



Illinois Epsilon Chapter of SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



ILLINOIS EPSILON CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON • ALUMNI RELATIONS • P.O. BOX 876 • ITHACA, NY 14851

Case Statement

Our Chapter

The Illinois Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Alpha Epsilon has been on the Bradley campus since 1967 and has seen hundreds of men come through the doors of 1512 W Bradley Ave. Over the years, many changes have happened at Illinois Epsilon, but the one thing that remains constant is our love for the fraternity. Every brother can look back fondly on their time at ΣAE and understand that we must do all we can to ensure that the future generations of Bradley undergraduates have the same opportunities we did to leave their mark on the Illinois Epsilon Chapter.

Our Need

As Bradley University continues to see Greek membership numbers trend in the wrong direction, it is more important now than ever before for Illinois Epsilon to be competitive among other fraternities. We must find ways for ΣAE to improve our positioning against other fraternities at Bradley. This campaign will create an endowment that will address two of those ways: through providing scholarships to students that join ΣAE and agree to live in the house, and through renovations on the house that would enable the house to be a more desirable place to join and to live in than other Greek houses at Bradley.

Our Goal

Our goal for this campaign is to raise \$650,000 to create the Illinois Epsilon endowment through Bradley University that we will be able to utilize to award scholarships and make needed improvements to the physical house. It is only through the generous contributions from every Illinois Epsilon brother that we will be able to reach our goal and to help elevate ΣAE above the other fraternities at Bradley.

Timeline





Campaign Leadership

ΣAE – Illinois Epsilon Campaign Steering Committee



Mike Bertok '85

Newspaper Publisher, Retired

Mike Bertok retired as a newspaper publisher with the Ottawa Times after an extensive career in the print industry. In Ottawa, Mike also served on the Times Red Stocking Fund board and the Ottawa Economic Development Committee. Previously, Mike worked as the advertising manager at The

Beacon News in Aurora, Illinois, and as a team leader for NSA Media in Downers Grove, Illinois, collaborating with clients such as Walgreens, AT&T, and Sears.

Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Mike lives in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. After years in Chicago's suburbs, Mike and Lori, a former ΣAE Little Sister and wife of 39 years, decided to head north, though they will always remain Bear fans! They have three sons and one granddaughter.

Mike is a former football and baseball coach in Oswego, Illinois. For 15 years, Mike coached PONY and travel baseball and Oswego Youth Tackle Football, where he also served as board president.

“My time at ΣAE was nothing short of spectacular. The friendships, memories, and learning experiences, mostly enjoyable and some difficult, continued well into adulthood. The future of our brotherhood at Bradley is connected both to the past and the present. With our backing, the ΣAEs can thrive again.”



John Kellamis '86

Title

Waiting for Bio



David G. DeFreitas '87

Group Chief Financial Officer - Retired

David (Dave) DeFreitas (class of 1987) is a retired Group Chief Financial Officer at Caterpillar Inc. and a retired Chief Revenue Office at TADA Cognitive Solutions. After beginning his career as an auditor with McGladrey & Pullen, Dave joined Caterpillar Inc, where he held 18 roles over 32 years before re-

tiring in 2021. After retiring from Caterpillar, Dave spent 18 months as Chief Revenue Office for TADA Cognitive Solutions, which is a B2B supply chain software solutions company.

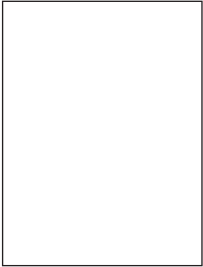
Originally from Peoria, IL, Dave has been married to Amy for 36 years, and they now live in Nashville, TN. Dave and Amy have a son (Mathew - 2013) and a daughter (Emma - 2017), both of whom are Bradley graduates. Mathew is also an IL Epsilon alum. Dave and Amy also have two grandsons.

Dave is the Treasurer of the Illinois Epsilon house corporation. Also, he chairs the Business & Engineering Advisory Board, is past chair and current Emeritus Member of the Department of Accounting Advisory Board, and is a member of the Braves Club Board all at Bradley. Dave is on the Board of Trustees of the Central Illinois Easterseals Foundation, he is a Future of Finance Advisory Board member for the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and he is a member of the Indiana University Accounting Advisory Board.



Campaign Leadership

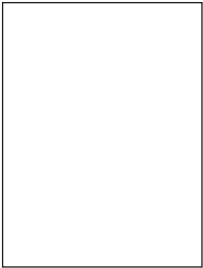
ΣΑΕ – Illinois Epsilon Campaign Steering Committee



Mike Keating '87

Title

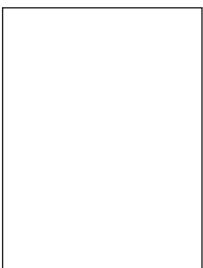
Waiting for Bio



Kerry Auer '90

Title

Waiting for Bio



Bob Ayres '91

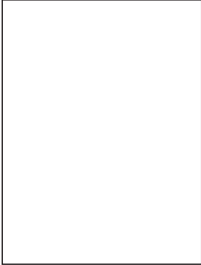
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Waiting for Bio



Campaign Leadership

ΣAE – Illinois Epsilon Campaign Steering Committee



Adam Goldin '91

*Executive Director, Software Engineering,
JP Morgan Chase*

Adam Goldin launched his professional journey in 1992 at MPCT Solutions, a company specializing in banking software solutions with a focus on international wholesale banking operations. There, he cultivated his skills in software development and inter-

national banking. In 2002, he transitioned to JP Morgan Chase, where he has devoted over 20 years and currently holds the position of executive

director of software engineering.

