

SAGGA

of Sigma Tau Gamma

Winter 2015



**2015 Earl A. Webb Academy of
Principled Leaders**

30 Years of Dedication & Devotion:

Dateline – Winter 2003

What has constantly amazed me in my discussions with Bill, and discussions with Bill almost always center around the Fraternity, is his depth of knowledge of social fraternities in our society. He understands the challenges. He understands the trends. He is always thinking, thinking hard, about how Sigma Tau Gamma can meet those challenges.

When he was younger, he formed solid friendships with more experienced executive directors of other fraternities. His enthusiastic participation in interfraternity affairs led to his service as president of the Fraternity Executives Association. Now, Bill is the “old head” who is often sought by less experienced fraternity executives for his advice.

Note: Read more about CEO Bill Bernier on page 10.



In 2003 on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary as CEO Bill Bernier received patio furniture as a gift from several past national officers. Pictured here in the White Rose Courtyard from left are Elaine, Bill, Wendy and Andy Bernier.

SAGA

Volume 85 • Issue 1
(475-360) • Winter 2015

The SAGA of Sigma Tau Gamma (R2001.1.4) is published quarterly by Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, Inc., P. O. Box 54, Warrensburg, MO 64093-0054. It is printed at PrintLynx in Sedalia, MO, and periodicals postage is paid in Warrensburg, MO.

Address all communications, including change of address, to the Fraternity.

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This issue of The SAGA was partially funded by the “William P. Bernier Endowment for Educational Publications, as funded by Marvin M. Millsap” and Alumni Loyalty Fund contributions.

Contact Us: Alumni and undergraduates are encouraged to submit news,

stories and photos for publication in The SAGA. Submissions may be mailed to: Editor, P.O. Box 54, Warrensburg, MO 64093-0054, or may be submitted electronically to: editor@sigmataugamma.org.

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FRATERNITY
COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATION



North-American
Interfraternity
Conference

Washington State Provisional Chapter Installed



The Washington State Provisional Chapter

Sigma Tau Gamma conducted the Ceremony of Installation at Washington State University on October 11, 2014. The Washington State University provisional chapter initiated 52 new members and welcomed family, friends, students and university administrators to watch the ceremony. This is the first time Sigma Tau Gamma has had a provisional chapter at Washington State University.

Expansion Staff members **Brian Lewallen** and **Rick Day**, began expansion efforts in late August and spent seven weeks on the Washington State University campus recruiting students to become Founding Fathers of the provisional chapter.

Friday evening, the members participated in a brotherhood retreat, and Saturday morning the Ceremony of Installation was lead by the installation team including Expansion Counselors Lewallen and Day. Then CEO Designate, **Steve Latour** and Southwest District Director, **Erik Kahl** were also in attendance.

The officers of the Washington State provisional chapter at the time of installation were as follows:

President: **Adam Mahama**

Vice President: **Michael Honn**

Vice President of Membership: **Quinn Millionis**

Vice President of Programs: **Jared Baldwin**

Vice President of Finance: **Alex Braulio**

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On the cover

The 2015 Earl A. Web Academy of Principled
Leaders at the Kansas City Airport Marriott

Psi (Central Michigan University)

This fall, a strong recruitment netted Psi Chapter 18 new members. All 18 new members were initiated after successfully completing the Path of Principles program.



New members of Psi Chapter

Psi Chapter held their fall philanthropy event for the Humane Animal Treatment Society. In previous years, the chapter held a slider sandwich dinner to raise money for the organization. This year, the chapter decided to switch to a French toast dinner. In under 4 hours, they raised over \$1,000 for the organization, which doubled last year's donation!

Beta Zeta (University of Central Oklahoma)

Beta Zeta Chapter placed 1st in the male category of Cheer & Dance. They earned crowd favorite and 4th overall in the University of Central Oklahoma Homecoming.



Beta Zeta at University of Central Oklahoma Homecoming



Psi Chapter presenting check to the Humane Animal Treatment Society

Epsilon Pi (University at Buffalo)

Brothers of Epsilon Pi Chapter participated in the city of Buffalo's annual Walk to End Alzheimer's, held at Delaware Park. The brothers joined a group of two thousand volunteers and walkers who participated in the event. More than \$225,000 was raised for the Alzheimer's Association.

Epsilon Pi at the annual Walk to End Alzheimers



In October, brothers of Epsilon Pi volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Gamma Theta *(University of Missouri, St. Louis)*

In October, Gamma Theta Chapter hosted their annual Halloween Haunted Alleyway. It was an all-day event where members decorated a street alleyway during the day and provided a fright fest for children in the community at night. The chapter raised nearly \$200 from their Halloween event.

Epsilon Xi *(Saint Louis University)*

In October, Epsilon Xi brothers participated in the “Over the Edge” service opportunity for Special Olympics, our national philanthropy. The brothers helped 100 “Edgers” repel down the side of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in St. Louis.

