

THE SHIELD

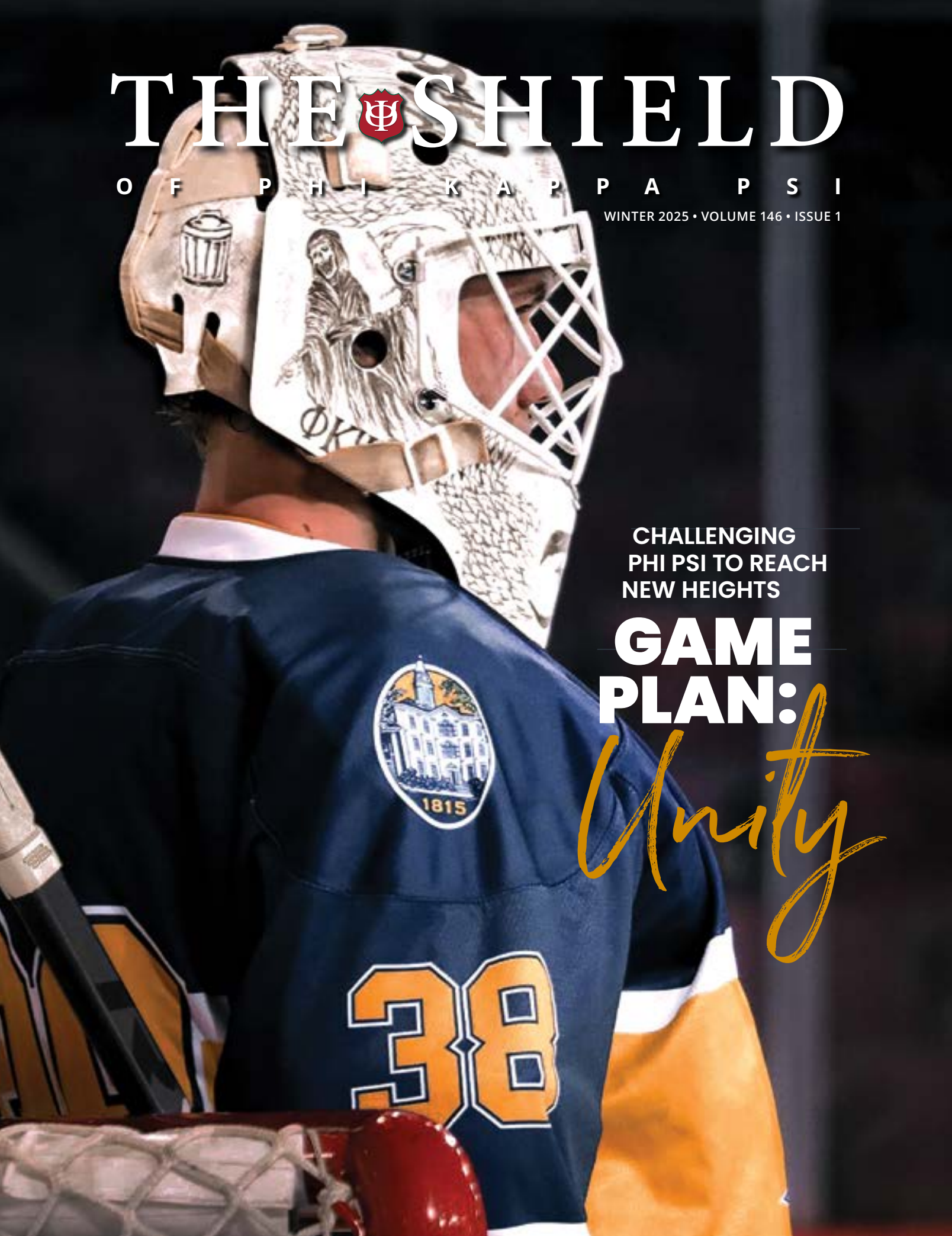
O F P H I K A P P A P S I

WINTER 2025 • VOLUME 146 • ISSUE 1

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Unity





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Jon Fish *Michigan '92* (right) with film crew for the documentary, "The Michigan."

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THE SHIELD



OF PHI KAPPA PSI

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EMBODY THE

Spirit OF Unity

By Marc Dumas DePaul '93

What do a historic march for equality, the ashes of fallen towers, and the resilience after a devastating storm have in common? These moments of hardship also became moments of unity—instances where Americans set aside differences to stand together for the greater good. Strangers (and people like my mother) locked arms on the front lines of civil rights protests. Workers labored tirelessly to rebuild communities battered by Katrina. Firefighters climbed smoke-filled stairwells on 9/11, all driven by a shared belief that we are stronger together.



Dumas

Today's college students live in a world shaped by these events, yet many know them only from history books or fleeting social media posts. What happened to that

spirit of togetherness? It feels harder to find those moments when we look past what divides us and focus on what unites us. Instead, we seem to draw stricter lines, retreating into echo chambers that only reinforce our own views. What lessons are we leaving them about unity, and what examples of leadership will inspire them to step up in the future?

When I helped start our group that became a Phi Psi Colony in 1991, I stepped into a group of men who, for the most part, came from a world quite different from mine. I'll never forget sitting around late at night with brothers from the far-flung suburbs of Chicago and towns so far away from what I was used to, hearing about challenges and experiences I'd never encountered growing up on the South Side of Chicago. Their stories broadened my perspective, teaching me to see the world in new ways and appreciate lives vastly different from my own. I engaged in community service with those same men, feeding the homeless, playing with kids from the local Boys & Girls Club, and spending time with cancer patients who were facing some of life's most difficult challenges.

It was those experiences as a member of Illinois Zeta that helped me understand this simple truth: It is our differences, not our similarities, that make this country such an extraordinary place to call home. Those experiences didn't just shape my worldview — they inspired me to pursue jobs and a life path where service is my cornerstone.

In many ways, fraternity is where we can continue to foster citizens who understand and embody the spirit of unity and togetherness. Research shows this is already happening. Despite being less diverse than the university population, fraternity and sorority members report higher levels of interaction with people different from themselves than do other students. How do we build on this? How do we ensure that we're broadening the horizons of our members — not to indoctrinate them with different viewpoints, but to help them understand why others see the world differently, and why the things that may be important to them may not be a priority for everyone.

There are many ways to do this, but I believe you hold one of the keys. Our young men need you — to show up and lead by example. The best way to foster growth in our undergraduates is sharing the wisdom and perspective you bring. By serving as mentors, volunteering your time, attending homecoming events, or participating in alumni gatherings, you create opportunities for meaningful conversations. They need to witness the power of connection — the ability to listen, understand, and find common ground, even amidst differences. These meaningful interactions create opportunities for our undergraduates to ask questions, seek guidance, and see firsthand what it means to lead with empathy, respect, and an open mind. They need to see that while we may not all view the world through the same lens, the lenses we view the world through aren't that much different.

So, I'm asking you to take action. In the next year, dedicate a few hours to engage with our undergraduate members. Whether it's attending a chapter meeting, a Founders Day event, or simply stopping by the chapter house, your presence can leave a lasting impact. Together, we can inspire a new generation of leaders who understand that the most profound change comes when we stand united.

Together, we can show them that unity isn't just a lesson from the past; it's the way forward.

BLSAOET,

SWGP Marc A. S. Dumas...

TEAM PHI PSI



Clemson University
Colony member
Oliver Zerillo plays
rugby for the Tigers.

By HQ Staff

One has but to scroll through social media to find Phi Psis involved in a wide range of sports. We have professional athletes and Olympic champions in our ranks, right along with collegiate competitors and weekend warriors.

Our talented undergraduate gentlemen hone their skills on playing fields, wrestling mats, ice rinks, and bowling alleys, just to name a few. Many alumni continue to make time for sports, too, whether they are dinking on a pickleball court, training for a marathon or coaching a local youth league. It's all about staying connected to the things that bring you joy!

Whether in team or individual endeavors, brothers liken the discipline and training of athletics to the commitment and leadership required to be part of a fraternity. The focus on social and physical health is certainly a factor, too. Some of our active chapter members shared their thoughts on being student athletes.

Brady Mosberger *Allegheny '22* has played hockey all his life, but he also enjoys videogames, which he played at the collegiate level for a while. He was drawn to Phi Psi because of the strength of the brotherhood and the focus on supporting mental health. "Being a part of fraternity and sports teams are similar," he said. "You are all working together for a common purpose." Mosberger admits the two also differ because on a sports team you go, do your thing, and then go home. But the brotherhood continues. "The Fraternity is a life and a lifestyle."

Depending on the size of the school, the sport and the length of its season, the balance of being a student-athlete while being involved in a fraternity can be challenging. Brock Taylor *Vanderbilt '24* found it especially tricky. Because being the kicker on the Commodores football team and being a TN Delta founding father were equally important, he gained some new time management skills.

When Taylor first got to school, he had no plan for joining a fraternity. However, an upperclassman who was also in Phi Psi and a student-athlete shared all the things he loved about being involved in both. Through the recruitment process, Taylor met so many guys he really enjoyed being around, so that confirmed his decision. "It only made

continued



A grappler from W & J, Searle joined Phi Psi to be part of the “wrestling house” on campus.



Commodores’ kicker Taylor is one of several brothers on this Division I football team.



Mosberger wears Phi Psi letters on his goalie helmet (see front cover).

TEAM UP continued from Page 5

sense to join the brotherhood, which I am extremely thankful for.”

Training for gridiron games can be grueling but so can the member recruitment process. “We work as a team to have a successful Rush process and meet all the younger guys, which is taxing but very enjoyable — just how football can be sometimes,” said Taylor. The victory comes as the members of the chapter — or team — finally gel and have each other’s backs. A support system with several others who also need to focus without distraction helps establish both a good offense and defense. “Having friends around who all know how to let their work ethic separate themselves from so many other talented students is extremely rewarding.”

“I’ve been involved in sports since I can remember, but wrestling is my main sport. I grew up in a household where being a well-rounded individual was nonnegotiable. Being involved in sports, music, etc., was an expectation,” said Josh Searle *W & J* ’22.

At Washington & Jefferson College, many sports teams are drawn to specific Greek organizations. “PA Alpha happens to be the ‘wrestling house.’” Before arriving on campus, Searle had no plans to be involved in Greek life. However, the wrestling team’s strong relationship with Phi Psi compelled him to join.

Searle finds sports participation like being in a fraternity because in both you not only become familiar with failure but also find ways to reset and readjust. On the mat and in the chapter house, you have to be willing to work with people on the best approach to achieve a common goal. “Athletics and

fraternity life are both incubators for adult skills.”

Clemson University Colony member Oliver Zerillo played rugby in high school. Then played American football at the University of Brighton in England before transferring to Clemson in 2024, where he is back on the rugby field.

What drew Zerillo to Phi Psi was the promise of connectivity. “I love meeting new people and building connections with them, and Phi Psi gave me the opportunity to do that,” he said. Being new to campus as a transfer student, Zerillo was incredibly grateful to be able to join Phi Psi and develop a strong group of brothers so quickly. “It has really helped me feel a sense of belonging on campus.”

● ● ●
 “It is so rewarding to be a part of something bigger than just myself.”
 ● ● ●

Zerillo has embraced the challenge of being part of a growing colony and finds it not so different from playing sports. “It is so rewarding to be a part of something bigger than just myself, knowing that each one of us here in the Clemson colony is working toward the same goal together is amazing.”

The necessity for strong communication between every member of the organization can create a very similar mentality within both a sports team and a fraternity. Along with this, the sense of camaraderie between brothers or teammates is genuinely hard to find outside the context of either organization. “It is something that allows you to form some of the longest lasting and highest quality bonds in your life.”

TIME OUT! Are you involved in sports? We want to hear about it ... and cheer about it! Email us: marketing@phikappapsi.com.

RANSOM NOTES

TEAMWORK AND STRUCTURE

By Executive Director Ronald K. Ransom II *Butler '00*

Heavy raindrops fall from the sky on a crisp Saturday morning. A wide-eyed, slender 7-year-old boy stands on the sideline of a dampening field. His helmet sits snugly on his head, and his white pants are immaculately spotless — a clear indication he has yet to see a second's worth of the action. As the game draws to its close, with a lopsided score decided long ago, the coach's voice rings down the sideline, "Ransom, you're in on the next play."



Ransom

That was my first year of football, and in my mind, I already had decided it would be my last. Why keep doing something if I wasn't any good? Why keep showing up

to practices and games, only to serve as a practice dummy or warm the bench? Those thoughts lingered in my mind for the rest of the year. But one day in early August, something shifted. I woke up and decided to give it another try. Over the next nine years, I improved. I played through high school, and the lessons I learned — both on and off the field — became invaluable to me long after I hung up my helmet and stopped putting on the pads.

When I got to college, I quickly realized something was missing. By the spring semester, I joined Phi Kappa Psi. It became clear that it wasn't the early morning two-a-days in the sweltering heat of summer or the smell of the locker room after practice that I longed for — though, admittedly, the fraternity house carried a similar aroma, enhanced by the lingering scent of stale beer. As my time in the Fraternity went on, I realized that what I truly missed was the structure — the rhythm of practices and the thrill of preparing for the next game. I missed the competition that kept me sharp and, most importantly, the camaraderie. The friendships that went far beyond the field. I missed the off-season weight room sessions, weekends spent watching football with the guys,

joking in the hallways between classes, and 10-cent wing nights that brought us together like family.

What I have come to understand both through football and my time in the fraternity, is that the value of these experiences goes far beyond the surface. Sports are about so much more than just the games being played on the field. They're a testament to the countless people working behind the scenes — the coaches who mentor, the administrators who organize, the families who cheer from the stands, and the fans who create an atmosphere of excitement and belonging. These roles all contribute to something greater: a shared sense of community, purpose, and identity.

Similarly, a fraternity thrives because of the same interconnected efforts. It's not just weekly meetings, formal rituals, or the social events that define it, but the people — the brothers who support one another, the advisors who guide, and the alumni who give back to ensure the legacy continues. Just like in sports, a fraternity is a network of individuals who each play a role in creating something larger than themselves.



For this edition of *The Shield*, we are proud to highlight some of our members who are making their mark in sports — whether as athletes on the field, coaches on the sidelines, or professionals in their respective careers across the country. Their contributions extend far beyond the wins and losses, embodying the values of teamwork, resilience, and community that unite us all. Whether on the field or within the walls of a fraternity house, the benefits are clear and impactful. These spaces teach us how to collaborate effectively, push through challenges, and rely on one

another in meaningful ways. They create connections that bring people together, fostering lifelong bonds that not only enrich our personal lives but also the communities in which we proudly serve.

R.K. R.I...

Ronald K. Ransom II

BROTHERS AND SPORTS

GETTING THE STORY RIGHT

By Amy Lynch

As a television producer, director, writer, and reporter, z Fish *Michigan '92*, has made a career out of chronicling people's lives in a compelling way.

"When you're storytelling, the No. 1 thing you want to do is get it right," Fish said. "An athlete is honoring you by sharing their story. Sometimes it's a hard story to share, and it's always a privilege to hear it. I just want to make sure I tell every story the best way I possibly can."



Fish

Fish also has plenty of tales to share about the Phi Kappa Psi Brotherhood's lasting impacts on his own life.

Growing up in the greater Boston area, sports factored heavily into Fish's upbringing. He played hockey, ran track, and kicked for his high school football team, but it was his participation on a nationally ranked high school soccer team that earned him recruiting attention from colleges and universities. Fish visited a number of schools including Allegheny College in Western Pennsylvania and Indiana University. However, previous trips to visit his older brother Rob *Michigan '90* at the University of Michigan left an indelible mark that proved impossible to improve upon.

"It was parents' weekend, and my parents sent me out instead

to visit my brother when I was 16," Fish recalled. "I went to a hockey game, and the hockey team was really awesome. Then I went to a football game. I remember walking into the Big House and thinking, 'This is it. This is what I want. This is where I want to be.'"

Rob introduced his little brother around the Phi Kappa Psi house, laying the groundwork for the younger Fish to join the Fraternity as a legacy once he got to Ann Arbor.

"They knew who I was, and I knew who they were, so it was a very comfortable progression," Fish said. "I thought for a minute that maybe I should go somewhere different than my brother, so I applied to some other Big Ten schools. Then I realized, wait, there's nothing wrong with being like my brother! He's always been a major influence in my life. Now I can't even fathom not having gone to Michigan or joining any other fraternity for that matter."

● ● ●
"There's nothing wrong with being like my brother!"
● ● ●

Fish wanted to jump into sports right away, but there wasn't a Division I men's soccer team at Michigan at the time. Instead, he found himself briefly playing club soccer and hockey, moving into the Phi Psi house at 1811 Washtenaw during his sophomore year.

"It was this massive mansion that looked like something right out of the movies," he laughed. "We had these great events with what felt like thousands of people. The first football game I went to in my freshman year was when Desmond Howard made 'the catch' against Notre Dame. It was really a glory-year era for the whole school."



LEFT: Fish (third from left) with crew in Vietnam with U.S. Army veteran and Pittsburgh Steelers great, Rocky Bleier (center).



RIGHT: Fish working on the ESPN film, "Going Big" with Sam Bowie, the NBA player drafted before Michael Jordan.

It was also around that time Fish began to discover he had a flair for storytelling. He entered the university with thoughts of pursuing a degree in architecture, but quickly realized he lacked the true passion necessary to pursue that major. Shifting to an American history major was another decision that came naturally.

"I grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts — the birthplace of American history, the shot heard around the world, the Patriots, 'the British are coming,' and all that," he explained. "I started to add in a few communications classes my junior year, and I liked the campus radio station I was working at."

Around the same time, Fish tried out for the football team as a walk-on after growing 5 inches and gaining 50 pounds since his freshman year.

"Having kicked in high school plus playing soccer, running long distance, and playing hockey, I had a lot of lower-body strength, and I realized that I could kick the football pretty far," he said. "I really just wanted to run out of that tunnel and touch the banner."

A friend helped Fish make a tape that he sent to the football office. He received a call back on April Fools' Day his junior year, but the team ended up signing another player. Fish instead threw himself into working for the athletic department and at the University Activity Center, coordinating homecoming festivities and passing out programs at volleyball games.

"I loved getting involved and doing everything," he shared. "The cool thing about Michigan is, and I say this to a lot of people, you can make a big school small. You can't make a small school big."

Fish harbored ambitions of a career in advertising after graduation, but a chance meeting with a CNN rep changed his mind and, as it turned out, the course of his future. An internship there led to networking opportunities, eventually landing him at ESPN where he's been ever since and continues to delight in edgy investigative journalism. These days, Fish stays busy writing and producing shows including SportsCenter

and College GameDay as well as documentary films and other content. Along the way, he's earned 11 Emmy awards and a long list of additional accolades.

Through it all, Fish's Phi Kappa Psi brothers have been a constant source of friendship and support, meeting up as often as they can and keeping in touch through phone calls and texts on a near-daily basis.

"I really have an extended network all over the country," Fish said. "These people are basically my family. I could be in three different states for work, and I know that I have brothers all over the country that I can call wherever I am."

During the Covid-19 pandemic, a Phi Psi brother in Miami sought medical advice for his ill mother. Fish connected him with his father, a doctor, to help. She recovered. When Fish's father passed away from Covid in November 2023, the brother immediately reached out to share how grateful he'd been.

"The Brothers are always there when you just want to hang out, and also in the really hard times," Fish said. "We've all grown up and have different jobs now, but our willingness to jump in and be there for each other hasn't changed. To me, that's what the Brotherhood has always been about."

A proud Hoosier graduate of Indiana University, Amy Lynch is an Indianapolis-based freelance writer and an active member of the Midwest Travel Journalists Association.

LINKS TO SOME OF BROTHER FISH'S WORK:

THE MICHIGAN: vimeo.com/997823506

PIN KINGS: podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/pin-kings/id1686185155

PIN KINGS: vimeo.com/226803009

GOING BIG (SAM BOWIE): vimeo.com/427797922

GIVING IT THEIR BEST

By Lori Roberts

Talk about sports-related careers, and your brain might automatically land on professional athlete roles. While those are often common boyhood dreams, many Phi Psi brothers have carved out their own contributions in various related sports careers, including sports management, entertainment, or league ticket sales. We reached out to several brothers to find out how their Phi Psi beginnings helped them land careers that might not be on the field but were still a dream come true.

Take Aaron Kahn J.D. *Ohio State '16*, assistant general manager for the Detroit Red Wings, for instance. Kahn grew up playing several youth sports, whittling them down as his time and loyalty became more competitive, and started playing club hockey at Ohio State University. This led to an opportunity to walk on to the Division 1 hockey team, which opened his eyes to where he could make a living with the sport he loved.

“When I was riding the bench in college, I realized if I was going to be in the NHL, it was going to be with my brain rather than my body,” Kahn said.

This realization spurred him back to school to earn his law degree at UCLA, opening the door to his current position. But the lessons he learned at Phi Psi have played an important role as well.

“I always found with playing sports that you had to be a team player whether you were a superstar or a support player,” Kahn said. “I think it was the same at Phi Psi. You’re meeting people from different states and different countries. You’re all working toward the group’s collective goal.”

Brent Freed *UC Berkeley '17*, head of entertainment booking for the Miami Marlins, is tasked with finding talent to fill the seats at the Miami Marlins loanDepot park outside of the regular baseball season. Freed travels from New York to Nashville and beyond, meeting with different agents to pitch the baseball park as an ideal setting for a show.

Phi Psi was pivotal in putting Freed on a path to an entertainment career. He helped spearhead an American Idol-type singing competition for students, complete with big prizes and local record label personnel as judges.

“We weren’t looking for just the music majors. We were looking for the engineering, business, and non-music majors who like to sing,” Freed says.

He credits Phi Psi with honing his social skills.

“I think we had about 120 brothers, and maybe 60 of us were living in the house. I loved that kind of social element and being fortunate to hang out with your Brothers every single week,” Freed said.

Scott Agness *Indiana '09* used to carry around a classic camcorder to record his three older sisters who played high school sports. Now he’s carrying around the latest technology as he works as an Indiana Pacers reporter, host of the Fieldhouse Files Podcast and fieldhousefiles.com website, and a play-by-play announcer.

He went to IU and became heavily involved in sports reporting, a passion that kept him busy while he lived in the house. His post-college experience encompasses a combination of full-time jobs, contract positions, and self-employment as he focuses on covering the Indiana Pacers and Indiana Fever. He also does play-by-play announcing for IU Indy’s women’s basketball team. He has to work hard to stay competitive, a skill he learned from his Phi Psi brothers.



PHI KAPPA PSI BROTHER

AARON KAHN

OHIO STATE '16



PHI KAPPA PSI BROTHER

BRENT FREED

UC BERKELEY '17

Shot

“You were constantly pushing each other,” Agness said. “You learned how to lead and how to do the right thing while pleasing the most people.”

Jalen Carter *Ohio '16*, director of email marketing and automation at the

Miami Heat, says he wasn't much of an athlete growing up. Sports had a unique appeal to him, however, and he set his sights on a career in the field.

“I think sports are kind of a cultural moment that brings people together and allows us to put our differences aside and form a community,” Carter said.

Carter, whose post-college career began at the Genius Bar of a local Apple Store, worked in marketing for a few years before he answered a job listing for his current position with the Miami Heat. He's the one sending gameday emails to ticketholders and supporting content management and execution for the Miami Heat app. Leaving Ohio for Miami was a leap of faith, one that was cultivated during his Phi Psi years.

“In 10 to 20 years from now, I just want to be somewhere that reflects that I have continuously challenged myself and continued growing,” Carter said.

Alex Marsh *Maryland '08*, senior manager of ticketing for Major League Baseball, is the go-to man for the 30 professional and 120 minor league baseball clubs around the country. He works with the various teams to handle group sales, theme nights, and sales tracking. He grew up playing basketball, tennis, and swimming, but discovered he liked the business side of sports as well. When the MLB job opened, he enthusiastically applied and was hired.

A lot of credit goes to Phi Psi, which gave him leadership opportunities and opportunities to hone his interpersonal relations skills. It taught him to listen first, especially when working as part of a group.

“I think listening is a very valuable tool. I think it's important to listen to other people and make decisions based on that,” Marsh said.

He's also open to doing his own listening — and speaking — to the next generation of brothers considering sports-related careers.

“I spoke to a student from Cal Berkeley a couple weeks ago. He reached out and was looking at getting into sports and just wanted to chat,” Marsh said. “People did that for me, and I think it's absolutely the right thing to do.”

Do you work in a sports-related job? Let us know: marketing@phikappapsi.com.

Lori Roberts is a Northwestern University graduate with extensive newspaper and freelance writing experience. When she's not trying to turn a phrase, you can find her arguing with her Corgi, Daisy, who can only be bribed inside with the promise of a baby carrot.



PHI KAPPA PSI BROTHER

JALEN CARTER

OHIO '17



PHI KAPPA PSI BROTHER

SCOTT AGNESS

INDIANA '09



PHI KAPPA PSI BROTHER

ALEX MARSH

MARYLAND '08

MEMBER MILESTONES

We celebrate with our brothers and their families as they mark momentous occasions in their lives. Amici!



Photo: Iz LaMotte

CALIFORNIA BETA Centenarian

George Jedenoff Stanford '37 was born in born in Petrozavodsk, Russia, in 1917. His parents were of Russian nobility and had to flee from the bloodied action of the Bolsheviks, emigrating to the United States. George survived the Great Depression, graduated from Stanford, served in World War II, and established a lifelong career managing steel producing operations. According to a 1938 edition of *The Shield*, while at Stanford, George played rugby – a team referred to as the “Phi Psi Ruggers.” He was a member of Tau Beta Pi (honorary engineering society) and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At Cal Beta, George was the house manager. In 2019, George published a book called “My Centenarian Odyssey,” which candidly chronicles many valuable life lessons. Up until the past couple of years, George could be found snow skiing with fellow powder hounds at the Alta Ski Area near Salt Lake City, Utah. In July 2025, George will turn 108.



Florida Alpha – Florida State

Jinsue Park '93 was inducted into the Taekwondo Hall of Fame in August 2024 in Munich Germany. He competed internationally for the U.S. Taekwondo Team and FSU at National Collegiates. He was recruited to FSU and was a redshirt place kicker for the Seminoles in 1992.

Indiana Gamma – Wabash

Dakota Stacy '23 finished the 2024 Ironman Wisconsin 140.6, a triathlon with a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.2-mile run. Brother Stacy trained and completed this race while being a Wabash College golf team member and balancing academics.



Indiana Zeta – Butler

In September 2024, **Jim Kissling '96** and **Jason Bontrager '98** entered into a business venture together, building and selling ambulances all over North America. AutoFarm Ambulance and High Ground Conversions (a division of Bontrager Industries) unveiled their newly co-developed Type II ambulance at the EMS World Expo in Las Vegas, Nevada.



As one of the largest EMS-only events, the EMS World Expo drew over 6,000 attendees, providing the ideal platform for the vehicle's introduction. AutoFarm Ambulance, known for delivering high-quality emergency vehicles nationwide, partnered with Bontrager Industries, whose multi-generational history in vehicle manufacturing adds a significant edge to the product. The collaboration stems from their longstanding connection as Phi Psi Brothers and makes for a natural partnership.

Marsh Davis '77, the longtime head of Indiana Landmarks, a not-for-profit that has helped preserve scores of historic buildings across the state, plans to retire in April 2025 after 19 years at the helm. Brother Davis has served as president of the Indianapolis-based preservation group since 2006. He also previously worked in other roles for 18 years, for a total of 37 years with the organization.

Indiana Epsilon – Valpo

Ryan Hayes '01 and his wife, Jessica, welcomed their first child, Wilder, in March 2024.

Iowa Beta – Iowa State

Will Cooper '21 received an Undergraduate Award of Distinction from the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). This honor recognizes excellence in the fraternal experience and awards groups or individuals who exemplify leadership, service and fraternal values.



New Jersey Alpha – Rider

Brian J. Heffernan '89 was recently promoted to director of regional payers at Bayer Pharmaceuticals.

Michigan Beta – Michigan State

Congratulations to **Josh Tragge '22** and **Josh Lauzon '21**, who recently completed a Half Ironman. Their persistence and dedication are an inspiration to their entire chapter.



Brad Gorman '02 has launched Gorman Strategies, a communication strategy and consulting firm serving business, government, and nonprofit clients. After two



decades of corporate affairs leadership at companies like GM and Whirlpool, he is excited to embark on this new chapter. He cherishes the leadership lessons learned more than 20 years ago at the American Leadership Academy in Cabo with Phi Psi.

Ohio Beta – Wittenberg

Gene W. Simone '74 was recently welcomed to the Wittenberg's Alumni Association Board, which is committed to serving as a liaison for the university by engaging and connecting the alumni body for the purpose of supporting Wittenberg's mission and goals. Simone, who was named the Alumni Volunteer of the Year in 2023, graduated from Wittenberg with a bachelor's degree in political science and was a member of the men's lacrosse team. Simone has resided in Springboro, Ohio, since 1980 and is an active member of his community where he serves on the Springboro Planning Commission. He also has been a volunteer

assistant coach for the freshman boys basketball team for 17 years. Dedicated to his alma mater, Simone is active on the Dayton Wittenberg Alumni Committee and the Homecoming Tailgate Committee.

Ohio Theta – Ashland

Jim Paponetti '95 was named the Executive Vice President of Operations for Delta Zeta.

Ohio Iota – Akron

Last April, as part of National Volunteer Month, Brother **Dan Schwitzgable '72** was recognized by Aultman Hospital in Canton, Ohio, for his dedicated service for more than six years.



Two days per week, Dan volunteers in the pharmacy and in the emergency department. His primary role in the pharmacy is to send medications, prepared

by the pharmacists, to various areas of the hospital using pneumatic tubes. In the ER, he restocks unoccupied patient rooms with fresh linens, gowns, and protective gloves and gathers used linens to be laundered. Dan takes great joy in serving at Aultman. (Excerpted from aultman.org/blog)

Louisiana Alpha – LSU

In August 2024, **Sean Hammerle '90** was promoted to the position of president of



OnQ, a global leader in elevated labor and technology outsourcing solutions. Having been with the company since before it opened its doors, Sean has been instrumental in driving

OnQ's growth and fostering a culture of excellence and innovation.

Oregon Beta – Oregon State

Donald Q. Hall '48 recently welcomed his seventh great-grandchild into the world! Brother Hall will turn 98 years young on Valentine's Day 2025. He never misses an OSU football game and reminisces about his time in Corvallis with great fondness.

West Virginia Alpha – West Virginia

William J. Quinn '66 and his wife are excited to travel this year to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands to celebrate the marriage of their son, Patrick.

INDIANA BETA

HALL OF FAMER

By Jim Babcock *Indiana '65*

On Sept. 20, 2024, Olympic swimmer Kevin Berry '65 (1945 – 2006) became the seventh Indiana Betan inducted into the Indiana University Athletics Hall of Fame.



Berry and legendary IU swimming coach Doc Counsilman

Other Brothers already in the Hall of Fame are Mike Troy '59, Dr. Alan Somers '60, Fred Schmidt '62, Mark Spitz '69, John Kinsella '71 and Make Stamm '71. All seven were members of Coach James "Doc" Counsilman's powerhouse IU swimming teams that dominated Big Ten and U.S. swimming during that era. The induction ceremony in Memorial Stadium was held in the Henke Hall of Champions, which was named for Brother Steve Henke '70. Kevin was represented by his daughter, Laura, who traveled from Australia for the ceremony.

Kevin was born in Sydney, Australia. At age 14 he earned a spot on the Australian Olympic team and finished sixth in the 200-meter butterfly at the Rome Olympics. The gold medalist in that race was Mike Troy, who was so impressed with this young Australian that after the games he sent Kevin an autographed postcard and suggested that he would have a chance of winning in the next Olympics.

In 1963, Kevin matriculated to IU to swim for the legendary Counsilman. In 1964, he represented Australia in the Tokyo Olympic Games where he set a world record while winning a gold medal in the 200-meter butterfly. He also won a bronze medal as part of the 4x100-meter relay team.

Following college, Kevin returned to Sydney where he pursued a career in photography and journalism working for The Sydney Morning Herald and later for ABC Sports, Australia, before starting his own private sports business.

Kevin coached the 1967 and 1968 Phi Kappa Psi Little 500 bike team, and in 1980, he was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame.



LEFT: Indiana University Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony. **RIGHT:** Laura Foo, Berry's daughter, stands with his portrait.



OKLAHOMA ALPHA

Ring of Honor Induction

By Jeff Scott *Oklahoma '11*

Every successful chapter has an alumnus who serves as the pilot light for its member's passion and dedication to our beloved Fraternity. However, there is no alumnus like the cornerstone at Oklahoma Alpha, *Richard C. Bower '56*.

Initiated the spring of in 1956 as badge #541, Brother Bower was awarded the Outstanding Pledge Award of his class and attended his first Grand Arch Council in San Francisco that summer. He served as president of the chapter and the OU Student Senate in his time as an undergraduate. Upon graduation, Richard went to work for IBM and moved to Dallas, Texas, with his wife, Lou Ann, (Kappa Kappa Gamma). As an alumnus, he served as Oklahoma's housing corporation president, an initial trustee to the precursor of the Canonsburg Corporation, and a pivotal advisor for the chartering of Texas Delta at Southern Methodist University.



Scott

Richard was inducted into the Order of the S.C. in 2000 and has attended nearly double the amount of Grand Arch Councils needed to achieve this honor. Brother Bower has helped shape our national Fraternity's policies and elevated the reputation of the chapter with his service. There isn't a single member of Oklahoma Alpha who attends the biannual conclave who isn't regaled with a story about Brother Bower. It's no wonder that at the belated Centennial Banquet for Oklahoma Alpha in 2021, Richard was awarded the Phi Kappa Psi Medal of Honor by past SWGP David Moyer *Alabama '91* for his lifetime of service to our Fraternity nationwide.

For these reasons and so many more, we felt it was well overdue to induct Brother Bower into Oklahoma Alpha's Ring of Honor. This distinction is denoted by a hand-painted portrait hung in the Catlett Room, the drawing room of our chapter house. On Nov. 23, 2024, at the Alabama vs. Oklahoma tailgate, over 75 brothers gathered for the surprise ceremony. As Richard's portrait was unveiled, it was my privilege to recount the accolades of a man who is not only a mentor to me, but also to so many men in our Fraternity. Brother Bower's portrait is now one of only four portraits of Oklahoma Alphas to hold this honor, including past SWGP J. Bart Aldridge 1922 and the Catlett brothers, Eugene and Stanley 1920, two of our chapter's founding members. The induction was capped with a moving speech by Richard filled with gratitude and his trademark call for every brother to be worthy of the trust reposed in them for our sacred Fraternity.

Our chapter and so many others have been blessed to have a brother like Richard to look up to over the years. He will always be Oklahoma Alpha's Alumni Advisor Emeritus, the brother who helped shape so many into the men they are today. Richard Bower is the glue that has held Oklahoma Alpha together for more than 69 years in its century on campus, and there will never be another like him. Live Ever. Die Never.



A Shared Vision for Safer Communities

At the 81st Grand Arch Council this past summer, Hunter's Fund was selected as Phi Kappa Psi's official national philanthropy. But let's start from the beginning...

It all started with a vibrant and passionate young man named Hunter. Son to a proud Phi Psi and founding member from the University of Alabama, Hunter embraced the family legacy and joined the New York Beta Chapter at Syracuse University. His decision was not based on legacy alone. Hunter met with guys from the different fraternities on campus and found brotherhood in Phi Psi.

He was getting ready to enter his junior year at Syracuse, when the unthinkable happened. Hunter Brooks Watson *Syracuse '15* was a passenger involved in a distracted driving accident and lost his life.

Hunter's entire pledge class attended his memorial service, and his father's chapter brothers from Alabama Alpha performed the Rite of Committal at his graveside service. His brothers from Syracuse returned to campus and collected funds to create and administer an on-campus safe driving program.

In 2016, Hunter's Fund was founded by those who loved him to celebrate Hunter's life by empowering young people to follow their passions and raise awareness about distracted driving. Through grants, the fund supports emerging talents in performing arts, music, computer science, and entrepreneurship. Grant recipients, including Phi Psi brothers, have the freedom to pursue unique, self-directed projects, keeping Hunter's spirit of curiosity and creativity alive.



In addition, using pledge commitments to change behavior, Hunter's Fund works to reduce accidents caused by distracted driving.

What started as a safe driving program on one campus has spread to campuses across the country hosting Safe Driving Weeks with Phi Psi chapters leading the way. These events inspire students and save lives.

Hunter's Fund is proud to partner with Phi Kappa Psi as its new official national philanthropy. Together, we aim to develop new programs that engage students, inspire safe driving practices, build leadership, and honor Hunter's legacy.



By joining forces with Phi Kappa Psi, we hope to inspire more students to create lasting change. Hunter's legacy serves as a guiding light for these efforts, reminding us all to live fully and make a difference wherever we can, whenever we can.

One shining example of this partnership in action is the rising Clemson University Colony. The brothers at Clemson have turned their relationship with Hunter's Fund into a year-round effort, hosting safe driving initiatives, organizing fundraising events, and educating their classmates about the importance of pledging not to drive distracted. Their dedication serves as a model for other chapters and demonstrates how student-led initiatives can make a lasting difference.

For more information about Hunter's Fund and its programs or to donate, visit hunterwatson.org. Help us reach our 2025 fundraising goal of \$250,000. This official partnership with Phi Kappa Psi will drive lasting change and save lives.





WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA

Pinehurst: A GROWING PHENOMENON

By Steve Arters *West Virginia '77*

What if I told you what began in 2014 as a casual golf outing among brothers from West Virginia Alpha has grown to one of the largest Phi Psi events across the country, and the next chapter will be written later this summer.



Arters

This is the story of how my journey intersected with this growing phenomenon known simply as Pinehurst.

Pinehurst, North Carolina, is a photogenic small southern town. Most of its charming shops are living museums honoring the history of golf. The Pine Crest Inn, where the majority of 2023's 94 attendees stayed, is within walking distance to the legendary

Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, host to the 2024 U.S. Open.

In the early years of Pinehurst, I would hear bits and pieces about this every-two-year event whenever I spoke to past attendees. As time passed and the event grew, there were more and more stories of the picturesque settings on and off the golf course, the incredible camaraderie, and endless laughs over drinks.

Family obligations including caring for my elderly mom, Betty, a proud member of the Beta Upsilon Chapter of Kappa

Kappa Gamma at West Virginia University, had kept me from experiencing Pinehurst firsthand. At the time, she was speeding through her 90s as one of the oldest living members of her national sorority.

Fast forward to early 2023 when Brother Zach Mendelson '79 — the mastermind behind Pinehurst — visited San Antonio on business. During dinner on the Riverwalk with our wives, Krista and Suzanne, WVU athletics were a hot topic, and I shared of Betty's recent passing, just weeks after her 100th birthday.

The discussion eventually shifted to the upcoming Pinehurst outing and its emerging reputation for great times. As we talked, I told Zach, "I think this is the year!"

My First Pinehurst Experience

What's a day in the life like at Pinehurst? What's that line from the Toby Keith song? Oh, yeah, "I ain't as good as I once was, but I'm as good, once, as I ever was."

Each blue-sky day brought interactions with a spectrum of brothers, ranging from recent graduates to contemporaries to those who were in school around the time John F. Kennedy was in the White House.

The four-day experience of sharing meals with brothers not seen in decades, broken up by the day's activities on the golf



course or pickleball courts, was topped off every evening with a journey back into the shadows of faded memories.

Some of the best times of our lives were relived, enhanced, and told more than once, depending on how much laughter the story received the first time. For me, it was reminiscing about many unforgettable experiences and parties in the WV Alpha house.

One night, while gathering in the large dining room for dinner, I grabbed a chair next to pledge brother Dave Hanna '77, a Pinehurst alumnus. We chatted about that day's activities for a few minutes before he pulled out his phone and showed me a photo of us together with a couple other pledge brothers at a party circa Founders Day 1977.

It was one of those seminal moments framed by a flash. I hadn't seen that photo in probably 40+ years, yet not only did I remember everyone in the photo, but also the area in the house where it was taken. Considering how much life had happened in the interim, the speed of recollection would be like instantly finding a random dusty book in a Harry Potter-esque library.

To me, it illustrates how special even the smallest Phi Psi memories are in our lives, all those years later. After dinner, of course there was at least one group sing-along including a full-length version of "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

For some more than others, the daily activities would leave them sore the next day. In fact, one morning, there was a line of chairs with IV bags and nurses to administer to guys needing a liquid recharge for the day ahead.

On the last full day, it was my group's turn to play pickleball. On the way out to the courts, I mentioned never even picking up a paddle before, although I had played tennis back in the day.

I was assured that was fine; these were only friendly games. But you and I both know once it becomes competitive among

brothers, all bets are off. We divided up into two-man teams and spread out over four courts. After only a few warmup volleys and a quick review of the rules, it was time to start.

We were only about two points into the first game when I saw it — that competitive look brothers get when they're keeping score. It's that same look the zebra gets when a pride of hungry lions emerges from tall grass. It also was now obvious I may have been the only one who had never played pickleball before.

A point or two later, I lunged for a backhand volley when my left knee buckled, landing on it as I hit the deck. I walked it off, assuring everyone I was fine. But if you've played competitive athletics, you know the difference between hurt and injured. Three games later, I managed a cross-court winner that earned a fist bump from Jim Hamer '79, one of the best players that day.

By this time, my knee was screaming at me that if I wanted to be able to walk through the airport terminal the next day, that was my last shot. Walking to the "winner's court," I told Jim I was going to sit out the next game. My day was done.

An MRI later revealed it was a stretched ACL and kneecap bruise, but no tear. I was running distances again that Halloween. So, this summer I may be back on the court, or I may just order another beer.

There are a handful of other stories from my first Pinehurst I'd love to share, but the magazine's editor is giving me the wrap-it-up signal. So, here's a toast to the planning for Pinehurst 2025. I'll see you at The Inn this summer.

If you have an alumni event, please let us know: marketing@phikappasi.com.

Steve Arters is a digital marketer in San Antonio and former reporter/editor for The Associated Press in Dallas. Known as "Scoop" by his Phi Psi brothers since his sports writing days for WVU's student newspaper, The Daily Athenaeum.

LEGACIES

BROTHERS FIND SECOND FAMILY

By Amy Lynch

Austin Claiborne *UC Riverside '13* and Adrian Claiborne Jr. *UC Berkeley '21* aren't just brothers in Phi Kappa Psi. They're also brothers by blood.

Born and raised in Riverside, California, the Claibornes found their way to Phi Psi at different times and different schools. For Austin, a business administration major, networking aspects were what drew him in.

"I knew that fraternities were very connected, and I was looking for a great group of guys with a strong alumni base," he explained. "When I went to Rush, I found friends I didn't even know were already Phi Psis." >>>

Since his graduation in 2016, Austin has come to treasure the lasting friendships he's made with brothers from across the country and around the world. A self-professed introvert, he credits Phi Psi with bringing him out of his shell and honing skills that initially supported his career as a program manager for the Golden State Warriors Community Foundation and now as a social impact community relations specialist for Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

"My social skills came from Phi Psi, learning how to communicate with all kinds of people from different walks of life," he said.

Austin is happily paying it forward by helping younger Phi Psis make their own connections and advising college members of the University of California Berkeley chapter, including his own brother. Adrian graduated in May 2024 with a political economy degree and is teaching English at the Gyeonggi-do Institute for Lifelong Learning in South Korea.

"I didn't think I would join a fraternity, but after meeting Phi Psis through Austin and the guys at Berkeley, I realized I loved it," Adrian shared.



When he was a young kid, Adrian would visit Austin at Riverside, getting to know some of the brothers and seeing first-hand what being part of a fraternity was really like.

"UC Riverside is a big commuter campus; it's secluded in a way because students go back home in the evening and on weekends," Austin said. "For that reason, we had to be very creative and intentional in planning Phi Psi events like barbecues and basketball tournaments."

"It was fun being able to spend time with Austin at those events and being embraced by the Phi Psi Brothers at such a young age," Adrian added.

Because he rushed and pledged during the Covid-19 pandemic, it took a little while for Adrian to get into the full swing of the on-campus fraternity experience.

"As schools started to re-open, we were able to host more events," he recalled. "I met a lot of older alumni who are people I may not have ever gotten to talk to. They've taught me so much, and I've really enjoyed getting to know them. I was also a member of the men's basketball team, and one of my core memories was having my Phi Psi brothers come to my games. It was something we celebrated together."

Though the Phi Psi friendships Austin established at Riverside have evolved through the years, many are still firmly intact. As a recent graduate, Adrian is looking forward to maintaining the connections he fostered at Berkeley, and to expanding his own network of contacts.

"For me, the concept of brotherhood has shifted more in the direction of finding ways to give back," Austin said. "Everyone



in our family works in nonprofit or education, so it only seems natural that Adrian and I would find our own ways into those areas. I didn't expect the values Phi Psi instilled in me to continue so much beyond graduation, but they certainly have. That's been surprisingly meaningful."

Adrian declares himself a self-starter but is quick to acknowledge that his brothers have played an instrumental role in guiding him to resources and helping with his professional development.

"When I decided to teach in Korea, one of the Phi Psis I know from Berkeley connected me with his brother who had taught here, too," he explained. "I really appreciated the chance to reach out to him; he shared some great ideas on places to go and insider tips."

Both Austin and Adrian urge their fellow Phi Psis to participate in as many college and alumni events as possible and to take advantage of relationship-building opportunities because you never know when you'll need a brother.

"I love to travel, and it's comforting to know that wherever I go in the world, there's always someone I can call," Adrian said.

"It's like having a second family," Austin agreed. "I never pushed Adrian to join Phi Psi, but having him get to be a part of that and share this whole experience with me in his own way has been beyond memorable."

Do you have a brotherhood story to share? Let us know: marketing@phikappapsi.com.

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 "The concept of brotherhood has shifted more in the direction of finding ways to give back."
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Q&A with Stephen Elliott Ohio Wesleyan '68

By HQ Staff

The bloodlines in Greek life run deep. While looking at some of our Phi Psi legacies, we found that not only does the Elliott family have a long history with our organization, but also with Delta Gamma.

Q: Tell us a little about your father's roles with Phi Kappa Psi. How much did his involvement impact your decision to join?

A: My father, Robert "Bob" Elliott *Ohio Wesleyan 1935*, was a District III Archon from 1937-38. He stayed involved after serving in the U.S. Navy and while starting his spray paint manufacturing company in Cleveland. He also was the SWVGP 1956-58, became the 36th SWGP from 1958-60 and later served as a Foundation trustee for almost two decades. Growing up, most of our family vacations were surrounded by attending GAC or an EC meeting — trips to San Francisco, Mackinac Island, and Chicago weren't too shabby!



36th SWGP Bob Elliott in 1958

Obviously, fraternity life was prominent as I grew up. At Ohio Wesleyan in 1967, nearly 85% of the men were Greek. Phi Psi was among the top houses of the 12 fraternities on campus. Most of them, like Ohio Alpha, had large houses that were no more than 10 years old. So, yep, I chose Phi Psi!

Q: Did you meet your wife at Ohio Wesleyan?

A: My wife, Linda, and I were high school sweethearts, and she also attended Ohio Wesleyan. She is a Delta Gamma. DGs in our family extend back to 1912. Linda is still very active with DG, at times on both a national and regional level. In fact, she is currently the DG chapter advisor at Santa Clara University.

Q: What can you tell us about yourself — your career, family, hobbies?

A: Upon graduation in 1971, I moved to California where I enrolled in the MBA program at the University of Southern California (USC). After earning my MBA in 1973, I began working with Arthur Andersen in downtown Los Angeles. I was in the corporate audit department and quickly earned my CPA license. From there I was recruited to be the corporate controller for Dr. Pepper Bottling Company of Southern California. Hot dog! I was a corporate officer of a publicly traded company at the age of 26. As a victim of an acquisition, my job was downsized and I joined Fluor Corporation, which is a large public multinational engineering and construction company headquartered in Irvine, California. There I held several finance positions and eventually became head of their international treasury department. Hot Dog! I was again a corporate officer at age 35. Fluor had major offices in the U.S., Europe, Saudi Arabia, and Australia — lots of travel. After 20 years with Fluor, I got tired of frequently changing airplanes in either Dallas, Atlanta, or New York. From there I started my own financial advisory franchise

with American Express/Ameriprise Financial. My office was in Tustin here in Orange County, California, and offered more freedom, independence, and entrepreneurship. I sold my financial advisory practice in 2014.

In retirement, I read, play golf and pickleball, and get to travel and take Linda to all those wonderful places I visited while working. We have a son, Link *Southern Cal '96*, and a daughter (a Delta Gamma from USC), who are both married and have given us four grandchildren.

Q: What did you carry from your fraternity experience into your personal and professional life?

A: My people skills, organizational skills, and ability to cope with change were all forged by the Greek system. Dealing with all sorts of people, situations, and jobs was important. Where else could you learn to polish floors, patch drywall, clean windows, and wash dishes, pots and pans?!

Q: What stands out about your time at Ohio Alpha?

A: Being in a fraternity was equivalent to being part of a well-organized commune. Very 1960s! We had our own house, government, and individual duties that contributed to the whole. I became chapter finance manager in charge of collecting house dues, budgeting, and paying expenses. We managed our in-house dining room and kitchen. We employed two cooks and purchased all our own food. Our membership was 100 to 125 brothers. We were all Baby Boomers, so there were a lot of us! When I entered college in 1967, I had mandatorily registered for the draft. The Vietnam War was raging; however, by attending college full-time I had a student deferment. At that time, our future after graduation was in question. During my sophomore year, the U.S. held a draft lottery based on our birthday. I remember sitting in the Phi Psi TV room where we watched this lottery that could dictate our postgraduate fate. I was lucky to get a high lottery number, and by the time I graduated in 1971, the war was winding down. I realized I wouldn't have to delay my dream of moving to California to get my MBA, pursuing my career and building my family.

The roots that spread from all the connections made and nurtured at our chapters across the country — and within our families — are far-reaching. And they are a testament to Phi Psi's rich heritage. Sharing those experiences with others helps our organization flourish, keeping the Phi Psi legacy alive.

What's your story?

Tell us about your Phi Psi experience: marketing@phikappapsi.com.

Like Father, Like Son



By Amy Lynch

Brotherhood runs in the family. When Scott Sliski *Kansas '91* graduated from the University of Kansas in 1994, he never could have imagined that 30 years later, he'd be visiting his son Aiden *Kansas '23* at the same house he'd lived in as a Phi Psi.

Opportunities for collaboration, philanthropy and social interaction were what originally drew Scott to Phi Psi as a freshman on the Lawrence campus back in 1991.

"For me, the Fraternity provided a unique structure that strikes a balance between school and social life, and I think that's so important for kids to learn as they're coming into college," he said.

Earning Bachelor of Science degrees in chemistry and business administration, Scott eventually went on to own a company that manufactured liquid flavoring concentrates for the food industry. Now retired, he gives back by serving as an advisor to the Colorado Alpha Chapter from his home in Fort Collins.

When the time came for Aiden to start considering colleges, Kansas quickly rose to the top of his prospect list.

"Kansas has always been like a second home to me," he explained. "My dad's side of the family went to KU, and I've been traveling here since I was young. Growing up in Colorado, I knew I wanted to go somewhere different to experience new things and meet new people. That's exactly what I've found here at Kansas."

Aiden's decision to pledge Phi Kappa Psi in 2023 made his already proud dad even prouder.

"When Aiden came to me and said to me, 'I've made up my mind. I want to go to University of Kansas, and I want to be a Phi Psi,' it was such a special feeling," Scott recalled. "It's amazing to be able to live vicariously not only through the kids

I advise, but also to have my son experience some of the same things that I did in college and share that connection with him."

From a legacy standpoint, Aiden enjoys knowing that his dad truly understands the ins and outs of Phi Psi Brotherhood.

"I get to walk down the hall and see my dad's composite hanging on the wall," he said. "Having him here for events like dads' weekend, collaborating between the Kansas and Colorado chapters, and just being able to compare and contrast our stories has been really great."

When he graduates in 2027, Aiden plans to follow in his parents' footsteps by pursuing a career in sales, tapping into Phi Psi contacts he's made along the way for guidance and direction.

"I didn't really know anyone my first year, but now I'm getting to meet more alumni at family weekends and other events, talk with them and hear about their experiences," he mentioned. "I use LinkedIn a lot to find job leads and internships. When I'm scrolling through, if I see a Phi Psi has just gotten a new position or is doing something great, I'll reach out in the hopes that maybe we can meet or collaborate sometime in the future."

"One thing that was really important to me when I was in the house was the alumni relations we had available to us," Scott agreed. "As an advisor, I've worked on connecting the Colorado Alpha Chapter with alumni that I know personally and helping them as they progress through their junior and senior years to take advantage of those connections in a mentoring capacity."

In addition, Scott keeps the bonds of Brotherhood alive by staying in touch with members of his own class in person and through social media.

"We've all grown in different directions through the years, but Phi Psi remains the common denominator between all of us," he said. "One of my pledge brothers also has a son in the Phi Psi house at Kansas,

and we reconnected last year at dads' weekend after not seeing each other for almost 20 years. We picked right back up where we left off. It was like no time had passed at all."

Currently serving his chapter as philanthropy chair, Aiden urges his fellow Brothers to find their own ways to get involved with the Fraternity and make the most of their Phi Psi experience.

"Getting to meet a bunch of great guys I get to call my Brothers, and also getting to call them my friends has been amazing," he said. "Experiencing all of these school activities and events together and knowing that you always have someone who's there for you is what really makes the Brotherhood special. It's a kind of loyalty you can't find anywhere else."

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 "I've made up
 my mind ...
 I want to be a
 Phi Psi."
 ● ● ●

THE

Walker

LEGACY

By HQ Staff

The Walker legacy from DePauw University (DPU) boasts six generations of Phi Psis over a span of 140 years. The list below begins with one of Indiana Alpha’s founding fathers, Wilbur F. Walker 1865. His son, Guy M. Walker 1887, established the Walker Cup, an award presented annually to the member of the senior class who is determined to have accomplished the most for DePauw during his or her time on campus.



Guy Morrison Walker

With assistance from the DePauw University Libraries, verification was made that 10 Phi Psi brothers have been awarded the Walker Cup since its 1927 inception. The first to receive this distinction was Robert T. Kimberlin 1927, whose father, Robert O. Kimberlin 1900, also was an Indiana Alphan!

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“I loved bringing the award back to the Phi Psi brotherhood.”

One of the three recipients from the 1960s, James H. Nyenhius '66, recalled, “I received the award in May 1969 just prior to graduation. I was voted the student body president and student senate president for the 1968-69 academic year. Also, I was a Rector Scholar and member of the DPU debate team. I have very fond memories of my time as a Phi Psi at DePauw and remain in good contact with several brothers.”

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Eric R. Hauck '93 received the Walker Cup, and he shared his reflection on the distinction.

“Being chosen as the winner of the 1996 Walker Cup Award was an unexpected and beautiful honor for me. It is an incredible legacy that the Walker family has left for generations of DPU students. Unlike many collegiate awards that are purely based on popularity or academic and athletic comparisons, the beauty of the Walker Cup is its desire to affirm and celebrate the balanced virtues of character, leadership, community involvement, academic excellence, and humanitarian awareness.

As a member of Indiana Alpha and resident of the ‘Rockpile,’ I loved bringing the award back to the Phi Psi brotherhood.

Since May of 1996, I have lived a life blessed by many unexpected experiences of success and failure, of joy and pain. I look back on the Walker Cup as a concrete reminder in my life that anything is possible, that each one of us holds great value and has something unique to offer this world, and that there is hope for all of us no matter how difficult the journey of life! Humbly grateful ... “

The most recent Phi Psi to receive the Walker Cup was in 2023. JD O’Keane '20 described the impact of the honor along with his passion for the future of the Fraternity.

“The Walker Cup embodies the highest ideals of our brotherhood: service, academic excellence, respect for others, personal integrity, and a deep sense of community. As a recipient it is not only a testament to my hard work and dedication in all areas of my life but also serves as a reminder of the encouragement of my brothers, and a commitment to honoring the legacy of Phi Psis who have come before me. This achievement goes beyond personal recognition, it is about inspiring future generations of Phi Psi to carry forward these values with pride and purpose.”

The Walker family is an amazing example of the way our organization is framed to build character, instill values, and share a common goal. Weaving their legacy with ours, intertwining individual threads, we are creating a beautiful pattern for each generation to enjoy.

We Live and Flourish!

140 Years of the Indiana Alpha Walker Family

- **Wilbur Fisk Walker 1865**
(chapter founder, father of Guy)
- **Ray Mattox Walker 1911**
(younger son of Guy)
- **Fisk Halsted Walker '47**
(middle son of Merle I)
- **Guy Morrison Walker 1887**
(older brother of Orin)
- **Guy M. Binx Walker '41**
(oldest son of Merle I)
- **Bruce Walker '50**
(youngest son of Merle I)
- **Orin DeMotte Walker 1896**
(younger brother of Guy)
- **Merle Royse Walker II '41**
(older son of Ray)
- **Stuart M. Walker '70**
(oldest son of Guy M. Binx)
- **Merle Royse Walker 1909**
(older son of Guy)
- **Guy Morrison Walker II '43**
(younger son of Ray)
- **Christian Bolen Brower Walker '10**
(son of Stuart)

PHI PSI WALKER CUP RECIPIENTS

Photos courtesy of DePauw University Libraries

1930 ➤ **Robert T. Kimberlin 1927**

1938 ➤ **Jack W. Oswald 1935**

1939 ➤ **Edwin M. Lindsay '37**



1966

➤ **Richard T. Roessler '63**



1946

➤ **Norman J. Knights '41**



1969

➤ **James H. Nyenhuis '66**



1949

➤ **Charles A. West '46**



1996

➤ **Eric R. Hauck '93**



1963

➤ **Michael H. Thomas '60**



2023

➤ **JD O'Keane '20**

2024 WILLIAM H. BLANNING
GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT

FACING CHALLENGES HEAD-ON



By Joe Gombach

Beginning college in the midst of a pandemic proved challenging for students across the country. Felix Celestino UIC '21 is used to challenges and has spent his life overcoming them. A first-generation, gay Latino, he was raised by a single mother who immigrated from Mexico and worked hard to build a better life. Celestino grew up in a working-class, minority community before entering college in 2020. This past summer he received the William H. Blanning Graduate Award.

Celestino earned a 3.93 GPA in his first year, but when in-person learning began in the fall of 2021, he struggled with his coursework and his grades slipped. “I

came to the difficult realization that I had undiagnosed learning disabilities,” he explained. Celestino was eventually diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD and able to get the necessary treatment and accommodations. He made the dean’s list every semester afterward.

As campus life returned to normal, Celestino was initially leery of joining a fraternity until some friends talked him into rushing Phi Psi. “Everything changed after meeting all of the guys,” he said. Illinois Theta’s diversity and easygoing atmosphere appealed to him. “There was never a moment when I felt uncomfortable because of my identity. It’s hard to describe, but I had this feeling you get when you’re welcomed and belong.”

Brotherhood had a special impact on Celestino. “As a child growing up without a father, I never had a male role model in my life,” he said. Now he strives to be one, “like the role models I found when joining Phi Psi.”

Celestino worked a number of jobs to support himself through school and still found time to participate in a long list of extracurriculars. In addition to assuming several leadership positions within his chapter, Celestino organized campus food drives, served in the student government, volunteered with the Gender & Sexuality Center, and founded the UIC chapter of a pre-law fraternity. He received numerous awards for his campus and community activism.

“As I went through my time at UIC, I saw things that could be better, so rather than wait for someone to do it, I did it myself with the help of those around me,” Celestino said. “Once I was a part of Phi Psi and saw all the opportunities to make a meaningful impact within the UIC and Chicago community, it was a no-brainer.”

As a resident advisor, Celestino witnessed retaliation against his peers who spoke out about insufficient working conditions and compensation. Having seen and experienced discrimination throughout his childhood, he decided to act and led an effort to force changes in the housing office.

Celestino is now in law school, pursuing a career in public interest law, with the goal of opening a legal clinic in his community and providing pro bono services. He said he carries forward an important lesson from The Creed. “The line, ‘to give aid and sympathy to all who are less fortunate,’ directly aligns with my goal.”

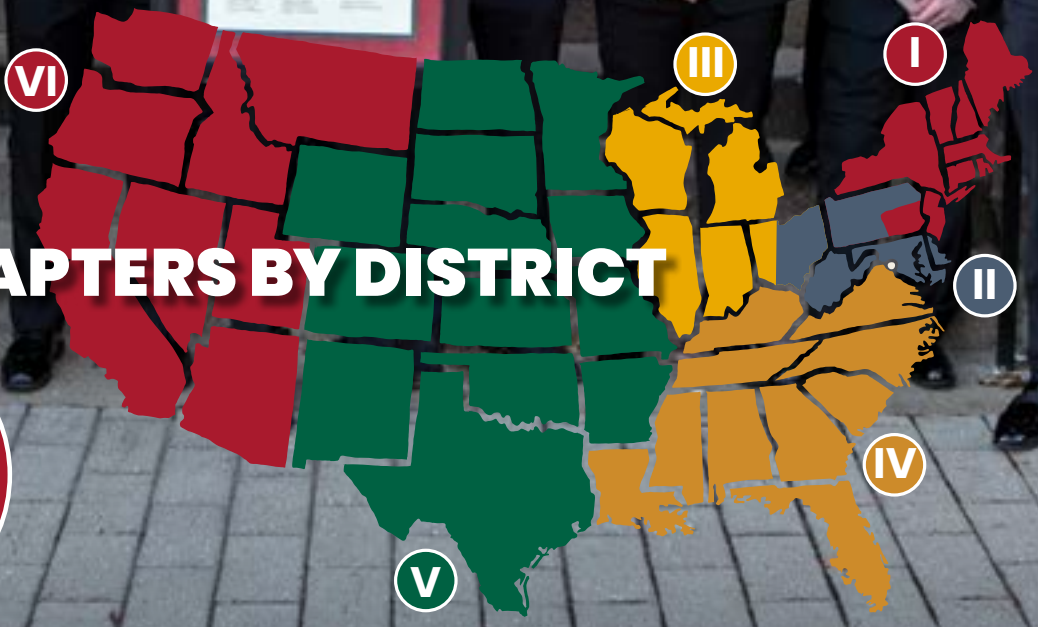
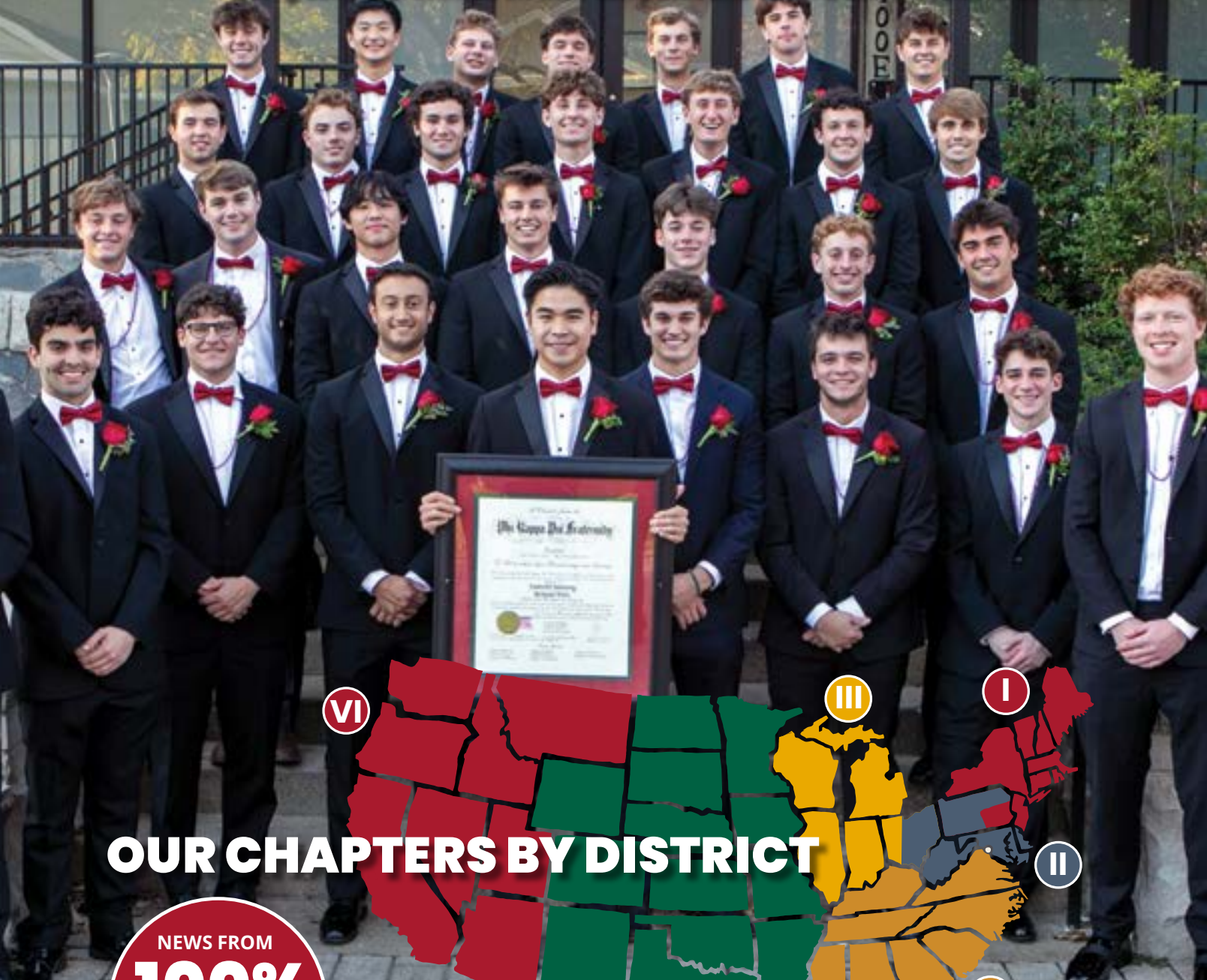
For more information on available scholarships, go to [zzzz](#). **The deadline for current applications is March 15, 2025.**

Joe Gombach is a freelance writer and a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis.

FALL 2024
SEMESTER

CHAPTER NEWS

We have young men who raised awareness for cancer and mental health, while others have achieved academic accolades. A brother from Ohio Beta volunteered for eight days caring for an 18-year-old with Down syndrome, and chapters raised funds and supplies for hurricane victims. Flags were flown, games were won, pies were thrown, pledges were signed, and our strong band represented on their campuses and communities. Live ever. Die never.



OUR CHAPTERS BY DISTRICT

NEWS FROM
100%
OF OUR ACTIVE
CHAPTERS AND
COLONIES!

DISTRICT I 15 CHAPTERS



DELAWARE ALPHA - DELAWARE

Submitted By: Devin Beale '22

This fall, our chapter continued its participation in the Breakthrough T1D Walk, formerly known as the "JDRF One Walk," a fundraiser dedicated to spreading awareness and fighting Type 1 Diabetes. We

participated in honor of one of our brothers, **Jack DuBois '18**, who tragically passed away in November 2021 due to complications from Type 1 Diabetes. The chapter is proud to

share that this year we raised more funds for the walk than in the past three years, reaching a grand total of \$7,664.

▲
**RAISED
\$7,664
IN THE JDRF
ONE WALK**



MASSACHUSETTS BETA - BRANDEIS

Submitted By: Joshua Uhl '22

We volunteered for the Rodman Ride for kids, an organization that supports education, health, social, and creative development for young children. We also continued with our bone marrow donation drives around campus for Gift of Life.

NEW JERSEY BETA - MONMOUTH

Submitted By: Michael Morgan '23

New Jersey Beta President **Michael**

Morgan '23 and

Vice President

Sean Nederfield

'22 participated in Monmouth

University's 24th annual "The Big

Event" helping clear up and clean

up the Jackson Woods Park in

West Long Branch.

On Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, our chapter initiated Brother **John Ferrara '24** as the Alpha Zeta class. We are excited and proud of John for joining our brotherhood as New Jersey Beta continues to rebuild.



NEW JERSEY GAMMA - RUTGERS

Submitted By: Kenneth Hiraldo '24

We successfully recruited three new members during the fall semester and aim to recruit 10 to 15 members in the spring. We hosted a candy and bracelet sale where brothers actively participated, raising funds to support violence awareness month in October. While we did not organize any special projects this semester, we are planning to collaborate with campus clubs that our members are involved in. These partnerships will allow us to strengthen our ties with the community and make a greater impact. Brother **Abhiram Chaganti '24** demonstrated tremendous personal growth by committing to a disciplined routine, waking up early for runs to improve his physical fitness while continuing to support the Fraternity with dedication and enthusiasm.



NEW JERSEY DELTA - TCNJ

Submitted By: Edward LaPadula '24

We have five newly initiated brothers this semester. TCNJam is The College of New Jersey's Dance Marathon benefitting The Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation.

TCNJam brings together students within the campus community for one cause. Our chapter raised \$4,600 for the foundation to benefit childhood cancer. We also volunteered at the St. Jude Walk in Philadelphia. In

November, a member attended the finance Explore program in Minneapolis, and we had multiple members apply for the NYC Explore program in January.

◀
**RAISED
\$4,600
DURING
TCNJam**



NEW JERSEY EPSILON - ROWAN

Submitted By: Christopher Zupko '22

Regularly our brothers gather to keep our local parks safe and clean. Pictured is a group of brothers who ventured out to a park near Rowan University's campus to clean up the surrounding area. The great joy of serving others is what we stand by and for good reason.



NEW YORK THETA - RIT

Submitted By: Connor McRoberts '23

Fall semester our chapter had an amazing

Rush; we recruited 11 new members into our ranks. We plan to shoot for a similar size class in the spring. We raised over \$10,000 for the Hillside Foundation, running our 28th annual Mud-tug competition. Besides that, the brothers have been involved in multiple service projects. Early in the semester we worked with Saint Mark's and Saint John's Episcopal Church to maintain community gardens. This was done in an effort to provide greater access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the greater Rochester area.



◀
**THE
LARGEST
CHAPTER ON
CAMPUS**



NEW YORK IOTA - BINGHAMTON

Submitted By: Aidan Szentmariay '23

On Halloween, the NY Iota Chapter participated in Binghamton Panhellenic's "Trunk or Treat" event during which they handed out candy and snacks to children and families of the Binghamton community.

PENNSYLVANIA ETA - F & M

Submitted By: Brian Mohr '24

At Franklin & Marshall College, Phi Kappa Psi and Greek life in general have a rich history of fostering leadership, community service, and academic excellence. Currently, we are undergoing a revival of the prominence our community once had on campus before COVID-19. We are currently the largest chapter of the three fraternities on campus (21 brothers), and one of our brothers, **Brian Mohr '24**, has just recently been elected President of IFC. We have committed ourselves to leading Greek life at F & M. With that responsibility, we are not only actively guiding the reinstatement of three fraternities on campus, one of which officially reinstated its chapter last semester, but we also have set the goal of having 40 brothers by the time our youngest pledge class graduates.

strengthened our chapter's understanding of cultural issues but also demonstrated our commitment to promoting equity and inclusion on campus. Member Highlights: Lafayette College's FSL started our Order of Omega Rho Tau chapter. Junior Brother **Cameron McKnight '23** and senior Brother **Hank Skatoff '22** both were inducted. We believe that these two have started a good line of Phi Psi brothers to join the society and exude academic excellence within our chapter.



NEW YORK KAPPA - ONEONTA

Submitted By: Logan Mendez '22

Our chapter and SUNY Oneonta had a productive and fulfilling fall 2024 semester. We've been actively involved in several community service initiatives, including participating in multiple street clean-ups to help beautify our campus and town. In support of Breast Cancer Awareness, we raised over \$300 by selling bracelets. Additionally, some of our brothers recently volunteered at a local animal shelter, where they assisted in cleaning the dog pens and helped feed the animals. We're excited about the many other goals we have set for the spring semester and look forward to making a positive impact in our community.



PENNSYLVANIA THETA - LAFAYETTE

Submitted By: Robert McClosky '23

Service Project Involvement: Our chapter partnered with the Office of Intercultural Development to host cultural competency training. Through workshops, discussions, and collaborative activities, all of our active members actively engaged in learning about diverse perspectives and fostering inclusivity. This initiative not only



PENNSYLVANIA IOTA - PENN

Submitted By: Tony Tzolov '23

Pennsylvania Iota continued its cherished tradition of hosting an annual Thanksgiving dinner, bringing brothers together to celebrate gratitude and camaraderie. Held at the chapter house, the evening featured a delicious meal prepared under the culinary leadership of head chef Brother **Kevin Xu '22**. The dinner began with a special toast, kicking off the evening on a heartfelt note. Throughout the event, brothers shared additional toasts,

continued

DISTRICT I

each highlighting memorable moments and accomplishments from the semester. These reflections, paired with the warmth of fellowship, made the evening particularly meaningful. Brother Xu and a team of other brothers prepared a remarkable spread, blending traditional Thanksgiving dishes with flavors that celebrated the diversity of the chapter. The event underscored the chapter's commitment to fostering unity and celebrating the values of Phi Kappa Psi. With the success of this year's dinner, the Pennsylvania Iota Chapter remains committed to making this event a cornerstone of its yearly traditions.



PENNSYLVANIA SIGMA - SJU

Submitted By: Nicholas Barskiy '22

This semester marked a historic milestone for our chapter as we transitioned to a new campus following a recent merger. Amidst the excitement and adjustments, we achieved something truly special: initiating our very first class on this campus. The process wasn't like any other initiation; it symbolized a fresh start for our chapter. This class represents the legacy we are building on this new campus, rooted in brotherhood. The move to a new campus

wasn't without its challenges, but this moment proved that our bonds are stronger than any change of location. As we celebrated this inaugural crossing, we reaffirmed our commitment to growing our brotherhood and making a positive impact on our new campus. Before welcoming our newest brothers, we officially initiated the house with a celebratory alumni BBQ. The event brought together brothers, past and present, filling the house with stories, laughter, and the aroma of a perfectly grilled feast. Seeing alumni reconnect with the chapter and share their wisdom with our active members was an inspiring reminder of the lifelong bonds this brotherhood fosters.



PENNSYLVANIA UPSILON - DREXEL

Submitted By: Ahmad McClarin '23

Fall semester, PA Upsilon welcomed four new members! As for next semester, we hope to welcome at least 10. One of the most important aspects of being in this Fraternity that we try to highlight to our new members is our dedication to serving our community. This semester, we have 30 hours of community service scheduled. We hosted a clothes drive at our school, and those clothes will be donated to a nonprofit

organization called Chosen 300, which serves free meals and provides free clothes to the less fortunate.

RHODE ISLAND BETA - RHODE ISLAND

Submitted By: Ryan Rogers '22

Rhode Island Beta recently welcomed 28 new brothers into our Fraternity. At the close of philanthropy week, we raised \$16,562 in support of Mally's Army, P.S. I Love You, The Chris Collins Foundation, and the Jordan Porco Foundation. We had a great time paired with Alpha Xi Delta.



▲
**RAISED
\$16,562
DURING
PHILANTHROPY
WEEK**

Current Colonies:

- Clemson
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- UC Santa Barbara
- Kentucky (Approved chartering in March 2025)
- Ohio State (Approved to charter pending recruitment numbers – Spring 2025)

Upcoming Expansions:

- South Carolina (Spring 2025)
- Southern Cal (Fall 2025)
- Georgia (Spring 2026)
- Texas State (Fall 2026)
- Creighton (TBD)
- Michigan (TBD)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

How Can I Help?

By Stephanie Strothmann

According to Rick Pelletier *Rowan '02*, a lot of people volunteer for some kind of personal gain. They want to receive praise, awards, build their resume, advance their career, or move up in leadership. "I volunteer mostly out of principle."

Pelletier, a member of the Order of the S.C., began volunteering as the chapter advisor for the Delaware Alpha Chapter in 2022 following that year's GAC. "I didn't think I would be the [only] advisor; I thought I would be one of several alumni helping," he laughs. He was asked to help because he lives in Delaware. Faced with the challenge of a large amount of debt held by the chapter, Pelletier set out to tackle getting the finances back on track. "I always wanted to be an advisor," he adds, "I didn't mind."



Pelletier

He found as he began advising the chapter that education was key to repaying the debt. The students were very much a social organization, and they needed guidance toward making better decisions and improving their operations. "It has been an uphill battle," but said it was worth the effort.

When not advising the chapter, Pelletier also is a Phi Psi scholarship reviewer, which he has done for at least a dozen years. He has become known as "the scholarship guy." A humble person, he adds that he was never really a straight 'A' student himself but was a solid 'B' student. This didn't affect his ability to create some benchmarks on academic expectations within the chapters. "I received several Foundation scholarships as an undergraduate. This is my way of paying back the awards I've received," says Pelletier.

It is obvious Pelletier takes all aspects of the reviewer job very seriously. According to Director of Scholarship & Grant Programs Angel Johnson-Brebner, "In my experience, Rick is one of the first alumni members to volunteer, loves learning about all the wonderful work of the students, and has very insightful suggestions of how we can improve the process moving forward." Pelletier's thorough and meticulous evaluation of the applicants proves his commitment to finding the most deserving recipients.

Pelletier names Chris Hammer *TCNJ '91 (Rowan '03)* as a chapter brother who recognized his potential and says, "He saw that I was involved and wanted to make an impact on my chapter." He also adds that Steve McDermott *Rowan '00* challenged him when he wanted to be a District Archon. McDermott told him, "You don't have to be Archon to make an impact."



LEFT: Pelletier with Delaware Alpha delegates Robert Blake '23 (left) and LJ Cocuzza '23 at the 2024 GAC in Minneapolis.



BOTTOM: Pelletier relaxing at home with his wife, Kerri, and their three sons (L to R): Jamie, Ricky, and Alexander.

Pelletier carried his brothers' advice with him into his career as a chemical engineer. With 19 years of experience in customer support at AVEVA, specifically the SimSci brand, Pelletier believes you need to be a chemical engineer to support the software properly. He offers, "It's a rather unique career path within chemical engineering." Most chemical engineers work in a refinery, chemical plant, engineering design company, and other more traditional roles. "Many in those positions use our software to help do their job on a daily basis." At AVEVA, he not only provides phone/email support and training to customers who use the software but also does everything from account management, sales and marketing support, presentations at conferences to beta-testing and more.

Pelletier has taken the phrase "How can I help?" to be paramount in his life. Executive Director Ron Ransom *Butler '00* says, "Brother Pelletier is a dedicated and selfless volunteer. Through his service as an advisor, scholarship reviewer, and volunteer director of scholarship, he has undoubtedly made a profound impact on countless young lives — far more than he may ever realize."

When not advising or working he enjoys time with his family; his wife, Kerri, and children Alexander, 3; Jamie, 7; and Ricky, 9. Pelletier is also a classically trained pianist and enjoys gaming.

Stephanie Strothmann, an Indiana State University graduate, writes a bi-weekly column for The Tribune about her small farm in Southern Indiana and is a freelancer for AIM Media special publications.

DISTRICT II

15 CHAPTERS | 1 COLONY



MARYLAND ALPHA - JOHNS HOPKINS

Submitted By: Andrew Hahn '23

We successfully initiated one senior fall semester, and we aim to have a class of 20+ in the spring. We hosted our annual Battle of the Bands event at our house that raised over \$1,000 for charity. We also had our haunted house event that raised money for Camp Kesem.



MARYLAND DELTA - TOWSON

Submitted By: Sam Jemison '22

On Oct. 19, 2024, the Maryland Delta Chapter celebrated its five-year chartering anniversary. The event was held on the Towson campus and attended by alumni, founding fathers, and all active brothers.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY COLONY

Submitted By: William Crosby

On Oct. 25, 2024, our colony organized a "Pie a Phi Psi" philanthropy event in collaboration with ALS United. We held this event in two parts, the first half being on

The Oval on campus from 2-6 p.m., and the next portion being held at our chapter house from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. We raised \$294 for ALS United, contributing toward a total of \$1,500 fundraised in fall semester.



OHIO EPSILON - CWRU

Submitted By: Correy Zemon '22

Our chapter was happy to initiate six new members into the brotherhood fall semester. With a unanimous vote on a new recruitment chair, we are transitioning smoothly into the next recruitment period. Through the efforts of **Keshav Shah '23**, we have continued to connect with our philanthropy, Tomorrow's Stars. We recently were graced with a visit from **George L. Weir '67**, the founder, and our Ohio Epsilon alumni. We continue to thrive in our philanthropic and service efforts through our connections with Herpes Alive Reptile Shelter, African American Cultural Gardens, Cleveland Metroparks, and the NEO SPCA. We are holding two philanthropy events before the end of the semester, and we hope to raise \$2,000.



OHIO THETA - ASHLAND

Submitted By: Wyatt Jones '22

We initiated nine new members into our chapter in October, putting us at 27 active brothers. As a chapter we ran the concession stand at a home football game on Nov. 9, 2024. We helped serve food at Fuzzy Fandango, a marathon race held at our local philanthropy, Camp Nuhop. During Homecoming we held a Get Yolked event where people could donate to throw eggs at our volunteer brothers, at which we raised \$400 for Camp Nuhop. We held a

Dad's Day cookout at our house in October as well as a faculty and staff appreciation dinner on Nov. 22, 2024. In December, we have elections for new officers, and we have a Friendsgiving meal planned for brothers and their girlfriends. Additionally, we raised \$1,145 for St. Jude's with our head-shaving fundraiser.



OHIO IOTA - AKRON

Submitted By: Jack Robson '23

Over the past year, the Ohio Iota Chapter has initiated 11 new brothers, one in the spring and 10 during fall semester. We've raised nearly \$4,000 for our local philanthropy so far, showcasing our commitment to giving back. Last semester, our chapter completed over 400 hours of community service, averaging close to 20 hours per member. Looking ahead, we aim to initiate seven more members in the spring, reaching our 400th badge and marking an exciting milestone for Ohio Iota.



OHIO NU - OHIO

Submitted By: Ryan Pavia '23

This semester, our chapter was able to bring in 29 new members due to our recruiting efforts. Some of our members have landed amazing jobs and internships this semester, including **Ryan Russell '22** with PNC and **Tommy Vacca '23** at Wells Fargo. One of the events we hosted this year was our annual highway pickup, where our chapter was able to collect over 20 full bags of waste on local highways in Athens, Ohio.



OHIO XI - CAPITAL

Submitted By: Case Mangold '23

Ohio Xi initiated seven new brothers in the fall of 2024.



OHIO OMICRON - MUSKINGUM

Submitted By: John Jacobs '23

We Initiated seven new members into Ohio Omicron. Our goals for next semester are to increase our diversity within the campus community. We also sweethearted two ladies and lavaliered two ladies. Brother **Gavin Brooker '23** ran our student-led event, Haunted Hollow, and roughly 350 students enjoyed the scariest night of their lives! We also partnered with Muskingum County K9 adoption center to walk dogs. **John Jacobs '23** won Greek of the Month (October) for having over 500 people pledge not to drive while distracted through Hunter's Pledge. Brother Jacobs also won Homecoming King.



OHIO PI - DENISON

Submitted By: Benjamin Cox '22

Fall semester, we held an Oktoberfest event, at which we sold shirts and steins and had raffles and games, all to raise money for the Boys & Girls Club of Newark. We raised around \$2,000 and had a great turnout. On Halloween, we handed out candy to children in the Granville area as part of a campus-wide service project, and many members served as mentors for at-risk youth in the area. Senior **Blake McDonald '23** recently attended the Student Conference on U.S. Affairs at West Point Military Academy, where he explored the United States' involvement in the global economy. Lastly, we are proud of the brothers involved in athletics on campus. Senior **Preston Fisk**

'22 and sophomore **Cameron Geary '24** currently lead the American Collegiate Hockey Association in points.

PENNSYLVANIA ALPHA - W & J

Submitted By: Peyton Carter '24



The brothers of PA Alpha collected 200 signatures to end distracted driving for Hunter's Pledge. The house ranked 5th in the nation for pledges signed based on percentage of undergraduate

students to overall campus size.



PENNSYLVANIA BETA - ALLEGHENY

Submitted By: Eric Fredette '23

Pennsylvania Beta is gearing up for one of its best years, with more interest from freshmen than we've seen in a long time, building momentum for a strong spring recruitment. We hosted our first Ice Cream Fundraiser during Safe Driving Week, raising money for Hunter's Fund, and later had a blast participating in the French Creek Cleanup, helping the local community clear debris from the waterway. We also hosted our first Phi Psi 5K on Halloween, bringing together Allegheny College and the Meadville community to support Hunter's Fund and Common Roots. Finally, we're thrilled to celebrate 170 years of continuous operation on April 25, 2025 — Phi Psis from near and far are invited to join us for this historic milestone!



PENNSYLVANIA LAMBDA - PENN STATE

Submitted By: Tim Damasco '23

On Oct. 6, 2024, our chapter was proud to host Gamma Phi Beta's annual Moonball philanthropy event. This event involved

over 150 participants from 10 or more fraternities and sororities at Penn State, with nearly 100% participation from our brotherhood. Over \$1,000 was raised for multiple philanthropies, and it kicked off the beginning to a great year of service!



PENNSYLVANIA RHO - YORK

Submitted By: Jackson Wright '22

The PA Rho Chapter has a "Adopt a Block" service project, in which every Sunday members of the Greek community go around campus cleaning up any trash and litter from the week.

PENNSYLVANIA PHI - LYCOMING

Submitted By: Cameron Wanner '23

Overall, Pennsylvania Phi has gained one new member fall semester, and our current goal is to increase our numbers as well as explore new community services. We helped arrange a fall-themed event for adults with disabilities where we also worked with other Greek organizations. Other events and community service included cleanup at Wildwood Cemetery and tree planting and habitat restoration at Rider Park.



WEST VIRGINIA ALPHA - WEST VIRGINIA

Submitted By: Kaysen Conver '21, Colin Leahy '23

Our chapter had an amazing semester, garnering over 25 new members, raising over \$3,500 through different fundraisers like the Hunter's Fund Safe Driving Week. The most enjoyable event was our formal trip to Toronto, visiting many of the beautiful spots it has to offer. We have even become the only fraternity to participate in the SMITH program — a student-managed fund to have hands-on learning in the stock market.

DISTRICT III

18 CHAPTERS | 2 COLONIES



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY COLONY

Submitted By: Jaxon Lynch

This year, the Illinois Epsilon Chapter welcomed 14 new members, bringing our active membership to 52 brothers. We were proud to host a successful Homecoming celebration, featuring an alumni tailgate with a record turnout. Looking ahead, we are thrilled to announce our rechartering ceremony, scheduled for Jan. 18, 2025, marking an exciting milestone for our chapter's growth and future.



ILLINOIS ZETA - DEPAUL

Submitted By: Jacob Courtney '22

This year we initiated our largest pledge class in the past three years. We also put on our annual Cornhole for Cancer in October, which raised money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer awareness. In addition, we volunteered at the Chicago Marathon, helping the fantastic runners on their journey.



ILLINOIS IOTA - NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Submitted By: Evan Druzak '21

This semester, we welcomed 21 new members after extending bids to 30 potential recruits. Our goal for next semester is to continue this momentum and aim for even more new Brothers. We would also like to say congratulations to our intramural softball team for claiming the championship title! The Brothers are now directly shifting this momentum into excitement for the start of the "tuggs" season coming here soon!



ILLINOIS DELTA - ILLINOIS

Submitted By: Jimmy Houlihan '23, Matthew Greenstein '23

Our chapter proudly partners with the UIUC Naval ROTC multiple times each semester to clean Memorial Stadium following home football games. This collaborative effort not only restores the stadium for future events but also strengthens the bond between our Fraternity and the campus community. Our brothers work together to pick up litter, sort recyclables, and promote sustainability, all while building connections with the ROTC members. This service project embodies the Fraternity's commitment to leadership, teamwork, and giving back to our university. It's a tradition we value deeply and one that reflects our dedication to making a positive impact on campus. We initiated 29 new members, conducted over 100 collective service hours, raised over \$2,000 for new member scholarships, and participated in Student Alumni Ambassadors Day of Service.



ILLINOIS ETA - SIUE

Submitted By: Connor Strutner '23

This fall, our brothers have been active despite some setbacks in recruitment, which resulted in no new members. Shifting focus, we participated in the first IFC dodgeball tournament, with Brothers **Carson Walton '22, Sam McNamee '22, and Andy Krimmel '22** leading the effort. Special thanks to Andy Krimmel for his outstanding service on the IFC board as VP of Community Outreach. The chapter also donated gift baskets and helped raise \$3,000 for young adults with developmental disabilities. An exciting development this semester is our partnership with Hunter's Pledge. Philanthropy Chairman **Jordan Lakin '24** organized our first Safe Driving Week with Kappa Kappa Gamma, including events like Dares for Donations, Field Day, and Pie a Phi Psi, raising over \$1,300 and 250 signatures. Additionally, we continued volunteering with the Treehouse Wildlife Center for Owl Fest.



ILLINOIS THETA - UIC

Submitted By: Nathan Florendo '22

President **Nathan Florendo** was initiated into the Order of Omega! Illinois Theta Chapter initiated 10 new members into their Alpha Sigma class. Chapter brothers volunteered at the Chicago Marathon. Nineteen of our brothers were honored at the Chancellor's Student Services Awards! Congratulations to: **Matthew Almendras '22, Juan Arreola Sanchez '23, Feras Atassi '21, Ceasar Attar '21, Ronit Bhagat '23, Daniel Binion '22, Mathew Caballes '22, Gavin Schulz '21, Felix Celestino '21, Nathan Florendo, Karim Hummos '22, Remi Ivanovas '22, Rohan Jacob '23, David Minshall '20, Kacper Nowaczyk '22, Mike Rafati '23, Christopher Rendon '23, Esteban Andres Romero Balderon '22, Dean Tchakanakis '23, and Amari Vossoughi-Parks '21.**



INDIANA ALPHA - DEPAUW

Submitted By: Nathaniel Tencza '23

The men of the Indiana Alpha chapter held a 4v4 freshman basketball tournament as a pre-Rush event for potential new members. The event went extremely well. On the winning team were active members **Patrick Joyce '23** and **William Geis '22**.



INDIANA BETA - INDIANA

Submitted By: Luka Zaric '23

We had eight members accepted into the workshop programs here, including the capital markets and banking, investment banking, and private equity workshops. We also initiated 28 brothers in our fall class of 2024 and are looking to recruit another 25 in the spring. Our chapter participated in Treats with Greeks, a philanthropy event where brothers line up and hand out candy to the youth of Bloomington.



INDIANA GAMMA - WABASH

Submitted By: Augustus Isaac '22

The Indiana Gamma Chapter had an exciting fall semester, achieving our largest recruitment class in recent history with 19 new members. Each freshman proudly won a "W" in our annual Chapel Sing, marking the first time in five years that

RECRUITED
19
NEW
MEMBERS

every participant succeeded. Alongside recruitment, we hosted a successful Phi Psi Family Day, brought everyone together for initiation at Laurel Hall, and are looked forward to our Thanksgiving and Christmas brotherhood events. Our chapter also engaged in impactful service projects, partnering with Riley Children's Hospital for a toy drive. We're excited to build on this momentum next semester and continue making a positive impact.



INDIANA DELTA - PURDUE

Submitted By: Carter Merryman '23

This year we held our annual Safe Driving Week, a part of Hunter's Fund. We had table events all across campus while also hosting events to raise money and awareness for distracted driving. One of the events included a Pie a Brother event. This is one of our favorite philanthropy events to hold!



INDIANA EPSILON - VALPO

Submitted By: Aidan Wucherer '22

Our chapter had the privilege of volunteering at Greater Grace Church. The church aims to bring food, clothing, and religious services to one of the poorest areas in Indiana. They rely heavily on volunteers to run and maintain its facility. Our chapter helped them by cleaning and reorganizing their food pantry to help them better serve their cause.



INDIANA ZETA - BUTLER

Submitted By: Kelby Tarter '24

Our chapter has been wrapping up our semester nicely, with our elections for the upcoming semester. Our new officers are **Hugh Weatherly '24**, GP; **Davis Barringer '23**, P; **Andrew Studebaker '24**, AG; **Trey Haynes '24**, BG; **Kelby Tarter '24**, SG; **Nic Abbagnaro '24**, Hod; **Lucas Raker '23**, Phu; **Devin Kelleher '24**, Hi. The newly elected officers have been shadowing our outgoing officers and are excited to continue to support and grow our chapter in the coming months. We hosted alumni and brothers for a morning of bowling and camaraderie. The brothers enjoyed hearing the alumni reminisce about their time in the house and chapter. The house also has been participating in the Butler University Dance Marathon (BUDM), which supports Riley Children's Hospital and pediatric cancer treatment and research. We have two brothers who serve vital roles in BUDM. **Hugh Weatherly** is on the Riley Relations committee that helps facilitate communications between the organization, Riley Children's Hospital, and Riley families. **Wyatt Harvey '22** is on the BUDM executive committee where he serves as the director of alumni relations. BUDM raised \$77,374.36. The chapter has been involved in many philanthropic fundraisers on campus, supporting the Indianapolis area.

HELPED RAISE
\$77,374.36
FOR PEDIATRIC
CANCER
RESEARCH



INDIANA ETA - INDIANA STATE

Submitted By: Aiden Askins '22

Indiana Eta had quite a successful fall 2024 semester. We welcomed six initiated

continued

DISTRICT III

brothers into the chapter in October. We raised money for Habitat for Humanity through philanthropic efforts of a Pie A Phi Psi table, and we held an alumni tailgate event. One of our brothers won the Big Man on Campus award, which is the Zeta Tau Alpha philanthropy award for breast cancer research. We look forward to the spring 2025 semester, especially in March when we will initiate the new brothers of Phi Kappa Psi.



INDIANA IOTA - BALL STATE

Submitted By: Quintin Hossli '22

This semester our chapter was able to donate \$6,373.16 to our local Habitat for Humanity. We raised this money through our past two philanthropy events — a flag football tournament in the fall, and a soccer tournament dubbed “Phi Kappa Soccer” in the spring.

Coming off this success, we aim to raise even more this upcoming year!

**RAISED
\$6,373.16
FOR HABITAT
FOR
HUMANITY**



MICHIGAN BETA - MICHIGAN STATE

Submitted By: Lukasz Strzelczyk '22

On Oct. 19, 2024, our chapter got together to celebrate Michigan Beta's 70th anniversary on campus. We had alumni fly in from all over the country, including states as far as Colorado and California. We were fortunate enough to get to tailgate in perfect fall weather and see Michigan State football take down Iowa, while celebrating

at our original chapter house and sharing 70 years' worth of memories.



OHIO BETA - WITTENBERG

Submitted By: Jackson Miller '23

This semester we brought in three new members. In November, we held our Dad's Day where most of the dads of the Fraternity spent an event filled day with us. We also held a joint formal with the Delta Gamma sorority on campus. The next day we held our first FratsGiving where members of exec prepared meals for all members and brothers got the chance to express their gratitude for one another. Finally, Brother **Jackson Miller '23** applied the Phi Psi value of volunteerism at Camp SOAR. Staying eight days at camp, Brother Miller was a caretaker to Wyatt, an 18-year-old with autism and Down syndrome. It was a perspective-changing experience for Miller, and he had a great time.



OHIO ETA - TOLEDO

Submitted By: Josh Lewis '23

The Brothers of Ohio Eta have accomplished a lot over the past few months. For our semester philanthropy dinner, we exceeded our goals and raised over \$1,600 for The Boys & Girls Clubs of America selling quesadillas. We keep improving our sales, and with the addition of the new class, we have nearly doubled our chapter size.



OHIO LAMBDA - MIAMI

Submitted By: Nick Steinke '24

The brothers at our chapter have had quite

a busy semester. After two and a half years of work by the undergraduates and after nine years of work by alumni advisors and the housing corporation, the Ohio Lambda Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has been rechartered. We would like to thank those who showed their support for us along the way and those who came to Oxford to celebrate this momentous occasion with us on Nov. 16, 2024. Additionally, we continue to make positive impacts on the greater community through our service and philanthropy efforts, where we currently lead Miami University's IFC in service hours per capita. Heading into next semester, we look forward to further bolstering our efforts to support a thriving Greek community and to develop better men and the future leaders.



OHIO MU - DAYTON

Submitted By: Charles Eckrich '23

This past semester, the Ohio Mu brothers had the opportunity to hold a fundraising event for an organization called A Special Wish. This event was held to raise money to help send two critically ill children to Disney World. With an initial goal of raising \$200, our brothers were able to raise a little over \$500. This was accomplished through Pie A Phi Psi, an event at which passing students would make a donation for a chance to throw a pie in a brother's face.



WISCONSIN GAMMA - BELOIT

Submitted By: Christopher Andaya '23

This semester, Wisconsin Gamma was able to get a pledge class of 11 people, almost doubling our chapter size. This is our biggest pledge class in years, and we hope that we can keep this growth going.

DISTRICT IV

12 CHAPTERS | 3 COLONIES



ALABAMA ALPHA - ALABAMA

Submitted By: Andrew Alexanian '22

Alabama Alpha is thrilled to welcome 64 new members, bringing our total to 173 active brothers! We've been enthusiastically involved in philanthropy, hosting a successful cup sale and a car wash, with all proceeds benefiting Hunter's Pledge. Our commitment to community service continues to strengthen our brotherhood and impact on the community.

ALABAMA GAMMA - HUNTSVILLE

Submitted By: Andrew Kercher '22

This fall, Alabama Gamma is hosting our second annual Beeфин' with Poverty philanthropy event! This event is set out in partnership with Shower Up and First Stop to bring help to those who do not have access to resources like housing, food, and hygiene items. Last year, we raised \$3,368.94, and we hope to beat that record this time around!



CLEMSON UNIVERSITY COLONY

Submitted By: Zach Woloff

Our brothers have actively engaged in service projects, partnering with campus organizations and local community groups. Projects included organizing food drives, volunteering at shelters, and participating in campus beautification initiatives. These projects not only reinforce our values but also position Phi Kappa Psi as a Fraternity

dedicated to service and making a tangible impact. Our colony is making strides toward building an empire from nothing. All our brothers continue to sacrifice their time to help the Fraternity. We look forward to the opportunities to help the community, grow brotherhood, and raise the bar of Greek life at Clemson University.



FLORIDA ALPHA - FLORIDA STATE

Submitted By: Samuel Diaz '23

The Florida Alpha Chapter is proud of Brother **Bennett Griffin '22** for winning Alpha Omicron Pi at FSU's Rose Man sweetheart competition for this school year. Bennett successfully raised over \$2,300 in support of the Arthritis Foundation. We are proud of Bennett for his incredible work representing our chapter while raising funds for an amazing cause.

▲
RAISED OVER \$2,300 FOR THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION



GEORGIA BETA - GEORGIA TECH

Submitted By: Josh Bruner '22

We had a glorious fall 2024 semester, with heavy emphasis on philanthropy, service to the community, and fostering the development of brotherhood. Our first philanthropy event took place early in September. Selling delicious cookies (10% love by weight) helped us to raise money for Alex's Lemonade Stand, a charity that helps fund childhood cancer research. We hosted regular s'mores nights and had frequent mental health check-ins led by our chaplain. Brothers tackled the challenge

of No Shave November, with a bake sale in support of the prostate cancer research organization. We have truly experienced the great joy of serving others.



LOUISIANA ALPHA - LSU

Submitted By: Scott Staehle '20

This past fall our chapter recruited and initiated 29 new outstanding young men. We have plans to bring on a spring Rush class to help this chapter flourish. We stay involved in the community by volunteering monthly with Keeping Tiger Town Clean. The chapter helped raise \$5,000 for men's mental health by hosting a car wash at our recently purchased property. The chapter plans to return to campus in 2025 and will own both the on- and off-campus properties. **Collin Maradik '24** won Phi Mu's most philanthropic award.



LOUISIANA BETA - UL LAFAYETTE

Submitted By: Ayush Deshpande '21

Our chapter roster increased 74% to 54 members. We held a very successful Hunter's Fund campaign where more than 1,300 pledges were signed. The chapter branched out, collaborating with or participating in events organized by more than eight on-campus organizations. We collected 1,444 food items for our university's Homecoming food drive and also won first place in Homecoming Week. Brother **Brett Thibodeaux '22**, District IV Archon, attended the chartering ceremonies of Tennessee Delta and Ohio Lambda; Brother **Nickolai Dimitrov '23** attended the Explore program in Minneapolis. Finally, we had five brothers — **Nickolai Dimitrov**, **Dayton Shelton '23**, **Grayson Kervin '23**, **Brenden Daigle '23** and **Greyson LeBlanc '23** — inducted into the Order of Omega!

continued

DISTRICT IV



MISSISSIPPI ALPHA - OLE MISS

Submitted By: John Frank '22

This fall was a season of growth for Mississippi Alpha. On Oct. 12, 2024, we welcomed 86 new members into our Brotherhood. They bring diverse talents and energy, promising an exciting future for our chapter. Just days before, we came together in response to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. We hosted an Hourathon from 6-7 p.m. During this event, our brothers reached out to family, friends, and alumni, raising funds to support hurricane relief efforts. The generosity of our extended community was overwhelming, and in just one hour, we raised \$33,141.40. These funds will aid the families of brothers affected by the storm.

TENNESSEE DELTA - VANDERBILT

Submitted By: Greg Benjamin '24

We are deeply grateful, honored, and excited to officially regain our charter. We recognize the profound significance of this milestone and will cherish its importance for years to come. On campus, we have maintained our commitment to philanthropy by volunteering at the local addiction and drug abuse center, striving to make a positive impact in our community. The restoration of our charter has strengthened our bonds, fostering increased engagement and significantly enhancing the chapter's culture. We look forward to continuing our mission of doing good in the world while proudly upholding the values of Phi Kappa Psi.



TENNESSEE EPSILON - TENNESSEE

Submitted By: Dylan Conyers '21

Tennessee Epsilon was proud to initiate 45 new brothers this past semester to bring the active brother total to over 100 for the first time in its treasured history. Next semester, the chapter aims to continue its

philanthropic and social endeavors while welcoming in a spring class of brothers.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLONY

Submitted By: Austin Coudeyras

The University of Kentucky Colony saw our most successful recruitment yet, bringing in and initiating 13 new members, putting our total at 30 brothers. We submitted our chartering petition to the Executive Council and got approved at the November 15, 2024, EC meeting. We're now in the process of planning our initiation in the spring and are excited to fully join the brotherhood of Phi Kappa Psi. LEDN!



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY COLONY

Submitted By: Kaleab Dawit

Fall semester we created our colony with 27 great guys. We participated in three philanthropy events, winning all of them. We are planning to keep this momentum going and continue being large contributors to many philanthropic and local events. Because we just started, we have set our next semester recruitment goal at seven members. We have had many of our brothers working actively to better themselves, a prime example being **Daniel Gharavi**, one of our pre-med brothers, who has just published his first paper on Neuroscience.

VIRGINIA ALPHA - VIRGINIA

Submitted By: Noah Altamar '23

This semester we held an alumni event on the university's Homecoming weekend with an overall attendance of roughly 100 current brothers and alumni. We also held a Halloween fundraising tailgate raising nearly \$4,000 for the UVA Children's



RAISED
\$4,000
FOR THE UVA
CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Hospital. There was participation from brothers, members of Hoothon (the fundraising organization) and the UVA student body. We are also looking forward to helping at a local food drive leading up to the holidays.

VIRGINIA BETA - W & L

Submitted By: Cooper Johnson '22

Last semester we welcomed 15 new members into the Phi Kappa Psi Brotherhood.



VIRGINIA ZETA - VIRGINIA TECH

Submitted By: Andrew Adams '22

The Virginia Zeta Chapter moved into our new 35-person chapter house on Oak Lane.



VIRGINIA THETA - JMU

Submitted By: Alexander Guerrero '23

The Virginia Theta Chapter has accomplished many great feats this semester. We had the pleasure of initiating 29 new members in our biggest recruitment class to date! Our successful recruiting led us to be tied for the biggest chapter on campus! We had the opportunity to raise over \$4,000 for philanthropy. Brothers also had the chance to engage with the Boys & Girls Club of Harrisonburg Halloween Fest. Lastly, we are excited to announce that Virginia Theta placed in the top three in highest GPAs on campus out of 21 fraternity organizations this past year!

DISTRICT V 15 CHAPTERS

COLORADO ALPHA - COLORADO

Submitted By: Ian Engelman '22

JP Warner: A Helping Hand When It Matters Most

The brisk December air in Boulder stung with an icy bite, but JP Warner '22 barely noticed. He was on his usual evening walk through downtown, headphones in, mind wandering as he reflected on the semester's challenges and triumphs. It was then he saw her — a woman sitting on the sidewalk, clutching a small, threadbare blanket to her chest. She looked disoriented, her cheeks flushed from the cold, and her hands trembling. A sign next to her read, "Stranded. Anything helps."



Most people walked by, averting their gaze. But not JP.

He paused, pulling out his earbuds. The woman noticed him and seemed startled, as if she didn't expect anyone to stop.

"Hi," JP said gently. "What's your name?"

"Sandra," she murmured. Her voice was hoarse, barely audible over the buzz of passersby.

JP crouched down to meet her eye level. "Sandra, do you need help? Are you OK?"

Tears welled up in her eyes as she explained her situation. She had come to Boulder for a job interview, but her car broke down, and she had spent the last of her money on a motel. With no family nearby, she had nowhere to go and no way to get back home.

JP listened intently, his heart heavy with empathy. Without hesitation, he pulled out his phone and began searching for resources. He found a local shelter that could provide Sandra with a warm place to stay for the night. Then, he called an Uber to take her there.

But JP didn't stop there. As they waited for the ride, he ran to a nearby café and bought Sandra a hot meal and a cup of tea. When he returned, he handed them to her with a smile. "You're going to get through this," he said. "Just take it one step at a time."

When the Uber arrived, JP helped her into the car and handed her some cash from his wallet. "Use this for anything else you need," he told her. Sandra's tearful gratitude was overwhelming, but JP simply nodded and said, "Take care of yourself, OK?"

The experience stuck with him long after that evening. It wasn't about the recognition or the pat on the back — it was about the connection. JP didn't see Sandra as a stranger in need; he saw her as a human being, deserving of compassion and dignity.

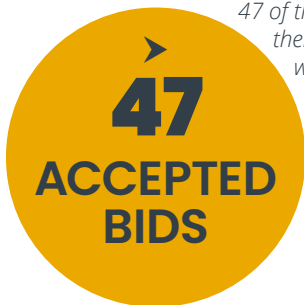
For JP, helping others isn't a rare occasion — it's part of who he is. Whether it's offering guidance to a friend, volunteering his time, or simply listening when someone needs to be heard, JP embodies the values of Phi Psi: service, integrity, and kindness. His actions remind us all that sometimes, the smallest gestures can have the biggest impact.



IOWA ALPHA - IOWA

Submitted By: Max Simmons '22

During fall Rush we extended 49 bids and 47 of those accepted their bids. Seven of which were awarded money through the Nile Kinnick Scholarship. Over half went through the scholarship recruitment process.



IOWA BETA - IOWA STATE

Submitted By: Sam Barnes '23

Iowa Beta had a rousing start to the year with a Homecoming win with Alpha Delta Pi. While a great portion of our success is owed to our athletic and performative abilities, with a shutout basketball tournament win and a first-place performance in Yell-Like-Hell, the category that we excelled in above all was community service. Our pairing contributed the largest amount to Iowa State's community drive, had the highest participation in the charity 5k, and continued a tradition of orchestrating

the student blood drive. Additionally, our fall philanthropy Cookies and Canines raised more than \$3,000 for the Story County Animal Shelter, a cause close to many of our brothers' hearts. In recent years we have geared our philanthropies toward local efforts and have seen greater passion from our members in fundraising for them. Finally, we welcomed 25 new members to our brotherhood in October, bringing our total membership to 120 and making us one of the largest fraternities on Iowa State's campus. We hope to continue the successes of our first semester into the next and hopefully win our third Greek Week in a row. Go Cyclones!



continued

DISTRICT V



KANSAS ALPHA - KANSAS

Submitted By: Charlie Stephenson '23

Over the summer, two members of our chapter, juniors **Teddy Higgins '22** and **Will Harrison '22**, traveled to Norman, Oklahoma, to help reestablish the Oklahoma Alpha Chapter at the University of Oklahoma. Arriving on June 1, 2024, Teddy and Will wasted no time before starting work with their founding brothers on the recruitment of a 2024 pledge class. They worked with the recruitment board to begin planning Rush events for the start of freshman orientation. To create interest in these events, Will and Teddy spent hours reaching out to potential new members (PNM) through the university's database of freshmen interested in recruitment. Additionally, they hosted tabling events outside the student union and football stadium to attract further PNMs. Whether it be their events at TopGolf, an OKC Dodgers game, barbecues, or their fishing trip, these Rush events were an outstanding success. After more than two months spent in Norman, Brothers Higgins and Harrison were crucial in helping Oklahoma Alpha recruit their new pledge class and kickstart their chapter's growth. We at Kansas Alpha are extremely proud of the work put in by Teddy and Will and are confident Oklahoma's Phi Psis have created a strong foundation upon which their chapter will rise to new heights.



MINNESOTA BETA - MINNESOTA

Submitted By: Evan Cha '23

For the most recent fall class of 2024, we actively recruited 39 guys. We are excited to have them, and a bright future lies ahead. For our most recent community service event, on Sept. 28, 2024, the Brothers of

Phi Kappa Psi helped support the annual Move for Magic 5k. In this event, brothers participated in the 5k run and helped volunteer for the event. All proceeds go to Camp Kesem at the University of Minnesota, a fully funded student organization dedicated to supporting children aged 6-18 through and beyond their parents' cancer.



MINNESOTA DELTA - MINN.-DULUTH

Submitted By: Ricardo Gonzalez '22

Minnesota Delta gained seven great new members this semester. We stayed busy by volunteering at Fall Fest, Haunted Hayride, and at the Damiano Center, which all benefit the underprivileged youth of our community. Our Brothers also enjoyed helping our university welcome incoming freshmen during Welcome Week! We're looking forward to hosting our Hunter's Pledge event in the spring.



MINNESOTA GAMMA - MINN. STATE-MANKATO

Submitted By: Alex Picciurro '22

Minnesota Gamma had a busy fall semester, welcoming 11 new members through multiple recruitment events. Highlights included a cookie-baking philanthropy raising over \$1,000 for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, professional development brotherhoods, a Homecoming alumni event, and a successful backyard concert fundraiser during Family Weekend. We were also proud to award the \$500 Jason Leiran Foundation Scholarship to Brother **Sam Vestal '21**. Each event helped strengthen our growing Brotherhood, and we're excited to carry this momentum into the next semester.



MISSOURI ALPHA - MISSOURI

Submitted By: John Perna '22

We're excited to welcome 55 new Brothers into our chapter this fall, one of the largest classes Missouri Alpha has ever seen. With these new members, we now have over 170 active brothers on campus. This fall, we held a car wash and raised about \$1,000, which we donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of America. It was a great way to give back to the community, and we're proud of the turnout. We also took part in our regular MKT Trail cleanup, something our chapter values and has committed to doing every semester. On top of that, a group of us participated in Lizzie's Walk of Faith, a cause that's close to our hearts. We're always happy to support this important foundation and look forward to continuing to make a positive impact.



NEBRASKA ALPHA - NEBRASKA

Submitted By: Thomas Guinan '23

One of the best times to be a Brother at the Nebraska Alpha Chapter is undoubtedly Homecoming Week. This year's theme was "Cornchella," and we took part in several university-sponsored events such as a yard games competition and a food drive. Additionally, the Brothers spent many hours

designing yard displays, and pumping the paper used to decorate it. To cap off a truly wonderful week, our chapter decorated the Homecoming parade competition's winning float (pictured are Brothers **David Sortino '22** and **Liam Defever '23**).



TEXAS BETA - TEXAS TECH

Submitted By: Casey Sylvester '21

This fall, Texas Beta won its second straight Homecoming competition in partnership with the lovely ladies of Zeta Tau Alpha. This occasion is the biggest IFC event of the year at Texas Tech, and our chapter is the first in school history to win the event in back-to-back years! We have also been Homecoming champions in three of the past four years.



TEXAS ZETA - HOUSTON CHRISTIAN

Submitted By: Christian Rocha '22

After kicking off the new year with just two actives, Texas Zeta has thus far gained eight new pledges, in a huge effort to revive the Texas Zeta Chapter of Phi Psi!



OKLAHOMA ALPHA - OKLAHOMA

Submitted By: Travis Finch '23

The brothers of OK Alpha are proud to announce that we successfully initiated five new brothers into our chapter. We also have raised \$2,000 for Hunter's Fund. We also were able to receive third place in Homecoming on our campus. Lastly, we have hosted numerous alumni tailgate events at our chapter house allowing our undergraduates to connect with our alumni.

TEXAS EPSILON - SFA

Submitted By: Owen Norkett '23

This semester, Texas Epsilon initiated five new members into the Fraternity, and as of now we are intending to recruit at least six more this upcoming spring. We are also planning to host a Founders Day alumni event alongside the Houston Alumni Association in late April. We hosted a handful of philanthropy and fundraising events on campus including Pie a Phi Psi, and Hunter's



Pledge, with our main event being our annual Phi Phast Philanthropy, during which we collected canned goods and monetary donations for the local Nacogdoches HOPE Food Pantry. We

also highlighted Brother **Francisco Bracho '22** for his academic and entrepreneurial achievements over the course of the last semester.

