

GAMMA-OMICRON CHAPTER • KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY



Gamma-Omicron Biannual Hall of Fame

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

welcome

GAMMA-O

The biannual Gamma-Omicron Chapter Hall of Fame Award is presented by the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity on Friday, October 3, 2025



HALL OF FAME AWARDS BANQUET



**WELCOME
MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

Skip Gast '72

INVOCATION & MOMENT OF SILENCE

Connor McLaughlin, '23, GMC

DINNER

STATE OF THE CHAPTER

Brandon Dickerson '23, GM

HOUSING CORP UPDATE

Nick Lombardi '03

HALL OF FAME PRESENTATION

Skip Gast '72

GRASS-HANAHAN ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

Skip Gast '72

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Nick Lombardi '03

2025

HALL OF FAME

GAMMA-OMICRON CHAPTER HALL OF FAME 2025 INDUCTEES

Curt Baum '76

James Taylor '85

Drew Carter '91

Nick Lombardi '03

PAST INDUCTEES

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

2022 Tanner Bailly '21

2021 Mason Barrett '19

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

Curt Baum '76



Dr. Curt Baum's journey to medicine started with a duffel bag, a two-man room on the second floor of 1045 Emery Road, and an unexpected series of events that led him to sign a pledge card in the summer of 1975. What followed was more than just a strong start to college—it was the beginning of a lifelong commitment to excellence, service, and brotherhood.

Curt was initiated into the Gamma-Omicron Chapter in 1976 and quickly stood out as a leader. He served as Grand Procurator during his junior year and was the honor initiate of his pledge class—a signal even then of the character and drive he would bring to everything that followed.

After graduating with a B.S. from the University of Kansas in 1979, Curt earned his M.D. from the KU School of Medicine in 1983. He completed both his residency in internal medicine and his fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, finishing in 1988. Since then, he has spent his entire career practicing gastroenterology in Topeka, Kansas—serving countless patients and leading within his medical group, including a long tenure as medical director of the Division of Gastroenterology.

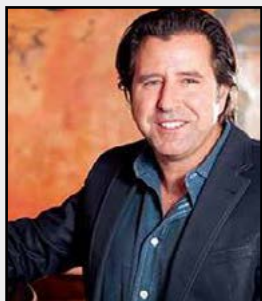
Curt is a member of the Kansas Medical Society, Shawnee County Medical Society, and the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Beyond the clinical setting, he has served as President of the University of Kansas Medical Alumni Association and remains deeply involved in the KU medical community.

His dedication to Kappa Sigma didn't end with graduation. Curt served on the Gamma-Omicron Corporation Board for 15 years, helping to guide the chapter through periods of growth and transition. His sense of duty to the house mirrors the values he's upheld throughout his career: leadership, accountability, and paying it forward.

For Curt, the influence of Gamma-Omicron goes far beyond titles or recognition. The academic foundation and peer mentorship he received during those early

semesters—particularly from fellow pre-meds like Ken Mohler, Randy Brown, and pledge trainer Kurt Duffens—set him on a course toward a rewarding and impactful life in medicine. He credits the chapter not just for friendships, but for shaping the trajectory of his career and the values he’s carried with him every step of the way.

Today, Curt continues to live out the principles of Kappa Sigma with humility and purpose. He and his wife Paula are proud parents of three children—Jennifer, Randy, and Valerie—and grandparents to six. His legacy is one of service: to his patients, his profession, and his fraternity.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

James Taylor '85

For James Taylor, Kappa Sigma’s Gamma-Omicron chapter was more than just a fraternity—it was the foundation for a lifelong pursuit of connection, leadership, and community. Initiated in the spring of 1985, James credits his time on Emery Road with shaping his character, values, and commitment to giving back.

James began his college years at the University of Kansas, pledging Kappa Sigma in 1984 and serving as Grand Scribe during his sophomore and junior years. During his time in the chapter, he helped reimagine and relaunch the historic Bud Man Volleyball Tournament to support the Special Olympics, an event that became a celebrated tradition on campus and continued for years after his departure. He later transferred to the University of Oklahoma, where he earned his B.A. in Architecture in 1989, while still maintaining his strong ties to Gamma-Omicron.