This year, the chapter put in significant effort to contribute more service hours. They served both Special Olympics and the St. Louis community.



Epsilon Xi brothers on the roof of the Hyatt Regency in St. Louis for “Over the Edge”



Gamma Theta volunteering at the annual Halloween Haunted Alleyway Fright Fest

Cincinnati Provisional Chapter *(University of Cincinnati)*

During fall break, the Cincinnati Provisional Chapter had their first brotherhood retreat. It was held at King’s Domain Retreat and Conference Center in nearby Oregonia, Ohio along the Miami River. Brotherhood Chairman, **Grant Hall**, and VP of Programs, **Jimmy Forde**, lead the retreat with assistance from Alumni Advisor, **Doug Haman**, Delta Rho ‘95. The team developed a curriculum that balanced a good time with valuable information about the history and traditions of Sigma Tau Gamma. Through this retreat, the brothers were able to build relationships with each other that they had previously not had the opportunity to do. The chapter extends a big thank you to Grant, Jimmy, and Doug for a successful first retreat!



Brothers of Cincinnati Provisional Chapter at their first brotherhood retreat



Epsilon Pi volunteering at Habitat for Humanity

Delta Epsilon *(Texas State University)*

Delta Epsilon welcomed its newly elected Executive Board.

From Left: VP of Membership- Jason Christian, Executive Vice President- Jordan Branum, President- Dean Mfanyu, VP of Programs- Robert Harris, VP of Finance- Rickey Durham



Theta Chapter *(Northwest Missouri State University)*

During the 2015 Earl A. Webb Academy, National President **Alyx Parker**, Alpha Chi '97, announced the Board of Directors approval of the chartering petition for the Northwest Missouri State University provisional chapter. The chartering ceremony to re-welcome the Theta Chapter is set for March 15.

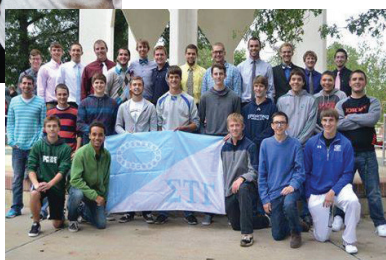
Theta Chapter recruited 17 new members this past fall semester. It was the most successful recruitment since chapter reorganization.

As a continued partnership with the national philanthropy, every Friday, the brothers go bowling with members of the Special Olympics.

In September, Theta Chapter participated in a memorial on campus for Brother Tyler James Smith who passed away last year. Brothers and students at Northwest Missouri State University held a memorial and planted a tree to honor his memory.



Brothers of Theta Chapter bowling with members of the Special Olympics



Northwest Missouri State University chapter

Beta Theta holds Strategic Planning Workshop

Outgoing chapter president Trevor DeWitt and incoming chapter president Keith Stroup led Beta Theta Chapter in a full day strategic planning workshop on December 6, 2014. The workshop helped assure a smooth transition and solid plans for the new term of officers and committee chairmen. The workshop was held in Rawls Hall on the Purdue campus.

National President Alyx Parker and then CEO Bill Bernier assisted with the workshop, as did faculty advisor **Mike Loeffelman** and alumni advisor **Clint McCurry**. Bernier began the day with an orientation on the SWOT Analysis process of organizational review. Beta Theta split into the four chapter management divisions with each conducting the review. Each then reported back to the full chapter.

Beta Theta then decided on six objectives for 2015. The objectives are:

Have 80% of newly initiated brothers actively involved as a committee chairman or other committee leadership role,

1. Have strategic recruitment plan together and have leads generated by 8 weeks before the end of each term.
2. Have 60% of brothers achieve a minimum 3.0 semester GPA
3. Fundraise \$1,250 in 2015 for betterment of the Fraternity,
4. Have a 98% retention rate for the calendar year,
5. Increase total involvement points for each member (percent to be determined after analysis of 2014 performance.)

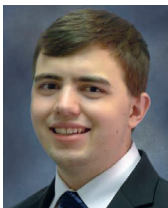
Beta Theta is the current Edward H. McCune Distinguished Chapter. With this strategic planning process, Beta Theta Chapter plans to not only continue its current success, but move to a higher level of achievement.

Student Government Association Lead by Sig Taus Balance Principled Leadership and Excellence

For a number of our undergraduates, at 8 a.m. their schedule is full for the next 12 hours with classes, work, homework, Student Government Association Executive Board meeting, and Chapter meeting followed by an Executive Board meeting for the Fraternity until 8 p.m. In addition to the commitments and workload that come with being a college student, they have taken on additional responsibilities by getting involved and volunteering for leadership roles in their campus organizations.

