Greetings from Lawrence and Gamma Omicron. Perhaps the most compelling and welcome news involving the Board and Chapter came from the Douglas County District Attorney and Lawrence Police Department which recently announced that, following two years of investigation into alleged sexual assault at a party in September of 2014, “there is no evidence of sexual assault nor drugging” and the investigation has ended. I was quoted in the Lawrence Journal World, complimenting law enforcement for its lawful and proper process of compiling evidence and statements before arriving at any conclusions, thus avoiding a rush to judgment. It’s particularly noteworthy that the DA’s statement wasn’t that there was insufficient evidence to obtain a conviction, etc., rather that there was no evidence at all.

So the conclusion of the Gamma O board and of Kappa Sig National that there was a hormone-and alcohol-charged party, was validated, and the abrupt reaction of KU to suspend the chapter before even interviewing a single person repudiated.

Don’t hold your breath in anticipation of an apology or any public statement from KU. Fortunately the guys in the chapter have persevered and, despite bad mouthing from some fraternity competitors, achieved the chapter’s goal of 26 new members this school year and have already signed seventeen young men to join Kappa Sig next August, well ahead of past years. 56 guys now reside at Kappa Sigma, lower than ideal but still sufficient for the chapter to cover its expenses, and we expect the total next school year to be in the mid 60’s. Had KU not reacted excessively and released harsh and grossly inaccurate comments, we’d reasonably expect our in-house population to be in the 70’s as it was before. But between the DA announcement and time, the recruitment impediment from unwarranted reputational damage will dissipate.

Elsewhere you’ll read the GM’s report about chapter activities and grades, and I won’t repeat it here. You’ll also read about Mom’s weekend which was a big success and great fun for all, highlighted by the fact that our moms partied on the patio with 70s and 80s music to the point that the neighbors complained about noise. Our guys’ moms are great partiers!

Our physical facility itself continues to impress, the renovation concluded nearly twenty years ago has held up well. Having visited nine other “major” fraternities this past year, I believe there are only two whose facility is comparable in combining quality and a warm, “homey” feeling. Meanwhile the “student housing” market in Lawrence has evolved dramatically with a couple huge apartment facilities near campus that promote luxury and convenience, but still are institutional
Over the past year the Gamma Omicron chapter has managed to thrive. The overall attitude of members has vastly improved and we are seeing a much higher rate of involvement by in-house members. The newly initiated pledge class of 2016 shows great promise as they have, of their own volition, filled several key roles in the chapter.

There were several events that highlighted the fall semester. The Hall of Fame Induction/Scholarship Dinner in which Max Schooley and Bob Sauder (posthumously) were inducted was a huge success. Not only was it a very special night for Max and Bob’s family, it was a testament to Gamma Omicron’s IFC award-winning scholarship program.

The chapter GPA was once again above a 3.0, well above the all men’s average, and 11 members were awarded with financial stipends for their formidable results in academics.

The fall semester GPA of our new members was considerably better than in the recent past, for example it was about 20% higher than fall of 2014. A combined dinner exchange and philanthropy event was held with Alpha Chi Omega benefitting the Willow Domestic Violence Center. This event was a huge hit with more than 80 fantastic women from AXΩ coming to the house to participate and help this great cause. It was a great way for new members to meet and interact with new sorority members while also helping those in need.

In addition to academics, our members have become very involved on campus through both athletics and extra-curriculars. In athletics, Adam Scherzer of the pledge class of 2015, has continued to excel on the lacrosse field playing for KU’s club team. Additionally, there was tremendous participation in intramurals with Kappa Sig fielding four basketball teams and our 1st team making it to the third round in the playoffs. Multiple members hold leadership positions on campus. Senior Joe Lemieux and I are both graders for a managerial accounting course, Accounting 201, and sophomore Cole Smith is a member of KU’s business leadership program as well as a student representative for the Finance Curriculum Advisory Board.

With the ending of the university’s restrictions imposed upon the chapter, Gamma-O has begun to thrive socially and will continue to thrive in the coming semesters. We held a fun slip-and-slide event before the fall semester began, with women from three sororities attending. Recently an out-of-town formal in St. Louis over the Mardi Gras weekend was executed for the first time and it was the talk of campus! Our social chairmen had quite the task of coming up with fun events for the chapter while it was under sanctions. Now that these sanctions have been lifted, they have begun to show us just how talented they are.

