

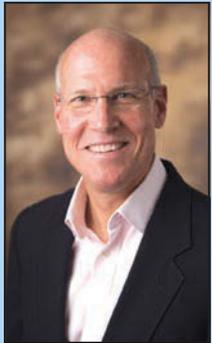


# THE ILLINOIS SIG

Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | Winter 2020-21 | Alumni Relations Office | P.O. Box 80828, Atlanta, Georgia 30366 | [www.illinoisigs.org](http://www.illinoisigs.org)

## a message from the HOUSING CORPORATION PRESIDENT

**Teamwork + Dedication = Mission Possible**



As brothers, we all fondly remember our beginning in the chapter and the challenge we accepted in our initiation to our brotherhood. We were charged with a duty to become the best we can by living out the values learned and to never forget there are strong arms around us. We were challenged

this year for obvious reasons, and we charged into the spring semester of 2020 and throughout the summer. We were not only challenged by COVID-19, but our chapter went through a healthy cleaning called a membership review. This experience left some scars, and the challenge of rebuilding our chapter to be better and improve our culture has been a joint effort among many. For a two-year period, Sigma Chi International installed a Leadership Director, Stuart Stringham, to work with our Grand Praetor and chapter advisor to focus on our culture and leadership skills. The college environment has drastically changed in many ways.

Your board has worked tirelessly to prepare the chapter for COVID requirements, and the time commitment exponentially increased! I would like to thank **Steve Sarovich '75**, **Jim Escobar '95**, and **Dan Mackey**, who spearheaded much of the preparedness—along with **Eric Rahn '75** and his company—who thoroughly sanitized the house. Steve and Jim helped with PPE equipment and an Illini chair, so we could more easily promote social distancing around the house. We were all on several calls with the university and the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Office to learn and implement all the protocols. The basement rooms were segregated as quarantine rooms and we supported those who tested positive and could not go home by paying for their stay at local hotels. It has been quite challenging.

Our membership review left us with 35 brothers living in the chapter home and a lower number of OOHAs. We normally have about 120 brothers on campus, so the financial situation has been

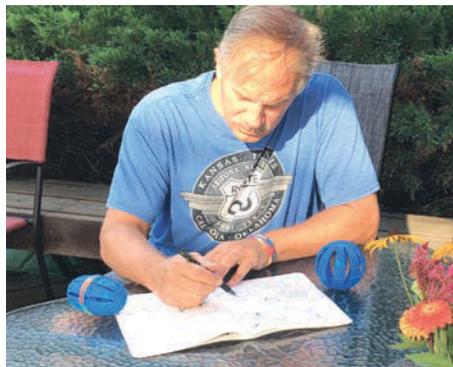
Corporation President (continued on page 6)

## Alumni Spotlight | John Hinnen '79

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** For this edition of the newsletter we're shining the Spotlight on toy inventor **John Hinnen '79**. From the hometown of Peoria, Illinois, John graduated with a BFA in industrial design. As an active member, he served as the unofficial graphics chairman for several years. Today, he is the founder of the Bandit Ball Project and owner of Sundawg Design. He is also an organizer of the Peoria chapter of 1 Million Cups, a national entrepreneurial organization, and was recently awarded his fourth and fifth patents for the Bandit Ball and his snowball bat. John and his wife, Nancy, have been married for 34 years now, and they have three children: Kailee (age 31), Michael (deceased), and Nate (age 21), as well as four grandchildren. John and Nancy support several charities through the Bandit Ball Project, including the Jim and Trudy Maloof St. Jude Midwest Affiliate Clinic, the



Beau Grant Foundation, and Samaritan's Purse. He was previously involved in Peoria's South Side Mission's garden project, where his family helped to build hoop houses and planted and harvested food in underserved areas of the community. They currently attend Northwoods Community Church in Peoria.



John is most creative during his morning sketch time.

