It has been 75 years since the NC Zeta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon was originally chartered and today I’m pleased to share with you that the chapter is not only still in existence but it is on the road to being stronger now than it has ever been in many years; gaining momentum each and every day. For those alumni who have not followed what has occurred over the past several years, let me briefly get you up to date.

Since we re-colonized in 2008, the fraternity has been active on campus but has not always been motivated to achieve charter status. About two years ago the National Board of Directors set a deadline of this past December to submit a chartering petition for review. Despite some herculean efforts in the 8 months prior to the deadline, the chapter was determined by the Board to still not be at a chartering level. In January, the National Board of Directors rejected the chartering petition submitted by the chapter and decided to discontinue the colony. This decision resulted in the email Wake Forest University sent out announcing the closure of the chapter that you may have received. The chapter President and another member of the Executive Board were not about to give up the fight and so they appealed the decision to the National Board and were allowed to make a presentation to them in March. After careful consideration the National Board thankfully granted a one year

This review was conducted this past August and the chapter active membership reduced to about 20 members. The executive board was shifted around slightly and a dedicated Regional Director who only manages a handful of chapters seeking chartering compared to regular RD’s was assigned. Since the review, the guys have dug down deep and chapter operations have really taken off in a positive direction and are growing stronger every day.

A chapter can only be as strong in the long run as it’s volunteers and mentors and this is now the area of focus we need address so that the chapter can have not only a successful chartering petition but have a foundation for another 75 years of excellence on the Wake Forest campus. Over the past few years the AVC has consisted of dedicated group of 2-3 WFU SigEp alumni and a couple of volunteers from other chapters. We recognize this is simply not adequate and we need help.

I can say honestly that the present AVC has not been able to meet all of the needs of the chapter. So that is why we are asking for each of you to consider becoming a member of the AVC or volunteer in some way. This chapter needs your assistance and I appeal to this Brotherhood of SigEp’s that we can come together and remember what enticed you to join SigEp to begin with. I know that my experience in SigEp will always be a part of my college life that was important in the molding of who I am today and the friendships that I still have. This chapter now has many of the ingredients it needs for a successful chartering campaign and it is now time to ensure the foundation exists for long-term growth and prosperity. In this inaugural newsletter, the SigEp Deacon, you will find more information about AVC operations and the many opportunities, both large and small, that exist for you to get involved and become a part of the relaunch of our chapter. The chapter needs all of us right now. I have no doubt we can succeed, not only in chartering, but I believe, together, we can redefine what a fraternity can be and accomplish at Wake Forest University. I look forward to sharing in this journey with you.

Fraternally,

George Newman
President

In the past 6 months our chapter has worked extremely hard to turn a great disappointment into a great opportunity. When we received the news last January that our bid for a charter was denied and the chapter would be closed, we knew that we could not let that happen. We decided we would do anything in our power to continue our goal of chartering and were able to convince the National Board of Director's that we would be able to meet the chartering criteria by this coming May. We have worked hard to get to the point we are at now and will continue this hard work to ensure that SigEp is a fixture at Wake Forest for years to come.

Also, with my term as president ending this month, I would like to introduce Austin Nissen as the next president of our chapter. I can not think of a person more well suited for the job than he is and I know that he will push our chapter forward in ways that even I could not. He is a hard worker and a great guy who greatly displays all the attributes of a balanced man. I am certain the fraternity will be in great hands with him at the helm.

Freddy Daley
Undergraduate Chapter President
The New Alumni and Volunteer Corporation

In the Fall of 2014 the AVC modernized their Bylaws and corporate structure to better coincide with today’s Fraternity. Today’s AVC’s are charged to develop the long-range strategic plans of the Fraternity Chapter, to manage the assets of the Chapter, foster an active relationship with all alumni and parents of the undergraduate members, and provide mentorship and continuity to the undergraduate Chapter. The corporation charges yearly dues to become a member which support both the operation of the AVC and the undergraduate chapter. The day to day business of the AVC is managed by a Board of Directors whom are elected from and by the members of the corporation at the annual meeting held in the fall. The Board of Directors meets monthly to discuss the business of the Fraternity. The Board also elects from within their Executive Officers; namely the President, the Director of Relations, the Director of Financial Operations, and the Director of Housing. Also sitting on the Board is a number of standing chair positions such as the Chapter Councilor and Balanced Man Steward whom are appointed by the District Governor of the National Fraternity. Furthermore, the Faculty Advisor, Faculty Fellow, Undergraduate President, and Parent Relations may also sit on the Board.