The Margaritaville Party has been one of Gamma O’s biggest events for rush and is finally going to be able to happen again this year. Our social and rush chairmen are hard at working planning the party and ensuring that there are a substantial number of young men who can see one of the most fun events any fraternity could offer in addition to all the other benefits Kappa Sigma provides. There is a great deal to look forward to this semester for the brothers of Gamma Omicron. As the semester continues, we look forward to rebuilding our brand and continuing our successes from the past year!
in feel. KU inexplicably is expanding its dorm capacity while Lawrence undergraduate enrollment is essentially unchanged over the last five years. KU issued a positive press release crowing about this year’s Lawrence campus frosh enrollment, which increased by about 0.5%, hardly sufficient for that dorm space and still less than it was six years ago. When current projects are completed in a year, KU Housing will have space for ~500 more students in dorms, and an increase in annual debt service of about $12M. Compared to its twenty “peer” Midwest public colleges, KU’s tuition and fees cost is second highest, and even before the effect of the new debt service, the average cost to live in a KU dorm is now about 10% higher than the Kappa Sig housebill. To me and many alums of other fraternities whom I know, it’s unfathomable that a business-KU- is taking on considerable debt to increase capacity when its market (entering students) is, and has for years, been flat.

I imagine many brothers have read with alarm the stories of the environments on many college campuses-hostility to free speech, need for “safe spaces”, and accommodation of those experiencing perceived slights. KU has actually established a policy whereby, to avoid “microaggressions” everyone affiliated with the university is supposed to use gender pronouns when referring to other people, that those people have specified in their KU profile. I first became aware of this in receiving an email from a female administrator which, in the programmed close at bottom of her email, denoted to use the pronouns “her” and “she” to apply toward her. Believe it or not, it is an offense at KU for someone to use an incorrect pronoun when referring to another person whose profile stipulates a pronoun. So using the term “her” to refer to someone who stipulated to be called “it” (that is truly an option) is a violation of the conduct code. How KU believes this pattern prepares its students for the real-world I don’t know, but can assure you that the fraternity still expects performance, responsibility, and contribution from guys in the chapter and, as in the real world, rewards it when quantitative goals are achieved. Hopefully Kappa Sigs departing KU will be better-equipped to be successful, self-sufficient, and contributing members of society than most “snowflakes”.

A rather offbeat but “way cool” event occurred at the house late last summer when a film crew from L.A. filmed scenes from the independent movie “The Dreams of Rene Sendam” at 1045. A graduating senior, Travis Diesing ’12, majored in Film and Media Studies and

*Continued on page 5*
The mission of the Educational Foundation is to achieve an endowment fund with assets sufficient to allow the annual earnings to fund meaningful scholarship/leadership programs and maintain the educational facilities at the Chapter House. When this is achieved, it will be a beneficial recruiting tool and a means of clearly focusing the chapter’s individual and combined efforts on scholarship and leadership, plus maintaining the finest education facilities for the Chapter.

There has not been a lot of recent news regarding the Educational Foundation, but rest assured the Foundation is still functioning and supporting the Chapter. To-date the Foundation has raised nearly $300,000 in support of its goal to have an endowment of $1 million. Total assets in the Foundation, including an Educational loan to the House Corporation, amount to nearly $320,000 with almost all the annual non-contribution income generated from the House Corporation loan.

As communicated earlier this year, maintaining the “public” status of the Foundation is a challenge each year. It is very important that our Foundation maintain its status as a “public” foundation (therefore less restrictions), instead of a “private” foundation (resulting in more restrictions, especially for donors of appreciated assets). While it is always welcome to receive a large donation from an alumnus, maintaining our “public” status requires receiving a lot of smaller contributions from many alumni. So no contribution is too small and the more alumni who contribute the better.

News from our recent appeal to alumni to assist with maintaining our status as a “public” foundation is good. As of the end of April, a total of $7,930 has been generously contributed by 31 alumni. This puts our Foundation’s public support test over the 33.33% requirement for the current tax year. Thank you for your continued help.