Many brothers strive to lead their peers by example, and use the principles instilled by the Fraternity to act as catalysts for change on their campuses by committing to leadership roles with organizations like Student Government Association (SGA). By taking on the added leadership, volunteer, and philanthropic responsibilities, brothers act as influential leaders on campus and the Fraternity to pave the future for students and members.

Sigma Tau Gamma and SGA are similar organizations that require dedication and teamwork. SGA serves as the voice of the students on important campus issues and drives positive change. The following highlighted brothers are just a few who have integrated the Fraternity's principles with their leadership roles in SGA.



Nick Larew, Beta Theta '16 (Purdue University) is the Executive Vice President of the Beta Theta Chapter and serves on Student Supreme Court as an associate justice for Purdue Student Government (PSG). He settles election disputes, revises the constitution and bylaws, and works on the traffic ticket appeals board. He has also served as a recruiter for Beta Theta Chapter and as the housing exploratory committee chair, which is working to acquire an official house for the chapter. Larew's leadership abilities and desire to make a positive impact in his community and campus inspired him to take on leadership roles both within his chapter and PSG. "Sig Tau has shown me what it means to be a real leader among my peers. This has inspired me to constantly look for new ways to help both those around me while bettering myself. Joining Sig Tau renewed my focus on living my principles, and working with PSG is just one way in which I follow the Path of Principles and improve the world," said Larew.

Brothers involved with SGA on their campuses.

Beta Gamma, Youngstown State University

Luke Politsky	<i>School of Graduate Studies Rep.</i>
Michael Slavens	<i>Student Body President</i>
Jacob Schriener-Briggs	<i>Executive Vice President</i>
Sean Meditz	<i>Vice Pres. for University Affairs</i>
Eric Shehadi	<i>Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) College Representative</i>
Zachary Hackett	<i>Mathematics (STEM) College Rep.</i>

Gamma Phi, University of Southern Indiana

Luke Williams	<i>Assoc. Justice SGA Student Court</i>
Jason Miner	<i>Assoc. Justice SGA Student Court</i>
Zack Mathis	<i>President</i>
Nick Mathis	<i>Constructive Member</i>
Aaron Gottman	<i>IFC Representative</i>
Nehal Ninad	<i>Executive Vice President</i>

Gamma Rho, Cameron University

Zakariya Rajpari	<i>Senior Senator for the School of Liberal Arts, Parliamentarian, Legislative Cmte. Member</i>
Colton Rancourt	<i>Senior Senator for the School of Business, Finance Cmte. Member</i>
Patrick Perez	<i>Honors Society Rep., Legis. Cmte. Mem.</i>
Kristian Jimenez	<i>Junior Senator for the School of Science and Technology</i>
William Irby	<i>Soph. Senator for the School of Business, Sgt at Arms, Legis. Cmte. Mem., Finance Cmte. Mem.</i>
Jonathan Ringler	<i>Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity Rep.</i>

Delta, Emporia State University

Josiah D'Albini	<i>President Pro-Tempore</i>
Brandon Schrader	<i>Senator</i>
Chance Dickinson	<i>Senator</i>

Epsilon Sigma, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Christian Slifer	<i>Fee Review Commissioner</i>
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Epsilon Tau, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

André Jefferies	<i>At-Large Senator</i>
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Epsilon Omega, Florida Institute of Technology

Jonathan Cirillo	<i>Senator</i>
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Epsilon Phi, The University of Alabama

Andrew Cicero	<i>Senator</i>
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Psi, Central Michigan University

Brandon G. Merritt	<i>SGA representative</i>
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Beta Xi, Winona State University

Joe Schmitt	<i>Junior class representative</i>
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Epsilon Tau, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Jason Hartsoe	<i>President Pro-Tempore</i>
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Epsilon, Pittsburg State University

Jordan Schaper	<i>President</i>
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Beta Theta, Purdue University

Nick Larew	<i>Assoc. Justice SGA Supreme Court</i>
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Epsilon Lambda, SUNY, Plattsburgh

Joseph Nagiub	<i>Vice President of Activities</i>
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Epsilon Rho, Salisbury University

Evan Miller	<i>President</i>
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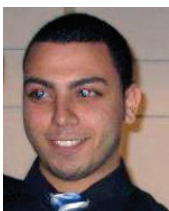
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Michael Slavens, Beta Gamma '15 (Youngstown State University) is currently the SGA President at his university. In 2014, he served as SGA's Executive Vice President. He also served on the Provost Search Committee, Academic Senate Executive Committee, and as co-chair of the Standards Committee. His involvement and leadership within SGA influenced his decision to join Sigma Tau Gamma. Slavens believes both the Fraternity and SGA are focused on leadership, service, and working together to accomplish goals. His involvement with his chapter has encouraged him to incorporate the Fraternity's principles into everything he does. "I truly feel that I have included all six principles of Sigma Tau Gamma into my actions within SGA. They are values that make up any good leader. There must be value in what you are doing or else it's not worth doing," said Slavens.



