

ZOOM DISCUSSIONS CREATE OPEN DIALOGUE AND SPUR CREATIVE IDEAS

VOL. 5 | ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2021



In a year with restrictions and limited opportunities to gather in person and celebrate the camaraderie of brotherhood, the Sigma Tau Gamma Board of Directors is taking the opportunity to meet virtually with executive cabinets of active chapters.

What started as an idea and way to connect with the newest leaders of each chapter after attending the Earl A. Webb Academy of Principled Leaders in January, has turned into a space with open dialogue and a way for both undergraduates and alumni to think creatively together. Board of Directors member-at-large Scott Kaspar, Illinois, has met with multiple executive cabinet leaders this semester.

"I think that the effect of this pandemic is not lost on anyone, but executive cabinet officers understand why major events have been postponed, and other events like Webb Academy have been converted to virtual at this time. We've spent a lot of time

chatting about college majors, about courses they are taking, or courses I had taken while I was an undergrad. We've discussed recruitment issues and events. One of the best conversations I had was about how they absolutely owned recruitment last semester, by going all-in on technology to cast the biggest net and then maximizing the benefit of small in-person gatherings to close the deal on bids," Kaspar said. "What struck me so profoundly is that what they are doing right now on campuses is not much different from what so much of corporate America is doing to carry out business. I've had some great conversations on this topic, and it's genuinely been an honest back-and-forth exchange of ideas."

Board of Directors member-at-large Joe Gallo, Michigan Tech, has also met with chapter officers this semester. Based on his conversations, he is excited about the direction chapters are heading and is in awe at how chapter leaders are stepping up in the best possible way.

"These men chose to be a part of a cabinet for a reason; they wanted something more from the experience. As they hold their position,

they will not only develop themselves but those around them. I'm proud of any undergraduate who takes the initiative to ask for more, someone who wants to make a difference, help develop something great, and isn't just OK with the status quo," Gallo said.

Kaspar echoed similar sentiments and feels that the connections he is making with officers via Zoom would have been an opportunity missed in a typical environment.

"In a 'normal' world, I don't know that I would have connected with so many amazing undergraduate brothers. One of the silver linings of this past year is that, by virtue of virtual technology, we have reached so many more brothers than ever before. As a whole, I am very impressed. Those officers whom I have met are very smart and serious, yet also creative and well-spoken. There is a level of professionalism that I have not witnessed at the undergrad level in a long time. When I think of the notion of Noble Men that we place at the heart of our programming, we truly are seeing noble men in so many of our chapter's leadership."

THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SIG TAU THIS MONTH

1

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for individual awards and scholarships. Help recognize deserving individuals and brothers. The deadline to apply is March 31.

2

VIRTUAL RITUAL OPPORTUNITY

Spring 2021 associate members have the opportunity to participate in a virtual Ritual of Initiation. This [virtual ceremony](#) is an option for those chapters that may exceed the state, local, or CDC guidelines for in-person gatherings on their campuses.

3

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Sigma Tau Gamma is now accepting applications for volunteer board positions, including the Foundation Board of Trustees. Self-nominations are welcomed and encouraged. [Apply](#) today.



BETA KAPPA CHAPTER HOSTS INAUGURAL ICE-FISH-A-THON

In total, \$3,500 was raised for local Special Olympics athletes. Hanson hopes that this is just the beginning of this chapter and believes that making this an annual event can help their recruitment efforts.

For the Beta Kappa Chapter at UW – La Crosse, they hope a new philanthropy event can turn into an annual fundraising tradition. The inaugural Ice-Fish-a-Thon was held on Friday, January 29, 2021. For the past 17 years, the Beta Kappa Chapter brothers have been raising money for Special Olympics through the Polar Plunge, but due to local COVID-19 restrictions, the Polar Plunge was postponed. The chapter wanted to continue to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics, and ice fishing was away the entire chapter could be involved. Former Beta Kappa Chapter President Zach Hanson, UW – La Crosse, pitched the idea in December to the chapter, and they started actively searching for sponsors in January.

“We held a Zoom chapter meeting over winter break where the idea was pitched. We wanted it to be different and something everyone would enjoy. Details were finalized the first week of January, and most of our efforts were from word of mouth or connecting with friends and professors,” Hanson said.



"Most guys I've talked to have loved the idea. I'm a senior and currently serving as Director of Recruitment. I've been able to bring it up in one on one meetings with new guys, and they have all really liked it."

The chapter is already starting to plan for the second annual Ice-Fish-a-Thon next year. Hanson believes their success this year can turn the event into something the entire community can rally behind.

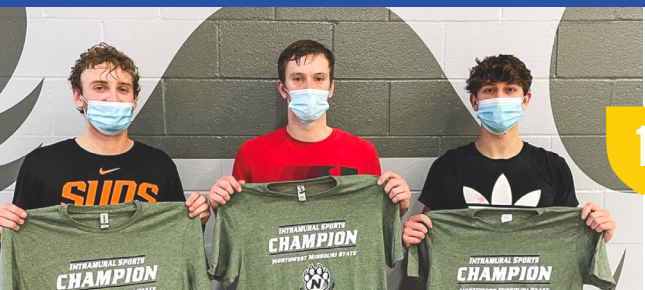
"Raising \$3,500 is incredible, but we have also laid the foundation for us to grow it next year. If we can get the community involved more, speak to businesses about sponsorships, and market it earlier, we can make an even bigger difference," Hanson said. **"All the brothers participated, and everyone did their part. We are proud of what we did and are excited about the future."**

CITIZENSHIP



NOBLE NEWS

Would you like to share news with the Sig Tau community? Submit your news [here](#).



1

THE THETA CHAPTER AT NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE IS CROWNED INTRAMURAL CHAMPIONS.

THE EPSILON RHO CHAPTER AT SALISBURY ADD 14 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS THIS SPRING.

2



3

BROTHERS FROM THE DELTA PSI ASSOCIATE CHAPTER AT ROBERT MORRIS ENJOY A BROTHERHOOD EVENT AT TOPGOLF.

BROTHERS FROM THE ZETA BETA CHAPTER AT CINCINNATI RAISE MONEY FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS THROUGH THE POLAR PLUNGE.

4



5

THE EPSILON CHI CHAPTER AT AUBURN ADDS 20 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS THIS SPRING

THE ZETA PHI ASSOCIATE CHAPTER AT CARROLL HOSTS A HOT CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER BENEFITTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS.

6

SIGMA TAU GAMMA PRESENTS

SIG TAUCOLATE



FROM THE ARCHIVES

This month, we feature the Iota Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma at Kent State University. The Iota Chapter received its charter in 1927, making it the 9th oldest chapter. The Iota Chapter had 26 founding fathers and has initiated over 700 brothers, including CEO Emeritus and Society of the Seventeen Inductee Bill Bernier and Emeriti Foundation Trustee and Society of the Seventeen Inductee Bob Bernier.

