



# ARIZONA BETA

## OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA | SUMMER 2020

BUILDING BALANCED LEADERS FOR THE WORLD'S COMMUNITIES



## AZ BETA KICKS OFF A VIRTUAL CAREER NETWORK & SPEAKER SERIES

- 1 Career Network & Speaker Series
- 2 Mentor/Advisory Board & President's Report
- 3 Meet Our Volunteers
- 4 AZ Beta Foundation Update
- 5 Undergraduate Profiles
- 6 Alumni Updates
- 8 Annual Philanthropy



AZ Beta is looking to build a lifetime career network for alumni, parents and undergraduates. The goal is match those in similar career fields; to provide advice to those who want their resume and/or LinkedIn profile reviewed; to promote internships, temporary jobs and fulltime jobs; and to host a monthly speaker series.

**Step 1** was asking everyone to complete a survey. For alumni and parents who have not completed the survey yet, please click here: <https://sigepazbeta.org/alumni-parent-career-information-profile>. For undergraduates who have not completed the survey yet, please click here: <https://sigepazbeta.org/undergraduate-career-information-profile>.

**Step 2** was to begin hosting an AZ Beta Speaker Series. We started it with a great presentation by Dan Hicks '84 who spoke about his career as a Sports Announcer. See page 6 for a profile on Dan. We followed it with a presentation by Zane Stoddard '92 who spoke on media, entertainment, sports. Zane has served as Vice President of NASCAR, Director of Entertainment Marketing for the NBA, Partner of Three Kings Records, and Principal of 551 Sports & Entertainment Marketing.

If you would be willing to make a 30-45 presentation about your career field, please email Matt Noble at [matt.noble@fmgutucson.com](mailto:matt.noble@fmgutucson.com).

**Step 3** will be to start in June introducing alumni, parents and undergraduates to each other to help with career networking.

### KEEP IN TOUCH WITH AZ BETA

**Website:** <http://www.sigepazbeta.org>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Arizona-Beta-of-Sigma-Phi-Epsilon-196573970433271/>

**Subscribe to our Email list:** <http://www.sigepazbeta.org/contact/email-subscribe>



# ΣΦΕ PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Executive Board

Jeffrey Wright '22, President  
 Thomas Holben '22, VP Operations  
 Jake Vilott '22, VP Programming  
 Ivan Williams '22, Risk Manager  
 Patrick Schramm '22, VP Member Development  
 Ryan Garlick '22, Chaplain  
 Michael Abraham '22, VP Communications  
 Caden Dorn '22, VP Recruitment  
 Shawn Grimes '22, VP Finance

## Advisory/Mentor Board

Rob Aronoff '84, Mentor to President  
 Geoff Ferlan '89, Mentor to VP of Communications  
 Doug Jones '79, Mentor to VP of Recruitment  
 Sam Kraus '17, Mentor to Chaplain  
 Paul Neff '14, Mentor to Member Development  
 Will Titus '15, Chapter Counselor, Mentor to Finance  
 Scott Mattingly '84, Mentor to Programming

## Educational Foundation Board

Randy Downer '85, President  
 Dan Knauss '68, Secretary  
 Rob Aranoff '84, Treasurer  
 Wayne Rutschman '70, Director  
 Pete Rich '76, Director  
 Wayne Wood '68, Director

## House Corporation Board

Kevin Johnson '15, President  
 Doug Jones '79, Secretary  
 Paul Neff '14, Treasurer

## List of New Brothers Added to the Chapter in 2019-20

### SIGMA'S:

Bennett Everidge	Loren Roberson
Blaze Borowski	Mohi Hamze
Christian Olsen	Sam Rosenkrantz
CJ Timm	Thomas West
Collin Gavel	Tyler Paquette
Connor Pochetti	Will Rankin
Lawson Wlodkowski	

### PHI'S:

Alex Canella	Jaden Boling
Alex Cantor	Jake Guhr
Anthony Abruzzini	Jimmy Hoos
Bobby Heitzinger	Josh Kahn
Braxton Diaz	Kjelt Visser
Brayden Tass	Kody Brown
Charlie Beresford	Luke Hamlin
Colby Branum	Matt Stranton
Cole Kristal	Nick Handfelt
Diego Diaz-Colwell	Omar Alsbiei
Henry Newman	Sammy Cibulka
JP Dahdah	Stephan Maraoui
Jack Touhill	Tanner Bryson
Jack Stooks	Tommy Holloran
Jackson Beresford	Quin Madden



Hello current and past members, my name is Jeffrey Wright and I am the current Arizona Beta President. I hope each and every one of you are staying safe during this challenging and difficult time. While my tenure was cut short in lieu of online schooling this spring, we accomplished a lot in a short span! To start off, we had a fantastic Spring Rush and gave out bids to members with potential to do great things. We are excited to see those thirteen continue their development this fall with the expectation that we will be returning to do so.