Brandon G. Merritt, Psi '17 (Central Michigan University) serves as the SGA representative for the Psi Chapter. He is the head of the Athletics subcommittee, acting as the liaison between SGA, intermural, club, and varsity sports organizations. Merritt's interest in politics and current issues influenced him to join SGA. He believes both SGA and Sigma Tau Gamma are set on development. "Sigma Tau Gamma is set on developing lifelong connections through fraternal entities. Whereas SGA is set on developing connections between students and their campus to establish the reflection of who is in college and how they set the future policy for the campus as a whole," said Merritt. In addition to his service with SGA, he has served his chapter as Brotherhood chair, Alumni Relations chair, and on the fundraising committee. Merritt continuously strives to include the Fraternity's values into his leadership role with SGA to benefit his peers, community and university.



Joseph Nagiub, Epsilon Lambda '15, (State University of New York, Plattsburgh) is currently the Vice President for Activities of SGA. He was previously Senator and Vice President of Finance for SGA. Nagiub's desire to get involved on campus and grow as a leader influenced his involvement with SGA and his chapter. He believes both organizations are similar in leadership structure and face similar challenges to impact the community and better their members. Nagiub has also served his chapter as New Member Educator, Executive Vice President and President. "Sigma Tau Gamma has implored me with values and principles that I currently utilize and follow daily," said Nagiub.

2015 Earl A. Webb Academy of Principled Leaders

This year's Webb Academy was unlike any other as the event had record attendance with 63 chapter presidents, and new CEO **Steve Latour** announced his vision for the future of the Fraternity.

Sixty-three chapter presidents, regional volunteers and district directors gathered at the Kansas City Airport Marriot in Kansas City, Mo. for the Earl A. Webb Academy of Principled Leaders on January 16-18. Co-facilitators, Steve Latour and **Paul Manly** led the program, along with discussions for creating an authentic experience for members through effective leadership.

In addition, attendees traveled to Warrensburg, Mo. for a tour of the Alpha Chapter house and a tour of the Sigma Tau Gamma Headquarters. At the Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation lunch, Board of Trustee member, **Cathy Heiman**, WCMF, and past National President **John Heiman**, DMF, explained the Foundation's essential role in the Fraternity. In Kansas City, Keynote Speaker, **Michael A. McRee**, presented The Reason Why Greeks are Held to a Higher Standard. McRee encouraged members to live up to the Fraternity's principles and hold themselves to a higher standard.



Webb Academy attendees in front of the Alpha Chapter House



Chapter presidents, volunteers, and headquarters staff at the 2015 Webb Academy

A special thank you to the following volunteers for facilitating:

- **Paul Manly**, WCMF, Epsilon Rho, (Salisbury University) '11 – Co-facilitator
- **Alyx Parker**, NMF, Alpha Chi, (University of Illinois) '97 – 38th National President
- **Drew Allen**, NMF, Gamma Omega, (Baylor University) '06 – Southern RVP
- **Thomas Harris**, WCMF, Epsilon, (Pittsburg State University) '83 – Great Plains RVP
- **Robert Slater**, CSM, Alpha Omega, (Missouri University of Science and Technology) '08 – Great Lakes RVP
- **Lee Tabor**, WCMF, Epsilon Mu, (Marshall University) '05 – Three Rivers RVP
- **Ken Vaughn**, NMF, Delta Delta, (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) '86 – Atlantic Coast RVP
- **Ryan Binkley**, Gamma Alpha, (Mansfield University) '10 – Liberty District Director
- **Ryan Buttrick**, Epsilon Delta, (University of Massachusetts, Lowell) '08 – New England District Director
- **James Engracia**, CSM, Epsilon Sigma, (Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville) '14 – Mississippi Valley District Director
- **Joseph Gallo**, CSM-EF, Gamma Chi, (Michigan Technological University) '11 – Wabash Valley District Director
- **Ben Holdren**, PMF, Alpha Lambda, (Concord University) '12 – Mid-Atlantic Coast District Director
- **Erik Kahl**, WCMF, Beta Kappa, (University of Wisconsin, La Crosse) '10 – Southwest District Director
- **Andrew Tretow**, CSM, Kappa, (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater) '12 – Lakeland District Director
- **Seth Woodell**, WCMF, Tau, (East Central University) '07 – Red River District Director



Chapter Presidents holding the portrait of Earl A. Webb

Saluting Bill Bernier

William P. (Bill) Bernier served Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity and related Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation as chief executive officer for 41 years 8 months. When he retired December 31, 2014 he was senior to all fraternity and sorority executives, having served longer than any in the history of the movement.

