



Sigma Nu - Zeta Lambda Alumni Newsletter Spring 2021

Message from the EC

Hello! My name is Ryan McGregor and I am the current Eminent Commander of the Zeta Lambda colony at TU! I'm originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, and came here to study Petroleum Engineering. Although I was unsure about joining Greek life at first, I ended up meeting such honorable guys on campus that all seemed to hail from one organization, Sigma Nu. After reflecting on my upbringing by my parents, I realized that not only I would prosper in such an organization, my family connections would as well. I've worked hard for Sigma Nu, but it always seems fun to do the work. From filling out university forms for hours, to relaxing over some wings with our alumni, I wouldn't change this experience or these people for the world.

In this Issue:

Colony/Petition Update	1
House Improvements	2
Alumnus Spotlight	3
Actives News	4
Alumni News	6
In Memoriam	7
Important Dates	8
Contact Us	9

New Colony Program Installed: The Colonist Rank

On the evening of August 23, 2019, qualifying Candidates of the Zeta Lambda Colony at the University of Tulsa participated in the inaugural Colonist Ceremony at Sharp Chapel on campus. The ceremony was the first of its kind in Sigma Nu history, and is part of the new Colonist Program for Sigma Nu Colonies.

A new colony-level ritual ceremony, crafted by a committee of alumni from various chapters and overseen by Director of Expansion **Evan Winebarger** (ΘK, Georgia Southern), was demonstrated for the first time. Performing the ceremony were Sigma Nu alumni from Zeta Lambda Chapter. In attendance were alumni from Rho (Missouri), Epsilon Epsilon (Oklahoma State), Delta Epsilon (Oklahoma), Zeta Lambda (Tulsa), Delta Omicron (Idaho), Eta Phi (Cal. Sate Los Angeles) and Theta Sigma (Missouri State) chapters, as well as past Regent **Joe Francis** (EE, Oklahoma State).

Those Candidates who participated in the ceremony were promoted to the new colony-level rank of *Colonist*. This rank is designed to mimic the structure of a chartered chapter by elevating worthy Candidates to a higher rank that would otherwise be commensurate with initiation. In

addition, the Colonist Program provides the necessary structure to facilitate mentoring of all members; Colonists are mentored by alumni while the Colonists themselves are charged with mentoring younger members.

This tradition has continued since its installation at Zeta Lambda Colony. Five ceremonies have been conducted where 17 young men have been raised to the rank of Colonist.



Inaugural Colonist Ceremony. (Left to right) Front row: Cameron Alred, Cameron Borens, Michael Orcutt, Jacob Lusk, Dustin Light (ZA 633). Second row: Dr. Jeremy Edwards (ZA 489), Ryan Stapf, Jeremy Eavey, James Smith Williams, Andrew Thorne, Joe Francis (EE, Oklahoma State). Third Row: Ray Duncan (P, Missouri), Michael Burrell (ΔE, Oklahoma), Noah Duncan (ΘΣ, Missouri State), James Childress (ZA 359), John Williams (ZA 433), Marc Nelson (ZA 513), Dr. Carey Waters (ZA 481). Top Row: Will DeViney (ΔO, Idaho), Darren Fritz (ZA 432), Michael Griffin (ZA 549).

Zeta Lambda Colony/Petition Update

The course of events over the last year have been heavily affected by the pandemic caused by COVID-19. Therefore, many functions and events, including chapter and many classes have either been cancelled or moved virtually. Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic, the colony and its members have continued to develop and continue to work toward earning reactivation of Zeta Lambda's charter.

This semester, the Colony served the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma packing food kits for families in need. Working in two- three-hour shifts, the Colony packed thousands of meal boxes and collectively achieved our goal of averaging at least six community service hours per member. Six hours of service per member puts our chapter in the "excellent" criteria for the community service portion of our chartering petition. The philanthropic dinner was not held this year because of COVID-19 protocol.

Recruitment has significantly improved over the last year. Seven new members accepted bids in the fall semester. The new members are **Eric Schnelker** (who serves as Recruitment Chairman), **Joel Roth**, **Chrystian Marshall**, **Conner Tucker**, **Elias Martin**, **Parker Williams**, and **Trevor Evans**.



The COVID-19 pandemic precluded holding a Colonist/Candidate ceremony in the fall 2020 semester. In March 2021, at Sharp Chapel, Zeta Lambda inducted six new Candidates and promoted three existing Candidates to the rank of Colonist. The new Candidates are Chrystian Marshall, Elias Martin, Eric Schnelker, Joel Roth, Parker Williams, and Trevor Evans. Candidates promoted to Colonist rank are Ryan McGregor, Aidan Holzman, and Maxwell Zines. Colonists Jay Redfearn and William Martin performed as ushers during the ceremony. The Ritual was demonstrated by brothers Bill Snedden (ZA 448, Sentinel), Andy Gingerich (ZA 559, Marshal), Dr. Carey Waters (ZA 481, Chaplain), Dr. Jeremy Edwards (ZA 489, Lieutenant Commander), and Marc Nelson (ZA 513, Eminent Commander).



