



# Eta Rho NEWS



A PUBLICATION OF THE ETA RHO CHAPTER OF SIGMA NU

WINTER 2004

## Building Campaign Update

The fundraising campaign for building our chapter house in the new Village at WKU is moving along well. Western is moving ahead with their plans to make a final proposal to the Greek system in the near future. Sigma Chi is ready to get started, and we may be next if our funds come in soon enough. As you can imagine, it will take a while to get cash in the "bank" using five-year pledges, so be patient as we build up enough to get started. Feel free to make your payments early!

Looking ahead, I feel that WKU is at least a year away from having a site ready for us to build on, and then we would need at least another year to get our plans together, get pledges in, and secure financing. We will have to pay WKU an undetermined amount for a lot,

but the proceeds from the sale of 1311 and 1303 College Street should take care of that.

The campaign committee needs help from every alumnus to make this fundraising project work. Call members of your pledge class and make a challenge to reach a goal or to match each other. Keep in mind that you can give memorial gifts for deceased brothers or others. For larger gifts, we can look at naming rights for rooms, etc. Your ideas are also needed, so please let us hear from you.



Fraternally,  
**Tom Hart '66, HP 57**  
Campaign Vice Chairman  
(270) 781-6700  
tom@bhtw.com

## ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD WILL PUT ETA RHO BACK ON TRACK

Distinguished alumni, We are in the process of forming an Alumni Advisory Board that will provide ongoing support and assistance to the active chapter. Unlike having one chapter advisor, an advisory board allows duties to be split among several individuals, which reduces the time commitment for each alumnus and increases the overall support available to the active chapter. I am currently serving on the board as the financial advisor and would like to share with you some recent developments.

Going into the fall semester, the chapter had a past due debt of approximately \$15,000, the majority of which was owed to the Sigma Nu National Headquarters. The debt has mounted over recent years when membership in the active chapter has been low. Incoming dues

have not been enough to cover the rising costs of liability insurance, dues to the national headquarters, and the costs of operating the chapter house. Unfortunately, the low membership and lack of financial resources fuels a vicious cycle. In order to pull out of this cycle, we realize we must be proactive and invest in the undergraduate chapter immediately. Our goal is to enable Eta Rho to get back on track and move forward from a position of strength.

Therefore, the Eta Rho alumni chapter has made a commitment to pay off all debt incurred prior to the 2003-04 school year, which is approximately \$12,000. In return, the active chapter has made some commitments. First, they agreed to pay off their portion of the past

*Continued on page 2*

### INSIDE:

ACTIVE CHAPTER  
WORKING  
TO SECURE  
PROSPEROUS  
FUTURE  
2

NEW  
MEMBERS  
3

PLAYER'S  
LIST  
4

DONOR  
LIST  
5

## ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD WILL PUT ETA RHO BACK ON TRACK

*Continued from page 1*

debts, which is approximately \$3,000. This debt was incurred under the leadership of the current group of actives, and they have accepted the responsibility to repay it. Second, they agreed to establish a two-year financial plan that will make the chapter self-sufficient financially and will increase progress on paying off their portion of the past debts. The plan, which includes the return of the Powder-puff Flag Football Tournament, and other fundraisers, is based on reasonable assumptions and will be monitored periodically by the Alumni Advisory Board. A portion of your alumni dues will be used to fund this commitment by the alumni. If you have not sent in your dues for this year or past years, or feel compelled to give more, please do so now.

The chapter started the semester with recruitment yielding a pledge class of 14. A few more semesters of strong recruiting can get the chapter's membership beyond 50 since very few will graduate during the next two years. Also, the alumni chapter made a \$3,000 payment toward the debt to pay off all unpaid candidate and initiation fees. This ensures that all active members of the chapter are registered with the national headquarters and have their initiate pins. This provided a nice morale boost for the active chapter.

Things are moving in the right direction, but there is a great deal of work ahead.

