



G-O Lite

A publication of the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Kansas - Spring 2009

To the Gamma-Omicron Corporation Board and Parents,

When I pledged Kappa Sigma in the fall of 2006, our Chapter was on Trusteeship (probation), the house was well below capacity, membership quality was mediocre at best, grades were deplorable, our social budget was non-existent, we had hardly any involvement on campus, and our reputation among the Greek Community was nothing to be proud of. While our assets included a quality freshman pledge class and a great core group of older leaders in the house, we had a very deep hole to climb out of. With that context in mind, I thought it would be of interest to report on how we did this past Sunday at the 20th annual Greek Awards Night.

The Greek Awards ceremony recognizes Fraternity and Sorority Chapters on campus for excelling in various areas. The sororities are required to have all of their members in attendance, and most fraternities have attendance requirements for officers and new members; the point being, a very large portion of the Greek Community attends and takes large notice of which Chapters win awards. I am proud to report that "Kappa Sigma" was a frequent phrase called out at Awards Night. In fact, although the results have not yet been emailed to Chapter presidents, I would say my gut feeling is that there may have only been two or at most three fraternities that received more awards than Kappa Sigma.

The following is a list of the awards we received:

1. Intramurals Sportsmanship Award
2. Most Improved Scholarship for Fall 2007 to Fall 2008
3. Chapter Excellence for Membership Development
4. Chapter Excellence for Risk Management
5. Chapter Excellence for External Relations
6. Special Commendation for Chapter Excellence for 2008 (this was the second-highest award given to the most outstanding IFC Chapters in 2008)

Perhaps our most proud moment of the night came at the very end of the ceremony when the committee named the 5 most outstanding senior men and 5 most outstanding senior women in the Greek Community. This is the highest award given to individual members, and is best described as the annual "Senior of the Year" award. Brian Harrison, President of our Chapter in 2007, was recognized as one of these 5 distinguished seniors. Brian served in multiple roles throughout his four years in our house, including two Executive Committee positions, served on the IFC Executive Board, and has been involved in countless other organizations on campus.

Congratulations to Brian and the Harrison family; he is one of the biggest reasons our Chapter went from what I described earlier to what it is now. Another big thanks also needs to go out to Bob Lutz (President 2008), Mitch Plummer (Scribe/Secretary 2008), Todd Witt (Scribe/Secretary spring 2009), and JC Sutherlin (Treasurer 2008-09 and current IFC VP Administrative Affairs) for all of their contributions to our house and the awards process.

Needless to say, we were very proud to accept so many awards and enjoy the recognition among the Greek Community. I am confident that the guys we have in the house now and those moving in next fall will continue to improve our Chapter, and that our success at Greek Awards Night will become an annual theme.

Regards,

Andy Whitehead

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Andy Whitehead '06

Grand Procurator

Brad Harris '07

Grand Master of Ceremonies

Robby House '07

Grand Treasurer

JC Sutherlin '06

Grand Scribe

Todd Witt '06

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Resident Agent:

Jim Wright '57

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Andrew Klein '95

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Brian McDaniel '89

Matt Textor '90

Pat Ferguson '96

Rob Hagg '98

Nick Lombardi '03

Alumnus Advisor:

Billy Brandtonies '02

Board Report

Greetings from the Board of your fraternity; we are pleased with the performance and progress of the men of Gamma Omicron; you'll be able to read in detail about the many activities of the guys via Andy Whitehead's GM Report. But overall, most of the barometers of performance, attitude, level-headedness, and brotherhood are positive and encouraging for the future.

Many of you may have heard of the unfortunate death due to alcohol overdose of a new member of SAE in February, and I believe that sad event bears mention here. In a nutshell, the fellow was reported to have started drinking pitchers (plural) of margaritas, followed by numerous beers, and then whiskey, whereupon he passed out, was taken to bed, and was found dead the next afternoon. Indications are that, while he was joined in these activities by other SAE Brothers at different points in time, he undertook the extreme amount of drinking on his own and was not coerced into it.

We obviously can't guarantee that a similar event won't happen to a Kappa Sig, but I do believe that the nature of this event has increased the guys' awareness of the risks of consumption of such extreme quantities of alcohol. Plus, our National Fraternity has developed an excellent program in education and awareness, and we hope and anticipate that the program will help reduce the risks to which Kappa Sigs are exposed.

One type of behavior that has long been a highly-visible and deplorable mode of excessive drinking is forced ingestion of alcohol, usually as a component of hazing. While there is always the possibility of individual foolishness that doesn't reflect the overall organization's demeanor and attitude, I have been positively impressed that new members (a.k.a. Pledges) at Gamma Omicron are treated with respect and not exposed to excessive, harsh, or ridiculous demands. They are required to attend study hall and to perform routine and predictable tasks that do not interfere with academic and related activities, but I believe that the Chapter doesn't expect or pressure new members to engage in risky or demeaning behaviors.