### What were some of your first inventions?

The first invention that I recall was made for a U of I Industrial Design class with the help of **Marty Kiesewetter '80**. It was a solar hotdog cooker, aptly named the *Sundawgger*. The thing could broil a brat to perfection in about two minutes. We didn't try to market it but probably should have. My company name, Sundawg Design, was inspired by that one. You can read more at [www.sundawg.us](http://www.sundawg.us).

### When do you do your best creative thinking?

When I'm alone in the early morning—helps if it's sunny—with a nice cup of coffee and my sketchbook. I've done the sketches on a cocktail napkin, too. Libations can be helpful!

### When an idea comes to you, what is your process to retain it?

Ideas are like blessings which sometimes come in an "aha!" moment. We all have those, right? Mostly, though, you have to work hard at it. My process is thinking, then doodling or drawing, and then building a model to see if it works. Trying to make something go from a thought to paper is usually the first step.

### Why are toys your inventor's focus?

The "kid" in me has always been fascinated with fun! So, we focus on what toys and games do... bring joy to people through play.



John showing his Snow Slugger prototype to his granddaughter.

Alumni Spotlight (continued on page 6)



## FROM THE CONSUL



Brothers,

The spring 2020 semester was unlike any semester in the Kappa Kappa Chapter's history. When the brothers arrived on campus to begin the semester, no one could have foreseen that we would be required to leave our beautiful chapter house due to a global pandemic. All of the diligent work and plans that were made for philanthropy, social events, and a traditional college experience were unfortunately postponed, and the prospect of returning to campus for the fall semester was uncertain. Despite

these difficult circumstances, I am proud to say that the brothers of the Kappa Kappa Chapter did not simply give up on advancing the interests of the fraternity amidst a pandemic; rather, they demonstrated their ability to adapt to any challenge presented to them.

*Pictured Below: Before the COVID-19 virus, many brothers would attend Illini basketball games in the State Farm Center. This particular game against Maryland was one of the biggest games of the season and a lot of brothers were able to attend, so we took a picture at a memorable game.*

As an example of our brothers' resilience, the Kappa Kappa Chapter attained an average GPA of 3.64 and received the first place Outstanding Scholarship Programming Award from IFC. Additionally, we are fortunate to have returned to campus for the fall 2020 semester, which can be attributed to the University of Illinois implementing the most comprehensive COVID-19 testing protocols in the country. The chapter continues to strive to have a positive impact on this campus, and I have been deeply honored to be the Consul for the outstanding group of gentlemen that comprises the Kappa Kappa Chapter of Sigma Chi.

In Hoc Signo Vinces,

*MRW*  
Maxwell White '22



For many years, the Kappa Kappa Chapter's basketball court had faded paint. This year, the week in-house brothers moved in, some decided it was time for a tune-up, so they gave the parking lot court a new coat of paint and made it look very slick.

- Consul:**  
Max White '22
- Pro Consul:**  
Kaleb Harding '22.50
- Annotator:**  
Alex Kapusta '22
- House Manager:**  
Cade Lussow '22
- Quaestor:**  
Aaron Gaspardo '22
- Magister:**  
Charlie Gainer '23
- Risk Manager:**  
Drew Moskaluk '23
- Social Chairs:**  
Lukas Elisha &  
Jack Donovan '22
- Scholarship Chairs:**  
Max Sauers &  
Declan Culver '23
- Media Director:**  
Alex Kapusta '22
- Head Rush Chairs:**  
Jack Donovan '22 &  
Colin Miller '23
- Historian:**  
Jimmy Humphrey '23

## CONNECT WITH US

[ILLINOISSIGS.ORG](http://ILLINOISSIGS.ORG)



**LINKEDIN:** "Sigma Chi Kappa Kappa Network"  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/12032790](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/12032790)



**FACEBOOK:** Search for "University of Illinois Sigma Chi - Kappa Kappa Chapter"



## Chapter Spotlight

## Nate O'Halloran

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Representing the chapter as Spotlight is Derby Days Chair **Nate O'Halloran**. From the hometown of Homer Glen, Illinois, Nate is one of the brightest brothers in the chapter. He recently returned to campus this semester after studying "abroad" away from campus with congressman Dan Lipinski in Washington, D.C., this past spring. Working toward a degree in political science, Nate is on track to graduate in spring 2022. In addition to his dedication to the chapter, he is also part of the Pre-Law Honors Society on campus. While at home, Nate works at KBS Fulfillment, which is the fulfillment center for Pulse TV.