Elissa Huck, contributing editor, interviewed Bill Bernier for the SAGA.

Q. When and how did you start your career with Sigma Tau Gamma?

A. In the winter of 1973 I received a telephone call from Basil Hunt, then chairman of the search committee for a new Executive Director. Basil had my name on a list of prospects recommended by my predecessor, Keith Dinsmore. At the time I was working on the professional staff of the Boy Scouts of America in Cleveland, Ohio. I applied because it was an exciting opportunity to run my own shop at the young age of 23. I had been a chapter officer at Kent State and attended the Golden Anniversary convention in 1970. I was also a volunteer and had attended the 1971 and 1972 conventions. My twin brother Bob was on the headquarters staff in 1971 and 1972, so I knew something about the scope and operation of the national Fraternity.

Q. It must have been a challenge to be in charge at just 23 years of age. How did you manage it?

A. The short answer is with a lot of help. Although I received excellent training with the Boy Scouts, I was not prepared for many of my responsibilities. I spent a lot of time on the telephone with Pat Phelps, who was then our national president. Earl Webb was president of the Foundation. He was an exceptional businessman.



I frequently drove to St. Louis to learn from him and from Basil Hunt. Basil was assistant superintendent of a school district. I learned a lot from Basil. The early 1970's were tough times for college fraternities and Sigma Tau Gamma was no exception. Memberships had plummeted



Bill Bernier addresses Grand Chapter House of Delegates as CEO for the last time, August 2, 2014.

which resulted in financial hardship. I remember how stressed everyone was at my first Fraternity Executives Association meeting in 1973. I went on the road to encourage our chapters. I was newlywed and spent lots of days away from home. My wife Wendy contributed a great deal to whatever success we enjoyed.

Q. When did you turn the corner and start growing Sigma Tau Gamma again?

A. Well, it happened gradually but the signal year was 1976. I felt confident enough to renew the campaign to build a permanent headquarters. The campaign had started in 1970, but lost steam during the campus unrest of the Vietnam War era and the decline in fraternity memberships. In 1976 I asked Paul Pfeiffer, who was national president and my favorite professor in college, to help me sell the Fraternity and Foundation boards on the idea. He did, and in 1977 Bill Hembree and Jim Kirkpatrick helped me reenergize the campaign. Maurine Achauer was a big help as well. We started construction in 1977 and moved in in July of 1978. We are the only college fraternity or sorority with its headquarters on the Founding site. Founder Emmett Ellis championed that cause. He asked the delegates of the Grand Chapter in 1968 to authorize moving the headquarters from suburban St. Louis to the Founding site in Warrensburg.

Q. How has the Fraternity changed in your more than 41 years on staff?

A. As you would expect, there have been a host of changes. We didn't think too much about risk management in the 1970's. That began to change in the 1980's. Miller Brewing Co. began targeting college campuses with advertising and promotions. All the other brewers soon followed. Almost overnight we had significant risk management issues. We've made a lot of progress since then. I think that our current undergraduates do a great job in this area, although we continue to have challenges. Many of our alumni members don't realize that insurance and other risk management costs have more than doubled the fees our undergraduates are asked to pay. Our Path of Principles program is a positive development in part prompted by our focus on risk management. It is a dramatic change from the prior pledging process. I am proud of the program because it has helped us more than double undergraduate membership while advancing their loyalty and safety. Fraternity governance has also changed. We've advanced from a club-like structure to a corporate structure at the national level. This has helped us move ahead of competitor organizations and gives Sigma Tau Gamma a better opportunity for sustained success. What hasn't changed is the desire of college men to be surrounded by close friends who become like a family. They instinctively understand that they need that kind of support to grow in stature and character. They want to belong to something bigger than themselves. They want to take mutual pride in their accomplishments as brothers. Marvin



Bill & Wendy Bernier at Café Du Monde, New Orleans, during the William P. Bernier Grand Chapter, August 2014.

Millsap called it “backstay,” his mother’s term for the status of family background. Millsap credited the “backstay” he received from Sigma Tau Gamma for much of his success.

Q. You received the NIC Gold Medal in 2008. How has interfraternal involvement and leadership impacted your career?

A. We rightly encourage our chapters to be involved in their campus IFC and in its leadership. The same principle applies at the national level. The NIC (North-American Interfraternity Conference) is the trade association of college fraternities. We do not function in isolation. The reputation of the movement impacts us. That is why we need to establish and adhere to mutual standards. And, we have much to learn from each other. Similarly, I've been involved with the Fraternity Executives Association (FEA) the professional association of the executives leading both college fraternities and sororities. I served in every FEA office and was privileged to be FEA president in 1983-84. Afterward I chaired many FEA committees, including ten years as the chair of the new executive orientation program. This was not just service, but an education as well. You can learn a great deal from colleagues when working together, side by side. I encourage our undergraduate brothers to join a professional association, both while in college and afterward. Involvement in a professional association is no guarantee of career success, but it makes success more likely. Sigma Tau Gamma is highly regarded in FEA and the NIC. We advocated for the highest standards through my involvement in the NIC Standards Committee, chaired by brother



Bill Bernier was honored with the NIC (North-American Interfraternity Conference) Gold Medal on April 14, 2008. Pictured here at the NIC Awards Banquet are (front row from left) Elaine Bernier, Linda Bernier Pearson, Dorothy Bernier, and Wendy Bernier, (back row from left) Bob Bernier, Andy Bernier, Bill Bernier, Richard Harguindeguy, Ken Bernier and Richard Pearson.

