

GAMMA-OMICRON CHAPTER • KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY



# Gamma-Omicron Biannual Hall of Fame

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2021  
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

welcome  
**GAMMA-O**

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The biannual Gamma-Omicron Chapter Hall of Fame Award is presented by the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity on Friday, September 17th, 2021



**HALL OF FAME  
AWARDS BANQUET**

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## **WELCOME**

### **MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Nick Lombardi '03, House Corporation President

### **INVOCATION & MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Dylan Vanatta '19, GMC

## **DINNER**

### **STATE OF THE CHAPTER**

Mason Barrett '19, GMC

### **HALL OF FAME PRESENTATION**

Cory Sims '04, Alumnus Advisor

### **HOUSING CORP UPDATE**

Nick Lombardi '03

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Nick Lombardi '03

2021

# HALL OF FAME

## GAMMA-OMICRON CHAPTER HALL OF FAME 2021 INDUCTEES

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James Wilson '67

David Steen '68

Michael Helbert '70

Robert Chestnut '80

## PAST INDUCTEES

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### Kappa Sigma Fraternity Man of the Year

**2020:** HON Robert J. Dole '42,  
Gamma-Omicron Alumnus,  
former US Senator

**2007:** Alan Mulally '64: Gamma-  
Omicron Alumnus, CEO of Ford  
Motor Company

**1994:** Bob Eaton '59: Gamma-  
Omicron Alumnus, former CEO  
of Chrysler Motor Company

**1970:** HON Robert J. Dole '42,  
Gamma-Omicron Alumnus,  
former US Senator; William M.  
Cox, Sr. '61; William M. Corum  
'63; Warren Denny '63

### Chapter Man of the Year

**2020** Andrew Klimiuk '18

**2019** Peter McNeal '15

**2018** De'Riece Burse '17

**2017** Jack Clifford '14

**2014** Patrick Begley '10

**2013** Dustan Boleski '09

**2012** Cory Bell '08

**2011** Brad Harrison '07

**2010** Andy Whitehead '06

**2009** Mitch Plummer '06

**2008** Brian Harrison '05

**2007** Cory Sims '04

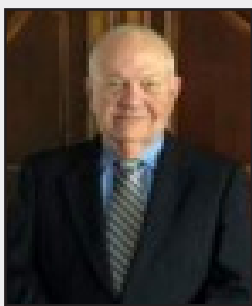


# INDUCTEES

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

## James Wilson '67

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Initiated into Kappa Sigma in 1967, James pursued degrees in civil engineering and business and graduated from the University of Kansas in 1972. He then pursued further education and earned his Master of Science at The Leland Stanford Junior University School of Engineering.

After finishing his educational endeavors, James founded JWS Corporation in 1984 with the intention of selling estimating software systems by becoming a value-added reseller of construction accounting and estimating software in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa. In 1988, after being approached by Kansas City aggregate producer, JWS wrote a software system that interfaced with their truck weight scale and produced weight tickets and billing invoices.

As an undergraduate, James lived in the chapter house for three years, was active on many committees to elevate the chapter, but never held any official officer titles. James was not the first of his family to join Gamma-Omicron and followed his cousins and uncles in their footsteps. He says "joining the Gamma-Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma certainly proved to be a life changing event for me. Not only did it allow me to continue our family tradition of support for the fraternity, but it produced my two future business partners. JWS was started by myself and my pledge brother, Scott Kilough. Within a year, we added another partner who was also in our pledge class but never activated. The three of us continued a friendship from our pledge days into a later business partnership that flourished for over 30 years. GO not only gave me some great partners but also a livelihood" As an alumnus, he has made it a point to stay active as an

alumnus by visiting the house to stay connected with the chapter. Along with his many accomplishments, James is a devoted husband to Elaine (Egan) Wilson and father to his three children, Tobi, James III, and Joshua. He also has five granddaughters and one grandson.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

## David Steen '68



David Steen was initiated into the Gamma-Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma in 1968. David was persistently active within the undergraduate chapter serving as the Rush chairman as well as Grand Master. After graduating in 1971 with a Bachelors in Psychology, David remained involved with his chapter, acting as the Gamma-Omicron Corp Board president for eight years and remaining a member today. With

the completion of his degree, Dave began to set foot in management for the medical diagnostics, device, and drug development industries. His dedication and analytical skills allowed him to lead different companies to success, both within the U.S. and internationally.