The Executive Board and I also enjoyed attending Carlson in Woodland Hills (near Los Angeles) at the end of February. We received an Excelsior Award for our Alumni Volunteer Corporation and their commitment to success. We were also recognized for our efforts to move towards a dry fraternity house. We learned a lot about the other West Coast Chapters and their operations, but my favorite part was having Luke Hamlin (F19) and Kody Browne (F19) tag along to shadow executive members for the weekend. I would not be surprised if I saw Executive Board positions in their futures!

On return from the trip, we had plans for implementing new ideas and goals... after Spring Break. For those who do not know, we were asked not to return to campus in the middle of March and through the rest of the semester. We were forced to shutter a lot of our events and initiatives, such as: the inaugural Chris Reeves Scholarship, a weekend to Las Vegas, 4.0 Dinner, Spring Fling, SigEp Safari, and many more.

We have since moved online, trying to continue fostering brotherhood and attempting to bring some normalcy to our fraternity brothers' lives. The change to online learning has been tough for many, so we have attempted to transition our academic aid to an online platform. To continue 'socializing,' we have created groups members can join to play online poker or other video games in a way to allow some interaction between our brothers. It is not ideal, but we are doing our best.

I know it's been a tough year for us as well as many of our alumni, so I just wanted to take a moment to commend you all for being courageous during this pandemic. Take care of those around you. Be kind. Stay safe.

HFF

Jeffrey Wright (F18)



# MEET SOME OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

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## GEOFFREY FERLAN ('89)

MENTOR TO THE VP OF COMMUNICATIONS



Geoffrey Ferlan was a member of the Fall, 1984, Pledge Class and later became an Arizona Beta member. He graduated in Spring of 1989 with his Bachelor of Arts, having majored in political science. Geoff currently serves as the Mentor to Vice President of Communications, Michael Abraham.

Geoff has deep ties to Tucson, Arizona, where he spent most of his childhood. Following his graduation from the

University of Arizona, he received his degree of Juris Doctor from Detroit College of Law and subsequently his master's degree in International Commercial Law from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Mexico. Before being appointed Court Commissioner and Judge Pro Tempore to the Arizona Superior Court in Pima County in 2011, Geoff worked as a prosecutor, assistant attorney general and private attorney. His initial judicial assignment was to the Juvenile Bench, presiding over dependency, severance, adoption, and delinquency matters. He rotated to the Family Law Bench on February 1, 2016, where he continues to be assigned. For leisure, Geoff enjoys sports as well as spending time with his wife, three children, extended family and friends.

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## PAUL NEFF ('14)

BALANCED MAN STEWARD/MENTOR TO VP  
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

TREASURER, ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER  
CORPORATION (HOUSING CORPORATION)



Paul is a member of the team responsible for property management of the chapter house including managing day-to-day expenses and coordinating financial reporting. As Balanced Man Steward he is appointed by the National Fraternity to foster the Balanced Man Program, executed by the chapter's VP of Membership Development, which is focused on the five areas of development: Leadership, SigEp, Personal Health and

Wellness, Intellectual, and Professional. He has been involved as a volunteer in various roles since graduating from the UA in 2014. Professionally, Paul works as a Sr. Systems Engineer at Raytheon Missiles & Defense. He lives in Tucson, AZ with his wife, Ariana.

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## RANDY DOWNER, JR. ('85)

AZ BETA FOUNDATION PRESIDENT  
ALUMNI VOLUNTEER



Randy is the President of the Foundation which raises money to award scholarships to undergraduate members of the fraternity. Randy also serves as a periodic Executive Board Mentor and has volunteered for the fraternity intermittently for several years. Professionally, Randy has owned one of Arizona's largest Investigative Agencies for the last 25 years and is also a long time Real Estate Investor. Randy is married to Sherry Downer, an employment lawyer in Tucson and they have a 10-year-old daughter, Ava Lee.