Professionally, James has spent more than three decades shaping Kansas City’s culinary, brewing, and hospitality landscape. As Managing Member of Let’s Eat Restaurant Group and La Bodega, LLC, James founded and operated some of Kansas City’s most beloved concepts, including La Bodega (Crossroads), a tapas landmark since 1997, and previously La Bodega Leawood and BLU HWY. He was also a founder and operator of 75th Street Brewery and KC Hopps, playing an instrumental role in changing Missouri and Kansas City laws to legalize brewpubs—helping pioneer the craft brewing movement in the Midwest.

Through KC Hopps, James and his partners opened eight operations in four years, including River Market Brewery, Barley’s, McCoy’s Public House, and several breweries in Cincinnati, Des Moines, Springfield, and beyond. He later transitioned his focus back to independent ventures, building La Bodega into a nationally recognized name, featured in outlets such as the New York Times, Food Network, and Miami Herald.

Beyond his work in restaurants and brewing, James has been deeply involved in event creation, cycling, and philanthropy. He co-founded the River Valley Music Festival—which later evolved into the Hoard Fest—and helped create Boulevardia, Kansas City’s premier craft beer and music festival. He has served in leadership roles with Medalist Sports and AEG for international cycling events, including the Tour of Missouri and the Amgen Tour of California, working alongside global sporting organizations like the UCI and ASO, the owners of the Tour de France.

James’ contributions to Kansas City’s cultural, culinary, and philanthropic scenes have been widely recognized. His accolades include:

- Restaurateur of the Year (2024) – Greater Kansas City Restaurant Association & Missouri Restaurant Association
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year (1996) – SBA, Kansas City, Missouri, and Regional
- Named to Ingram’s “30 Under 30” and “40 Under 40” lists for business and entrepreneurship
- Co-founder and supporter of numerous charitable events, including Jazzoo, Forks and Corks, Rose Brooks, Bud Man Volleyball Tournament, and Steps of Faith’s Thundergong

When James reflects on Gamma-Omicron’s influence, he describes it as the beginning of a lifelong journey of brotherhood and service:

“Gamma-O was the continuation—and the more formative maturation—of becoming a ‘Man for Others.’ Brotherhood taught me trust, social skills, and the drive to further the house in positive and competitive pursuits. Every time I drive up Emery Road, that bond comes rushing back. The sense of brotherhood has only grown stronger over the years.”

James lives in Kansas City, Missouri, with his fiancée, Kerry McDonnell, and is a proud stepfather to Finn McDonnell and Christian Barrett.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Drew Carter '91

Drew Carter graduated from the University of Kansas in 1995 with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Accounting and Business. He also pursued minor concentrations in East Asian Studies and Computer Science. As an undergraduate student, he was actively involved in campus life as a member of the KU club rugby

team and as a teaching assistant for Accounting 101 for three semesters. Within the Kappa Sigma fraternity, Carter served as the Social Chairman for the chapter

and lived in the chapter house for three and a half years. He said his experience in the house laid a foundation of friendship, responsibility, and connection that has continued to shape his life today.

Carter currently serves as the CEO and Co-Founder of Whistle Rewards. In his role, he helps build innovative rewards and recognition technology to improve retention, safety, and productivity for front-line workers in the built world. He previously served as President and CEO of Maritz Motivation and supported global programs like Marriott Bonvoy and Southwest Rapid Rewards. His work has consistently focused on transforming legacy systems, modernizing sales strategies, and applying data and behavioral science to drive measurable outcomes. He's co-founded multiple successful ventures, led large-scale digital transformations, and has been recognized by Incentive Magazine as one of the most influential people in the motivation and incentives industry. Carter also has two sons: Ethan (graduating high school in 2026) and Reid (graduating high school in 2027).

As an alumnus of the University of Kansas, Carter has remained actively involved in supporting the university. For many years, he has returned to campus to advise and mentor students in the School of Business through the Accounting Teaching Assistants program. He supports the university financially, contributing to its ongoing mission to educate and empower future leaders. Carter has also remained involved in the local business and academic communities—mentoring students at the University of Kansas, advising early-stage entrepreneurs, and supporting workforce development efforts. He said that staying connected to KU and investing in the next generation of students has been a deeply rewarding part of his alumni experience.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Nick Lombardi '03

Nick Lombardi has spent the past two decades redefining what it means to lead—with vision, strategy, and just enough swagger to keep things interesting. A 2003 initiate of the Gamma-Omicron Chapter, Nick held nearly every major leadership position during his undergraduate years, including Pledge Class

President, Pledge Educator, Grand Procurator, and Grand Master. His time in the house was defined by energy, ambition, and a commitment to building something lasting—not just for his class, but for generations to come.

Professionally, Nick is a Principal at Axiom Development Group and a licensed real estate broker with over \$1 billion in acquisitions, dispositions, development, and construction under his belt. He's earned CRX and CRRP

designations from the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC), and he holds the prestigious CCIM designation. He served as President of NAIOP Oklahoma (2020–2022), where he was recognized nationally as Small Chapter President of the Year, and currently serves as President of CCIM Oklahoma for 2024. He’s also been named Oklahoma’s Commercial Land Broker of the Year six times since 2008.

But Nick’s impact doesn’t stop at the deal table. He’s been teaching graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Oklahoma since 2019, sharing his expertise in real estate with future architects, urban designers, finance professionals, and entrepreneurs. He balances all of this with family life in Tulsa, where he and his wife Kendra are raising two sons—Nicky and John.

Nick’s commitment to Gamma-Omicron has remained steady since graduation. He joined the Corporation Board in 2007 and has served as Board Chair since 2019, helping lead the chapter through years of growth, planning, and progress. His leadership style is direct, strategic, and grounded in a deep loyalty to the brotherhood that shaped him.

When asked what Gamma-Omicron and Kappa Sigma mean to him, Nick puts it plainly: “A brotherhood that transcends generations, instills the principles for success and provides the guideposts for a fruitful life. All while having a fantastic time.”

That mix of high standards and irreverent charm is exactly what makes Nick Lombardi a standout—and a natural addition to the Hall of Fame.



FIRST ANNUAL MAN OF THE YEAR

Gamma-Omicron Establishes the Grass-Hanahan Alumnus of the Year

Gamma-Omicron has established the Grass-Hanahan Alumnus of the Year award in honor of Ed Grass '77 and Lloyd Hanahan '56 service to the fraternity. This year's winner is Cory Sims '04.



Ed Grass '77

Ed Grass graduated from the University of Kansas in 1981 with distinction, earning a B.S. in Accounting and Business Administration. He was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma honor societies before beginning his career with Ernst & Young in Tulsa. In 1986, he joined Sanofi, where he would spend 28 years and rise to the role of North America Treasurer. In that position, he managed corporate finance, investments, and pension assets, and helped the company earn national

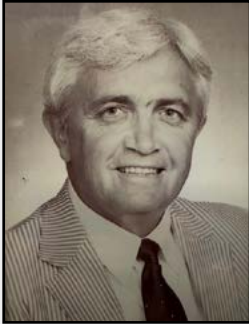
recognition when PLAN SPONSOR Magazine named Sanofi the 2013 Plan Sponsor of the Year.

A Certified Public Accountant in Kansas and Oklahoma and a Certified Cash Manager, Ed built a reputation for leadership, trust, and financial expertise.

His dedication to Kappa Sigma has been just as impactful. As an undergraduate, he served as Grand Treasurer and Grand Master, earning ritual proficiency awards and the National Award of Merit. Later, he served as President of the Gamma-Omicron House Corporation Board, where he led a \$2.8 million campaign to completely renovate the chapter house. Since 2001, he has been a member of the Gamma-O Educational Foundation Board, overseeing fundraising and operations to support both undergraduates and alumni. In recognition of his service, Ed was inducted into the Gamma-O Hall of Fame in 2002, and the chapter library was named in his honor.

Reflecting on his experience, Ed shares: "Kappa Sigma and, in particular, the Gamma-O chapter have had a deep and lasting impact on me... *Kappa Sigma is not for a day, or an hour, or a college term only, but for life.*"

Ed lives in Overland Park, Kansas, with his wife, Terri, and is the proud father of Angela, Ryan, and Kevin.



Lloyd Hanahan '56

Initiated into the Gamma-Omicron Chapter of Kappa Sigma in 1956, Lloyd Hanahan graduated from the University of Kansas in 1960. His time in the fraternity became a foundation for lifelong friendships, leadership, and service that carried through every stage of his life.

After graduation, Lloyd began his professional journey with Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors, where he rose to District Manager overseeing 15 dealerships. He later worked with Touche Ross, a national CPA and consulting firm, before serving as Executive Vice President for a private company. His career then led him into large-scale land development in Kansas, where he managed the complex sale of 50,000 acres and extensive irrigation systems.

Lloyd's most notable corporate tenure came during his 12 years with Marion Laboratories in Kansas City, where he served as Vice President. During his time there, the company's stock value grew 29 times, marking a period of extraordinary success and innovation. Along the way, Lloyd earned his CPA designation and built a reputation for both financial acumen and leadership.

Beyond his career, Lloyd dedicated himself to strengthening Kappa Sigma. His greatest contribution was helping to rebuild the Gamma-Omicron Chapter house, ensuring future generations of brothers had the same opportunities and sense of home that shaped his own college experience.

Reflecting on what the fraternity has meant to him, Lloyd says simply: "A wonderful experience in college and the rest of my life."

Lloyd's beloved wife, Nancy, passed away seven years ago. He is the proud father of two children, Kelly and John—who is also a Kappa Sigma brother. Today, Lloyd remains active and engaged, carrying forward the values of fellowship, leadership, scholarship, and service.

It is in recognition of his lasting impact on both the fraternity and his community that an award now bears his name, ensuring his legacy continues to inspire brothers for years to come.



2025 MAN OF THE YEAR

Cory Sims '04

For Cory Sims, joining Kappa Sigma's Gamma-Omicron Chapter in the summer of 2004 wasn't just the start of his college experience—it was the beginning of a lifelong commitment. Over the last two decades, his dedication to the fraternity has made him one of its most influential alumni, shaping the chapter's future while honoring the brotherhood that shaped him.

Cory graduated from the University of Kansas in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism, but his time at KU was defined by much more than academics. As an undergraduate, he quickly emerged as a leader within the chapter and the broader Greek community, earning recognition as Gamma-Omicron Member of the Year in 2007 and being named the KU IFC Outstanding Greek Senior in 2008. His involvement and leadership left a lasting mark on the chapter, setting the stage for his continued influence as an alumnus.

Since graduating, Cory has remained unwavering in his commitment to Gamma-Omicron and Kappa Sigma. He has served as District Grand Master and Alumnus Advisor, earning multiple distinctions along the way, including being named a three-time Outstanding District Grand Master, a three-time Outstanding Alumnus Advisor, and the Alumnus Advisor of the Year in 2021. Under his leadership, the Kansas District earned recognition as the Most Improved District in 2023, and in 2025, Cory was honored as the District Grand Master of the Year for the Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska region.

Cory's passion for the fraternity stems from the profound impact it has had on his life. Reflecting on his journey, he shares:

"Since I first stepped into the house as a recruit in the summer of 2004, there hasn't been a day I haven't thought about Gamma-Omicron and how to make it the best fraternity in the country. Some of the best years of my life were the four I spent living on Emery Road, which is a big reason why I haven't stopped giving back since graduating. The lessons I learned from my brothers and alumni—and the opportunities I was given to lead and better myself—have been hugely impactful in both my personal and professional life. As a kid from Topeka, the financial assistance I received from the board, foundation, and Kappa Sigma made an enormous difference as I worked my way through school. Nothing, outside of my family, has impacted me the way Gamma-Omicron has."

Today, Cory lives in Leawood, Kansas with his wife, Jennifer, and their daughter, Cameron Hazel, born in 2018. In his professional life, Cory serves as a Client Executive at Spotlight Analyst Relations, following previous roles at Cerner Corporation and Ford Motor Company.

From his days as an undergraduate leader to becoming one of Gamma-Omicron's most dedicated alumni, Cory's journey is a testament to his belief that Kappa Sigma isn't just for a college term—it's for life.



*"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."*

past Gamma-O HOF INDUCTEES

2023

James "JW" Youngblood '67
Skip Gast '72
Bill Johnson '80
Craig McGonigle '80

2021

James Wilson '67
David Steen '68
Michael Helbert '70
Robert Chestnut '80

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 '03, *President*

Dave Steen '68, *Vice President*

JC Sutherlin '07, *Treasurer*

Justin Cohen '06, *Secretary*

Tom Robinett '69

Bob Robinett '70

Mike Clay '71

Dave Gast '79

Robert Hagg '98

Billy Brandtonies '02

Brian Harrison '05

Robert Lutz '05

Daniel Heady '07

Educational Foundation Board:

John Davis '62

Ed Grass '77

John Hanahan '87



Current Executive Committee:

GM – Brandon Dickerson '23

GP – Patrick McQuillan '23

GMC – Connor McLaughlin '23

GS – Luke Leach '24

GT – Kole Krings '24

Alumni Committee:

District GM: Morgan Hastings,
Gamma-Chi, '15

Chapter Alumnus Advisor:
Justin Cohen '05

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FALL 2025
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