



An Alumni Guide to Bringing Your Chapter Back

This document is for alumni Brothers from dormant chapters who want to see their chapter back on campus and get involved in the process. We hope to work with you to increase the potential for the successful recolonization of your chapter.

With its limited staff and financial resources the General Fraternity has a limited capacity to recolonize chapters. In selecting expansion sites, the Fraternity staff is directed, within the Chapter Strength imperative of Sigma Nu's Strategic Plan, as follows:

The Fraternity will identify, prioritize and implement recolonization and colonization opportunities.

Generally speaking, during the 2010-2012 biennium, the Fraternity will (re)colonize at approximately four campuses each year, or two each semester. Our goal in every colonization is to build the foundation for an excellent fraternity chapter. With this goal in mind, Sigma Nu's expansion motto is "building rock chapters." Rock chapters, simply put, are among the strongest and most outstanding chapters in the Sigma Nu organization. For more on rock chapters please visit here: http://www.sigmanu.org/awards/rock_chapter_awards.php.

Rebuilding a highly successful chapter for the long-term encompasses more than just a successful recolonization through chartering. It requires the consistent and dedicated involvement of alumni. While this can be achieved in the short-term during a recolonization effort, the long-term success lies within a strong partnership between the host institution, the General Fraternity, and alumni.

This resource is a guide to putting your chapter in position for successful recolonization. Below are several key objectives, with resources and guidance provided for each.

- 1. Start (rebuild/reorganize) an alumni chapter or alumni association. Functions of a strong alumni chapter/association may include:**
 - a. Alumni newsletter
 - b. Communications system (Facebook, LinkedIn, or Yahoo group, email listserve, etc.)
 - c. Regular alumni events, reunions, and activities
 - d. A chapter scholarship account (through the Sigma Nu Educational Foundation or a different vehicle)
 - e. A fundraising element
 - f. An updated database for your chapter

For information and resources on alumni chapters, please visit the following link: http://www.sigmanu.org/groups/alumni_chapters/index.php.

2. Create an Alumni Advisory Board (AAB). The AAB is a team of coaches, mentors, and advisors who work directly with undergraduate members.

For information and resources related to AABs for colonies, please visit the following link:
http://www.sigmanu.org/expansion/expansion_resources.php.

3. Work with your university/college/institution student affairs division and/or Greek life professionals.

Sigma Nu views the relationship between the Fraternity and the host institution as a partnership. Connecting with the host institution gives alumni the opportunity to begin forming this relationship. The Fraternity staff can provide guidance on establishing contact with your host institution. Here are some general questions and discussion points:

- a. Introduce yourself and express your interest in recolonizing the chapter.
- b. What do you look for in a partnership with alumni? What are some of the strong partnerships you have with other fraternity alumni?
- c. What alumni resources does your office/department offer?
- d. What is the current climate of the Greek community?
- e. How could a new fraternity improve the current Greek community?
- f. Has fraternity expansion occurred recently? How has this affected the community?
- g. What is the institution's and/or IFC's expansion policy and process?
- h. What concerns do you have about fraternity expansion?
- i. What can I do as an alumnus to help my chapter recolonize?

4. Establish a plan for housing.

Fraternity housing varies widely from campus to campus. On some campuses fraternity housing is essential to becoming a successful and competitive chapter, while on other campuses fraternity housing does not exist. From establishing (or reorganizing) a house corporation, to organizing a full-scale capital campaign, to partnering with university housing, there are many options to consider.

A basic guide to considering housing can be found at the following link:
http://www.sigmanu.org/expansion/expansion_resources.php.

In addition to exploring the resources listed above, alumni brothers are encouraged to contact the Fraternity staff for assistance and guidance in making progress toward these objectives. Helpful staff contacts include the Director of Expansion and the Director of Alumni and Volunteer Programs.

A complete staff listing can be found at the following link:
http://www.sigmanu.org/about/staff_directory.php.

These objectives are suggested as a means to increase the potential for your chapter's recolonization and to provide alumni with a guide to starting the process. We look forward to hearing from you and working toward the successful recolonization of your chapter.

For more about Sigma Nu expansion please download Sigma Nu's *Expansion Prospectus* here:
www.sigmanu.org/expansion/