This event at SAE will of course harm the image of fraternities at KU, just as news reports of forced drinking resulting in illness and death have done over the last few years. This isn't good for us in the long run, and it is indeed unfortunate that there are no doubt high-quality young men who forego fraternities due to stereotypes and misperceptions that outlandish behavior constitutes typical behavior.

KU's IFC, working with the administration, can work to alter perceptions, but Gamma-O Alums can help as well by making sure that the Chapter is made aware of high-quality individuals, and that you encourage such young men to give a close look to Kappa Sigma.

AEKΔB

Dave Steen

Corporation Chairman, for The Board

From the Grand Master

It is a great time to be a Kappa Sigma! The Gamma-Omicron Chapter continues to improve in several areas as we strive to remain among the most accomplished fraternities at the University of Kansas.

Our Chapter's academic achievements have continued, finishing in the Top 6 among all Fraternities on campus, with a GPA greater than 3.0 for the Fall Semester; the second straight semester with such a performance. Brothers Ben Machen '04, Cory Sims '04, Mitch Plummer '06, Michael Powell '06, and Ross Miller '08 earned all A's, helping us achieve the highest cumulative fall GPA in Gamma Omicron's history!

This spring marks a significant development for the Gamma-Omicron Chapter's scholarship program. Inspired by a \$100,000 donation from Brother Robert Dole '42 in the Fall of 2007, a Scholarship & Leadership Endowment Fund has been established. The ultimate goal of this fund is to raise \$1,000,000 to provide continuous monetary rewards into perpetuity for undergraduates who excel academically and in leadership positions within the Chapter. A committee consisting of distinguished alumni and current undergraduates recently finalized a plan outlining the details for the Endowment Fund, such as eligibility and the method for distribution of funds. We expect this to be a unique source of motivation for our men to continue to excel in every area, as well as yet another advantage, which Gamma-O can market to attract the highest quality future members.

Also, our involvement on campus continues to be exceptional. Gamma-O previously constituted 25% of the Interfraternal Council's Executive Board with Brian Harrison '05 and Ryan Jones '06. JC Sutherlin '07 was recently elected to the new IFC Executive Board, maintaining a strong presence among the Greek Community for Kappa Sigma. Also, our intramural teams are still riding high from prevailing in the hard-fought Dodge Ball Championship against the men of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity (FIJI). Despite their continuous smack-talking and sore-loser mentality, the FIJI's couldn't overcome our athletic prowess on the Dodge Ball court. Gamma-Omicron currently ranks 5th among all fraternities, in the intramural rankings.

The Spring Semester has also been one full of exciting social events. Our annual Black & White Formal was a hit once again, and the women of Chi-Omega Sorority couldn't get enough of our Caddyshack Party. We look forward to warm weather, bikini-clad women, and Brother Buffet's music at our Margaritaville Party with Delta Gamma Sorority May 2nd. April 4th marked the initiation of our spring pledge class, which included seven new brothers hailing from four states, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and the most, three, from Texas. This is yet another testament to the Chapter's consistent ability to fill the Chapter House over the last couple of years. Our current Rush Chairmen (Rob Foree '07, Kyle Jesse '07, and Dustin Rheuport '07) presently have many well-rounded high school seniors looking to join next Fall Semester, and we expect to do as well as always at Formal Recruitment June 19-22nd. A

(Continued on page 5)

Jay "JT" Turnbull Remembered

For well over a decade, Kappa Sigma has proudly participated Natural Ties, a student-run organization that pairs people with disabilities with KU students and holds weekly social events. When we began participating in this great organization, we were lucky enough to be paired with Jay "JT" Turnbull, and a special bond was forged. On January 10th, 2009, Gamma-Omicron regretfully lost JT, our most cherished friend and honorary member of our Chapter.

JT, 41, was born on June 24th, 1967 in Baltimore, Md. He lived in Lawrence since moving here with his family in 1980 from Chapel Hill, NC. Anyone who met JT for even a short time quickly learned he lived a highly independent, fun-loving, and inspirational life. His motivating impact was felt well beyond the Gamma-Omicron Chapter. He inspired his parents to found the Beach Center at KU, and through their teaching and scholarship contributions, he forever influenced the very course of history of education for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. JT was also the driving force that led two members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity to create Natural Ties.

JT was certainly a crowd favorite among the Natural Ties community. The events he looked most forward to included the Halloween costume party, the Christmas party, and all of the karaoke nights.