Active Members of Zeta Lambda Colony (Left to Right): Elias Martin, Ryan McGregor, Joel Roth, Aidan Holzman, William Martin, James Smith Williams, Jay Redfearn, Eric Schnelker, Maxwell Zines, Chrystian Marshall, Parker Williams, Trevor Evans, Cameron Borens. Not pictured: Tyler Tran, Conner Tucker, Grant Kinsey, Jason Yiliqi, Wyatt Ozment, Andrew Thorne

House Improvements



In 2018, a major update of the chapter house interior, funded by cash and in-kind gifts made by alumni, was completed. In that update, existing carpet in the living room and entry hall was replaced with new, durable vinyl flooring. In addition, the common spaces in the front of the house were painted, and a rock wall was installed around the fireplace to replace an aging and dated mantle. Further improvements include restoration of many composites which have not hung on the chapter house walls in almost two

decades. This major improvement set the tone for the growth of Sigma Nu at TU by making a huge step forward in solidifying our place on the row.

In the spring 2021 semester, led by House Manager **Maxwell Zines**, the colony decided to perform some house improvements for the upcoming fall recruitment and to accommodate their increasing campus presence. The renovations are being done in collaboration with the TU Housing Office. Some renovations that have been performed are touching up some worn painted surfaces and moving and replacing furniture in the house. Renovations planned over the summer include more painting, replacement of wood paneling around windows, renovation of the billiard room, and construction of an oak table with branded Sigma Nu letters. These renovations are sure to help prepare the colony for fall 2021 recruitment, and make the house a better place for brothers to live, hang out, and perform events and chapter meetings.

Alumnus Spotlight James E. “Jim” Hickerson (ZΛ 172)

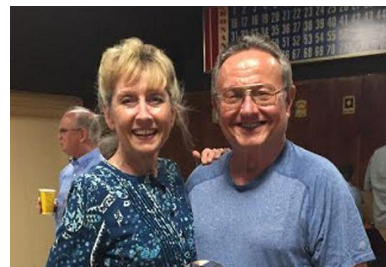


Jim Hickerson was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 5, 1944. Between 1944 and 1963 he lived in Midtown Tulsa at which time he entered The University of Tulsa and proudly changed his address to 564 South Gary Place upon joining Sigma Nu Fraternity. Jim’s uncle, **Robert W. Bowker** (EE 511, Oklahoma State), pinned Jim at his initiation ceremony in 1963.

Following his time at TU, Jim entered the United States Army where he completed Basic Combat Training (Boot Camp), at Fort Polk, Louisiana, in 1967. During his Army service, Jim was a member of Army bands at Fort Sill, OK (97th); Seoul, Korea (8th Army); Fort Polk, LA (60th); Worms, Germany (76th); Colorado Springs (NORAD); Fort Meade, MD (1st Army); and Atlanta, GA (Forces Command).

Jim and Fran did go on that date, and he has since moved back, by himself, to Tulsa. Jim says he was simply existing in Georgia, but now feels alive again now that he is back in Oklahoma.

Jim and Fran currently live just outside Tulsa, Oklahoma, between Sand Springs and Sapulpa.



If you would like to suggest a brother to be included in a future Alumnus Spotlight, please reach out at the contact information provided at the end of the newsletter.

Actives News



Cameron Alred, who graduated in May 2020, has been accepted to the TU Team8 Cyber Fellows Program. The program is a competitive PhD fellowship that represents a collaboration between investors and academia and gives students the opportunity to perform research projects including, but not limited to, security, big data, and artificial intelligence, with an eye toward commercialization and investment. Cameron is a past Marshal for Zeta Lambda Colony and is a member of Alpha Phi Omega.

Cameron Borens, who will be graduating in May, plans to attend medical school at the Long School of Medicine at The University of Texas-San Antonio. Cameron plans to obtain an MD degree and will begin classes in the Fall. Cameron has also been offered a scholarship to attend the university. Cameron served as our Scholarship Chairman this past year and is currently serving as the colony's Treasurer.



Tyler Tran plans to travel to Seoul, Korea in the Fall for a semester-long study abroad program at Hanyang University. Tyler is also a member of Phi Eta Sigma and previously served as the colony's Recruitment Chairman.

