



# Newsletter

May / June / July 2014

## Upcoming Events

August 16, 2014: 4th Annual Actives vs Alumni Softball Game

October 10-12, 2014: Homecoming

## Brother Spotlight

You know the feeling you get when you've forgotten something but you can't remember what? It was the fall, (it was really still summer) of 1995 in Jones Hall, when my roommate, Brother Ben Hanson locked me out of our dorm room. On the surface, it's not really a big deal except I had just taken a shower and all I had on was a towel. So, as cool as I could, I started knocking on stranger's doors dripping wet looking for \$2 so I could get a key from the front desk.

The first person that answered their door was a skinny guy who, if memory serves me, was playing Madden on Sega Genesis, talking about running the option with Kordell (Slash) Stewart. I promised the guy I'd pay him back and he was generous enough to give me the cash. Little did I know at the time but that skinny guy who was nice enough to loan me some money would end up being a brother and friend for life.

Every brother has their "stories" from college and Travis had some of the best....no details but key words; "the box", "socko", "the Boston crab", "three man Jenga", "rally at the Bally" and "hey ladies...I'm over here" will live on forever, even if nobody is listening.

Travis graduated from ISU and went on to live on the west side of Indy and worked at

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Conseco in Carmel. Travis moved closer to home but continued to work in finance/insurance. However, Travis was not satisfied. At the age of 29, Travis decided to leave his employer saying "It didn't matter how hard I worked...it was all about the money". Not knowing what direction to go professionally, Travis began working as a substitute teacher. Travis felt like he could relate to kids as had previously volunteer at his church and was working with the AWANA youth group.

Travis obtained his teaching degree while working part time. It took two years for Travis to find a job and was fortunate to find a job at Henryville Elementary School where he was now living with his wife, Missy and daughter Mallory. In 2012, an EF-4 tornado hit the Henryville School. Travis described the



incident, "I was in the building when the tornado hit", "two buses came back to the school" "one had the bus driver and a kindergartener ", "I told the bus driver to leave the bus and come inside", "five minutes later the tornado hit". Travis stated the air pressure drop significantly- "it's like diving deep under water but times 100".

Travis describes Henryville as a poverty stricken area; families not prepared for crisis, food insecure and many lost power for several days. Travis began to help mobilize the donation efforts. Travis rounded up volunteers to deliver food and other donations for the needy. Travis shared donations came from churches, the local meat market and Facebook donations. Travis said "some of these kids come from households where people should not be living"; "we were working to give these kids a shot".

Travis's philanthropic nature has not stopped there. As many of us know, Travis was growing out his hair. If you had not seen

Travis in some time, his appearance was quite shocking. What most of us didn't know was Travis has been growing his hair for the Locks of Love program. Travis shared he was inspired after meeting a "hippy looking guy" who was about to donate his hair. Travis said he decided to do it because "after the tornado you don't know what time you have to accomplish things". Travis grew his hair to 10" and cut his pony tail and mailed it to Locks of Love. Travis shared his grey hair (which is most of it) will be donated to a nursing home and what little brown hair he has will go to a children's hospital.

Additionally, Travis has been the driving force behind the Alumni Family Event. Many of us are at a place in life where we have young families and want to continue to spend time with our Brothers. Travis has started an event where Brothers can catch-up with each other while spending time with their children. Travis shared he is hoping to make the event bigger and better and is open to new ideas. Travis and Missy now have a second daughter, Tinsley.

It blows my mind that the guy I borrowed money from back in 1995 would continue his giving ways and be helping so many people.

Tom Hoffman

*Brother Spotlight is an article submitted by a brother wanting to highlight another brother for something great that they have done or are doing.*

## Family Day

**I**t was another successful event again this year. To quote Brother Van Camp, "Brother Drake once again had a perfectly executed Family Day held in Indianapolis." The day was a damp day but that did not stop the Brotherhood. It was great seeing everybody out this year and we all look forward to seeing everybody again next year at Family Day.

# Smith's Wedding

Brother Chad Smith got married on May 31st, 2014. The wedding was short and to the point. Officiating the wedding was Brother Jeremy McKnight. Yes, you read that correct. Brother Jeremy McKnight is an ordained minister and he married Chad and Sara. His performance was in true Jeremy fashion. It was great to see a Brother performing the services and officiating a Brother's marriage. An act of Brotherhood at its finest.



The serenade of Sara by the Sig Tau's was probably the best they have ever sounded. I think we need to do all serenades in an open cathedral type building...it drastically improves the "sound quality". During the reception, Brother Hungate impressed us all with his version of the National Anthem. And not to mention, we had a surprise sighting of Bobo at the wedding. He had been in hiding for years but managed to resurface to watch Brother Smith get married. Going along with the surprise Bobo sighting, Marty McKnight

also was in appearance at the wedding.

After the wedding, the reception migrated back to the good 'ole Baymont Inn and Suites in Indianapolis. The Baymont was very accomodating to all the Sig Taus. They kept the pool open most of the night for us. In fact, the next morning they had commented we were a great group to have and we welcome back anytime. Yes, you heard correctly, the Sig Tau's were welcome back to a hotel and considered a "great group" even though we were up most



Above: Brother Jeremy McKnight presiding over the ceremony

Left: Mike McKnight, Steve Stuck, Dave Schroeder, Tom Hoffman, Mike Nolan, Ryan Barker, Mike Walker, Lamar Peterson, Jeff Write, Jamie Dossey



Left: Brothers serenading Sara Smith

of the night in the pool, hot tub and outside at their tables and chairs eating, drinking and carrying on in true Sig Tau fashion.