*Nate in Washington, D.C., when he interned for Congressman Dan Lipinski as a congressional intern.*

### What led you to join the chapter?

During recruitment, I met some guys in the house and knew right away that I needed to be a part of the Kappa Kappa Chapter. The house is filled with gentlemen from top to bottom. One thing they valued more than everyone was the concept of "work hard, play hard," and this way of life intrigued me.



### What are some of the changes that the chapter will implement this semester?

We will implement all the necessary measures to ensure that COVID-19 is out of the house. This means social distancing, consistent cleaning, and limiting social events.

### How would you like to apply your degree after graduation?

I want to attend law school. Then after some

years of practicing law, I want to run businesses and become an investor. My end goal is to get elected into office to positively impact society.

### What have you done to prepare?

I read books, educate myself about world politics, and take notes from successful individuals on what they do the best.

### Outside of school, what do you do for fun?

I like to be a social person. I enjoy spending time with my friends. I also love meeting new people and getting to know what makes them unique. Another thing I enjoy doing outside of school is being physically active. This includes lifting weights and running a few miles.



*Nate and his family, ready to attend his sister's high school graduation ceremony.*

## Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors!

**Danny Ahern**  
Hinsdale, IL  
*Kinesiology*

**Jack Cheney**  
Naperville, IL  
*Economics*

**Dylan Graham**  
Naperville, IL  
*Economics*

**Jake Orlowski**  
Wauconda, IL – *Consumer Economics & Finance*

**Matt Skelton**  
Glen Ellyn, IL  
*Communications*

**Robert Vitek**  
Elmhurst, IL  
*Electrical Engineering*

**Vincent Arpino**  
Libertyville, IL  
*Accountancy*

**Reed Christensen**  
Shorewood, IL  
*Accountancy*

**John Hoffman**  
Elmhurst, IL  
*Civil Engineering*

**Brendan Rehfeld**  
Palos Park, IL  
*Environmental Economics*

**Nick Snarski**  
Waukegan, IL  
*Accountancy*

**Glenn West**  
Basking Ridge, NJ  
*Accountancy*

**Umer Bandukda**  
Oak Brook, IL  
*Systems Engineering*

**Reese Dolan**  
Mundelein, IL  
*Communications*

**Kenny Kazarian**  
Lake Forest, IL  
*Journalism*

**Matt Rouches**  
Naperville, IL  
*Architecture*

**Ryan Thayer**  
Hinsdale, IL  
*Accountancy & Finance*

**Zach Zentz**  
Mundelein, IL – *Consumer Economics & Finance*

**John Becker**  
Wheaton, IL  
*Political Science*

**Immanuel Fernando**  
Mendham, NJ  
*Computer Engineering*

**Michael Keegan**  
La Grange Park, IL  
*Civil Engineering*

**Kellan Schneider**  
Kirkwood, MO  
*Finance*

**Marshall Thompson**  
Champaign, IL  
*Accountancy*

**Joseph Bennett**  
Palos Park, IL  
*Mechanical Engineering*

**George Fitsalos**  
Naperville, IL  
*Financial Planning*

**Jack Naal**  
Joliet, IL – *Technical Systems Management*

**Tim Schneider**  
Naperville, IL  
*Accountancy*

**Paul Tonner**  
Chicago, IL – *Consumer Economics & Finance*



## Swing Away!

On Saturday, October 9, 10 Kappa Kappa Sigs gathered together for our annual golf outing of KK Sigs from the late '70s. Our gracious host was **Tim Schneider**, owner of the Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin, Illinois, and head of the Republican National Committee here in Illinois. **Glenn Holmquist** arranged for Lou Malnati's pizza after golf. We want to send out a big thank you to Tim Schneider, who has been hosting this event since its inception many years ago! It was a beautiful day for golf and memories.



