

ΣΝ Beta Chapter

2018 Newsletter

Overview

2018 marks an exciting year for Sigma Nu's Beta Chapter as the fraternity was formally re-introduced to UVA this October. This was the result of over a year and a half of hard work, starting from scratch to recruit, establish a presence on grounds and to re-build a brotherhood. This newsletter will detail the re-chartering process, report some of the current events of the fraternity, thank some of the alumni who helped get us here, and announce some of our goals for the future.

Now that Sigma Nu is re-established on grounds, one of our goals this semester is to re-establish our alumni relationships. As collegiate brothers, we are proud to have one of the largest and most historic alumni networks on grounds. Moving forward, we hope to improve our alumni relationships and show that this is a brotherhood for life.



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Special Alumni Thanks and Plans for the Future

The Re-Chartering Process

In 2014, the Beta Chapter lost its charter for a hazing related incident. In the Spring of 2017, the national organization started the process to bring Sigma Nu back to UVA by sending a leadership consultant to recruit a re-founding class. This generated significant interest around grounds and attracted many candidates. From this pool about 40 were selected by nationals' representatives to re-launch the chapter.

The initial periods with this group were somewhat awkward. 40 men, most of whom did not know each other prior, were brought together under the goal of re-establishing a fraternity they knew very little about. However, throughout the Spring a motivated group began to take charge. Those who did not fit in with this group trying re-establish Sigma Nu as one of the best chapters on grounds either dropped or were asked to drop. This led to the formation of a strong group that was ready to get to work in Fall 2017 to bring Sigma Nu back to UVA.



The Chapter in the moments prior to initiation



Regent Hearn speaking prior to presenting the Charter

The Fall of 2017 began with a number of LEAD sessions run by a national leadership consultant. These sessions educated the group on the history of the fraternity and what it means to be a Sigma Nu. Soon after came the fraternity's first rush period. The Fall rush period brought 8 strong new members which expanded the total size of the colony back above 40 members and laid the foundation for future success.

After the rush period, the process of forming a brotherhood began. There were pilgrimages to Sigma Nu HQ in Lexington, the first social events, and brotherhood events. While it took some time, relationships began to form and a supportive brotherhood got its start.

Moving forward, the Spring of 2018 marked an important time for the fraternity as it was the first rush period where the fraternity could recruit first year students. This rush period was largely successful and yielded a class of 21 new candidates, pushing membership above 60.

These new candidates went through a candidate education process teaching them leadership, the values of the fraternity and some of the fraternity's history. In addition, they helped the fraternity meet some of the requirements for re-chartering including hosting our Xanadu philanthropy event, maintaining a high fraternity GPA and having brothers participate in a number of organizations on grounds.

October of 2018 marked the culmination of a year and a half of work, as the fraternity was presented its charter by John Hearn, the Regent of Sigma Nu and Chairman of the High Council. This involved Regent Hearn formally initiating the members to the brotherhood and a chartering ceremony at Farmington Country Club where the charter was presented. The chapter is extremely proud to be back on grounds and plans to stay on grounds for many years to come.



2019 Officers



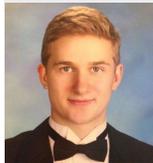
Commander Nick Koziolk



Lt. Commander Dominic Keilty



Treasurer Thomas Miller



Recorder Luke Van Leeuwen



Chaplain Justin Shah



Marshall Chase Zegarski



Alumni Chair Paul Qualey



Social Chairs
John Fishbein
Alex Stern



Rush Chairs
Jacob Miller
Kris Kokoneshi

Fall Semester Recap

The chartering ceremony and the formal initiation of the brotherhood were certainly the highlights of the semester but there were other great events throughout. Here are a couple of our highlights.

In September, the brotherhood hosted a night time date function in the yard. The mosquitoes were out but string lights and a band made for a great night.



One of our favorite brotherhood events came in November, on the date of UVA's final home football game. Brothers tailgated with burgers and pizza at the house to celebrate the fourth year's final home game.



In early December, we wrapped up our semester with our Christmas Formal. This night began with a brotherhood Secret Santa, was followed by a dinner at the Graduate and concluded with a performance by the band "Stray Fossa" at the house. One of everyone's favorite moments of the night came during the "Roast of Sigma Nu", when the band took a break and brothers Ben Lewis and Justin Shah to give an altered version of the story "The Night Before Christmas" with jokes about brothers in the fraternity mixed in throughout.



Thanks to Our Alumni

The fraternity would like to extend a special thanks to those active alumni who contributed to the fraternity this past year. Active alumni contribution was crucial to the success of our re-chartering and will be crucial to the success of the fraternity moving forward. Without our alumni network, none of our success would have been possible.

Active Alumni Spotlight

Terry Birkel – Serving as the chair of the housing board, Terry has been crucial in restoring the house to its former glory. He's even been seen on a ladder, trimming the hedges on his own. Terry's active engagement has been crucial to the recent success of the fraternity.

Matt Middleton - Matt serves as our chapter advisor. Living in Charlottesville, he has been called upon a couple of times to give key advice and we appreciate his support.

Stuart Munson – Stuart has been active with the fraternity either by giving talks about the dangers of alcohol abuse or speaking to rushees about the benefits of brotherhood. We appreciate the time that he donates.

We would also like to thank the rest of our alumni advisory board as the donation of their time helps to set the strategic direction of the fraternity and exemplifies the ideals of brotherhood for life.

Alumni Who Donated this Fall

Roger Whiteway
Timothy Coleman
Steven Anderson
Don Allan Mitchell
Christopher Doyle
Wes Bieligg
William Barden
Jack Lenke
Stephen Moriarty
David Glassman
Stuart Munson
Thomas Keller
Matthew Middleton

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Collegiate Chapter Goals Moving Forward

The Chapter's current focus is on the upcoming rush period beginning January 15th. We recognize that recruiting a great next class of Sigma Nu brothers is crucial to the long-term success of the fraternity and we put great effort into finding and recruiting those top candidates.

After rush, we hope to further establish Sigma Nu in the UVA greek culture. Sigma Nu's presence on grounds is growing but after being off-grounds from 2014 to early 2017, there is still work to be done. We would like the fraternity to be known around grounds for its tight brotherhood, and active, high quality brothers. We know that we are making progress, but there is still work to be done.

The fraternity would also like to continue improving the chapter house so that new brothers can enjoy it for years to come. When our current group inherited the house, it was in rough shape. However, with the help of our housing board we see it constantly improving. We've made repairs to damaged walls, done significant landscaping and had the floor on the 1st level restored. As the chapter and housing corporation come into more funds, we have plans to make the house even greater.

Finally, and most importantly, we hope to further strengthen the brotherhood that brings all of us together. This means strengthening the ties among collegiate brothers but also engaging our alumni. We want to show that we recognize that being a brother of Sigma Nu truly means being a brother for life.

Nick Koziolk
Commander for 2019

