



Cheers to another great semester

Brothers, another productive semester is underway here at Bradley University, and much more is to come. We have had one of the most productive formal rushes in recent memory, events to the benefit of the USO and Wildlife Prairie Park, and many other events planned! We also took the time to talk with Ryan Willerton, our president in '93 and saw how the chapter has affected his life.

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Recruitment

2016

We hit the ground running with recruitment this semester and had one of our most successful formal rushes in years. So far we have gained four new pledges, bringing our total pledge class up to seven. We are currently working on strategies to increase our social excellence to gain even more members.



Wildlife Scary Park

The past two weekends our brothers have spent time volunteering at Wildlife Prairie Park scaring kids along the haunted train ride. This is our fourth year in a row volunteering there.



168th Ekklesia

A delegation of three undergraduates, and one graduate attended this year's 168th Ekklesia in Boston, Massachusetts. The brothers enjoyed a Boston Red Sox game, and one of the delegates (Trent Werner '19) was even initiated at Ekklesia! In addition, our very own Michael Lucas ('81) finished his term as Archon-President, and he was drenched with water for the ice bucket challenge to raise ALS awareness.





Teeter Totter

We had another successful teeter totter marathon for the USO. The marathon went from 9 am on Friday October 14th until 9 am the next day. Every one of the undergraduate brothers participated and overall we raised a total of \$200 in addition to having a lot of fun.



Nerf War & S'mores

"This was by far the biggest nerf fight we have ever had, and it was extremely fun to shoot at everyone. S'mores around the bonfire afterwards was a great time to get to talk to the lovely ladies of Sigma Delta Tau! Until someone dropped a marshmallow into the fire...."

— Matt Heerdegen



Graduate Spotlight: Ryan Willerton ('96)

Ryan Willerton served as president of the chapter in '93. He will also be the keynote speaker for the upcoming Frank Norris Pig Dinner



What did you do right after college?

After graduating from Bradley in 1996, I attended graduate school at Eastern Illinois University for two years and obtained a master's degree in educational psychology and guidance/college student affairs. After graduate school I obtained a position working in the Student Activities Office at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.

Where are you currently working?

I have been working at Notre Dame for the last 18 years in a variety of administrative capacities, including student activities, housing, and facility management. I am currently the Director of the Office of Community Standards where I am responsible for overseeing the University's student conduct (disciplinary) process.

What kind of skills did you learn during your time in the chapter?

A few of the skills I learned in my time as an undergrad include the importance of developing relationships to get goals accomplished and the need for advisement, guidance, mentorship, and support by others. Rollie's advice on the need for a "kitchen cabinet" is something I advise other students to this day. Phi Gamma Delta was the gateway to my future career. Up until November of my senior year I wanted to be a high school Spanish teacher. I then found out that I could pursue a career in my passion -- fraternity life and university involvement. Thanks to Jason Preston getting me involved in ACBU or Peter

Aranavage's leadership in the Geisert Hall cafeteria, the connections I made through Fiji opened my eyes to another aspect of university life... and what is now my career.

What are some of your favorite memories of the chapter?

I have many fond memories of my time at Beta Pi. A few that come to mind include: calling out in front of Bradley Hall; being initiated in the old chapter house down the street; being one of the first residents in the chapter house at 1301; sharing a room with Pat "Recline" Concepcion; getting treated to lunch at Avanti's by Rollie; the chapter being recognized for the Ed King Award every year I was an undergrad; and most of all, making lifelong friendships.

Do you have any advice for new graduates?

My advice for new graduates is to find your passion and see your work as a vocation. Don't look at a career as a job that pays the bills -- look at it as a way to serve others and bring happiness to your life. Find a career that you enjoy waking up to every morning and having responsibilities you don't mind doing when you have down time.