*Participants of the golf outing (left to right) included Glenn Holmquist '80, Mark Anderson '77, Dan Mackey '75, Artie Gottlieb '78, Fred Wich '78, Jeff Kiolbasa '78, Peter Steger '79, Gordie Cole '79, Tim Schneider '77, and Harvey Seybold '77.*



### *Chapter Advisory Board Members NEEDED*

The Kappa Kappa House Corporation Board seeks alumni to join a Chapter Advisory Board. Members, who will serve through 2020, will provide regular advising to chapter leadership. Any interested alumni should contact **Tom Munger '13** at [tmunger121@gmail.com](mailto:tmunger121@gmail.com).

### *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](mailto: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!*



**Gene Wood '49** – I pledged Kappa Kappa in '43 in the first civilian class. I pledged March 16, 1943, and was initiated in April '43. Navy (or Army) had taken over the Sig house at 410 E. John St. and it was being turned back to a civilian fraternity. We were the first civilian pledge class and we had 410 E. John back in fall semester. Some pledge brothers were **Eric Eckstrom, Dick Carlson, Warren Rauscaw, Bob & Dick Hawyood, Chuck Supple, Jack Blackmon, Erle Johnson, Gene Fairbanks, Shedon Becher, and Don Johnson.**



**John A. Bruggen '54** – I have two children plus five grandchildren ranging in age from 20 to 32.

**Michael F. Hart '80** – Our first grandchild, Charlie, was welcomed to the world in July 2019.

**William J. McDonnell '82** - I have retired from Ford Motor Company after 33 and a half years. Congrats Bill!

**Arthur J. Baker '09** - I recently left Savills Inc. to join Concord Advantage LLC. In my role as president, I oversee the real estate investment firm's day-to-day operations and am responsible for building and managing its project teams throughout central Florida.

## The Kappa Kappa COVID Challenge

The Kappa Kappa COVID Challenge is a fundraising appeal to raise \$30,000 by December 31, 2020, to benefit the Sigma Chi Fraternity at the University of Illinois.

The proceeds of this fundraising effort will assist in the purchase of masks, sanitizer, cleaning products, signage, and other COVID related products, and will also go toward the costs of safety and social distancing improvements that are required by University of Illinois Private Certified Housing and the CU Health Department and are necessary for chapter house operations during this 2020-2021 challenging time.

Proceeds raised above the fundraising goal, if any, will go toward COVID-related improvements for the dining room, library, living room, computer room, and outside porch and patio areas.

We ask that you consider making a gift to the 2020 Kappa Kappa COVID Challenge today. Giving is easy! You can give online at [illinoisigs.org](http://illinoisigs.org). You can also send in your contribution using the enclosed form and envelope. A gift of \$100, \$250, \$500, or more will help us reach our \$30,000 goal. Thank you for your support!

### Chapter Eternal

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

**Jacob E. Staab '46**

**Bruce H. Berg '52**

**Charles R. Sturies '67**

**C. Richard Turnbow '47**

**Richard G. Wright '55**

**Christopher E. Klokkenga '03**

**James C. Nelson '48**

**L. Milton McClure '63**

**Neal O. Hammon '48**

**Charles R. Sturies '66**

### 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!**



# Alumni Spotlight *(continued from page 1)*

We market the Bandit Ball, our three-in-one toy ball, through our LLC, The Bandit Ball Project. Our website, banditball.com, went live in May 2019. We're expanding, which is fun to see. I'm thankful to all the Sigs who've supported us thus far. We have outreach with the project and give in-kind donations when possible to organizations involving kids.

We're introducing a family card deck this year called Holiday Circle. And we have hopes that Wham-O will market the Snow Slugger, a patented snowball bat we licensed to them in 2018.

It's included in their 70th anniversary "Super-Book," so we're optimistic!



