

G-O Lite

A publication of the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Kansas - Spring 2010

Report From The Grand Master

Grades

Gamma-Omicron ended the decade with an extremely successful fall semester, and we are looking to carry that momentum into the new year. We began this semester with wonderful news when we learned that the chapter achieved a 3.22 GPA for the fall semester. This considerable academic achievement places us second among the 22 fraternities at the University of Kansas and considerably beat the All Fraternity Average of 2.93. The fall semester marked the fourth straight semester in which Gamma-O has had a GPA of at least 3.0, and it is the third straight semester in which we have seen improvement in our GPA. Our continued improvement and excellence in academics is the result of the Chapter's emphasis on grades and a great deal of hard work by the undergraduate brothers. Undoubtedly, Gamma-O's continued improvement is a sign of great things to come!

Rush

In addition to the Chapter's academic achievements, progress can also be noted in recent recruitment efforts. Eight new pledges have been signed for the spring semester, making it the largest spring pledge class we have had in the last five years. With 67 brothers already living in the house, the spring pledge class brings the Chapter to 75 members with an additional 10 out-of-house brothers. Rush is a constant priority of ours, and our Rush Chairmen (Kyle Jesse '07, Robby House '07, and Tyler Setter '08) are hard at work signing a large fall pledge. Once again, we will be participating in Formal Rush, June 11-14, to supplement our informal rush efforts during the spring. We always do extremely well during Formal Rush which is in large part due to our amazing Chapter house, which is always regarded as one of the nicest on campus. In addition to the size of our membership, the quality of our membership is extremely important to us and we go to great lengths to rush and sign quality individuals that we feel will continue to improve our Chapter. We have already received many great rush recommendations from alumni, and we ask any alumni that know of a possible rush to please send us their contact information through the Chapter's website, www.gamma-o.org. We greatly appreciate all rush recommendations and they are a great resource to our Rush Chairmen.



G-O On Campus

Gamma-O continues to have a large presence in all aspects of the Greek Community at KU. We had two brothers run for IFC Executive Board positions, and two other brothers

were selected for IFC appointed positions. Many of our freshmen are also extremely active in the Junior Greek Council, and Dustan Boleski '09 holds a position on the Junior Greek Council Executive Board. Driven by an ultimate goal of bringing home another championship trophy this spring, the Chapter fields teams in all campus intramural sports and competes against teams from every fraternity on campus. We make an effort to support all of the other Greek houses on campus by participating in their philanthropies, and many brothers are involved in Greek affiliated community service organizations. Natural Ties is an organization that partners a mentally handicapped person to each Greek chapter. The organization holds weekly events for all of the participants to come together and partake in a fun activity. Gamma-O always has avid participation in the organization and currently has three Natural Ties. Nick Barr '08 and Tyler Setter '08 are on the Executive Board, and T.J. Trum '04 is the organization's President. We also have brothers participating in Adopt-A-School, a program that places members of the Greek Community in local elementary school classrooms to help the teachers and interact with the children. Finally, Gamma-O is devoted to its involvement in Greek Tutoring, a program which provides students free tutoring by fellow members of the Greek Community. With such extensive involvement within the Greek Community and our outstanding academic performance last semester, we are hoping to have another successful Greek Awards Night on April 25th. Gamma-O is poised to bring home several IFC awards this year, and our goal is to beat last year's haul of six awards.

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UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

Grand Master

Brad Harrison '07

Grand Procurator

Kevin Colbert '07

Grand Master of Ceremonies

Erik Ise '08

Grand Treasurer

Todd Witt '08

Grand Scribe

Cory Bell '08

HOUSE CORPORATION

President and Chairman:

David Steen '68

Resident Agent:

Jim Wright '57

Second Vice President:

Andrew Klein '95

Secretary:

Curt Baum '76

Treasurer:

Steve Bader '68

Assistant Treasurer:

Ed Grass '77

Directors:

Bill Buck '53

Walter Thompson '68

Tom Robinett '69

Curtis Baum '76

Cecil Witt, Jr. '77

Chris Palmer '87

Brian McDaniel '89

Matt Textor '90

Pat Ferguson '96

Rob Hagg '98

Nick Lombardi '03

Alumnus Advisor:

Billy Brandtonies '02

From the Grand Master Continued...