(Continued from page 13)

Wynn Smiley, CEO of Alpha Tau Omega. I am proud to be one of two NIC Gold Medal recipients in Sigma Tau Gamma. The other is Dr. Ronald Roskens, our 15th National President.

Q. Your family obviously means a lot to you. What role did they play in your success?

A. One of the greatest joys of my career has been the involvement of my family in Sigma Tau Gamma. My twin brother Bob and I joined together at Kent State in 1969. Bob was our chapter president my senior year. He joined the headquarters staff after graduation. He left to pursue a career in journalism and higher education. Dr. Bob is now assistant dean of the Business College at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He has always been involved and continues to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation. Doug Bernier, Bob's son, is also a Trustee and has been a regional director. He joined at the University of Central Missouri where he was a highly successful chapter president. My younger brother Jim Bernier was the founding president at Michigan Technological University. My youngest brother Ken Bernier joined at Kent, served as a regional director and as chapter advisor for our Miami (OH) chapter where his son Dan Bernier joined Sigma Tau Gamma. My parents were always supportive. We made them both Wilson C. Morris



Bill Bernier honoring headquarters office manager Sue Kay on Sue Kay Day, June 12, 1999.

Fellows so that they could be a part of Sigma Tau Gamma as well. Of course my wife Wendy is my most important partner in service to Sigma Tau Gamma. She loves the Fraternity because of all of the wonderful brothers and spouses she has become friends with through the years. Our children Elaine and Andy grew up with the Fraternity and both



Ken Bernier, Iota '77 (Kent State), Bill Bernier and James C. Kirkpatrick, Alpha '29 (Central Missouri) at closing banquet of the James C. Kirkpatrick Grand Chapter, August 1996.

consider it a part of their lives. Andy joined at the University of Central Missouri. We are blessed with two grandsons, Joel and Jordan. I fervently hope that they will benefit from a fraternity experience, and that Sigma Tau Gamma will be for them an attractive choice.

Q. What advice would you give to your successor and our national officers?

A. Our search committee and Board of Directors did a superb job selecting my successor, Steve Latour. Steve has excellent background, vision, confidence and resolve. Being CEO is a challenging and nearly all consuming job. It is good that he is up to the task. He and our Board should continue to pursue growth. Strength in numbers and finances are essential in our contemporary environment. This will require more than goals. We must draw strength from our heritage, but focus our vision on the future. Our strategy must embrace improved programs and staffing. Vestiges of pledging must disappear in favor of immediate membership and life-long brotherhood development. We need in great numbers the time, talent and treasure of our alumni to invest in our undergraduate brothers through scholarships, leadership training and housing.

Q. What will you do in retirement?

A. I will continue to be involved in Sigma Tau Gamma and in the greater interfraternal community. I will also remain involved in Warrensburg community organizations where I have enjoyed many rewarding friendships. I also plan to spend more time playing

with my two antique tractors. Wendy and I plan to do some traveling, and along the way meet up with our Sigma Tau Gamma brothers and their families. Chapter that made us all proud to be associated with this organization that is doing such good work.

The Grand Chapter concluded, as it always does, with the annual awards banquet. The ballroom was more than filled to capacity with people and enthusiasm. We report elsewhere in this issue on those recognized. And, we thank all of those who made the William P. Bernier Grand Chapter such a great success by their involvement.



Bill Bernier and Chuck Mills, 26th National President, during Board of Directors meeting in August 1992.

William P. Bernier, CAE: Fast Facts

Bill Bernier was initiated at Iota Chapter, Kent State University, in 1970. He was part of a group of student leaders recruited by then national president Ronald Roskens to revive Iota Chapter after 22 years of dormancy. At the time Roskens was a vice president at Kent State.

Bill attended his first Grand Chapter as an undergraduate in 1970. He has attended every national convention since, 45 in all – 42 as chief staff executive. The 1983 and 2014 conventions were named in his honor.

Bill is a Distinguished Morris Fellow of the Wilson C. Morris Fellowship, recognition of cumulative donations of \$25,000 or more to the Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation. He has honored his wife Wendy, daughter Elaine, and son Andrew with a Wilson C. Morris Fellowships.