The Board of Directors consists of not less than 4 members (the Executive Officers) plus 1 member for every 10 undergrads in the undergraduate chapter as determined by the average of the last three rosters submitted to HQ not to exceed 20 total members on the board. The term for being on the board is three years from the time of being elected. Depending on the size of the board there can be 2-6 positions that open up yearly. The members of the AVC nominate and vote members on to the board leading up to and at the annual meeting held in the fall. Also sitting on the board are several standing chair positions including the Balanced Man Steward and Chapter Councilor whom are appoint by the District Governor of National Board of the Fraternity, the Faculty Fellow, the Faculty Advisor, Parent Relations chairman, and the Undergraduate President. There are also several general chair positions that can be filled by members of the board including the Director of Scholarship, Director of Fundraising, Director of Programming, Newsletter Editor, Website Administrator, and Buchanan Cup Coordinator.

The Executive Officers are in charge of the day to day business of the Fraternity and are elected from and by the Board of Directors every year in the first regular meeting of the year held directly after the annual meeting in the fall. The Executive Officers are made up of the President, Director of Relations, Director of Financial Operations, and Director of Housing.

Responsibilities

President: Presides over all AVC meetings. Coordinates the activities of the corporation and maintains relations with the University Administration and Headquarter staff. Signs on behalf of the corporation all official documents.

Director of Relations: Takes minutes at all meetings of the AVC. Recruits new volunteers to join and serve on the AVC. Oversees all communications sent out by the AVC and maintains the calendar of the corporation.

Director of Financial Operations: In charge of the financial health of the corporation including taxes, fundraising campaigns, and audits of the undergraduate chapter.

Director of Housing: Ensures the chapter facilities are maintained. Also works to develop the facility as a Residential Learning Community environment.

Becoming a Member: Any alumni in good standing or volunteer of the Chapter may become a member of the Corporation. A member of the corporation receives a vote for electing members to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting held in the fall, the quarterly “SigEp Deacon” newsletter, and special recognition at formal banquets. Becoming a member also means a person is eligible to sit on the Board of Directors and hold one of the many standing chair positions. All it takes is filling out the membership form and submitting the $10 annual dues payment.

For more information on how to get involved you can contact:

sigepwfavc@gmail.com

George Newman (AVC President): george_a_newman@yahoo.com 336-655-3229

Chris Yerges (Chapter Councilor): cyerges@hotmail.com 980-939-4383

Chapter Councilor is in charge of the mentor committee that mentors each undergraduate executive board officer. The Balanced Man Steward works with the VP of membership Development to continuely develop the chapter’s Balanced Man Program. Faculty Fellow is a Professor at WFU who assists in the academic development of the chapter. The Faculty Advisor may be a Professor or Administrator at WFU who assists the Chapter Councilor and maintains relations with the campus administration. The Parent Relations Chairperson is a parent of a current undergraduate member and oversees the Parent Committee which supports the undergraduate chapter and provides insight to the Board from a parent’s perspective. The Newsletter Editor works with the undergraduate VP of Communications in producing this newsletter quarterly. The Website Administrator also works with the Communications Committee in maintaining and developing the chapter/AVC website. The Buchanan Cup Coordinator works with the Executive Board to submit the bi-annual Buch Cup application to headquarters which is given out the Buchanan Cup for outstanding chapter operations at Grand Chapter Conclave.
SigEp once again participated in Project Pumpkin this October, an event that each year brings more than 1000 children from local agencies to campus to have a safe environment for trick-or-treating, play carnival style games, and to be entertained with clowns and several other performance groups. Rain moved the event indoors this year but that didn’t damper the spirits of the children as they enjoyed the “Under the Sea” themed event.

Sigma Phi Epsilon and PREPARE, came together to bring Walk A Mile In Her Shoes to Wake Forest University. Walk A Mile In Her Shoes is an event focused on raising sexual assault awareness in a very hands on, or should we say feet on, way. Basically, the event requires all participants to don high heels, yes, especially the men, and walk a mile. The event is intended to be an active learning session, as it shows physically how hard it is for women to escape assaults when in high heels, and is designed to educate the Wake Forest community about the causes of sexualized violence. It also provides them with personal experience to empower the community to further develop and implement this knowledge both in their interpersonal and political life. The Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity is hosting this event to showcase the valuable strides that men are taking to take a stand against the sexualized violence that is plaguing the Greek Community nation-wide. PREPARE has been an active force on campus since 1987 and develops and coordinates several programs to educate the WFU community about rape and sexual assault. PREPARE also provides services for students who have been victims of rape or sexual assault. SigEp and PREPARE hope to grow this event for years to come to further gather the resources to educate the campus community and help bring sexualized violence to an end.

