



# G-O LITE

FALL 2020

## Gamma-Omicron Earns 5th Founders Award of Chapter Excellence Award



The Founders' Award of Chapter Excellence is the benchmark award in the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, recognizing outstanding chapter management, achievement, and program development in all areas of operation. Gamma-Omicron proved itself to be a chapter of excellence by having a diligent executive committee, a strong alumnus advisor and an engaged housing corporation all working efficiently together. Gamma-Omicron is now the most improved Kappa Sigma chapter from 2018-2019. After earning a 3.54 semester GPA, recruiting 33 pledges for the fall and exceeding our expectations in development, the Gamma-Omicron chapter took home a FACE award.

Although the second half of the Spring 2020 semester was cut short due to COVID-19, Gamma-Omicron succeeded in multiple categories putting us in an incredible position not only historically, but for the fall 2020 semester. In mid-February, our dedicated Grand Master and Grand Procurator (Brothers Andrew Klimiuk '18 and Cole Young '18) drove nine hours to Oxford, Mississippi to represent Gamma-Omicron in front of the Supreme Executive Committee. Accompanying them was our fantastic Alumni Advisor, Brother Cory Sims '04. After several meetings with officers from Kappa Sigma Headquarters, the brothers returned to Lawrence. Shortly after, Gamma-Omicron was informed that their probationary status and social ban had been lifted. This proved to be a massive step towards overall success in every aspect of our chapter.

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## Cory Sims '04 Honored by KU



**Cory was named KU 2019-20 Outstanding Sorority and Fraternity Alumnus Service Award winner. An award very deserved by an alumnus that has "stepped-up" and really put in the time to help our chapter.**



Published by Gamma-Omicron of Kappa Sigma, founded May 18, 1912 in Lawrence, Kansas.

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

Andrew Klimiuk '18

### Grand Procurator

London Keller '18

### Grand Master of Ceremonies

Kole Nhingsavath '19

### GrandScribe

John Biehler '19

### Grand Treasurer

Luke Fritz '19

## 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

Robert Lutz '05

### Treasurer

Todd Witt '07

### Board Members

Billy Brandtonies '02

Dave Gast '79

Robert Hagg '98

Brian Harrison '05

Daniel Heady '07

Ted Pugh '00

Bob Robinett '70

Tom Robinett '69

Dave Steen '68

### Educational Foundation Board

John Hanahan '56

John Davis '62

Ed Grass '77

# GM grand master REPORT



## Andrew Klimiuk '18, Grand Master

Gamma-Omicron achieved tremendous success in the 2019-2020 academic year; however, the chapter's work is far from over. Despite COVID-19 hindrances, Gamma-Omicron is aspiring to have one of the most memorable Fall semesters in recent memory. Our chapter of Kappa Sigma has seen difficult times in the past, from the 1918 Spanish Flu, World War I, World War II, to The Cold War, issues in the Middle East, and everything in between. We will not let COVID-19 slow our progress to become one of the most dominant chapters at KU and nationally.

Strong leadership is one of the most important keys to a successful chapter, and this year we have 10 juniors living in the chapter house who are dedicated to providing leadership and guidance to the sophomores and freshmen. Our executive committee is experienced with two executive members returning to the positions they held last spring. Our strong undergraduate leadership coupled with alumni involvement will allow us to continue to improve the chapter and strengthen Gamma-Omicron's legacy.

We have recruited 36 new members for this fall; the most new members the chapter has pledged in the fall semester for over the last ten years. I have extremely high hopes for these young men; academically they are the strongest pledge class Gamma-Omicron has had in my three years as an undergraduate.

The chapter is currently readjusting our goals and targets for philanthropy and community service. We intend to support the Lawrence community to the fullest extent possible. To accomplish this mission we will be frequently supporting Lawrence businesses and volunteering wherever Lawrence needs our help. Now, more than ever, Gamma-Omicron must step up and show the character and strength of our brotherhood and fraternity.

In a time of high uncertainty and difficulty, it is easier for the chapter to become complacent about last year's accomplishments than to seek methods to build next year's successes. When we look back on Fall 2020, Gamma-Omicron will not be another organization to become silent. We will continue to push for excellence no matter how difficult the circumstances become.

## GAMMA - OMICRON HALL OF FAME



Please email your nominations to Matt Noble at [matt.noble@fmgucson.com](mailto:matt.noble@fmgucson.com)

Inductees are chosen based on success in their careers, and/or service to the community and/or fraternity and/or university.