Finally, the Foundation will begin to provide scholarships this Fall based on the results of the current academic school year. While we are not at our endowment fund goal, we feel it is important to begin to provide a few meaningful scholarships to deserving recipients of the Chapter. The Scholarship/Leadership program initially developed by undergraduates and alumni will be used as the basis to determine the awards. The annual non-contribution income will provide the funding for the awards, leaving the corpus of the Foundation’s endowment intact.

Remember, Kappa Sigma is not for a day, or an hour, or a college term only, but for life. Your continued generosity will help support that for the many future members of our Chapter to come.

ÆEKΔB,
Ed Grass ’77

Thanks again to those of you who made a donation to the Educational Foundation in response to our recent “public” tax status appeal.

Tony Witt ’50
Jack Abercrombie ’53
John Stites ’54
Fred Leport ’57
Jim Wright ’57 (in Memoriam from House Corporation)
Bob Eaton ’59
Don Foster ’59
Richard Kline ’59
Larry Sluss ’60
Richard Davis ’60
Stephen Plaster ’61
John Walter Blair ’63
Dale Reinecker ’63
Michael McNally ’64
Jim Mackenzie ’64
Craig Beach ’65
Danforth Austin ’65
John Summers ’65
John Callaghan ’66
James Wilson ’67
David Steen ’68
Charlie Hartmann ’68
Mike Helbert ’70
Stan Plummer ’70
Lloyd Boone ’71
Carl Strutz ’77
Eric Grass ’78
David Gast ’79
David Van Eekeren ’88
Brad Fishman ’95
Ryan Heman ’99
Jonathan McConnell ’02
had found work with the company, many of its members being KU graduates. They needed a setting of a classical, formal room for an interaction involving Sendam and the president at a cocktail party. Your humble correspondent had the role of “well-dressed gentleman next to the president”, and if I do say so, may be in the running for future major roles. But it was quite something with the cameras rolling on tubular tracks, shots from all angles, and myriad lighting changes. Now I know why even basic movies cost so much to produce.

We also have something unusual planned for this summer, when we will host a team from Kent, WA which will be in Lawrence competing at the National Junior Olympics tournament. Their coach contacted KU to ask about staying at a fraternity or sorority in lieu of hotel/motel, and Kappa Sig responded. We’ll accommodate about 40 participants, parents, and coaches, the only KU fraternity to do so.

This marks my last communication as Gamma Omicron Board Chair; Skip Gast ’71 is taking over, and he has been outstanding in contributing as a board member for the last couple years. His background—most notably having spent over a decade as VP of HR for Black and Veatch—should be a great asset. On the subject of the Board, you’ll read elsewhere of the passing of Jim Wright who had left it last year as he and Patty prepared to move to Colorado. Jim had endured very complex head-and-neck surgery for an oral cancer about four years ago and beaten it, but sadly was felled by influenza. He was an absolute stalwart on the Gamma O Board and epitomized the best characteristics one could ever hope for in a fraternity brother.

AEKΔB,
David Steen ’68, Chairman, Gamma Omicron, Inc Corporation Board
Robert (Bob) Sauder ‘47

Robert “Bob” Abraham Sauder was born in Madison, Kansas on December 24th 1926, along with his twin brother, Raymond. Bob was always busy building and creating during his childhood. One of his favorite creations was a large Ferris wheel which he constructed in his back yard. Bob attended school in Madison and graduated from Madison High School.

Bob and Ray enlisted in the US Navy and were sent to basic training at USNTC, Great Lakes, Illinois on December 1944...before their 18th birthday. After boot camp Bob completed metalsmith training at the Naval Training School, Norman, OK. Bob and Ray were assigned to the aircraft carrier the USS Boxer (CV-21) in the Pacific Theater. Bob served as an aviation metalsmith and bragged that he was the only sailor in his crew to achieve a perfect score on the aviation recognition test. Bob was honorably discharged April 26, 1946 with the rank of Seaman, 1st Class (AM), having received the Victory Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

After the Navy, Bob attended the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he majored in architecture although his passion was rooted in engineering, and joined Kappa Sigma following in the footsteps of his older brother Lee.

