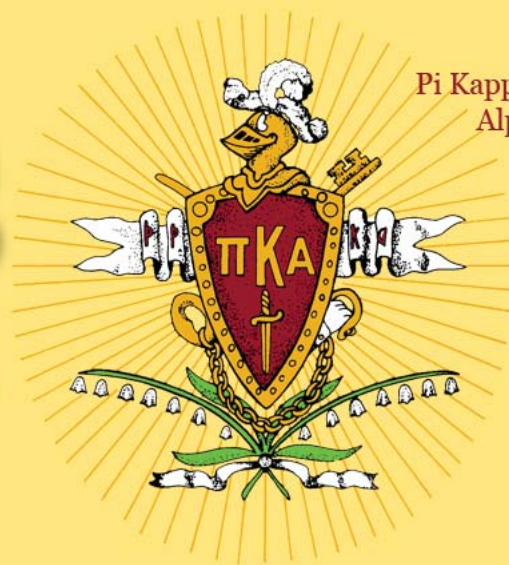


Kapers

A Publication of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

Fall 2008 | Issue 6



Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Alpha Kappa Chapter
613 W. 9th Street
Rolla, MO 65401

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SMC Alex Mear (AK '04)

It is typical for the former SMC to write an article highlighting the accomplishments of the previous semester. We talk about how we have reached our goals from all our hard work, and deservingly so. The men of Alpha Kappa do not work hard to receive awards and recognition, but it is always a good idea to praise those that have worked hard (I think I learned that

in one of my Engineering Management classes). Among many individual achievements, the chapter as a whole deserves much praise and a giant "thank you" from me. As anyone that has held a leadership role knows, nothing could be accomplished without everyone's help. However, instead of talking about our accomplishments for this previous semester I want to focus on the Fraternity's growth over the last five years.

"Change the culture." This small, three word quote has changed Alpha Kappa. When something in the chapter isn't working and a new direction needs to be taken you have to change the culture. Traditions have a funny way of deeply rooting themselves in Fraternity life. Traditions that took place when you were at school most likely weren't traditions for many years. Whether good or bad, the only way to change typical behaviors and expectations is to change the culture. Alpha Kappa has continually done this over the last five years and that is why we continue to excel, reach and exceed expectations, and be on top.

Let me give some examples to help illustrate the chapter's transformation. According to the "A History of Alpha Kappa Chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity Rolla, Missouri 1905-2005", the Alpha Kappa chapter completed about 1,800 hours of community service in the 2002-2003 school year. At the time that was most likely among the highest among Rolla fraternities and a respectable number. This number was fairly typical for previous years and essentially was the expectation, well, at least until someone decided to change the culture and wanted more. As you can image the change wasn't easy, but, over the course of a few years the new expectation was that the entire Fraternity was going to give a significant amount of their time to helping the community. This new culture and expectation is the reason Alpha Kappa now averages 10,000 hours of community service every year.

Similar to community service, the overall chapter GPA seemed to stay at the same level year after year. As recently as the 2002-2003 academic year, the overall chapter GPA was above a 3.0. However, for some reason the chapter's GPA declined to about a 2.8 in the Fall of 2005. Many chapter members (including myself) said there was no way to influence the academic success of over 100 college men. As a testament to his wisdom, Chris Ramsay calmly stated, "you have to change the culture." After a long debate over mandatory study hours for the entire chapter, new enforcement of quiet hours, and a new emphasis on scholarship awards; the chapter GPA started to climb. Now, it seems academic success is an expectation of every member. In the 2007-2008 year the chapter finished the year with an average GPA of 3.11 which is above the all-campus and all-men's averages.

Many other examples can be found of how the chapter has grown including rush and risk management. I don't want to make it seem that what Alpha Kappa has done recently should shadow the accomplishments of the past, just to illustrate what our beloved Fraternity has become.

Through many culture changes, our chapter is redefining what a Fraternity should be. A modern Fraternity should be a place where an 18 year old has the opportunity to grow as a person in a very short four to five years. Alpha Kappa's culture meets that definition. We don't just offer a place to live, we offer a chance to be part of a positive culture. The reason Alpha Kappa can now call itself a Dynasty Chapter is because we offer something more.

Thank you to everyone that has helped change Alpha Kappa so that we can offer something more. You have truly created an environment that has helped many, including myself, become better men.

In the bonds of phi phi kappa alpha,

Alex Mear (AK '04)

Fall 2008 Important Contacts

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Ramsay's Corner



As I reflect on Alpha Kappa achieving the "Smythe Dynasty Level" I realize that we are in good company. Only six of the 200+ Pike Chapters have achieved this distinction. What a group! These other five chapters are those that for a number of years Alpha Kappa has tried to both emulate and surpass in achievement. We should

all be exceptionally proud of our undergraduate and alumni Brothers who have worked "heart and soul" to achieve this status.

But, is the quest for the Smythe Award what we should be about? The obvious answer is yes. Was Alpha Kappa a "bad" chapter in all those dry years when we didn't win the award? Of course, the answer is a resounding NO! In fact, Alpha Kappa was a terrific chapter, and we were recognized as a good solid group of men that did the "right thing." For many long years we were just hit or miss on the Smythe Award. We at AK knew how good our chapter was and we could see the results of the hard work and personal development of our members.

Why the Smythe? It is my opinion that Alpha Kappa needs a goal that is hard to achieve and requires real commitment. Our chapter also needs recognition for the "blood, sweat, and tears" it invests in the competition to win the award. The recognition as a Dynasty Smythe Chapter helps to provide motivation to higher achievement.

As many of you have heard me say many times before, the value of the Smythe Award is the significant bonds of friendship and brotherhood that are built and nurtured among the members in doing all the work to achieve the award. Achieving the level of excellence to win the Smythe requires a high level of organization, leadership, effort, discipline, and accountability. It is in the achievement of the tasks that build and teach these skills among our brothers, and allows them to build fraternity with each other.

If we never won a Smythe, would we still achieve the same level of personal development and brotherhood at Alpha Kappa? Would we still be the place where a kid who grows up in rural Missouri, in a cabin without indoor plumbing, attending a one-room schoolhouse, but finding a way to attend MSM, learns exceptional life skills and grows to become a leader in his field? Would that kid still get the benefit of the personal development and friendship we enjoy

at Alpha Kappa? Of course he would. We don't need a Smythe Award for that. And we didn't need a Smythe for a member from that background to go on and achieve excellence in his personal life only to give back as the single most significant monetary contributor in the history of AK! And to provide that support so that other young men can have the benefit of the things we teach in our Fraternity.

Of course Alpha Kappa needs to compete each year to win the Smythe Award. We need to do that because it is hard to do, but the value is in the Brotherhood and personal development that is achieved.

Now that AK "has arrived" we must never let up on the quest. We must never become complacent or develop a misplaced sense of "entitlement" with regard to the award. The bar is ever increasing for the Smythe – in part because of the fantastic achievement that Alpha Kappa has shown over the years. We keep pushing the bar higher and higher for both our chapter and the rest of the chapters in PiKA. I spend a great deal of time telling pledge classes and the active members what we perceive the "Smythe Criteria" to be. But, it is a moving target and I believe (even though it sounds arrogant to say it) that Alpha Kappa is the chapter that sets the standard for all of PiKA.

We want to be "those guys" that other chapters want to emulate. We want to be those guys who other chapters want to be. We want to be the chapter that leads. We do not ever want to be the chapter that tries to follow another in order to "check off the boxes" and win a Smythe. We want to be the chapter that establishes the "boxes" for all the others. I think we are doing it. Let's keep it up.

And let's not forget why we are doing it. Not so that we win some spiffy trophy. We are doing it because it allows our brothers at Alpha Kappa to develop into good, decent, and honest men who truly live phi phi kappa alpha. Men who not only know the meaning of those words but who let their actions and the way they live their lives reflect phi phi kappa alpha with each other and all who surround them. We want other men to think "I don't know what it is about that guy, but he is the kind of man I would like to become." On campus the men of Alpha Kappa are "that guy" and within PiKA, the Alpha Kappa Chapter is "that guy." Let's make sure we keep our eyes and our lives on phi phi kappa alpha – we do that and we will always be "that guy."

In the bonds of phi phi kappa alpha,

Your Friendly Neighborhood Chapter Advisor,

Chris Ramsay

Charity Pub Crawl

With the primary Pike fall fundraiser being the Annual Turkey Bash Concert, the men looked to find a main event for the spring. Through research of fundraising ideas and a poll throughout the other fraternities, they decided to try a pub crawl. In doing so, Pi Kappa Alpha teamed up with the local Rolla bars, as well as a local bus company to provide the students of MS&T a night of cheap drinks, safe transportation, and a great deal of fun. The event gained nothing but positive feedback from those attending. All in all, the event netted PiKA close to \$1000, and the men hope to make it even bigger and better in years to come.



Dads' Day

On Saturday, May 3rd, the Pikes gathered with their Brothers to welcome their dads to the Pike House. With a great turnout from the parents and the alumni, every father had the opportunity to have one-on-one time with his son; fifty parents and alumni were in attendance, with 42 dads, five moms, and three alumni. The Pikes planned a luncheon, where scholarships were awarded to many recipients, and recreational time with their dads as everyone had the chance to play competitive or non-competitive softball. Fifty-six total scholarships were awarded for the weekend, totaling \$16,200, and fifty-one recipients received a scholarship for outstanding achievement. Of the total amount in scholarships, \$11,100 was given to recipients for GPA scholastic accomplishment; twelve people received a \$350 scholarship with a 3.8-4.0 GPA, twelve received a \$300 scholarship for a 3.5-3.79 GPA, and 22 received a \$150 scholarship for a 3.2-3.49 GPA. Along with the marvelous success accomplished by the Pikes, the parents and alumni enjoyed spending the day at the Pike house.

