



THE FLORIDA NUS

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

FALL 2012

Florida Nu Upgrades Alumni Communications Program *Brothers, Now Is the Time to Reconnect!*



One hundred and sixty brothers gathered for the 25th anniversary event in February. Photo courtesy of Bruno Luco Photography.

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At our 25th anniversary, I promised the 160 alumni in attendance a stronger alumni relations program. Our goal is to help our active members stay in touch and to cultivate awareness and involvement in Florida Nu. There are several elements that are key to the program's success.

The reincarnation and upgrade of our alumni newsletter is one part of how we plan to strengthen our alumni base. We will mail two newsletters each year containing alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various Chapter activities, and lists of current undergraduate and alumni officers.

Please Fill Out and Return the Enclosed Biographical Update

Once a year, we will send out a biographical update that allows alumni to update the information we have on record. You will find this inserted today in your newsletter. These updates will provide information for what will surely be one of the newsletter's most popular features, the alumni news section. We encourage everyone to return the enclosed bio update and keep your brothers informed of your most recent accomplishments. Altogether, the updates are a vital tool in maintaining our records and our ties with one another.

Restructuring Our AVC

Another effort we hope to pursue is the increased involvement of our alumni with the undergraduate Chapter. To help with this, we are reconstructing our Alumni Volunteer Corporation. **Michael Hernandez '04** will take the reins as AVC president. We are excited for what the Chapter officers will accomplish under the guidance of our new AVC leadership.

Alumni Mentorship Program Shows Immediate Results

In addition to providing stronger mentoring for the Chapter officers, we have started a successful mentorship program for the upperclassmen. We are connecting the active members with alumni who work in their area of study or have some other common academic or occupational interest. Our first matches were made in April and it has been a very rewarding experience for all involved. If you are interesting in being a mentor to an undergraduate or serving on the AVC, please contact me at tjelke@tjelke.com.

Finally, to complete our alumni relations program, we will have two alumni-focused events every year. Homecoming last year was a huge success with more than 100 alumni in

attendance. We raised nearly \$2,000 for Chapter scholarships. We will host another Homecoming tailgate this year and will block off a section at the stadium for SigEps and your families. In the spring, we will have an alumni and family picnic with softball, food, and refreshments, and bounce houses and inflatables for the kids. For more details on Homecoming and our upcoming recruitment event please see page 4.

We hope that through the new and improved Florida Nu alumni relations program your fraternal bonds will be regularly renewed and strengthened. We are always interested in hearing from you, so if you have any suggestions, alumni news, or ideas for articles, please e-mail me at tjelke@tjelke.com or send to our alumni mailbox: Florida Nu Alumni, 247 SW 8th St. #830, Miami, FL 33130.

We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming!



Fraternally,
Tom Jelke '90
(305) 978-5951
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FLORIDA NU REFOCUSSED AND THRIVING AT FIU

SigEps Shining on Campus

The past few years have been nothing but bright in the history of our Chapter, as Florida Nu has recovered and maintained its position as one of the best organizations on campus. We strive to significantly improve Chapter academics and community service efforts while keeping the organization strong in sports and membership.

SIGEPS RANK SECOND IN ACADEMICS

In 2011 the Florida Nu Chapter, for the first time in several years, maintained a 3.0 G.P.A. throughout the calendar year. This average put us in second place among IFC organizations on campus and well above the all-campus average. As 2012 continues, we will diligently strive to surpass our results and become number one.

CHAPTER BRINGS BACK FASHION SHOW

Since late 2009, Florida Nu has adopted a local philanthropy, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. The Chapter chose this research center after former President **David Del Cristo '10** was in a serious accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury. Luckily, Del, as we like to call him, was able to walk again. However, many others aren't as fortunate and we have organized several events to raise money for the cause. We have hosted a SigEp block party for two years in a row. The block party is significant because it is the time when we announce our Queen of Hearts, the lady who is the face of our philanthropy. In addition to the block party, the Chapter also brought back the SigEp Fashion Show, which generated thousands of dollars to be donated.



Florida Nus secured their third dodge ball championship at the Phi Sigma Sigma philanthropic event.

