

State of the Collegiate Chapter - Spring 2021



PICTURE OF GAMMA ZETA

Dear Zeta Kappa Alumni,

As the Covid-19 pandemic has hit our country, the brothers of the Zeta Kappa Chapter would like to update our alumni on what has been happening at the chapter so far. Because of this pandemic, the chapter is not only growing stronger, but also, adapting to unprecedented situations that will carry our fraternity forward.

Recruitment

As of Spring 2020, five gentlemen accepted bids. However, 2 gentlemen of the Gamma Zeta class have proven themselves worthy of being called brothers of the Zeta Kappa chapter.

In fall 2020, Zeta Kappa extended 5 candidate bids. Unexpectedly, the Gamma Eta class surprised all brothers of the zeta kappa chapter when they held a 100% retainment rate when they proved themselves worthy of being called brothers of the chapter. All 5 gentlemen of the Gamma Eta class proved that they can portray Sigma Nu's core values of Love, Honor, Truth.



PICTURE of GAMMA ETA Class

Chapter Highlights

Because of the safety precautions that we have taken as a chapter, it has resulted in less social gatherings than normal. Unfortunately, house retreat was cancelled in spring and fall of 2020. However, because the venues the chapter booked for house retreat closed down, that did not stop us from engaging in team building exercises. Within the guidance of social distance precautions, the brothers of Zeta Kappa did a one day house retreat at the chapter house. From there, we engaged in team building exercises such as tossing dice around to every brother and then reflecting on one another's competence and communication skills after in the chapter room. The point of exercises like this helped us to reflect on how each of us communicates with each other as well as providing the stepping blocks necessary in improving the bond among brothers.

As the fall semester was coming to an end, Zeta Kappa honored its newest sweetheart, Serena Rodriguez (Phi Mu). Serena has always been a figure to check in on every brother and is never shy of having a conversation with any brother. Because of her kindness and dedication to the chapter, there was no hesitation among brothers to announce Serena as the latest Sigma Nu sweetheart.



PICTURE OF SERENA WITH HOLDING LETTERS

In the spring of 2020, brothers boasted a 3.41 house GPA. According to the Grade Report provided by IFC, the brothers of the Zeta Kappa chapter have outperformed the average of all students of which had a grade point average of 3.27. Despite the pandemic affecting all learning aspects at Fresno State, the Zeta Kappa chapter is not shy from adapting to circumstances and overcoming learning obstacles.

Outstanding Members

Without a doubt, some Sigma Nu brothers have gone above and beyond the call of duty in ensuring that they are as involved at Fresno State as possible. Here are a few honorable mentions:

Brother Ortega ZK 897

Brother Robert Ortega Jr. has been with Sigma Nu since Fall of 2017. Currently serving his second term as president of the zeta kappa chapter, he is also a scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors College. Through his leadership and guidance as Pledge Marshal of Fall 2020, under his watch the gamma eta class had a 100% retainment rate crossing over 5 brothers.



PICTURE OF RJ

Brother Valdez ZK 896

Brother Alexander Valdez has been with Sigma Nu Since fall of 2017. Currently serving as our treasurer, he is also a scholar in the Smittcamp Family Honors College. He served as the vice president of the Zeta Kappa chapter for the academic year of 2019 - 2020.



PICTURE OF ALEX

Brother Barragan ZK 901

Brother Steven Barragan has been with Sigma Nu since Fall of 2018. He is currently serving as our house manager. Meanwhile he represents Zeta Kappa as a running back for fresno state's football team and he never shies away from working out with brothers.



PICTURE OF STEVEN

Brother Morales

As a relatively new brother from the spring of 2020, he is currently serving as president of a criminology fraternity Lambda Alpha Epsilon at Fresno State. Meanwhile, he is also serving as our scholarship and alumni relations chairman.



PICTURE OF ANDY

Alumni Recognition

The Zeta Kappa chapter would like to thank Mason Morin ZK 714. He is an Alpha Pi class of Spring 2001. He donated his Sigma Nu letters to the Figueroa family. We at the chapter are grateful for his donation and would like to iterate that if any of our alumni brothers are interested in donating letters or anything to the chapter to contact our Alumni Relations Chairman Jesus Morales at 661-364-5426 or email him at andyjmorales961@gmail.com. Thank you alumni brother Mason!



Alumni Brother Mason Morin ZK 714



(Left to Right) Picture of Carlos, Andy, Elias wearing Masons Letters (Figueroa Family)

Final Message to Our Alumni

Make no mistake, the covid 19 pandemic will be one of the lowest points of this chapter. Because we can not hold any social gathering nor participate in any physical philanthropy because of safety precautions, it is no question that this pandemic has caused some damage to all of greek life. However, While it is true that the brotherhood is strong, we also intend on leaping over this obstacle and pushing forward our values as a fraternity.

If you know anyone that is attending California State University Fresno and is interested in joining a fraternity, please send them our way! As a chapter, we are always looking for gentlemen that are interested in representing the core values of Sigma Nus' Love, Honor, Truth.

Q&A with Officers

President:

Q: Congratulations on earning your second term for president of the zeta kappa chapter of sigma Nu. What were your goals during your first term and have they changed?

Unfortunately we had to manage the probation and all the circumstances of covid but we were able to get a few new brothers and keep the house alive. In other words the goal was to expand the brotherhood. Within expanding the brotherhood, the goal is to help prepare them for the difficult yet hopeful future that lies ahead.