Founders' Day

Alpha Kappa celebrated the founding of Pi Kappa Alpha on Saturday March 1st. Several alumni, friends, and family joined the active chapter in this festivity. The day consisted of a BBQ lunch at the house followed by a presentation by Brother Keith Wedge (AK '70). Keith Wedge had the honor of announcing that the new addition would be named the "Al Powell Wing", the first floor of the new addition would be named the "Dave Grimm Floor", and the second floor of the new addition would be named the "Dick Bauer Floor". Brothers Al Powell (AK '62), Dave Grimm (AK '50), and Dick Bauer (AK '51) were honored in recognition of their generous contributions supporting Alpha Kappa. Before the lunch concluded, Brothers Don Myers (AK '61) and Bob Kallemeier (AK '62) spoke to the chapter as the latest recipients of the Robert Wolf Award.



Founders' Day Luncheon

Community Service

Habitat for Humanity

On February 23rd and 24th men from Alpha Kappa traveled to Springfield, Missouri to work with a Habitat for Humanity group run by Drury University Architecture students. The 46 men built interior and exterior walls and trusses to support the roof of a new home. Brother Brett Gaumond (AK '07) organized the service trip that totaled 46 brothers participating and over 1,900 hours of service. The men who participated in this service trip had to fight the cold weather, but left with the satisfaction of knowing they made an impact on those in need. The Alpha Kappa Chapter would also like to give special thanks to Pastor Greg Esselman of the Woodland Heights Church for giving our brothers a place to sleep for the weekend.



Engineers Without Borders

It has been another very busy year for the Missouri S&T chapter of Engineers Without Borders. AK Brother Will Kirby (AK '04) took the reins as president for the 2007-2008 school year from fellow brother Kurt Haslag (AK '07). EWB-S&T currently has over 140 members, including students from over a dozen majors, including non-engineering degrees. By the end of the summer EWB will have put over 70 students overseas this year alone. These 70 students will support projects in Bolivia, Haiti, Guatemala and Honduras.

- Corail Lamothe, Haiti: Three students conducted an assessment of a village in poverty ridden Haiti over Spring Break. A return trip is tentatively planned for next January to help provide more potable water to a village which currently treks miles to get clean water.
- Rio Colorado, Bolivia: Twenty students just returned from a trip to this agricultural school in the Amazon rain forest in which they worked on composting latrines, bridge construction, water distribution, and alternate power sources.
- Solola, Guatemala: This team recently returned from their trip which entailed an addition and renovation of an overcrowded and underfunded school. A side implementation trip may have also opened up opportunities for the following year.
- Santiago, Honduras: In August the Honduras team will travel to Santiago to build a water storage tank, implement water filters in homes, and construct multiple rainwater harvesting systems.
- Taccachia, Bolivia: A follow up assessment is headed out in August to the village of Taccachia. Possibly EWB-S&T's largest endeavor, a pedestrian bridge spanning a hazardous river may be in the works for future trips.



Three AK Pikes alumnus Brother Brady Hays (AK '97), Lucas Rottler (AK '05), and Will Kirby (AK '04) stand in front of a 2,000 gallon water tank that was built with the community of Santiago, Honduras.

Among the Honduras team members are three AK brothers. Joel Schrenk (AK '07) just returned from a follow up site assessment to Santiago, Honduras. Brother Schrenk went on a fact-finding mission with one Missouri S&T faculty member to help ensure that the August trip to Santiago is a success. Brother Kirby and Brother Lucas Rottler (AK '05) will be helping lead the August trip and focus on building the water storage tank. If you would like to help sponsor a student on their trip, get involved with EWB, or have questions in general, please contact Will Kirby at wpkyr5@mst.edu.

100th Annual St. Pat's

Alpha Kappa developed plans to be a strong competitor for the St. Pat's competition during the centennial celebration. PiKA applied much of the knowledge from the previous St. Pat's to be more prepared for the competition than ever before. The chapter took third place for its "Green Firetruck" float and first in many events at Follies including greenest person. The Pikes also won numerous awards at Gonzo and Games including second in knockout. In addition to these achievements, the men of Alpha Kappa were finally able to enter a cudgel in this year's competition. Despite the PiKA cudgel not placing, it was a huge achievement for the active chapter having not done one in nearly two decades. In the end, Alpha Kappa was able to capture second place overall in the St. Pat's competition. The active chapter worked hard to make sure the 100th annual St. Pat's was one of the Best Ever and the great success that was achieved will allow for even better outcomes in the years to come.



The Pi Kappa Alpha "Green Firetruck" Float

Active St. Pat's Members



Brothers Rasdall (AK '07) and Brown (AK '08).

Pi Kappa Alpha has two members in St. Pat's this year. Andrew Rasdall (AK '07) is the only active jacket while Charlie Brown (AK '08) is a new baby rep. Andrew holds the office of Parade Fund for the St. Pat's Committee. This position maintains the budget for the parade and makes sure the parade runs smoothly and everything goes as planned. Charlie is on the Follies committee. He sets up and monitors all the games and activities throughout St. Pat's.



The 2008 PiKA Cudgel

Three Pikes Elected to St. Pat's Court

Daniel Ryan (AK '06), Jeremiah Mohan (AK '06), and Elliot Giles (AK '06) all had the honor to be members of St. Pat's Court and represent Pi Kappa Alpha during this past Centennial St. Pat's Celebration. Daniel was elected 2nd Masterguard for the celebration and served the St. Pat's Board as campus sales and recruitment chairman during his second and third years with the Board respectively. Jeremiah was elected 1st Guard for the celebration and served the St. Pat's Board as decorations and vice-president during his second and third years with the Board respectively. Elliot was elected 3rd Guard for the celebration and served the St. Pat's Board as special sales and sales manager during his second and third years with the Board respectively. All positions that these men attained are held in very high regard and require a great deal of time and dedication. Daniel, Jeremiah, and Elliot have served as great representatives for Alpha Kappa and have been essential contributors to the success and involvement of PiKA in the celebration. All members of Alpha Kappa thank these men for their devotion to the St. Pat's Celebration and commend them on their well-deserved recognition.



Brothers Ryan (AK '06), Mohan (AK '06), and Giles (AK '06) on St. Pat's Court.

Graduating Seniors

May 2008 Graduates

On May 17, 2008, sixteen members of Pi Kappa Alpha graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology to begin professional careers. These individuals served the fraternity in a multiplicity of ways throughout their tenure at UMR. We wish them the best in their endeavors, and hope to see them serve AK as alumni.

Picture on right taken at Commencement. (Top row from left to right) Robert Lichtenberg, Ryan Eller, Greg Book, Andy Reitter, Daniel Gravlin, Joel Schrenk, Nathan Doubleddee, Eric Naught, Alex Mear, and Nick Banes (Bottom row from left to right) Brian Amsler, Macabee Dorman, Jeff Busby, Jed Momot, and Mike Schroer. Not pictured: Jason Daming.



Brian Christopher Amsler (AK '05) graduated with a BS in Engineering Management. Brian served AK as the House Manager-Duties. Brian was also involved with Fraternal Order of Leaders, Interfraternity Council, and Roller Hockey. Brian accepted a job with Vandevanter Engineering in St. Louis, Missouri.



Gregory Michael Book (AK '04) graduated with a BS in Aerospace Engineering. On campus Greg was a member of the MS&T Satellite team. He is now working for Halliburton Energy Services in Grand Junction, Colorado.



Jason Randall Daming (AK '06) graduated with a BS in Computer Engineering. Jason was involved on campus with IEEE, MS&T Satellite team, and founded the Table Tennis Club. Jason now works as an Applications Engineer with National Instruments in Austin, Texas.



Nathan James Doubleddee (AK '04) graduated with a BS in Engineering Management. Nathan played baseball for Missouri S&T for two years. Nathan accepted a job with H.E. Williams Inc. as a design Engineer in Joplin, Missouri.



Daniel William Gravlin (AK '05) graduated with a BS in Civil and Architectural Engineering. Daniel played for the Missouri S&T soccer team for four years and was captain his senior year. On campus he was a member of Chi Epsilon, the Civil Engineering Honor Society. Daniel is now working for Larson Engineering in St. Louis, Missouri.



Nicholas Tyler Banes (AK '04) graduated with a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering. Nicholas served as Historian and Scholarship chair. On campus he as a member of IEEE, Engineers without Borders and Alpha Phi Omega. He now works with Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc in St. Louis, Missouri.



Jeffrey Travis Busby (AK '04) graduated with a BS in Engineering Management. Jeff served AK as secretary, 2nd vice president and Rush chair. Jeff was also a part of IFC and Fraternal Order of Leaders. Jeff now works as a sales Engineer with ABB in Jefferson City, Missouri.



Macabee Carl Dorman (AK '04) graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Macabee served AK as Historian, Continuing Education, House Manager Exterior and Duties. Macabee is now working for Gerdau Ameristeel in Jackson, Tennessee.



Ryan David Eller (AK '05) graduated with a BS in Metallurgical Engineering. Ryan served as 2nd IMC, secretary, and special events chair. On campus Ryan was a member of the American Foundry Society and Foundry Education Foundation. Ryan now works for Gerdau Ameristeel in Jackson, Tennessee.



Robert Louis Lichtenberg (AK '04) graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering. Robert served as SC, Rush Chair, and Pledge Educator. He now works with Kiewit Power Constructors Co. in Kansas City, Missouri.



Alex Brenton Mear (AK '04)
graduated with a BS in Engineering Management. Alex served AK as SMC, 2nd IMC, Pledge Educator, and House Manager. Alex was also in St. Pat's, Fraternal Order of Leaders, and Blue Key Honor Society. Alex is now working for Code Consultants Inc. in New York, New York.



Eric Anthony Naught (AK '03)
graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He was a member of the Missouri S&T soccer team. He is now working for Kiewit Power Constructors Co. in Kansas City, Missouri.



