

TKE ΣΞ Newsletter

Bridging the Gap Between Alumni and Actives



New semester, new goals

In recent years there has been a subtle disconnect between Alumni and Active members of the Sigma-Xi chapter. The goal of this semester, and forward, is to strengthen the bond that each member swore on. The hope is that there will be more frequent communication, on-campus events, and reunions that can once again strengthen the alumni-active bond. The hope is that the semester will be spent updating the long-outdated contact information. With these updates to alumni communication the bond between alumni and actives is bound to grow with ease in the future. More on how we're bridging the gap on page 3!

Mark your Calendars—Upcoming Chapter Events!

Rush Week—February 5th-9th

Crush Dance—February 17th at the Starlite Club (Contact mason.vanrossum@snc.edu for info)

TKE Weekend - April 27th-29th (Contact sam.wenberg@snc.edu for info)

Spring Fling (More on Page 5) - April 3rd-7th

Farewell to Dr. Neary - Date TBD—More on page 6

TKE Your Hair Off - Date TBD

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Sigma-Xi
St. Norbert College

Fall Semester Recap:

This Fall was full of events for the actives. In September, we had an extremely successful rush week. Over the course of the week we had a total of 70 different potential new members attend our events. We ended up handing out 12 bids, with 8 men making it through the process. Our current chapter size at the beginning of our Spring 2018 semester sits at 34 men.

In addition to a successful recruitment and pledging season, the chapter was busy with Fundraising and Philanthropy. We were able to continue our role with Delaware North Food serving food to the club seats during Packer home games. Our philanthropy efforts for St. Jude Children's hospital during SNC day proved to be successful and we were able to raise over \$500 (picture below). Thanks to Frater Cody Schober (#261) and other alumni contributions, we were able to add a fantastic tent with a TKE label covering it. This tent has been extremely beneficial for philanthropy, rush, and social events and would not have been possible without the assistance of our alumni.

The 2017-2018 Executive Board wrapped up their term and a new set of members have taken their roles and are ready to serve the fraternity in their new roles over the next two semester! More on them later....

We featured a small alumni gathering in October. We had a total of 10 alumni attend the gathering. The pilgrimage to Joe Rouer's was made and much fun was had throughout the weekend as alumni and active members reconnected and met for the first time. Those that attended had a fantastic time and we're hoping it can be a small step towards another great reunion in the future!

During the month of October we also had a brotherhood event at Frater Chandler Brennan's home. We returned the tradition of reverse gavel pass for the second semester and left the retreat with a newfound sense of brotherhood. Additional brotherhood events are in the works for the coming semester!

Key Results Areas

St. Norbert College—ΣΞ Chapter

Initiates:

8 men of the 14 men goal

Finances:

\$900 Owed/ \$0 Goal

St. Jude Dollars:

\$400 Raised/ \$1,650 Goal

Service Hours:

130 Hours/ 1300 Hour Goal

Conclave Attendance:

4 Men/ 2 Men Goal

Province Forum Attendance:

6 Men/4 Men goal

Average Chapter GPA:

3.23 - Highest for SNC fraternities

Chapter Rank:

Nationally - #117/241

Area - #44/79

Province - #4/6



Bridging the Gap

As time passes and alumni members have changes in their lives, it is inevitable that some will drift away from the close connections that were once held. Regardless of this drift, the bond that was undertaken by all members will connect us forever. Alumni relations are crucial for not only reconnecting long lost brothers, but also sharing history of the chapter. The history behind this chapter, nearly 28 years worth, is spread over throughout the 300 members that have now been inducted into this chapter. One of the greatest parts about the reuniting of alumni and introduction of new members to them, is the re-kindling of this history, good and bad. The active members rely on this history to help guide them in their continuation of this great chapter. As the great Winston Churchill once said: "Those that fail to learn from history, are doomed to repeat it."

In order to begin to improve on alumni relations and make the chapter more accessible to you, the alumni, we have a few ideas in progress. This Fall a list containing every alumni member ever registered as a TKE member at SNC was obtained from the Alumni Relations officer on campus. This list was used as our primary method in communicating the dates and information about the previously planned Fall 2017 Red Carnation Ball, which did not happen. Based on the lack of responses we received from those communications, it has been determined most of that contact information may also be inaccurate or outdated. Thus, a "mission" of sorts has begun to create a list of alumni contact information that we can absolutely verify is up to date. We've decided the best way to complete this task is through a "Google Form". This form, found at: <https://goo.gl/forms/8jAtftoQLM8nKEGB2> will allow the chapter to collect updated contact information and learn what the alumni members of the chapter would like to see from the chapter.

