was thankful for and to thank our seniors. It was important for those guys to enjoy themselves and for them to know that the chapter would not be where it is today without them," Hollinger said.

Clynych and the alumni from Stephen F. Austin know what a lifetime of brotherhood looks like. His advice for those undergraduates is **not to take the fraternity for granted.**

"This is an opportunity to slow down and to really connect. I'm a big believer in things happen for a reason, and a Zoom call can be seen as therapeutic in a time like this. Communication with one another is so important, and it only takes a couple of brothers doing something like this to turn it into something special."

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SIG TAU THIS MONTH

1

37TH NATIONAL PRESIDENT ENTERS CHAPTER ETERNAL

Tom Morgan, Southeastern Louisiana served as National President during one of the largest periods of growth in Sigma Tau Gamma history and was pivotal in Special Olympics becoming our national philanthropic partner.

2

GRAND CONCLAVE POSTPONED

The decision to postpone **Grand Conclave Kansas City** was made after countless conversations among the Directors regarding what would be best for Sigma Tau Gamma and its' members.

3

FOUNDERS DAY CHALLENGE

CrowdChange is an online fundraising platform that our undergraduate members use for philanthropic events. This is the first year the Founders Day Challenge has been hosted on the CrowdChange Platform.





BROTHERS ON THE FRONTLINES OF COVID-19

Over the last month, brothers from across the country have transitioned their professional lives to help others in need by being on the frontlines of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. This month, we are choosing to highlight a few brothers who are demonstrating the Principle of Citizenship and putting their communities first.

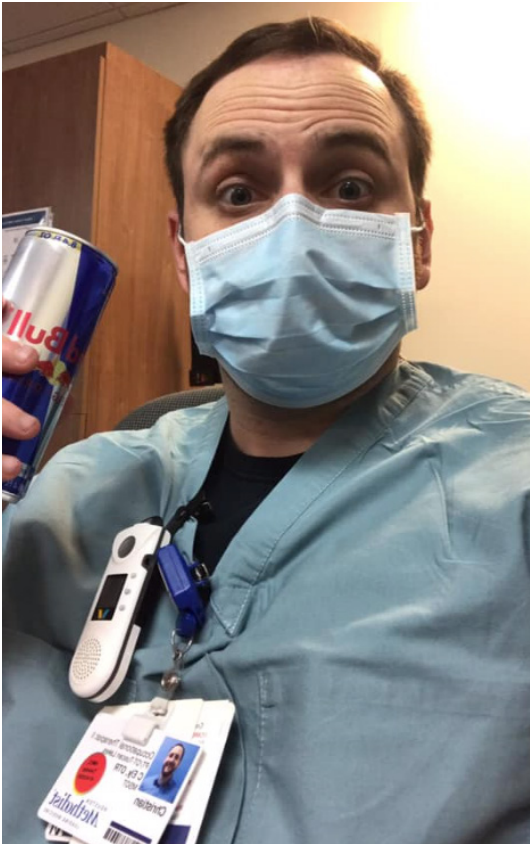
John Barger, Murray State

John has spent his entire professional career serving in the United States Military and has spent the last 13 years in the Kentucky Army National Guard. As the acting Construction and Facilities Management Officer, his team was called upon to construct an alternate care facility in Louisville to help those affected by COVID-19.

“I received the call to see what our capabilities to be able to do this for the state. After about 36 hours of homework, meetings, and reviewing plans, I felt really good about how we were going to get this thing up and running,” Barger said.

This project is a unique one for John and his team as they are working hand in hand with the men and women of the Kentucky Air National Guard. They knew it was going to be a special project that could benefit thousands.

“We have been tasked with providing a facility with up to 2,000 beds if needed for the commonwealth of Kentucky. It’s been great and a project we want to have success in, and so far, we have,” Barger said. “We have milestone dates set as goals to have the next wing completed. We had 12 days to have the first wing completed, and we got it done in six with 276 beds and another 276 laid out.”



Christian Ely, Southern Indiana

Christian by nature, is an occupational therapist specializing in outpatient hand therapy for a hospital network in Houston, TX. Business was kept somewhat normal for Christian until the middle of March. The hospital requested workers to be cross-trained, bracing for the impact COVID-19 was going to have on their community.

“We saw a surge coming, and I transitioned to inpatient care, immediately stepping in to help patients on ventilators in the ICU,” Ely said. **“I help with a technique called proning. This is where patients are transitioned from their back to their stomach to increase lung capacity. When I lived in Indianapolis, I actually treated patients on ventilators, so I had the experience to help right away.”**

Christian says every day he goes into work, it is a team approach, and the transition for him was almost overnight. He remembers that it was something they were expecting, and it was still difficult to grasp. He knows he is needed to help those in need.

“The environment is different. I have a ton of equipment I have to wear, and these patients are completely isolated. My job is such a small part of taking care of them, and I know that every person on our team is there to perform certain tasks so our patients can recover. As long as the virus is around, I will continue to serve on the front lines.”

Neil Madisen, UW – La Crosse

Neil is a brother from the Beta Kappa Chapter at UW – La Crosse and has spent his career in clinical labs working with diagnostic testing and equipment. Over the years, his role has transitioned more to account management for the company and saw another transition opportunity during COVID-19.

“With the pandemic, my old division back in March received emergency authorization for creating and working with new tests, and I saw an opportunity to help go back and help stabilize things,” Madisen said.

The company Madisen works for was proactive in their actions, having discussions about the Coronavirus impact beginning back in January and helped develop some of the testing available today.

“We have been working long hours and are doing some great things with testing. We have been approved for a rapid test for frontline workers that allows results in 5-13 minutes, and batch testing that can do 94 patients in 6 hours, and 470 in 24 hours,” Madisen said. **“I was asked to mobilize and have traveled everywhere from Boston to Alaska to help healthcare workers with emergency testing. Since the crisis, so many people have stepped up, and if everyone can hang in there, we can get through this.”**



CITIZENSHIP