



THE ILLINOIS SIG

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

a message from the HOUSING CORPORATION PRESIDENT

Spring Brings Continued Success, New Goals



Brothers,

Welcome to springtime in Chicago: cold, windy, rainy, and 40 degrees... I am a volunteer baseball coach at my old high school (Loyola Academy) in the spare time I really don't have, so I can assure you it has been a rough spring! Despite this spring weather, the chapter is doing great!

Our leadership continues to remain strong and reflective of our EX values. Our chapter advisor, **Jeff Rieck**, and grand praetor, **Blake Pierce '01**, continue to help lead our officers and chapter with their dedicated involvement.

The Chapter GPA ended up ranking in the Top 10! Our scholarship chair and Ben Fisher Scholar, **Matt Holon**, had a tremendous impact on our scholarship success.

Your board is working on many fronts:

- Helping the chapter officers become better leaders by building expectations
- Working on our scholarship award process
- Working on building a sound financial position
- Completing a total upgrade of the women's bathroom
- Mom's Weekend was a resounding success, connecting them with their sons and raising a little money along the way. We continue to maintain good communication with the Mom's Club as they play an integral part in our chapter and their sons' lives.
- Working on summer project plans to continue our **Mission Possible** in making sure 410 E. John remains as one of the premier fraternities on campus
- Trying to position ourselves for a fundraising campaign

Your House Corporation Board:

- **Mike Bellah '14** has done a nice job overseeing both rush chairs and our pledge program
- **Jason Detweiler '08** works tirelessly as our property manager, coordinating all work with the chapter and our management company

Corporation President (continued on page 4)

Alumni Spotlight | Jordan Meadows '18

EDITOR'S NOTE: For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the spotlight on Brother **Jordan Meadows '18**. Originally from Saint Charles, Jordan was accepted into the **United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School** after high school. He graduated number one in the country at USMC Officer candidate school for highest grades in leadership, physical fitness and academics. While at Illinois, he served overseas during the spring of 2016 in operation Cold Response in Norway with 16 other NATO countries before graduating with a BS in kinesiology. As an active member, Jordan served in multiple house positions including consul—resulting in our chapter's first Peterson award in 29 years—and he was elected as the "Chapter President of the Year." Jordan was recently honored as the East Illinois Province Balfour Award winner for 2019. This May, he was commissioned from Sergeant to a 2nd LT in the Marine Corps. An entrepreneur, Jordan is also currently in the process of creating a business in the Kane County area with one of his Marine coworkers that deals with the sanitization of semi-trucks that handle food for human consumption.



What did you enjoy most during your time as an active member?

Throughout my undergraduate years I had a tremendous experience that created memories I will forever remember. What I enjoyed most about being a member of the Kappa Kappa chapter was the deep friendships I developed. I had the privilege of knowing every brother I encountered on a personal level. These types of relationships surpassed all my other ones I developed, and I know they will continue to grow throughout my later years in life. I joined the fraternity for the brotherhood aspect, and I was grateful the Kappa Kappa Chapter provided me a great atmosphere for it.

Which achievements are you most proud of?

During my college years I was fortunate enough to have achieved way more than I thought I was capable of. At the conclusion of Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, I was the number one graduate with highest scores in leadership, physical fitness, and academics. As consul, I led our chapter to winning its first Peterson Award in 29 years, and was also awarded by the IFC as the "Chapter President of the Year," out of 46 other IFC Presidents. Amongst these and my other accomplishments, my greatest achievement was developing lifelong friendships with the brothers of the Kappa Kappa Chapter that will continue throughout the rest of my life.

What led to your interest and dedication in becoming a Marine?

Despite being only seven years old during the events of 9/11, the actions that occurred that day resonated with me throughout my younger years which resulted in a desire to serve my country. I

joined the Marine Corps because it intimidated me, and I wanted to step out of my comfort zone to see if I could conquer the challenges they offered.

When did you discover your strengths in the program?

Early on in my career I was able to visibly see my developed strengths. I accomplished this by looking at myself in-depth and seeking what self-improvement was necessary to advance my career. Learning what I could improve about myself allowed me to develop my weaknesses into strengths, ultimately allowing me to progress into the person I am today.

What are your goals with the Marine Corps?

I've currently been enlisted for the past six years, and this summer I commission as a Second Lieutenant to pursue a career in aviation as a Marine Corps Pilot. Throughout my six years in the Corps, I have been impacted greatly by my superiors. My goal is to reciprocate that to my

Jordan Meadows (continued on page 4)

Jordan with his pledge brothers in New Orleans during their senior year trip.





from the CONSUL



Brothers,

This past spring semester has been filled with fun, success, and achievement. Our philanthropic efforts have continued to grow tremendously, creating an everlasting effect on both the community and the Huntsman Cancer

Foundation. Additionally, our house is in great condition, thanks to the efforts of the brothers in and out of the house, along with the house corporation.

With the new pledge rules that have been implemented, we are always evolving as a house, while maintaining our important traditional aspects. The Kappa Kappa Chapter rushed a great 22.50s class, and we look forward to raising the standard for generations to come.

In Hoc,

Jacob Sopol

Jacob Sopol



The '22s pledge class celebrates initiation.

Social Update

By Social Chairs Tim Calimari & Eric Zuigler

With the new rules from nationals in place, we have continued to be able to creatively problem-solve and create fun, safe, and responsible events for all of our members. Through talks with alumni, we learned of a past event with mini golf from the late '90s. This year we were able to bring it back, turning 410 into a 9-hole course full of twist, turns, and good times. We will continue to go above and beyond to ensure the safety of all brothers while still having a great time.



Chapter Spotlight | Tim Schneider



EDITOR'S NOTE: Representing the chapter as spotlight is **Tim Schneider**. From Naperville, Illinois, Tim is a rising junior and is working toward a degree in accounting with a minor in informatics. Having served on the judicial board and as quaestor, Tim is also involved with Investment Portfolio Club on campus. This summer, he will work as an investment research intern with Calamos Investments, and as a marketing intern with JusCollege.



Tim hiking Diamond Head mountain in Oahu, Hawaii.

What led you to join the chapter?

When I first came to campus freshmen year, I didn't know many people in fraternities, so rushing around was tough in that sense. One of my friends from high school had a brother in Sigma Chi, so I was invited to the first few rush events. There seemed to be something special about Sigma Chi every time I visited; not only were the rush chairs eager to meet me, but I was able to meet many brothers of the house, unlike other houses I visited during rush events.

What have you enjoyed most as a member?

The brotherhood is something special that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world. Not only am I best friends with the guys in my pledge class, but I know everybody across all pledge classes. It's a wonderful feeling knowing that we have such a tight-knit community. The culture of our house is very outgoing and energetic, and keeps me motivated to develop not only as a brother of the chapter, but as a growing leader.

Which position with Kappa Kappa do you feel most accomplished in?

My semester on recruitment gave me the most satisfaction. I'm a very outgoing person, I love to meet new people, and I take pride in saying I helped build our younger pledge class and teach them what it takes to be a Sigma Chi. I really looked up to my rush chairs, and I always desired to have that same influence on potential members as my rush chairs had on me. It's really a special feeling seeing younger brothers initiate, knowing that I helped bring them into our house and assist in their development as men.

How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

This upcoming summer, I am interning for Calamos Investments, where I hope to gain valuable insight on market trends and the financial industry as a whole. I plan to get my CPA certification and hopefully enter the field of audit or consulting. I really enjoy project-oriented work—I thrive in teamwork settings, which is why I would love to enter a consulting field. I dream of owning a business down the line after I serve my time in Corporate America.

Outside of school, what do you do for fun?

I am very into fitness and weight lifting; I make sure to do that every day, and it's really become a hobby of mine. I played baseball, basketball, and football in high school, so I love to play pickup sports and be competitive whenever I get the chance. Hiking and exploring the outdoors is something I have always enjoyed. Aside from that, I truly enjoy my job at Kam's. Being involved in clubs and on-campus organizations is vital for all students; it gives you the chance to get outside your comfort zone and make many new friends!