Philanthropy

We have again set a goal of 20 community service hours and \$20 donated to philanthropy for each member this semester, and we completed this goal for last semester. We feel very strongly about giving back to the community, and hold all of our members responsible for reaching their goal. In addition to our member's individual goals, Gamma-O has again donated \$1,000 to Kappa Sigma's Military Heroes Campaign. The Military Heroes Campaign is a great cause, and its efforts go directly to the Fisher House Foundation. The Fisher House Foundation builds housing, known as Fisher Houses, in which the families of injured soldiers can stay for free while their loved one receives long-term treatment in a military hospital. From 2007-2009, the Military Heroes Campaign raised \$117,000 for the Fisher House to be constructed at the Washington D.C. Veteran's Hospital. It was recently announced that the D.C. Fisher House will be named after Brother Robert J. Dole '42, which I'm sure is a great honor for Brother Dole and is a very proud moment for Gamma-Omicron. Kappa Sigma has set another goal to raise \$100,000 in the next two years for the Military Heroes Campaign. If you would like to learn more about the Military Heroes Campaign, or would like to donate to the campaign, please visit their website at www.militaryheroescampaign.org.

Social

Although the spring semester is a very busy time of the year, Gamma-O finds a little bit of time to socialize and have a good time. Our social calendar for the semester includes our Black & White Formal, our annual Caddyshack party with Chi Omega, and our year-end Margaritaville party. All are sure to be a great time, and in addition to our annual parties we also have a dinner exchange planned with Alpha Chi Omega and hopefully one more with another sorority. We are also looking forward to welcoming our parents for our annual Mom's Day bowling event and Dad's Day golf outing, both of which are a huge hit with both the parents and sons every year. The undergraduate brothers of Gamma-O are also very excited to get the chance to meet some of our alumni at the April 24th reunion being held at the Chapter house, organized by Darcy Domoney '72. The undergraduates always have a great time meeting new alumnus and hearing stories about their time in the house back in the good old days.



Mom Harbaugh and our Parents

I would like to recognize the tremendous efforts of our Parent's Club and our wonderful House Mother, Patricia Harbaugh. The Parent's Club and Mom Harbaugh work together very well to make improvements to the Chapter house such as refurbishing furniture, donating a new commercial microwave, and providing the Chapter with new patio furniture. Last semester they also decorated the house for the holiday season, and provided us with great study snacks for finals week. This semester the Parent's Club

has a work day planned to improve the landscaping around the house, and they have already donated extra dining room chairs to the Chapter. This is Mom Harbaugh's first year at

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House Corporation Board Report

You'll read elsewhere in this GO-LITE issue about the many accomplishments and activities of the Chapter, Parents Club, etc. While they should make all alums proud, I won't repeat that information and want to first mention and welcome our new Housemother, Patricia Harbaugh. Mom Harbaugh was interviewed by chapter officers, Bill Buck, and me, and all were highly impressed. She is a Kansas native, and prior to Kappa Sig had been Housemother at Sigma Kappa sorority in that outpost of civilization-KSU.

She has brought an energy that has been manifested in many ways, ranging from the aesthetic-plantings around the exterior, to the basic- making sure the vacuum cleaners are emptied and properly used (not as simple as it sounds, to be sure). Steve Bader and I have worked closely with Mom Harbaugh and have been pleased and impressed, particularly with the care she utilizes to ensure that all bills for repairs are accurate and reflect work that was ordered and properly executed. Mom Harbaugh also has sons so she brings a familiarity with the antics of young males and so manages a balance between discipline and tolerance that have made for a great environment for the guys.