Bill is our fifth chief staff officer and third to serve full time. He is the recipient of the Millsap Medal for Distinguished Foundation Service (1982), Winebrenner Medal for Distinguished Fraternity Service (1994), and a member of the Society of the Seventeen.

During Bill's tenure, Sigma Tau Gamma has installed 51 new chapters and initiated 35,000 new brothers. As of December 31, 2014, all brothers age 60 and under have membership shingles and cards bearing Bill's signature as chief executive.

Bill managed the construction of the Marvin Millsap Headquarters Building in 1977-78, and the White Rose Pavilion in 1999-2000. He also managed Project PITCH, our Foundation's first million-dollar campaign.

With Bill's leadership, combined with the leadership of others, Sigma Tau Gamma implemented important new programs, including the Path of Principles Program and Earl A. Webb Academy. The Fraternity ritual was revised to more accurately reflect our values. Several new awards were established to recognize chapters and individuals.

Bill is a Certified Association Executive (CAE), the professional credential of the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) and a past president of the ASAE affiliate KCSAE (Kansas City Society of Association Executives.)

Missouri Governor Christopher Bond appointed Bill to the Board of Regents (now Board of Governors) of Central Missouri State University (now University of Central Missouri) in 1984. He rose to serve as president of the Board. He is believed to be the only fraternity or sorority executive to have served on the governing board of a state university.

Bill is a past president of the Fraternity Executives Association (FEA) and a recipient of the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) Gold Medal.



Mills (left) accepting his gavel as new Chairman at the State Chamber of Oklahoma's annual meeting

Chuck Mills, Beta Zeta '78 (University of Central Oklahoma), became the Chairman of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce. Mills was National President of Sigma Tau Gamma in 1990-1992.

At a successful State Chamber Annual Meeting in Shawnee, hundreds gathered to hear Former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez. The State Chamber of Oklahoma held its annual meeting at the Heart of Oklahoma Exposition Center in Shawnee. The meeting featured the installment of a new State Chamber Board of Directors Chairman and a keynote address from Carlos Gutierrez, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President George W. Bush.

Mills is President and CEO of Mills Machine Company, a Shawnee manufacturer founded in 1908. Milles spoke to those assembled about the need for businesses to get personally involved in advocating and urged them to engage in the political process through groups like the State Chamber.

Mills won a 2015 Lexus RC350F Sport car with a Hole in One at the U.S. Senior Open at Oak Tree National in Edmond, OK.

Jim Horner, Pi '67 (Indiana University of Pennsylvania), was recently inducted into the Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall Of Fame. For over 35 years, he was involved with wrestling at the high school and college levels. Horner is also in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Wrestling Hall Of Fame, the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League Hall Of Fame, and the Bethel Park High School Sports Hall Of Fame. His professional

career spanned 39 years as a high school principal in western Pennsylvania. Horner enjoyed three and a half years in the fraternity at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and held offices of President, House Manager, and twice Pledge Trainer.

Brady Holcomb, Gamma Rho '16 (Cameron University), was recently sworn into the United States Air Force.

Scott Lewis, Iota '14 (Kent State University) is a financial advisor with 21st Century Financial in Akron, OH. Commenting on the process of building a client base, Scott said, "the Fraternity has helped immensely, providing me with the opportunity to network and meet successful individuals, and I couldn't be more grateful."

Paul MacNamara, Gamma Tau '84 (Millersville University), retired US Army Special Forces Lt. Colonel, swam in the 24-hour Gold Star Teen Adventure (GSTA) Freedom Challenge November 8-9. The open water swim was held at Islamorada Park in the Florida Keys. The GSTA is a 501c3 charity, which provides outdoor adventure camps for the children of fallen Special Operations service members. The camps include scuba diving, horseback riding, open water sailing, survival, kayaking and hunting as well as counseling and mentorship. MacNamara was one of seven swimmers that completed the 24-hour relay swim to raise money for the camp programs. During the 24-hour challenge, the swim team completed over 55 miles in the ocean. MacNamara swam over 7 miles during his five rotations in which three rotations were at night. The team raised over \$60 thousand to help provide exciting outdoor experiences for the children of our fallen warriors who will not have the opportunity to share it with their lost loved one. For more information on GSTA, visit www.gstadventures.org

MacNamara pictured third from right



Due to limited space Chapter Eternal does not feature obituaries for every member. Obituaries are posted for 90 days from the date of notice on our website at: www.sigmataugamma.org. To submit a Chapter Eternal entry, please email editor@sigmataugamma.org.