Also included in the google form are a number of different questions pertaining to what YOU, the alumni, want from the chapter. In May 2015 the chapter celebrated it's 25th anniversary with a fantastic reunion with incredible attendance that included alumni all throughout the chapter's history. Many of the alumni and actives that were fortunate to attend have said that they would be open to having another event of the sort. Another event on the scale of the 25th may be reserved for the 30th anniversary in May 2020, however, if there is a large enough interest among alumni there could be potential for doing an alumni reunion each year. This was a tradition for some time, but with the transitioning of the homecoming events to the spring (more on this on page 5), the opportunity to reunite during Homecoming has been changed slightly. As described, alumni reunions can be important for the success of the chapter, but it's truly up to the alumni what these reunions might entail. We look forward to hearing from you!

Special thanks to James Benware (#20) for the picture of the 1990-1991 composite!

Pictured from left to right:

Top row - Jeffery L. Brown, John J. Czajkowski, James J. Beehler, Donald J. Wachal, Brent M. Weycker, James A. Guelcher, James E. Sabish, John T. Barry, Max A. Ranft

2nd Row - Patrick M. Scherer, Robert W. Strauch, Michael B. Van De Hey, Rev. Ed Smith, Scott D. Wilson, Timothy L. Wilken

3rd Row - Gregory J. Withbroe, James M. Benware, Mark M. O'Brien, David C. Henze, Eric E. Edson, Matthew T. Lungaro

4th Row - Scott J. Piotrowski, Stephen D. Klein, Michael T. Schulte, William C. Bachman, Mary Baugnet, Eric S. Gissel, Gerald J. Lowrie, Daniel P. Miller, Christopher W. Howard

5th Row - Sa Vang, Daniel T. Altenburg, Thomas R. Posta, Patrick J. Hyde, Troy A. Heesen, Paul M. Ostlick, Michael D. Haderer, Michael J. Ryan, Scott L. McCaskey, Brian T. Etzel



February Senior Send Off

Chandler Brennan (#275) graduated this January following an Honors trip to The Philippines studying food ethics. Chandler graduated with a degree in biology and is has been accepted to Marquette School of Dentistry class of 2022. Until dental school begins in the fall, Chandler is living in his hometown of Manitowoc where he is currently job hunting. Chandler will spend his free time working out, traveling, and spending time with his friends at SNC.

We wish Chandler the best of luck as he pursues his post-SNC goals!

**Alumni Please Fill out the following Google Form discussed on
page 3!**

<https://goo.gl/forms/8jAtftoQLM8nKEGB2>



Brothers Abroad

Hey everyone! Hope everything is going well in your lives! I'm currently spending a semester in Valencia, Spain, studying and working towards completing my International Business and Language Area Studies degree. In order to attain it, I am required to spend a semester in any country that speaks the language I've studied, and I selected Valencia, Spain. I arrived here January 9th, and will be returning on April 28, and am studying through the University of Virginia's program here. With each class being worth 3 credits in the United States, I'm taking 5 different classes to ensure I do not fall behind.

As for my life outside of classes, I'm living with a host family. I have a housemate who's part of the program as well, who happens to be a TKE from Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania. Who would've guessed that I would run into one of us in a place so far away? I guess it's a reminder that the brotherhood extends beyond all borders, and that we are all connected. We've quickly become good friends. The food over here has been pretty good and Valencia is known for its paella. After sampling the dish, I can see why they are so proud of it. The weather has been much nicer compared to a Wisconsin winter, with high temperatures of 75 degrees or more. During a trip to the beach, a quick hop into the Mediterranean Sea reminded me that it's still January here. Brrrrr! Two weeks ago, I also had the opportunity to tour Xativa, a town about 45 minutes away from Valencia. It's the only place in the world other than Rome to produce two popes, and their basilica was breathtaking. I also had the opportunity to tour the 2,000 year old castle. While the climb up the mountain on top of which the castle is perched was not for the faint of heart, the view from the top was breathtaking and completely worth it. I also joined a large group of program students in a beer pong ladder tournament. My team was able to take first place, taking home the prize of clay beer cups, a beer on the house, and a Napoleon-style hat for Waterloo beer. That's all I have to say for now, I hope to have more exciting news for the next newsletter!