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Philanthropy Corner

By Philanthropy Chair Glenn West

This spring, our philanthropy continued to raise the bar set by our Derby Days team that raised a record amount of money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. Our annual spring classic hockey fundraiser is scheduled for July 26, and will hopefully raise an additional \$3K to add to our fall total. The event pits our house and Alpha Tau Omega against Pi Kappa Alpha and Sigma Alpha Epsilon in a friendly exhibition game at the ice arena. We have accompanied the event with fundraisers at local food vendors to increase our amount raised from last year. Our success in other houses' philanthropy events is also notable as one of our six teams was able to win Kappa Delta's dodgeball tournament (pictured right, top). As summer approaches, the Kappa Kappa Chapter's philanthropy is heating up and is set to finish as strong as it started.



The moms of the chapter showcase the goods for the annual Mom's Weekend auction.

Chapter Eternal

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

Joe V. Stewart '48

William H. Herriott '53

Lowell M. McClure '00



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



Brother Steve Thayer, Significant Sig

Special congratulations to Brother **Steve Thayer '88** for being honored as Significant Sig—he is the 38th KK EX. There are less than 150 brothers that have both Constantine Sig and Significant Sig honors. This May, Steve shared his wisdom while delivering the commencement speech to the UI College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at graduation.

Back in June of last year, Steve was joined by **Mark Anderson '77** and Marc Brown, an EX from George Washington University, to host **Tim Schneider '77** at the state of Illinois Republican Party Chairman and Cook County Commissioner for presentation on the "State of the State of Illinois and Cook County."

This well-attended event included a number of other dignitaries and Sigma Chis, including: **Peter Steger '78** (President Kappa Kappa House Corporation), **Dan Mackey '78** (Director KK House Corp), **Mike Wood '79**, **Kirk Hartley '79**, **Ryan Thayer '21** (Steve's son), and Ryan Anderson, Lambda '09 (Indiana)—Ryan is the son of Mark Anderson. His daughter Courtney, an Indiana graduate, also participated.

(L-R) Dan Mackey, Tim Schneider and Peter Steger.



Neal O. Hammon '48 writes in, saying: "It would be interesting for the Mag to see how many WW2 vets are still alive—from your donation list, it would appear that **Mo** and **Bill Herleman '48** are still kicking around. I am 93 and served in the Pacific in the Navy. As I recall, Bill was in the Army—I think Bill left school in 1942 and went to Navy in 43. Hope all are well."

George E. Mullins '49 recently sold their house and moved into a retirement center. He says, "Great memories of the fraternity. At age 93, still swimming 1000 yards(1/2 mile) three days each

week. Had a good life with Sigma Chi ideals and as my friend in everything I did."

Spending the winter on Balboa Island in Newport Beach, California, **Patrick T. Makris '76** and his wife, Cheryl, stay busy playing tennis, bicycling, cooking, and watching sunsets.

John Hinnen '80 is launching a new toy ball he invented in March 2019: the Bandit Ball. According to John, "this is a grassroots start-up in Peoria, Illinois—be sure to check it out!" (www.banditball.com; @thebanditball)

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!*

Blake B. Wilson '88 shares the news that his daughter, Anna Marie, has just been initiated into Kappa Kappa Gamma at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

"Just started my fifth year as owner of Flynn Insurance Group," says **Patrick M. Flynn '92**. "Congratulations to **John Holecsek 95.50** for winning his second state FB championship as coach of Loyola Academy in Wilmette!"



Jordan Meadows

(continued from page 1)

subordinates by taking care of them and carrying myself as a leader they follow because they *want to*, not because they have to.

How are your plans as an entrepreneur working out?

