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# G-O LITE

FALL 2019



## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Gamma-Omicron Alumni and Brothers, as I'm sure you're all aware, Kappa Sigma Nationals is celebrating their 150th Anniversary this year! The five friends and brothers drafted the first documents to start our beloved fraternity on December 10th, 1869 on 46 East Lawn in Charlottesville, Virginia. To properly celebrate this tremendous occasion, Kappa Sigma Nationals held their 72nd biennial Grand Conclave at Charlottesville on July 24th through July 27th. Representing KU and our Gamma-Omicron Chapter was our Alumni Advisor, Cory Sims '04, and undergraduates De'Riece Burse '17, London Keller '18, Andrew Klimiuk '18, and Jack Protzman '18.

**Upper Left:** 46 East Lawn, University of Virginia, Charlottesville Virginia. Pictured L to R: Andrew Klimiuk '18, London Keller '18, De'Riece Burse '17, Jack Protzman '18, & Cory Sims '04.

**Upper Right:** Five Friends and Brothers at Kappa Sigma International Headquarters

**Lower Left:** 150th Anniversary Banquet Pictured L to R: Cory Sims '04, Andrew Klimiuk '18, De'Riece Burse '17, London Keller '18, and Jack Protzman '18

Kappa Sigma history and these new experiences strengthened their respect and appreciation of the legacy of Kappa Sigma as an organization. Our brothers participated in the elections of the new Supreme Executive Committee. They were also able to visit 46 East Lawn and see first-hand the location of the creation of Kappa Sigma. During the formal business meetings, our brothers were brought together with hundreds of other Kappa Sigma's from around the country to discuss this incredible milestone for our fraternity. One of the most memorable experiences for our representatives was visiting the Kappa Sigma International Headquarters. The memorabilia on the walls of the headquarters instilled feelings of pride and awe of our Kappa Sigma history.

On the last night of the 72nd biennial Grand Conclave, our representatives attended Kappa Sigma's Finest Hour Banquet. The event was held in the University of Virginia's basketball arena, John Paul Jones Arena. Gamma-Omicron was recognized for being a Champion Chapter (65 or more members) and for Academic Excellence in the Fall. The event was spectacular and the perfect ending to 150th year anniversary and 72nd Grand Conclave.

Our undergraduate representatives were able to more fully experience



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Please direct all news for the G-O Lite to P.O. Box 25251, Overland Park, Kansas 66225 or e-mail [KappaSigma@Gamma-O.org](mailto:KappaSigma@Gamma-O.org)

## UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

**Grand Master**  
Peter McNeal '16

**Grand Procurator**  
London Keller '18

**Grand Master of Ceremonies**  
Raef Steffan '16

**GrandScribe**  
Andrew Klimiuk '18

**Grand Treasurer**  
Aaron Chounramany '16

## ADVISORY BOARD

**Alumnus Advisor**  
Cory Sims '04

**Assistant Alumni Advisors**  
Justin Hughes '05  
Andy Whitehead '06  
Derek Hoefler '06  
Cory Bell '08  
Tyler Setter '08

## HOUSE CORPORATION

**President and Chairman**  
Nick Lombardi '02

**Secretary**  
Bobby Lutz '05

**Treasurer**  
Todd Witt '07

**Board Members**  
Dave Steen '68  
Tom Robinett '69  
Mike Helbert '70  
Robert Hagg '98  
Brian Harrison '05  
Daniel Heady '07

**Educational Foundation Board**  
Ed Grass '77  
Lloyd Hanahan '56  
John Davis '62

# GM grand master REPORT



The Fall 2019 semester for the Gamma-Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma promises to be one of the most successful semesters to date. 24 promising young men will be joining our ranks at the end of August in hopes of joining one of the most prestigious chapters of one of the most prestigious Fraternities in the Nation. With an Executive committee consisting of three in house seniors and two highly achieving sophomores, and with the incredible support of our alumni advisors and corporation board, our chapter is currently blessed with some of its best leadership in years. We've set our goals high, aiming to win a chapter FACE award for the coming academic year. It is a difficult award to win from Kappa Sigma as it shows that the all around health of your chapter is among the best in the nation, however, we are very confident in our ability to successfully attain this award. With a spring pledge

class planned and a possible second fall pledge class in the works, our chapter could end the academic year with close to 50 new members. Through the work of our scholarship chairmen, we believe we can help the incoming fall pledge class achieve at highly academically, only furthering the academic success our chapter has seen in the past two semesters. Our current academic goal is to achieve a top 5 gpa among all KU fraternities. Thanks to some fantastic work by our chapters community service and philanthropy chairmen, we believe we will accumulate more than \$10,000 for philanthropy as a whole and close to 30 hours of community service per in house member. All of these achievements will contribute greatly to our ability to win the chapter it's first FACE award in many years. I believe that by the end of this semester, with the right leadership and with continued support from our awesome alumni, the Gamma-Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma will be seen as one of the most successful chapters both at KU and nationally.