TEXAS ETA - TEXAS A&M

Submitted By: Jose Hidalgo '23

We have had the pleasure to host a Hunter Brooks Watson Memorial fundraiser (Hunter's Fund). The brothers have had a great time spreading awareness to end distracted driving. We also recognize Brothers who got that Aggie gold! LEDN

RAISED
\$5,000
FOR
MEN'S MENTAL
HEALTH



TEXAS ALPHA - TEXAS

Submitted By: Canon Cockrell '23

We are thrilled to announce our 53 new-member class! Coming from all over the state of Texas and beyond, these young men look to keep the Texas Alpha tradition alive. Looking ahead, we are eager to build on this success and aim to welcome 15 new members during our spring recruitment. We are also happy to share that our annual Casino Night philanthropy event was a huge success, raising \$5,000 for men's mental health and suicide prevention.



**TELL US WHAT
YOUR CHAPTER
IS DOING!**

DISTRICT VI 10 CHAPTERS | 1 COLONY



ARIZONA BETA - ASU

Submitted By: **Seth Vaswani '23**

Arizona Beta is proud to share highlights from an incredible semester, including our recruitment success, service initiatives, and member achievements. This fall, we welcomed a record-breaking new member class that initiated 38 new members, exceeding our previous recruitment goal of 35! These individuals bring diverse talents, strong leadership potential, and a commitment to upholding Phi Kappa Psi's values.

Over the course of the semester, the chapter competed in three sorority philanthropy events and raised almost \$8,000 for the JED Foundation, Ryan House, and CASA children's charities. The Brothers also led and participated in Tempe Town Lake cleanups, food packing at Feed my Starving Children-Mesa, and volunteer work for Tempe Sister Cities benefiting the beautification of the town we call home. In addition to this, the brothers recently elected their spring executive board, with President **Seth Vaswani** and Treasurer **Tanner Kaiden '22** returning for their second and final terms. Spring semester, we plan to host a philanthropy week to benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

awesome, recently leading our quarterly Cophi House (an event for live music performed by students and free coffee for the whole Stanford campus), continuing our partnership with Lauren's House (a nearby after school tutoring program for youth), leading several other fun events, and overall making for a great spring and fall quarter. Hoping to continue this momentum and have a great 2025!



CALIFORNIA GAMMA - UC BERKELEY

Submitted By: **Bowman Novey '23**

We have had a great fall semester! We initiated our Alpha Zeta pledge class of 15 fine young men. We have also been very active with philanthropy. First, we had a band event for Camp Kesem that supports kids whose parents have been affected by cancer. We raised over \$3,000! Next, we hosted another band event with the Surfrider Club at UC Berkeley. We were able to raise \$5,000! Throughout this semester, we have found great joy through volunteering and philanthropy events. We would also like to give a shout-out to Brother **Ryan Ezhari '23** for getting into law school! Amici and go, Bears!



CALIFORNIA EPSILON - UCLA

Submitted By: **Nick Bailey '22**

California Epsilon is pleased to report a very successful fall 2024 recruitment, with 36 new initiates. We are proud of our Recruitment Chairs, **Colin Geisen '23** and **Luca Barbacioru '23**, as well as the house for giving it their all to produce these results. More recently, Corresponding Secretary **Jacob Borda '22** organized the first-ever Parents' Weekend banquet at our chapter house. Parents were welcomed by a professional event setup, food and drink, and words from our housing corporation

president, chapter president, and Brother Borda. The event was a major success, advocating to parents the importance of living in the house as well as highlighting what our chapter has to offer to their boys.



CALIFORNIA ETA - CAL POLY

Submitted By: **Jackson Keller '24**

The Brothers of Cal Eta hosted their annual Fight for Life philanthropy event at the Madonna Inn, raising funds for Jack's Helping Hand, a nonprofit that supports children with special needs. The event brought multiple fraternities on campus together, competing against each other in boxing matches to support the cause. Thanks to the involvement of the Greek community and over 1,000 in attendance, Fight for Life raised \$12,000 to aid Jack's Helping Hand in their efforts. The night was filled with camaraderie, competition, and a shared commitment to making a positive impact. Phi Kappa Psi is proud to continue its tradition of giving back through Fight for Life, uniting Cal Poly students in the spirit of philanthropy and service.

▲
**RAISED
\$12,000
FOR
SPECIAL NEEDS
CHILDREN**

▲
**RAISED NEARLY
\$8,000
FOR THREE
DIFFERENT
CHARITIES**



CALIFORNIA BETA - STANFORD

Submitted By: **Sam Shors '23**

Spirits are high at Cal Beta! We added 29 members during our spring recruitment process, and we currently have 74 active members in total. Our new pledge class is



CALIFORNIA THETA - CSUN

Submitted By: **Christian Reyes '20**

This semester we are proud to announce that we have initiated 10 new members bringing the Cal Theta Chapter to have more active members than it has had since

our recharter. Going into spring we hope to replicate those numbers and continue to grow. Our semester philanthropy event is on track to make more than we have made in previous semesters. Our annual Brotherhood Retreat ends the semester.



CALIFORNIA KAPPA - UC IRVINE

Submitted By: Tyler Pena '21

California Kappa continues to become a formidable organization within the UC Irvine Greek system after falling to just 12 members two years ago. The chapter's 13-man pledge class marks one of the three largest at UC Irvine for fall 2024, and a precursor to even more successful recruitment cycles to come. This is in large part due to the support of our alumni who met with chapter leaders at GAC and locally over summer to show what made previous Rushes so successful. With an invigorated base, Cal Kappa has established a firm commitment to hosting its philanthropy week in January. The strong relationship with UC Irvine's Pi Beta Phi and Kappa Alpha Theta has encouraged Cal Kappa to raise over \$3,000 for various causes. Cal Kappa would also like to shine a strong light on two members who have dedicated the last three years to strengthening our band, namely **Jack Manalo '22** and **Scott Kalaf '22**. After serving on the executive board, strengthening chapter correspondence, and serving as pledge educators, Jack and Scott continue to serve the chapter as they prepare to graduate.



OREGON ALPHA - OREGON

Submitted By: Sam Costello '22

Oregon Alpha started our second year back in our chapter house. We are excited to be initiating our new class of members at the end of the term.



35
NEW
MEMBERS

OREGON BETA - OREGON STATE

Submitted By: Dylan Varden '23

This semester, the Oregon Beta Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi initiated 35 new members and plan to achieve the highest recruitment class at Oregon State this spring. We hosted Phi Psi Fashion this fall with participation from every housed sorority at our school, raising over \$2,500 to aid with hurricane relief. We have participated in multiple philanthropies this term including Delta Gamma's, Alpha Chi Omega's, Kappa Kappa Gamma's, and Alpha Gamma Delta's. We have also done park clean-ups and participated in a food drive and blood drive with other chapters to support our community. Along with that, we hosted an alumni golf event to show appreciation to our alumni brothers. Our chapter maintained a high average GPA and received Oregon State Gold Excellence status over the past year, and we plan on repeating both this year. Three members we would like to highlight for outstanding achievements at Oregon State this year are **Jack Akin '21** for serving as the IFC VP of Risk Management, **Grant Koons '21** for becoming the Vice President of our Order of Omega, and **Javier Garcia Ramirez '21** for winning Scholar of the Year.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA COLONY - UC SANTA BARBARA

Submitted By: Preston Cardoza-Schreck

This new year our colony has seen a significant amount of growth. We've proudly welcomed 15 new members into our brotherhood, bringing our total to 32 members. Our recruitment is still ongoing, and we're excited to continue expanding in the winter. We've made significant strides with our new chapter house, acquired this year in the heart of Isla Vista, close to the rest of Greek life. This new space is not merely a residence; it also represents the foundation of our growing community and is a testament to the hard work and unity of our members. In our commitment to mental well-being, we've initiated weekly mental wellness checks. These sessions ensure that our members have a supportive environment to discuss their challenges and achievements. We've also established weekly goals and progress reports to

keep us focused and accountable. One of our standout members, **Erik Jonas Hedberg**, has made waves in the music scene as a DJ, recently opening for the renowned Steve Aoki. His success is a source of pride and inspiration for all of us, showcasing the diverse talents within our Fraternity. Our dedication to community service remains strong with upcoming philanthropy events. We volunteered at a retirement home in Isla Vista, providing support and companionship to the elderly. Additionally, we assisted at the local animal shelter in Goleta, contributing to the well-being of animals in need. To cap off our philanthropic efforts, we are hosting a car wash to raise funds for our chapter, combining fun with purpose. Here's to more growth and success ahead!



WASHINGTON ALPHA - WASHINGTON

Submitted By: Lance Broderhausen '22

The Washington Alpha Chapter and some friends won the Co-Ed Intramural 7v7 Soccer Championship at UW last August.



Celebrations OF RESILIENCY

By Aidan Markward *Rhode Island '21*

Fall semester, Phi Kappa Psi celebrated an incredible milestone: the chartering ceremonies of three new chapters at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Vanderbilt University, and Miami University. With 97 brothers initiated in total, these chapters each showcase an enduring commitment to growth and representation of the values of Phi Kappa Psi.



The semester kicked off at TCNJ, where the New Jersey Delta chapter's chartering brought excitement and pride to brothers on campus. On Friday, Sept. 28, 2024, 34 brothers were initiated into the Fraternity with the ceremony held at the university's Spiritual Center. The celebration continued into the next evening with a chartering banquet at the Windsor Ballroom in East Windsor, New Jersey. It was a weekend of camaraderie and reflection for all in attendance, especially for those who have been with the colony from its beginnings two years prior.



With the chartering banquet serving as the culmination of the colony's hard work to achieve its newfound status, NJ Delta Chapter Advisor Eric Struble *TCNJ '18* said that the formality-filled weekend had been a long-anticipated moment for everyone involved.

"For the past two years [as a colony], we have been promising the undergraduates something that would take a long time to come into fruition," said Struble. "To finally receive that charter and be able to celebrate the feat was awesome for the brothers. They really are a part of this big family now, this big brotherhood."



The formalities continued southbound with the chartering of Tennessee Delta at Vanderbilt University. On Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, 29 brothers were initiated into the chapter at St. Augustine Chapel in Nashville. That same evening, a chartering banquet was held at the Holiday Inn Nashville/Vanderbilt.

"The beauty of new charters is that they signify new beginnings not only for the organization but also give undergraduates the opportunity to decide on a lifetime path," said SWGP Marc Dumas *DePaul '93*. "If your first experience with the national Fraternity is a positive experience, you are more likely to make it a lifetime experience. If I hadn't gone through a similar process as an undergraduate, I probably would not be president right now."



Momentum continued with the chartering ceremony at Miami University on November 15-16. Held at Kumler Chapel and followed by a banquet at the Marcum Hotel and Conference Center, the weekend event marked the initiation of 34 brothers and gave undergraduates a fresh perspective on the importance of the chapter's collective efforts and long-term goals.

"We're all really excited about the future and what we are building here within our chapter," said Ohio Lambda President Nick Steinke *Miami '24*. "We recognize that receiving a charter isn't the end goal but rather a whole new beginning. We enjoyed the day, but after the weekend it was back to business."

From New Jersey to Tennessee to Ohio, these chartering ceremonies were more than just formalities — they were celebrations of resiliency and shared commitment to brotherhood and growth.

Note: At time of publication, Illinois State University Colony's rechartering is planned for January 18, 2025.



For more information, contact Expansion Director Jakob Davis *Indiana State '19*, jakob.davis@phikappapsi.com.



SAVE THE DATES:

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SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA**

**83rd Grand Arch Council • August 2-5, 2028
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**



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From Olympic champions to pioneers in medicine, from leaders in global industries to heroes of historical significance, Phi Psis have left their mark in every corner of the world. Since 1998, Phi Psi's National Leadership Award has celebrated brothers who have made significant professional achievements, contributed philanthropically, and left a lasting impact on our Fraternity.

*Nominations are now being accepted for the
2026 National Leadership Award recipients!*

If you know a Phi Psi brother who has demonstrated outstanding service, leadership, and professional excellence, we invite you to nominate him today. Nominations will be reviewed by a selection committee, and the honorees will be celebrated at the closing Awards Banquet during the 2026 Grand Arch Council.

Thank you for helping us recognize the exceptional men of Phi Kappa Psi!

For more information on the award, past recipients, and to submit your nomination, please visit pkpfoundation.org/nla.

Real Life LESSONS

By Jennifer Gombach

To say that John Gargus *Bowling Green '53* is accomplished is an understatement. Having escaped communist Czechoslovakia at the age of 15, he came to the U.S. speaking no English and



Gargus

with little to his name. Through hard work and determination, Gargus went on to a distinguished 27-year Air Force career and a notable civilian career. In retirement he's found success as a published author. He credits much of who he became to his years with Phi Kappa Psi.

"The Fraternity helped me grow from a refugee from communist Czechoslovakia to a devoted American citizen and afforded me

leadership opportunities that helped me succeed in a rewarding Air Force career," Gargus said.

While Gargus' parents arranged his escape to the U.S. in 1949, they stayed behind, and Gargus' grandmother became his sole family in America. With barely enough money for his freshman year at Bowling Green, Gargus lived in a single dorm room, keeping to himself and focusing on his studies. He avoided the hype about pledging a fraternity to protect his meager funds. His sophomore year he gained two roommates who wanted to pledge Phi Kappa Psi.

They brought Ohio Zeta active members to their apartment, and knowing Gargus was concerned about finances, the future brothers offered him a dishwashing job in the kitchen. That brotherhood would remain a constant during John's years with Ohio Zeta.

Gargus said he liked fraternity life from the start. "It was good to have many friends and stray away from the books that had enslaved my prior solitary life," he explained. His social life took off and he began dating, but his dishwashing job disappeared when the cook bankrupted the kitchen. Not to be deterred, Gargus began purchasing the food to feed his brothers. This effort taught him budgeting for others. He worked with the house mother to hire a new cook who encouraged his continued involvement in the kitchen. "I learned from her a great deal about contracting for food from restaurant suppliers. Budgeting became my thing, and that expanded to the chapter's budget once I became its president," he said. "Ohio Zeta gave me opportunities to experience real life lessons normally taught in economics courses."

Gargus' next obstacle came from a State Department recruiting representative. His major was international relations with a goal of working for the State Department, but the rep said Gargus would never obtain a security clearance because his entire family

lived behind the Iron Curtain. John was ready to quit school, but his political science advisor recommended he instead consider a future in the Air Force and go into the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC).

His junior year, Gargus' brothers elected him to represent Ohio Zeta on the Interfraternity Council and then elected him chapter president. When Hal Dick *Bowling Green '55* became an Ohio Zeta's pledge, John became his "Big Brother" establishing the foundation for a lifelong friendship. "My Phi Kappa Psi claim to fame is that I am Hal's Big Brother. I am proud of Hal's contribution to the Fraternity."

During his presidency, Gargus went before the Dean to plead the cases of three brothers who violated the university's zero-tolerance alcohol policy. His defense of his brothers was unsuccessful,

but he learned from the Dean that when you are empowered with authority, you have an obligation to follow the rules and regulations which you are responsible to enforce. He said the lesson served him well throughout his careers.

After graduating, Gargus worked a summer job earning enough money to join three brothers on a cross-country trip to attend the 48th Grand Arch Council. "It was a memorable way to end my active days in the Fraternity," he said.

Gargus entered the Air Force as a 2nd lieutenant and retired as a colonel. He accumulated over 6,100 flying hours and earned his Master Navigator Wings. In 1970 he participated in the Son Tay Raid to rescue American POWs held in North Vietnam. He later obtained a master's degree in international relations.

In 2003, Gargus' colleagues elected him to the Air Commando Hall of Fame for his contributions to special operations. In civilian life, John became director for maintenance for the Austin Independent School District. In retirement he has authored five illustrated books for children and historical articles with two books on the Vietnam War.

"At Bowling Green I became who I am to this day. What I learned during my undergraduate life at Ohio Zeta prepared me for life better than my liberal arts degree. Phi Kappa Psi Brotherhood became a God-sent substitute for the family I left in Czechoslovakia," Gargus said.

Gargus has been married to Anita Perez since 1958. They reside in New Hampshire and have four children.



John Gargus (right) with Little Brother Hal Dick

Jennifer Gombach is a Northwestern State University graduate who has worked in marketing and journalism for 35 years. She's currently the Corporate Strategy News & Information Leader at Cummins Inc. She enjoyed her share of moms' weekends with her son's fraternity and daughter's sorority.

IN THE MILITARY

Thank you, Brothers, for your service to our country. We want to hear about your military experience. Please use the QR code to submit your info.



Maccaferri

Georgia Beta - Georgia Tech

David Maccaferri '00 entered the U.S. Coast Guard in 2003 and retired in 2024. He achieved the rank of O5/Commander. With over 20 years of experience in military aviation and leadership, he has extensive experience managing personnel and enterprise programs. As the Executive Officer at the U.S. Coast Guard's largest Air Station & Training Center, Bother Maccaferri oversaw 650+ personnel, 17 aircraft, and a \$27M budget, ensuring the safety, security, and readiness of daily operations. His dedication in this role earned one of two Meritorious Service Medals, with the second awarded for strategic contributions in the Office of C5I Capabilities and the Cyber Workforce Management and Resources Division at Coast Guard Headquarters, where he advanced key initiatives in cyber and technology operations. Maccaferri also received the Air Medal for conducting vital rescue operations during Hurricane Harvey in Port Arthur, Texas, under challenging conditions. In addition, he earned five Coast Guard Achievement Medals for professional and leadership excellence across various units and air stations. His career is further distinguished by several prestigious unit and group awards, including the Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, DHS Outstanding Unit Award, and two Humanitarian Service



Beletsky with Ohio Epsilon Sweetheart

Medals, underscoring mission success, humanitarian aid, and operational excellence. Maccaferri also is a certified flight instructor and flight examiner, and he holds an airline transport pilot license with over 3,000 flight hours. Since retiring, he has been serving as an H65 Simulator Instructor for Metris Global, providing ground and flight simulator training for the USCG MH-65E helicopter in Mobile, Alabama. In his spare time, he is a content creator and Tesla FSD Beta Tester, sharing his passion for technology and innovation with a global audience. A dedicated practitioner and teacher of the Getting Things Done methodology, Maccaferri helps others enhance productivity and task management.

Iowa Beta - Iowa State

Capt. Brian Kelm '73 was in the U.S. Navy from 1977-2003 and served multiple tours overseas in Seabee battalions. During those deployments, he was stationed in Puerto Rico; Argentina, Newfoundland (Canada); Diego Garcia (British Indian Ocean Territory); Saudi Arabia; Okinawa, Japan; Guam; and the Philippines. Brother Kelm was recognized numerous times for his service, including Legion of Merit Awards (2), Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Commendation Medal (6), Navy Achievement Award, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi and Kuwaiti), Navy Expeditionary Medal, and other service awards.



Kelm



Schleier

Louisiana Gamma - Loyola

Maj. Kerry Lewis '93 served in the Georgia and Louisiana Army National Guard from 1994-2021.

Nebraska Beta - Creighton

Lt. Col. Paul Schleier '74 served in the U.S. Navy and Air Force from 1988-2016. During that time, he spent more than seven years deployed overseas on various assignments including onboard the USS Saratoga, in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and on air bases in Saudi Arabia. Brother Schleier also served as either a director or officer-in-charge of dental labs at Langley Air Force Base (AFB) and Barksdale AFB in the U.S. and Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Currently, he is a partner and business management consultant at The Dental Marketing Institute and founder/CEO of American Warrior Financial, LLC.

Ohio Delta - Ohio State

BGen. Mark Cunningham '93 has been serving in the U.S. Marine Corps since 1993 with plans to retire in 2028. During his service, he has been deployed to Afghanistan, Colombia, and locations in the Pacific, Mediterranean and Red Sea. Brother Cunningham has received several awards and commendations, including the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, among others.

Ohio Epsilon - CWRU

Robert Beletsky '24 is serving in the U.S. Coast Guard as an E3 Seaman.

Ohio Theta - Ashland

Daniel McIninch '24 joined the Army after high school for a chance to gain some experience in the world and possibly determine his career path. He ended up doing 10 months in Iraq; three years at Fort Wainwright, Alaska; and more than a year at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Brother

continued



THE CREED OF PHI KAPPA PSI

I believe that Phi Kappa Psi is a Brotherhood of honorable men, courteous and cultured, who pledge throughout their lives to be generous, compassionate, and loyal comrades;

I believe that I am honor bound to strive manfully for intellectual, moral, and spiritual excellence; to help and forgive my Brothers; to discharge promptly all just debts; to give aid and sympathy to all who are less fortunate;

I believe that I am honor bound to strengthen my character and deepen my integrity; to counsel and guide my Brothers who stray from their obligations; to respect and emulate my Brothers who practice moderation in their manners and morals; to be ever mindful that loyalty to my Fraternity should not weaken loyalty to my college, but rather increase devotion to it, to my country, and to my God;

I believe that to all I meet, wherever I go, I represent not only Phi Kappa Psi, but indeed the spirit of all fraternities; thus I must ever conduct myself so as to bring respect and honor not to myself alone, but also to my Fraternity;

To the fulfillment of these beliefs, of these ideals, in the noble perfection of Phi Kappa Psi, I pledge my life and my sacred honor.



Written by
John Henry Frizzell *Amherst 1898* and
Kent Christopher Owen *Indiana '58*.
Adopted by
the 1964 Grand Arch Council.



Cunningham



Smith

McIninch said "The best part about the service was the connections I made with other people, and the best thing I learned was time management skills."

Ohio Iota - Akron

Mike Kesling '82 served in the U.S. Air Force from 1976-80. He achieved the rank of sergeant and was awarded Outstanding Unit.

Pennsylvania Eta - F & M

Capt. Robert Mecaughy '52 served in the U.S. Navy and spent four years overseas, stationed in the Philippines. He also is a Vietnam vet. Brother Mecaughy received the Defense Superior Medal, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, and various campaign medals.

South Carolina Alpha - South Carolina

Col. Leon I. Smith IV '76 served in the U.S. Army from 1983-2008. He was deployed overseas for 11 years: Operation Desert Shield/Storm (Iraq), Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan), Germany, Bosnia, Croatia, and Hungary. In March 1983, Brother Smith was commissioned an Armor Officer upon graduation from Officer Candidate School Class 1-83. His first duty assignment was as Scout Platoon Leader 1/11 ACR Fulda, Germany. His subsequent duty assignments include: Tank Platoon Leader 1/11 Armored Cavalry Regiment Fulda, Germany; Tank Company Executive Officer, 1/11 Armored Cavalry Regiment Fulda, Germany; Tank Company Commander 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado; Battalion S3 Air 4th Infantry Division Fort Carson, Colorado; Tactics Instructor Writer, TRADOC, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; 3rd Army Liaison ARCENT, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Saudi Arabia and Iraq; Resident Training Team Leader, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas; Joint Exercise Planner, USAREUR Headquarters Heidelberg, Germany;

Executive Officer, Chief of Staff, USAREUR Headquarters, TASZAR, Hungary; Tank Battalion Executive Officer, 1st Armored Division, Bosnia, B-H and Friedberg, Germany; Budget Analyst USAREUR Headquarters, Heidelberg, Germany; Budget Team Chief ODCSOPS, Headquarters DA, The Pentagon; Washington, D.C.; Defense Force Cost Analyst, CJCS J8, Washington, D.C., Program Analyst ODCSPRO G8, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C., Combined-Joint Comptroller (CJ8), CFC-A, Kabul, Afghanistan; Director, Acquisition Costing, OASA (FM&C), The Pentagon, D.C.; Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, Financial Information & Management. Smith's military awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Service Stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, NATO Medal, Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Parachute Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, and the Joint Staff Identification Badge.

Texas Epsilon - SFA

SMSGT. Jonathan Borth '05 has been in the U.S. Air Force since 2002. He has been stationed in California at Moffett Field - NASA AMES, an aeronautics and technology research center. Borth spent a decade as a C17A flying crew chief. During his service, he has received the following awards: Meritorious Service, Commendation, and Humanitarian Service.



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FROM THE Archives



LEFT: Brothers cleaning up and preparing to plant flowers at Letterman gravesite. **RIGHT:** Jerry Tucker, Steve Eisnaugle, Brent Monteleone, Bryan Muecke, Robert Meyer, Neil Bowie, Scott Connell, along with a painting of the crest of Phi Kappa Psi, which was painted by Muecke's daughter.

HONORING OUR CO-FOUNDER TEXAS ALPHA ALUMNI JOURNEY TO LETTERMAN GRAVESITE



After cleanup, red roses were planted by the markers.

By Brent Monteleone *Texas '84*

It is a notably rare occasion when a brother in Phi Kappa Psi can visit the final resting place of the Noble Fraternity's co-founder, Dr. William Henry Letterman *W & J 1852*, at the lonely, old country cemetery of Duffau, Texas. Located about 80 miles southwest of Fort Worth, Duffau typifies the rolling hills and plains of north central Texas.

On the beautiful Saturday afternoon of Nov. 16, 2024, seven Texas Alpha alumni enthusiastically took that opportunity to honor our founding father. Attending were: Neil Bowie '83, Scott Connell '83, Steve Eisnaugle *Ohio State '80 (Texas '82)*, Robert Meyer '79, Brent Monteleone, Bryan Muecke '75, and Jerry Tucker '81.

Our group first thoroughly spruced up the gravesite. We mowed, fertilized, scrubbed the gravestone and Phi Psi marker, removed rust from and painted the fence posts and chains, and planted roses. The result was a tremendous visual improvement of the Letterman gravesite.

Getting to the heart of the trip, we honored our co-founder by conducting the Fraternity's national burial ritual, modified to

continued

fit the circumstances. Brother Muecke (former SWAG 1980-84) presided over the ceremony. He also provided a canvas of the Phi Psi crest painted by his daughter, Kendra. This was a deeply moving experience for all.

Following the ceremony, we marked the occasion with a toast of fine spirits and recounted Brother Letterman's remarkable life and history — including the unlikely story of just how a Pennsylvanian came to be buried at the young age of 48 in this out-of-the-way cemetery near a Texas ghost town. The highlights follow for the benefit of brothers who may only be learning this interesting and tragic story for the first time.

Brothers Letterman and Charles Page Thomas Moore founded the Fraternity at Jefferson College in Letterman's hometown of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, on Feb. 19, 1852.

Following his graduation, Letterman earned his medical degree from Jefferson Medical Center in Philadelphia and then began his career in Baltimore.

Unfortunately, Letterman developed a long-term illness, and in 1875, sought a better climate in Prairie Home, Missouri. He then decided in 1878 that the warmer weather in Texas was more favorable for his condition. He briefly relocated his family to Dallas before they traveled farther southwest for the mineral wells near the small but optimistic town of Duffau. This town was the planned site of a westward railroad line, but instead it was built 8 miles south in Hico. Sadly, by the 1890s Duffau had begun its long decline.

But Brother Letterman made an immediate impact during his brief stay in the community. Arriving in town with letters of introduction from prominent men back east, he promptly organized the county and district medical associations, serving as the latter's first president. He was also a member of the Northwest Texas Medical and Surgical Society. Having become a Freemason back in Baltimore in 1868, Letterman also helped organize the Masonic Lodge in Duffau.

However, his health worsened. After an aborted and arduous trip to the Texas gulf coast seeking relief, having shown notable grit in making it as far south as Austin, Brother Letterman died on May 15, 1881, and was buried in Duffau. His wife and child eventually returned to Missouri, where the Letterman family, including multiple generations of Phi Psis, continued to reside. And that is how the co-founder of Phi Kappa Psi ended his days in rural Texas, far from his native Pennsylvania.

Following this story of Brother Letterman's admirable life, our group also recounted the tale of how Texas Alpha undergraduates discovered and renovated his isolated grave for the Fraternity's centennial in 1952 — including the placement of the stone marker noting Letterman's co-founding of Phi Kappa Psi, placement of the poles and chains, and how the crumbling headstone was replicated for the grave and the original headstone presented to Letterman's descendants at the centennial GAC in Pittsburgh.

While still at the grave, we then honored the memory of a few Texas Alpha brothers we all knew, touched on the significance of the Fraternity to our lives, and laughed over several great Phi Psi stories. After about three hours, we closed with rousing choruses of "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Amici." The former, a

famous 19th-century Christian hymn, was written by a Phi Psi — Robert Lowry, *Bucknell 1856*. A Baptist minister and noted composer of gospel music, Brother Lowry was the Fraternity's second national president from 1888-90.

● ● ●
Co-founder
William Henry
Letterman died
May 15, 1881,
and is buried in
Duffau, Texas.

In addition to the events at Brother Letterman's gravesite, the seven of us also had a fun weekend in Hico, a fantastic little renovated town. We learned that people come from all over for its excellent hotels, restaurants, shops, and bars. This charming slice of small-town Texas makes a fantastic home base for any Phi Psi's trek to honor our co-founder.

Many thanks to Brother Neil Bowie for originating this idea of visiting Brother Letterman's grave and to all the brothers who attended, brought supplies for sprucing up the grave, provided historical information, and supplied items for the ceremony and good spirits afterward.

Our visit to the Duffau cemetery was simply an outstanding weekend in every respect — full of brotherhood, college football, and most importantly, a very special event to pay our respects to our Fraternity's national co-founder. It is a striking thought that 144 years after his passing, Brother Letterman and his legacy in the Fraternity brought a group of old friends together in his memory many decades after college in such an out-of-the-way locale. He may be surprised by our gathering but certainly is pleased. Rest peacefully in Chapter Eternal, our good and faithful servant.

Do you have some throwback photos, vintage T-shirts, or chapter house memorabilia to share? Let us know: marketing@phikappapsi.com.



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

We hope you have enjoyed reading about what your brothers are doing at school or work and in their communities. **What are you doing?** Please consider sharing your milestones, your history, your goals, or even your challenges. We want your story to be part of the history of this amazing organization!

CHAPTER ETERNAL

✪ Denotes veterans

We mourn the loss of our brothers who have now entered the Chapter Eternal, and we extend our deepest sympathies to their families and friends. May the memories of our loyal comrades remain in our hearts and minds forever. LEDN.

Deaths reported from **July 16 through Dec. 10, 2024**, are included below. Year of initiation is shown after the name. Obituaries can be found at bit.ly/chapter-eternal. Please email Chapter Eternal announcements to membership@phikappapsi.com.

Alabama Alpha - Alabama

Brian E. Buchanan '83
Bradley E. Gray '83
Christopher A. Varner '85
Kerry B. Wells '86

Arizona Alpha - Arizona

Steven L. Strasser '77

California Beta - Stanford

Frank H. Boettcher '37 ✪
John A. Pauly '37
Tilford S. Denton '38
James R. Taylor '38
Richard F. Cahill '39 ✪
George K. Pinion '41
Willard N. Sheller '41 ✪

California Gamma - Cal

David R. Masters '68

California Delta - Southern Cal

Wallace S. Warnock '37
Dr. Frank W. Acker Jr. '38

California Epsilon - UCLA

Ronald G. Materna '52
Joseph M. Manisco '75
Charles "Tim" T. Hayes '77

California Eta - Cal Poly

Kevin L. Nickels '74

California Iota - UC Davis

Mark W. Ikeda '93

California Lambda - San Diego State

Gregory J. Batty '97 ✪

Colorado Alpha - Colorado

James L. Spiker '50

Illinois Epsilon - Illinois State

Phillip D. Westlund '86
David K. Thomas '97

Indiana Beta - Indiana

Charles T. Mack '56

Indiana Gamma - Wabash

Brian A. Chapman '86

Indiana Delta - Purdue

Richard V. Newcomer '48 ✪
James V. LeRoy '56

Indiana Epsilon - Valpo

Duane R. Oelschlaeger '53

Indiana Eta - Indiana State

Charles B. Wernz '87

Iowa Alpha - Iowa

Dr. Stephen P. Van Houten '60 ✪
Jeffrey B. Stoutner '63

Iowa Beta - Iowa State

William A. Dinham Jr. '50
Robert H. Jacobson '50 ✪
Anthony N. Papantonis '53 ✪
Nicholas H. Tucker '11

Kansas Alpha - Kansas

Frank L. Wharton '71

Michigan Alpha - Michigan

Gilbert J. Snyders '52

Mississippi Alpha - Ole Miss

John H. Allison '49 ✪
Michael L. McLarty '77

Missouri Alpha - Missouri

Major James L. Thompson '48 ✪
James G. Skelly '53 ✪

Missouri Beta - Westminster

Paul L. Joenk '60

Nebraska Alpha - Nebraska

James R. Kenner Jr. '47 ✪

New Hampshire Alpha - Dartmouth

Wayne L. Hamilton PhD '56 ✪
Nathan W. Smith '65 ✪

New York Alpha - Cornell

Robert H. Taylor Jr. '69

New York Beta - Syracuse

John C. Reiffenstein '55

Ohio Alpha - Ohio Wesleyan

Thomas L. Cochran '55
John H. Ginaven '59
Dr. Lewis H. Jones IV '60
William P. Jacobson '65
Randall L. Miller '71
Peter W. Bleckwehl '72
Bryan S. Beske '77
John J. Wessel '08

Ohio Beta - Wittenberg

Paul A. Burson '40 ✪

Ohio Delta - Ohio State

John H. Hoge '50
Philip L. Hobbs '66
Brooke A. Cheney '73
Robert S. Hamilton Jr. '99 ✪

Ohio Epsilon - CWRU

Ralph J. Creager '42 ✪
William W. Messenger '55 ✪
Thomas A. Schmick '62

Ohio Zeta - Bowling Green

Gerald L. McGill '50 ✪
Darrell W. Opfer '60

Ohio Eta - Toledo

Kenneth L. Mickel '57
Dr. Charles D. Byram DDS '65 ✪
Jeffrey L. Hepner '68
Michael J. Kennedy '69 ✪
Gerald P. Campbell '70 ✪

Ohio Theta - Ashland

MSgt. Kenneth R. Oberlin '66 ✪
Dennis W. Morgan '67
Drew H. Smith '67
Donald J. Schmidt '68
Thomas M. Humphrey '69
James B. Moore Jr. '69
Roger R. Kreps '70
James L. Sobotka '70
Capt. Richmond F. Douglas '71 ✪
Terry M. Elphick '71
John M. Gebert Sr. '71
Charles R. Lawrence '71
Daniel K. Reed '71
Robert P. Thorn '71
Joseph V. Godfrey III '72
Daniel R. Mercier '74

continued

Frederick H. Zurn '74
 John C. Ferguson '75
 Joe A. Pfaltzgraf '75
 Marc A. Fehring '76
 Timothy J. Smithett '78
 Richard A. Nasca '79
 Thomas A. Miller '80
 Douglas M. Rengers '82
 Eric M. Welsh '85
 Eric S. Stamper '89
 Dane C. Thompson '91

Oklahoma Alpha - Oklahoma

William W. Edwards '49 ★
 Dr. Charles L. Grosshans '55 ★

Oregon Alpha - Oregon

Harry R. Atkinson Jr. '50 ★
 Stephen S. Duckels Sr. '63
 Christopher W. Rice '95

Pennsylvania Zeta - Dickinson

John D. Mathewson '49 ★

Tennessee Epsilon - Tennessee

Geoffrey R. Smith '99

Tennessee Zeta - Memphis

Michael L. Williams '77

Texas Alpha - Texas

Richard S. Bagby Sr. '61 ★
 Vernon I. Lay Jr. '61 ★

Texas Beta - Texas Tech

David C. Fletcher '75
 Wendell W. Peacock '80

Virginia Alpha - Virginia

Stafford E. Thornton '53 ★
 Dr. Joshua B. Rubenstein '94

Virginia Beta - W & L

Millar B. White Jr. '47 ★

Washington Alpha - Washington

Samuel D. Watkins '43
 George G. Heiser '49
 Dr. Neil P. Duncanson '51 ★
 John E. Largis '51
 Hallack W. Greider '52
 Edward B. Betz '53
 John C. Adams '54
 Shaun K. McMahan '55
 William M. Behan '56
 Stuart E. Hanson '56
 Robert J. Denney '59 ★
 Robert E. Jungar '59
 Joseph L. Bigas Jr. DDS '62 ★
 Bruce A. Stirling '83

West Virginia Alpha - West Virginia

E. Leslie Hoffman III '66 ★
 Philip P. LaCava Jr. '74
 Eric D. Benigni '11

Wisconsin Gamma - Beloit

Frank K. Mitchell '60



Scan here if you have a Chapter Eternal submission.



SEEN & HEARD

Add these titles to your bookshelves or playlists!

Minnesota Beta - Minnesota

William Derrick '76 authored a book called "Restored by the Storm," which was released in October 2024.



The content instills a sense of inspiration essential for anyone seeking to find meaning and strength in the midst of life's storms, assuring them that there is still much to achieve and cherish, even after significant losses.

Missouri Alpha - Missouri

William H. Potet Jr. '70 spent his mandatory vacation time during the pandemic to fine tune his spy novel, "Good Guys Die Too." A fun and fast-paced read, the book provides the reader with a great platform to let their imagination take over.



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DAY *of* **GIVING**
CHAPTER CHALLENGE

FEBRUARY 19-20 2025

How to
BRING HOME THE TROPHY!

MAKE A GIFT.

The amount of the gift matters less than the act of giving itself. Your involvement reflects the enduring commitment and pride of being a Phi Psi.

SPREAD THE WORD.

We send out communications to help drive participation, but let's be honest, who would you rather hear from... us or one of your chapter brothers? *I think we all know the answer to that one.*

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Create a profile on GiveCampus, our easy-to-use fundraising platform, and use the tools available to inspire others to join the challenge. *Head over to givecampus.com/sign_up to get started today!*

Rally your brothers now and let's make this the biggest Founders Day of Giving yet!

JOIN *the* CHALLENGE

DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR PHI PSI PRIDE!

Every year, chapters of Phi Kappa Psi compete to raise funds for their chapter, secure a spot on the Founders Day of Giving trophy, and gain bragging rights for a year.

But it's not just about the challenge — this friendly competition goes beyond rivalry. Gifts made during Founders Day of Giving directly impact the lives of current and future brothers. From scholarships for deserving students to unforgettable leadership experiences, your contribution helps shape the future of our brotherhood.

THE CHALLENGE IS SIMPLE.

Each chapter or colony of Phi Kappa Psi has a participation goal based on its living alumni. During a 48-hour window, alumni, undergraduates, family, and friends can contribute and select a chapter to support. The top 5 chapters that surpass their goals will receive up to \$5,000 in additional funding, a trophy recognizing their achievement, their name on the national Founders Day of Giving trophy, and bragging rights for the year.

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