Fraternally,  
**Rob Horton '90, HP 538**  
Financial Advisor  
(615) 504-2743  
rob\_horton@comcast.net

## A REPORT FROM THE COMMANDER

# Active Chapter Working to Secure Prosperous Future

Dear alumni and chapter brothers,  
Over the past few years we have made strides in the right direction for the future of Eta Rho. We believe our steps have been a driving force in motivating our members to react within the chapter. With your help, we can make one more giant step towards a secure future, and into a new residence with which all of Eta Rho can be happy and successful.

We have effectively set a new housing cost of \$1,000 a semester and have implemented a minimum residence in the house of two semesters. We are working with nationals to pay down our part of the debt and are being assisted by the new alumni advisory board to keep current with our financial status. As many of you are aware, Eta Rho recently made some housecleaning decisions and removed a few problematic individuals. This worked to our advantage and continues to remind us that only through dedication to our principles will we find the correct candidates.

Because of our decision to remove these individuals, the chapter is down to 11 active members. At this point, many would throw in the towel and call it quits, but not us. The members stuck behind me and the other officers, and when we needed them the most, they were right there with us. As a chapter of 11, the most challenging detail of our existence was having a strong recruitment. We knew the numbers were not in our favor, but it didn't deter us. We were going to give 110 percent and do everything we could to preserve the rich history of Eta Rho. Our hard work paid off. We came away from bid day with 14 candidates, which to our surprise was competitive with the top five recruiting fraternity pledge classes on campus. We increased our chapter size by more than 100 percent and are on course to have more than 40 members by the end of next fall.

Our previous commander, **Brian Schorr '02, HP 764**, has been working on our philanthropy event, Powder Puff—an event that many alumni have fond memories of. We have been in contact with **Rob Horton '90, HP 538** about the event and are being directed with a few details regarding the setup. We are excited to bring back a popular tradition that has not been in existence for years.

I would like to thank the alumni who have contributed much of their own personal time, effort, and financial support to our great cause. The current members and myself are so grateful for your assistance. We are also thankful for the help being received from the Alumni Advisory Board. They have been a great source of guidance and encouragement. I know that many of you have been informed of the condition of the house. It is deteriorating fast, as will any fraternity house after 40 years. It is a noble cause that is worthy of our best efforts to secure new and adequate housing. Your effort to give the future Eta Rho members a new chapter house is one to be commended. All of the current members are determined to revive Eta Rho and make it a chapter of which we can all be proud.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. Together we can create a bright future based on the principles of Love, Truth, and Honor for the Eta Rho Chapter of Sigma Nu.



Fraternally with Honor,  
**Taylor A. LaGrange '02, HP 776**  
Commander  
(615) 370-9275  
lagra@wku.edu



## ETA RHO CHAPTER WELCOMES 2004-05 NEW MEMBERS



Back row: Justin Moss, Max Wilson, Kyle Gordon, and John Windham. Middle row: Randy Lawson, Roger Blair, and Craig Waisbrot. Front row: Adam Reed, Tim McClanahan, and Brandon Bawcom.

**Andrew Rash**  
Franklin, Ky.  
Franklin-Simpson H.S.

**Adam Reed**  
Lexington, Ky.  
Henry Clay H.S.

**Andy Vandiver**  
Island, Ky.  
McClellan County H.S.

**Craig Waisbrot**  
Elizabethtown, Ky.  
Central Hardin H.S.

**Jimmy White**  
Louisville, Ky.  
Male H.S.

**Max Wilson**  
Boonville, Ind.  
Boonville H.S.

**John Windham**  
Bowling Green, Ky.  
Greenwood H.S.

**Brandon Bawcom**  
Island, Ky.  
McClellan County H.S.

**Tim McClanahan**  
Falmouth, Ky.  
Pendleton H.S.

**Roger Blair**  
Flaherty, Ky.  
Meade County H.S.

**Justin Moss**  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Daviness County H.S.

**Nate Goodman**  
Boonville, Ky.  
Boonville H.S.

**Kyle Gordon**  
Louisville, Ky.  
Seneca H.S.

**Randy Lawson**  
Louisville, Ky.  
Doss H.S.



In-progress basement wall painting by pledge class.

## 2004-05 Chapter Officers



From left to right: Andy Whitten '02, HP 775, Brian Schorr '02, HP 764, Taylor LaGrange '02, HP 776, Jeremy Caldwell '02, HP 765, and Adam McCarty '02, HP 777. Not pictured: Nick Hamilton '04, HP 789 and Chuck Moody '04, HP 791.

Commander  
**Taylor LaGrange '02,**  
HP 776  
Brentwood, Tenn.  
(615) 370-9275  
lagrata@wku.edu

Lt. Commander  
**Nick Hamilton '04,**  
HP 789  
Louisville, Ky.

Treasurer  
**Chuck Moody '04,**  
HP 791

Recorder  
**Ben Miller '02,**  
HP 780  
Louisville, Ky.

Chaplain  
**Andy Whitten '02,**  
HP 775  
Mayfield, Ky.

Alumni Contact,  
Philanthropy  
**Brian Schorr '02,**  
HP 764  
Mayfield, Ky.

IFC  
**Adam McCarty '02,**  
HP 777  
Louisville, Ky.



## SIGMA NU RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATION



Alumni, we value your help.  
Please submit prospect  
recommendations to:

Recruitment Chairmen  
1311 College Street  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Prospect's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Academic status (incoming freshman, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Does prospect have a ΣΝ relative? If so, give name, relationship, and chapter:

\_\_\_\_\_

High school attended \_\_\_\_\_

Activities/honors \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



# Eta Rho Brothers,



As I reflect on the importance of Sigma Nu in my life, I have to get past the funny stories and “unusual” events at 1311 College Street Back in those days, I never thought many of us would be where we are today. It is amazing how that basement prepared us for life, isn't it?

I still laugh out loud at some of our predicaments. However, I have experienced and witnessed another side of that brotherhood. Along life's paths, many of us have encountered success and difficulty. I have seen our brothers celebrate happy times of marriage, children, and career success. I have also seen our brothers experience the most difficult of days in the loss of loved ones, illness, and tragedy.

Although we are scattered across the state and country, it only takes a few hours to gather a group of brothers to provide support to another brother in need. Whenever we do get together, it is just like old times...we pick up right where we left off. Amazing!

I ask each of you to reflect on the influence of Sigma Nu on your own life. I would venture to say that many of you developed many life skills for life at 1311 College Street—leadership, tolerance, understanding, organization, passion, creativity, service, and communication. And you thought all those parties were just about fun! There was a great deal of planning and teamwork going on.

One of the most important things I learned was trust. Today, we need to continue to build that trust by committing to Eta Rho Chapter. Plans are under way for a new house. We have a strong group of alumni, and it is time for us to give back to our chapter. We need your help in securing our future at Western. We need your energy and resources to drive this project. I am asking each of you to think of ways that you can become involved in this important endeavor. Yes, it may involve sacrifice, but it is time for us to share our resources. It is time for us to exhibit leadership among the Greek organizations at WKU.

Sigma Nu has been a powerful force in my own life, and I am grateful for the experiences it has brought. I hope you will consider a gift to Eta Rho as we take this courageous step.

Fraternally,  
**Joe Natcher '76, HP 293**  
 Bowling Green, KY



I first came to Western Kentucky University as a faculty member when there were no national fraternities on campus. I was a member of Eta Epsilon and had a Sigma Nu emblem on my desk when some

members of Oma Kron came to visit. They noticed the emblem and told me they were looking for a national fraternity for a possible affiliation. We got to work with nationals, and the Omi Krons soon became a colony of Sigma Nu.

I have a vested interest in Eta Rho and want the chapter to continue to flourish. It's been rewarding for me to watch the chapter grow over the years into the great fraternity it is today. I believe that having a new chapter house will provide a solid foundation for Eta Rho to continue to grow upon. It is important for all of us who have an interest in the chapter to give to the capital campaign because it is an investment in the future success and longevity of Sigma Nu at WKU. I hope you will consider making a donation to this fraternity that has given so much back to you.