## 4th of July

**B**rother Zac Garner hosted another 4th of July party. The fireworks and cookout took place at the American Legion in South Haven, IN. The firework show was spectacular as always. This year, Brother Garner used a remote detonation system instead of lighting each firework by hand. Apparently, there had been some "close calls" in years past, so the remote detonation system made things much more safer for those lighting off the fireworks. The evening even contained an emu siting. To quote Sara Smith, "You have not lived life until you have watched a man in a Confederate flag shirt chase a runaway emu on the Fourth of July."

## Alumni Birthdays

### May:

3 - Marcus Wills  
8 - Jason Veenstra

### June:

12 - Mark Stalcup

### July:

None

### Happy Birthday Brothers!

\*\* If you have a birthday in one of these months but are not listed, and would like to be, please contact me.

# Old house, New look

As most of you know, the "new" fraternity house has been undergoing some changes. The new-ness of the house has worn off and in typical "Sig Tau" fashion, it's starting to have some wear and tear. It seems inevitable that we undergo this process every few years or so. The current Alumni Association Board has been working diligently with trying to revitalize the house. We have been trying to make it more presentable and less of a hazard.

One of the big things we have focused on is making brothers more accountable with the house and the active chapter. A phrase that has been echoed, "The house is a dump, why should I care or help clean it up", is trying to be changed. We are trying to show the active chapter that we DO care about the house and are trying to improve things and make it nicer to live in but need their help. Lots of actives are behind on their rent and parlor fees. They do not feel that they need to pay rent or contribute to the house. This is changing.

We have fixed up the common areas and bathrooms. There has been a new coat of paint to liven the place up. New light fixtures have been installed. The front porch was just recently fixed and improved so it will be as strong as the foundation of Sigma Tau Gamma. In fact, several Active Brothers contacted the Board and said they were tired of looking at all the trash that had been accumulating in the house and broken furniture. They wanted our help in getting a roll off dumpster so they could go through and clean up the place and get rid of all of that stuff. The Board was pleasantly surprised to hear that and was more than willing to get a dumpster for them to clean things up. They had old refrigerators and freezers that we not in use and we called up the utility companies and they came to get the appliances AND we got \$50 per appliance as a recycling reward. With that money, we are now looking to get some newer appliances for the house.

We also have some future improvements that are underway. Brother Van Camp touched on them in his Alumni Association Update email. The short of it is: Major boiler maintenance, 2nd floor bathroom upgrade/repair and 3rd floor bathroom repair of leaky water heater. We have been working hard to continue to fix things that come up.

So a new fire has been lit under the actives. We are trying to keep the momentum going and continue with the updates to the house to hopefully instill more pride and brotherhood amongst the Actives. And to show them that the Alumni are not just a "bunch of old guys bossing them around", but a group of Brothers that still have pride for the Fraternity in their heart and want to help continue to make Sigma Tau Gamma the best Fraternity that it can be.

## Donations

Going along with the "New Look" and new direction of the house, they are in need of some updated items. We are looking for some decent items that you may be getting rid of. So, for those of you who are getting ready to do some remodels or renovations, keep the house in mind. Contact Brother Garner if you have any of these items you wish to donate:

- \* Couches (all existing couches were thrown out because they were broken)
- \* Appliances: Stove, Refrigerator, Freezer, Microwave
- \* Garden hose and stand or wheel
- \* Vacuums
- \* Light Bulbs
- \* Trash cans and bags
- \* Cleaning supplies are always welcome: Mops, cleaner, shop towels, bleach, etc
- \* Kitchen utensils

If you do not have any appliances or items to contribute, or if you live too far away to easily get stuff to the house, feel free to donate money. Every little bit helps out. It can be as little as \$5 or as much as you want. If you wish

to donate, you can donate through PayPal or contact Brother Garner and he can tell you where to send a check.

## Vice President's Corner

**W**e, as the Board of Directors, are always trying to keep you informed of what is going on with the Fraternity. At Formal 2014, we launched a new look to the website in an attempt to keep things fresh and updated. We have been posting updates to the website as well as through Facebook. Events are being created through Facebook and mass invites are sent out to all alumni in an attempt to keep in touch and inform everybody.

Our hope is that this extra effort is paying off. We want everyone to know about all of the events. We want everyone included in the events. We want alumni to know the issues that the actives and alumni are being faced with. By us sharing all this information and letting you know how things are being handled, we hope you can see what your membership dues are being used for. If you have any ideas or suggestions on anything...events, suggestions for the house, etc, please do not hesitate to contact us.

This issue of the newsletter has a new format and look to it. I am trying to improve the look and layout to make it more interesting. I included a few significant events that have transpired over the last several months. I know I have not included all the events that have gone on. If you would like to see something included, no matter how big or small it is, please contact me and let me know. I want this newsletter to be about US, about the Delta Tau Alumni. So if a bunch of guys get together to go boating, send me some photos or tag me in Facebook or tag Delta Tau Alumni Association in Facebook and I'll try to get the photos posted in the next newsletter. My email address is: [curt.binder@gmail.com](mailto:curt.binder@gmail.com)

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