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## KEVIN JOHNSON ('15)

PRESIDENT, ALUMNI & VOLUNTEER  
CORPORATION (HOUSING CORPORATION)



Kevin leads the team that is responsible for property management of the chapter house, providing a facility for chapter members to live, study, meet and eat meals together. He has served on the Alumni & Volunteer Corporation in various roles since graduating from UA in 2015. Professionally, Kevin is a Development Consultant with Bright Canyon Energy, a developer, owner

and operator of electric energy infrastructure based in Phoenix. He lives in Yakima, WA with his wife, Emily.

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## SAMUEL KRAUS ('17)

MENTOR TO THE CHAPLAIN



Samuel Kraus joined the AZ Beta volunteer board in 2018 after graduating from the University of Arizona in Spring 2017. He currently serves as an executive board mentor for the Chaplain and works with alumnus Doug Jones to renovate and refurnish the chapter house. Professionally, Sam is a clinical researcher with the

University of Arizona Cancer Center and specializes in early phase, first-in-human studies for advanced and metastatic cancer therapies.





# AZ BETA FOUNDATION UPDATE

## Thank You Donors

A special thank you to the donors from the last year. Your support has made a difference in supporting our young members with scholarships. We awarded \$11,000 in scholarships to nine undergraduates this past year and have awarded \$62,500 in the past five years. In today's COVID-19 economy we will have even more young men struggling to pay for their dues, food and rent. If you are in a position to make a contribution, please click here:

<https://www.sigepazbeta.org/donate-on-line-credit-card>.

For those that would like to support our Legacy Giving program, please click here:

<https://www.sigepazbeta.org/leave-a-legacy>.

Bud Dyke '59  
Daryl Smith '61  
Dave Barclay '63  
Wayne Benesch '64  
Wayne Wood '68  
Jeff Wieman '69  
Wayne Rutschman '70  
Ken Haydis '71  
Tom Andersen '72

Doug Carlberg '72  
Stephen Thomas '72  
Paul Neuenschwander '73  
Timothy Hart '75  
Pete Rich '76  
Robert Burke '78  
Dan Murphy '79  
Steve Brousse '83  
Rob Aronoff '84

Dan Adamson '85  
Randy Downer '85  
Randy Wolfe '85  
David Burstein '86  
Nelson Benchimol '87  
Drew Skelly '88  
Channen Le Smith '90  
Mike Simon '94  
Michael Ash '95

## Fall 2019 Educational Foundation Winners

Omid Ravanfar '20  
Jared Romain '20  
Trey Elletson '21  
Sam Hughes '21  
Aaron Nach '21  
Anthony Rossi '21  
Thomas Holben '22  
Ivan Williams '22  
Alexander Cannella '23

## “Some Quotes from Our Scholarship Winners”

*“I am so appreciative of the scholarship received from the AVC. It was a huge weight off my shoulders when I found out I could continue on in Sigma Phi Epsilon and not have to worry about how I was going to pay my dues. Thank you!”*

**-Trey Elletson '21**

*“SigEp has been such great experiences giving me some of my best friends and memories. I am extremely grateful for this scholarship allowing me to pay my tuition especially in these trying times. The scholarship also allows me to continue the college journey and a member of this organization. I will be continuing my involvement with SigEp and aiding the greek community as the IFC president. Thank you all again!”*

**-Sam Hughes '21**

*“At SigEp AZ Beta, we are extremely fortunate to have alumni that are involved and support all endeavors members pursue from academics to extracurricular activities. The Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) provides valuable resources to allow members to strive for growth professionally and personally. With my parents financially supporting five of my siblings, the AZ Beta AVC Scholarship lifted stress from myself and my parents. I am extremely grateful for the positive influence and unceasing support our AVC Board has on the members of our chapter. Thank you!”*

**-Thomas Holben '22**

*“The scholarship that I received from the AVC helped me tremendously as I pursue my education as a SigEp at the University of Arizona. I could not be more grateful for the scholarship money that I received, as it helped to pay for dues for two semesters. Thank you again for allowing me to continue being around my brothers, and I hope that I will continue to be a positive influence in the lives of those around me.”*

