



THE GAMMA-CHI GAZETTE

KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY AT KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2026



GAMMA-CHI'S LEGACY CONTINUES GROWING



An Elm Tree Plaza
conceptual rendering
by Marty Murphy '78.

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT SHAPES NEXT CHAPTER

It is widely known that Gamma-Chi Chapter was established on June 7, 1919, when the “Shamrocks” became part of Kappa Sigma. To better understand our origins, I revisited the June 1919 edition of *The Caduceus of Kappa Sigma* (available on the “Alumni of Kappa Sigma at Kansas State – Gamma-Chi Chapter” Facebook page).

*The Shamrock Club began at Kansas State Agricultural College in November 1915. Installation into Kappa Sigma was overseen by members of Gamma-Nu Chapter at Washburn College in Topeka. At 9 a.m., the first initiate, Chapter president **Mark Upson '15**, stood ready to enter. The ceremony concluded at 4:30 p.m. with the final initiate, **Dale Schwartz '15**, completing the installation of 33 Shamrocks. With that, Kappa Sigma became the seventh fraternity on campus.*

The Chapter's transition to 505 Denison sparked meaningful reflection on our history. Through that experience, I realized how much of our story I had yet to learn. Perspectives on our successes and challenges may vary, but one truth remains consistent: every brother acted with the best intentions for Gamma-Chi.

We owe sincere thanks to our alumni advisors, the charitable gift fund, the housing corporation, the alumni board, and all alumni supporters. Most importantly, we recognize every undergraduate member—from the original Shamrocks to today's Chapter—whose perseverance has sustained Gamma-Chi for more than a century.

At last year's annual meeting, the decision was made to pursue reacquiring 1930 College Heights—and we're excited to share that it is now ours! More information will be shared outlining how alumni can help shape this next phase and our “Return to Glory.” Your participation is essential!

Preserving Gamma-Chi's legacy requires involvement from brothers across all eras. The board of directors currently consists of 13 volunteers, with several positions up for renewal this year and additional volunteers needed. Please consider getting involved and helping guide the future of Gamma-Chi.



AEKDB,
Mike Gardner '82

Building the Next Generation of Leaders

MORGAN HASTINGS '15 ON HIS KAPPA SIGMA INVOLVEMENT

“When I walked into Gamma-Chi as a freshman, I felt something I didn’t feel anywhere else: genuine brotherhood.” **Morgan Hastings '15** recalled. “The guys were real, welcoming, and they took care of each other. I wanted a place where I could grow, be challenged, and be surrounded by people who believed in me before I believed in myself. Kappa Sigma gave me that.”

Gamma-Chi was a lifeline for Morgan during one of the darkest times in his life. “I honestly questioned whether life was worth going on, and it was my brothers who pulled me out of that darkness. They gave me purpose, support, and the confidence to keep moving forward. **Jake Meyer '14** and **Patrick Moran '15** were a major part of fighting those demons, and I am so grateful to have them in my life.”

Kappa Sigma gave Morgan more than he could ever repay, so he remains devoted to the Fraternity as an alumnus. “I’ve seen what strong mentorship and high expectations can do for young men, and I want today’s brothers to have the same experience.”

Serving as Gamma-Chi’s advisor was one of the most fulfilling leadership roles Morgan has held. “Helping students navigate challenges, set goals, and push themselves beyond what they thought they were capable of is incredibly meaningful. It wasn’t easy, but seeing Gamma-Chi achieve record-breaking success and build a culture worth being proud of makes every minute worth it.”

Morgan enjoyed watching the younger brothers become the next generation of leaders.

“Two times I felt pure joy and pride in my work were watching **Leon Roberts '20** and **Connor Leach '23** be named IFC Presidents of the Year. I’ve also loved watching Gamma-Chi regain momentum after years of rebuilding.”

Outside of his efforts with Gamma-Chi, Morgan is the Kansas District Grand Master. “Working with multiple chapters, volunteers, and undergraduates has shown me how much potential exists across the Kansas District,” he shared. “Every chapter has its own strengths and challenges. Helping them move toward excellence has made me a better leader, mentor, and person.”

Morgan’s work with Kappa Sigma earned him an Outstanding First Year Volunteer Award for 2022-23 and an Outstanding Alumnus Advisor Award for 2024-25.

Morgan is proud of where Gamma-Chi has been and is even more excited about what’s to come. He encourages his brothers to reach out if they are interested in volunteering with the Fraternity, or to simply come home if you haven’t been back to campus in a while. “Your brothers miss you!”

You can connect with Morgan by emailing momoj57@aol.com or texting (785) 517-4431.



“Gamma-Chi is in one of its strongest eras. Recruitment, academics, Ritual proficiency, involvement, and alumni engagement have all grown significantly. But for the Chapter to continue that momentum, it needs a place that reflects the values and direction of the brotherhood.”

“That’s why bringing Gamma-Chi home to 1930 College Heights matters. For years, we’ve talked about rebuilding the Chapter one brother at a time. We give bricks to our pledge sons as a symbol of that idea. That every man adds something to the foundation of Gamma-Chi. Being back in 1930 College Heights is the physical version of that metaphor. It represents the next step in our rebuild—the place where future generations will continue stacking their own bricks onto what we’ve started.”

WHAT THEY SAID

Why New Members Choose Gamma-Chi

“I wanted to meet new people who could help me grow.”

—**Finnigan Daugherty '25**

“So I would be held accountable for my studies and because of Kappa Sigma’s international reputation.”

—**Jayden Gilchrist '25**

“I had buddies from high school who were Kappa Sigmas and wanted to be with them while furthering my networking skills.”

—**Cody Layton '25**

“After meeting the guys at multiple recruitment dinners, I realized I really enjoyed hanging out with them.”

—**Lincoln Mainelli '25**

ALUMNI

NEWS

Ronald V. Moore '56 retired in November 2022 and, due to health reasons, relocated from Topeka, Kan., to the St. Louis area to be closer to family. He welcomes hearing from Kappa Sigs in the area. Phone: (785) 730-0240

David J. Fiser '58 retired in 2002 from Kansas Farm Bureau and affiliated companies and lives in Manhattan, Kan., where he enjoys connecting with current chapter members and attending Pig Dinner events.

Comr. James E. Carrico, USN (Ret.) '59 recalled being pinned to a Tri-Delt in 1959, after which his Gamma-Chi brothers kidnapped him, brought him to the Tri-Delt house, tied him to a tree, and serenaded the Tri-Delts when the floodlights came on.

Lt. Col. Michael J. Dumiak Jr., USAF (Ret.) '65 and his wife celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on December 23, 2025. Their story began with a blind date arranged after he met one of her sorority sisters during "phone/door duty." He now volunteers assisting fellow veterans navigating the Veterans Administration.

The annual Family of the Year competition recognizes a family that has shown great dedication to the K-State community and Wildcat family. Selected by a committee, the Family of the Year is hosted for special activities during K-State Family Day. Ryan Urban '19 and his family were chosen as 2025's Family of the Year!



Stephen L. Sollner '72 retired from AIB International and remains an active supporter of K-State athletics, frequently attending football, men's basketball, and other events with **Don Bonewitz '72**. EMAW!

Kevin T. Mohan '78 retired after a 29-year career as a wine and liquor salesman. He now spends much of his time researching family history and is working to compile it into a book. Based in the St. Louis area, he welcomes visits from brothers and is happy to host.

Nickolas R. Aleman '79 retired in 2025 after 31 years as an environmental engineer at Kennedy Space Center and recently relocated to Hutchinson, Kan.

Brian Bednar '79 and **Todd Bednar '80** met in Phoenix to watch K-State basketball take on Arizona State. While the Wildcats fell short, they still enjoyed the trip and time together.

Roger "Mark" Silva '83 recently retired after 26 years with Seaboard Farms and more than 40 years in the food industry. He and his wife have been married 30 years and have four children and one grandson, with another on the way.

Paul D. Campbell '85, of Shawnee, Kan., is a 40-year veteran of the flour milling industry, including 24 years with ADM Milling. He was honored as the 2025 Milling Operative of the Year by the International Association of Operative Millers.

Christopher Berning '91 serves as a senior executive sales manager with INEOS.

Morgan J. Hastings '15 served as Gamma-Chi Chapter's alumnus advisor from July 2022 to July 2025 and has been appointed District Grand Master for Kappa Sigma's Kansas District.

Leon Roberts '20 became alumnus advisor for the Gamma-Chi Chapter in August 2025 and was recognized as Advisor of the Year at Kansas State's Fraternal Excellence Awards in February.



Left: Brian Bednar '79 and Todd Bednar '80

Gamma-Chi Chapter continues its pursuit of excellence, making meaningful progress in leadership, academics, and service.

LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION AND CHAPTER HONORS

This term, the Chapter earned multiple recognitions from the Interfraternity Council, including three Chapter Awards. Among these honors was recognition for wellness and mental health programming—an area that remains a top priority for Gamma-Chi.

The Chapter was also a finalist for Quality of Leadership, reflecting the strength and dedication of its executive team. In addition, Alumni Advisor **Leon Roberts '20** was honored as IFC Chapter Advisor of the Year.

This term's awards highlight Gamma-Chi's continued focus on leadership development and member well-being as well as the strong support provided by dedicated advisors.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Academics remain central to Gamma-Chi's mission. Over the past semester, members demonstrated a strong commitment to scholarship, achieving a Chapter fall semester GPA of 3.193 that exceeds the all-men's average on campus. This accomplishment reflects discipline and a continued focus on academic growth.

PHILANTHROPY IMPACT

Philanthropy and service continue to play a vital role in the Chapter experience. This semester, Gamma-Chi partnered with Sigma Kappa to host a successful grill-out benefiting Military Heroes and Alzheimer's research and treatment. Events like this strengthen relationships within the Greek community while supporting meaningful causes. Gamma-



GAMMA-CHI EXCELLING THIS SPRING

Leadership, Academics, and Service Drive Success

Brothers soak up a change in scenery in Colorado over winter break. From left: Andrew Brown '23, Connor Leach '23, Adam Ebenstein '22, Tanner Samyn '23, Thomas Perere '23, Nathan Starke '23, Jordan Blanchat '23, and Jesus Saldana '23.

Chi members have also contributed more than 60 AGC hours and raised over \$400 per active brother for charitable efforts this semester, further demonstrating their commitment to service.

THANK YOU!

The Chapter's continued success would not be possible without the support of its alumni. Gamma-Chi is grateful for the guidance and encouragement it receives and looks forward to building on this momentum in the semesters ahead. The chapter is currently at 65 active membership and growing!

Fraternally,
Ty Bleckinger '24, Grand Master



Left: A few brothers take a quick pic before attending the IFC banquet.



Right: Brothers show off the Chapter's recent IFC awards. From left: Ty Bleckinger '24 with Interfraternity Excellence in Wellness, Zachary Miller '24 with Purple Circle Leadership, and Leon Roberts '20 with his Lindemuth Chapter Advisor of the Year award.

CHAPTER OFFICERS



The 2026 Executive Committee includes (from left) Jack Seal '24, Makao Groneman '24, Ty Bleckinger '24, Patrick Donnelly '24, and Zachary Miller '24.

Grand Master
Ty Bleckinger '24

Grand Procurator
Patrick Donnelly '24

Grand Master of Ceremonies
Makao Groneman '24

Grand Treasurer
Jack Seal '24

Grand Scribe
Zachary Miller '24

Recruitment Chairman
Lincoln Mainelli '25
lincoln.mainelli@gmail.com or (913) 295-1776

Assistant Recruitment Chairmen
Shephard Borcharding '25
shepbork@ksu.edu or (913) 490-6166

Logan Forbes '25
loganwforbes61@gmail.com or (913) 413-2400

Shape Gamma-Chi's Future

REFER A
POTENTIAL
NEW MEMBER

Know someone who could be a good fit for our brotherhood? Contact Recruitment Chairman **Lincoln Mainelli '25** at lincoln.mainelli@gmail.com or (913) 295-1776. Please share their name, contact information, hometown, and where they went to high school along with why you think they are a solid candidate.

CHAPTER CELESTIAL

Godfrey M. "Bud" Spencer '43
Vergil N. Wright '52
Robert E. Welter '55
Norman K. "Sam" Moore '56
Bryce Barkley Moore '58
J. Michael O'Connor '67
Douglas O. Volkland '70
Ralph E. Alter, DVM '43

Dayton F. Molzen '47
Kay C. Coonrod '51
Rex D. Horchem '53
Phil Neyer Jr. '53
Richard Paul Whipple '53
Charles D. Callahan '54
Jack W. Scott '54
Vaughn E. Miller '56

Charles B. Clark '58
Kenneth H. Nash '61
Eugene R. Dillender '64
Richard L. Hirsch '64
Phil "Buffalo" Roberts '81
James P. Holley III '09

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

2025-26 ANNUAL DUES PARTICIPANTS

We extend our sincere thanks to the alumni below who have paid their 2025-26 Alumni Dues and made other financial contributions in support of Gamma-Chi. Your continued commitment directly impacts the strength and success of our chapter.

Leon F. Lunt '53
Wendell "Al" Wright '53
Edwin Miller '56
Ronald Moore '57
David J. Fiser '58*
Kenneth Ingram '58*
Cmr. James E. Carrico, USNR (Ret.) '59*
Thomas P. Carrico '59
Frank Lynn Markel '60*
Durwood Dupre '62
Rick J. Eichor '62*
Philip D. Gettig '64*
Fred Wulff '64*
Lt. Col. Michael J. Dumiak Jr. USAF (Ret.) '65
Prof. Ward V. Wells '65