I mentioned repairs to the house, and let me spend a minute on the condition of our 100+ year-old chapter house. Those of us who lived there in the 50's-early 90's might not recognize the place (although the Crest Room is pretty much the same as it has been for 60 years). While the structure itself is sound and as solid as ever, we've managed to consistently upgrade some of the items related to both comfort and academic effectiveness. Most notably, we added a fiber optic DSL system that has delivered fast and reliable internet access throughout the house; it's quite something to visit the house on a weekday night and see literally dozens of guys, sometimes with teammates from classes, using that system. I remain convinced that the high-speed system also enhances download and utilization of some cinematic masterpieces (no more need be said), so numerous "needs" are met.

We've also benefited enormously from the assistance of one of the dads, George Foree, who has applied his furniture industry skills and knowledge to arrange for cost-reduced upgrades to mattresses and Crest Room and dining room chairs, and he has even applied his own "elbow grease" to fixing up some of our furniture. He may not be a Kappa Sig by initiation but is one in spirit!

A few areas will need sprucing up, the main floor carpet seems to be possessed and the Library furniture and walls and wallpaper could use some face-lifting. But overall, we have a facility that compares to any at KU and may be the finest in all of Kappa Sigma!

One of the benefits of the chapter's rush effort has been that the corporation and chapter are on very sound financial footing. By maintaining a near-capacity headcount, we are able to offer a reward to seniors living in, in order to encourage them to stay engaged with the chapter. Next school year, our housebill will be essentially identical to the costs for university dorms, and, beyond the benefits of Kappa Sigma itself, the house bill includes numerous benefits not provided in dorms. The chapter has ample funding for several first-class social events, including the Black and White which was held at the brand-new, and quite unique, OREAD Hotel, located on the ground once occupied by the Gaslight Pub. The OREAD's architecture is striking, using limestone throughout, but it's debatable if progress really occurs when new joints displace pubs, most of all loss of The Stables. But the lads of Kappa Sigma will no doubt manage. We have retired the mortgage, and the Corporation Board is now focusing on effective use of operating funds freed up as a result.

I'd like to close with a nod to Darcy Domoney for organizing a repeat reunion of guys initiated in the early 70's, and to encourage all alums to visit the house on football game days and any time you're in Lawrence. We have a great chapter in a great chapter house at a great university!

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Steen '68
Corporation Board Chair

Notes From The Parent's Club



Congratulations to our sons for their incredible placement of 2nd on the hill in grades this past fall. We sent cookies to the house to recognize their achievement. Plans are in the works to repeat the fall football tailgates for the parents. We even managed to feed quite a few hungry Kappa Sigs on game day.

Thank you to Cheri Lemieux and Janet Newhouse for coordinating the final exam treats this year. Thank you also to Cathy Corey and her committee for decorating the house this past holiday season. Many commented on how wonderful the house looked.

The list of improvements to the house continues to grow. This past semester the Parents Club purchased a new microwave and rugs for the foyer. Another parent/son work day is being scheduled for the spring with plans for additional landscape renovations. We are also purchasing additional patio furniture.

Plans are being made for a graduation day reception at the house to honor all of our graduating seniors and their families. More information on this event will be coming soon.

The Parents Club Board Members for the 2009-2010 school year are Mary Kay Foree, Cathy Corey, Kelly Setter, Anne Harrison, Sue Ise and Janet Roque. Any one interested in purchasing Kappa Sig apparel please contact Kelly Setter at 913-706-0793. Please continue to check the Gamma O website, Parents Club link, for current notices concerning the club's activities.



2009 Kappa Sigma Parents Day

Then men of Gamma-O decided to hold their Parents Day at the same time as KU Family Day last fall. And, they included their siblings and other relatives, so the crowd was plentiful! Many families attended the Jayhawks Football Game vs. Southern Mississippi (little realizing it would be one of the last victories in that bizarre season), while others chose to shop with their sons, or enjoy the parade and music on Mass Street downtown.

Dustin Rheuport organized a fabulous event: Bar-B-Q buffet at the House; refreshments and snacks; tents with tables and chairs on the east lawn; and perhaps 200 family members participated. Many parents had the opportunity to meet the new “sheriff in town”, Mom Harbaugh, and were very pleased that she will be advising their sons, and monitoring them as a mom is inclined to do! The Pledges serenaded all of us, and even used “pick-up” lines on their Moms, followed by presenting them with a rose! There is definitely a choreographer or two among them!