*John with Marty K. and Dave West at the Illinois vs Nebraska game in February earlier this year.*

## What did you enjoy most as an active member of the chapter?

I've always been glad to have found Sigma Chi. I shared my time there with such good and talented guys. We had brotherhood, adventures, misadventures, and some heartfelt moments as a chapter. It's hard to say what stands out most, but the Sigma Chi values and friendships have lasted all these years.

## How do you stay in touch with your Kappa Kappa brothers today?

I send them shameless plugs about the Bandit Ball! But seriously, I'm still very close with several

brothers and the rest are just a call or email away. **Nate Miller '79** in Peoria was my kindergarten buddy and best man. **Tom Sandberg '78** and **Gary Erb '79** are my creative brothers. **Martin "Marty K." Kiesewetter '80** and **Dave West '79** are as well. We all get busy with life but at a point, you realize there are a finite number of years left and we should use them wisely. That includes reaching out and staying in touch.

## Outside of work, what do you do for fun?

Well, I collect masks. That was a joke! Friends and family are important, and we get together as much as possible. My wife, Nancy, and I are coming up on 35 years this December. We love adventuring... chasing sunsets and connecting with our kids and grandkids. Our son, Nate, will be a senior at Illinois this fall, so Illini gatherings have been fun the past few years. Our daughter Kailee's four kids are of the age where they can be models for my products. Fortunately, they're willing participants and that makes "working" fun as well.

## Which achievements are you most proud of?

After college, I set right out as an independent designer. I marketed several products and had some large national accounts. Then reality took hold. We bought a house, raised our family, and I worked in a factory for 26 years. This is my second act as an entrepreneur. I have a couple of new patents and there are a lot of folks excited about our stuff. I could not have done this on my own, without the help of God and family and friends. So, if I'm proud at all, it's in providing fun products and knowing I kept at it.

## What advice can you give the actives and alumni about pursuing a dream?

Well, it's somewhat cliché, but I'd have to



*Family Bandit Ball photo shoot.*

say never give up. When in college, our dreams are unlimited. By the time we're 70, we may just want to relax and have a beer at the end of the day. But there's a common thread for all the time in between. It's the chance to push for the exceptional. What are you so excited about that it wakes you up at night? Whether you're 23 or 70... just grab ahold of that and don't let go.



*John with his son, Nate, who is a senior at Illinois.*

## Corporation President

*(continued from page 1)*

difficult. We feel very good about our "band of brothers" and our commitment to improve. Despite the many challenges, our most recent ranking among all fraternities in terms of GPA and scholarship was a No. 6 ranking #6. PROUD TO BE A SIG!

The Chapter Executive Committee rose to the occasion to implement and adhere to the COVID protocols and the many changes we needed to incorporate. We are establishing a Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) of younger alumni, spear-headed by **Mike Bellah '14** and **Tom Munger '13**. I want to thank Mike and Tom for charging ahead into this new development! The CAB will be charged with working with our Grand Praetor, **Blake Pierce**, and **Jeff Rieck**, our chapter advisor,

in bringing enhanced guidance and support to the young men of our chapter. Accountability, guidance, focus, and more involvement will be healthy as we meet the needs and challenges of university life.

I would like to thank **Joe Perozzi '14**, who has been on the board for many years. He was most recently in charge of our scholarship program. He implemented a new GPA policy and, along with Steve Sarovich, worked very hard to allocate our scholarship awards. Joe was a rock star. THANK YOU, Joe, for your dedication and efforts on behalf of our beloved chapter. I have asked Dan Mackey to fill Big Joe's shoes. Thank you, Dan!

Our physical plant is in good shape. **Jason Detweiler '08** has been leading the way to keep our chapter house at 410 in shape and coordinating the work necessary with our property

management company. Our financial condition is good but challenging. We are in a rebuild to get our house capacity back to normal. Jim Escobar has done a great job overseeing the financial condition of the chapter.

Our master of support and commitment from behind the scenes is **Mark Anderson '77**. He continues to support Headquarters on various projects and continues to be my guiding light! As the song says, "we will survive," and with the efforts of our Kappa Kappa Board team, we will continue our efforts on your behalf.

In hoc,

Peter Steger '79

President of your House Corporation