



# G-O LITE

SPRING 2023

## Gamma-Omicron Chapter House Dedicated in the name of Robert J. Dole



The legacy of Brother Robert J. Dole '42 was forever embedded into the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma last week as the Housing Corporation dedicated the Chapter House in his memory. On Friday, May 20, alumni, undergraduates, and friends of the Gamma-Omicron chapter gathered for a VIP dinner in Kansas City. More than 40 alumni and guests, along with Worthy Grand Master Adam Merillat '02 and Worthy Grand Procurator Burt Trembly, were in attendance. The chapter facility was then open to all alumni for a commemorative open house event the following day. Alumni Brother Nick Lombardi '03 provided some opening remarks after an open house tour, welcoming Maria Fisher from the Dole Institute. Maria shared a few words regarding Brother Robert J. Dole's legacy, which was left behind not only for University of Kansas students and Kansas residents but for all Americans. Merillat then delivered a terrific summation of the life and values of Brother Dole '42, as well as his dedication to the principles of the Star and Crescent. The presentation ended with Brother Lombardi '03 officially declaring the chapter facility to be named the Hon. Robert J. Dole Chapter House. Although Brother Dole '42 passed away last year before the

chapter was able to notify him of its intent to name the chapter house in his honor, it's yet another recent honor for one of our most distinguished alumni. Brother Dole '42 who was named the 2020 Kappa Sigma Man of the Year and remains the only alumnus to receive the award twice (1970). "Kappa Sigma has always represented responsibility, kindness, and service to others— qualities that have shaped my life in nearly eight decades as a Brother," Senator Dole '42 said in his acceptance letter. "To have been selected as the Kappa Sigma Fraternity Man of the Year on two separate occasions is a significant honor that means a great deal to me."

A memorial scholarship/leadership fund has been established by the Gamma-Omicron chapter to honor the legacy of Brother Dole '42. If you would like to contribute to the fund, please go to [www.gamma-o.org/DoleMemorialFund](http://www.gamma-o.org/DoleMemorialFund).

**Gamma-Omicron will be hosting its annual Hall of Fame Dinner**  
Date TBD (October or November 2023)

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**INSERT**  
Get Involved &  
Support Gamma-O

## Highlights of the last year!

**May 2022**

Dedicated Chapter House in memory of Robert Dole

**July 2022**

Chapter recognized with third straight FACE award

**August 2022**

Rushed the largest pledge class in chapter history (Pg. 3)

**February 2023**

Created the first ever Heart of America District Conclave (Pg. 5)  
Participated in Rock Chalk Review for the first time this Millennium (Pg. 4)

**March 2023**

Chapter raised \$8000 for undergraduate scholarships during SAJ Weekend (page 6)

**April 2023**

Chapter joined independent KFL (Pg. 6)

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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

## UNDERGRADUATE OFFICERS

**Grand Master**  
Will Harnett '22

**Grand Procurator**  
Samuel T. Levy '21

**Grand Master of Ceremonies**  
Colin Christo '22

**Grand Scribe**  
Eric Richars '21

**Grand Treasurer**  
Andrew Swerczek '22

## ADVISORY BOARD

**District Grand Master**  
Cory Sims '04

**Alumnus Advisor**  
-Open-

**Assistant Alumni Advisors**  
Noak Bortnick  
Black McFarland

## HOUSE CORPORATION

**President and Chairman**  
Nick Lombardi '02

**Vice President**  
Dave Steen '68

**Treasurer**  
Todd Witt '07

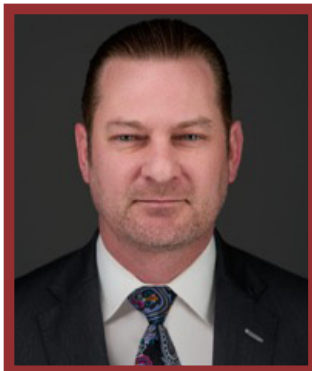
**Secretary**  
Robert Lutz '05

**Board Members**  
Tom Robinett '69  
Bob Robinett '70  
Mike Clay '71  
Dave Gast '79  
Robert Hagg '98  
Ted Pugh '00  
Billy Brandtonies '02  
Brian Harrison '05  
Daniel Heady '07

**Educational Foundation Board**  
John Davis '62  
Ed Grass '77  
John Hanahan '87

# CHAIR house corporation REPORT

## Nick Lombardi '02, President & Chairman



Greetings friends,

As we near the end of the semester it's nice to be able to reflect on the success of the chapter, the Big 12 Champion basketball team, and for the first time in a long time, the accomplishments of the football team.