**-Alexander Cannella '23**



# UNDERGRADUATE PROFILES



## ZANE COFFMAN ('20)

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Zane Coffman is a role model that many active members look up to. Whether he is known for his previous position on the executive board, or his success in the classroom (maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout college), Zane is truly a balanced man. He has enjoyed his various opportunities to be a leader in the chapter, meeting all his closest life-long friends, and participating in other various clubs and organizations at the U of A. Even though he is involved with other organizations Zane states, "The AZ Beta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon has aided me in developing my professional skills while also having the most amazing time." He recalls a fond memory his

first semester as a Sigma: "One of my favorite memories came as a freshman. A few of my Sigma buddies and I were bored on a Friday afternoon after our classes and decided to take all the old mattresses and tarps that weren't being used to make a giant waterslide down two flights of stairs. That type of comradery does not come often and right then and there, I knew this group of people was special."



## TREVOR FRUEDIG ('20)

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From the moment Trevor walked into the chapter house during recruitment, he knew he was born to be a Sig Ep. "Everything about what I strive to be revolves around our core values: Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love." Through struggles, Trevor has found his passion and his love of his future career in physics. This is partially attributed to the healthy mental environment that he sought four years ago during recruitment. "I have had a lot of bumps in the road on my path to find a career. If there's one piece of advice that I can give to anyone it's this: Do not get discouraged from rejection." This type of determination is another thing that

Trevor admires of his peers in Sig Ep. Staying involved as a senior, Trevor participates in the University of Arizona Astronomy Club and helps out the current VP of Programming, to which he was honored to be elected last term.

# ΣΦΕ ALUMNI UPDATE



## DAN HICKS ('84)

A native of Tucson, Arizona where he graduated from Sabino High School, Dan Hicks was initiated into the Arizona Beta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon in 1980. After graduating from the University of Arizona with a degree in journalism in 1984, Dan began his professional career as a news and sports anchor for KCEE/KWFM radio in Tucson. After working in radio, Dan began his work in television at the local NBC affiliate in Tucson at KVOA-TV where he served as the weekend sports anchor. In the spring of '89 he was hired by CNN Sports in Atlanta where he hosted numerous shows including "CNN Sports Tonight" while also specializing in college football and golf. He was hired by NBC Sports in 1992 where he has been ever since.

Currently, Dan is in his 21st season as the lead host of NBC's Emmy Award-winning golf coverage. He anchors NBC's coverage of the PGA Tour, including The Open Championship, THE PLAYERS Championship and the coveted FedEx Cup Playoffs highlighted by The Tour Championship. Dan also anchors elite golf events such as The Ryder Cup, The President's Cup, and dating back to 2007, more than 20 World Golf Championships, all a part of the network's premier television golf package.

In addition to golf, Dan has been a part of the NBC broadcast team for 11 Olympics, making his debut at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. Dan handled the lead role for swimming and diving during the 1996 Atlanta Games and his duties were expanded in March 1998 when he was named host of "The Olympic Show," an Emmy Award-winning weekly program produced by NBC Sports that aired on CNBC until 2002. Dan has served as the play-by-play commentator for swimming at every summer Olympics since 1996. His Winter Olympic duties have included play by play for speed skating in three Olympics and he has served as the lead play by play host for the network's Alpine Skiing coverage the last two Olympics in addition to covering World Cup Skiing events and World Alpine Ski Championships.

In addition, Dan was recently named lead play-by-play commentator of the network's French Open Tennis coverage in Paris where he called Rafael Nadal's 12th French Open title in his debut at Roland Garros in 2019. He has also called a wide variety of events while at NBC including the NBA, Ironman Triathlon, gymnastics, the NFL, and has also served as the voice of Notre Dame Football for the network.

Dan has always said his experience in AZ Beta "helped shape his future while developing life-long relationships" with his brothers across the country. His advice to the undergraduates is simply "to pick something you love to do and that passion will make you successful." Finally, he says his favorite memories of his time in AZ Beta are "the friendships built and the bond and brotherhood instilled while pursuing my dreams in and out of the sports business."