Helping the community has played a major role in our Chapter's activities. Last semester, the Chapter hosted our first SigEp read-a-thon, where brothers partnered with FIU sororities and visited a local elementary school to read for the kids. We also completed a service project with the city of Little Havana, donating more than 200 hours.

BROTHERS SERVE FIU IN VARIOUS ROLES, ORGANIZATIONS

One of our biggest strides this year was our increased campus involvement. With **Philip Koenig '15** as the recently elected chief of staff for SGA, the third most important position, he joins **Jeffrey Hernandez '14**, **Raul Alvarez '15**, and **Andres Hermida '15** in the association. We also proudly announce that **Adrien Von Poperinghe '14** is the president of the Student

Alumni Association. Alongside him in the SAA, **Leonardo Martinez '13**, **Jeffrey Hernandez '14**, **Tal Shemesh '15**, and **Robert Dominguez '13** each serve as student ambassadors. Another great advance for our Chapter is to have three morale captains assigned for the 2013 Dance Marathon campus event.

BROTHERS WIN THIRD SPORTS CUP

As far as intramurals and social activities, the Florida Nu Chapter has surpassed all other chapters. With a football championship, five consecutive volleyball championships, and our third soccer championship in the last four years, SigEp has clinched its third Sports Cup since 2009. We have held mixers with every sorority on campus and have encouraged their participation in our Chapter events, such as the fashion show.

FLORIDA NU RECRUITING BALANCED MEN

As the Chapter prepares for summer and fall recruitment, we look for young men who have the potential to become balanced leaders. The past few years have resulted in great advancement in the areas of community service, philanthropy, and academics but we must strive for improvement in others, such as member retention and involvement of alumni and parents. We will maintain the foundations of our Balanced Man Program and use it more than ever to develop young men into the leaders of our future.



Sincerely,
Fernando Pinheiro '13
Chapter President
president.flnu@gmail.com



SigEps partnered with FIU sorority members to host a read-a-thon for a local elementary school.



Gio Rodriguez '12, Alex Lastra '12, Fernando Pinheiro '13, Kris Salado '11, Javier Vargas '10, Robert Grimal '13, and Valentin Lopez '12 celebrate Florida Nu's third Sports Cup since 2009.



In July, Jonathan Ocampo '13 attended the 2012 Ruck Leadership Institute in Richmond, Virginia.



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Welcome, New Members

Spring New Members

Jacques Ambroise '13
Port-au-prince, Haiti
International Relations

Jonathan Costa '15
Miami, Fla.
International Business

Joey Harris '15
Baltimore, Md.
Business

Andres Hermida '15
Miami, Fla.
Political Science

Juan Parra '14
Miami, Fla.
Finance

**Pierre-Alexandre
Richard '14**
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Environmental Science

Jairo Rodriguez '15
Hialeah, Fla.
Nutrition

Summer New Members

Daniel Bertot '16
Miami, Fla.
Biology

Victor Cereijo '16
Miami, Fla.
Computer Engineering

Matthew Chica '16
Miami, Fla.
Business Marketing

Orlando Crespo '14
Miami, Fla.
Political Science
and Philosophy

Javi Diaz '15
Miami, Fla.
Biology

Gabriel Duarte '15
Miami, Fla.
Construction
Management

Albert Gonzalez '14
Miami, Fla.
Marine Biology

Joey Hernandez '16
Miami, Fla.
Biology

Pedro Melendez '16
Miami, Fla.
Finance

Nicholas Nisembaum '16
Miami, Fla.
Accounting

Edward Quintana '15
Miami, Fla.
Marketing

Daniel Ricciliu '16
Miami, Fla.
Business

Daniel Rodriguez '16
Miami, Fla.
Finance and Accounting

Michael Somma '15
Miami, Fla.
Biology

Jonathan Velasco '16
Oranjestad, Aruba
Biology

Daniel Vinas '16
Miami, Fla.
International Business

SigEp Served as Compass for Destination Resort CEO Alan Leibman '89

Like many college students, **Alan Leibman '89** was attracted to the Greek system for its social benefits. "I thought that a fraternity would be a great way to meet new people, and noticed SigEp always seemed to have the most beautiful girls," he teases. "I was passionate about the fraternity and saw it as a great way to build strong friendships.