This year has seen many milestones for our beloved Gamma-Omicron Chapter. First, this summer we were awarded our third straight F.A.C.E. Award and have set a standard of excellence throughout

the country for total men pledged, hours of community service volunteered, money donated to charity, and ritual proficiency. The hard work of our Alumnus Advisor, Cory Sims, and the active Chapter deserve hearty congratulations.

Also, this summer we dedicated the Chapter House in honor of Brother Bob Dole '42. Representatives from the Dole Institute, Kappa Sigma National Headquarters, Gamma-O alumni, and the active Chapter joined in Kansas City and at 1045 Emery Road to commemorate the occasion— which was a wonderful event. Special thank you to our House Director, Patricia Harbaugh, and her sons for making sure everything went off without a hitch.

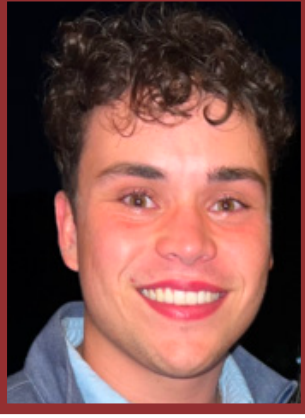
We have added new plaques to the Chapter House in honor of Brother Dole '42 and have also replaced all of the windows throughout the facility. If you have not been by the house recently, I invite you to pop in next time you are in Lawrence— the undergrads love it when alumni show up and it's vital to the legacy of our Chapter.

It is truly a great time to be a Gamma-O— membership is up, grades are good and the undergraduate leadership is top-notch. If you are interested in volunteering for the betterment of the Chapter, I encourage you to contact me directly to get involved and make an impact on the lives of these young men.

I hope you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Holiday Season, and we look forward to continued success at our Chapter and a repeat National Championship for the Jayhawks this Spring!

A.E.K..B.  
Nick Lombardi, '03  
Chairman  
Gamma-Omicron, Inc.





# GRAND MASTER REPORT

## William Harnett '22, Grand Master

The Gamma-Omicron Chapter at the University of Kansas had a very successful 2022 year and is looking to follow it up with an even better year in 2023. The fall pledge class of 2022 had 43 young men

initiated into the brotherhood, with the 2023 Spring class holding 17 members currently pledged. These freshmen and sophomores are already taking on leadership roles in the house. From rush chairs, to social committee members, to assistant to the grand scribe, these young members are making a huge impact very early. As for the executive committee, we have five very hard-working members serving these roles with passion. Grand Master Will Harnett and Grand Master of Ceremonies Colin Christo were in the 2022 spring pledge class, while the rest of the group were members of the 2021

fall pledge class: Grand Treasurer Andrew Swerczek, Grand Procreator Sam Levy, and Grand Scribe Eric Richards. These five men and two other members, Brett Bozich and Elliot Hann, had the privilege of attending the very first district conclave in Branson, Missouri. This event was put together by our District Grand Master, Cory Sims, and was a two-day long trip that took place from February 10th to 11th. Members that attended were able to talk with members of other chapters, as well as the Worthy Grand Master Adam Merillat. They were also able to learn more about ceremonies, the code of conduct, and the rush process. Brothers of the Gamma-Omicron chapter also just participated in the Stephen Alonzo Jackson weekend of giving from March 3rd through the 5th, where the chapter was able to raise 8,337 dollars– the 17th highest among all Kappa Sigma chapters. In another awesome accomplishment, we had one hundred percent participation from undergraduates for SAJ weekend.



## FALL 2023 NEW INITIATES

**Ben Van Sloun** – Cologne, MN  
**Ben Williams** – Edina, MN  
**Jonathan Belbas** – Edina, MN  
**Luke Billingsley** – Prairie Village, KS  
**Brendan Borner** – Chicago, IL  
**Austin Cardwell** – Olathe, KS  
**Murphy Conlon** – Chanhassen, MN  
**Noah Cummings** – Omaha, NE  
**Anson Davis** – Lewisville, TX  
**Mccoy Delaney** – Edina, MN  
**Tanner Dunn** – Highlands Ranch, CO

**John Feeney** – Wheaton, IL  
**Nick Gunter** – Overland Park, KS  
**Justin Hines** – Aurora, NE  
**Andrew Holmes** – Highlands Ranch, CO  
**Landon Hooton** – Lee's Summit, MO  
**Kaden Huber** – Overland Park, KS  
**Malcolm Johnson** – Edina, MN  
**Jack Klapman** – Northbrook, IL  
**Brendan Long** – Mequon, WI  
**Charlie Ludbrook** – Kirkwood, MO  
**Max Manan** – Omaha, NE