I am currently in the works of opening a business in the Kane County area with one of my fellow coworkers in the Marine Corps. We found a niche without much competition with the potential to grow. As of this summer, we will be opening a sanitation company that works with food distribution plants to ensure that the transport foods for human consumption are up to the new standards in reference of the recent law passed by the USDA. I will take a backseat to the company once I begin my active duty career in the Marine Corps, but will always be researching the next idea.

In your free time, what do you do for fun?

In my free time I love working out and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, this is a passion

I developed during my time in the service and want to continue throughout my life. I also enjoy spending time with my family, because they have molded me into the man I have become today. I am also fond of any outdoor activities, such as boating, fishing, wakeboarding, and skateboarding. Lastly, I enjoy learning and spend an abundance of time actively reading and researching different things to expand my knowledge in different fields life has to offer.

Why do you feel it's important to stay involved with Sigma Chi as an alumnus?

Sigma Chi, especially the Kappa Kappa Chapter, has impacted my life enormously. As an alumnus, I know it is important to reciprocate back to the chapter in order to ensure that the future brothers of the Kappa Kappa Chapter obtain the same impact in their lives that I had.

What advice can you give your fellow Kappa Kappa brothers about bravery?

My greatest advice about bravery is always striving to live outside your comfort zone by



Jordan performing a skateboarding trick during a photo shoot at the skate park in Glenview, Illinois.

becoming comfortable in uncomfortable situations. This type of bravery will lead you to achieve accomplishments that were once unimaginable and allow you to grow substantially as a person. Personally, my fondest memories and proudest achievements thus far in my life began by displaying the bravery to live outside my comfort zone.

congratulations to our GRADUATING SENIORS

Thomas Drinnen Abrams
Finance

Benjamin David Belskis
Civil Engineering

Joseph Robert Chignoli
Finance in Agri-Business

Thomas William Cushing
Spanish

Zachary Heinz Hopkins
Material Sciences and Engineering

Andrew James Thompson
Mechanical Engineering

Kyle Richard Munson
Finance in Agri-Business

Luke Jonathan Ortegall
Economics

Mason Peter Homsey
Finance

Peter Aristides Paxinos
ACES Financial Planning

Jonathan George Lampros
Finance

Riley Alexander Miles
Finance

Daryl Patrick Murphy Jr.
Finance

Patrick Joseph Duncan
Special Education

George Angelo Deligiannis
Finance in Agri-Business

Liam Nagle Eadie
Supply Chain Management

Jacob David Fernandez
Finance

Samuel Lindston Gainer
Finance

Alexander Walter Gamsjaeger
Consumer Economics

Liam James Griffin
Computer Engineering

Nicholas Scott Hilgemann
Finance

Alexander Erich Kazmer
MCB

Samuel Sungwon Kim
Computer Engineering

Jack Sullivan Mahoney
Mechanical Engineering

Andrew Martineau
Finance

Luke Harrison Massar
Financial Planning

Nicholas Scott McGuire
Financial Planning

Thomas Leo Morrone
Financial Planning

Stephen Thomas Quinn
Finance?

Charles Mack Spring
Communications

Charles James Yale
Financial Planning

Kenneth Robert Yeo
Economics

Corporation President

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- **Jim Escobar '95** continues to a phenomenal job as our CFO. He has spent countless hours working to reduce our vendor costs, setting up the new CPA firm, and managing our significant budget
- **Steve Sarovich '75** and **Dan Mackey '78** have "got game" when it comes to helping coordinate all property rehab work, their insight and efforts are greatly appreciated
- **Tom Munger '13** coordinates all the media channels with the Chapter Media Officer—we want to build better communication through all media channels
- **Joe Perozzi '14** heads up the Scholarship area and coordinates with the Fisher Scholar our distributions and GPA policy
- **Mark Anderson '77's** support and efforts are critical to our overall success, as he has maintained his involvement in our General Fraternity and keeps me sane!

Gentlemen, our train keeps on chugg'n. I am proud of and grateful for all of our board members for their time, support, and efforts as there will always be more to work to do!

If you would like to "dip your toe" or drill deeper on how you might be able to help, please connect.

In hoc,

Peter Steger '79
House Corporation President