

CHIPPEWA SIG

Sigma Chi Fraternity

Zeta Rho Chapter Alumni Newsletter

Volume 49 Issue: 6

Homecoming 2016

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50th Approaching

April 22, 2017 will mark our 50th Anniversary. Save the date and plan on joining the largest and greatest gathering of Zeta Rho



The campus is buzzing with activity. After a long hot summer, fall is beginning to settle in Mount Pleasant. The air is becoming crisp, the Chippewas are doing much better than expected on the gridiron and Homecoming; that annual rite of Autumn is almost here. There is no better place to be than back on campus for the annual gathering. Don't miss it.

Rush has been completed, the actives are achieving lofty goals including maintaining the highest Greek GPA on campus, doing great charitable work and the house is spruced up, looking good and ready for our annual big event. What could possibly be better!

CMU's Homecoming is set for **Saturday, October 8, 2016** with the Ball State Cardinals coming to town. Plan on being here, reconnecting and getting the skinny on everything happening for the 50th Anniversary. There will be a lot of information to share.

Alumni Ever!



Your Alumni Association is working hard on plans for the 50th Anniversary and raising funds for future housing needs. You should be receiving, in addition to this CHIPPEWA SIG, a hard copy newsletter from Pennington Company who is assisting us. We are pulling out all stops to reach EVERY Zeta Rho Sig for our 50th next April.

Thank you to those who've already been contacted and shared information. We want to contact as many brothers as possible in our mobile society and get as many "home" for the 50th as we can. Please forward this mailing to any brothers who may not be receiving it.

Rooms are going quickly at the the Comfort Inn Sigma Chi Room Block, the Official 50th Anniversary Headquarters. If you've not done so, make your reservation TODAY and block off the weekend of **April 22, 2017** as we celebrate 50 Years of Zeta Rho at CMU! It's going to be epic!

Hope to see everyone at Homecoming and at the 50th next April!

For the Good of the Order,

In Hoc Signo Vincas,

T. R. Shaw Jr, '82
Alumni Chapter Editor

Homecoming 2016

Kickoff of Zeta Rho 50th Anniversary Celebration

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
2016 HOMECOMING

This year Homecoming Weekend will kick off our half century mark of events celebrating the Zeta Rho Chapter and Sigma Chi on the campus of Central Michigan University.

FRIDAY, October 7

Activities will begin on Friday evening from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. when the Sigs

will again take over the 'Bin for our traditional nod to our many years at 1725 Crawford Road. After the Cabin, the gang usually heads back to 604 South Main or up town to the Blue Gator (formerly Sir Richard's Pub / Shaboom) with the young (and young at heart) die-hards closing out the evening at the Blackstone. There might even be a few seasoned brothers pulling an even later night do their best at the Soaring Eagle.

SATURDAY, October 8

Saturday's activities kick-off at 604 South Main with our all-important annual meeting of the **Zeta Rho House Corporation from 9:30-11:00 a.m.** as we have rented a tent for the backyard to maximize turnout. All alumni are welcome to attend as we will review renovations, kick off the "*Commitment to our Future*" capital campaign, discuss upcoming regional alumni events, and present the schedule for the Zeta Rho 50th Anniversary in 2017.

We will have plenty of coffee, cider & doughnuts for all and with a hard stop at 11:15 a.m. we can rejoin the Actives and families out front to watch the Homecoming parade pass by as it heads north to downtown Mount Pleasant.