**Waseem Mansi** – Olathe, KS  
**Gavin Mcaferty** – Olathe, KS  
**Peter Mcaleer** – Clive, IA  
**Zachary O'Roark** – Prairie Village, KS  
**Jack Osterman** – Chicago, IL  
**Carter Palen** – San Carlos, CA  
**John Peterson** – Highlands Ranch, CO  
**Skyler Phillips** – Olathe, KS  
**Connor Reddish** – Gardner, KS  
**Bryce Renfro** – Olathe, KS  
**Alex Rodgers** – Fort Collins, CO  
**Joe Santacruz** – St. Louis, MO  
**Thomas Schomaker** – Springfield, MO  
**Omar Segovia** – Chicago, IL  
**Simon Teferra** – Olathe, KS  
**Hayden Toubia** – Overland Park, KS  
**Cameron Walker** – Gardner, KS  
**Jonah Wangsnes** – Inver Grove Heights, MN  
**Lance Lang** – Salina, KS  
**Tyler Webster** – Highlands Ranch, CO  
**Kaden Winter** – Olathe, KS  
**Kyle Witte** – Urbandale, IA  
**Lucas Zimprich** – Edina, MN







This year, the Gamma-Omicron Chapter was able to accomplish and participate in many community events. None were bigger, however, than the house's participation in the 74th annual Rock Chalk Revue show, which included writing and performing a musical with the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. Thanks to the hard work of our three directors (Will Hartnett '22 spring class, Tanner Bailly '21 spring class, and Luke Fritz class of '19) we were able to make the final show- the Chapter's first year of participation since 1998. Members Rock Chalk Revue is a long-standing tradition at the University of Kansas where Greek houses pair up and create a musical from scratch. This process starts immediately when students get back to school for the first semester with three members from both houses serving as the directors of the musical.



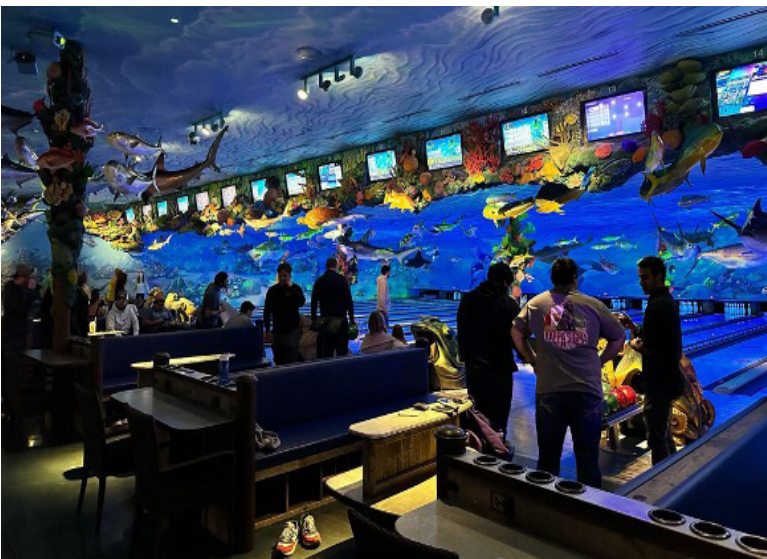




# DISTRICT CONCLAVE



In February 2023, the Gamma-O chapter— as well as a dozen other chapters from the states of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Illinois— met at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson for the inaugural Heart of America District Conclave. The conference center was the perfect setting for a day of educational programming, chapter networking, and of course, brotherly fellowship. In addition to the undergraduate brothers, we were joined by several alumni volunteers, including Gamma-O initiate and Kansas DGM, Cory Sims, and, most significantly, the Worth Grand Master of the Fraternity, Adam Merrillat, a resident of Tulsa.





# KU GREEK LIFE UPDATE

Gamma-Omicron is a “charter member” of the Kansas Fraternity Landlords League (KFL), a consortium of eleven major KU fraternities that was established to protect the mutual interests of the chapters and their alumni corporations. KFL persuaded Chancellor Girod to establish a Greek Task Force consisting of fraternity/sorority alums and administrators from the KU Student Affairs Department. The Task Force produced a number of recommendations to improve fraternity functioning and reduce excessive time demands on chapter officers, and the Chancellor approved all the recommendations. Unfortunately, over a year later, none of the recommendations have been implemented by KU Sorority and Fraternity Life. This lack of action prompted KFL to spend several months in careful evaluation of the pros and cons of their affiliation with KU. In an overwhelming conclusion, KFL found that the affiliation had delivered very little value and the inputs in terms of time and expense significantly exceeded their perceived value. For example: you might remember formal rush, during which significant numbers of young men from outside the area had the opportunity to become acquainted with, join, and move into KU fraternities. Though discontinued in the summer of 2020, fees charged to KFL chapters didn’t reflect the cessation of such a major, beneficial activity.