Alpha

University of Central Missouri

- Robert E. White, '57, March 6, 2014
- Robert H. Atkins, '43, October 4, 2014
- Richard E. Otte, '71, October 2, 2014

Beta

Truman State University

- William B. Wharton, '59, October 9, 2014

Chi

Western Michigan University

- Lewis William Kaminga, '52, September 14, 2005

Delta

Emporia State University

- Millard R. Wren, Jr., '54, July 26, 2014

Pi

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

- James L. Dick, '42, September 9, 2013

Sigma

University of Central Arkansas

- James H. "Sandy" Brewer, Jr., '76, September 21, 2014

Alpha Beta

Harris-Stowe State University

- Ronald E. Strittmatter, '70, January 3, 2015

Alpha Kappa

University of Wisconsin, Stout

- George W. Zimmerman, '49, September 2, 2013
- John R. Postman, '49, July 7, 2013

Alpha Theta

Eastern Michigan University

- Lawrence W. Flood, '63, July 3, 2013

Beta Epsilon

Shippensburg University

- Randy L. Brenner, '72, May 11, 2014
- Stephen B. Wagoner, '72, February 7, 2014

Beta Gamma

Youngstown State University

- Richard D. Weaver, '66, November 2, 2014

Delta Alpha

East Carolina University

- James Carlyle "Jim" Dail, Jr. '80, December 30, 2014

Epsilon Tau

University of North Carolina, Charlotte

- Cameron L. Abatiell, '15, February 9, 2015

Gamma Alpha

Mansfield University

- Joseph T. Schetroma, '93, October 29, 2014

Gamma Psi

Illinois State University

- Robert D. Aper, '94, January 24, 2015

Zeta

Northeastern Oklahoma State University

- Kenneth "Kenny" L. Rainbolt, '65, February 9, 2015

Kansas State Provisional Chapter Installed

On December 12, 2014, Sigma Tau Gamma conducted the Ceremony of Installation at Kansas State University. The Kansas State University Provisional Chapter initiated 28 new members and welcomed



The Kansas State Provisional Chapter

family, friends, students and university administrators to watch the Installation Ceremony. This is the first time Sigma Tau Gamma has had a provisional chapter at Kansas State University.

Expansion Staff member **Brian Lewallen** began expansion efforts in October and spent 6 weeks on the Kansas State University campus recruiting students to become Founding Fathers of the Provisional Chapter.

Friday evening, the executive officers were sworn in, and the Ceremony of Installation was lead by the installation team including then Expansion Counselor Lewallen and CEO Emeritus **Bill Bernier**. Saturday, the members participated in a brotherhood retreat and were initiated into the Fraternity. Former Director of Expansion **Derek Kaimann**, Collegiate Services Coordinators **Austin Uebelhor** and **Rick Day**, Regional Director **Tom Harris**, **Jay Hackett**, Pittsburg State '08, CEO **Steve Latour** and National President **Alyx Parker** participated in the Ceremony of Initiation.

The officers of the Kansas State Provisional Chapter are: President **Alex Maggard**, Executive Vice President **Jake Mann**, Vice President of Membership **Andrew DeBrie**, Vice President of Programs **Jarrood Booth** and Vice President of Finance **Wesley Goforth**.

Foundation News

All Sigma Tau Gamma Alumni Asked to Participate in National Foundation Survey

Attention Alumni: in the coming months you may be contacted by the Cygnus Corporation to participate in a brief survey about the Sigma Tau Gamma Foundation. Your input will help us really advance the Foundation. Thank you in advance for your participation.

In 2011, the NICF partnered with the Cygnus Applied Research on a research project that surveyed over 50,000 alumni and donors from 36 different sororities and fraternities. The survey was highly successful and hugely benefited those who participated. Survey results helped educate sororities and fraternities about their donors, providing them an opportunity to adjust their strategies, practices and stewardship processes to better meet the needs of their members and donors.

To supplement this research, the NICF recently announced a second partnership with Cygnus to conduct a follow-up donor survey. The 2015 NIC Foundation Alumni and Donor Survey intends to explore the variety of factors that influence members' support. Through the eyes of alumni/ae and donors, the survey will reveal what opportunities exist to

grow contributor numbers; identify the messaging donors and members find the most compelling; and determine how both fraternities and sororities can forge stronger relationships with their members.

We strongly encourage all members of Sigma Tau Gamma, if contacted by Cygnus, to participate in this survey. It is expected that this project will significantly raise our understanding about the motivations, perceptions and intentions of our alumni. Collectively, it will help us craft better fundraising appeals, design more effective strategies, and identify where investment is best placed to increase philanthropic support of the scholarship and leadership programs of Sigma Tau Gamma, which directly benefit our undergraduate members.

The survey will be conducted between March and April of 2015 via an email invitation from Cygnus and a national report of the survey findings will be presented at the Foundations Seminar, August 18-19, 2015 in Indianapolis. For additional information on this study and for a list of participants, please visit: <http://www.nicindy.org/nicf-research.html>