Jay Redfearn has been initiated into the Order of Omega. Jay serves leadership positions as IT Director for the colony and Treasurer for TU College Republicans, and he has previously served as Treasurer of the Oklahoma Federation of College Republicans. Jay has worked on many political campaigns across the United States during the 2020 election cycle.



James Smith Williams was awarded the Jess Chouteau Outstanding Senior Award for 2020-21. The award is given to ten seniors who demonstrate excellence in both academic and service endeavors. James also won the David R. Lawson Outstanding Senior Award



for the Collins College of Business. James was on the Homecoming Court and won the Investment Portfolio Challenge last fall. James is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Order of Omega and Phi Eta Sigma honor societies. James serves as Philanthropy Chairman for the colony and is a past Zeta Lambda Colony Commander. James also serves as the Treasurer for the Student Investment Fund and IFC, as well as the Vice President of SA and Future Alumni Council.



Several of our members are in leadership positions for different organizations and honor societies. Seven members; **James Smith Williams, Elias Martin, Joel Roth, Tyler Tran, Eric Schnelker, Ryan McGregor, and Aidan Holzman**; are members of Phi Eta Sigma. Two of our members, **Eric Schnelker** and **Elias Martin** are also members of Alpha Psi Omega. Three members, **James Smith Williams, Cameron Borens, and Jay Redfearn** are members of Order of Omega. **Elias Martin** is the elected secretary of the Society of Physics Students. **William Martin** is a member of American Society of Mechanical Engineers and MADE at TU. **Ryan McGregor** and **Aidan Holzman** are members of the Society of Petroleum Engineers. **Joel Roth, Eric Schnelker, Chrystian Marshall** and **Trevor Evans** are members of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.



ASME International



Alumni News

Dr. **Joe Crowder** (ZA 268) lives in Broken Arrow, OK with his wife, TU alumna Pam McCrory Crowder. Joe serves on the TU Alumni Board, TU Homecoming Committee, TU Uncorked Committee, TU Heritage Committee. Joe is a past Zeta Lambda Alumni Advisory Board member. Joe and Pam love TU football and basketball. They spend time with grandchildren, read books, and travel (eventually)! Joe and Pam keep up with Sigma Nu through social media and Zeta Lambda brothers.

Dr. **Jeremy Edwards** (ZA 489), was appointed Division Commander for the Central Plains Alpha Division of Sigma Nu Fraternity by the Sigma Nu High Council with the support of Sigma Nu HQ. In this volunteer role, he works closely with Sigma Nu alumni and active chapters in Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. Brother Edwards plans to continue to chair the Zeta Lambda Alumni Advisory Board. Following a brief relocation to the Charlotte, NC area, he and his wife Paula returned to Tulsa in 2020. In his “spare time,” Brother Edwards works as a senior computational aerodynamicist for Corvid Technologies, a defense contractor based in Mooresville, NC.



Timothy Fischer (ZA 446) serves as Alumni Advisory Board chairman for the Delta Epsilon (Oklahoma) chapter of Sigma Nu Fraternity. Tim resides in Oklahoma City with his wife Amy and their two sons. In 2021, Tim competed in his 22nd-consecutive Boston Marathon.

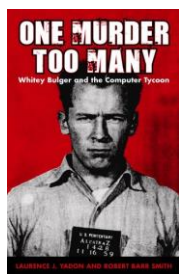


Marc Nelson (ZA 513) was hired by American Electric Power (AEP) after completion of a multi-year contract in Telecommunications Project Management for AEP's operations in Texas. Marc currently serves as Chapter Advisor for Zeta Lambda Colony at TU.

John Forte (ZA 545), has been named president and chief executive officer of the Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation (VT-ARC).

Antwane Owens (ZA 544) continues his service on the Board of Trustees of The University of Tulsa with committee assignments on both the TU Presidential Search Committee and Special Strategic Planning Committee. Brother Owens recently accepted a position at Chewy following several years at Amazon in Seattle. He and his wife Katrina recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary.

In March 2019, Zeta Lambda alumni and collegians joined alumni from other chapters in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the 1869 founding of Sigma Nu Fraternity. This event, held in Oklahoma City, was one of ten such nationwide events. Brothers **Timothy Fischer** (ZA 446) and Dr. **Jeremy Edwards** (ZA 489) served on the event's steering committee. The event was attended by Sigma Nu dignitaries including current Regent **John Hearn** (M, Georgia), Executive Director **Brad Beacham** (AE, Texas Christian) past Regents **Joe Gilman** (OT, Morehead State) and **Joe Francis** (EE, Oklahoma State), and Oklahoma State University president **V. Burns Hargis** (EE, Oklahoma State).