After KU, Bob joined his father's tank company in Madison; it was great timing because the area was going through an oil boom and every drilling rig needed a tank. The Sauder Tank Co. sold redwood tanks and bolted tanks (welded ones came along later). By the 1950s, Sauder Tank Co. was well-established, but the company planned to start doing custom work in pressure vessels and needed space and a better transportation setup, including a railroad link. Bob, then Vice-President and General Manager made the decision to move to Emporia in 1955 and opened the Emporia plant in 1956. One huge breakthrough for the company came in 1962, when it was contracted to build 13 sets of tanks for missile sites around Wichita. The tanks weighed about 38 tons each, even painting them was a tall order, requiring about 70 gallons of paint.

The company became Sauder Industries in the ’60s and Bob recognized the need for large industrial furnaces to help facilitate the construction of their oil field equipment. Unable to find a suitable and affordable furnace, Sauder produced them themselves with such quality that they began manufacturing furnaces for sale. Bob was proud of many of his inventions, particularly the Port-a-Lift, a vehicle designed to lift an 800,000 pound steel vessel, the largest item ever shipped by rail at the time. Another major product development was furnaces that could stand 2,400 degree temperatures — several times hotter than the company’s existing furnaces. Bob developed a product called Pyro-Bloc, which could take the heat and protected the furnace’s fastener. This also led him to develop a specialized gun to attach the Pyro-Bloc to the furnace. Bob always said that Pyro-Bloc was the product that gave him more joy than any other. Pyro-Bloc is today produced by Thermal Ceramics and is manufactured and sold worldwide today. Bob Sauder stayed with the company until 2000, by then the company had grown from its initial 25 employees to about 175 workers.

The company was sold again in the early ’80s and Bob stayed on in his roll of research and development primarily working at Thermal Ceramics. He traveled worldwide, as sales and production spread throughout South America, Europe and Asia. Pyro-Bloc now is owned by Morgan Advanced Products in Bromborough, UK.

Bob was awarded numerous patents, both foreign and domestic. In 1967, he was invited to the White House, and was named one of the top small business owners in America. He was also honored as Regional Inventor of the Year by the Houston Patent Attorneys. Bob was also very active in many civic organizations in the city of Emporia, serving on the Boards of Emporia Schools, the Emporia Chamber of Commerce and the Emporia Country Club, and as a director for Emporia State Bank and Emporia Enterprise. He was a charter member of the Founder’s Society of Emporia State University, a trustee of the First United Methodist Church, and a member of Emporia Rotary Club, where he was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.
While visiting his sister in Clarksville, Tennessee, Bob met Paula Rudolph on a blind date. He convinced her to take a chance on him and she uprooted from her southern home and moved to Madison, Kansas. They were married for 62 wonderful years. Bob was an avid golfer, and he and Polly split their time between Emporia and their home in Naples, Florida for 30 years. They were members of the Naples Heritage Country Club and the Naples Philharmonic. He loved the University of Kansas and enjoyed 58 years as a season ticket holder for Jayhawk football and basketball. Bob and Polly loved to travel and enjoyed many trips with friends and family alike. Bob and Polly had three children, Paul (Molly) Sauder, Anne (Bill) Wall and Julia (Matt) Werner, all graduates of the University of Kansas. To date, they have five great-grandchildren. Bob died on January 16th, 2014 in Emporia at the age of 87.

Cheryl and Max then moved to Hahn AFB in Germany for three years, returning to Davis-Monthan as an F-4 instructor in 1969. Even though he was an instructor he also received additional training including the USAF Fighter Weapons School at Nellis AFB, where he received the Outstanding Flying Trophy. With that he returned to Luke to handle the roles of flight and also academic instructor.

In 1973 he took the post of Flight Commander and Weapons Officer for the 497th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Ubon AFB, Thailand. A year later they moved back stateside, to Nellis AFB, where Max was Chief, F-15 Operational Section. Moving east to Langley AFB, VA, Max served from 1978 until January 1981 initially as F-16 Air Operations Officer and later as Chief of the F-16 Systems Office at Langley. In January, 1981, it was back to Nellis where he won the Top Gun Award in his F16 checkout class.

