

Sigma Chi Fraternity
Alumni Chapter Leaders' Newsletter – Summer (June) 2019



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A Featured Brother

This is part of our on-going series of conversations with exceptional brothers who contribute so much to the Fraternity's success. This quarter, we feature **Dr. Noah R. Phelps, Ph.D.**

His background:

Chapter/University/Graduation Year: Omega, Northwestern University, non-student initiation (NSI), 2008.

Job/Career: Director of the Sigma Chi Foundations Department of Information Management which runs the Historical Initiative to catalogue and preserve the history collections at IHQ.

We asked Noah about 20 questions. Below are his thoughts on some of them.

Noah's Thoughts:

What is your best Sigma Chi memory?

As a full-time staffer at IHQ I have more memories than I could possibly relate. The best however is my decision to become a Sigma Chi and the experience of Initiation itself. The overwhelming instant of acclamation was the closest time I ever came to a truly spiritual experience.

What has been your greatest Sigma Chi challenge?

Difficult to answer, since becoming a staff member in 2005 I have wanted to instill in my Brothers the same desire for the preservation of our history as I have. I experience a great deal of sadness whenever I learn of precious artifacts or documents lost due to negligence or disinterest on the part of those charged with preserving them. Over the years many artifacts and documents have been donated to the Fraternity which are nowhere to be found today at IHQ. The same is true at the chapter level. Recently a 160-year-old chapter closed down and I was charged with taking the chapters archives until their eventual return to active status. I was excited at the anticipation of receiving a wealth of historical documents. Sadly only 4 boxes arrived containing several ledgers, a few documents, and a single photograph. I wonder what happened to a 160-year-old chapter's rich history.

What advice would you give to an undergraduate Brother?

Learn the philosophy of our great Brotherhood and live your life by its tenets. When in doubt, seek advice from older Brothers.

What has becoming a Sigma Chi meant to you? What has Sigma Chi done for you?

It has given me another Family. I feel the same pride saying "Brother" to fellow Sigma Chi's as when mentioning my two biological brothers. My tenure at IHQ has given me much more confidence in myself due to the respect I feel from both co-workers and Brothers I meet.

What part of your Sigma Chi journey would you like to "do over?"

Not so much a "do over" but a "wish I had." Instead of becoming a Sigma Chi as an alumnus under the NSI program I would like to have experienced Sigma Chi as an undergraduate. I did not consider joining a fraternity as an undergraduate because I shallowly and incorrectly thought being in a fraternity is what rich kids did. The Brothers whom I have met on staff and among the Sig volunteers brought me to the understanding my undergraduate thought process couldn't be any further from the truth.

What is your favorite quote (Sigma Chi or not) and why?

Personal Quote: "et tenacitatem ad astra." "With tenacity to the stars." This is my Mother's philosophy on life. To identify your goals, then find a way to achieve them, even if your first attempt fails.

Sigma Chi Quote: William Lewis Lockwood (October 15, 1857), "We should endeavor so to raise ourselves that to say of a man, 'He is a Sigma Chi' shall be synonymous with 'He is a liberally educated, high minded, pure and noble man.' Such are some of the objects of our Society. The world is in great need of just such men and let all who go out from our chapters be such men." This quote spoke volumes to me when I was discerning whether or not to become a Sigma Chi. I struggle to achieve the values stated here and I want to be counted among "just such men."

Krach Transformational Leaders Workshop (KTLW) – What to expect!

This year marks the first of the KTLW era! As we embark on a new program and a new focus, we thought it might help you to understand what's changing from Balfour Leadership Training Workshop (BLTW) format and approach. For this year, the answer is some, but "not much". This year's Workshop will focus on Values-Based Decision Making and Strategic Planning. This is similar to the focus of past Workshops and will be familiar to undergraduate and alumni brothers who have attended workshop in the past.

This year, Workshop participation expands to include two new officers: Kustos and Risk Manager. As the Kustos (or Ritual chairman) will now be responsible for delivering the Ritual for Life (R4L) post-initiation training program, it is of critical importance that he attends workshop, where he will be trained to perform these tasks. And for new risk managers, it is imperative that they come up to speed on all aspects of the Fraternity's Risk Management Program and cutting-edge risk management strategies they can take back to their chapters.

Future Workshops will focus on training our undergraduate leaders on transferable skills, such as: Complex Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Emotional Intelligence, and Cognitive Flexibility.

Key Learning Objectives for future Workshops will include:

- Differentiate between traditional and transformational leadership principles and develop relevant leadership skills.
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses of their organization, develop a strategic plan and implement corresponding action plans.
- Learn the importance of values-based decision making and the impact their decisions have on their organization and community.
- Practice giving and receiving feedback effectively.
- Build collaborative environments and obtain organization-wide consensus among peers.

Fun Facts

- The Sigma Chi Flag (originally square) designed by Harry Vinton, Purdue 1885 was adopted by the Grand Chapter 1901. Present rectangular flag adopted by 1961 Grand Chapter
- Our first Executive Secretary (now Executive Director) was Fritz Grabner, Beloit, 1911. Grabner's successor Byron Stokes, Albion, 1911 authored The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi song. Since then 14 Brothers have held this position.
- Chapters who send participants to workshop:
 - Are two times as likely to produce a student body president.
 - Have a 36% increase in student government participation and a 53% increase in Interfraternity Council participation.

Your Input is Appreciated!

We encourage you to suggest items/areas of interest for future articles by emailing us at:

ClydeDornier.SigmaChi@gmail.com

Recommending Someone for Fall Rush

Do you know a young man who reminds you of the Jordan Standard? If so, we encourage you to get him into the Fraternity's recruitment process as soon as you can.

Complete a webform by going to

www.simgachi.org/referral.

Upcoming Events / Important Dates:

June:

- Grand Chapter, June 27 – 29, Salt Lake City, UT

July:

- Krach Transformation Leaders Workshop (KTLW) – Bowling Green State University, August 1 – 3



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