NFL's 2013 #1 Draft Pick, CMU's Eric Fisher of the Kansas City Chiefs will serve as this year's Homecoming Grand Marshal

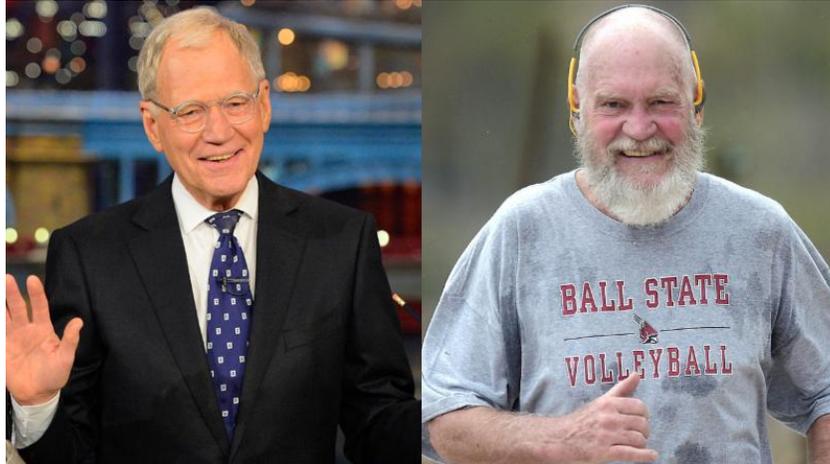


Socializing will continue at the House (thanks to the late afternoon game) with many brothers then heading over to the university-sponsored **Alumni Village from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** (yes, we will have a number of Sig tables staked out... look for the flag). This is a **FREE** campus-wide celebration sponsored by each university college, on the north side of Rose Ponds for food, fun, and friends. Great get together for alumni, family and friends. Enjoy game day Chippewa spirit! Also visit with a favorite professor, grab some food, and soak up the atmosphere that is CMU Homecoming... particularly the **1:00 p.m. Cardboard Boat Races** where Engineering students compete as they sail the boats across the ponds.

For detailed information on everything happening at CMU for Homecoming, please visit:

[CMU Homecoming 2016](#)

Kickoff is at 3:00 p.m. when the mighty Chips (Oklahoma State anyone?) takes on Ball State at Kelly/Shorts Stadium. Order tickets at 1-888-FIREUP-2 or online at www.cmuchippewas.com.



Significant Sig David Letterman's Ball State "Fighting Football Cardinal's" will fly into Kelly/Shorts Stadium for a 3:00 MAC showdown live on ESPN3. No word yet on whether or not Brother Dave will show up, who knows?

For questions contact Consul-Evan Vallis ([248-840-7009](tel:248-840-7009) / valli1ep@cmich.edu); House Corp President-Kurt Feight ([989-560-1120](tel:989-560-1120) / kurtfeight@gmail.com); Chapter Advisor-Mike Covington ([989-513-1404](tel:989-513-1404) / covbird5@gmail.com); or 50th Anniversary Chair-Don Fergle ([248-701-3098](tel:248-701-3098) / donald.fergle@FCAGroup.com). Final note... if you are not receiving either these mailed newsletters at home or our electronic Constant Contact communications (kudos to alumni Brother T.R. Shaw) send your new contact info to chippewasig@aol.com.



Kelly/Shorts Stadium will be alive with packed house as the Chippewas, under

Coach John Bonomego continue to impress the nation with exciting and emotional football.

50th Anniversary Coming Fast

Event Will Feature a Full Weekend of Activities

The weekend of April 22, 2017 will be something no Zeta Rho Sig will want to miss. Many more details will be announced as they become confirmed, but here is where we stand today:



The Comfort Inn and Conference Center, just South of Kelly-Shorts Stadium will serve as headquarters for most of the activities. We have a block of rooms reserved there. There are several other hotels nearby connected with Comfort Inn, including a brand new Marriott Courtyard adjacent to the stadium and of course Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort a popular destination, so no need to worry about getting a room, but you should book as early as possible!

[Comfort Inn Mount Pleasant](#)

2424 S. Mission St., Mount Pleasant, MI, 48858

Phone: [\(989\) 772-4000](tel:9897724000) **Fax:** [\(989\) 773-6052](tel:9897736052)

A golf outing is planned for Friday at the Mount Pleasant Country Club and a fun evening social event will take place. Saturday morning will be initiation for the Golden Anniversary Pledge Class and a ceremony will follow in the afternoon and evening.