Joel Alan Schrenk (AK '04)
graduated with a BS in Civil and Architectural Engineering. Joel served AK as House Manager and Rush Chair. Joel is now working for Burt Hill in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



Jedidiah Wade Momot (AK '05)
graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering. Jed served AK as fundraising chair and brotherhood chair. Jed was also involved with the Student Union Board and played baseball for Missouri S&T. Jed is now working for Brinkmann Constructors in Columbia, Missouri.



Andrew Charles Reitter (AK '04)
graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He served as SMC, 1st IMC, and Pledge Educator. Andrew now works with Caterpillar in Peoria, Illinois.



Michael Dane Schroer (AK '04)
Graduated with a BS in Ceramic Engineering. Michael served as special events chair, and 1st IMC. On campus Michael was involved with Alpha Chi Sigma, Blue Key, and Order of Omega. Michael now works with DalTile in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Notable Involvement

The Interfraternity Council, St. Pat's, and The Fraternal Order of Leaders are three large and important student groups on campus. Pi Kappa Alpha had long been uninvolved with these organizations. However, through hard work and dedication, the men of Alpha Kappa are now actively involved and even hold many leadership positions within each of these respected organizations.

IFC

Andrew Arnold
Brian Amsler
Stephen Rothermich
Alexander Mathis

St. Pats

Jeremiah Mohan
Daniel Ryan
Alex Mear
Darrin Smith
Elliot Giles
Andrew Rasdall
Charles Brown

Fraternal Order of Leaders

Daniel Ryan
Alex Mear
Jeffrey Busby
Andrew Arnold
Brian Amsler
Elliot Giles
Stephen Rothermich
Ryan Hiestand
Lance Weinmann



Pictured above (Top row from left to right): Stephen Rothermich, Jeff Busby, Jeremiah Mohan, and Daniel Ryan. Second Row: Darrin Smith, Andrew Rasdall, Elliot Giles, Andrew Arnold, Alex Mear, Brian Amsler, and Ryan Hiestand. Front Row: Lance Weinmann, Charlie Brown, and Alexander Mathis.

Leadership

Spring 2008 Leaders

Executive Council

SMC: Alex Mear

1st IMC: Josh Heger

2nd IMC: Lance Weinmann

ThC: John Pettit

SC: Andrew Huebner

Pledge Ed: Ryan Hiestand

House Manager: Lucas Rottler

Rush Chairman: Stephen Grelle

Rush Chairman: Dan Ryan



Executive Council,
From left to right:
Lance Weinmann (AK '06), Lucas Rottler (AK '05), Alex Mear (AK '04), Daniel Ryan (AK '06), Stephen Grelle (AK '06), John Pettit (AK '06), Andrew Huebner (AK '06)

Committee Chairman

Campus Involvement: Andrew Parrish

Community Service: Brett Gaumond

Correspondence: Joel Birke

Intramurals: Kenny Baer

Public Relations: Nicholas Mentasana

Social: Jon Miller

Sorority Relations: Kaleb Hoffman

Special Events: Nick Landon

Alumni Relations: Matthew Wilson

Brotherhood: Tim Neff/Garrett Stevens

Computers: Jason Kath

Continuing Ed: Chris Zerr

Fundraising: Caleb Waldbuesser

Historian: Brandon Cundiff

Risk Management: Greg Crannick

Scholarship: Drew Calvert

Steward: Ryan Brunkhorst

House Fix-It: Kevin Laut

House Exterior: Matt Staskelunas

House Duties: Greg Miller

Assistant ThC: Ryan O'Daniel

Leaders On Campus

Alpha Phi Omega

President: Kevin Laut

VP of Service: Andrew Rothermich

Service Chair: Kaleb Hoffman

Fellowship Chair: Brandon Shipman

American Society of Eng Management & Institute of Industrial Engineers

Vice President: Alex Mear

Blue Key

Alumni Relations: Lance Weinmann

American Society of Mechanical Engineers

President: Wade Aitken-Palmer

Treasurer: Brandon Moore

Secretary: Brett Gaumond

Web & Publications: Andrew Parrish

Engineers Without Borders

President: Will Kirby

Honduras Team: Lucas Rottler

Fraternal Order of Leaders

Alumni Relations: Daniel Ryan

Institute of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Vice President: Fred Reineke

Intercollegiate Knights

President: Stephen Grelle

Social Chair: Kevin Laut

Interfraternity Council

President: Andrew Arnold

Greek Week: Stephen Rothermich

National Stone Sand & Gravel Assoc.

Captain: Joseph Roth

Vice Captain: Darrin Smith

St. Pat's Committee

Vice President: Jeremiah Mohan

Sales Manager: Elliot Giles

Recruitment: Daniel Ryan

Local/Special Sales: Andrew Rasdall

Student Ambassador

Supervisor: Will Kirby

Student Council

City Council: Curtis McDonald

Students Today, Alumni Tomorrow

Vice President: Lance Weinmann

Secretary: Curtis McDonald

Student Union Board

Campus Traditions: Curtis McDonald

MS&T Lacrosse Team

Treasurer: Ryan Hiestand

Secretary: Tom Graff

MS&T Rugby Club

Vice President: Stephen Rothermich

Varsity Football

Colin Douthit

Aaron Gowdy

Greg Crannick

Varsity Soccer

Assistant Coach: Mike McNamee

Keith Beers

Thomas Lawton

Garrett Stevens

Nicholas Mentasana

Brandon Moore

Afif Najjar

Pat McVey

Nicholas Landon

Matthew Wilson

Brian Tucker

Sam Schaffer

Daniel Stokes

Kenny Gravin

Patrick McNamee

New Initiates & Pledges

Initiation Update

On January 26th, Alpha Kappa initiated twenty men of the Fall 2007 pledge class into the bonds of phi phi kappa alpha. They had a successful pledge semester, led by their pledge educator Rob Lichtenberg (AK '04).

Pictured: (Standing from left to right) Aditya Sharma, Brian Daming, Aaron Gowdy, Garrett McCarthy, Steve Bostic, Jameson Metcalf, Andrew Brune, Andrew Parrish, Mitch Jones, Keith Kernan, William Loeffler, and Brandon Cundiff (Kneeling from left to right) Mike Pendergrass, Kaleb Hoffman, Brandon Shipman, Logan Gillespie, Andrew Calvert, Blake Summers, and Charles Brown.



Spring 2008 Pledge Class

Rush chairman Lance Weinmann (AK '06) rushed the largest pledge class on campus with 9 men. They were lead by pledge educator Ryan Hiestand (AK '04). By the end of the semester all 9 men had fulfilled their obligations.

As pictured left to right: (Back Row) Sam Schaffer, St. Charles, MO; Michael Weber, St. Louis, MO; John VanGels, St. Peters, MO; Christopher Dolan, St. Louis, MO; (Front Row) Daniel Stokes, Arnold, MO; Patrick McNamee, Fenton, MO; Zachary Bianchi, O'Fallon, MO; Ned Matuzak, Peoria, IL; Kenny Gravlin, St. Charles, MO; Ryan Hiestand, Pledge Educator.



Rush Never Sleeps

Alpha Kappa made some significant changes to its recruitment philosophy this past semester. First it was decided to focus more on recruiting current students at Missouri S&T. This created a larger base of prospective members (approximately 185 students) mostly recommended by the active chapter. Also, despite the fact that there were a smaller number of students who listed themselves as "interested in Greek Life", a large list of names for incoming freshmen (approximately 370 incoming students) was compiled from numerous sources and is continuously growing as more incoming men are found.

Second, many large events were eliminated from the recruitment schedule. In addition to being very expensive for the chapter, these events often provide an intimidating environment for recruits and become more of a brotherhood "frat" party than anything else. Instead, smaller events were encouraged. The guideline that has been followed all semester has been that a recruitment event should include one more Pike than the number of recruits at an event, so if four prospective members attended an event, five Pikes should attend. This ensures that each recruit has enough Pikes with whom to converse, but not too many Pikes to ensure the recruits are not excluded. Good examples of these kinds of events are dinners, sports games, and concerts.

Next, the recruitment chairmen tried to keep the chapter informed and knowledgeable of AK's recruitment strategy. To accomplish this, an all-chapter recruitment presentation was given after the Goal Setting Meeting. The meeting briefly touched on the importance of recruitment, skill building, and name

generation. Afterward, many members of the chapter signed up to be a part of the recruitment committee, as well as submitted names of current students and incoming freshmen. In addition to the all-chapter meeting, a smaller recruitment committee was formed. This committee met every week during the first half of the semester. The purpose of these meetings was to build up a strong base of men within the chapter who understood the recruitment process and could be relied on for help later in the semester and during the summer.

With all of the hard work dedicated to rush, 26 men were rushed for the fall semester. The recruitment chairmen are also proud to announce that 100% of all bids were accepted. By distributing bids only after a recruit had made his decision, the chapter was not left wondering if a bid would be signed.

Want To Help With Rush?

Do you know someone who is graduating from high school and coming to Missouri S&T? Would they make a great Pike? The chapter would love your support in recruiting the best men. Any recommendations will be actively pursued with utmost urgency. Feel free to contact the individual below.

Rush Chairman:
Kaleb Hoffman | klhrm9@mst.edu

Ski Trip

On January 10th, twenty members of Alpha Kappa traveled to Winter Park, Colorado, to enjoy a week together, having fun on the slopes. As a bonus, most were able to meet up with recent graduate, Kurt Haslag (AK '07), for a night of catching up, the night before they were suppose to be at their destination. The trip took place at the Winter Park Resort, which is one of the top places in the country to ski and board. Better weather couldn't have been asked for, with fresh snow falling every night. The week went off without a glitch, and fun was had by all, on this week of brotherhood on the slopes.



Pikes Take First & Hooligans Take Fifth

Alpha Kappa has always been a dominate force on the intramural fields, and the spring semester of 2008 was no exception. AK finished in first place for the third straight year with a commanding lead of 230 points over strong competitor, Sigma Nu. As great as this

accomplishment is, it is not the most amazing part of Alpha Kappa's success. Hooligans, Alpha Kappa's B-Team, broke into the top five for the first time in AK history. After such a strong performance at the beginning of the semester by the A-Team, the focus was shifted to Hooligans who fought their way to fifth place and second among Fraternities, excluding Pikes.

Even with such a large lead going into the spring semester, 176.5 points, Alpha Kappa certainly did not take it easy on the competition. Heading into the basketball season, AK knew they had something special. With the



easily take the championship game against Silver Bullets. In an exciting and close game, Pikes were barely edged out and took second place with disappointment, but looked forward to the rest of the intramural year.

With an even wider gap

between first and second place, Hooligans stepped up to take over Missouri S&T intramurals. Hooligans took eighth place in washers, seventh in table tennis, and an outstanding second place finish in weightlifting. As the season neared its end, PiKA had all but accepted the championship trophy, but Hooligans was still fighting for its fifth place standing. With Hooligans success riding on the line, Josh Heger (AK '06) stepped up and delivered an incredible performance on the tennis court for the third year in a row. He led the team to a very respectable second place finish against a tough competitor in the International Students Association.

The season finished out with the A-team leading the charge in soccer with Hooligans not far behind. Pikes and Hooligans stunned the competition with undefeated records in their respective brackets. Both teams made it to the quarter-finals where they both suffered heartbreaking losses with PiKA losing to CCF (2-1) and Hooligans losing to Sigma Nu. However, with the intramural championship already won for Pikes, and Hooligans with a locked-in fifth place position, these losses turned into a great brotherhood event where penalty kicks resulted in Pikes defeating Hooligans to end the intramural season.

The 2007-2008 intramural season marks the seventh year that Alpha Kappa has been overall intramural champions in the past eight years, the fourth straight year that Hooligans has placed in the top ten, and the first year Hooligans has been in the top five. With recruitment of talented freshman and the effort of younger actives in the house, AK looks to continue its intramural success for years to come.

Intramural Sport	Pikes	Hooligans
Badminton	6	11
Basketball	2	6
Billards	2	18
Bowling	6	12
Darts	2	3
Football	1	5
Golf	3	16
Racquetball	8	3
Soccer	3	4
Softball	1	5
Swimming	5	14
Table Tennis	6	7
Tennis	6	2
Track & Field	10	7
Ultimate Frisbee	1	7
Volleyball	4	10
Washers	10	8
Weight Lifting	4	2

addition of former UMR basketball players Neil Fehr (AK '05) and Joe Roth (AK '05), the team seemed unstoppable. Pikes breezed through every team they faced with often large margins of victory. Led by Brothers Fehr and Roth, the Pikes seemed set to

International Convention

Alpha Kappa Chapter Shines at International Convention

The gentlemen of Pi Kappa Alpha at the Missouri University of Science and Technology had another successful year, walking away from the International Convention in Memphis, TN with a plethora of awards.

The Alpha Kappa Chapter continues their reputation of excellence as they earn themselves a Robert Adger Smythe Award for outstanding achievement. This was the fifth consecutive year Alpha Kappa chapter achieved this recognition, declaring them a Dynasty chapter. The Brothers of AK took great strides in the 2007-2008 academic year and the hard work and planning paid off, earning themselves several other cornerstone awards at the 2008 International Convention. The AK Chapter was granted the Chapter Excellence Award, the Improvement Project of the Year award for the



Brothers (Back Row) McDonald (AK '07), Bernasek (AK '05), Myers (AK '61), Kallemeier (AK '62), Heger (AK '06), Baer (AK '06), Grelle (AK '06), (Front Row) Ryan (AK '06), and Weinmann (AK '06) at the International Convention.

completion of a new addition to the house, Management Cornerstone, Alumni Relations Cornerstone, Scholarship Plate for academic achievement, 100% Phi Phi Kappa Alpha Club award, and

the International Workday Participation award. Since a chapter can earn no more than two cornerstones, the AK Chapter received honors as runners up for the Campus Involvement Cornerstone and International Fraternity Participation Cornerstone. With the spotlight shined on the AK Chapter at this year's International Convention, the Pikes will cherish their accomplishments by means of motivation – a better year and a higher standard of success.

Alpha Kappa Recognized by Missouri S&T

The gentlemen of Alpha Kappa finished the year with several highly acclaimed honors in recent campus banquets. Between the Greek Leadership



Brothers Murphy (AK '04), Grelle (AK '06), Ryan (AK '06), Mear (AK '04), Dreamgirl Emilie Lueker, and Rothermich (AK '07) at the Leadership Banquet.

Banquet and Student Leadership Banquet held on April 14th and April 17th, respectively, the Chapter brought in seven major awards. Four of the awards were on an individual basis, while the entire Chapter was recognized for three. Individual recognitions include the following: Brother Brett Gaumond was recognized as an Order of Omega Greek Student of the Month. Brother William Kirby brought home the Ned and Berna Harvey Volunteer Involvement Awards due to his extraordinary

work as a Student Ambassador. Finally, Brother Daniel Ryan received The Student Council Keystone Award, the most prestigious award honor achieved by any individual Pike at the award banquets. As a Chapter, Pi Kappa Alpha obtained three admirable awards. Alpha Kappa accepted the Student Council Group Community Service Award, the Order of Omega Award of Excellence Gold, and the IFC Group Community Service Award for their outstanding efforts on campus and in the community. All of the Brothers of Alpha Kappa worked extremely hard to achieve such a successful set of awards at the leadership banquets and will continue to do so in the coming years.

Order of Omega Student of the Year

This past semester, Brother Nicholas Mentesana was presented with the Order of Omega Greek Student of the Year Award at the annual Greek Banquet for the 2007/2008 school year. As the community service chairman for the fall 2007 semester, Brother Mentesana was first selected as the Order of Omega Student of the Month for August and September for his effort in setting up three separate weekend long community service events for Pi Kappa Alpha. Aside from being selected as a Student of the Month for the 2007/2008 year, Brother Mentesana was able to fulfill the rest of Order of Omega's criteria for the Student of the Year Award with his involvement in campus activities and academic performance. Despite being involved within the Fraternity, Brother Mentesana also plays varsity soccer for the University, and has even maintained a 4.0 GPA after six semesters in the Department of Electrical Engineering. Together, all these achievements were enough to propel Brother Mentesana above the rest of the candidates for the award, providing Pi Kappa Alpha with more well deserved recognition.



Brother Nicholas Mentesana

Brother Cundiff Runs for Missouri S&T Track Team

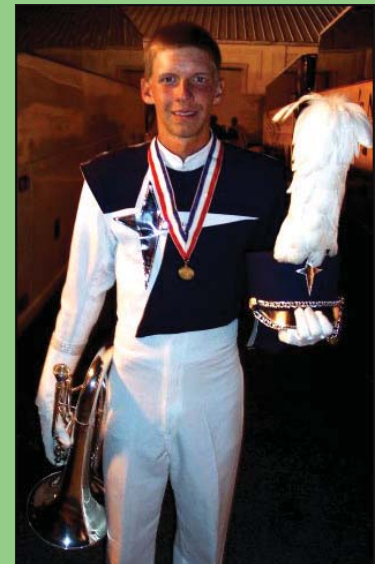
This past spring Alpha Kappa continued its tradition of its men participating in varsity athletics. Brandon Cundiff (AK '08) competed for the Missouri University of Science and Technology track team during the 2008 season. Brandon competed in several events including the 4 x 400 meter relay, the 4 x 800 meter relay, the 600 meter run, and the 800 meter run. This was Brandon's first season to run on the track team and progressed throughout the year. At the Missouri Southern meet Brandon took 6th place in the 600 meter run. Brandon also was given the opportunity to run the 800 meter race in the Great Lakes Valley conference meet. We look forward to seeing more from Brandon and the Missouri S&T track team in the future.



Brother Brandon Cundiff competing.

Brother Brune Plays for the Blue Stars

Brother Andrew Joseph Brune (AK '08) has a talent few other members of the active chapter have. Andrew plays baritone and is a member of the Missouri S&T Marching Band. Over the summer Andrew received the honor of playing with The Blue Stars Drum Corps. The Blue Stars rehearsed several hours a day and traveled 12,000 miles over the country to perform in front of audiences averaging anywhere from ten to twenty thousand people. The program for this summer was entitled "Le Tour: Every Second Counts." This program was dedicated to the passion, intensity, endurance, and teamwork of Lance Armstrong. This featured original music from well-known French composers and visually captured the imagery, artistry, and beauty of every aspect of the Tour de France. The culmination of all of Andrew's hard work took place at the World Championship Finals in Bloomington, Indiana in front of a crowd of forty thousand. In the end The Blue Stars made history by placing in finals at every regional championship and placing 8th in the world championships for the first time in 29 years.



Brother Andrew Brune

Alumni News



Commencement

For the second consecutive semester, the AKAA hosted a post-commencement luncheon for AK's May 2008 graduates, families, and friends.

The luncheon was held on May 17, 2008 in Wolf Hall at the AK chapter house. The crowd of over 100 guests, which included 16 graduating Pikes, filled Wolf Hall to capacity and extended outside onto the patio. The catered barbeque dinner and drinks were well received, and everyone enjoyed a bite of the special graduation cake that was provided.

Chris Thornton and Steve Penberthy headed up the event for the AKAA, coordinating the food, drinks, and cake; the AK House Corporation graciously provided financial support for the event. Chris Ramsay and Marion Penberthy (Steve's wife) also provided indispensable help, which further contributed to the luncheon's success.

The AKAA hopes to continue this excellent event each semester, as it creates an important Alumni Association touchpoint as the active brothers move into the AK alumni community.

George W. Dickinson

George W. Dickinson, MinE, was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha who graduated in 1937. He was an expert in the layout and design of manufacturing plants and institutional facilities. Brother Dickinson served 13 years on the Littleton, Colorado school board, with nine years as president, and served as county commissioner for four years. Brother George W. Dickinson passed away on December 30, 2007.

AKAA General Update

In keeping with the last Alpha Kappa Alumni Association update from the last issue of the Kapers, the AKAA has continued to increase awareness to local Alpha Kappa alumni in St. Louis. With an organizational restructuring, the AKAA feels like it is the strongest it has ever been. We have several upcoming events in the works, such as a Winery Trip, Minor League Baseball game, night at the Horse Race Track, Bowling and Trivia Night, which we hope will bolster our alumni participation.

For anyone interested in becoming an AKAA exec or board member, please contact Chad Raley at craley1@hotmail.com or by phone at 314-807-3357.

Heraldic Banners

There have been many changes taking place at the university due to the new name change that took place this past January. The change was evident in many avenues of university marketing on and off campus as well as in the Alpha Kappa chapter house. One of the heraldic banners located in Wolf hall also gained the new Missouri S&T logo. In order to stay consistent with the university, brother Dick Bauer (AK '51) took the initiative to have the stitching added to the banner. The new Missouri S&T logo now hangs amongst the banners along with the former university acronyms of MSM and UMR. The heraldic banners are significant icons associated with Alpha Kappa and also serve to differentiate the chapter house. The heraldic banners were only possible through donations by generous alumni and the key contributors are listed below:

Avery Drake (AK '50)
 Stan Dolecki (AK '50)
 David Grimm (AK '50)
 Edward Kyburz (AK '50)
 Jack McNichols (AK '50)
 Donald Peterson (AK '50)
 Bernie Wagner (AK '50)
 Dick Bauer (AK '51)
 Bill Horst (AK '51)
 Joe Powell (AK '51)
 Bob Schuchardt (AK '51)
 Byron Keil (AK '52)
 Jack Eason (AK '53)
 Dick Berg (AK '54)
 Joe Krispin (AK '54)
 Charles Poe (AK '54)
 Robert Walsh (AK '55)
 Duncan Block (AK '57)
 Robert Carr (AK '57)
 Rollie Johnson (AK '62)
 Paul Baldetti (AK '81)



Brother Schuchardt as St. Pat in 1951

St. Pat's Celebration

The 100th annual St. Pat's took place this past spring with numerous alumni returning to campus and the chapter house throughout the ten day celebration. Among the alumni who returned to Rolla was Brother Bob Schuchardt (AK '51). Brother Schuchardt was very involved within Alpha Kappa as well as on campus including the unique opportunity to portray St. Pat in the 1951 celebration.

In addition to attending, Brother Schuchardt presented the active chapter with a photograph of his 1951 portrayal of St. Pat (shown above) and two PiKA mugs made by Bob Wolf while still attending MSM. The active chapter would like to thank all alumni who attended the celebration, especially Brother Schuchardt for the memorable gifts.

Engagement Announcement

Chad Raley (AK '04) has asked his girlfriend, Missy Minton, of two and a half years to marry him. She quickly said "Yes" and they are engaged to be married on Saturday, May 16, 2009 in Alton, IL.



Group Picture of All Participants

AK Alumni Golf Tournament

The St. Louis AK Alumni golf scramble was held in late May on a beautiful day at the Country Club of Sugar Creek outside of St. Louis. Twenty-eight golfers were in attendance - consisting of twenty one alumni, one father, five active chapter members, and one rushee. The tournament is broken up into two flights. Flight A is made up of the winners of the previous year and the better golfers. Flight B is made up of the remaining golfers.

The winners of the A Flight this year were Tom Robinson (Delta Theta), Dalton Makin (Delta Theta), Logan Mayfield (Gamma Beta), and Nathan Heimgardner (Epsilon Iota). Tom Robinson lives at the Country Club of Sugar Creek and has played with AK alums for several years. This year he put together a group of Pike alumni with whom he works and they won by a stroke. The winners of the B flight were Jerel Bernasek (AK '05), his father James Best, Glenn Phillips (AK '68), and Dan Boyce (AK '69).

A picnic style lunch was held after the event where the Brothers and guests could talk and relax. Trophies were presented to the winners of the A and B Flights as well as for the long drive, Josh Heger (AK '06), and for the closest to the pin, Tom Robertson. Next year's tournament date is already set for May 16, 2009 at the Country Club of Sugar Creek.

Cigar Bar Party

On March 29th the Alpha Kappa Alumni Association hosted a party at the Top Hat Cigar Bar in Kirkwood, Missouri. The event brought not only Alpha Kappa Alumni but also alumni from various chapters and friends. There were two televisions showing both the March Madness games and the St. Louis Blues hockey game. A Texas Hold'em tournament broke out on the bar's poker table and a few games of darts were played on the two dart boards. Attendance reached just over thirty people and a good time was had by all. With this event being a huge success watch for another cigar party to be held in the future.

Alumni Profiles



Gary Holland
(AK '64)

Gary Holland was on a sabbatical sailing his catamaran in the Caribbean and Florida waters during the past winter and living in Italy over the summer. Gary has had great success in his business career and has also had the opportunity to have experiences that many people can only dream of. In Gary's own words, here is his unbelievable story of what he calls retirement.

"Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing." The words rang as I sat at my desk and contemplated a future in, heaven forbid, retirement. Having been a corporate executive for many years since driving away from Rolla after graduation, and now seeing my last company move towards being successfully acquired by a large Swedish conglomerate, it was time - time for a major life change. "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing" flashed onto the screen, emailed by a friend who knew where my mind was likely drifting or soon would be. My strong guttural reaction to these words did not hit until the name on the quote appeared - Helen Keller. Helen Keller? If this courageous and severely handicapped woman could look at life in this light, why couldn't or shouldn't I? So what, for me, would be a

life of daring adventure? Until now I had focused on building a business career and raising a family. Heading three public companies had been rewarding, and this was certainly two more than I had contemplated when setting career goals - but a daring adventure? Maybe. How about going to Seminary at night for a ministerial degree while working as a CEO? Ms. Keller would likely smile and nod approval. But this was in the past. What now?

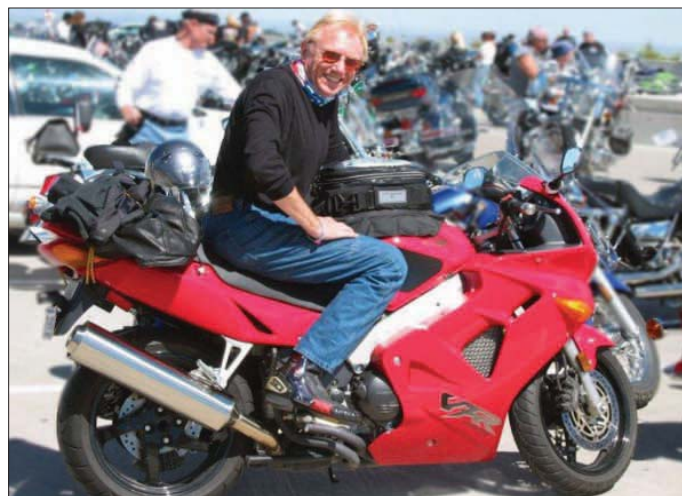
As a young boy I used to ride my bicycle out into the country to go hunting before school. That was a daring adventure then, and I recalled fantasizing some morning I would just keep on riding - a Huck Finn type thing. But I always turned around and came back, an adventure not pursued. So why not pursue this old, old adventure? Yes!

Out of shape but owning a touring bike with saddle bags I had never used (this wasn't the first time the dream had hit me), it was time. On a Friday afternoon the garage door slammed shut, and the loaded bike, with me on-board, rolled down the hill toward Shakopee, Minnesota. I had picked Shakopee as a destination since it was all downhill. Just getting there, I thought, would be quite an adventure for an old dude like me. I let out a yell as downtown Shakopee beckoned. Goal achieved, but was I going to climb the up-hill back to Minneapolis? Why not just keep going, just like the old fantasy? Twelve days later, and almost one-thousand miles down the Mississippi, the bike and I rolled into Rolla. The next day Springfield, with a self contained mega-century complete. A daring adventure complete, and except for a sore body (and a few less pounds) I felt truly alive.

Only a few weeks passed when a call came in from a friend. "Want to sail across the Atlantic?" A Swedish family was looking for a crew to deliver their sailboat to St. Lucia from the Canary Islands. My first thoughts turned to the thousand reasons this was not a good idea.

All were true, but when would I ever get a chance to do something like this again - an adventure like this again. A few weeks later I found myself in the Canaries shaking hands with a pick up crew made up of two Americans, a Norwegian, Swede, Canadian and a Swedish couple. Our job was simple. Get a rather nice 65 foot Swan rigged, provisioned and across the Atlantic Ocean. The challenge soon became clearer, as I found out only one person had ever crossed an ocean, and I was the second most experienced person on board - which was not saying much. In fact, the Swedes had actually signed on to learn to sail. Plus it was hurricane season, and the ocean ahead was a flurry of storms raging off the coast of Africa - right over our heads. Sixteen days after saying good bye to the African coast our good ship Sway sighted landfall on the Island of St. Lucia. A crew that bonded, beautiful days and nights, enough bad weather to embellish our stories, it was an adventure of a lifetime.

One evening at sea the question was raised as to what one might do next to top the experience we were living. There were the usual ideas; Everest, Kilimanjaro, running with the bulls in Spain, crossing the Sahara, skiing to the North and South Poles. One of the Swedes quietly murmured, after a sip of wine, "I'm gonna ride a camel across the Sahara." I remember thinking, after experiencing the beauty and comfort of the Southern Atlantic, why anyone would wish to expose themselves to the brutal heat and sand



Brother Holland on Motorcycle

Alumni Profiles

of the Sahara?

A few months later - after blowing my Achilles tendon I signed up for another thousand mile bicycle trip around the Great Lakes - the word Sahara popped back to mind. A web search revealed crossing the Sahara by camel to be a multiyear endeavor - not good. But there it was - Paris-Dakar. Paris-Dakar, as any motorcyclist knows, is the longest, and hardest, off road race in the world - plus it requires crossing the Sahara. A bit more internet work and I found an English team forming to do the rally on BMW bikes. As I raced motocross in my twenties, maybe I can bluff my way through, I thought, as long as no one asks my age. A few weeks later I joined the English team outside of London. It was the start of the most difficult physical challenge of my life. Twenty-one days racing from Paris to Dakar, Senegal across the Sahara on two wheels. There were times when the bike flew off rocks embedded under the sand dunes when I thought my days were finished. Only maybe Hell Week in the old house came close to the stress, avalanche of emotions and pain. Returning to Minneapolis I was placed under doctor's care. Some of the more extreme experiences crossing the Sahara definitely made me wonder if I had misinterpreted Ms. Keller's definition of "daring adventure."

Time heals, and while my leg injuries forced the crossing off several similar "to-do" adventurers, the "big-one" remained. It glared back at me from the crumpled piece of paper carried in my billfold. The big-one in my dreams since seeing my first sail boat on a trip to Chicago with two brothers while working a summer job in Danville, IL so many years ago - living on a sailboat and sailing the oceans.

Much of 2007 was spent building a 42 foot sailing catamaran designed for live aboard, short-handed ocean crossings. There was a short deviation, as I rode the RAGBRAI bicycle ride across Iowa, bumping into Brother Don Myers, but that's another story. S/V HEIDI launched October 1 in Sarasota, FL, and she and I set sail for Key West on November 1. Since then she and I have been at sea sailing and living mostly in the Bahamas. HEIDI is now docked in Charleston, SC waiting out hurricane season. Come November we will again set sail for points south. While HEIDI patiently waits, I am



Brother Holland on his boat, HEIDI

living out another small but pleasant adventure - living the summer in Italy where I have become Chairman of an electronics firm on the London exchange. Ocean sailing and living has definitely qualified as a true adventure. Many good times, and yes a few of those, "Oh No's." But overall it is the adventure of a lifetime, with joy far exceeding the down times.

As I look back at my life's "daring adventurers," there is one that stands out - the decision to leave Marshfield, MO, drive those long, back then, seventy miles and pledge Pi Kappa Alpha. At the time, I knew I was

setting off on the biggest adventure of my life, but I had no idea what those four years at 9th and Bishop would mean in terms of character development and the willingness to adventure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing. As a Pike I learned to go for it; to be the best - traits that have served so many brothers so well. I pray all will periodically take the time to live out their dreams, their adventures. The fewer times we say, "I wish I had," the better and fuller life can be.

Gary Holland, AK `64

Gary Holland served as Chairman, CEO and president of Fargo Electronics, a public company manufacturing digital printers and systems for photo identification cards and badges. In his career, he headed three high technology public companies in the Minneapolis area. Gary currently serves on the Board of Delphax Technology, a public company manufacturing large digital printing systems, and is Non-Executive Chairman of Matica Systems, of Milan Italy, an electronics company manufacturing card personalization equipment for the credit and photo card industry. He also worked with a number of Fortune 1000 company's CEOs and Boards as a strategic planning consultant. Brother Holland earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1964 as well as a master's degree in industrial administration in 1965 from Purdue University. In addition to his technical education, Gary graduated magna cum laude with a master's degree in divinity at Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN in 2000, and served as Adult Pastor of Colony Park Church in Edina MN. Gary also serves on the Board of Governors of Bethel University and the advisory board of Bethel Seminary. He is a frequent speaker to business groups and MBA programs on the topic of the Integration of Faith and Business.

Scholarships

Alumni Support Boosts AK Scholastic Performance

This past spring during Dads' Day – a new event held by the active chapter to encourage greater parent involvement and support – over \$16,000 was presented in awards to members of Alpha Kappa. A total of 56 awards were given with 51 different AK members receiving one or more awards. Scholastic awards totaled \$11,100; leadership awards totaled \$4,950; and two memorial awards were presented totaling \$150. Due to the increased alumni support through scholarships, Alpha Kappa achieved not only a 3.11 cumulative GPA for the entire scholastic year but also ranked second amongst fraternities in GPA – quite an accomplishment for the largest fraternity on campus. The Dads' Day event was the second AK awards ceremony held during the year. The annual scholarship awards banquet, which is typically held during Homecoming, was held during the fall on Moms' Day. By holding the scholarship presentations during these family events, the active chapter hopes to increase family participation and show parents the great work that their sons are doing at Alpha Kappa.



The Alpha Kappa 3.8 - 4.0
Scholarship Recipients



The Alpha Kappa 3.2 - 3.49
Scholarship Recipients

Memorial Awards

Rippert Award

Gregg Crannick
Kaleb Hoffman

Hubbard Award

Gregg Crannick

Scholastic Awards

3.8 - 4.0

Gregg Crannick
Ryan Eller
Daniel Gravlin
Stephen Grelle
Nicholas Montesana
Brandon Moore
Andrew Reitter
Brian Tucker
Matthew Wilson
Michael Schroer
Josh Young
William Kirby

3.5 - 3.79

Andrew Brune
Joel Schrenk
Brian Daming
Stephen Bostic
Alex Mear
Andrew Huebner
Jeffrey Busby
Brandon Shipman
Lance Weinmann
Jason Kath
Fredrick Reineke
Thomas Lawton

3.2 - 3.49

William Cacheris
Jason Daming
Aaron Gowdy
Nicholas Landon
Garret McCarthy
Joshua Kaltenbronn
Ryan Odaniel
James Pendergrass
Kaleb Hoffman
Charles Hasseldiek
Kevin Laut
Clinton Galaske
Jon Miller
Brian Amsler
Brandon Cundiff
Christopher Dishon
Nathan Doubledee
Colin Douthit
Andrew Held
Afif Najjar
Timothy Neff
Evan Stevens

Leadership Awards

Jerel Bernasek
Charles Blaschke
Daniel Ryan
Robert Lichtenberg
Joel Schrenk
Andrew Arnold
Stephen Grelle



From left to right: Brother Grelle (AK '06),
Bernasek (AK '05), Ryan (AK '06), and
Schrenk (AK '04) receiving leadership
awards.

Scholarship Program

Continuation of the Alpha Kappa Scholarship Program

Alumni who received scholarships during their tenure as undergraduates from the Alpha Kappa Scholarship Program from inception to 1993 were acknowledged in the past three issues of the Kapers. This addition of the Kapers will span the years from 1994 to 2001.

During these years, the scholarship program continued to distribute scholarships to students through the named endowments. Reimbursement of honor society initiation fees ceased in 1999. The Robert Wolf Memorial Award was initiated in 2001.

As always, a detailed explanation of the aforementioned scholarships begin on page 265 "Alpha Kappa Educational Foundation Appendix" of "A History of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha, Rolla, MO, 1905-2005."

Alpha Kappa Scholarship Program 1994-2001

1994

Craig Sorensen – Frisbee
Dale Spence – Thompson
Terrence Chevalier – Overall Scholastic
Brian Bingham – Overall Scholastic
Ross Thomasson – Semester Scholastic
James Fiechtl – Semester Scholastic
Stuart Beard – Morgan
Stuart Beard – Drebes
Michael Weiland – Drebes
Richard Tokar – Intramural Athlete
Brian Jacobs – Scholastic Improvement
Christopher Marlow – Hubbard
Jason Spiva – Rippert
Brian Wright – Rippert
Clint Rybak – Honor Society
Jim Fiechtl – Honor Society
Brady Hays – Honor Society
Jarrod Stock – Honor Society
Darren Sullivan – Honor Society
Ross Thomasson – Honor Society
William Anast – Honor Society
Ronald Longwell – Honor Society
Jacob Brann – Honor Society
Brian Jacobs – Honor Society

1995

Brady Hays – Thompson
Terrence Chevalier – Frisbee
Brian Bingham – Frisbee
Craig Sorensen – Morgan
James Fiechtl – Morgan
James Fiechtl – Overall Scholastic
Christopher Marlow – Overall Scholastic
William Anast – Semester Scholastic
Craig Sorensen – Semester Scholastic
Terry Shockley – Drebes
Brady Hays – Intramural Athlete
Jarrod Stock – Scholastic Improvement
Chad Salli – Scholastic Improvement
Ryan Burgener – Hubbard
Ryan Burgener – Rippert
James Fiechtl – Honor Society
Brian Bingham – Honor Society
Terrance Chevalier – Honor Society
Scott Davis – Honor Society
Brady Hays – Honor Society
Christopher Marlow – Honor Society

Dale Spence – Honor Society
Kyle Kershaw – Honor Society
Ryan Burgener – Honor Society

1996

James Fiechtl – Frisbee
Jacob Brann – Thompson
Andrew Heap – Thompson
Christopher Marlow – Overall Scholastic
Brian Bingham – Overall Scholastic
Ross Thomasson – Semester Scholastic
Gevan McCoy – Morgan
Ronald Longwell – Drebes
Kevin Como – Intramural Athlete
Ashley Govero – Scholastic Improvement
Brian Jacobs – Scholastic Improvement
Brian Beyer – Scholastic Improvement
Jason Spokes – Hubbard
Aaron Robison – Rippert
Alex Beyer – Honor Society
Kevin Como – Honor Society

1997

Dale Spence – Frisbee
Matthew Meyers – Thompson
Jacob Brann – Overall Scholastic
Andrew Heap – Semester Scholastic
Ryan Howell – Drebes
Brian Jones – Intramural Athlete
Aaron Robison – Scholastic Improvement
Jared Adams – Hubbard
Jared Adams – Rippert

1998

Gregory Redshaw – Thompson
Andrew Heap – Frisbee
Jacob Brann – Frisbee
Ryan Burgener – Morgan
Joseph Schmidberger – Morgan
Matthew Long – Morgan
Daniel Fuhrman – Overall Scholastic
John Almeida – Semester Scholastic
Derek Smith – Semester Scholastic
Brian Wright – Drebes
Scott Davis – Intramural Athlete
Ryan Heckman – Scholastic Improvement
Matthew Long – Hubbard

Patrick Myers – Rippert
Andrew Heap – Honor Society
Daniel Fuhrman – Honor Society
Jacob Brann – Honor Society
Nathaniel Fraser – Honor Society

1999

Patrick Myers – Thompson
Nathaniel Fraser – Frisbee
Michael Smith – Frisbee
John Almeida – Morgan
Joseph Schmidberger – Morgan
Derek Smith – Overall Scholastic
Joshua Collier – Semester Scholastic
Robert Maxson – Semester Scholastic
Kyle Kershaw – Drebes
Aaron Robison – Drebes
Gevan McCoy – Intramural Athlete
Matthew Meyers – Scholastic Improvement
Joseph Young – Hubbard
Nathan Wojtkiewicz – Hubbard
Jacob Coibion – Rippert

2000

Matthew Long – Frisbee
John Almeida – Morgan
Matthew Long – Morgan
Adam Hunt – Morgan
Derek Smith – Overall Scholastic
Matthew Long – Semester Scholastic
Michael Smith – Drebes
Nicholas Rocco – Intramural Athlete
Joseph Maul – Scholastic Improvement
Nicholas Barnhardt – Hubbard
Kyle Verhoff – Rippert

2001

Nicholas Barnhardt – Thompson
Michael Schriener – Frisbee
Chris Leonard – Morgan
Gregory Redshaw – Overall Scholastic
Joshua Collier – Semester Scholastic
Joshua Collier – Drebes
Daniel Feagans – Intramural Athlete
Nathan Mayer – Rippert
Chad Raley – Rippert
Jacob Coibion – Wolf

Alumni Contributions



Perrin Roller (AK '04)

Perrin Roller, the newest board member of the AKEF, and his wife Brenda have established a named scholarship through our educational foundation. The first award will be presented during the current academic year. Perrin is an honorary initiate of Pi Kappa Alpha and has been actively involved in the Chapter since his initiation.

Perrin is also the newly installed president of the Missouri S&T Miner Alumni Association. He is a 1980 graduate of UMR with a degree in geological engineering. Perrin also received a Professional Degree in Geological and Petroleum Engineering from UMR in 1997 and is currently an Adjunct Professor of Petroleum and Geological Engineering, a member of the Academy of Mines and Metallurgy, a member of the Industry Advisory Committee for the Petroleum and Geological Engineering Departments, and a member of the Board of Trustees at Missouri S&T.

As the Corporate Drilling Engineering Manager for Devon Energy, he is responsible for long term rig contracting and construction, corporate well control issues, and drilling personnel training and recruiting. He is currently serving on a temporary assignment as the Managing Director for Devon Energy International Ltd, in Singapore. Perrin will soon be moving back to be with his family at their home in Spring, Texas, just north of Houston.

Byron Keil (AK '52)

As an undergraduate at Missouri School of Mines, Byron Keil was selected as the Intrafraternity Council (IFC) Man of the Year in 1951. Graduating in 1952 with a degree in Petroleum Engineering, Byron has had a distinguished career which began as a petroleum production engineer for Cities Service Oil Co. in West Texas. In 1957 he became Vice President of Operations and Drilling for Wilson Exploration Co. in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Louisiana. In 1966, Byron left Wilson Exploration to become Vice President of Sales and Field Services for NTS, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas, a company that served over 2,200 truck stops and over 1,000 truck fuel purchasing accounts in the U.S. and Canada. He became President of NTS in 1979. Byron retired in 1986 to look after his real estate, oil and gas interests, and other investments.

In addition to his degree from MSM, Byron was enrolled in advanced studies at Southern Methodist University, Texas Tech, the University of Wisconsin, and in executive programs at the University of Virginia and Stanford University. He and his wife Mary Ann have been married for 56 years and have raised three children. Mary Ann has a business degree from Washington University in St. Louis and was introduced to Byron by Brother Bill Horst, during Byron's first St. Pat's at MSM. Byron has a computer study room in the chapter house named in his honor.



Kent Weisenstein (AK '60)

Kent Weisenstein was initiated into Alpha Kappa Chapter on April 7, 1957 and graduated from Missouri School of Mines with a degree in Ceramic Engineering in 1960. Kent was an outstanding baseball pitcher before beginning college and was disappointed that baseball was not a varsity sport at MSM, but participated in just about every other varsity sport.

Kent is president and owner of Missouri Refractories Company in Pevely, Missouri. MORCO is an engineering and manufacturing company producing refractory specialties for many industrial applications. As an alumnus, Kent has served as the Chairman of the UMR Academy of Mines and Metallurgy. He and his wife are also members of the Order of the Golden Shillelagh. Missouri S&T has also honored Kent with a professional degree in ceramic engineering. A computer study room in the new addition has been named in his honor.



Bill Horst (AK '51)

Bill Horst was initiated into Alpha Kappa Chapter in September 1947 and received his B.S. degree in Metallurgical Engineering in 1951. He later received a Ph.D. degree from the University of Arizona. Bill and his wife, Margaret Ann are now retired and living in Tucson, Arizona.

While an undergraduate, Bill served Pi Kappa Alpha as both treasurer and chapter president. During his long and distinguished career he has served as faculty member, worldwide consultant, and the Vice President and Director of Research for AMAX, Inc. As an alumnus, he has served as an executive committee member of the Order of the Golden Shillelagh at UMR. The officer conference room in the new addition has been named in Bill's honor.



Friends, family, and alumni have inquired about memorials in honor of loved ones. AKEF can administer this process by consolidating the memorials, sending an acknowledgement to the donor as a tax receipt, and providing a summary of donors to the loved one's family.

Alumni brothers have made significant contributions to the AKEF for undergraduate Alpha Kappa scholarships during the past year. In addition to the four listed above, others will be profiled in future issues of the Kapers.

Excellence in the Making

An Ingredient of the Chapter's Sustained Success

Pi Kappa Alpha continues to dominate all aspects of the fraternity life at Rolla. On a national standing this summer, the Chapter brought home its fifth consecutive Robert Adger Smythe Award, making Alpha Kappa a Dynasty among Pi Kappa Alpha. This success is no doubt a direct result of the persistence and the achievement of a "process for excellence" of the actives and pledges.

This was not always the case, even in recent times since the tragic fire at the house. Once the jubilee and the smell of fresh paint left the new Chapter house, a period of decline was experienced. This was not simply the fault of the undergraduates that pledged Pike's during the construction of the new Chapter house. It was a due to a combination of various broken processes that existed below the surface of day-to-day activities.

As most of us remember, information about the Chapter house's workings, or even class work on campus, was handed down through "the file system" and tribal knowledge. An obvious result of the fire was that the old files were destroyed. A more latent result was a loss of tribal knowledge. Since the undergrads were physically removed from the Chapter house, the knowledge of the daily house operations were disrupted and often did not exist. Again, this was no fault of the undergraduates. These Brothers were under extreme pressure to deal with the disaster and the process of literally putting their own environment back together. Given the pressure that each undergrad endured, they are to be admired for keeping the faith in AK, their grades up, and continued effort to rebuild the Chapter.

During a drive home from a Founders' Day celebration the idea of an executive retreat came to me somewhere along I-44. The idea was, at the end of each semester, get the outgoing and incoming officers together in one room for a weekend and transfer the unwritten knowledge and the physical files. Each member of the housing corporation was also invited for the weekend. The key role for the alumni was to provide guidance and constructive feedback.

The first retreat was held that following May (2002) at Meremec Springs State Park. The

agenda was straight forward, each officer reported on accomplishments and failures for the semester. The group analyzed and provided feedback. Other major topics such as rush, house bills (rent increase) and scholarship were discussed. After 12 sessions, we have the process down to where the undergraduates send out their report prior to the retreat weekend for review by the alumni. In addition to the housing corporation, the Alpha Kappa educational foundation and the alumni association attend the retreat as well. At the retreat, the outgoing officer highlights areas of failure, items left undone, and challenges for the next officer. Break out sessions take place between the new, old officers and the alumni. The following morning a different major topic is addressed in depth each semester. The three year strategic plan was reviewed at this spring's retreat and updated as needed. Other special topics include Chapter finances, operations, grades, rush and external affairs.

There have been dramatic results documented. For example, the Chapter's grade point has increased above the all men's average, rush numbers as well as quality has increased, and campus involvement (officers in the major organizations are Pikes) is routinely achieved.

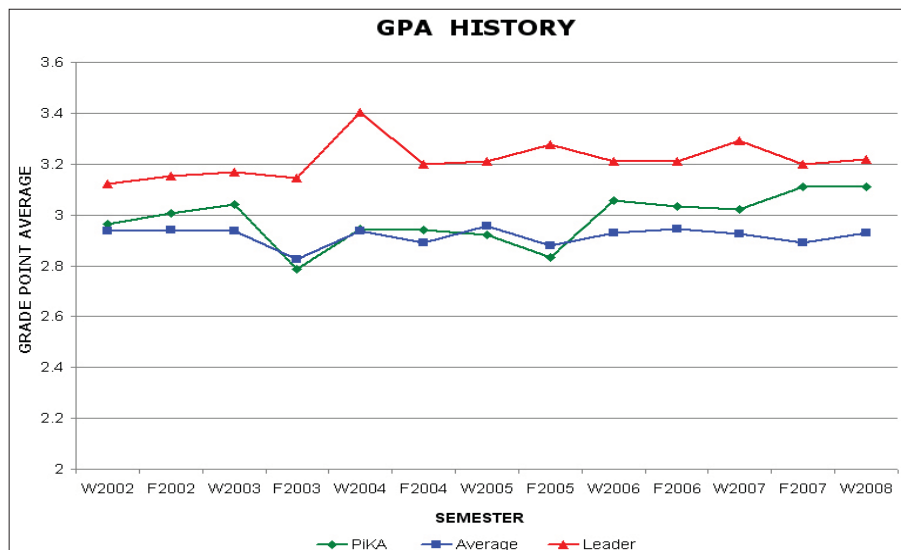
Ryan Hiestand, a double major of mechanical engineering and engineering management, as well as a time-and-again Chapter officer has attended at least half of the executive retreats, and provided closing remarks at his last retreat (as an undergrad) in May 2008. To quote Ryan:

"I never look forward to these retreats, the preparation, the debates that beat a dead horse into mush, the lack of sleep, etc., but, looking back this time has been one of the most valuable experiences in developing me as a leader, thank you."