The Fall intramural season has came to a close with mixed results for the SigEp squads. This semester the chapter participated in flag football and indoor soccer.

Flag Football: Reg. Season 2W-3L
Playoffs—Eliminated in the first round.

Indoor Soccer: Reg. Season 3W 0L
Playoffs—Eliminated due to forfeiture after mix up in communication with the intramural office.

The chapter is already geared up for next semester when they participate in basketball, outdoor soccer and softball.

My name is Austin Nissen. I have strong academic interests in Operations and Supply Chain Management. Additionally, I am the Director of Case Competitions in the Strategy and Consulting Club, where I lead club discussion of case interview questions and solutions. I also enjoy playing golf on the weekends, as well as participating in the club boxing team. I am currently searching for an internship at a consulting firm for the summer of 2016.

The best part about SigEp is the sense of brotherhood shared among all our members. It sounds cliche to say, but I truly believe we all are fraternally connected and have a common purpose. Due to our unique Balanced Man Program, we offer an experience that no fraternity or other student organization can offer, which transforms the lives of our brothers for the better. My goal as President is to not only get us through the chartering process, but to prepare us for success 1 year, 5 years, and even 10 years down the road. That difficult path starts now, but I am up for the challenge and am certain that armed with our talented and intelligent brothers, alumni, and volunteers, we will succeed.
Gearing Up for the Carlson Leadership Academy

The Carlson Leadership Academy provides interactive officer training to over 2,600 undergraduates and volunteers annually. Many undergraduates run for executive board positions because they have great goals and visions for their chapter. Attending an Academy ensures an officer will have the skills to manage a committee and follow through on those goals. The program also helps executive boards work together to ensure they all have goals consistent with a unified vision for the chapter. The Academies are held in February, soon after most officer elections, and chapters are encouraged to bring all new officers, rising chapter leaders and engaged volunteers.

Carlson provides education for each specific officer position, as well as strategic planning and goal setting, and chapter leadership. The program emphasizes the use of each officer’s individual strengths to build a complete team. Participants spend time on chapter analysis, large and small group sessions and informal interactions with other chapters. Participants will enhance their skill sets and leadership abilities to help them as chapter officers, in other leadership roles, in group projects and eventually in the work force for the rest of their lives. Chapter officers will return to campus with a better understanding of their position, as well as a holistic strategy for moving their chapter forward. More than 150 seasoned volunteers from across the country share their experiences as facilitators during the program.

Carlson also provides an appropriate venue for the presentation of awards, recognizing chapters and individual undergraduates and volunteers for notable achievements in recruitment, development and scholarship.

With this being such a critical time for our Chapter it is our goal to not only bring the Executive Board but as many members as possible to begin a tradition of bringing an “army” to CLA each and every year. For new brothers CLA can offer the first glimpse of how big and powerful of a Fraternity we are along with the responsibilities that come with being a SigEp. For brothers interested in becoming an executive officer or just want to be more engaged on the committee level, CLA can give new insights into the successes of other Chapters and give inspiration of “the next big thing” to bring back home. Carlson is also not just for the undergrads but for volunteers as well as topics like AVC corporate health and undergraduate mentoring are also discussed. Carson is one of the “biggest bang for the buck” investments that a chapter and AVC can invest in.

Want to support an undergraduate in attending the Carlson Leadership Academy? Registration costs for undergraduate members is only $95 during the early enrollment period not including hotel room costs. We encourage our Alumni to support an undergraduate going to the CLA and you may put conditions on your gift such as earmarking it to go to a brother in financial need, who is active in a committee and shows leadership potential, or for just being a member of the chapter. The Executive Board is already covered by dues paid to Headquarters so your gift will contribute to building the next generation of leadership for our chapter.

To support an undergrad you may contact AVC Director of Relations Ben Rodgers at 336-978-0776 (benarodgers@gmail.com) or you may contact Chapter Councillor Chris Yerges at 980-939-4383 (cyerges@hotmail.com).

THE SigEp Deacon

In the Next Issue

- Recap the undergrads CLA experience.
- AVC Strategic Plan
- Fall Grades
- Spring Banquet Invitation
- Meet the new E-Board
- Your News!

Submit Your News

Get a major career promotion? Have any exciting life events occur? Have any other news or updates you would like to share with everyone? You can now submit your news in the Alumni section of our website at www.sigepwfu.com and we will include it on our next issue of The SigEp Deacon!