YITB,

Byron Owen

"Abraham Cool Ranch"

#286



The Future of Homecoming

As some may have noticed, homecoming this past fall took on a much different look than years past. Traditionally, homecoming week has included events for Greek and Social groups, such as Airbands, Scream your Theme, etc. However, this past fall those events were removed from the homecoming schedule. This year's homecoming included the Heritage Ball, a cannonball event in the new campus pool, a trivia night, and the staple football game. The traditional homecoming events that many Greek and Social life alumni have come to know and love have now been moved to a week in the spring, called "Spring Fling". This week will once again give the Greek and Social groups fighting rights for the ability to pick their Ugly/Queen before other groups if they win the week. On Saturday, April 7th at 5pm the traditional Airbands event will make a return and the chapter hopes to once again claim the title as #1 as it competes with it's "Animal Planet" television network theme. We hope you can join us for rooting on the chapter and the festivities that will undoubtedly follow the event! More information will be provided as it is received, but please contact the chapter at SigmaXiTKE@gmail.com with any question.



Pictured Above: The 1996 TKE homecoming float. Including: Brian Began, Chad Groholski, Marty Squire, and Dan Maul.

Pictured Below: Sean Topacio, Evan Krummel, and Cody Schober (Left to right). Also known as the SNC Dads

February Alumni Spotlight—Sean Topacio

Our February Alumni Spotlight is Sean Topacio (#262) of Alpha-Psi pledge class, brother of Chaz Topacio (#239). He is one of the many accomplished alumni of the Sigma-Xi chapter. During his time in the chapter he held the positions of Recruitment Chair and Hegemen. He was also the ulgy to Kappa Beta Gamma sorority during his senior year. He graduated in 2015 and has sent us the following update:

"I am currently living in Green Bay and am employed by Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin. I have recently transitioned from being the Supervisor of the Behavioral Support Team at a residential facility for at-risk youth to a new position within the same agency. I am currently working as a Social Worker with a focus on skill development within the community. My clients are still youth ranging from 11 -18 years of age dealing with both behavioral and mental health issues, which is a population I both have a talent for and enjoy working with. My free time has been consumed by going to the gym and trying to keep a healthy social life."

The active members of the chapter enjoy having Sean's bubbly personality around when he returns to campus! If you'd like to be featured in next month's alumni spotlight, please contact the chapter at SigmaXiTKE@gmail.com



A Semester of New Beginnings

Farewell to Dr. Neary

For over 15 years Dr. John Neary (#163) has held the title of Chapter Advisor for the Sigma-Xi chapter. Over that time he has proven to be a truly influential individual on the men that have been a part of the chapter. However, at the end of the Spring 2018 semester Dr. Neary will be retiring from his faculty position with the college. The members of the chapter are sad to see him go, but know that he greatly deserves retirement and will enjoy the extra time he has!

As the semester progresses, Fr. James Neilson (Honorary #98) and Fr. Mike Brennan (#114) will be teaming up to slowly transitioning into their roles as new chapter advisors. We are excited for the great times that we will have with the new chapter advisors over the coming years. Please stay tuned for details about an event to thank Dr. Neary for all of the wonderful service he has provided to the chapter!

Beta Eta Pledge Class Induction

The most recent pledge class was inducted into the Sigma-Xi chapter during the middle of November. The 8 men inducted allowed the chapter to surpass it's 300th member, a huge milestone.

Welcome to the new members!

James Gear - #299
Devin Winkler - #300
Jack Perrin - #301
Joey Janik - #302
Nathan Velicer - #303
Will Van Ye - #304
Maverick Berner - #305
Savi Chahal - #306



New Executive Board Takes Over

The start of a new semester also marks the start of year of new leaders in the chapter, the executive board. Some of the members have held positions before, while some are new to the board. The board is focusing on the following goals over the next semester:

- 1) Achieve more involvement in the active chapter
- 2) Continue to improve on the positive image of TKE on campus
- 3) Improve our image within the community