Max finished his Air Force career in July of 1985 at Nellis, serving finally as Director of Tactics and Test for, believe it or not, the A-7, A-10, F-111. F-4, F-5, and F-16. Max’s flight record is remarkable; he amassed 3200 hours of fighter time in the F-4, F-5, F-15, and F-16 including 173 combat missions, 62 of them over North Vietnam, and 551 combat hours. The Air Force recognized him with the Meritorious Service Medal with Cluster, Air Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

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After living in all those localities, Max and Cheryl returned to Kansas (Haviland to be specific) where he farms, hunts (typically with a “flock” of Kappa Sig fraternity brothers), fishes, and skis (but not in Kansas). He and Cheryl had two boys, one of them the Chief of Lift Maintenance at Grand Targhee Ski Resort in Wyoming, the other a cardiologist in Colorado Springs. Cheryl passed away in 2014, survived by Max, the two boys, and five grandchildren.

Chapter members who were recognized were Jack Rose, Cole Smith, and Chris Vuong (all As), Jack Clifford, Spencer Cook, Mike Merenda, Tanner Ryan (GPA 3.51), David Barney, Noah Bortnick, and Jared Hutchins (GPA 3.31-3.50), David Barney and Cole Carlberg (Committee Chair Overachievers), and Noah Bortnick (Fred Green Community Service).

The next Hall of Fame induction and performance recognition will occur this fall; check out the Gamma O website for details. Meanwhile please contact Dave Steen (steen-d@sbcglobal.net) to recommend any alums for induction, we now have recognized 94 Kappa Sigs with this distinction.
Jack Abercrombie ’53  
780 Meadowgrass Dr. Florissant, Missouri 63033,  
H: (314) 921-5229, E: abercrombie.jack@gmail.com  
Jack is married to Carolyn and has retired from McDonnell Douglas as a Chief Tech Engineer.

Richard Guthrie ’59  
6918 W 129th Pl; Leawood, KS 66209-39, H: (913)530-6434,  
E: rickku62@att.net  
Richard is living in Kansas with his wife, Dian. Together, he and Dian have four children, Chris, Jay, Pat, and Gayla. Richard is also retired from being Regional Manager of Public Affairs at Southwestern Bell.

Kent Sundgren ’72  
1835 Starstone Ct; Colorado Springs, CO 80919-2912,  
H: (719) 661-7658, E: pkswork@yahoo.com  
Both Kent and Debbie have retired officially this past year and are enjoying the new schedule and freedoms. Kent is continuing to coach motorcycle safety classes during the warmer months. They have both their sons, Harrison and Zachary (both are Kappa Sigma brothers), in the area and Harrison and his wife, Brittany, have added a grandson to the family, Justin M. Sundgren, who is now 2 years old.

Timothy Hayes ’73  
5806 Briarwood Ct, #5, Grandview, MO 64030, H: (816) 753-6362,  
E: coach1149@aol.com  
Bubbs is shown dressed as Santa Claus and comments, “I’m Regressing at this point and time...I’m back in the Music Bus...”

Todd Hershberger ’79  
15426 Iron Horse Circle; Leawood, KS 66224,  
H: (913) 481-5330, E: thershberger@kc.rr.com  
Todd is married to Alison and is currently working at CBIZ MHM LLC as a managing director of business development.

Elliot Reno ’81  
931 Shavano Peak Dr; Superior, CO 80027-60, (805) 587-3885,  
E: ereno1961@sbcglobal.net  
Elliot is a Principle at EKR9196 Consulting. He and his wife Heidi have two children, Meghan, 25, and Madyson, 20. He and Heidi have just moved back to Colorado from California, completing their 13-year hiatus from the state.
Sun Partners International (SPI) is a 501(c) (3) established by Mark Hannifan, ’71. Skip Gast, ’71 has been active in this volunteer organization since its inception.

The mission of SPI is to partner with international relief organizations to provide engineering and financial resources to facilitate the deployment of sustainable power systems in developing countries to promote community health, education, and economic development.