"Fraternity life reinforced the importance of relationships, friendships, and understanding of people from different cultures," he says. "This has helped me immensely in where I am today, and is where I gained my love of traveling and for the tourism industry."

Alan graduated from FIU with a degree in hotel and restaurant administration. In 1990, he was hired as a food and beverage assistant for Ritz-Carlton, and one short year later he was promoted to executive management. At the age of 25, Alan became the youngest general manager ever at Ritz-Carlton.

After working as a general manager in Australia, he became the company's director of operations for that country. In 1994, Alan pursued an opportunity with Kerzner, an international developer and operator of luxury hotels, resorts, and casinos. Once again, he quickly climbed the ranks and took on various multi-million and billion dollar projects.

As chief operating officer, he built Atlantis, Paradise Island in the Bahamas and Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai, among several other destination resorts. In January, Alan was appointed chief executive officer of Kerzner International. Aside from the two Atlantis properties, Kerzner is also well known for their One and Only resorts worldwide.

"I will call them from an airport lounge. It is very important to reconnect and stay in touch as these are the relationships we have with us forever. They are important and unique and we have all spent a very important part of our lives together. I would love to reconnect properly with everyone one day."

"I feel very fortunate to have been a part of all of these projects. Being personally involved in each of them has been a truly valuable experience that I will always keep with me," says Alan.

He credits his success to having passion, drive, dedication, and determination, as well as working countless hours on something he loves. "And, when none of that is working, a little bit of luck along the way!"

Given the nature of his industry, Alan spends most of his time in an airplane, but when a spare moment is found he takes the opportunity to reach his brothers. "I will call them from an airport lounge," he says. "It is very important to reconnect and stay in touch as these are the relationships we have with us forever. They are important and unique and we have all spent a very important part of our lives together. I would love to reconnect properly with everyone one day."

Alan and his wife, Cathy, live in Dubai. When time allows, they enjoy skiing, traveling, outdoor cooking, and laughing with their two young sons, Nicholas and Brandon.



*Alan Leibman '89, CEO of
Kerzner International*

Florida Nu Alumni
247 SW 8th Street, #830
Miami, FL 33130

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Upcoming Events

Meet the SigEps Recruitment Event

8 p.m., September 12
Graham Center

Recognized as our most important recruitment event, we welcome our alumni to help us share the ideals and principles of the fraternity to potential new members. Please show your support for the chapter and R.S.V.P. to tjelke@tjelke.com.

Homecoming Tailgate and Game

3:30 p.m., October 13
Tailgate area by FIU Stadium

We will hold 50 game tickets for alumni and guests that may be claimed on a first-come, first-served basis. Contact **Tom Jelke '90** at tjelke@tjelke.com to R.S.V.P., claim tickets, or volunteer for the planning committee. Cost to attend: \$30 per person includes all-you-can-eat catered food, refreshments, and fun. Kids under 7 are free. Last year was a big success with more than 100 alumni and their families in attendance. We hope to continue that success this year and into the future!



Our 2011 Homecoming celebration was a great success with more than 100 alumni in attendance.

OFFER YOUR TIME AND TALENT TO FLORIDA NU

Would you like to support Florida Nu by serving on the AVC? We have a great team and can use your talents.

Having a committed and developed AVC will provide better mentoring to our Chapter officers and will give alumni the opportunity to connect with the undergraduates. If you prefer one-on-one interaction, our mentorship program could also use your help.

If you are interested in building a legacy for Florida Nu by joining the AVC or serving as a mentor to an upperclassman, please contact **Tom Jelke '90** at tjelke@tjelke.com. You can make a difference in the future of your Chapter.

Visit Us on the Web

Reconnect with your Florida Nu brothers and stay up to date on all the latest Chapter events by visiting our LinkedIn and Facebook pages.



LinkedIn: Search for Sigma Phi Epsilon FL Nu Chapter



Facebook: Search for SigEpsilon Alumni (Florida Nu Chapter)