# ΣΦΕ ALUMNI UPDATE



**MARK  
SLEPIAN ('89)**

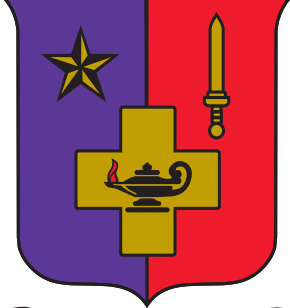
Mark W. Slepian, M.D. or better known to his SigEp brothers as “Sleprock” moved to Arizona in 1977. Mark grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona where he graduated from Chaparral High School. He came through the red door of SigEp in the Spring of '86 and initiated into the AZ Beta chapter at the end of that term. Mark knew he wanted to be a physician early on in high school. He had always been focused on the sciences and studied pre-med while at the UofA. After graduating in 1989 with a major in Psychology and minor in Chemistry, Mark attended Chicago Medical School, followed by a five year Radiology residency at TUFTS University in Boston, MA and finally a one year fellowship in Interventional and Vascular Radiology at Vanderbilt in Nashville, TN. Mark has been a partner for the last 20 years with Associated Radiologists, Ltd in Mesa, Arizona. The practice was recently acquired by Radiology Partners, headquartered in El Segundo, CA. Over the course of his practice he has helped countless patients through diagnostic image interpretation as well as diagnostic/therapeutic needle and vascular based procedures. Mark served as Vice President of the practice for 8 years as well as Chairman of the Radiology department for Banner Desert Medical Center, a two year term. Banner Desert is a Level one trauma center with the fourth busiest emergency department this side of the Mississippi. He oversaw all clinical operations for the department and on a larger scale the complex interaction of the section with other hospital departments. Currently, he sits on the hospital physician wellness committee, a group of physicians chosen by the chief of staff to counsel physicians in crisis that spills out into their work/home environment. Mark commented, “The work of helping other physicians find tools to manage a very stressful work environment and balance that with life outside the hospital has been very rewarding”.

Mark has continued “giving back” to the young men of SigEP by mentoring current active members who wish to pursue a career in medicine. He has set up hospital rotations in Radiology and ER for the young men to shadow himself and other doctors. He stated, “so many individuals were influential in helping him achieve his career path, he is so pleased to be one cog in the wheel to help them achieve their goals”.

Mark had an amazing experience at AZ Beta. He said, “the relationships forged there have continued on and will for a lifetime.” As a young man in the house it did not dawn on him at the time how much these brothers would enhance his life post college. Mark commented, “that bond lives on whether a trip to Cabo, a phone call with a brother going through a rough time or more recently the reunion event held at his house in Scottsdale last December.” Mark is a connector of people, no better on display than the concept and organization of the reunion event.

Mark is married to his lovely wife of 25 years, Laurie, a Theta from the University of Arizona. They live in Scottsdale, Arizona and have four daughters. The three oldest are current active members of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority at Arizona. The fourth daughter will undoubtedly be a Wildcat as well.

# ANNUAL PHILANTHROPY



Every year, the Arizona Beta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon hosts our annual philanthropy event, “Regatta”. The event promotes inclusion and widespread involvement in the Arizona Greek community, all while hosting a fun event for those involved. This event caters to the sororities, who create teams of ten to fifteen, that are coached by a handful of Sig Ep members. Throughout the week, the teams gather at our house to begin the building process; the goal is to construct a cardboard boat that they will later race against the opposing teams’ boat creations. As each day passes, competition among the teams begins to rise as tension surrounding the race gets closer. Cardboard and duct tape line the Sig Ep courtyard as teams put their engineering skills to the test. Each model is original, built completely on the foundation of teamwork and creativity. On the day of the race, the Rec Center puts on a show as each team congregates at the starting line. The race begins and the teams cheer on their models. Some boats fall apart as they hit the water and sink to the bottom of the pool, but others prevail until the finish line. After the long, hot desert day full of cheers, triumph, and for some, disappointment, one team finishes on top.



Regatta is an event held as a fundraiser to raise money for the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Southern Arizona. A non-profit organization which helps children realize their potential and build their future. Their mission is to create and support one-on-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth. Many of our Arizona Beta chapter members have in fact become involved with the program as a mentor. Because of this, we have become very closely involved with the chapter of Big Brother Big Sisters.

This past year, we donated \$7,500 to the Big Brother Big Sisters of Southern Arizona. A big step up from our past years and Regatta events. As the event continues to grow in terms of participation, popularity, and donations, we can only look to improve and forward for the good things to come!



*Far left: Zeta Nava ('22) went on a hike in Tucson with other brothers last semester.*

*Right: Brother Tanner Turnbow ('20) rode in a F-18 last semester*