Successful projects include a two phase girls’ dormitory rehabilitation in Tanzania where a solar PV system with battery storage is now electrifying and lighting dormitory buildings that provide housing, kitchen, and toilet facilities for approximately 100 girls at the Idetemya Secondary School in remote Tanzania.

A water pumping project was also completed at the Idetemya Girls Dormitory (directly adjacent to the Idetemya Secondary School). This work helped provide a safe, secure facility for teenage girls to reside and study - minimizing risks associated with them walking long distances to attend a rural school. Clean water was also provided for the facility’s many residents, including staff.

Black & Veatch, Skip’s former employer, and SPI are currently positioning to stabilize energy supply at a critical medical health care center in Karatu, Tanzania, where 19,000 patients receive vital outpatient medical treatment each year.

These and other important projects provide engineering and funding assistance to deploy solar photovoltaic (PV) power and water systems to promote health, education, and economic development. SPI collaborates with other non-profit/NGOs or individual villages and communities in developing countries to undertake projects that are both sustainable and of extremely high value, including:

- Delivery of clean water via solar-assisted water pumping;
- Power for medical clinics;
- Power for school facilities, especially targeting the education of girls; and
- Projects that support micro-enterprises.

To date, SPI has completed projects in Zambia and Tanzania and is exploring additional project opportunities in East Africa, the Americas, and in the U.S. Check out Sun Partners International at http://www.sunpartners.org to learn more about SPI’s upcoming projects and how you can help.
Jim Wright’s legacy to Gamma Omicron-Kappa Sigma was total loyalty to our motto… A.E.K.D.B. He entered our Gamma-O Hall of Fame in 2011 and served as a Corporation Board Member over 25 years.

Our first memory of Jim Wright was the day we pledged. He was a friendly Junior wearing a welcoming smile, offering a strong handshake, and making us feel that we’d made the right decision about joining Kappa Sigma.

In 1958, pledges were segregated from actives… except for Jim. He treated us as brothers even though we had not yet “met the test” for initiation. Jim offered his friendship by inviting us to share a pizza at The Campus Hideaway. It became a frequent venue for the three of us. Jim’s unwavering encouragement and guidance for balancing our studies and the hassle of pledge training, helped lead to our success at KU.

Jim was our mentor, our pal and our brother for 59 years. Being in his wedding party was special. “Stretch” is our nickname for Jim… a result of an incident playing 1st base for our Kappa Sig intramural softball team. The name stuck… we called him “Stretch” till the day he left us. He loved it. Stretch was a talented (really good) golfer, enjoyed “games of chance”, and loved the Jayhawks! Especially at Allen Field House… for many years, a season ticket holder.

We admired Jim’s personal style, impeccably dressed to match the venue with a knack for saying the “right words at the right time”. It seemed that “cool” ladies admired him too… or, was it his 1956 turquoise Thunderbird? Of course, he disagreed! Jim was named one of the “Best Lawyers In America” from 1995-2012. He practiced for 50 years and retired in 2012. He held numerous Bar Association positions and was president or a board member of several charitable organizations. He was married to Patty and has three adult children, two step sons and six grandchildren.

Thanks for the memories, “Stretch”.
AEKDB
Rich Guthrie ’59 Roy Knapp ’59

The Corporation Board requests nominations for the Gamma-O Hall of Fame. If you know any candidates who have distinguished themselves in their profession after graduation from KU, please forward names to:

David Steen at steen-d@sbcglobal.net
or via the website, Gamma-O.org

Please provide a brief resume of the accomplishments as well as name, address, email address, phone numbers, and years of attendance at KU. It’d be helpful for anyone submitting a nomination to also provide complete contact information for them; self-referral is welcome as is recommendation of any Brothers who have passed on. Let us know of anyone you feel is worthy, and thank you for your help.

**Memorial to Jim Wright 1938-2017**
SAVE THE DATE
OCT 7TH, 2017
VS. TEXAS TECH

PLAN TO VISIT THE CHAPTER
HOUSE BEFORE KICKOFF

VISIT GAMMA-O.ORG
FOR MORE DETAILS

VISIT US!
WWW.GAMMA-O.ORG
ALUMNI
UNDERGRADS
RUSH
EVENTS & MORE!

LIKE US!
KAPPA SIGMA AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS