

**Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity**  
**President-Elect and Board of Directors Candidate**  
**2022 – 2024 Term**  
Mike Van Camp, Indiana State  
Delta Tau Chapter



1. **Over the past decade, Sig Tau has taken many steps to build a strong foundation for a successful future. What action(s) by the Fraternity in recent years do you believe is (are) the most critical to it building a strong, successful future? What are the implications of that action? Explain why.**

**Response:** The past decade has seen many changes in Sigma Tau Gamma. In my eyes, the most visible and prominent was the relocation to our new Headquarters Building in Indianapolis. I believe this relocation was made for multiple reasons but to me, the most important reason was to improve the Staff Development and Operations. The central location of Indianapolis coupled with the incredible facilities makes Sigma Tau Gamma a sought-after career destination for those in the Greek Community.

The sole purpose of investing so much into staff is to ultimately invest in our undergraduate membership. The membership growth Sig Tau has experienced requires more staff attention. Having professionals in place that have the necessary skills to service our chapters is important, but I believe the experience within Sig Tau is equally important. The move to Indianapolis has allowed the turnover of staff to be a less drastic year in and year out. This allows our Chapters and staff to develop bonds that turn into true growth.

2. **What do you believe is the most critical external challenge faced by the Fraternity? Explain why. How should Sig Tau position itself to successfully deal with this challenge?**

**Response:** I believe the most critical external challenge our Fraternity faces today is that of social perception and those seeking to abolish or “cancel” Greek life. Many perceive fraternities as secretive and archaic. The media is quick to publish stories of physical abuse at the hands of fraternities. Sigma Tau Gamma has established a culture that combats these unfortunate pursuits of failure. The worst thing we can do as an organization is pretend like society is not out to destroy us.

I believe we need to continue to educate new members, chapters, and chapter officers on cultural awareness, diversity, and sensitivity. Webb Academy has offered a platform where we can utilize the skills and resources of those within the organization as well as outside professionals to continually enhance our knowledge and effectiveness in combating these issues.

Brother Bill Hembree once said “... real college education was more than just books and that the fraternity training and education was of great value to me. Social training and the necessary requirements to be considered a gentleman, were not only taught, but were carefully observed. I believe Sigma Tau Gamma can help prepare young men for leadership and living in today’s world. Making these young men into gentlemen is a noble endeavor!”

Brother Hembree’s words are very relevant to the challenges our young leaders face today. I know we can live up to his example.

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**3. What career or life experiences you have had that would most beneficially contribute to the deliberations and decisions of the Board?**

**Response:** I am a proud employee of our family business Van's Industrial. Ever since I was a little kid my Dad would bring me into the shop and it would always excite me because I would get to see my Grandpa, Grandma, and Aunt as well. As I got older and started working at the company, I always had a sense of pride that I was not only working for my paycheck, but I was working towards a greater purpose, for my family, for a legacy, for the protection of the jobs our family made possible for other families.

My father taught me so much as my boss. The first thing was that I had to earn my way, and nothing was promised. He made sure I knew every aspect of the company. All these years later I am now the Vice President of the company.

As Vice President, I have many responsibilities one of which is helping plan to secure the company's future. By making strategic decisions about policy, production procedures, and investments all done with the intent of continuing the legacy of the company. As a company officer, I am not above seeking opinions and ideas from my employees. Being able to take criticism and adapt systems is vital.

I believe my everyday work life is very much of what is expected of a Board of Director Member. The Board Members are the Stewards of our great Fraternity. I believe the skills I have developed professionally including long-term planning, professional development, inclusion, and staff management are critical for a Board member to have.

I believe as a leader in any organization there must be a sense of accountability. Oversight and due diligence are critical. I am very capable to maintain the necessary vision and focus a good board needs to succeed.

I am a very passionate and determined individual. My mind never stops trying to develop strategies and ideas to improve the status quo. My hope is to honor the legacy of those who have built so much in the 102 years of Sigma Tau Gamma by devoting all my talents and skills to the betterment of our great Brotherhood.

Sigma Tau Gamma is the family I chose 20 years ago. I want to work to ensure the prosperity of my Brothers. I have the same sense of pride professionally as I do Fraternally. I believe that is why I would be an asset to our Brotherhood by way of President elect.

**4. What item(s) in the 2025 Strategic Plan do you think is (are) most important? What item(s) would you change? Explain why.**

**Response:** I believe the 2025 Strategic Plan has some great directions and goals. I feel some of the most important points with the Strategic Plan to me are the Foundation and Member Safety & Wellness.

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The Foundation is vital to the success of the Fraternity. As a current Foundation Trustee, I understand better than most that without dedicated individuals and staff; funding amazing programs such as the Noble Man Institute and Webb Academy would not be possible. I believe these programs are vital to the continued success of our Brotherhood, as I have witnessed firsthand as a volunteer at both programs the resounding impact they can have on our Brothers.

I believe Member Safety & Wellness are paramount. This is one area of the 2025 Strategic Plan I feel I would change or expand on. I would develop a plan to help assist with the mental health of our membership. A topic that might have been taboo years ago I believe has flourished recently and for good reason. Stress, anxiety, depression, and other types of mental health disorders are prevalent in all areas of the world but especially on college campuses. I would support the research and development of expanding awareness and education of this serious issue. The well-being of our Brothers should never be taken for granted and I will do everything in my role to assure the safety of our membership.

**5. If you could ask a candidate for the Board any one question, what would it be?**  
**Please provide your own answer to that question.**

My question to a Board of Directors Candidate...

What should Sigma Tau Gamma invest in that would make membership more appealing to a potential member?

**Response:** My answer would be to invest in a mentor-based career development program. This program would intend to help college students with post-college job opportunities. These opportunities are made possible by vast Sig Tau connections across the county. Helping to guide undergraduate members through this process with an Alumni mentor.