## 15 and the Mahomies Foundation Fundraiser Event

Early in September, Gamma-Omicron was presented with the opportunity to compete in a fundraiser against 9 other Kappa Sigma chapters in the midwest. Funds were being raised in support of Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Patrick Mahomes' charity, 15 and the Mahomies Foundation. After receiving **192 total donations** from current undergraduates, alumni and parents **we were able to raise \$3117.07** for a cause that benefits less-privileged children in the Kansas City area. We took 3rd in the competition.

*Continued from Page 1*

After in person classes were cancelled and active members moved out of the chapter house, our persistence and dedication to achieving high academic grades still stood strong. Active members as well as spring pledges actively participated in virtual zoom classes and labs to finish off the semester, achieving a chapter average of a 3.54 GPA. This outstanding number was above the all-men's average and will be recorded as one of Gamma-Omicron's highest GPA for a semester. Along with the recognition from Brother Sims, Gamma-Omicron also earned an Academic Performance Merit award and a Risk Reduction and Management award. The brothers of Gamma-Omicron are incredibly proud of the achievements made by our undergraduate members and all of our alumni who have helped us get to where we are for the upcoming school year.

During quarantine, Kappa Sigma nationals held a virtual Madden Football tournament consisting of 128 chapters across North America. Brother De'Riece Burse '17 was our representative for this competition and eventually won the entire tournament, spotlighting our chapter as the 2020 Madden Tournament champions. Brother Burse has donated the trophy to the chapter house and it will soon be in the trophy cases.



*Brother De'Riece Burse '18 after winning the Kappa Sigma HQ Madden Tournament*



The coronavirus essentially shut down every aspect of in person rush. The ability to bring potential new members to the chapter house and meet different guys, go on a tour, etc, was suspended. Our dedicated rush chairmen developed a plan to actively search and recruit new members over zoom

meetings. In order to jumpstart this virtual recruitment, Brother John Biehler '19, filmed and edited a house video highlighting all major areas of the chapter facility. This video can be found on the Kansas Kappa Sigma YouTube channel at Kansas Kappa Sigma - YouTube-

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) > channel This video brought a sense of excitement that would normally be achieved through in-person recruitment. Throughout the months of March-July, the Rush chairmen actively recruited 36 pledges for the fall 2020 semester. This incoming pledge class will be the biggest pledge class that Gamma-Omicron has seen since 2014. The hard work that our rush chairmen put into recruitment paid off tremendously, resulting in the winning of a F.A.C.E. award.



Earlier in July, Brothers Andrew Klimiuk '18, John Biehler '19, Kole Nhingsavath '19, Mason Barrett '19, Dylan Vanatta '19, Luke Fritz '19 and Lawson Stroble '19 helped move in 30 new mattresses to the chapter house for use this fall.

In addition to these new mattresses, our generous alumni donated a new water fountain/bottle filler



for use on 3rd hall. This was installed during spring break and the gentlemen moving in will be happy to make use of it.





## Thanking Our House Mom Letters to Patricia

For Mom Harbaugh,

*On your 10th Anniversary with Gamma-Omicron, I wanted to say "Thank you" for all the care and warmth you've brought to the Chapter over the years.*

*I have always appreciated the amount of effort (and patience), warmth, and guidance a House Mom provides. Thank you for all you have done!*

Robert Mackenzie '72  
San Jose, CA

Mom Harbaugh,

*There are so many stories that could be told and most of which ended with you shaking your head in bewilderment at how we had managed to outdo our previous idiocy. Thank you for being there for the class of 2008 and everyone after. You have been a staple to the chapter and it wouldn't be the same without you.*

Best,  
Nick Barr, PC '08

*Patrish's experience as a leader in business has served her well in coaching/counseling the young men of Gamma Omicron.*

*There were many challenging times recently with a contingent of young men who continue to exhibit bad, destructive behavior not representative of what we expect from members of the active chapter. These behaviors lead to suspension of social activities. Through these difficult times, Patricia provided a steady, consistent leadership trying to guide these young men to better behavior. She became the source of disparaging comments from active chapter members as well as parents.*

Skip Gast '72

*Continued to Page 5*

## Gamma-Omicron Kicks Off Virtual Career Network and Speaker Series

Gamma-Omicron has recently established a unique career network and speaker series to connect alumni, parents and undergraduates. Created as a way to keep alumni and undergraduates engaged during the COVID-19 pandemic, this program has become a great network for Gamma-O alumni, parents and undergraduates. It's a great way to reconnect, share stories of success, and provide invaluable advice.



