



Dear Sigma Chi Alumni,

The Epsilon Zeta Chapter has concluded another successful school year, highlighted by our exceptional performances in campus involvement, rush and new member education, alumni collaboration, and philanthropic prowess. This semester has created a new standard for Epsilon Zeta by continuing to build on previous successes. As such, the benchmark for our fraternity has improved and will continue to grow throughout the following years. Please read below to hear more about our fantastic semester.



Rush and New Member Education

This spring, our brotherhood welcomed 29 young men into the Kappa Pledge Class. Rush Chairmen **Connor Albrecht** and **Price Watson** worked diligently with their respective committee to cultivate an elite group of men to join Sigma Chi. Following the recruitment process, our magister **Tyler Fink** led a scholarly and informative Preparation for Brotherhood Course, teaching our new members the values and obligations of Sigma Chi. We look forward to watching our new members accomplish great feats in college and beyond. Well done, gentlemen!

Spring Philanthropy: Derby Days

Each spring, our fraternity hosts the “Derby Days” competition to raise money for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. Once again, Epsilon Zeta had a successful Derby Days, as our chapter raised \$73,000 to benefit cancer treatment, research, and prevention. Philanthropy chair **Josiah Marshall** worked with representatives from each sorority to raise money for the Huntsman Cancer





Foundation. At the end of the competition, we recognized **Ella Whittington** as our new Derby Darling, who valiantly raised over \$19,000! We sincerely appreciate the efforts from Ella and each contestant for raising money towards a great cause. Additionally, I would like to thank each alumni who donated to the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. As they say at the Huntsman Cancer Foundation, “Let’s be the generation to end cancer!”

New House Initiative

We are pleased to share early momentum behind a proposed new chapter house initiative led by Brother Rick Harpenau (dude ’80). At this stage, we are able to highlight the vision through preliminary imagery, including aerial context and conceptual design studies, along with an



anticipated project timeline and initial fundraising goals. **Rick Harpenau** and **Carl Ferrell** ‘73—both active and highly accomplished Florida general contractors—are leading early-stage efforts. Preliminary site plan submission to the City occurred last week. Topographic survey is complete and soil borings should occur at the end of this week. The project team, including the architect and master builder, has been selected. A formal fundraising campaign is expected to launch shortly. In the meantime, alumni interested in learning more or offering support are encouraged to contact Rick directly. Additional information and campaign progress can be found at our new website (see below).

Epsilon Zeta’s New Website

Recently, our chapter created a new website to showcase achievements and progress. This website will also provide easier alumni connection and visual clarity with the *New House Initiative*. I’d like to thank alumnus **Rick Harpenau** and brother **Patrick Raftery** for creating this project. To access this website, use the link: ezofsigmachichi.org .

Sigma Chi Fraternity Epsilon Zeta

First Annual Alumni Banquet

On April 17th, Epsilon Zeta held its first annual Alumni Banquet at the Dunlap Champions Club in Doak Campbell Stadium. At this event, Consul **Ross Ellis**, **Rick Harpenau**, Mayor **John Dailey**, and Grand Praetor **Scott Quinn** gave their remarks and words of encouragement to the chapter and alumni. Epsilon Zeta deeply appreciates all of the alumni who were able to attend and interact with the active chapter. We look forward to hosting more alumni events in the near future!



Brother Spotlight: Christian Velasquez

Annually, our fraternity has many brothers who stand out through their achievements and represent Epsilon Zeta to the highest level at Florida State University. This year, brother **Christian Velasquez** has shown what it truly means to be a Sigma Chi. Christian served as president of the Interfraternity Council in the 2024-2025 term, overseeing all of fraternal greek life at Florida State University. Additionally, he was recognized as the 2025 Homecoming Chief, a prestigious title only few earn at Florida State University. On top of these accomplishments, he has been named a Balfour Award Finalist, which identifies the most distinguished Sigma Chi graduates each year. Excellent work, Brother Christian!



Social Endeavors

On the social front, chairman **Dillon Baker** organized fantastic events for the brotherhood. Our fraternity took a trip to New Orleans, Louisiana for the spring formal event. This formal was our largest since installation, with the majority of the chapter attending the weekend trip. Epsilon Zeta celebrated this semester's achievements in style, renting out a venue on Bourbon Street for the formal event. Additionally, we hosted two parties at our chapter facility and a variety of date functions, with themes ranging from the Kentucky Derby to Apres in Aspen!

Future Events: Epsilon Zeta's Anniversary and Professional Development

This fall will mark Sigma Chi's 75th year at Florida State University! Based on this excellent accomplishment, we will host a celebration to recognize the longevity and achievements of Epsilon Zeta. There will be more information about the 75th Anniversary shortly. Additionally, I would like to host a Professional Development Seminar in the fall for our next pledge class and active brothers. If you are interested in sharing your career experiences, please reach out. Epsilon Zeta would love to have alumni guide our chapter in the professional setting!

Finally, I would like to say thank you to all of our alumni for your involvement and guidance. My primary goal this semester was to bridge the gap between Epsilon Zeta alumni and active brothers, which our chapter has worked diligently towards improving. In the fall, I hope to help cultivate an active **Tallahassee Alumni Chapter** of Sigma Chi, giving a fraternal outlet for brothers who live locally. If you are interested in joining this group or becoming a leader, please reach out to myself or any member of the housing corporation. We look forward to building a strong alumni network in the Tallahassee area!

In Hoc,

Cooper Brandt

Tribune of the Epsilon Zeta Chapter