JT's personality was truly one of a kind, and his sincere friendship and uplifting personality will be dearly missed. Thank you, JT, for making us all better men.

A Note From The Parent's Club

The kickoff for the 2008-2009 school year for the Parent's Club was a meeting held prior to the Parent's Day festivities in October. I was overwhelmed with the turnout of Moms and Dads at the meeting. The library couldn't hold all the interested parents!

At the meeting we discussed the activities for the upcoming year and recruited volunteers. During the Fall Semester we had a talented group of Moms decorate the first floor of the chapter house for the holidays with the assistance of their sons. We also provided quite a spread of snacks and study treats every night during finals. House Mom Beverly Hughes was very helpful in getting the snacks out each night.

For the Spring Semester, two Moms volunteered to organize Mom's Day and Dad's Day, with the assistance of an undergraduate member. The Moms are looking forward to a fun day of bowling and dinner with their sons and the Dads will have a full day of golf, dinner, and a viewing party for the NCAA Basketball Tournament. The Parent's Club will provide study treats again for Spring Finals to finish out the year.

We are very lucky to have so many parents who are willing to donate their time and talent to enhance their son's Kappa Sigma living experience; and the future looks bright for our organization since most of the involved parents have sons who are just freshman and sophomores!

Kappa Sigma Parents' Club
Anne Harrison



From the Grand Master Continued...

number of alumni have provided us with the luxury of several quality recommendations and legacies, and we encourage more alumni to do the same. A Signing Day Banquet is scheduled for Sunday May 3rd to sign the majority of our fall pledge class. One change to our rush strategy has led to noticeable success—we have shifted from large events with numerous rushees to smaller weekend events at which a few rushees stay at the house. This allows people to become better acquainted and provides the rushees with a better perspective on life at the house. Many rushees comment on the quality of our Chapter House, a big plus that we owe to our alumni.

Some of you may have heard about the “Flood of ’09”, so a description might be in order. Heading outside, one of the guys tossed a football to another, but his aim was poor, and, as Murphy’s Law would dictate, the pigskin glanced off a fire sprinkler, which sprung a leak. Naturally, this was on the third floor so the water trickled down to the main floor, with wall and ceiling damage resulting before the water could be shut off. Fortunately, the guys removed furniture and the Thomas Hart Benton drawings and other hangings before water reached them, so the damage was primarily sheetrock, some can lights, and some areas of carpet were soaked. The remediation crew was on-site within a couple hours, and their promptness and training kept the damage from being severe, and the water was even removed completely from the carpet.

The football-thrower immediately and unhesitatingly took responsibility, and his parents’ used their liability insurance for damages. So, while it was a mistake to throw the football (his mother said she’d tried to cure him of that since he was little but hadn’t been able to do so), at least the individual behaved in an above-board way. And, the guys have become increasingly aware that unexpected problems can ensue from innocent but needless actions.

The Chapter eagerly awaits Kappa Sigma’s 67th Biennial Grand Conclave this summer, which is to be held at the San Antonio River Walk. Up to twenty men will travel to San Antonio to represent Gamma-Omicron. We look forward to enjoying the Southern Belles on the River Walk, and hope to receive Gamma-O’s second consecutive FACE (Founder’s Award of Chapter Excellence) Award, the highest honor awarded to Kappa Sigma Chapters.

As always, we encourage all alumni to pass on recommendations of quality men that will be attending KU in the future. For comments and updates, please feel free to contact Andy Whitehead, current GM (amw1@ku.edu).

2008 Homecoming and Hall of Fame Festivities, and 2009 Plans

The KU football team fared rather poorly on Homecoming 2008, giving up nine touchdowns to Texas Tech’s overwhelming offense, but that was the only down point of the weekend for Gamma Omicron. On Friday, October 24, Rod Thompson, MD, (’62) and Jack Bondon (’71) were inducted into the Gamma Omicron Hall of Fame, and both men made touching comments about the gains they derived from their participation in Kappa Sigma. Rod talked about the social confidence he gained, and Jack about the discipline he was forced to develop as a result of joining the fraternity. The inductions occurred after a catered Italian dinner Friday night, and the dining room was packed with the Chapter, Alums, and family members of the inductees.



fraternity.
members of

The Chapter’s Homecoming float placed second, a testament to the very hard work of numerous members, some of whom spent the night working on the float. While the game wasn’t a thing of beauty, the weather was, and about 80 Alums, family members, and guests enjoyed the post-game barbecue, which also was catered in.

Make note of Homecoming 2009, the weekend of October 10th, with football on Saturday and the Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction on Friday night. There’s a rumor circulating that the initiation class of 1959 will have a 50-year reunion that weekend as well. Since there are more inductees into our Hall of Fame from that class (Bertelsen, Eaton, Foster, Guthrie, Knapp, Palmer, Textor) than any other, it would only be fitting for that to be held in conjunction with the Hall of Fame.