### SPEAKER series

The program kicked off this past spring and early summer with a few alumni speakers.

Stay tuned for future presentations by checking out our calendar at [www.gamma-o.org](http://www.gamma-o.org). If you are willing to make a 30-60 presentation on a career topic, email Matt Noble at [matt.noble@fmgtucson.com](mailto:matt.noble@fmgtucson.com).

### CAREER network

Gamma-Omicron is committed to creating leadership and career development opportunities for all of our members. Alumni can network with each other, parents and undergraduates, and take advantage of the career portal with career planning tips, leadership development information, job board, and mentoring platform. It's a unique program only offered by Fraternity Management Group to advance the career needs and possibilities of our members.

Alumni are encouraged to participate in the Gamma-Omicron Career Network. Learn more at <https://www.gamma-o.org/careers> (password career). Please contact Pete Parker at [pete.parker@fmgtucson.com](mailto:pete.parker@fmgtucson.com) if you are interested in any of the below:

- Enlisting as a career mentor for other alumni and/or undergraduates
- Posting jobs to the job board

The new speaker series and career network are made possible thanks to financial contributions from alumni as well as job postings. Thanks in advance for your



# WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?



## Jerry Palmer '59

lives in Topeka with his wife Anne. Jerry, a former attorney for Palmer & Lowry, is currently the President of Palmer Mediation LLC.

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## Bruce Werhan '71

lives in Dublin, Ohio with his wife Cindy. Bruce works as a Senior Attending Anesthesiologist for West Broad Anesthesia Inc.

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## Michael Tamburini '74

lives in Fairway with his wife Joan and two children. Michael, previously an Attorney for the Commercial Law Group, P.A., is currently a shareholder for the Levy Craig Law Firm, LLC.

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## Robert Chestnut '80

lives in Lawrence with his wife Micki and three children. Rob currently works as the Chief Financial Officer for the ProPharma Group in Overland Park.

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## Jon Newman '86

lives in Wichita working as a partner in the firm of Hite, Fanning and Honeyman, LLP. A partner for 23 years at the firm, Jon concentrates his practice in areas of employment law, civil litigation and workers compensation.

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## Drew Carter '92

lives in St. Louis as the President of Maritz Motivation Solutions where he works with software and data science. Drew also serves on the board of directors for BrightPoint health and has worked as a board member for SecureAxis, a software provider.

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## Zachary Fee '98

lives in Frisco, Texas with his wife Chody and two children. Zach works for UMB Bank, previously the President for the Texas Region. He now is the President for Regional Banking, overseeing commercial operations and lines of business for UMB.

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## Jonathan Holmes '05

lives in Longmont with his wife, Kelsy. Jonathan, previously a Senior Facilities Engineer for Oxy, currently works as a Facilities Engineer Team Lead for Noble Energy in Greeley, Colorado.

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## Daniel Heady '07

lives in Iowa with his wife Kristen where he works for the Iowa Farm Bureau as a Federal Lobbyist. Daniel oversees responsibility for the legislative and grassroots efforts of the state, national and international legislation and regulations impacting the Kansas wheat industry.

## More Letters to Patricia

*Continued from Page 4*

*Mom,*

*Thank you for always looking out for the guys in the house. Your stories and lessons on life have made myself, as well as my pledge brothers, better men. Thank you for taking the time to push us to the best of our abilities.*

*John Biehler '19*

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*Mom Harbaugh,*

*Thank you for always pushing me and chapter to be the best. Your constant encouragement and support have been crucial in the chapter's recent successes. You may not always receive the recognition that you deserve, but I and all of the other undergraduates appreciate everything you do for us.*

*Andrew Klimiuk '18*





## John Biehler '19

*Positions held:*

- T-Shirt Chairman
- Historian
- Pledge Educator
- Serenade Chairman
- Assistant Grand Scribe
- Grand Scribe

UNDERGRADUATE



# SPOTLIGHT

### What inspired you to join Gamma-Omicron?

“When I started the rush process during my senior year of high school, I didn’t really have a full grasp of what Greek Life at KU was. I went through several informal rush events and eventually ended up talking to my grandfather about his time here at Gamma-Omicron. My grandfather, Jim Biehler, was initiated into Gamma-Omicron in the fall of 1969. After hearing about his time here in the 70s, I decided to enroll in formal rush to learn more about the chapter and meet several of the active members. I had a great rush experience and ended up signing my bid. I am so grateful my grandfather gave me the opportunity to get in contact with the men of Gamma-Omicron.”

### What experience has Gamma-Omicron given to you so far?

“During pledgship I was able to see leadership at a different level. Having the opportunity to look up to the older guys on the executive board and make connections with them was crucial to my pledgship. I also had a great pledge dad, Peter McNeal ‘16, who also had a huge impact on my individual development.”



# SUPPORT GAMMA-OMICRON

THROUGH OUR GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

## LEGACY GIVING

Please consider leaving a legacy with Gamma-Omicron that helps us fund housing upgrades, career and leadership programs, scholarships based on the area you would like to impact. Learn more about Gamma-O's Leave a Legacy program at

<https://www.gamma-o.org/leave-a-legacy>



## A Special Thanks to our 2019-20 Donors

These donors have made a difference in Gamma-Omicron. Please help us grow this list to a 100 more donors.

## BECOME A GAMMA-OMICRON REGULAR DONOR/INVESTOR

With Gamma-Omicron back in good standing, we are looking for donors (investors) to help us excel as a chapter. We want to ensure that we have the funding to award scholarships, to provide educational programs, and complete some facility upgrades. You can give in one of two ways:

- 1 Make a one-time donation via credit card or check to our Educational Foundation and/or House Corporation and/or
- 2 Join our newly created 1912 Club as donor to the Educational Foundation and/or House Corporation, which is a monthly recurring gift donation via credit card. A monthly gift of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more will make a difference in our future chapter's success.

Visit <https://www.gamma-o.org/donate> or <https://www.gamma-o.org/give-to-educational-fund> to learn how you can support Gamma-Omicron through an online gift or check.

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reed C. Hoffman '41         | Danforth W. Austin '65        |
| Robert J. Dole '42          | Craig L. Beach '65            |
| Charles D. McCarthy '47     | John A. Callaghan '66         |
| Joseph P. Cox '52           | William H. Coughlin '66       |
| John B. Dunn '53            | James W. Wilson '67           |
| Lloyd B. Hanahan '56        | James W. Youngblood Jr. '67   |
| Robert H. Kralicek '57      | Charles E. Hartmann III '68   |
| Thomas E. Bertelsen Jr. '59 | Kenneth W. Ruthenberg Jr. '68 |
| Curtis A. Brewer '59        | Thomas A. Robinett Jr. '69    |
| Robert J. Eaton '59         | Michael C. Helbert '70        |
| Jon R. Irish '59            | Stanley R. Plummer '70        |
| Roy M. Knapp '59            | Lloyd D. Boone '71            |
| Lawrence A. Sluss '60       | Clinton L. Bull III '72       |
| Fred K. Green '61           | J. Darcy Domoney '72          |
| David G. Mackenzie '61      | Robert B. Mackenzie '72       |
| Stephen B. Plaster '61      | David W. Andreas '74          |
| John C. Davis '62           | Clifford L. Rovelto Jr. '75   |
| Don W. Rea '62              | John C. Long '78              |
| John Walter Blair '63       | J. Bradley Pace '81           |
| James B. Carter '63         | Robert D. Wolcott '81         |
| Dale A. Reinecker '63       | Jonathan P. Holmes '05        |
| Robert E. Funk '64          | Nicholas Barr '08             |
| Michael J. McNally '64      |                               |





Gamma-Omicron Chapter  
Kappa Sigma Fraternity

c/o Fraternity Management Group  
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Tucson, AZ 85732-2010

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# GAMMA-OMICRON GOES TO LAS VEGAS!



KAPPA SIGMA  
FRATERNITY  
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2020

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

JANUARY 8-10, 2021

Kappa Sigma Headquarters planned to hold its July 2020 Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado. However, due to COVID-19, Headquarters has rescheduled the Leadership Conference for January in Las Vegas! Our brothers were excited to go to Denver, but now they are looking forward to seeing Las Vegas. At this January Leadership Conference, Gamma-Omicron will be receiving our FACE award plaque along with other significant awards for successes last school year.

## KEEP IN TOUCH —WITH— GAMMA-OMICRON

### WEBSITE

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

### FACEBOOK

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GROUPS/342485026784148](https://www.facebook.com/groups/342485026784148)

### INSTAGRAM

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