Laurence "Larry" Yadon II (ZA 221) continues to work as a Tulsa attorney, book author and editor. His current literary project is a follow-on to his 2013 book, "One Murder Too Many: Whitey Bulger and the Computer Tycoon." Larry is in his fourth year of service on the Alumni Advisory Board, advising the colony in matters of Compliance and Risk Reduction.

On the weekend of April 23rd, 2021, (Left to Right) Brothers **Matthew Bishop** (ZA 520), **Kenneth Gaines** (ZA 508), **Ron Pritchett** (ZA 525), **Jim Hicks** (ZA 528), **Jim Schad** (ZA 546), **Marty Jennings** (ZA 515) and **Shaun Whitehorse** (ZA 522) held a mini-reunion, “Old Guys Trip 2021: Camp Roughin’ It” in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.



Will DeViney (AO 1676, Idaho) married Zeta Lambda past Sweetheart **Erin Anderson** in August 2020. The couple currently reside in Tulsa, and Will works for TU in the office of Alumni Engagement. Erin is a speech pathologist in Tulsa.



During a recent trip to Tulsa from his home city of Houston, **J.R. Criner** (ZA 431) stopped by the Sigma Nu house to show his enthusiastic and unwavering support for Zeta Lambda Colony.



Please email alumni@tulsasigmanu.com to let us know what you have been up to lately, so we can include you in the next installment of Alumni News!

In Memoriam

These initiates have entered Chapter Eternal since our last issue of the Alumni Newsletter:

Clarence T. Baker (ZA 9), 1927–2018
Brock W. Beasley (ZA 451), 1967–2019
Robert B. Bridges (ZA 65), 1934–2018
Shane M. Cornell (ZA 121), 1941–2021

Travis B. Day (ZA 567), 1975–2018
Joseph M. Klein (ZA 634), 1980–2021
Larry S. Lyon (ZA 215), 1947–2019



Important Dates

May 15

Deadline for Grand Chapter Registration.

June 23-27

Virtual Grand Chapter. \$25 registration fee; [Click here for details and registration](#). All initiated Sigma Nus are welcome to attend. Registration deadline May 15!

August 18-22

Freshman and transfer student orientation.

August 20-22

Formal Recruitment. Alumni participation is requested.

October 7-10

Homecoming weekend. TU plays Memphis on Saturday 10/9. As always, the Sigma Nu reunion tailgate will start four hours before kickoff (TBA). Stay tuned to your email and the Sigma Nu Alumni Facebook page for details as the date approaches!

How You Can Help

There are many ways where you can get involved in helping Sigma Nu grow to its former prominence at TU. Whether it is a monetary gift, in-kind contribution, or simply serving on the Alumni Advisory Board, no contribution is too small or insignificant. Currently, the alumni are trying to satisfy the following initiatives:

1. Fund scholarship(s) to be awarded to a deserving active member which will help cover his fraternity dues, books, and any other academic expenses. Scholarships are funded through either the Zeta Lambda Alumni fund or the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation. Scholarship amounts are requested at the \$500 level.
2. Assist with funding or performing house improvement projects. TU covers general upkeep of the chapter house, but will only do so much, and it is up to us to do the rest! Having a quality chapter home is beneficial in recruitment and retention of members, chapter image, and alumni presence, just to name a few.
3. Serve on the AAB. The Alumni Advisory Board is actively seeking dedicated brothers to volunteer their time. Service on the Board only requires a minimum of around four hours per month and primarily involves mentoring and coaching collegiate officers. We are currently seeking to fill several AAB positions with Sigma Nu brothers who are willing to give back to the Fraternity just as the Fraternity has given to them.

These are just three ways to give back to Sigma Nu. Please reach out to either the Advisory Board Chairman Dr. **Jeremy Edwards** or Alumni Relations Chairman **William Martin** with any questions or suggestions. Their contact information is in the Contact Us section below.

“Don’t let it die, Baldinger. Don’t let it die.”

--Founder James Frank Hopkins (A 1), 1913, from his deathbed.
Command to “Keeper of the Rock” Ora M. Baldinger (A 133).

Contact Us

Website: www.tulsasigmanu.com
Email: alumni@tulsasigmanu.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/15951843988/

Chapter House (on Fraternity Row):

3211 E. 7th Street
Tulsa, OK 74104

Primary Alumni Contacts:

Dr. Jeremy Edwards
Division Commander and AAB Chairman
jeremyedwardsphd@gmail.com
603-733-6084

William Martin
Alumni Relations Chairman
williamrmartin99@gmail.com
512-695-8359

Donations:

Donations may be made to the **Zeta Lambda Alumni Association** by mail:

Zeta Lambda Alumni Association

545 Parkhurst Drive
Dallas, TX 75218

Or by PayPal to: alumni@tulsasigmanu.com

We appreciate your support!