## Interview with Peter McNeil '16

### *What led to the success of pledging 24 new members?*

We got extremely lucky having some very generous alumni who donated money for us to have some really great rush events. Those really helped us have a successful semester with recruitment. The other rush chairs and myself also put in a lot of time meeting with kids for individual recruitment dinners, a time consuming process but one that shows the kids that you care.

### *What do you look for in new members you want to give bids to?*

At least this year, the rush chairmen were looking for students who could succeed at KU academically. There is currently a shift in Greek life to being more academically centered and having members be more involved in the community. We looked for guys who could accomplish this feat as well as excel socially.

### *What made you decide you wanted to be a rush chair?*

I wanted to be a Rush Chairman because I saw that there was some inexperience in the younger guys who wanted to hold the position. My main goal for being a Rush Chair was to help they underclassmen learn how to be good at rushing kids while also empowering them to organize larger rush events.

### *Briefly explain the impact our chapter of Kappa Sigma has had on your college years.*

I don't know if I can even put it into words. When I came here as a freshman I never thought I would end up as President. I feel like my best attributes have been heightened in my college years here at Kappa Sigma and I've been able to get the most out of my time here. It honestly surprises me still that I am where I am, but I think that I've had some incredible support from my friends here in the chapter and alumni that have which has helped me be the best version of myself.





Greetings brothers-

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and your fall is off to a great start! I write to tell you that the Gamma-Omicron Chapter is on firm ground heading into our 107th year of operation. Strong leadership from the Active Chapter and continued support from alumni volunteers has overcome a brief patch of lackluster performance as we look forward to multiple pledge classes this academic year, improving on last semester's GPA of 3.25 and a stronger presence on The Hill.

2019 marks the 150th Anniversary of Kappa Sigma and in that spirit of celebration, I ask that as alumni, we double our efforts to ensure the strength, livelihood and bonds of brotherhood we pledged as younger men. I encourage you to stop by the Chapter House this semester if you are in Lawrence and say "Hello" to the superb men who are continuing the vitality of our Order. And please meet our wonderful House Mother, Patrish – she ensures the guys stay on task and truly is the glue that keeps Gamma-Omicron running smoothly.

I would also be remiss if I didn't note the extraordinary contributions of three alumni brothers: Ed Grass '77 who manages scholarship dollars on behalf of the Educational Foundation; Dave Steen '68 who continues to work on behalf of the Chapter with other Greek organizations and the University; and Cory Sims '04, whose steadfast dedication to the Active Chapter is remarkable and irreplaceable. While financial contributions are always appreciated, the need for volunteers is ever-present – whether that be for mentoring, engaging other alumni to have a presence at the Chapter House or simply to aid in operations – we want to welcome you back into the fold and make sure you have the opportunity to make a positive impact on Gamma-Omicron.

I wish you and your families a healthy and happy Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you at alumni events or hearing from you in your desire to be involved in the forward progress of Gamma-Omicron

A.E.K.Δ.B

NICK LOMBARDI  
Board Chair  
Gamma-Omicron, Inc.  
nalombardi@aol.com

### HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

**By Check:** Contributions to the Gamma-O Educational Foundation can be mailed to Gamma-Omicron Chapter, P.O. Box 25251, Overland Park, KS 66225.

**By Credit Card:** [www.gamma-o.org/donate-online](http://www.gamma-o.org/donate-online)

Our donors are the key to ongoing excellence of Gamma-O Chapter. Please let us help you make a mark on our chapter by creating a planned gift that honors your wishes. Kappa Sigma's Gamma-O Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation that benefits the undergraduate members of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Kansas. We help fund educational programming, educational areas of the chapter house, and scholarship grants. Please let us know where you want to make difference! Please contact Ed Grass at [foundation@gamma-o.org](mailto:foundation@gamma-o.org) for more information or fill out this form and we will get back to you.

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## CAREER network

Gamma-Omicron looks to build a lifetime career network for our alumni and undergraduates. We hope to see alumni join us back at the chapter house for a career panel and networking event each year. We are looking for alumni willing to take the time to speak to an undergraduate about his career. Our LinkedIn is used in hopes that we can create an opportunity for career networking for all of our alumni and undergraduate members.

Please contact Brian Harrison at [brian.harrison0@gmail.com](mailto:brian.harrison0@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining a career panel and/or taking a phone call.



# WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?



## David Butts '59

David and his wife, Nancy, live in Hilton Head, South Carolina. He recently returned from a trip in Aruba and had a great time. David is retired. He still has fond memories of his days at KU and at the Kappa Sigma House. David had a great time being a Kappa Sigma brother.

