

## ARCHIVE EDITION

THE SAGA

VOL. 4 | ISSUE 19

DECEMBER 2020

### THE EDITOR SPEAKS

Welcome, A new baby is  
Sigma born unto Sig-  
Chapter! ma Tau Gam-  
ma, and what  
healthy baby it is. Down



This month, we look back at articles in the SAGA Magazine throughout the last 100 years of Sigma Tau Gamma. Content in this issue has been reprinted from previous SAGA Magazine issues, including but not limited to copy, photos, and graphics.

is, and de-  
like to be  
Phi Sigma  
Tau Gam-  
tion to our

complete file of "The Saga," a small fraternity library, a motion picture machine, a multigraph, a large steel filing cabinet. Rather a formal looking affair, but when you put all of them together, you have the running department of the national fraternity.

This office is located at 111 W. Washington Street, in Kirksville and is always open to visiting Taus.

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- Printed in December 1934,

Written by first Executive Secretary  
**Thomas Hutsell, Truman State**

If you should find yourself visiting The Central Office, you will find a few pens, a pipe of tobacco, desks, chairs, filing cabinets, and above all, a warm welcome.

No, seriously, you will find more items than you probably would expect to see. On this big desk is a whole lot of records, pictures, historical material, records, a complete file of The SAGA, a small fraternity library, a motion picture

machine, and a large filing cabinet. When you put all of them together, you have the running department of the national Fraternity.

This office is located at 111 W. Washington Street, in Kirksville, MO, and is always open to visiting Taus. When you happen to be near Kirksville, why not run in and look over the place? The Secretary is more than glad to welcome you and 'tickled pink' to show off this office.

## THREE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SIG TAU THIS MONTH

1

#### HEADQUARTERS CLOSED

Sigma Tau Gamma Headquarters will be closed in observance of the winter holiday from December 23 - January 3, 2021.

2

#### #GIVINGTUESDAY SUCCESS

Because of continuous support, \$31,041 was raised this #GivingTuesday supporting undergraduate members through the Sig Tau Foundation.

3

#### FOUNDATION TRUSTEE SEARCH

The Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation is actively seeking candidates to serve on the Board of Trustees. Are you interested in serving Sigma Tau Gamma as a Trustee? [Apply](#) today.







## PRESIDENT'S PHYSICIAN IS A TAU

- Printed in December 1949,

**Wallace Harry Graham, Central Missouri, a 39-year-old brigadier general, is the personal physician of President Harry S. Truman. General Graham's life has been filled with a maze of important positions in which his contributions to the medical world have been outstanding. He is a senior resident in surgery at the Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C., and is the author of a number of distinguished articles on medical matters.**

Like the President, the youthful Army doctor has a Missouri background. Though born in Highland, Kansas, he received his elementary education in Kansas City, Missouri. His undergraduate work began at the Central Missouri State College, Warrensburg, Missouri, where he became a member of the Alpha chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma. He later transferred to the University of Missouri and received the degree of bachelor of arts in 1932. A concentrated study, his chosen field began at the Creighton University Medical School in Omaha, Nebraska, and it was there that he got his M.D. in 1936. Brother Graham was not content to be "just another doctor" and studied further at the University of Tennessee, Vienna, Budapest, London, and the Royal College of Surgery in Edinburgh.

Graham entered active duty in the United States Army on October 4, 1941. He played an important role in World War II in the European Theater of Operations, where he served with the 24th Evacuation Hospital. His remarkable skill and prowess saved many lives in the field of operations, which included service from the invasion of Normandy through France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany until the cessation of hostilities in Europe.

Responsibilities as personal physician to the President and surgical duties at the Walter Reed Hospital keep Brother Graham extremely busy. Still, he enjoys the pleasures of his family at every opportunity.

# EXCELLENCE





# EARLY DAY IN SIGMA TAU GAMMA

- Printed in December 1929,  
Written by Founder **Edward H. McCune**

**Nine years ago, on the 28th of next June, a social organization, by the name Sigma Tau Gamma was born into the fraternal world. Its inception was natural since men by nature are social beings; logical because its philosophies were founded upon age-worn concepts. On this simple faith, it has grown from a babe in swaddling clothes to a sturdy youth.**

Nine years ago, to me, it seems but a few months when we had our first meeting. I remember quite distinctly a few of the discussions that took place that afternoon. We were unanimous of the opinion that the social needs of Central Missouri State Teachers College were sadly neglected.

Like many other teachers' colleges, we had literary societies, six in number, which met once a week. They were on the decline. The bell had already tolled their death knell, and the funeral dirge was waiting to receive them with outstretched arms.

With the closing of the World War came the dawning of a new day. Social status in every branch of society was undergoing a change. Teacher colleges were no exception. The bonds which bound men together upon the battlefield and in the trenches found expression in fraternities of different kinds.

In my file, I have an original copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of Sigma Tau Gamma. I also have other papers and committee reports dating back to June and July of 1920. These reports seem to indicate that Allen Nieman and Leland Hoback deserve much credit for the early work they rendered to the Fraternity. Dr. Wilson C. Morris, to whom the December Saga is dedicated, was the "Cincinnatus" of the organization. We shall never forget him for his untiring efforts to serve.

From the very beginning, Sigma Tau Gamma prospered, both in membership and service. It seemed to meet the need of our college. Its challenge to students to live well and to promote the spirit of brotherhood was continually being met by those who were seeking membership. I remember at one of our business meetings that someone remarked that if Sigma Tau Gamma was good for us, it was good for others. It was at this point that we began to visualize a national social fraternity for teachers' colleges, of which none were existing. You know the rest.

From this small beginning, we have grown into thirteen strong chapters, represented in seven different states. Not the wisest seer of the group, A.B. Cott, nor the most optimistic dreamer Allen Nieman, would have dared to predict that out of this small beginning, we could have developed so rapidly in nine years. As we approach the ninth milestone of this youthful organization, may we approach it humbly and not boastfully, hopefully and not discouraged, giving due consideration to all chapters whose work has been so **nobly** done. Let us hope for greater success in the future and, in so doing, take our place among other social fraternities in doing our part to establish universal brotherhood among the peoples of this earth.

# PRESIDENTS ARE ACADEMY CADETS

- Printed in December 1989

**New chapter presidents, 26 of them, became Academy Cadets for three days in January. Their mission was to master the skillset of chapter leadership. The Academy was held in the Marvin Millsap Headquarters Building of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. The professional fraternity staff and regional vice presidents compromised the Academy faculty, with our 25th National President Max E. McGowan as headmaster.**

The Academy began with a seminar on the governance of the Fraternity led by Executive Director Bill Bernier. Then-President McGowan and the chapter presidents discussed legislation passed at the 33rd Grand Chapter. The two topics of greatest interest were the risk management policy and the resolution to ban little-sister organizations.

Office Manager Sue Kay instructed presidents on how to complete all reports and fees properly. She also explained office policies and procedures for billing and crediting chapter accounts.

The cadets visited the office of former Missouri Secretary of State James C. Kirkpatrick on the Central Missouri State University campus. It is an exact replica of the office that he had in the capital building for 20 years. Brother Jim and Warrensburg Mayor Robert Ulrich greeted and visited with the chapter presidents. Operating at peak performance was the theme of the remainder of the Academy. The presidents learned about goal setting and planning through the use of chapter plan books. Financial management topics included bookkeeping, budgeting, collections, and fundraising.

In small groups, they discussed chapter communications and member interaction. The day concluded with a video presentation entitled Anatomy of a Party. On Saturday, cadets studied the chapter advisor's role, how to find one, and how they should be evaluated. They discussed chapter scholarship, pledge education, social programming, and intramural athletics. Significant attention was given to membership recruitment, planning, training, and management.

The final topics were alumni relations and charitable projects, particularly the Fraternity's national philanthropy, BACCHUS of the U.S. Inc.

The Academy faculty included, in addition to President McGowan and Executive Director Bernier, Regional Vice Presidents Brad Bartels, Tom Janicki, Richard Harguindeguy, Scott Troster, Tom Meiron, and Mark Smith from the Fraternity staff.

The Academy concluded with a graduation banquet featuring a performance by renowned soloist Gary Fulsebakke. Then Marvin Millsap shared his personal experiences about how one individual can make a difference. He challenged each of the cadets to return to their chapters and to make a difference.

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The cadets visited the office of former Missouri Secretary of State James C. Kirkpatrick, on the Central Missouri State University campus, prior to lunch. It is an exact replica of the office that he had in the capitol building for 20 years. Brother Jim, Alpha '29, and Warrensburg Mayor Robert Ulrich, Rho '51, greeted and visited with the chapter presidents.

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One chapter president was quoted as saying, "The banquet was a great finale to a weekend that has motivated me and taught me to be a better president."

The Chapter Presidents Academy is made possible by alumni donations to the Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation.