



# GO-Lite

A publication of the Gamma Omicron Chapter  
of Kappa Sigma, the University of Kansas,  
Spring 2004



## Corporation Board Chairman's Report

The news from Lawrence remains positive — no fires, no floods, no boiler explosions and no probation or disciplinary investigations! The active chapter received a nice recognition for Most Academic Improvement for last Spring, and then set themselves up for a repeat performance by dropping back in the Fall standings. The chapter leadership has done some introspection, and, as is traditionally the case, decided that the pledges dropped the ball, but will certainly be encouraged and assisted to do better. (Déjà vu, all over again.) For their part, the pledges, now mostly initiated, are holding their own, perhaps even excelling, at social endeavors. They are a handsome group, probably the best-looking initiation class since '61.

Corporation finances are good and we continued to aggressively pay down the indebtedness. Several substantial alumni gifts to Campaign Gamma-O at the end of last year inched us ever closer to a mortgage burning. House occupancy fell below target for the current semester, but was sufficient to maintain financial stability for the active chapter and meet their debt service obligations on the mortgage. Summer and Fall recruitment ("rush" for the politically incorrect) will be very important and alumni recommendations will be critical. I am told that some of the other long-established houses at KU virtually fill their pledge classes with legacies and close friends of legacies. We should be able to match that performance if we can develop an effective means to identify the prospects. Don't just assume that an alumnus will recommend his son or nephew; encourage him to do it, or do it for him. Giving the gift of Kappa Sigma to future generations is an obligation of brotherhood.



**Jack Heisler '41 does some touch-up work on the Heisler Crest as Scott Allen '91 looks on. Heisler entered the Celestial Chapel in October 2003. For more on Heisler, see page 6.**

On a recent weekend a group of actives returned three days early from Spring Break and worked feverishly to refurbish the lawn and gardens in preparation for Alumni Day. The Alumni Day Golf and cookout was an initiative of the active chapter, which I highly encouraged but left to them to manage. Participation by alumni was enthusiastic and set the stage for renewal of the annual "Stag". The cookout was held on the South Patio which has been extended to fill the grassy crescent and enhanced with the addition of a substantial barbeque grill and cast concrete picnic tables. This is a classy amenity entirely conceived,

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SPRING 2004

Published by Gamma-Omicron of Kappa Sigma, established May 1912 in Lawrence, Kansas. Please direct all news for *G-O Lite* to the alumni office at P.O. Box 25251, Overland Park, Kansas 66225.

## Undergraduate Officers 2003-2004

### **Grand Master:**

Adam Browne '02

### **Grand Procurator:**

Dan Klein '03

### **Grand Master of Ceremonies:**

Colin Gonzales '03

### **Grand Scribe:**

Shayon Mazumder '04

### **Grand Treasurer:**

Jacob Bluhm '04

## Gamma-Omicron Housing Corporation

### **President and Chairman:**

Fred K. Green '61

### **Resident Agent:**

Jim Wright '57

### **Second Vice President:**

Andrew Klein '95

### **Secretary:**

Bill Beck '80

### **Treasurer:**

Tom Robinett '69

### **Directors:**

Bill McEachen '52, Bill Buck '53,  
D.A.N Chase '55, Bill Textor '59,  
Jerald Pullins '61, Bill Axcell '66,  
Curtis Baum '76, Cecil Witt, Jr. '77,  
Chris Palmer '87, Pat Ferguson '96

### **Assistant Treasurer:**

Ed Grass '76

### **Alumnus Advisor:**

Steve Slaughter '99

### **Director Emeritus:**

Frank Godding, Jr. '42

## ▶ A WORD FROM THE GRAND MASTER

**M**y first semester as Grand Master at Gamma-Omicron has been busy, but I am proud of what we have accomplished and I am excited about the future. We have made a commitment to the Ritual Proficiency, something I believed we had neglected in the past. At the beginning of the school year, we only had one member with a level of proficiency, but now we have increased that number to 15. One brother has even achieved four out of six levels. This is a remarkable improvement that we all are proud of and we are hoping to improve on this over the next year.

We have embraced the mission of the national fraternity by accepting the 60-day pledge program asked of us by Worthy Grand Master Kevin Kaplan. Along with the pledge program, we were the fourth chapter in the country to become a member of the Renaissance Campaign to help rebuild a new national headquarters in Charlottesville, Virginia. We entered into this campaign at the highest level, Master of the Renaissance.

In February at Greek Recognition Night we received multiple awards such as Chapter Excellence in Financial Management and Operations. We also received Honorable Mention in Chapter Improvement and First Place in Scholarship improvement from Spring 2002 to Spring 2003. I am proud of these accomplishments and we hope to do even better next year.

In early February Matt Holland, our Area Recruitment Manager paid us a visit to energize the chapter for recruitment. His ideas and commitment to rush have inspired the chapter and he will return this summer to help us with formal recruitment. We are very excited about the upcoming rush period and we are looking to recruit the largest pledge class in recent Gamma-Omicron history.

I am looking forward to the future of this house as we grow together and continue to follow the path of outstanding success. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at [kukappasig@yahoo.com](mailto:kukappasig@yahoo.com).



Fraternally,

Adam Browne '02

## ▶ ALUMNI UPDATES

**Harry P. Hutchens '45** retired in 1986, choosing to devote his time to helping the South Texas College of Law in Houston. He just stepped down from Chairman of the Board, a position he held for seven years, and remains a director. He and his wife Helen celebrated their 50th anniversary in February 2000.

**David G. Mackenzie '61** lives in Bainbridge Island, Washington, has a retirement consulting service that morphed into providing Expert Witness testimony in trust litigation cases. He is also a donor to the Gamma-Omicron Educational Foundation.

**Dale A. Reinecker '63** is currently retired and living in Bedford, Texas. After graduating in 1966 he lived in Kansas City, then moved to Dallas in 1969. He worked for various ad agencies doing marketing, advertising and sales promotion. These days, he cooks chili competitively and qualified for the International Chili Championship Cookoff in Terlingua, Texas three consecutive years. "The Rhino" and his wife Pat have one child, Kendra Lea Rey, who is 30.

**Kurt Mai '80** is an oil and gas producer/operator for his company, Mai Oil Operations, Inc., in Dallas. He was the club manager of Thorntree Country Club until he sold it in 1991, and has been an active driller for five years. In his free time, he spends time with his wife Roblyn and children Alexa (15), Olivia (15) and Austin (13), and enjoys golfing and hunting. He often sees **Todd Morganstern '75**, who is a geologist his company hires when drilling oil wells.

## ▶ SPRING RUSH REPORT

**W**e have made great strides this semester to have a productive rush. We have had the opportunity to host the Area Recruitment Manager, Matt Holland, who was able to provide more efficient rush tactics.

This semester has gotten off to a good start, we have had a large list of recommendations that we have contacted, provided them with information and invited them to rush events: a Kansas City Knights basketball game and a day of paintball. Our next event is signing day — invitations for this event have been sent out and we are expecting a good showing. Once again Matt Holland will be coming up during the summer to help us maximize our efforts and increase our membership.

This semester we have been successful with receiving a good list of names from house members and self-recommendations from IFC. The rushees that have attended rush events and shown interest are a good group of kids who should greatly benefit the house next semester. We are currently rushing six legacies, five of which are from Gamma Omicron. As you know having legacies in the house is a way to continue the history here at Gamma Omicron and helps in rush to show the historical link in the house.

As rush chairs, both Clint Jones and I would appreciate it if you know anyone for this fall or next who would be a good candidate for rush. As we know that having your sons or relatives in the house would not only benefit us, but be meaningful to you as well. Any help you could give us this summer and next semester would be most appreciated.

AEKΔB,

Chris Pope, Rush Chair  
[rush@kukappasigma.com](mailto:rush@kukappasigma.com)

## ▶ IN MEMORIAM

We regret to inform you that six brothers have recently entered the Chapter Celestial: **Lou Rich Lyon '34** (died October 7, 2003); **John T. (Jack) Heisler, Jr. '41** (October 21, 2003); **John L. Hermann '44** (December 5th, 2003); **Ora W. Sapp '47**; **Robert E. Drumm '48** (August 25, 2002); **Robert M. Rygh '48** (August 24, 2003)

## ▶ LINKS, DRINKS AND BROTHERHOOD!

The longstanding Alumni Stag Night was replaced this year by the First Annual Alumni Golf Tournament. Alumni, as well as Active members, came together for a day of golf, drinks and an evening at the Chapter House. While the turnout was a little less than expected, a good time was had by all.

Tee times began at 8:00 a.m. as generations of Kappa Sigs attempted to best the Alvamar Golf Course in southwest Lawrence. The wintry conditions, along with scattered showers, gave the golfers plenty of challenges. Awarded with the Honorable Mention was Steve Bader '67 and with the First Place Trophy, Rich Kaufman '72 led the pack all day.

After the excursion on the links, everyone came back to the Chapter House for an evening of drinks and a steak dinner. The Active Chapter showed off the many exterior renovations completed in the last year, including the expansion of the back patio and the installation of a new charcoal grill.

New Initiate Ted Reimer reflected on the day by saying, "It really puts the decades of Brotherhood into perspective: despite our differences in age, the values and things we find important, all come back to Kappa Sigma, and transcend generational lines."

With that as a final thought, I want to encourage everyone to come back next Spring for the Second Annual Alumni Golf Tournament and thank those who came to this year's First. Hope to see you all next year!



*Gamma-Omicrons from years past gather around the crest at the Chapter House on Emery Road for the First Annual Alumni Golf Tournament.*



## ▶ **THREE GAMMA-O BROTHERS GET NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP-LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

The National Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund announced the annual Scholarship Leadership Awards on Founders' Day, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003. Brother **Jason Plagman '01** received a \$500 grant. Plagman's award was granted from the core Kappa Sigma Endowment that made 270 awards totaling \$250,000 last year. Brothers **Daniel Klein '03** and **Andy Wurst '02** each received \$300 grants from the Chapter Scholarship Award Fund administered by the Kappa Sigma Endowment. The grants to Wurst and Klein were funded from earnings on Gamma Omicron's vested balance in the Award Fund. Gamma Omicron is one of only 22 Chapters whose alumni have contributed enough to the Chapter Scholarship Award Fund to attain "vested" status, thus guaranteeing that there will be earnings available to make Scholarship Awards to deserving members of our active Chapter every year. In 2003 the Chapter Scholarship Award fund made grants totaling almost \$300,000 to 300 undergraduate members. To learn more about how your gifts to the Kappa Sigma Endowment trickle-down to the benefit of Gamma Omicron check out the Endowment Fund website at [www.ksefn.org](http://www.ksefn.org).

## ▶ **GAMMA-OMICRON IS A 'RENAISSANCE' CHAPTER**

The Kappa Sigma Fraternity and the Kappa Sigma Endowment Fund have very recently announced a Campaign for the Future to be known as the Renaissance Campaign. This will be a capital campaign to raise \$6.5 million to acquire a 6-acre property and build a new International Headquarters only a few miles from the old IMH and very close to Monticello, the home of President Thomas Jefferson, founder of the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. The next *Caduceus* will layout complete details.

The Gamma Omicron undergraduates have taken a leadership role as one of fewer than ten Master Renaissance Chapters making pre-campaign pledges to donate \$7,500 from chapter funds over the next five years. We can be proud of the current chapter leadership that met this challenge during a Chapter visit from WGM Kevin Kaplan.

## ▶ **CORPORATION BOARD APPROVES MAINTANENCE ITEMS**

In its spring meeting the Corporation Board approved the replacement of carpet throughout the upper floor hallways, dorms and individual rooms and the resident suites on first and ground levels. Unfortunately, the carpet selected during the renovation project has survived only six years of hard usage and is no longer serviceable. The material was durable, but the color was too light to stand up to spills and stains. The Board has authorized installation of a heavy duty industrial grade carpet of the same grade used in the Kansas Union and in high schools and hospitals in the Lawrence area. The colors will be dark and random patterned. What we lose in decorating appeal we will offset, hopefully, in longevity.

After seven years in the Kansas sun and heat, we will also do a complete exterior caulk and paint this summer as well as replace selected items of unserviceable student room furniture. Several active members will be employed for a short period following spring semester to accomplish the tearout of the existing carpet and furniture moving in preparation for the new carpet installation.

The Board believes it is better to maintain the property in a timely manner than to defer maintenance until the burden becomes too great to carry in operating budgets. Even so, your gracious and generous contributions to capital debt reduction are always greatly appreciated.

# ▶ IN MEMORIAM: J.T. HEISLER '41

## A TRIBUTE TO THE CREATOR OF 'THE HEISLER CREST'

Brother **John T. (Jack) Heisler '41** joined the Chapter Celestial on Oct. 21, 2003 after suffering a stroke. He was 82 years old. Brother Heisler arrived at KU during the fall of 1940, but entered into the Marines during World War II. He fought in the Pacific, including battles at Saipan, Tinian and Tarawa.

After returning home, Brother Heisler came back to Kappa Sigma and his beloved chapter house. Known for his love of Kappa Sigma, Brother Heisler is best known for designing and building the nearly five-foot tall, hand-cast crest that has hung over the fireplace on Emery Road since 1947.