A very successful and fun Charity Auction followed dinner. Parents were all asked to bring an item for the Auction, which helps the men fund social and philanthropic events, and there truly were some really spectacular signs, prints, paintings, blankets, etc. There was also a “fundraiser table” with a paper mache’ house with an opening for cash, which was stuffed with nearly \$500 - just for Habitat for Humanity. This year Kappa Sig joined the Betas, Delta Chis, and Phi Delts to work on and promote Habitat for Humanity. The silent and live auction got competitive, and brought in almost \$6000! Some parents went home with items they never knew they wanted! The weather was fabulous, as was the event.



From the Grand Master Continued...

Gamma-O and I can't sing her praises enough. She goes above and beyond her job description on a daily basis to do small things for the guys in the house, such as folding clean clothes left in the dryer and getting particularly tough stains out of clothes. Mom Harbaugh also does a wonderful job of making sure that everything in the Chapter house is in good operating condition, and she works closely with the maintenance company to ensure all repairs are made in a timely fashion. I know I speak on the entire Chapter's behalf when I say I hope Mom Harbaugh stays at Gamma-O for many years to come.

I would also like to thank the five seniors that are living in the house this year that will be graduating in May: Andy Whitehead, J.C. Sutherlin, Ryan Jones, Eric Washburn, and Michael Powell. They have all been invaluable assets to the Chapter by being great role models for the younger guys in the house, and excelling both academically and as leaders within the house and in the Greek Community. Between the five of them they have held the positions of Grand Master, Grand Procurator, Grand Master of Ceremonies, Grand Treasurer, two separate IFC Executive Board positions, and IFC Judicial Board justice. They have all been an integral part of Gamma-O for the last four years, and they will be missed once they graduate. I wish them all the best of luck.

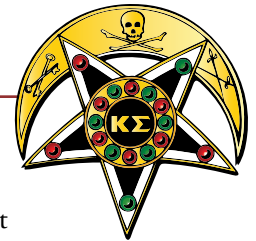
FACE Tres?

Gamma-O has several brothers registered to attend the Kappa Sigma Leadership Conference this summer in New Orleans on July 9-11. We are confident that we will bring home our third straight FACE Award (Founder's Award of Chapter Excellence), and are excited to have a good time in New Orleans. The FACE Award is the highest honor awarded by the Kappa Sigma Fraternity to its chapters. Having won the FACE Award for the past two years running, we have set a standard of meeting the award's requirements an annual expectation for Gamma-O. I consider this a testament to the strength of our Chapter, and I believe Gamma-O is currently in a great situation. With the leadership of our officers and the continued hard work of all of the undergraduate brothers, Gamma-Omicron will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of the Chapter.

A.E.K.Δ.B.

Brad Harrison '07
Grand Master

2009 Gamma-Omicron Hall of Fame Recap



Last October 9, an overflow gathering of actives and alumni of the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma along with their guests assembled at the House for the 2009 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The decision was made to combine the 2009 Ceremony with the annual Homecoming celebration and barbeque held the next afternoon following the Jayhawks football game.

Following an informal reception at which the stories began to be told, everyone filled the dining room for dinner. As dinner ended, Tom Robinett ('68), representing the Corporation Board of Directors, welcomed everyone to the evening's festivities. Grand Master Andy Whitehead ('06) offered greetings from the Active Chapter and provided a quick update on the year's activities. The first real highlight of the evening was the announcement of Mitch Plummer ('06) as the Chapter Man of the Year. Academic achievements of the brothers were recognized by Billy Brandtonies ('02), the Alumnus Advisor.

The preliminaries having concluded, William H. Coughlin ('66) was introduced by his pledge father, Mike McNally ('64), as the 2009 Hall of Fame inductee in recognition of his outstanding achievements and service to the Fraternity and the community.