Along with a long list of commitments, Dave has been married to Nancy Steen for 40 years and is father to their three children, Anthony, Andrea, and Allison. Anthony was also a member of the Gamma-Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma and graduated in 2000. Since the Gamma-Omicron chapter was such a prominent part of his life, David has stayed involved with the chapter and continues to support his brothers. He says, "I learned to cooperate and be persuasive with a wide range of personalities, which became useful to me almost immediately out of school. I gained a basic understanding of the workings of a business due to being a chapter officer handling or overseeing budgets, expenditures, and organization of varying types of events. I developed close friendships that continue to this day." The relationships he has formed and the knowledge he has gained from his time in the Gamma-Omicron chapter have aided Dave in reaching his success.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

## Michael Helbert '70

### Owner at Hellbert & Allemang

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Initiated into the Gamma-Omicron chapter of Kappa Sigma in 1970, Michael Helbert proved to be a natural leader through his fraternity as well as in his studies at the University of Kansas. Graduating in 1972 with a BA degree in Political Science and Government, he chose to continue his education at the University of Kansas School of Law, earning his JD in 1975. During his time at the chapter, Michael served as President for the 1971-1972 year. He

remained involved with his fraternity, acting as the Alumnus Advisor for a short period in 1976.

Michael began practicing law with the firm of Atherton, Hurt and Sanderson in 1975. In 1978, he started his own firm in Emporia, Helbert and Allemang. Michael has demonstrated his excellent leadership abilities and been recognized for this multiple times throughout his career. He currently holds a position on the Board of Governors of Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and has since 1988.

Since the Gamma-Omicron chapter was such an important part of his life, Michael remains involved with his fraternity and continues to support his brothers. He says, "I can truly say that Gamma-Omicron changed my life. When I pledged, I was not sure about where I was going in life or what I wanted. I was lucky enough to have two men, Dave Steen and Tom Robinett, as the actives with whom I shared a room. They taught me to believe in myself and encouraged me to push myself on to greater tasks. I also was able to make lasting friendships with my brothers and I cherish those relationships to this day. My days at Gamma - O were some of the best days of my life and the lessons that I learned there about friendship, hard work, fellowship, loyalty, honesty and the ability to get along with others and respect others has carried me through life."

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

## Robert Chestnut '80

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Rob Chestnut has been a senior financial professional for over 25 years working across a number of industries, including publicly traded billion-dollar organizations, privately held companies, and groups purchased by private equity. Rob earned both his BS in Accounting and MBA from the University of Kansas and has since spent many years as a Controller and a Chief Financial Officer and financial executive for 35 years in the Kansas City Area in both manufacturing and services sectors. He has held financial leadership positions for public companies, PE-backed private companies and family-owned companies and was named 2017 CFO of the Year by the Kansas City Business Journal. Currently, Rob is the Chief Financial Officer of ProPharma Group.

In addition to his career within industry, Rob served Lawrence, Kansas as City Commissioner and in 2009, served a 2 year term as Mayor. Rob has been on the board of the Pooled Money Investment Board for the State of Kansas and the Board of Trustees for Lawrence Memorial Hospital. Rob and his family also fund Momentum Grants via the Douglas County Community Foundation supporting local nonprofit organizations.

As an undergraduate, Rob participated in many of the intermural football and basketball teams, competing for Gamma-O and remains proud that he and his 1980 pledge class were able to leave a lasting impact on the chapter house, as they were the pledge class to cast the letters in front of the house. As for what Gamma-O means to him, Rob says "My pledge class was made up of a very diverse group of young men. Over 4 years, I was fortunate to learn from them and develop skills that have served me well over the last 40 years. I have so many memories of my time in the house that will be with me for the rest of my life. As a resident of Lawrence, I get a smile of my face every time I drive by the house on Emery Road."





*"The Star and Crescent shall not be  
worn by every man, but only by him who  
is worthy to wear it.*

*He must be a gentleman...  
a man of honor and courage...  
a man of zeal, yet humble...  
an intelligent man...  
a man of truth...*

*one who tempers action with wisdom  
and, above all else, one who walks  
in the light of God."*

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# past Gamma-O HOF INDUCTEES

## 2018

Tom Robinett '69  
Paul Wilbur '77  
Davis Rooney '79  
Jeffrey Bragalone '81  
David Van Eekeren '88

## 2016

Robert Starcher '48  
Lt. Colo Max Schooley '60

## 2012

Tom Creel '56

## 2011

James Wright '57

## 2009

William H. Coughlin '66

## 2008

Rodney Thompson '62  
Jack Bondon '71

## 2007

Dan Chase '55  
Michael D. Wolfe '61  
Jim Mackenzie '64

## 2006

Tom Gee '56  
Don Foster '59  
Fred Frailey '63

## 2005

Tony Witt '50  
Rick Sarmiento '65  
Larry Walter '69  
Cliff Rovelto '75

## 2004

Robert Guthrie '55  
Kenneth Payne '55  
John Davis '62  
Charles Squire '62

## 2003

Richard Guthrie '59  
Roy M. Knapp '59  
Bill Textor '59

## 2002

Walter Cole '50  
Richard Mai '50  
Cecil Edward Witt '52  
Bill McEachen '52  
Edgar B. Grass III '77

## 2001 ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL

Fred C. Campbell '12  
Don B. Fullmer '32  
Charles F. Pierson '36  
John D. Keeling '39  
Earl G. Lowe, Jr. '40  
William H. McCrum '40  
Francis B. Smith, Jr. '41  
Herbert S. Finney '42  
William H. Fountain '42  
John E. Strand '42  
John E. Sorem '48  
Samuel W. Simpson '57  
Larry E. Martin '58  
Loyd M. Willson '59  
Jack C. Connell '62

## 2000

Richard Nelson '44  
Jay Markley '51  
Jerry Palmer '59  
Richard Davis '60  
David Mackenzie '61

## 1999

Reed Hoffman '41  
Harry Callahan '42  
Frank Darden '45  
Warren Andreas '49  
Noel Rooney '53

## 1998

Robert Gould '63  
David Evans '64

## 1997

Raymond Calene '20  
Thomas Bertelsen '59  
Danforth Austin '65

## 1996

Frank Godding '40  
Harry Hutchens '45  
Richard McClain '53  
Jerald Pullins '61  
Alan Mulally '64

## 1995

Lawrence Ochs '42  
Harlan Ochs '47  
Kenneth Ochs '49  
Donald Ochs '50  
Lloyd Hanahan '56

## 1994

Kenneth Rankin '28  
Elis Cave '29  
Harry West '29  
Rich Lyon '34  
John Heisler '41  
Roger James '42  
Wallace Foster '46  
Henry Buck '53  
Fred Green '61

## 1993

Robert Ferris '34  
George Godding '39  
Paul Bartsch '55

## 1992

Col. August E. Schanze '18  
John F. Redmond '31  
James K. Hitt '32  
C. H. Cowell '34  
Albert G. Speath '34  
Fred I. Murfin '38  
Louis L. Ward '38  
William R. Murfin '39  
Robert J. Dole '42  
J.R. Smith '52  
Robert J. Eaton '59



a special

# THANK YOU

## **Housing Corporation Board:**

Nick Lombardi '02, *President*

Robert Lutz '05, *Secretary*

Todd Witt '07, *Treasurer*

David Steen '68

Tom Robinett '69

Bob Robinett '70

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



## **Current Executive Committee:**

GM – Mason Barrett '19

GP – Frank Russell '19

GMC – Dylan Vanatta '19

GS – John Biehler '19

GT – John Long '20

## **Alumni Committee:**

Advisor: Cory Sims '04

Justin Hughes '05

Andy Whitehead '06

Derek Hoefer '06

Cory Bell '08

Tyler Setter '08

GAMMA-OMICRON CHAPTER • KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY



Not for an hour...  
a day... or college term  
only... but for life.

FALL 2021  
KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY  
GAMMA-OMICRON CHAPTER  
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS