



THE ILLINOIS SIG

Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Winter 2018-2019
Alumni Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | www.illinoissigs.org

a message from the HOUSING CORPORATION PRESIDENT

Teamwork + Dedication = Mission Possible



Brothers,

Your dedicated board members took on a near-impossible task: making the commitment to invest capital that would provide funds necessary to work on our dear old chapter house at 410 East John. It was a daunting task because a majority of the work

done in Champaign over the past summer required much more lead time than we had available—many of the contractors were all booked up, but we felt it was time to really put some effort and money into 410. We pulled together as a team, and I would like to thank all those involved.

With the help of **Steve Sarovich '75**, **Dan Mackey**, **Jim Escobar '95**, **Jason Detweiler '08**, and our long-time friend and architect **Rod Reid** (Iowa State EX), we pulled it off.

Here are some of the major projects that were coordinated and completed:

- Refurbished the custom wood flooring throughout the first floor
- Painted the first floor
- New ceiling tiles, grid work, LED lighting on the both the first and second floors
- Updated the electrical wiring
- Rehabbed the library
- Added new plaques to the library, commemorating our many Constantine and Significant Sigs
- Refurbished fireplaces with new tile, and placed the blue room fireplace into inactive service for safety reasons
- Refurbished all bathrooms (basement, second, and third floor)
- Created a new back patio, among other major outside work
- Reworked the house drainage
- Landscaping
- Mom's Club involvement—new furniture in the blue room and restoration of the volleyball court
- Remodeled and rearranged the computer

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Alumni Spotlight

Robert A. Cagann '61



Bob on the tennis court at Kensington Country Club.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For this edition of the newsletter, we're shining the spotlight on Brother **Bob Cagann '61**. Bob recently visited his alma mater and spoke to the brothers at a chapter meeting about how the white cross has helped him through his time at the University of Illinois, and throughout his life. After completing a degree in economic theory with an emphasis in real estate and urban economics, Bob took his skills to the next level. As chairman and CEO of Axiom Properties, Inc., he owns, controls, and manages over \$500M in real estate assets. He has authored a textbook entitled, "Rehabilitating Apartments, A Recycling Process," that became the leading industry text on this topic. He also holds the designation of Certified Property Manager (CPM), and is a member of Omega Tau Rho, an honorary real estate fraternity for service to the National Association of Realtors. Bob enjoys tennis, and spending time with his wife of 30 years and their three sons.

What did you enjoy most as an active member?

One word can sum that up: brotherhood. I always felt that the brothers had my back, and I had theirs.

After graduation, how did you gain such an impactful role in the real estate industry?

I have my doubts about my impact, however, my degree was in real estate and urban economics and I had two things going for me. One, I was committed to success, and I remain driven to succeed even now. The second is growth over time. I started my company when I was 24 years old, and as I write this to you, I am fast-approaching the end of our 55th year of continuous operation and growth.

What inspired you to write a book?

I was very involved in education and became an adjunct professor at two junior colleges in the Chicago area. Additionally, I became a national faculty member for the Institute of Real Estate Management, traveling all over the United States and Canada. As a result of my lecturing, I became engaged in consulting work with several large banks that had portfolios of foreclosed real estate. I have worn my Sig ring almost every day since my graduation.

Bob at a meeting at Iberia Bank.



When I was lecturing, I had many people come up to me and comment on my ring—identifying themselves as brothers. All kidding aside, it was the ring that helped to get me many of the consulting jobs that I was fortunate enough to get. The book was a natural evolution of this process.

Which achievement are you most proud of?

I am most proud of how I began my business as a sole proprietor, and that with a lot of hard work, I grew the business into a solid company that today has over 170 employees and almost 6,000 apartment units in the Midwest.

What type of work are you focused on with Axiom today?

Axiom properties is fundamentally a property management company; however, we only manage what we own and control. As chairman and CEO, I am responsible for the entire operation. This is no longer a burden or a big challenge for me, because we have very competent individuals running the operation, such as my son Roger, who is now the president.

Outside of work, what do you do for fun?

I am a "workout guy" and I pride myself on staying in shape. I don't play a lot of golf anymore because I have had the opportunity to play year-round for 20 years. I am very involved in tennis, and I enjoy playing singles. I also have a weight-training regime, which keeps me toned, as well as helps my speed and coordination.

What advice can you give the alumni and young actives about achieving their goals?

"Keep your eye on the ball," has been my mantra my entire career. I have a strong singleness of purpose, and do not let anything interfere with the goal that I'm trying to achieve. These have all helped me with my leadership skills, and, quite frankly, the success I have enjoyed.



Bob at his office in Naples, Florida.



Chapter News

from the CHAPTER PRESIDENT



Brothers,

This semester has been really exciting thus far, and everyone in the house is looking forward to what is in store. The summer renovations by the house corporation look great, and there is a new energy in the house because of them.

Our relationship with the house corporation has increased immensely, and we take a great deal of pride in being able to run the house successfully as a team.

Recently, Sigma Chi implemented new pledging and social rules that will change the culture of fraternity life for the better. Although it has taken some hard work to adapt to these changes, we are eager to see the positive effects it will have on our chapter and fraternity life across the country. The world requires more Kappa Kappa Sigma Chi's, who uphold a standard by creating a culture that will be beneficial for the longevity of our house.

In Hoc,

Kevin Steiner



The 2018 men of Kappa Kappa.

Social Update

By Social Chairs Tim Calimari & Eric Zuigler

With new pledging and social alcohol rules, we as a social committee have been challenged to create fun and safe events for all. During the fall semester, on September 29, we coordinated a philanthropy event with Luke Bryan and his Farm Tour, which was a huge success. We raised money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, and had a great time at his concert—held at a local farm off campus. We had many other events scheduled throughout the remainder of the semester, such as themed parties with other sororities, and a Sigma Chi rodeo, which was a fun country-themed party that we started last year.

Chapter Spotlight

Rick Hatton



EDITOR'S NOTE: Representing the chapter as spotlight is junior classman, **Rick Hatton**. Rick has been an excellent asset to this fraternity thus far, and has two years left to continue this great impact. He has held multiple positions, such as scholarship chair and proconsul, which he has excelled in tremendously. From the hometown of Naperville, Rick is pursuing a degree in finance with a minor in informatics at UI. On campus, he is involved with Alpha Kappa Psi as recruitment chairman, the Illinois Investment Banking Academy, the Illini Hockey Team, Right Wing, and the Venture Capital Association as external expansion chairman. He has interned with Billow Butler & Company, and this summer will be interning with Robert W. Baird.

What have you enjoyed most as a member of the chapter?

Being a member of the Kappa Kappa Chapter of Sigma Chi comes with many enjoyable moments, however, nothing can top living in with your brothers. You can always find someone to hang out with, which results in a very tight-knit group. The friendships that are formed and continuously grow by living in together is incomparable to anything else, and something that I am privileged to be a part of.

In which area do you feel the chapter is the strongest?

I think our chapter is strongest from the perspective of internal operations and brotherhood. With internal operations, we have a dedicated executive board that works to ensure that not only day-to-day activities are going smoothly, but that a plan for the semester is outlined and that people follow that plan. In regards to brotherhood, we have an extremely close group on campus. We all know each other on a personal level, and have each other's backs no matter what.



Rick and brother Neil Novosel before a hockey game.

How do you feel that your clubs and internships are preparing you for after graduation?

Getting

involved is the most important thing you can do on campus, because involvement allows you to grow both socially and professionally. On the social front,

you are able to develop your soft skills, experience life-long memories, and meet your best

friends. On the professional front, you can learn various technical skills, master how to act in a real-world setting, and properly seek and obtain internships. Through my involvement with Sigma Chi, the Illini Club Hockey Program, and the Investment Banking Academy, I have been able to capture this social and professional growth, preparing me to be a dangerous professional after graduation.

What would you like to do with your degree?

While I am unsure of where it will take me in the long run, I know that I would like to start in the field of investment banking. I see this career path as a way to challenge myself, learn a lot in a short period of time, and make a direct impact on the greater world around us by working with many "household name" corporations.

Outside of school, what do you do for fun?

I enjoy playing sports, working at the historic KAM'S, hanging out with friends, reading, and napping.



Rick at Derby Days/



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Chapter and Alumni News

Philanthropy Corner

By Philanthropy Chair Glenn West

Over the past few years, Kappa Kappa has been lacking in philanthropic efforts, but this year we are striving for change. With our eyes set on the 20K club, we are ready for a huge semester for philanthropy. To start, we have created a Kappa Kappa Derby Days fundraising team, in which every brother is striving to raise at least \$100. Thus far, Kappa Kappa has already raised close to \$2,000 from the team page. Additionally, we have organized some exciting events such as our annual philanthropy car wash, our Luke Bryan concert, and of course the greatest event of them all, Derby Days. Luke Bryan, a Sig from Georgia Southern, has offered us lower ticket prices for his upcoming concert tour with which we are able to sell purely for money towards the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. All in all, Kappa Kappa is striving for our most philanthropic year in recent history.



A crowd of brothers and sororities gather around to intensely watch the hot dog eating contest for Derby Days.



Brothers pose with their derby Days team, Kappa Alpha Theta, after winning a game in the volleyball tournament.

Below, two girls face off in the jousting tournament to win points for the sorority during Derby Days.



Chapter Eternal

We are saddened to learn of the passing of the following Kappa Kappa brothers:

H. Wayne Maddux '46

Harold Wayne Maddux, 91, of Kihei, Hawaii, an electrical engineer, died in Maui Memorial Medical Center. He was born in Missouri. He is survived by wife Marilyn.

Frederick R. Bristol '48

Frederick Robert Bristol, 90, of Sarasota, Florida, passed away on Tuesday, June 27, 2017 with family members by his side. He is survived by his spouse Aylor Rogers Gallagher, his brother and sister-in-law George and Pat Bristol, his niece Page Bristol, his nephew and niece Lee and Laura Howell, grandniece Cassandra Manuel, and great grandniece Charlee Gasper. Fred served with distinction in World War II and afterwards spent most of his life in dedicated service to the Disabled American Veterans where he held a high office at the national level.



Leave a Legacy!

Consider a lasting gift that will support the brothers of Kappa Kappa Chapter long after you are gone. By including Kappa Kappa in your estate plans, you ensure the long-term health and success of our fraternity. Here's what you and/or your adviser might need to know.

The most common ways to include Kappa Kappa Chapter are through your will or by naming Kappa Kappa of Sigma Chi Foundation as a beneficiary under a life insurance policy.

Sample language for your will or estate plan:

"I leave the sum of (\$XXXXXX.xx or XX% of my estate) to Kappa Kappa of Sigma Chi Foundation, tax ID# 20-3901938 for their general purposes."

**** This information is not presented as legal or tax advice. Always consult with you advisers for questions or clarifications. ****

Your brothers and those following in their footsteps thank you!

notes and news FROM OUR ALUMNI



Douglas Damrow '76 submitted this photo, of five KK Sig Alums socializing on a rooftop bar in Chicago during summer 2018. From left to right... **Bob (Gebe) Gebert '76.50**, **Pat (Makri) Makris '76**, **Doug (Dams) Damrow '76**, **Bob (Buff) Bills '76** and **Ted (Little Dis) Disabato '74**.

John M. Madden '81 – "With five of my six children graduated and working, life is easing up somewhat. My wife of 35 years, Holly (KKG '83), and I will be celebrating by traveling to Scotland for some golf and R+R."

Special congratulations to Brother **Eric Meyer '85** for the recent sale and great run of his longtime ownership of KAM'S, arguably the most popular location on campus, especially for Sigs. Be sure to check out the full story at: <http://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/2018-08-08/after-27-years-kams-getting-new-owner.html>



Have Alumni News?

We want to hear from you! Send your personal updates, accomplishments, adventures, and photos to our account manager, Kasey Breedlove, at kbreedlove@elevateims.com, or simply fill out the back of the enclosed gift form and return it in the mail. We want to share it in the next issue of *The Illinois Sig*!