In 1970, Brother Heisler restored the crest to its original condition after fire damaged the house. In 1998, he again restored the crest, working alongside his son, **William Heisler '76**. Brother Heisler served on the board of Gamma-Omicron in the late 1970s and was inducted into the Gamma-Omicron Hall of Fame in 1994.

He is survived by William, daughter-in law and his two grandchildren.



*The Heisler Crest at the Chapter House, 1950s*



*Rod Thompson '61 receives the Scholarship Trophy from Jim Mortimer '58 1961.*

## ▶ ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Kappa Sigma's Gamma-Omicron Educational Foundation has made \$150 cash awards to each of the following members who achieved the highest GPAs while living in the Chapter House. Awards are also made to the brother with the most improved GPA each semester and to the pledge with top grades in the Fall semester.

### Spring Semester '03

### Fall Semester '04

#### **Highest GPA**

Colin Gonzalez, Justin Goodnight  
Jason Plagman, Clint Jones, Andy Wurst  
(5-way tie at 4.0)

Colin Gonzalez (4.0)

#### **Highest Pledge GPA**

n/a

Erick Gasparovich (3.8)

#### **Most Improved GPA**

Tyler Neumayr

Elliot Homan

## ▶ Front page article continued

designed and fully paid for by the Chapter with proceeds (about \$8K) from their Parents' Day auction last Fall.

Your Board Chairman has been at this task for three years now and has gained a degree of perspective and a prescription for valium. The challenges and the successes and the trials and tribulations are cyclical. Just when the chapter leadership gets a real grip on the issues, elections roll around and we start the learning curve all over. I get some interesting calls from young men and some occasional abuse from irate parents.

Financial responsibility and contractual obligations, as well as the bonds of fraternal brotherhood are not always well understood. Commitments are easily made and often as easily broken. There are occasional "downers"—times when I must assist in an expulsion or refer bad debts to a collection attorney, but there are moments of great reward as well. I very much enjoy attending an occasional chapter meeting and distributing Academic Achievement Award checks, presenting the Chapter Man of the Year Award and conducting Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Board Elections will be held in October; anybody looking for an opportunity to serve?

AEKΔB

Fred K. Green '61

## ▶ **CAMPAIGN GAMMA-O** **'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' WRAP-UP UNDERWAY**

Campaign Gamma-O has been almost fifteen years in conception and execution——and it has been a wonderful ride! Under the dedicated and energetic leadership of Brother Lloyd Hanahan '56 Campaign Gamma-O has reached the final stage. The primary objective was realized in August 1998 when the active chapter occupied the beautifully restored and modernized facility recognized as among the gems of Kappa Sigma. The Star and Crescent gleam brightly over Mount Oread.

The second objective, freedom from external debt and endowment of a chapter scholarship-leadership program, is now well within our grasp. Through your gifts of cash, securities and in-kind services we have reduced an initial indebtedness of just under \$3 million to a secured mortgage of approximately \$450K. Together as KΣ Brothers we have achieved a great victory for our Order.

Accordingly, the Corporation Board has approved transition from the campaign mode to building an endowment for the future. Brother Hanahan will be permitted to "retire" and we will close the record books on Campaign Gamma-O on June 30, 2004.

In these closing weeks we appeal to all friends and brothers to make an extra effort to increase their gifts, complete payment on pledges still pending or add new gifts and their names to the Campaign Donor Roll.



# KΣHOMECOMING 2004



OCTOBER 9, 2004 • HALL OF FAME INDUCTION  
AND HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME vs. K-STATE

## GETCONNECTED

Haven't been to [www.Gamma-O.org](http://www.Gamma-O.org) lately? It's been updated with an alumni directory, photos, events, member listings and other good stuff. The password for the directory is a five-letter acronym every Kappa Sigma should know.

Still not listed? Contact Craig Lowden at (520) 622-0125 or [CraigL@FMGtucson.com](mailto:CraigL@FMGtucson.com) and take the first steps towards getting back in touch with your brothers. For you parents, this will keep you informed of your son's activities.

Have any photos you'd like to add to the site? Send them to [CraigL@FMGtucson.com](mailto:CraigL@FMGtucson.com) or mail to **Gamma-Omicron, c/o FMG, 744 North Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85704** with a return address. We'll scan it, throw it on the site and send it back to you. It's that easy.

*"Kappa Sigma: Not just for an hour, a day or college term.....but for life"*



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