We are still hoping to track down all Zeta Rho Sigs. If you are in contact with any brothers, encourage them to get involved and come back for this historic weekend.

Commitment to our Future, 50 Years and Beyond Campaign Gains Momentum

Brothers of Zeta Rho, Your Help is Needed!

Now that the fall semester has begun and CMU football is underway, the Zeta Rho House Corporation (ZPHC) wants to bring everyone up to speed and communicate the latest status of the chapter house and the "Commitment to Our Future, 50 Years and Beyond" capital campaign. **The support of all Zeta Rho brothers is needed for this very important initiative.**



Following investments made to our chapter house at 604 South Main Street this past summer, the "*Commitment to Our Future, 50 Years and Beyond*" capital campaign is now in full gear and moving into a final drive phase in advance of the 50th Anniversary of the Zeta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi.

Key repairs and maintenance made to the Zeta Rho chapter house this past summer included the renovation, cleaning and painting of the house exterior, and repairing, refinishing, and painting all the interior common areas in advance of the start of the fall term at CMU. The major exterior renovation and interior painting cost in excess of \$10,000, which brings the total investment in renovations and repairs to the chapter house to more than \$25,000 in the last two years. We thank all of the Zeta Rho alumni brothers that made contributions for their financial support in helping to make the repairs and improvements to the house possible. Special thanks to **Scott Rader '85** for his very generous support.

While the active chapter is strong, and a base level of maintenance improvements were made to the chapter house this past summer, a much higher degree of investment is required to make major improvements to the chapter house and help assure the ongoing success of the Zeta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi for another 50 years and beyond. The required capital improvements will help to enhance the safety and overall livability of the chapter house. Additionally, investments made today will help to

build equity and allow us to sell the house more quickly and at a much higher price point should there be benefit to move to a new house in a different location at some point in the future. As such, any investments made today will be fully leveraged regardless of what direction might be taken on the chapter house in the future.

The "*Commitment to Our Future, 50 Years and Beyond*" capital campaign is gaining momentum and has moved to a very exciting final phase. Our goal is to raise **\$350,000** in brother financial commitments to make capital improvements to the chapter house and pay off the current mortgage by the 50th anniversary celebration on April 22, 2017! Following a survey of Zeta Rho alumni conducted earlier this year that pointed to a high level of enthusiasm by Zeta Rho alumni in support of the long-term goals of the chapter, the ZPHC, supported by the active participation of more than 25 alumni and active brothers, have been very active on the capital campaign. To date, we have raised **over \$170,000** in financial commitments. Past Consuls (presidents) of Zeta Rho from all eras have been called on to offer leadership and help to drive a high level of participation on the campaign. Jeff Nemens- Chi Sigma and our first Consul - is actively involved in the capital campaign, and has set a personal goal to help achieve 100% participation of the Chi Sigma brothers.

CMU is **your** alma mater. Sigma Chi is **your** fraternity. And, Zeta Rho is **your** chapter. **Your** support is now needed in helping Zeta Rho to meet the goals of our "*Committed to the Future, 50 Years and Beyond*" capital campaign. Brothers **Rick Vanden Heuvel '80** and **Paul Miele '82** are taking the lead on this capital campaign. In addition to the direct financial support of all Zeta Rho brothers, we are calling on the support of those alumni brothers that would like to act as pledge class/era leaders to help generate support and excitement for this **SIGN**ificantly important initiative. In addition to individual contributor levels that will be recognized as part of the 50th anniversary of Zeta Rho ceremonies, we will also recognize pledge classes that as a group are able to contribute at higher levels. Please let us know if you would like to become a pledge class/era team leader.

There is also planning underway to host formal social events in a number of cities in early 2017. These formal social events will include spouses/significant others and include a **silent auction** to help with the fundraising. Donations of silent auction gifts (goods, services, use of vacation properties, etc.) would be greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you can help. It is our hope that you will be able to attend one of

these great brotherhood social events. Please watch for more information to follow.

We hope to see each of you at CMU's Homecoming scheduled for **October 8, 2016**. Prior to the Homecoming parade, the ZPHC will be conducting a meeting to provide an update and ask for support on the "Commitment to Our Future, 50 Years and Beyond" campaign, review and approve changes to the ZPHC by-laws, and review the plans for the 50th anniversary celebration. **The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m.** and take place at the chapter house at 604 South Main Street in a tent that will be set up behind the chapter house.

As we look forward to our 50th Anniversary banquet on April 22, 2017, we ask that you take time to reflect on the impact that Sigma Chi has made core team and/or make a pledge of support toward Zeta Rho and the future of our Fraternity at CMU, please contact Paul Miele or Rick Vanden Heuvel at the numbers or e-mail addresses below.

In hoc,

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Jim Vruggink

A Leader in Intercollegiate Athletics

(Editors Note: This is the second in a series of outstanding Zeta Rho Alumni who have made a real difference in their professions)

Jim Vruggink, '70, came to CMU from Hudsonville to pursue journalism, becoming a sports writer for *Central Michigan LIFE*, and eventually rising to Sports Editor. Vruggink pledged in 1968 and became Zeta Rho chapter editor publishing the *Chippewa Sig* and earning numerous awards, including the Ross Award.



Following graduation, he landed a job as sports editor at the *Ypsilanti Press*. **Will Perry, Theta Theta '55**, sports information director at the University of Michigan, took notice of his talent and two and half years later hired him as an assistant SID where he served four years. His work and connections at Michigan helped him land the head SID position at Northwestern University under Significant Sig and athletic director **John Pont, Alpha '52**. Vruggink led the department, marketing the football brand and taking it in a "NU Direction" as the sleeper Big Ten team was returning to national prominence.

Four years later, in 1982, he became SID at Purdue University where he served four years before becoming the Athletic Public Relations Director for fifteen years. Vruggink still serves Purdue as Director of Special Projects for Intercollegiate Athletics and Manager of Trademarks and Licensing. He recently added to his resume, Executive Director of the Joe Tiller Chapter of the National Football Foundation, representing Northwest Indiana. NFF operates the College Football Hall of Fame in South Bend.

Vruggink's career at Purdue has been extraordinary. In addition to impressive media work, he coordinated the Heisman campaigns for quarterbacks Jim Everett and Drew Brees and fullback Mike Alstott. He also served as baseball press chief at the 1987 Pan American games in Indianapolis and was the baseball press information manager at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Vruggink also served on the board of College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) from 1993-2000. He led CoSIDA as president in 1996-1997. He received Scoop Hudgens Lifetime SID Award from the All-American Football Foundation in 2002 and was inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame in 2004 becoming the second Boilermaker inducted and the eighth Big Ten member. Vruggink is also active with the John Purdue Club and the Purdue Presidents Council. He served on the Executive Board of the Gale Sayers Center in Chicago and is an advisor to the Gimlet Leadership Society and the Purdue Gold Standard.

Much of Vruggink's work can be seen throughout Purdue's Mackey Arena where he gathered memorabilia and coordinated displays of former coaches and athletes. He also coordinated the impressive display in the lobby of Ross-Ade Stadium honoring the alumni namesakes David Ross and George Ade. The display highlights both alumni and especially Significant Sig George Ade's contributions to both the fraternity and the university. Ade authored the Sigma Chi Creed.

In 2012 Vruggink was inducted into the CMU Journalism Hall of Fame, nominated by Zeta Rho brother, **Rick Fitzgerald, '75**, who is now Director of Public Affairs and Internal Communications at the University of Michigan.