Originally from Deerfield, Illinois, Adam currently resides in Libertyville, Illinois, with his wife of 30 years, Maureen. Together, they have two adult children: Nathan (28) and Meredith (25).

Adam cherishes the moments spent with his family and friends, many of whom became lifelong connections during his time at Bradley University as a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. The experiences shared through ΣAE laid the foundation for these enduring friendships, which have played a significant role in shaping his life. He is excited to contribute to creating opportunities for the next generation to build similar meaningful bonds.



Mike Lemmons '91

Waiting on Title

Mike began his work career focused mostly on sales for United Promotions and then United Marketing Group. He left the corporate world in 2002 and spent five years working on real-estate development projects in the far south suburbs of the Chicagoland area. In 2007, he started Mold Solutions, a full-ser-

vice mold-testing and remediation company, located in Frankfort, Illinois. Mike expanded Mold Solutions to the St. Louis market in 2009. In 2011, he vertically integrated Mold Solutions by acquiring half of a key supplier, which he helped transform into Bad Axe Products LLC, a supplier of mold-remediation consumable products to customers across the USA and Canada.

Mike was raised in Mundelein, Illinois, and settled in Grayslake, Illinois, before marrying Gigi in 1994. In 2002, they relocated to Frankfort, Illinois, where they raised three children: Michael (27), Amber (25), and Megan (22). They recently purchased a home in Greensboro, Georgia, and are in the process of relocating.

Aside from enjoying time with family and running various businesses, Mike has served many terms on the Frankfort boys baseball board of directors as a league commissioner and then as treasurer and president. He has also spent numerous years coaching youth football for the Frankfort Falcons and girls softball for Frankfort.

“Most of the greatest things in my life can be linked back to having been an ΣAE at Bradley University from 1987 to 1991. Those friendships continue to impact my life 38 years later and will never cease to be important to me. For that, I am grateful to provide whatever assistance I can to enable other young men an opportunity to reap the rewards of ΣAE brotherhood.”



Justin Ganschow '03

*Business Development Manager,
Caterpillar Inc.*

Justin Ganschow (pledge class of 1999) is currently the business development manager, leading a marketing and sales team for Caterpillar Safety Services. With over 20 years of experience in public health and private industry, he is a sought-after international keynote speaker and writer on the impact

of leadership and human biology on workplace safety and culture. His thought-provoking, science-based content and emotion-stirring real-world experiences engage thousands of people around the world each year. From growing up on a farm to working as an EHS professional in the heavy equipment manufacturing industry and serving as a consultant to a variety of industries, Justin focuses on the “why” behind the “what,” inspiring frontline employees, leaders, executives and safety professionals alike to think and to perform at a higher level.

Justin is originally from the small town of Mendota, in north central Illinois. Besides a short stint in Little Rock, Arkansas, he has remained in the Peoria area since coming to Bradley. He and his new bride (May 2025), Alyssa, live on some river valley acreage west of Chillicothe with his 12-year-old son, Jude.

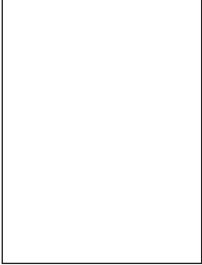
An avid outdoorsman, Justin loves doing anything outside: hunting, kayaking, backpacking, hiking or just tending to the property. He can otherwise be found working on his collection of Toyota trucks, weight training at the gym (a hobby he discovered freshman year at Bradley), or enjoying a bourbon at the end of a long day.

“Joining Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) opened my eyes to people, places, and ways of thinking I had not yet experienced growing up in rural America. Going through rush, every other house seemed homogenous, but SAE was different. The guys were different from one another in how they dressed, how they talked, where they were from, and yet they were all one. That was something I wanted to be a part of.”



Campaign Leadership

ΣΑΕ – Illinois Epsilon Campaign Steering Committee



Nick Passini '06

Title

Waiting for Bio



Donor Pyramid





Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why does Illinois Epsilon need to conduct a campaign to raise funds?

Simply put, we need to make every effort we can to ensure that Σ AE is competitive among the other fraternities at Bradley. Through awarding scholarships and making needed renovations and upgrades to the house, Illinois Epsilon will become a more desirable place to join and to live in among the other fraternities.

How long are pledges to the campaign payable?

Pledges to the campaign can be paid over a five-year period. Pledges of shorter durations are welcome, because this would help with the immediate need to fund the project. That said, we need each brother to make the very best stretch pledge possible over the five-year period.

Will my donation be tax-deductible?

We are partnering with Bradley University to allow for a tax-deductible avenue for giving. Pledges and gifts made to the Scholarship Fund will be routed through the Bradley University Endowment and will be eligible for tax deductibility to the extent allowed by law. Any pledge or gift made to the Construction Fund will be routed through the Illinois Epsilon House Corporation and therefore will not be tax-deductible.

How can I make a gift?

Gifts may be made by cash, check, credit or debit card, or stock (for gifts made to the Scholarship Fund through the Bradley University Endowment). If you would like to pay by stock or would like to verify if your employer has a matching gift program, you can contact our account manager, Jared Anderson, at janderson@elevateims.com or by phone at 607-229-2388.

Can I give an in-kind gift to the house?

All in-kind gift possibilities will be reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the steering committee and house corporation.