

# The Phi Psi Rag



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

## PHI PSI STRIVES FOR IMPROVEMENT

*The Keeping the Tradition of Excellence Campaign Needs Your Support Today!*

Brothers,

We have started another exciting year in Lawrence. We have 34 new members at the house that have all settled into college and Greek life. Our upperclassmen have worked hard over the course of the semester to help mentor our new members with ideal course selection and joining organizations on campus. For any of you that might have missed our update this summer from our current president, **John Shull '16**, Phi Kappa Psi gathered in Las Vegas, Nev., for the 2018 GAC. Kansas Alpha was awarded the Grand Chapter Award, the highest level recognized by our national Fraternity. Kansas Alpha was also awarded the District Excellence Award for District V. This award recognizes the top Chapter in the entire district as well as the top community service performer in the country. With these honors, Kansas Alpha became the most successful Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi in the nation. I couldn't be prouder and more honored to be part of Kansas Alpha.

This summer we continued to make improvements to the house in to our two-middle areas. As always, the House Corporation is committed overall house maintenance. We feel like we have made some great strides in maintaining and updating the house in general. Many of you who have spoken with me over the last two years about the house have inevitably brought up house renovations. This is something that we are working on, but are a long way from being complete with what is needed. All other large housed fraternities on campus have completed capital campaigns and full house renovations. Many of you may or may not know that we have been working with Pennington & Company on the beginning of a capital campaign. So far, we have just been working though what is called the quiet phase to get started. We are now in he main public phase of the campaign. I challenge all Brothers to do their best to participate in the campaign so that we can continue to update our house. We are looking for more Brothers to become involved with the campaign with pledge class and era leaders. Please contact me for more on how to get involved and to contribute to the success of our effort. I have included some numbers below to show what the other fraternities at KU have raised in their

campaigns, as well as what some of Phi Psi Chapters have raised around the country.

**KU:**

- Beta - \$5.8M
- Sigma Chi - \$4.186M
- DU - \$3.5M
- Phi Delt - \$3.35
- Fiji - \$2.76M
- SAE - \$2.725M
- Delt - \$1.17M
- Sigma Nu - \$900k

**ΦΚΨ:**

- Illinois - \$3.19M
- Purdue - \$1.62M
- Missouri - \$1.9M  
(currently not a Chapter; raised money and became a colony)
- Nebraska - \$1.9M

We invite all alumni to please stop by the house the next time they are in Lawrence. You all would be impressed and excited about the updates that we have been able to complete so far. Lastly, we are always looking for more of you that are willing to be a part of our mentor program. This usually involves going to dinner with a few undergraduates that can potentially speak to alumni about their professions and college best practices. This school year, many of the undergraduates will be reaching out to our alumni. This is to bridge the gap between alumni and the current Brotherhood. If you are called or emailed by an undergraduate, they simply might be reaching out to introduce themselves and to answer any questions you might have. I would like to thank all our alumni for their continued support.

In the Bond,

**Nick Reddell '00**

Housing Corporation President  
(913) 707-0124  
nickreddell@gmail.com



## KANSAS ALPHA



*Keeping the Tradition of Excellence*

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE NEXT 140 YEARS



# KANSAS ALPHA

## Keeping the Tradition of Excellence

### THANK YOU, GENEROUS BROTHERS, FOR HELPING US RAISE MORE THAN \$558,000

We are deeply grateful to the 45 donors for committing \$558,489 to our *Keeping the Tradition of Excellence* campaign. These brothers recognize the importance of ensuring the future of Kansas Alpha Chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience. Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal and complete this major project.

All donors contributing a minimum of \$2,500 over a five-year period will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the renovated Chapter House, and donors contributing \$1,000 or more will be recognized in all campaign publications. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661.

#### **Kansas Alpha Society (\$100,000 and above)**

Joline and Eugene Sabin '47  
Gregory A. Smith '69

#### **Grand Chapter Society (\$50,000 to \$99,999)**

Cornelius Boersma '57  
Michael S. Mitchell '66  
In memory of  
Bill Johnson '66

#### **Pay Heed Society (\$25,000 to \$49,999)**

Ziegelmeier Family Gift  
John J. Ziegelmeier Jr. '70  
John J. Ziegelmeier III '99  
Skip Jackson '72  
Samuel M. Wendt '96

#### **In the Bond Society (\$15,000 to \$24,999)**

J. Brook Nienstedt '81

David Boersma '84  
Blake A. Shuart '01

#### **The Shield Society (\$10,000 to \$14,999)**

Robert D. Hovey '51  
Larry E. Sheppard '60  
Bill Guerry '98  
Nick Reddell '00  
John Stephenson '00  
Benjamin S. Cohen '02

#### **Cardinal Red Society (\$5,000 to \$9,999)**

James E. Hathaway Jr. '54  
In memory of  
Fred Ball '53  
Craig V. Wilson '67  
Brown Family Gift  
John L. Brown '69  
Benjamin L. Brown '96  
Gregory L. Sims '83  
Jeffrey G. Maher '87  
Christopher S. R. Dakhil, M.D. '99

Jay Ferguson '99  
Jeffrey T. Lozier '99  
William M. Santoro '02

#### **Hunter Green Society (\$2,500 to \$4,999)**

Robert C. Anderson '53  
J. Thomoas Jennings III '61  
Ralph L. L. Schmidt '61  
J. Steve Jennings '62  
W. Michael Kline '66  
Dolski Family Gift  
Wajtek Alfred Dolski '71  
Adam Walerian Dolski '03  
Hank Miller '79  
Rex R. Reinhardt '02  
William J. Shull '06

#### **Brotherhood Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)**

G. Thomas Spink Jr. '65

### CAMPAIGN STATUS AT-A-GLANCE

*As of February 13, 2019*

**\$3 Million Goal**

**\$558,489 Total  
Contributions**

**45 Total Contributors**

**1,398 Mailable Alumnae**

**3% participation**



# GIVING BACK TO THE PHI PSI BROTHERHOOD

## *Mike S. Mitchell '66 Reflects on His Time with the Kansas Alpha Chapter and How Bill "BJ" Johnson '66 Motivated Him to Give Back*

**M**ike S. Mitchell '66 was recruited into the Kansas Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi by some of the older Fraternity Brothers from his small town of Chanute, Kan. Mike became comfortable with the disciplined structure of living in the house and enjoyed the brotherhood lifestyle. "The successful influence of small-town Brothers gives evidence to the importance of active recruitment by city Brothers both to create a diverse small-town geographic connection and to ensure a strong future of support for the Fraternity both as students and as Brothers interested in financial support of the Chapter after graduation," Mike said. Coming from a small town, Mike was not well-versed in some of the social relationship skills that one needs to be successful. However, the structure of Fraternity lifestyle helped him hone his social and relationship skills, and it gave him confidence in his decisions.

Mike credits much of his social growth to the many late-night discussions he had with **Bill "BJ" Johnson '66**, who was his roommate in the Chapter House for three years. "We were both traditional, value-minded guys," Mike said. "You do what you say you will do, and you do what's right. You accept your responsibility and perform in a timely manner. You held yourself and others accountable." Mike and BJ waited tables in the dining room at the Fraternity until they graduated in exchange for house dues. Mike says that not only was this important for their financial needs, but it also helped to shape their awareness of responsibility and commitments. While living in during their senior year to fill the increased space of a new house, Mike and BJ were viewed as the old guys. "I do believe we were respected for our thoughts about strategy and policy at the house," Mike said, "and BJ especially was never shy about voicing his opinions about house and Chapter matters and his ideas often became policy."

Despite the many responsibilities he had during college, Mike also enjoyed letting loose from time to time with his Brothers. "I loved the songs and singing," Mike said, "enjoyed the brotherhood and camaraderie, loved to laugh at the antics and the humor of some of our infamous Brothers, and I have to confess the parties were great." Being able to walk to Allen Fieldhouse for every KU basketball game was another tradition that Mike fondly remembers, and he continues to be a Jayhawk fanatic today as he tries to get to a couple of games every season. Mike is grateful for the role that Phi Kappa Psi played in his college experience, and he says that the Fraternity lifestyle helped keep him focused. "College is difficult and there are a lot of tempting distractions," Mike said, "but Fraternity life improved some of the skill sets which still serve me well today." Mike graduated from the University of Kansas in 1968 with a degree in business administration.

When Mike graduated from college, the military draft was active due to the Vietnam War. He completed Navy OCS testing and assumed that he would be accepted, but was told at the last minute that there were no openings. Three days after he graduated, Mike received his draft notice. Rather than giving up four to six years of his life to join the Navy, he opted to let the Army draft him and was optimistic that his business degree might earn him a clerical job. Unfortunately, that was not the case. "I ended up spending 14 months in the jungle learning about fear and how to survive," Mike said. "I returned to Chanute, not as a casualty, but as someone who wanted to get on with his life." After three months of adjusting to civilian life and

thinking about returning to KU for law school, Mike asked his father, the CEO of an RV company, if he could have a job for a few months while he made his decision. Mike never ended up leaving the company, now called NuWa Industries, and found success as the business grew over 40 years. "A takeaway from this experience is the importance of successful people opening the door for others who seek success as my father did for me," Mike said. "By this, I mean creating an opportunity for them to pursue success, typically with some sort of financial backing or mentorship." He is now in the process of downsizing the company while helping certain employees purchase the service and sales side of the business in planning his retirement. Outside of NuWa Industries, Mike has also invested in several startup banks in Kansas and Missouri since the 1980s.

Mike has had the opportunity to visit the Chapter House several times in the past few years for Founders Day, KU basketball games, and BJ's memorial



*Mike and his wife, CeCe, in Edinburg, Scotland, last fall.*

service. He is proud to see that the active Chapter continues to participate in many events, fundraisers, and causes around campus and the Lawrence community. "I believe they properly manage the activities of the house," Mike said, "and they appear to hold their youthful emotions in check. It's a fragile time for fraternities, as one reads about the hazing scandals and loss of certification of some fraternities. Phi Psi national and KU Phi Psi appear to be making the effort to transition the Chapter toward a safer and acceptable public impression." His biggest piece of advice for undergraduates is to hold themselves accountable for their actions and their voice. He also noted that with proper alumni support with advisors and financial support, the Kansas Alpha Chapter will continue to thrive. Mike has been donating to the Birthday Club annually for several years

to support the Chapter after being motivated by BJ to support *The Keeping the Tradition of Excellence* campaign. "BJ was like a brother to me," Mike said. "He was solid as a rock, and willing to unselfishly do what he could to help the young Brothers and the house finances and maintenance." BJ's creation of the Birthday Club is where he first hooked Mike into giving back to the Chapter. Eventually, Mike told BJ that he will continue to donate until he dies. "I urge other Brothers to do the same," Mike said. "Get into a habit of sending to the endowment fundraiser, whatever amount can be justified from the family budget. Also, join the birthday club, which when joined by many, funds some much-needed maintenance and upgrades to the house!" He says that it is easy to think that the Chapter House is self-supporting, but BJ helped him realize that it isn't, and that alumni support is needed. "Writing all of these thoughts reminds me of BJ and his wife Patty," Mike said. "Time passes so quickly as most in my age group know. It's not easy to get it all down and make a difference, so I just keep moving with hopes that I get most of my dreams accomplished." Mike encourages his fellow Brothers reach out to him at [mmitchell@nuwa.com](mailto:mmitchell@nuwa.com), especially those in the 1964-1968 pledge classes.

Mike says that his years in college were the best years of his life and living in the Phi Psi house significantly contributed to that opinion. He continues to visit young men in Chanute to encourage them to attend KU and join Phi Psi. Outside of work and his support of Phi Psi, Mike has enjoyed spending time traveling with his wife, CeCe. He also loves to support his two successful children and four grandchildren. Mike notes that he has been fortunate in his health and career success, and he now likes to use his experiences to help guide the direction of the businesses that he is involved with.

# The Bonds of Brotherhood

*Kansas Alpha Chapter Seeks to Strengthen Bonds Between New Members and Seniors*



*Congratulations to these Brothers who received scholarship checks!*

**K**ansas Alpha has been off to quite the start of the year. It's been a fast adjustment for the new members as they get settled in to the college life. We recently participated in a new philanthropy, had several intramural successes, Family Day, Homecoming, and instituted a new program to connect the seniors and freshmen.