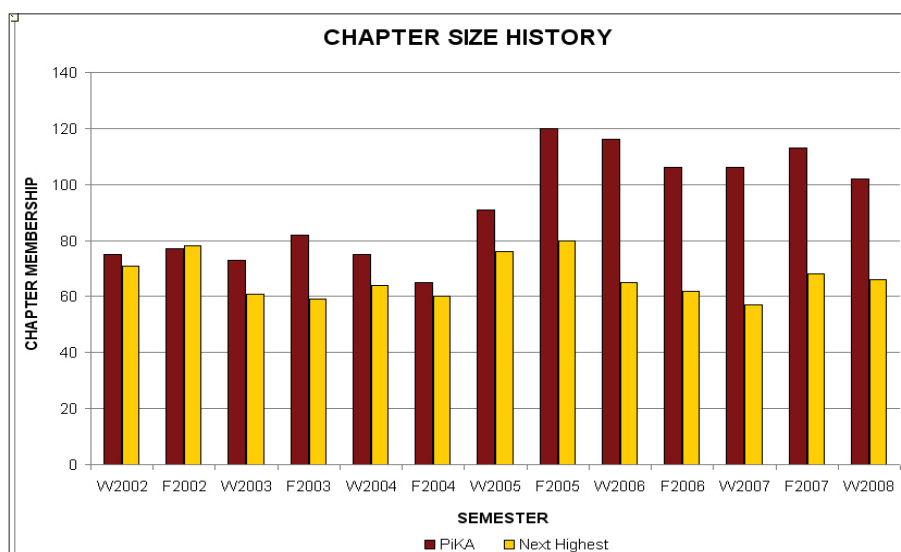
Respectfully Submitted,

Brother David Zimmerman, AK Grad, May 1989

Dave Zimmerman (AK '89) was House Corporation President from 2002 to 2005 and currently is responsible for the organizing of the two retreats each year. Professionally, he is President of RJI, Inc. which was founded by AK alumnus Rollie Johnson (AK '62) another former HC president from 1997 to 2001.



AK has shown steady improvement in GPA since 2003, and are now closing in on becoming the campus leader in this category.



AK has grown remarkably since 2004 and has become easily the largest chapter on campus. Rush and retention is consistently a major topic during retreats.

Back in Time: 25 Years

By the start of the fall semester the house bill was raised to \$250 per month, and stayed the same throughout the 1983-84 school year. The inclusion of 14 out-of-house pledges in the spring 1984 semester brought additional funds that offset inflation. These pledges paid only social dues, which were cut from \$35 to \$17.50 per month. The Chapter also began a new restructured committee system which it was hoped would help develop leadership qualities by having the pledges and members move up the ladder in the committee, and then on to chapter offices. The scholastic standing of the Chapter continued to improve because of increased emphasis on time management and study skills.

A new Apple IIE home computer was purchased and a newly renovated kitchen, which included a new stove, tile floor, and a fresh coat of paint welcomed members back to the House in the fall. These items and labor were provided by the House Corporation. The new house committee worked with the house manager to keep it in working order and improve its appearance. Some of the projects completed this year included renovating bathrooms, painting, laying new carpet in the living room, and installing new pay phones, a two keg cooler under the basement bar, a new washer and dryer in the basement, and a deck off the living room. These projects were accomplished with the help of the House Corporation.

-A History of Alpha Kappa Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

Real Estate Award

Last October, 2007, in honor of the new house addition, we held a dedication ceremony as part of the Homecoming festivities. There were congratulations and praises coming from alumni, the chancellor of the university, the mayor of Rolla, as well as the executive director of the international fraternity. Following in later months, we read about our amazing facilities in the "Shield and Diamond" and in the last issue of the "Kapers." Then, at the International Convention in July,

Alpha Kappa received a highly sought after award for having made the real estate improvement project of the year, i.e. the expansion. This award takes in consideration the following: eye appeal, man hours, programing opportunities, as well as improvements to living. This award served as a fitting cap to a successful first year living in the expanded house. This \$6+ million home that sleeps 104 men is truly, one of the best houses of PiKA in the country, if not the best. Thank you to all that made a dream like this possible.

The True Pike

As a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, I have pledged myself to uphold the values taught in our Ritual and restated in our Vision, Mission, and Creed. The True Pike is committed to a life of caring for others as he cares for himself. In pursuit of that ideal, I reaffirm my pledge...

...To Myself

*to practice academic integrity and strive for academic achievement
to meet all of my financial obligations on time
to preserve a sound mind and body, rejecting abuse of alcohol or drugs
to pursue my career goals zealously, but with integrity
to promote brotherly love and kind feeling, nurturing my friendships
to dedicate myself to my family, my faith, and pursuit of the truth*

...To My Brothers

*to challenge all brothers to uphold this code and hold accountable those who do not
to respect the dignity of all; not to tolerate physical or mental abuse of human being
to seek and fulfill leadership roles and participate energetically in Fraternity activities
to encourage my chapter to establish and enforce rigorous academic standards
to urge my chapter not to tolerate abuse of alcohol or drugs
to actively recruit new members who I believe will uphold the Fraternity's values
to participate enthusiastically in an education program to inculcate our values*

...To My Fraternity

*to ensure that my conduct in all events and activities reflects Pi Kappa Alpha in a positive light
to reach out to brothers beyond my own chapter; and welcome those who reach out to me
to participate actively in Fraternity sponsored educational and leadership conferences
to volunteer my time as an alumnus to an area chapter or alumni association or to the Fraternity
to provide financial support for the Pi Kappa Alpha Educational Foundation
to respect the Fraternity's property and symbols
to leave the Fraternity and my chapter better than they were when I arrived*

...To My Community

*to protect the health and safety of others
to participate in campus activities, and stay involved with my alma mater beyond my graduation
to foster good relationships with the University faculty and administration
to serve my community through participation in civic organizations and events*

*Only by so doing, can I fulfill my commitment to Pi Kappa Alpha
and be worthy to count myself a True Pike.*

Upcoming Events

February 6-8 - Pike University

Heartland Regional Conference located in Chicago, IL.

February 17 - Missouri S&T Career Fair

February 21 - PRO Day Weekend

For more information on how you can help Alpha Kappa with rush, contact Kaleb Hoffman (klhrm9@mst.edu)

February 28 - Founders' Day Weekend

The AK House Corporation meeting will begin at 10am, while the banquet will begin at 12pm. Brother Rollie Johnson who received the Robert Wolf Award at Homecoming will be the speaker. Brothers who were in the Chapter at the same time as Rollie or were in the Chapter when he was House Corporation President are especially encouraged to attend as we honor Rollie for his service to Alpha Kappa. Remember, we no longer present scholarships at Founders' Day which means that there is far more time to renew old friendships.

March 6 - PRO Day Weekend

For more information on how you can help Alpha Kappa with rush, contact Kaleb Hoffman (klhrm9@mst.edu)

March 9-14 - 101st St. Pat's Day Weekend Celebration

Check with The Miner Alumni Association for a list of events and activities!

April 4 - PRO Day Weekend

For more information on how you can help Alpha Kappa with rush, contact Kaleb Hoffman (klhrm9@mst.edu)

April 4 - International Work Day

Contact Lance Weinmann (lwvz82@mst.edu) for more information on how you can help Alpha Kappa

April 17-19 - Order of the Golden Shillelagh Weekend

This year's OGS Reunion is being held at the Lake of the Ozarks. OGS Members - Be sure to stop by the newly expanded house to see the new annex and meet the members

April 18 - PRO Day Weekend

For more information on how you can help Alpha Kappa with rush, contact Kaleb Hoffman (klhrm9@mst.edu)

May 1-2 - Executive Council Retreat

If you are interested in attending, please contact David Zimmerman (david.zimmerman@rji-sales.com)

May 16 - Missouri S&T Commencement

May 16 - AKA Golf Tournament

This year's tournament will be held at Sugar Creek Golf Course in High Ridge, MO. If you are interested in participating, contact Fred Hohenberger (314-892-6113)

Alumni Survey

We want to hear from our alumni! Please complete and detach for return to the AK House Corporation at P.O. Box 85, Rolla, MO 65402.

Alumni Update

In order for you to receive your history book, Kapers, and future mailings accurately, we need to verify your address.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Say anything and/or send pictures! Update the Chapter and Alumni Association on your current activities to be published in the next Kapers.

☐ I am interested in receiving the Kapers digitally

History Book

In a continuing effort to fully distribute the Alpha Kappa history book, please complete this section.

☐ I have already received my copy

☐ Please send me a copy

Founders' Day 2009

Alpha Kappa will be holding a lunch honoring Rollie Johnson during Founders' Day 2009. Please let the Chapter know if you plan to attend.

☐ I will be attending Founders' Day 2009

☐ I may be attending Founders' Day 2009

☐ I will not be attending Founders' Day 2009

Many Trophies...



Photo by D. Granger, Creation Studios

...One Great Chapter

*Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Alpha Kappa Chapter
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