## Fred Leport Jr. '61

Fred and his wife, Irma, live in Union, Kentucky. He spends his winters in Cortez, Florida and his summer in Union Kentucky. Fred is re-married and is trying to keep up with his daily activities.

## Scott Shuman '72

Scott lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He is semi-retired. He enjoys spending time with his sons: John, Dylan and Eric. Eric is married living in Illinois, Dylan just graduated from high school, and John is in junior high school turning 14 next year.

## Jeffrey Bragalone '81

Jeff and his wife, Mickie, live in Dallas, Texas. He is an attorney and a founder of Bragalone Conroy PC. Five of his Gamma-Omicron classmates (from '81 and '82) joined him in Crested Butte last ski season for a fun get together. He had not seen one of the attendees in 35 years! Jeff felt like they had just left the chapter house to go skiing, but with a few extra pounds and a bit less hair.

## Patrick Gahagan '81

Patrick and his wife, Karen, live in Overland Park, Kansas. He is the Vice President of Strategic Projects for Hallmark Cards.

## Dr. Matthew Dewein '86

Matt and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Denton, Texas. He works for the University of North Texas as the Assistant Director Division of Student Affairs Student Disability Services.

## John Shelburne '96



– John, also known as Seabass, lives in Dallas, Texas. John is the founder of CatFIX technology and has held sales positions with financial service companies in North America and Europe. During rush John was impressed by the Gamma Omicron alumni and their work with the Jayhawk Music Festival. He held the position of Social Chair and worked with the 1997 Jayhawk Music Festival team acquiring sponsorships. He cherished his time spent in Lawrence and will always be in debt to Gamma Omicron for the doors that opened for his career in financial technology.



## Chris Rittenmeyer '97

Please take a moment to remember our brother. Chris passed away in 2016 as a result of a diving accident in North Florida. He was a Partner at Boston Consulting Group in Dallas, Texas. He was able to travel all over the world for his job. Chris loved to golf, snow ski and water ski. Diving was a sport that he cherished. Chris was creative, insightful and humorous. He was the perfect example of a true AEKDB brother, and he will never be forgotten. John Shelburne '96 would like to set up a scholarship in Chris's name as a tribute to his life. If you would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please contact John Shelburne at [jshelburne@gmail.com](mailto:jshelburne@gmail.com). *Christopher Allen Rittenmeyer, 1977-2016*

## David Barney '15

David lives in Laguna Beach, California. He is the Assistant General Manager at Gina's Pizza and Pastaria as well as a Personal Trainer at The Well Fitness Studio. He earned a B rating in the California Beach Volleyball Association by placing second in a 2 on 2 beach volleyball tournament. He moved out of his parent's house and is now lives in his own beach front condo.



# Fall 2019 Initiates



Upper Left: The chapter doing paintball in October 2019  
Lower Left & Right: Hosting the Natural Ties Community Service event at the house





## NEWLY INSTALLED BOTTLE FILLER ON SECOND FLOOR

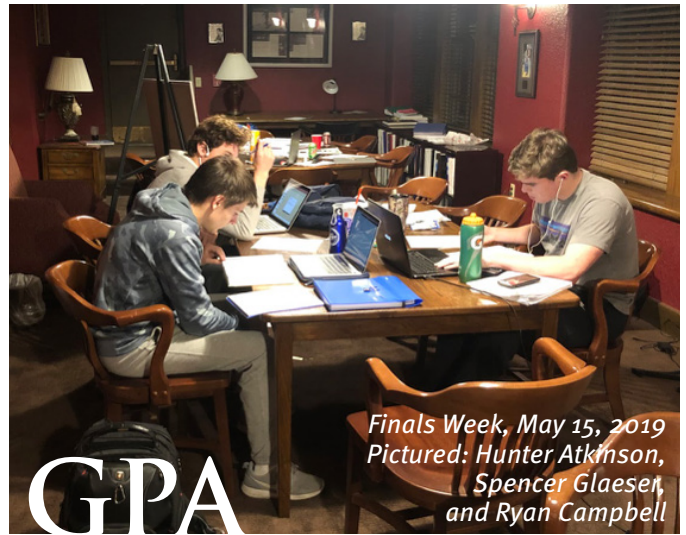
This last summer, the Gamma-Omicron chapter house received a bottle filler water fountain on the second floor. As small as this addition might seem, it's actually a welcome update to our undergraduate brothers. Grand Scribe Andrew Klimiuk explains, "It's very convenient to have a water bottle filler and water fountain on the second floor. It's a simple thing but it's a really great thing to have it." Gamma-Omicron wants to thank Nick Lombardi and the Sons of Thunder for making this addition possible. Support like theirs allows our chapter to stand out among the Kappa Sigma chapters and other fraternities. A special thank you to Bob Lutz who generously donated a similar water filler for the third floor.