Q: With covid still rampant in the country how has the chapter dealt with the virus and sigma nus operations.

We have to cease all social functioning, luckily there are benefits to having a small chapter. It's relatively easy to reach out to one another. It is fortunate we also have the chapter room to have meetings. Brothers did a good job at maintaining self isolation in their room. Unfortunately one brother had a case of covid, but he managed to self isolate outside the chapter house and had no further contact with any other brother. Luckily, the rest of the brothers have been testing negative and Fresno state has announced that they will be offering free covid testing to anybody living at the house.

Vice President:

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as vice president of the zeta kappa chapter, what are your goals for this academic year?

Encourage communication within brothers, communication with more alumni, ensure that all operations of sigma nu run as smoothly as possible during covid. By the end of every semester, ensure a good standing GPA, By the end of the academic year, I want to see the highest GPA within the IFC. To build strong and healthy lifelong friendships by attending brotherhood retreats at the end of the semester.

Q: Has covid impacted the operations of sigma nu? If so how?

It made it more challenging by having everyone participate in meetings, we don't have face to face meetings. A Lot of brothers are back in their hometown and on their own schedules which makes it more challenging. It makes it more difficult to participate in philanthropies, the fact that it's online makes it more difficult for people to be enthusiastic to participate.

Chaplain:

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as chaplain. What is your goal despite covid 19 still going on in the country?

Keeping relations in the house as tight as we can. Try to keep everything in the house as normal as possible with the given safety precautions of covid. Introducing different methods to create stronger bonds.

Q: Brotherhood is a hallmark of sigma nu. What activities have you planned out throughout the fall 2020 semester that you think has improved not only communication but more importantly, brotherhood.

We played volleyball toss but because we didn't have a volleyball we used dice. Everyone got in a circle, the goal of it was for every brother to touch the dice at least 2 times. Reason for that being is so that every brother would participate and do their part in the goal of a total of the dice being touched 50 times. If someone didn't catch the dice we would start over. During the game communication was key. Brothers had to communicate whether or not they were able to catch the dice. The brothers coordinated properly so that all brothers could touch it twice. At the end of the game, we went to the chapter room and discussed the game and what we learned from that game and how we can incorporate what we learned and utilize it during chapter business.

House Manager:

Q: In your opinion, what is one thing that is tough about being a house manager during covid?

Making sure that people are on top of their rooms and disinfecting them and not sharing commodities much.

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as house manager, If there were any modifications to the house that you would like to see happen, what would it be?

To obtain a dryer and washer so that brothers can do their laundry here. Get a TV and video game console for the chapter room. It would be nice to repaint the chapter room.

Philanthropy Chairman:

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as philanthropy chairman, what have you done in the fall 2020 semester to help organizations?

In the fall 2020 we helped raise money for the creek fire victims. We did that by collaborating with delta zeta sorority. We donated to the red cross.

Q: What goals do you have for next semester to engage the house with community service or other philanthropy opportunities?

Were going to be focusing on community service and engage in virtual philanthropy events. Hopefully collaborate with other campus organizations. Also encouraging a lot of the collegiate chapter members to participate in volunteering services with organizations of their choice which they could relate to the best. Also encourage the members of the fraternity to shop at local businesses to help them out.

Recruitment Chairman:

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as recruitment chairman, what difficulties were associated with getting the pledge class that just crossed over?

Honestly the pandemic in general, the fact that school is online, makes it hard to convince people to join the greek system when there are no social events to encourage them to join.

Q: What have you learned from this semester that you intend on using next semester to garner more pledges to learn more about the zeta kappa brotherhood?

Having the whole brotherhood join in on the recruitment process to get more people to learn about sigma nu.

Scholarship Chairman:

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as scholarship chairman, what difficulties are associated with trying to maintain good grades within the chapter during covid?

Brothers have rent to pay. They have bills to pay. What is hard is that brothers have their own schedule. Because of that, I think it has fractured the way people study and do homework. The pandemic of which has either left us unemployed or with fewer hours than before, it has resulted in brothers either seeking another job or taking on extra days to make up for the lost hours. Because of this, it has resulted in low weekly study session numbers. While I appreciate the few brothers attending the weekly study session, I think the number could be greater.

Q: Is there anything you learned from this semester that you intend on applying to next semester to ensure brothers stay up to date on homework assignments and grades?

I regret not taking the initiative on pushing brothers to do better in school. While it is true that I did grade checks and provided weekly study sessions with incentives such as pizza and walmart gift cards, I learned that if we want to continue to have a good house grade point average, I must take initiative such as confronting brothers face to face and working out a plan with them to ensure that they will not only pass their classes, but also, surpass all standards and expectations of the school. I intend on using what I learned and having the brothers finishing this academic year strong.

Social Chairman:

Q: Congratulations on earning your term as Social Chairman, what difficulties have you faced given that covid is still rampant in the country?

The challenges I've faced with covid is that we are restricted with several rules that won't allow social gatherings. but even with the rules in action, we follow them by having events like brotherhood lock ins and making sure we get tested weekly.

Q: How have you been able to balance the threat of covid with the social aspect of being in a greek fraternity?

Even though the pandemic is not at all ideal for greek life, it is the safety precautions that we must abide by at the end of the day to maintain a healthy house. We can still have social gatherings like a brotherhood lock in, however, to have big parties is not ideal.

Fraternally,

Jesus Morales
Alumni Relations, Scholarship Chairman