

THE RAINBOW

DELTA TAU DELTA INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY



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Faron Sagebiel Joins Peace Corp to Make a Change

Faron Sagebiel (University of Texas, 1999) wanted more than the typical desk job in the corporate world. He wanted a challenge. He wanted work that would fulfill him. So in December 2009, Sagebiel applied to the Peace Corps.

The application process took about a year and included essay statements, three personal references, background checks, medical screens, and finally, interviews with a Peace Corp recruiter. With the preliminaries completed, Sagebiel departed for Macedonia on Sept. 10, 2011.

Currently serving in Strumica, Sagebiel is working with the local government to develop new marketing and development plans that will impart his business knowledge and practices.

"Every day is a challenge; the brass tacks of it is that you are a stranger in a strange land," said Sagebiel. "It's not any one thing. It's more the multitude of differences and challenges. No car, no common language, no conven-

iences. For instance, there's no Starbucks or Target around the corner. No ESPN."

However, the rewards can be tremendous. Sagebiel has learned to utilize the local language and has adapted to a new culture, living without things that seemed necessary in the U.S.

His time as an undergraduate member of Delta Tau Delta helped prepare him for the Peace Corps. "My experience with the Texas Delts equipped me with patience and tolerance, and exposed me to a variety of different personality types. All that will come in handy here." Leaving for two years will be difficult as well, since he has remained good friends with many of his Gamma Iota brothers.

A full period of service is for the Peace Corps is 27 months, with the first three months focusing on culture and language training. Sagebiel will be in Macedonia until the end of 2013.

STORY BY VICKY HALSEY

Scott Fedor Lives to Fight His Ultimate Challenge

An afternoon swim in Coldwater Lake, Mich. turned into a life's mission after Scott Fedor (Lehigh University, 1998), broke his neck in a July 2009 diving accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down. "Everything I had been living for up to that point in my life changed instantly," Fedor said.

A former vice president for a Berkshire Hathaway company, Fedor was now faced with a challenge far greater than anything he had ever confronted in a board room. Fedor remembers a conversation with the doctor a few days after his injury. "He came into my room and told me all these things I would never do, including ever breathing on my own again. He then asked me if I wanted to continue to live." Michigan law allows for patients on assisted living devices, such as a ventilator, to choose whether they want to continue living or not, if it is deemed they will need assistance for the remainder of their lives. "There was no hesitation," Fedor continues, "I wanted to live."

Not only did Scott eventually shed the use of a ventilator and learn to breathe again on his own, he is now able to cough and clear his lungs, he has sensation down to the middle of his biceps, he can rotate and shrug his shoulders, and activate his quadriceps and hip flexors muscles – all things he was once told he would never be able to do. He credits his improvement to determination, faith in God, and advances in medical technology. Scott works out several hours a week at an exercise facility which caters to individuals with spinal cord injuries. He believes he will continue to regain more function allowing him further independence.

In the meantime, Fedor has made it his charge to bring more awareness to the devastating effects of spinal cord injuries and serve as a resource to those confronting such an

injury. He founded a non-profit organization, Getting Back Up, whose purpose is to raise awareness, support and education for spinal cord injuries, and invest in research initiatives which work toward advancing a cure for paralysis.

Fedor has embraced a new career as a motivational speaker. He routinely speaks at businesses, schools and other venues about the power of a positive attitude, faith and persevering through difficult times.

"I don't know why this happened, but it did. And while I can't change my past, I can shape my future, and in doing so, can hopefully help others along the way. We might be in a chair for now, but we can still live."

You can continue to follow Scott's journey at www.ScottWFedor.com.

Scott Fedor (Lehigh University, 1998)