In December, Beta notified KU that it was withdrawing from affiliation with the University. Following votes by the Chapter and the Corporation Board, Kappa Sigma served the same notice on Tuesday, March 29th. Other KFL fraternities are currently in different stages of considering the decision and following through with their withdrawal. Through the efforts of Cory Sims, our National gave us the green light prior to taking action. An independent non-profit, the Kansas Fraternity Leadership Council (KFLC), has been incorporated and will function in an oversight/governance/advisory role to its member chapters—particularly with insight, advice, and mentoring from alumni (one of the Greek Task Force’s emphasized propositions that KU Greek Life failed to implement). Tom Robinett ’69 and Dave Steen ’68 are on the alumni team working to organize the KFLC. Fortunately, KFLC can draw on the experiences of independent fraternity systems at Duke, Colorado, USC, West Virginia, and KSU, where fraternities have been independent for four years. As of now, four major, legacy fraternities at KU (Beta, Kappa Sigma, Phi Delt, and Phi Gam) are functioning independently of KU’s organizational control.

Though there will inevitably be “growing pains” and many challenges, we anticipate the time taken to establish and operate KFLC will ultimately be less than the time our alumni and chapter officers previously spent on the ill-advised requirements imposed unilaterally on them.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (dsteen1949@gmail.com), Tom (tarobinett@gmail.com), Nick Lombardi (nalombardi@aol.com), or Cory Sims (corymsims@gmail.com); we are confident that, in a fairly short period of time, our chapter members and alumni volunteers will benefit from this development.

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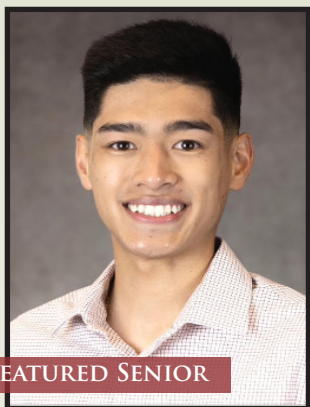
*Thank you to the following alumni and friends and family of the chapter for your donation during the annual Stephen Alonzo Jackson Weekend of Giving in March. We appreciate your support of the chapter’s scholarship goals.*

William Coughlin ’66	Thomas Winter
Eric Davidson ’85	Tia Aleshire
Dave Gast ’79	Jennifer Christo
Fred K Green ’61	Julie Copps
Robert M. Hagg ’98	Ashley Crowley
Lloyd Hanahan ’56	Robyn Dunham
Jonathon Holmes ’05	Brad Fishman
Andrew Kammerer ’18	Sharon Khoury
Nick Lombardi ’03	Charles Manos
Robert Mackenzie ’72	Nicole Meatheany
Matt Noble ’84	Jamie O’Roark
Frederick O’Brien ’50	Kris Schomaker
Tom Robinett ’70	Julie Spizman
David Van Eekeren ’88	Ryan Toubia
Dan Bizzell	Michelle Walker
Janis Hartnett	Molly Wangsness
Ebba Johnson	Linda Webb
Thomas Kuergeleis	Ryan Witte
Cheryl Oliver	

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# UNDERGRAD SPOTLIGHT!



FEATURED SENIOR

## KOLE NHINGSAVATH '19

Kole Nhingsavath '19 is a senior in the Gamma-Omicron chapter from Gardner, Kansas. He has served as rush chairman and held two positions on the executive committee: Grand Master of Ceremonies and Grand Procurator. His favorite memory from the house is his trip to Lake of the Ozarks in the Spring of 2021. Nhingsavath is majoring in business analytics and hopes to enter a career in data science with a focus in consulting.

*"My time in the house was awesome. It was full of great memories that I'll never forget. Being here has taught me more than I could ever imagine. I'm forever grateful for the friends and connections I've made throughout my time here."*



FEATURED JUNIOR

## JOHN LONG '20

John Long '20, a junior in the house, has been an active member of the fraternity over the years. He served on the executive committee as Grand Treasurer, as well as the head rush chairman and the scholarship chairman. Long is from Wellington, Kansas and is double majoring in accounting and information systems.

After graduation, Long plans to attend the Masters of Accounting Program and earn his CPA. He wants to enter a career involving technology risk consulting.



FEATURED SOPHOMORE

## ERIC RICHARS '21

Eric Richards '21, a sophomore and legacy from St. Louis, Missouri, was initiated in the fall of 2021. Richards is on the executive committee, holding the position of Grand Scribe. During his time in the house, he has also served as the alumni relations chairman, public relations chairman, and the assistant grand scribe. His favorite memory thus far has been his father and grandfather coming to Lawrence and surprising him at his initiation. Richards is majoring in strategic communications with a minor in business and a certificate in professional selling. He hopes to one day become a producer and own his own business. *"Being in the house has been so amazing. I've made lifelong brothers and learned more about who I am."*



FEATURED FRESHMAN

## HAYDEN TOUBIA '22

Hayden Toubia '22 is a freshman and new initiate to the Gamma-Omicron chapter. Holding the positions of kitchen manager, social chairman, and assistant grand scribe, Toubia has made his presence known throughout the house. He is from Overland Park, Kansas and is majoring in marketing with a minor in accounting. He plans to one day have a career as a marketing manager while also owning his own company.

Toubia is a true Kappa Sigma giving his time to both the house and his brothers. His favorite memories have been meeting his pledge brothers and volunteering with them throughout the community.





**Gamma-Omicron Chapter  
Kappa Sigma Fraternity**

c/o Fraternity Management Group  
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## DON'T MISS OUT ON THE GAMMA-OMICRON HALL OF FAME DINNER

**COMING THIS FALL**  
**TBD: OCTOBER/NOVEMBER**

Please email [corymsims@gmail.com](mailto:corymsims@gmail.com) your Hall of Fame Nominations.  
Inductees are chosen based on success in their careers and/or for service  
to the community, fraternity, and/or university.



**STAY CONNECTED  
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**

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

### **LINKEDIN**

[HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/KU](https://www.linkedin.com/ku)



# GET INVOLVED & SUPPORT GAMMA-O

## VOLUNTEER

Join other alumni, parents, and friends to provide assistance in these areas:

**Advisory Board:** meets monthly to advise the chapter in their operations.

**Alumni Chapter Board:** works to oversee communication and plan events throughout the year.

**Educational Foundation Board:** looks at educational programs and scholarships for the undergraduates.

**Housing Corporation:** oversees all facility operations.

For more information, contact Cory Sims at [corymsims@gmail.com](mailto:corymsims@gmail.com).

## JOIN OUR CAREER NETWORK

Help members with careers by speaking at a Career Day, hiring an undergraduate as an intern, or employing an alumni. Let us know if you would be willing to present on a career panel and/or serve as a career mentor to one of our undergraduates.

<https://www.gamma-o.org/careers>

(Password: gammaocareers!)

For more information contact Pete Parker at [pete.parker@fmgtucson.com](mailto:pete.parker@fmgtucson.com)

## RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide a recruitment recommendation by filling out this form:

<https://www.gamma-o.org/recruitment-recommendation>

You can also reach out to Emmanuel Gomez at

[emangomez21@gmail.com](mailto:emangomez21@gmail.com)

or Jacob Webster at

[webster.jacob@comcast.net](mailto:webster.jacob@comcast.net)



## ONE-TIME OR RECURRING GIFT

Please consider a one-time or recurring gift.

You can give online to the Housing Fund at

<https://www.gamma-o.org/give-to-housing-fund>

which helps with our alumni/parent programming expenses and maintenance/future construction of the facility, or make a donation to the Educational Fund at

<https://www.gamma-o.org/give-to-educational-fund>

which maintains the educational areas of the house, awards scholarships, and funds career and leadership development programs.

## Leave a Legacy

Charitable gifts help you meet your current philanthropic goals and extend your generosity well into the future. But did you know that a planned gift can also protect your assets, provide for your family, and guarantee you income for life? You can even make a significant impact through a gift that costs nothing in your lifetime (through a charitable bequest under your will).

There are several ways to support the chapter through Kappa Sigma's Gamma-O Educational Foundation, but when you plan a gift as part of your overall estate and financial plans, you help the chapter expand the boundaries of scholarship and leadership.

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

## Welcome a New Volunteer Justin Cohen!

Justin Cohen '06 graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2011 with a degree in Communications Studies. As an undergraduate, he served as the chapter's Public Relations Chair and learned what Gamma-O truly means to him: "Fellowship, brotherhood, and community." Justin is now the Senior Director of Operations and Event Services for the KU Alumni Association. Outside of work, you can find him camping, climbing, or enjoying Kansas City sports. His advice for current undergraduates is to simply find "balance and moderation in all things."

