

SIGMA CHI SEMESTERLY

Fall 2020 Semester

Active Brothers

Class of 2021

Angele Bridges (Sweetheart)

Kaitlin Hutchinson (Sweetheart)

James DeRose

Brad Schroeder

Noah Fish

Marcus Austin

Class of 2022

Srivalli Paulson-Ihlenfeld (Sweetheart)

Eugene Pliska

Mohammed Nafisi Navid Bahabadi

Steven Klika

Yacob Bennett

Heath Dillenbeck

Andrew Selfe

Riley Gatzke

Dillon Henke

Braden Kobus

Joseph Pachowitz

Class of 2023

Christina Seese (Sweetheart)

Sean Roberts

Seid Husic

Christian Millan

Esteban Borja



Both Ripon College and the Epsilon Lambda chapter have made it through our Fall semester safely. Although state regulations have required us to conduct meetings online, we are still functional. One of our goals for this semester was to shorten house meetings. In place of processing all ideas in one meeting, we added a weekly non-executive meeting where discussion among non-exec members can happen. Our house meetings have been much more quick and concise since this change. In this coming semester, we plan to continue virtual house meetings and conduct other meetings with under 10 people in our lounge.

We have been successful this semester in hosting our annual cornhole tournament along with two recruitment events (page 3). We finished our Spring semester with an average GPA of 3.3, overshooting our goal of 3.1. This semester's GPAs have not yet been announced.

*It's notable that we have some brothers who are taking a gap from Ripon given recent events, these brothers are still listed to the left.

Campus Involvement

- National Guard
- Ripon Soccer
- Black Student Union
- SAAC
- Pinky Swear
- Laurel Society
- COMMunity
- Order of Omega
- Amnesty International
- Ripon X-Country
- Ripon Track & Field
- Mu Phi Epsilon
- Residence Life
- Outdoors Club
- Chamber Singers
- Investment Club
- Ethics Bowl
- Ripon Tennis



Inter-Chapter Relations

Our chapter reached out to two other chapters and benchmarked their recent achievements.

Gettysburg

The Theta chapter first caught our eye because of their 6-year streak of Peterson awards. Their success comes from two priorities: focus on the quantitative score, and alumni review. Bill Pye has offered to review our application for us. Our strategy for the quantitative score is to review the Peterson requirements and then reshape our chapter to meet these.

Theta also writes immaculate newsletters for their alumni. They shared their Fall 2020 newsletter with us as inspiration for our Chapter Editors moving forward.

UMass Amherst

The second chapter we benchmarked was Mu Epsilon at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. They were of interest to us not only because of their 11 consecutive Petersons, but because they are academically strong enough to have received the Cooper Scholarship Award last year. Alumus Bill Pye and scholarship chair Seid Husic met with their immediate former consul. We received advice on how to improve our chapter scholarship and our Peterson application. The main set-back back last year was that our Supplemental Submissions (essay questions) were insufficient. Mu Epsilon shared last year's submission with us as an example of how our future submissions should look.



"The most fun I've had with brothers was watching the 2019 Superbowl. We had no expectations, just a fun day grilling with the brothers." - Dillon Henke

"Being a Sigma Chi has laid a foundation for me to be a greater man than before. The chapter breeds the confidence to trust my brothers and to grow every day." - Christian Millan

Normalcy Amidst the Pandemic

Recruitment



Sean Roberts, rush

As per usual, Epsilon Lambda held two official recruitment events this semester. In the warmer season, we hosted an outdoors brunch with yard games. Once the weather got colder, we held an online Q&A over Zoom. Unfortunately our Steak & Cigar dinner posed too many health risks for us to host it. Besides attending recruitment events, the amount of independent men reaching out to show interest or attending cornhole was not much different than previous years.



Philanthropy



Noah Fish, philanthropy

This semester saw our annual cornhole event, which raised \$425 for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, and our usual volunteering. The same winner of last year's cornhole sealed a two-year winning streak this time. Our most popular volunteering event was a weekend long excursion with Pliska's Tubing. Huntsman Sigs went on to use some of our photos from the cornhole event for their marketing.

Brotherhood



Braden Kobus, brotherhood

Despite the pandemic, this semester brought about a drastic improvement in brotherhood since past years. We held to official brotherhood events surrounding televised sports events, along with several casual events. We held weekly, and sometimes even daily, yard games during the warmer weather with our brothers and friends. These also became an informal recruitment method, with several independent men showing up and later expressing interest in rushing. As autumn began, we hosted a volleyball tournament mixer with the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

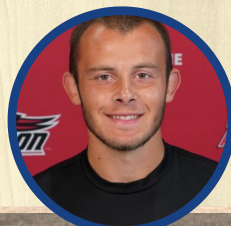


Scholarship



Seid Husic, scholarship

The Spring 2019-20 semester brought us our highest chapter GPA: 3.33, both above the Fraternity average and above our goal of 3.1. Our strategy to further increase it this semester was to separate into groups of 3 and compete for the highest GPA. So far, we have not received our final grades. Instead of reaching for a GPA, our next academic goal is to receive the Cooper Scholarship Award.



"I first met the brothers as a first-year, and they have shown me time and again the strength of their community. Even before becoming a Sweetheart, the brothers have always helped me grow." - Srivalli P-I

"My favorite thing about the Sigma Chi experience is the brotherhood of Epsilon Lambda. Being a brother opens unique possibilities" - Brad Schroeder

Two Brothers, Same Interview *Sean Roberts*



Rush

Initiated 2020

What's one piece of advice you would give to new initiates?

This is a hard one because there are too many good times and a few to keep off the record. I think some of my favorite memories are going to Kwik Trip in the late hours. Honestly, Kwik definitely tastes better after midnight. I think those late night antics are the best.

What's your best memory with your brothers?

I think one way I'd stay active as an alumni is to look at our social media. Just watch and see what the plans are for the future and see what the actives are up to. I think if actives need alumni help, they know to reach out and ask. It isn't our job as alumni to control what goes on in house, but we still should there when future generations need us.

Why do you plan to stay active as an alumni?

I think overall the relationships between brothers are the strongest and have continued to grow even in these times of unpredictability. I think we check up on each other more often and are always available. I think for next semester it would be great for us to be able to be in person more often instead of seeing each other online.

What improvements have you seen so far? What improvements would you like to see in the future?

Make each day as if it's your last. Time goes by so fast and I think we forget the limited time we have with each other. We only get a little over three years in house and some even less. So it is definitely important to value the time we have together.

Two Brothers, Same Interview *James DeRose*



Consul

Initiated 2018

What's one piece of advice you would give to new initiates?

It's best to go into the process open minded. Expect to learn new things about yourself. You have a new opportunity to become the man you want to be with the support of Sigma Chi to help guide your path.

What's your best memory with your brothers?

One of my best memories with my brothers was 2019's Steak & Cigar. This memory stands out to me because our entire chapter along with several alumni attended. We got to interact with the prospective pledges. I felt this sense of welcoming that reflects who we are as a chapter. I was proud of how we represented Sigma Chi that night.

Why do you plan to stay active as an alumni?

I feel it is important to stay active as an alumni and give back to the fraternity that has given me the tools to make myself a better man.

What improvements have you seen so far? What improvements would you like to see in the future?

I have seen great strides in my time. Epsilon Lambda has come a long way in following our values. This year, given how difficult it has been for everyone, has helped us mature because of how much we needed our values to support each other. I would like to see more academic support. We are all adjusting to more virtual settings this year, I think that all the help each of us can get would be instrumental. All I ask is for brothers to check in and see how each brother is doing scholastically and to offer any needed aid.