Fraternally,  
**Randy Kapps '62, HE 77**  
 Bowling Green, KY

## PLAYER'S LIST

### Alumni Chapter

**Ken Rush '83, HP 422, Alumni Chapter Commander** — has served more than his share of time as commander! Sometimes one year lasts a long time! He is great support for the alumni and active chapter.

**Darell Pierce '77, HP 310, Treasurer** — keeps the books (along with his very capable staff) for both the housing corporation and the alumni chapter. Darell is always there with the right advice for whatever situation comes up.

### Building Fund Board

**Joe Natcher '76, HP 293** — will be handling our next big reunion, Homecoming 2005. Joe is always there for whatever you need and puts extra effort into all of his endeavors.

### Home Association

**Craig Sleight '85, HP 458, Housing Corporation Chairman** — was new last year and is a big help in this position. Craig has also been our printer for many years and has saved us tons of money by printing newsletters and other items. He was chair of our 2000 reunion and left a standard for us all to work toward for the next reunion.

**Tom Hart '66, HP 57** — serves as secretary of the Home Association and Alumni Association, as well as vice chairman of the building campaign. Tom has been an alumni volunteer for the past 36 years. To quote an Eta Rho brother, “Tom ought to get a medal” for all his tireless hours devoted to Sigma Nu.

**John Simms '85, HP 449** — is a big help as his profession is the home restoration business! He has helped us make good financial decisions in making repairs and the most efficient repairs.

**Mike Simpson '82, HP 414** — is in the property management business and handles paying bills and rent collection. Mike gives a lot of time to Sigma Nu.

**Jeff Morgan '77, HP 300** — was the house corporation chairman for many years and nobody can guess at the number of hours and frustration that he went through! Jeff is always there to help when called on and has a lot of valuable experience to share with us all.

**Tim Huston '74, HP 243** — has been working with the alumni and collegians from the time he graduated! As a member of the Planning Commission for Bowling Green and Warren County, he keeps us aware of what is coming up, especially with the new Greek Village that is being assisted by the staff at the planning commission.



# Thank You Loyal Brothers and Friends for Committing \$448,375

We are deeply grateful to the following Sigma Nu brothers for committing over \$448,000 to the *Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future Campaign*. These alumni recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Eta Rho and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal and complete this project. All donors contributing a minimum of \$1,000, over a five-year period, to the campaign will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the new chapter house. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please send corrections to the Eta Rho Home Association, P.O. Box 1201, Bowling Green, KY 42102.

## Legion of Honor Society (\$100,000 and above)

### Oma Kron Society (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Bob Bristol '61, HP 34/OK 69  
James A. Scott '78, HP 323

### 1311 Brotherhood Society (\$25,000 - \$49,999)

Thomas F. Hart '66, HP 57  
Joe B. Natcher Jr. '76, HP 293  
Jeff D. Stone '77, HP 311  
Shane N. Van Meter '78, HP 321

### The Rock Society (\$15,000 - \$24,999)

Harold E. Brantley '59, HP 40/OK 44  
Jeff Ralph '73, HP 220  
Darell R. Pierce '77, HP 310  
*In memory of Joseph M. Aull '77, HP 306*  
Audrey Aull  
*In Memory of Joseph M. Aull '77, HP 306*

### Eta Rho Society (\$10,000 - \$14,999)

Gen. Earl L. Doyle Jr. '61, HP 1/OK 64  
M. Reed Morgan '64, HP 15  
David N. Roberts '77, HP 296  
Elbert R. Jones Jr. '78, HP 330  
*In Memory of Todd O. Travis '78, HP 332*  
Michael L. Simpson '82, HP 414  
Kenneth O. Rush '83, HP 422  
Jason C. Mallory '89, HP 534  
R. Robert Horton '90, HP 538  
*In Memory of Mike Welch '89, HP 518*  
Bradley L. Williams '92, HP 592

### White Rose Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

*Anonymous*  
Charles F. Rice '64, HP 16/OK 109  
James W. Denhardt '65, HP 45  
Kenneth Bowman '69, HP 140  
Andrew R. Stahl '72, HP 204  
*In memory of Craig Burns '73, HP 224*

## ETA RHO Campaign Status At-a-Glance

As of November 16, 2004

690  
Total Prospects  
59 Contributors  
\$448,375 Total  
Commitments

## ETA RHO

WESTERN  
KENTUCKY  
UNIVERSITY

## Sigma Nu Needs You!

The Housing Corporation and Alumni Board always need new volunteers. Anyone interested in serving, whether living in Bowling Green or not, should contact us at [etarho@insightbb.com](mailto:etarho@insightbb.com).

Paul B. Calico '73, HP 225

*In memory of Craig Burns '73, HP 224*

Paul M. Nation '73, HP 234

James R. Hilliard '76, HP 285

T.L. Montgomery Jr. '77, HP 299

Michael V. Brodarick '77, HP 307

*In memory of Joseph M. Aull '77, HP 306*

## Black and Gold Society (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Samuel J. Coombs Jr. '55, HP 749/OK 9

Kenneth A. Bragg '58, HP 754/OK 34

Richard M. Roberson '58, HP 758/OK 43

*In Memory of Chester Corder '56, OK 17*

Joe W. Clifton '60, HP 31/OK 58

Randall Capps '62, HE 77

Thomas E. Simpson '68, HP 126

Dr. Jack G. Glasser '71, HP 177

Richard V. Wood '74, HP 250

Greg H. Carter '74, HP 253

Gary R. Brodarick '84, HP 431

John P. Simms '85, HP 449

John G. Carter '87, HP 493

Robert H. Foster '89, HP 531

Dean S. Montgomery '90, HP 540

Brian Schorr '02, HP 764

Jeremy Caldwell '02, HP 765\*

Andrew Whitten '02, HP 775\*

Taylor A. LaGrange '02, HP 776\*

Adam McCarty '02, HP 777\*

Ben Miller '02, HP 780\*

Jesse Robertson '02\*

Joshua P. Richter '03, HP 782

James R. Robertson '03\*

Michael DeBoe\*

Chase E. Malone\*

## Five Arm Society (\$500 - \$999)

Walter D. Richards '70, HE 4

Brian Schorr '02, HP 764\*

Jeff Steinsberger '02\*

Max Bradley '03\*

Nick Hamilton '04, HP 789\*

Addam Pence '02\*

Colin McDermott\*

# Eta Rho NEWS

ETA RHO HOME ASSOCIATION  
OF SIGMA NU INC.  
P.O. Box 1201  
BOWLING GREEN, KY 42102

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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## 2004-05 Men's Basketball Home Game Schedule

Jan. 1	Fordham	2 pm
Jan. 20	New Orleans*	7 pm
Jan. 22	South Alabama*	7 pm
Feb. 5	Arkansas State*	7 pm
Feb. 7	Florida International*	7 pm
Feb. 10	Denver*	7 pm
Feb. 17	Arkansas-Little Rock*	7 pm
Feb. 19	Bracket Buster	Saturday tba
Feb. 24	Middle Tennessee*	7 pm

\* denotes Sun Belt Conference game



Western Kentucky University [www.wku.edu](http://www.wku.edu)  
WKU Athletics [www.wkusports.com](http://www.wkusports.com)  
National Fraternity [www.sigmanu.org](http://www.sigmanu.org)  
Eta Rho Chapter [www.etarho.org](http://www.etarho.org)

### Attention:

*This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending Western Kentucky University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.*

## Our Apologies

We apologize for how late some of you may have received the last newsletter. It included information on Homecoming activities, and many of you did not have enough time to plan for the weekend. We're not sure what caused the delay; we mailed it almost three weeks before homecoming. Some received it late, others on time. Again, we sincerely apologize for any inconveniences it may have caused you.



*This paddle was presented to the founders of the Oma Kron fraternity during Homecoming 2003. It now hangs on the wall in the alumni room in the house.*