Bill took the opportunity to first thank his wife, Jill, for all of the love, support and good times throughout their marriage. He then briefly talked about coming to KU from Wellsville, Kansas as a pretty typical freshman, somewhat overwhelmed with academics lacking much of a social life. Change was soon to come, however, as Bill decided to go through rush at the beginning of his sophomore year and through the efforts of Alan Mulally, the rush chairman, and many others who recognized a good thing when they saw one, Bill pledged Kappa Sigma. As Bill told us that night, "that was one of the best decisions of my life. I developed a level of self confidence I didn't know I had. I met brothers who have become lifelong friends."

Bill proceeded to get involved in a world of campus and Fraternity activities, including serving as Grand Master during his senior year. He was honored as a Phi Beta Kappa and graduated from KU in 1968 with a BA in mathematics. Bill joined George K. Baum & Company after graduation and where he currently holds the position of President. His professional, community and university honors and activities are too numerous to list here, but it is safe to say that he is well-deserving of being the newest member of the Gamma Omicron Hall of Fame.

Gamma-O's 2009 Hall of Fame Inductee William H. Coughlin '66



Address: 823 West 55th Street, KCMO 64113

Year initiated: 1966

Year graduated from K.U.: 1968

Degree(s): Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics
Graduate of Securities Industry Institute at
Wharton School of Business at University of
Pennsylvania

Occupation/Profession: President, George K. Baum &
Company, Financial Industry

Bill has served on various industry association committees including the Board of Directors of the Security Industry Association (SIA), Chair of the Seven State District #4 Business Conduct Committee (DBCC) of the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD), and a term as Chair of the Seven State South Central District of the SIA.

Community Participation:

- Chairman, Kansas City Chapter of University of KS Alumni Association
- Board of Directors of University of KS National Alumni Association
- Member and Chairman, Gamma Omicron Inc. of Kappa Sigma Board of Directors
- Heart of America Council Boy Scouts of America
- The Heart of America United Way
- Pembroke Hill School Board of Trustees
- The Children's Place Board of Directors
- Board of Directors for The Learning Exchange

- Board of Directors and current Chairman of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross
- Board of Directors Kansas City Public Television
- Board of Elders of the Village Presbyterian Church

Honors/Awards: Phi Beta Kappa, Omicron Delta Kappa

Family:

Bill and his wife of thirty-seven years, Jill, live in Kansas City, Missouri and have two children. Sarah, a graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, is married and lives in Boston. William is a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina and lives in Washington, D.C. Bill is a life member of the University of Kansas Alumni Association, the Williams Fund at the University of Kansas, and the Village Presbyterian Church.

Inductee's Remarks:

I grew up in a small town not far from Lawrence and was one of the first graduates of Wellsville High School to attend KU in many years. I lived in a basement apartment just north of the Student Union my Freshman year in an attempt to "concentrate on my studies" as my Mother liked to say. I did just that, but had no college life whatsoever so I decided to go through Rush as a Sophomore and soon realized someone with pretty good grades was in demand even though many houses were full. I was uncovered on the basement porch of the Kappa Sig House on the second night of Rush and was quickly introduced to the Rush Chairman, none other than the now famous, Alan Mulally. Turns out he was in desperate need of one more Pledge to meet his quota, so I was "hot boxed" to death and pledged a few days later. It was one of the best decisions of my life. Mike McNally became my Pledge Father and introduced me to a world of campus activities I would never have known existed otherwise. I developed a level of self confidence I didn't know I had and stretched myself to explore new and exciting adventures, both inside the Kappa Sigma House and on campus. I met brothers who have become lifelong friends and have shared in their life experiences.

I have been blessed in life with wonderful opportunities; a loving wife, a great job and two adorable children, neither of whom I could steer toward to KU, but they have both succeeded in their own right and are loyal Jayhawks at heart. My life as an adult started at 1045 Emery Road and I am forever grateful for the opportunities afforded me as a Kappa Sigma.



**Gamma-Omicron Chapter
Kappa Sigma Fraternity**
c/o Fraternity Management Group
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Tucson, AZ 85719

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SAVE THE DATE!

October 23rd, 2010

Fall Homecoming

Aggies vs. **Jayhawks**



More details to come as the date approaches!