Alum Scott Altman Star of Space-Themed Homecoming



Scott Altman with Chapter President Kevin Steiner.

Alumni and actives alike enjoyed a festive weekend together during Homecoming. A Huntsman fundraiser at Joe's Brewery held Friday night was the beginning of the activities. Customers who mentioned Sigma Chi when ordering food saw 20% of the proceeds go towards cancer research, and several Sigs attended as a social gathering.

Saturday was full of awards, socializing, and great food. The day began with the chapter presenting Scott "Scooter" Altman '81 with the Benjamin

Piatt Runkle Award and sporting mustaches to form their best Altman impression. T-shirts featuring an astronaut on the back portrayed the Homecoming theme of "space." Afterwards, alumni spent time visiting their old house and meeting actives.

Next, brothers met at the alumni lot for a tailgate set up by Homecoming Chair Marshall Thompson. Burgers, brats, bacon-wrapped pork tenderloin, and several other food choices were provided, as well as beverages, music, and a TV. Many tailgaters left for the Illini football game vs. Purdue at 2:30. Unfortunately they didn't witness a victory, as the Fighting Illini fell to the Boilermakers 46-7. However, the game was not without a highlight. Altman was once again recognized, this time on the football field for his role as 2018 Homecoming Grand Marshall.

The final stage of the weekend's festivities started with brothers enjoying Portillo's as a post-game dinner catered to the chapter house. Actives and alumni mingled and played games before departing for Thirden, the senior houses, where DJ Milk 'N Cooks performed throughout the night.



Kappa Kappa men proudly wear the Altman mustache look.

Corporation President

(continued from page 1)

room in the basement, based on feedback from the chapter

- Added new printers and boosted the WIFI speed
- Replaced chairs and tables, and other new furniture

While these are the highlights of the work that has already been done, there is still plenty left to do as we continue to develop a longer-range, master plan.

We are committed to making these improvements, as our chapter's leadership and culture has improved. GPA is the best in years. The scholarship program has improved with the new GPA policy—which requires a minimum GPA to stay an "active" member. Our Ben Fisher Scholar Program continues to be very active within the chapter, and has been a critical component of our success. The chapter has even qualified for our KK EX Scholarship Awards, which have been tremendously enhanced by a very large and generous estate gift of \$600,000 from **Brother Maddox '46**. **Marc Sleiman '20** even qualified for—and received—the Greg Harbough Award of \$10,000!

I would like to thank all the scholarship chairs at the chapter, **Matt Hollon '17**, our Ben Fisher Scholar, as well as **Steve Sarovich** and **Joe Perozzi '14** for all their support in our efforts to challenge our chapter.

The chapter has taken full advantage the Bell Chapter Award Program sponsored by headquarters. The board and chapter want to say thank you to those who contribute, in order for our chapter to be qualified. Being a part of this program allows for more of our chapter's members to attend LTW,

gain an automatic spot in the Horizon's program, earn a \$1,000 scholarship award, and more.

Another great class (2022) was initiated this fall, with a few legacies on board! I want to thank **Mike Bellah '14** for all his hard work with the rush program.

Our next step in our "Mission Possible" work is to build a master plan for 410 East John. This will take some time, yet I believe your board is up to the challenge!

One of our goals is to better connect ourselves within the social media world. **Tom Munger '13** has done a fantastic job coordinating the efforts with our social media footprint. There is a Kappa Kappa Chapter Facebook page, Kappa Kappa LinkedIn group, and we have built—and continue to build—content for our new web site: www.illinoissigs.com, where I encourage you all to visit and register.

I have the privilege of working with a very committed board on your behalf. We continue to have calls and/or meetings every four to six weeks. We have two joint meetings with the chapter, which are valuable in building, maintaining, and advancing our chapter in today's world. On this note, I simply want to say "thank you" to the board for their tireless and relentless commitment.

If there are any alumni interested in joining the Kappa Kappa Corp. Board team, and would like to continue to assist the chapter moving forward, please contact me directly.

In hoc,

Peter Steger '79
House Corporation President

Renovations at 410 East John