The house has been supplied with new Ritual Equipment, purchased with the funds donated by:

Dave Steen  
Dave Gast  
Billy Brandtonies  
Nick Lombardi  
and others

**THANK YOU**



*Finals Week, May 15, 2019  
Pictured: Hunter Atkinson,  
Spencer Glaeser,  
and Ryan Campbell*

## GPA IMPROVEMENT

Our undergraduates rocketed to a 3.2 combined GPA for Fall 2018 and a stellar 3.25 for Spring 2019. This was an incredible achievement for Gamma-Omicron because during the Fall 2017 – Spring 2018 school year our undergraduates couldn't crack a 3.0. James Clifford '17 was the scholarship chair during Fall 2018. He explained that his method to improve grades was to take study hours seriously and hold study hours religiously for at least fifteen hours a week. This has paid off tremendously; the current scholarship chairs are aiming for a house average of 3.3 for Fall 2019. Please continue to wish our undergraduate brothers' luck as they study and prepare for their future careers.

## RECRUITMENT SUCCESS

This past recruitment season has also immensely helped Gamma-Omicron. Our undergraduates were able to gain 24 new members for our Fall 2019 pledge class. Gamma-Omicron held several large rush events that allowed us to recruit sixteen new members. Most notably of those events was our Top Golf Event, and our trip to a Royals Game. Summer 2019 also played a large part in our success as well. High member turnout for formal rush helped recruit another eight pledges. Gamma-Omicron is always looking for kids with the desire to rush, please contact our rush chairs at [gammao.rushku@gmail.com](mailto:gammao.rushku@gmail.com).



*Royals Game Rush Event. Hosted by Rush Chairs TJ Wood, Rob Meade, and Peter McNeil*



# KAPPA SIGMA GAMMA-O UPDATE

## EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

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.

Since the Fall of 2017, the Foundation has awarded scholarship grants to five well deserving young men totaling \$9,250. The Scholarship/Leadership program initially developed by undergraduates and alumni was used as the basis to determine these awards. An important tenant of the program is the Chapter must succeed as well as the individual. When the Chapter GPA as a whole does not meet or exceed the All Men's Average on the Hill, no awards are made. I'm glad to report this tenant was met for Spring 2019 and additional awards will be paid out this Fall.

Special recognition goes to David G. Mackenzie '61 who graciously provided special contributions to the Foundation to be paid out currently in scholarships; many thanks to David for his generous support of the Chapter. While we are not at our endowment fund goal, we feel it is important to provide a few meaningful scholarships to deserving members of the Chapter. The annual non-contribution income provides the funding for the awards, leaving the corpus of the Foundation's endowment intact.

As previously communicated, maintaining the "public" status of the Foundation can be 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. Please keep the Foundation in mind when considering your charitable contributions.

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.

AEKDB  
Ed Grass '77



**Thanks to all who  
have contributed  
to the Educational  
Foundation and the  
Housing Corporation  
in 2019:**

Robert J. Eaton '59  
David G. Mackenzie '61  
Michael J. McNally '64  
David M. Steen '68  
Michael C. Helbert '70  
David L. Gast '79  
John Shelburne '96  
Chris Hartley '00  
Clint Jones '01  
Billy Brandtonies '02  
Adam Browne '02  
Robert M. Lutz '05  
Brian P. Harrison '05  
Nathan Jones '08





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Kappa Sigma Fraternity**

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## PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING

Gamma-Omicron is looking for volunteers. The key to our chapter's long-term success is dependent on the commitment of alumni volunteering some time with the chapter. Please consider one or more of the following areas (please check areas interested in learning more):

- Advisory Board
- Career Mentor
- Housing Corporation Board
- Sit on a Career Panel

Please contact Cory Sims at [corymsims@gmail.com](mailto:corymsims@gmail.com) or fill out the form below:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Initiation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Gamma-O, c/o Fraternity Management Group, P.O. Box 12010, Tucson, AZ 85732-2010.

## KEEP IN TOUCH — WITH — GAMMA-OMICRON

### WEBSITE

[HTTPS://WWW.GAMMA-O.ORG](https://www.gamma-o.org)

### FACEBOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
KUKAPPASIGMA](https://www.facebook.com/kukappasigma)

### INSTAGRAM

[HTTPS://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/  
KU\\_KAPPA\\_SIGMA/](https://www.instagram.com/ku_kappa_sigma/)

### LINKEDIN

[HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/  
GROUPS/4547558/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4547558/)

## SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST

We want to add your email address to our network, so we can include you in future email notices regarding alumni events, chapter updates, and Gamma-Omicron news. If you're not already receiving email notices from us, please fill out the following email sign up form at

<https://www.gamma-o.org/email-subscribe>