Last year our GPA was 3.11, slightly below the all-Chapter average of 3.14 but our ninth semester in a row over a 3.0. This was eighth out of fraternities at KU. We've been consistently in the 3.1-3.25 range the past four years, but should see that increase as we recently upped our grade requirements. To help this as well, we paired the freshmen up with seniors to offer up advice, be a mentor, and create a professional relationship for later in life.

This year we started a new philanthropy with our next-door neighbors, Pi Beta Phi. We had a spelling bee in which people would donate to participate and the winner would receive half of the donations. Unfortunately, Phi Psis weren't the best spellers and Pi Phi took home the prize. For one night, we made just shy of \$1,000. Additionally, with our Rock Chalk Revue fundraiser, we have already raised more than \$2,000 for the Boys and Girls Club.

In our free time, the Kansas Alpha men have had quite a lot of fun. Both our intramural soccer and football teams made it to the semifinals of the playoffs. Family Day and Homecoming were both a huge success as many alumni came back and saw all the new improvements to the house. One of our members, **Robin Bajpai '17**, was elected treasurer of the University of Kansas this past spring.

This year we have high expectations after winning Grand Chapter of the Year at last summer's GAC. I think with the new philanthropies, the active involvement across campus, and the new member class, Kansas Alpha will continue the tradition of excellence. If any Brother is in Lawrence and wants to check out the house, feel free to contact me to set up a time.

Fraternally,  
**John Shull '16**  
(816) 812-6724 | jonjhawk@aol.com

# The Phi Psi Rag



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Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

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Alumni Website  
[wheatstatealumni.com](http://wheatstatealumni.com)



Chapter Website  
[khippsi.com](http://khippsi.com)



Chapter Twitter  
[@PhiPsiKansas](https://twitter.com/PhiPsiKansas)



Online Giving  
[khippsi.com/endowment-fund](http://khippsi.com/endowment-fund)



Alumni Facebook  
Kansas Alpha Phi Kappa Psi Alumni

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

**Harold Adams '22** | Gardner, Kan.  
**Tom Benninghoff '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Mark Biggins '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Connor Bowden '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Harris Bryson '21** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Connor Croake '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Zach Croake '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Joe Cummings '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Patrick Duggan '22** | Omaha, Neb.  
**John Flannagan '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Logan Fox '22** | Kansas City, Mo.  
**Mark Guastello '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Peyton Hamrick '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Payden Hart '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Will Hauser '21** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Sean Hennessey '22** | St. Louis, Mo.  
**Hudson Horn '22** | Fort Scott, Kan.  
**Jacob Keller '22** | Kansas City, Kan.

**Jordan Kendricks '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**William Lichtmann '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Joseph Mitchell '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Andy Mocker '22** | St. Louis, Mo.  
**Parker Morgan '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Robert Morgan '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Jackson Nichols '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Carson Penny '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Leo Reuder '22** | Minneapolis, Minn.  
**Preston Rouse '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Ryan Sanborn '22** | Salina, Kan.  
**Ryan Smith '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Max Trees '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Braeden Vermillion '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Luke Willson '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Zach Wilson '22** | Kansas City, Kan.  
**Nic Woodward '22** | Kansas City, Kan.

## CHAPTER ETERNAL

**Eric L. Swedlund '89** passed on to Chapter Eternal peacefully in his sleep on September 5, 2018, at his home in Alexandria, Va. He was born April 24, 1969, in Chicago, Ill. Raised in Wichita, Eric graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor of arts in philosophy in 1991 and completed his graduate studies at the University of Kansas with a master of arts in political science in 1992. In 1993, he served as an adjunct professor at Yunnan Normal University in the Yunnan province of China. He then worked from 1993-2001 on The Hill in Washington, D.C., as the legislative director for U.S. Representative Stephen Horn (R-CA). Eric worked from 2002-2003 as a knowledge manager for Deloitte Consulting (Asia) LLP while living in Japan. After returning to the D.C. area, Eric served as deputy director for the D.C. office of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from 2004-2010. He then started as a senior policy advisor for Carpi & Clay in 2011 and was employed by the firm at the time of his death. Eric was a devoted father. He enjoyed world travel, sailing, fly fishing, reading, movies, and politics. Eric will be missed by all of his Phi Kappa Psi Brothers.