Alumni Updates

George A Godding '39

Last month, retired Maj. Gen. George A. Godding died at the age of 88. Before retiring in 1975, he had served more than 32 years in the U.S. Army. He was part of the first generation of professional intelligence officers who spent their careers in either staff or operational intelligence assignments.

Godding's career, however, did not begin as an intelligence officer. During World War II, he served as an infantry officer. After graduating from Officer Candidate School in 1942, he landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944 with the 3rd Battalion, 359th Infantry of the 90th Division. He served as the battalion's S-3, executive officer, and finally its commander, until he was wounded shortly before the war ended. For his service he received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. General Godding was the youngest lieutenant colonel in the modern army. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel, on the battlefield by LTG George Patton, at the age of 24.

After a brief break in service and a short stint in the Pacific, Godding, as he put it, "got into the intelligence business." In mid-1949, he joined the U.S. Army Security Agency, the Army's largest intelligence organization that had been established in 1947. For the rest of his career, he would be indelibly linked with ASA and Army Intelligence.

In the 1950s, Godding served as operations officer at the ASA Headquarters at Arlington Hall Station, Va., and later in ASA-Europe. As a colonel, he also commanded the 507th ASA Group of more than 3,000 men from July 1956 to July 1959. Subsequently, he returned to Arlington Hall and served as ASA's chief of staff until mid-1960.

Godding's service in the 1960s and early 1970s reflects both the Army's and ASA's involvement in Vietnam. Twice he served as the chief of ASA-Pacific. In between he served as the chief of production for the J-2 of the Military Assistance Command-Vietnam. As a major general, subsequently, Godding served as the G-2 for U.S. Army Pacific from 1969 to 1972, and then as the J-2 for MACV from 1972 to 1973.

In 1973, Godding assumed command of ASA. Throughout the next two and a half years, he emphasized direct support tactical signal intelligence and security while maintaining the strategic effort. He pushed for the divisional support companies to directly assist the Army's divisions and worked to educate the tactical commanders on the capabilities and limitations of ASA assets.

Godding retired two years before INSCOM was established. After serving as a warfighter on the ground, Godding served in a progression of intelligence assignments that required both technical expertise and active leadership. Yet despite reaching the highest echelons of the Army's intelligence system, he continually pushed intelligence down to support the tactical commander. Godding's death marks a continued passing of a generation that shaped today's Army.

John Callaghan '66

John is married to Beth Donhowe Callaghan and they have two children: Taylor (33) and Erin (31). Beth and John spent September walking the Camino de Santiago de Compestella in Spain. The Camino is a pilgrimage to the final resting-place of the apostle James. It was both a spiritual and physical experience over the 200-mile walk.

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Michael Helbert '70

Mike works as an attorney. His wife Sandra and him have one son, Michael (27). After 33 years Mike is still in Emporia, Kansas. He had the pleasure of spending the Orange Bowl and the Bball national championship with Mark and Brenda Shockey. He spent the other part of March Madness and a recent weekend in Vegas with the infamous and legendary David Trapp. Trapp and Mike are hoping that a bunch of their brothers will meet in Vegas for the first week of March Madness. They might even be able to talk the legendary Dan Wakley into coming out. Finally, Mike would like to tip his hat to brothers Domoney and Gast for putting together a truly remarkable reunion of the Brothers of the Fire.

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James O'Connor '75

J.J. and his wife, Tammy, have two children: Clancy (26) and Katie (24). J.J. works as an investment representative for Edward Jones Investments. J.J. has these words of wisdom to share, "When your children are graduating from college don't try to keep up with their ability to party! Always have your resume up-to-date. When buying a horse, try it out for a while no matter how good it looks on paper. Save more than you are giving away."

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Jeff Stump '91

Jeff is married to Stephanie and they have four beautiful daughters: Olivia, Katie, Grace, and Emily. Jeff is CEO of Straxis Technology.

7355 South 26th West Ave., Tulsa, OK 74132

Jason Howard '97

Jason is senior attorney for U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Jason and his wife Alexis live in Chicago, Illinois.

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We would like to recognize and thank those alumni and parents that contributed to any of our funds in the last three years.
Your support does make a difference!

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If you donated but are not on this list, we apologize. Please contact Craig Lowden at 800=228-7326 or Craig.Lowden@fngtucson.com and you will be recognized in the next edition of the G-O Lite.



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SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, October 10th

Fall Homecoming & Hall of Fame Induction

Cyclones vs. **Jayhawks**