"In my 34 years here, I've met many incredible people, lots of whom have been Sigma Chis. I've shared in some great brotherhood as Chapter Advisor and House Corporation President for Theta Theta at Michigan and as Faculty Advisor for Delta Delta Chapter at Purdue. I have made lasting friendships all along the way that I wouldn't trade for anything," he said. "Having Sigma Chi as part of my life for the last 48 years has provided a richness and tenderness that have certainly enhanced my quality of life. I am forever grateful to those Zeta Rho Sigs of 1968 for including me in the order," he added. "I look forward to getting back to those roots next April in Mt. Pleasant at the chapter's 50th! All Hail!"

Jim and his wife Marion (a University of Kentucky graduate) have two adult daughters, Jaime and Kim, who are both proud Purdue graduates.

Bindi Honored by Detroit Lions as High School Coach of the Week

Zeta Rho Sig Leads Charlevoix Rayders

Ron Bindi, '77, was recently honored by the Detroit Lions and State Farm Insurance as the Detroit Lions High School Coach of the Week for Week 2 of the 2016 High School Football Season.



Bindi is an educator and the Head Football Coach of the Charlevoix Rayders in Northern Michigan.

Each week throughout the 2016 nine-week high school football regular season, one coach that best develops his players' character, discipline, and football skill in addition to emphasizing player health and safety in their program, will be recognized for his commitment to the team, school, and community. The winner is selected by a panel of high school football media members including the Detroit Free Press, WOOD Radio and the Traverse City Record Eagle.

This season the program will award \$22,000 to aid in the development and promotion of high school football in the state of Michigan, thanks to contributions from the Detroit Lions, the NFL Foundation and presenting partner, Farm Bureau Insurance of Michigan.

The full story from the Detroit Lions website is linked below:

[RON BINDI NAMED DETROIT LIONS FARM BUREAU INSURANCE HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE WEEK](#)



Zeta Rho Sig Ron Bindi working out his team, the Charlevoix Rayders during Summer Camp



Stowe Featured in CMU's Global Campus Promotion

Recently Featured on CMU's Website

Jim Stowe, '85, MSA '98, was featured on CMU's Global Campus website and on other CMU promotional media. The link to the site is below:

[Alumni Spotlight: Jim Stowe, '98](#)



Name: Jim Stowe
Graduation Year: 1998
Program: Master of Science in Administration degree with a concentration in International Administration
Location(s): Metro Detroit locations

Congratulations Brother Jim and continued success!

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendars now!

Oct 1, 2016: WMU @ CMU
Football, Mt. Pleasant

Oct 8, 2016: CMU Homecoming,
Mt. Pleasant
Chippewas v. Ball
State

April 22, 2017: Zeta Rho 50th
Anniversary

**2016 Michigan Province and
Detroit Alumni Chapter**

EVENT CALENDAR

12/02/16 FRI Christmas
Banquet - Red Run GC, Royal Oak

04/22/17 SAT Zeta Rho (CMU)
50th Anniversary Weekend

Comfort Inn, Mount Pleasant

CHIPWEHA FOOTBALL
2016 SCHEDULE

 PRESBYTERIAN SEPT. 1	 AT OKLAHOMA ST. SEPT. 10	 UNLV SEPT. 17
 WESTERN MICH.* OCT. 1	 BALL STATE* OCT. 8 HOMECOMING	 AT NIU* OCT. 15
 KENT STATE* OCT. 29	 AT MIAMI* NOV. 4	 OHIO* NOV. 15

*Mid-American Conference game All game times TBA

Chapter on Social Media

Check out the Zeta Rho
Facebook site:



[CHIPPEWA SIG](#)

[Zeta Rho of Sigma Chi](#)

[Zeta Rho of Sigma Chi
Alumni \(CMU\)](#)



[Sigs of the Sixties](#)

[Sigma Chi Fraternity](#)

[CMU in the 70's & 80's](#)

[CMU Alumni Association](#)

We hope you enjoyed this edition and look for more to follow as we progress. Our goal is to keep you informed and up to date on the chapter and what's happening at CMU. Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is an item you'd like the alumni to know about. I look forward to keeping you informed.

In Hoc,

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