Wendell F. "Bud" Cowan Jr. '66*
Robert C. Matthews Jr. '66*
Michael B. Adams Jr. '68*
Scott L. Chapman '68
Kyle Dwayne Clark '69
Maurice E. Kancel '69*
Miles Kotay '69
Paul F. Zimmerman '70
Donald R. Bonewitz '72
Roger D. Commer '72
Stephen M. Dunaway '72
Stephen L. Sollner '72
William J. Jauernig '73
Dr. Gary L. Petry, M.D. '73
Alex Ehrsam '74
Stephen P. Evans '74*

Gregory E. Frank '74
Douglas M. Spencer '75
Stephen R. Stoltenberg '75
John Cook '76
Chris Patzell '76*
John M. Harris '77
Daniel A. Brenner '78
Robert Hughes '78
Martin J. Murphy '78
Brian K. Bednar '79
Mark A. Boxberger '79
Brad Hedrick '80
Dr. D. Keith Johnson '80*
David Mann '80
Brad Polson '80
Todd Green '81
Steven R. Hook '81*

Stuart E. Scott '81
Paul D. Campbell '82*
Michael E. Gardner '82
Brad Crooks '83
Justin A. Hockersmith '83
Douglas A. Steele '84
Karl Kunz '85
Bret L. Ridder '88
Jeff Armstead '90
Mark W. Whitson '90
John C. Byram III '91
Leonard F. Pelzel '91
Jordan R. Kidd '92
Daniel P. Wieland '92
Matthew J. David '96
Mark L. Gregory '97
Jason Leach '97

Chad W. Vawter '97
Mike Burson '99
Todd W. Noelle '02*
Christopher Maldonado-Martinez '04
Micah A. Reece '04*
Andrew S. Maness '06*
Braden M. Turner '06
Aleks Lange '08
William A. Brownlee '15
Morgan Hastings '15
Leon Roberts '20
Byron Sides '22

*Dues Plus

Alumni who have generously participated in Dues Plus—giving beyond their standard dues to further support events, communications, and recruitment—are identified with an asterisk. Your extra support makes a meaningful difference for the Chapter and strengthens our alumni community! Brothers, a reminder that Alumni Dues for the current fiscal year are due July 1, 2026. If you have not yet submitted your dues, we encourage you to do so and remain an active part of Gamma-Chi's future! And please make plans now for 2026-27 dues, which kick off this summer.

DON'T MISS THIS ACTION-PACKED ISSUE!

This Gamma-Chi Gazette is filled with significant updates, including:

Major news on the future of the Chapter: See page 1 for details.



Opportunities to support: Our Chapter needs its alumni!

Undergraduate highlights: Photos and Chapter report.



WHY WAIT?

Dive into the spring newsletter now.



THE GAMMA-CHI GAZETTE

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OF GAMMA-CHI
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KAPPASIGMAKSU.COM

Supporting Scholars

The KSU Foundation now serves as Gamma-Chi's primary fund for all scholarship awards. Each semester, the Foundation administers scholarship disbursements directly to chapter members through their K-State student accounts.

A variety of named scholarships are available, each with its own eligibility criteria and award amount. The alumni advisor identifies eligible members, who then complete the application process. Once recipients are selected, award details are submitted to the KSU Foundation for distribution. This streamlined process ensures efficient and secure delivery of funds without issuing paper checks.

The KSU Foundation Fund has existed for decades and originally held approximately \$50,000. In the late 1990s, the Gamma-Chi Charitable Gift Fund was formed to accommodate the wishes of potential donors. It operated as a 501(c)(3), with a dedicated board of directors which oversaw investments and approved scholarship awards for chapter members. Following the 2012 bank auction of the Chapter House, approximately \$130,000 of the net auction proceeds were deposited to the Gift Fund.

Foundation Fund Fuels Member Success

In the years that followed, the board determined that consolidating funds under the KSU Foundation would provide stronger long-term management and greater impact. The gift fund was formally dissolved, and its assets were transferred to the KSU Foundation Scholarship Fund, which now totals approximately \$355,000.

Since 2023, nearly \$27,000 in scholarships has been awarded each semester, providing meaningful financial support to deserving Gamma-Chi members. Strong recruitment results in recent years further highlight the importance of maintaining a competitive and well-funded scholarship program. To sustain and grow these scholarship opportunities, continued alumni support is essential!

Contributions to the KSU Foundation Scholarship Fund are fully tax-deductible. Scan the QR code to visit bit.ly/KSUFoundationFund and make your gift. A donation of \$100 or more (\$50 for young alumni) also fulfills your annual Alumni Dues if they have not yet been paid.



UPDATE YOUR
CALENDAR!

UPCOMING EVENTS

KANSAS CITY
GAMMA-CHI
GOLF & SOCIAL EVENT
JUNE 27
Falcon Valley Golf Course

ALUMNI FOOTBALL
TAILGATE
SEPTEMBER 19

OPEN HOUSE
SEPTEMBER 19