



Beta Theta Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau

The University of Kansas
Spring 2024

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOG



The chapter weathered a recent [membership] storm well thanks to the support from Nationals. This May 4th we will initiate our first associate class since returning to KU! Initiated alumni are welcome to participate in the initiation ritual as well as the celebration afterward. Details and updates will be posted in our Facebook alumni group.

We're making progress toward rechartering. The chapter has done a good job recruiting new members and meeting most of the requirements for rechartering. We expect to petition nationals this fall to recharter us in 2025.

Most of the BOG positions are filled. We are looking to fill two positions including Recruitment and Prevention & Wellness. The Recruitment Advisors will be responsible for seeing that the chapter effectively executes our annual recruitment strategy. Strong sales or recruitment experience is a plus. The Prevention & Wellness Advisor will seek to promote a safe chapter environment for members and guests. Please reach out to me to learn more.

In Phi,

Tom Gooden '85

Chairman, Beta Theta Chapter Board of Governors

CHAPTER HOUSING UPDATE

The chapter is excited to announce there will be a lettered chapter house on KU's campus this fall! We will be renting the property at 1137 Indiana Street. We are elated with the progress we've made in getting to this point, and would like to thank everyone from Nationals to Graduates who have helped us along the way!

The house will have 16 undergraduate members living in during the 2024-2025 school year. We see this as a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate our ability to operate out of a centralized location as a chapter, as well as prove our ability to live together and learn more about what it's like to live in and operate a fraternity house. We're excited to see where this opportunity takes us, and hope it only leads to more success with housing for the chapter!

MESSAGE FROM THE RC PRESIDENT



This past year has been an absolute thrill to witness as a member here at Beta Theta. Going from 3 members to closing in on 30 is no easy feat, especially in just a year and a half! With this growth in

membership has come growth of all other kinds, including developments made in philanthropy, community service, social aspects, and overall presence on campus. Please allow me to share that growth with you.

Before I take you on the journey that's spanned the last 12 months, I should introduce myself. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Zach. I'm a sophomore engineering physics student here at KU, and I never in a million years thought I would join a fraternity. I've seen Animal House, all they do is drink, party, and get in trouble... Right? Never have I been so wrong. After meeting with one of our national growth advisors Ryan Callahan, he piqued my interest. An opportunity to join a fraternity with only 3 members, and build it from scratch? The opportunity to take part in creating a fraternity, run the right way? Needless to say, I accepted the bid.

The year that followed was intense. We had to work together as a team to build an entire chapter from (almost) the ground up. Thanks to the support of countless alumni and national employees, we had a place to start, but that made the task only slightly less daunting. We had to challenge ourselves. We had to look each other in the eye and ask, what does it really mean to be in a fraternity? What does it really mean to be in Phi Tau? Arguably most importantly, what do WE want them to mean? And so we began the task. We recruited, we advertised, ate, drank and slept Phi Tau, all the while preaching our main message: join an organization that helps you grow as an individual! Help us break the negative stigma surrounding fraternities, and craft your legacy with a chapter that really cares. There were several bumps in the road, but with each challenge

Each semester, we continue to grow, prosper, and share our message, a task only made possible by the commitment and grit of each and every one of our amazing members.

Now with the context behind us, let's get into what Beta Theta has been getting done this past year:

Membership and Recruitment

With over a 600% increase in members since 2022, the Beta Theta chapter has demonstrated effectiveness in attracting and maintaining members who add value to the organization and the larger university community. Our recruitment efforts are guided by the values of inclusivity, diversity, and a desire to build a sense of belonging and foster an environment supported by our core values. Our chapter has demonstrated tremendous growth in the past few semesters.

Community Service and Philanthropy

We have a strong track record of active involvement in community service and philanthropy initiatives. Beta Theta has successfully organized and participated in various events benefiting the local community, raising over \$500 just last semester through events such as concerts, on-campus student-driven fundraising, and intramural athletics. We have also showcased our commitment to making a positive impact beyond the university campus through our 130+ hours of community service just last semester, and over 250 hours this semester.

Membership Development

Our fraternity places a significant emphasis on membership development. In 2023 we successfully hosted 1 Alumni workshop and sent 2 officers to our National Convention in Las Vegas, and this year we had 5 officers attend the Zenith institute in Chicago.

Campus and Community Involvement

Our chapter is also committed to involvement within other organizations

that came, success came out of it. Each failure was just an opportunity to learn. another KU club/organization, with over 10% of our members holding leadership positions within those involvements.

We've also been working extensively to re-establish our presence on campus through working with other Greek organizations in various events. Last semester, we serenaded several Sororities, opening doors for future events. This Spring semester, we also held Beta Theta's first Carnation Ball, a social event date party themed around our fraternity's flower.

affiliated with the University of Kansas. Over 67% of our members are involved with This is an event we plan to hold each Spring going forward.

All of these examples are just a few looks at what we've accomplished in the last year here at Beta Theta. And with your continued support, we hope to only continue this growth. I hope this update gets you excited for our future, because you have no idea how pumped we all are to continue sharing what we love: Phi Kappa Tau.

In Phi,

Zach Schubert

President, Beta Theta Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau

MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Last Fall we hosted another great, but cold, homecoming in Lawrence. Friday golf was heavily attended, and many cheered the hawks to victory over Oklahoma from our tailgate on the hill. After the game the graduate council met welcoming new graduates and presenting 25-year, 50-year, and veteran pins to attendees. Steve Bryant '68 joined via Zoom.

This Fall plans are taking shape for our 2024 homecoming. This should be an interesting year given stadium construction and we hope to see you there in person or over Zoom. Plan is Friday golf followed by Saturday tailgates and watch parties. We hope to work in a GC meeting in person or/or virtual when we will elect new officers to a 2-year term. Please consider volunteering to help on the GC. More information at [Beta Theta - Homecoming 2024](#)



We have launched several fundraising campaigns and in a nutshell, we're asking about 40 alumni to commit to an [annual donation to the GC](#) at **one of two** levels of giving, either:

- \$25 to cover administrative costs including our website, zoom account, mailings & filings, etc, **or**
- \$125 to cover alumni relations efforts such as homecoming and mailings and chapter support for events such as brotherhood dinners, rush and officer workshops.

We're also asking alumni to commit to an [annual donation to the National Foundation > Kansas CEG Fund](#) to support our chapter academic scholarships (awarding about \$6,000/year), travel to leadership conferences and convention/concave (reimbursing about \$1,000/year) and for the first time would like to provide funding so that a brother can travel to and volunteer at a SeriousFun camp the summer of 2025.

I am personally asking brothers to match me in donating \$1,000 annually to the National Foundation becoming part of the [Boles 1000 donors](#). My money is already in! We're looking for 10-11 additional Beta Theta members at this level to qualify Beta Theta as a "Boles 1000 chapter". Donations to **any** foundation campaign including our CEG fund will count. Will you help us meet this challenge?

More information about [our chapter fundraising campaigns](#) is on our website.

I look forward to hearing from you, how we can better serve our fellow alumni.

In Phi,

Thomas Gooden, '85

BETA THETA COMMUNITY SERVICE

Brothers posing in front of a freshly-raked yard



15 bags of leaves filled!



At The Big Event, KU's largest single-day volunteer event, our volunteering efforts were both rewarding and impactful as we dedicated our time and energy to serving the community. We broke up into groups and took on the tasks of things like raking leaves in a person's yard, providing an apartment complex with much-needed assistance in maintaining their property, and assisting the city of Lawrence with painting new curbs. As we worked together to complete these projects, we experienced a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction in knowing that our efforts were making a positive difference in the lives of others. It was incredibly gratifying to witness the gratitude of those we helped and to see the tangible impact of our collective actions on the community. Through our participation in The Big Event, we not only contributed to the betterment of our surroundings but also strengthened our bonds as a team, reaffirming the power of volunteerism to foster unity and goodwill.

MOMS WEEKEND

Phi Kappa Tau fraternity hosted a truly unforgettable Moms Weekend on April 6th, offering a wide range of exciting experiences. The festivities kicked off with a brunch held at the Big Biscuit, where everyone got well-introduced to each other. The party then took to a KU baseball game, where the Jayhawks suffered an unfortunate loss to the West Virginia Mountaineers, however the spirits of the members and their mothers couldn't have been tarnished that day. Afterwards, we hosted a Bob Ross painting session, where each of the members got an opportunity to spend some quality time with their mothers painting along to a few Bob Ross videos. Overall, it was an amazing experience for the members to get to meet all the mothers and bond with each other!

Brothers and mothers mid-brunch



Cheering on KU Baseball!



Everybody showing off their artwork during Bob Ross painting!

Meet the Executive Board

Za’Vion Sykes, VPAR- I joined Phi Kappa Tau because from the moment I stepped onto campus, I felt a sense of belonging and purpose within the fraternity's community. It wasn't just about finding a group of friends; it was about finding a family. Phi Kappa Tau provided me with a support system during both the highs and lows of my college journey, offering unwavering encouragement and camaraderie. Being a part of this fraternity means more to me than just wearing its letters; it signifies a commitment to personal growth, leadership development, and service to others. It's a bond forged through shared experiences, late-night conversations, and unforgettable memories. Phi Kappa Tau has not only shaped my college experience but has also left an indelible mark on my heart, reminding me that no matter where life takes me, I'll always have a home within its brotherhood.



Ryan Hillis, Vice President- When I got to college I didn't ever think I would rush a fraternity, but when my buddy Jordan Outler told me about Phi Tau and introduced me to the guys I was hooked. I realized I had found a group of guys who shared the same values as me and who I wanted to hang out with and associate myself with. In my time in Phi Tau I have felt the most comfortable being myself that I have ever felt in my life, and I have formed so many strong relationships that I look forward to holding for the rest of my life. Phi Tau has been one of the best decisions I've made since I got to college, and I have not looked back since.



Jordan Outler, Community Service Chairman- I joined Phi Tau because I felt welcomed as an individual and immediately became a part of the brotherhood. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the fraternity because it just feels like hanging out with a big group of friends and doing things together rather than an organization that you are all a part of.



Kaden Mitchell, Treasurer- At first I was very skeptical about joining fraternity life because of the stereotypes that follow it. But when I found Phi Tau, I found a group of men who were building something that I wanted to be a part of. A group of brothers who are there for you and push you to be your best. I wanted to be a part of that and now I am the treasurer trying to build a foundation for the future and learning a lot from my position that will help me in the future.



Paul Carney Jr, Academic Chairman- I joined Phi Kappa Tau because of the brotherhood I saw when invited to an event. This eager small group of individuals was set on redefining what it meant to be a part of a fraternity. I never even considered joining a fraternity before I met the guys at Phi Tau. Through my membership I've developed my leadership and service abilities. I currently serve as the academic and scholarship chair for Phi Kappa Tau and guide my brothers to academic success with all the available resources I can. I know what it is like to struggle with coursework so I've taken this position to lead my brothers with empathy and care. I look forward to being a part of this growing fraternity for years to come.



Gus Brown, Member Orientation Officer- I joined the Phi Kappa Tau brotherhood because of the tight knit dynamic the group has and the benefits it brings. Phi Kappa Tau truly brings each member opportunities and success in whatever field they study and as a man altogether. We are a very hands-on and task oriented community where everyone is involved and has a say in whatever we do.



Jacob Haefele, Philanthropy Chairman- My name is Jacob Haefele, I'm currently a sophomore at KU and study film and media with a minor in theater. I joined Phi Tau because it wasn't like any other fraternity here on campus. I joined when it was smaller, so I was able to be a big part of the revitalization of the chapter and I was able to become great friends with the group quickly. I enjoy being the philanthropy chair because I want to do something that means something more than just going through the motions. I wanted to be able to make a difference because I feel like it's my duty to God and to my community to help wherever I can however I can.



Lukas Stone, Risk Management and PR- Being able to see how Phi Tau has grown has been a great feeling. First joining, there wasn't really much going on. Now, we are building and creating a fraternity that I have no doubt I'll be proud of when I graduate. All the guys I've met, alumni I've met, and things we've accomplished have solidified my place here in Phi Tau, and I wouldn't trade it for anything.



Daniel Martin and Taj Polonchek, Recruitment Chairmen-

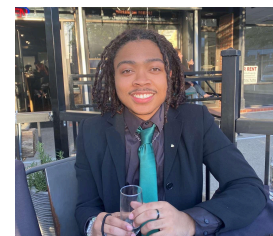
Taj- Phi Kappa Tau has greatly improved my experience at KU. By giving me a start to structuring my schedule, as well as my brothers providing advice and help when I need it, Phi Tau has made my first year at college much more enjoyable.



Daniel- Phi Kappa Tau is about finding a brotherhood built on distinction. I remember during rush week, having a deep conversation with a brother about balancing academics with all the other various responsibilities and interests of a college student. It solidified my feeling that Phi Kappa Tau was the place for me. Becoming Rush Chair was a natural progression. I wanted to help others discover the same sense of belonging I found.. I'm excited to continue to bring in pledge classes full of distinct gentlemen and continue Phi Kappa Tau's legacy of brotherhood.



Tre White, Secretary- I joined Phi Kappa Tau not only for its strong sense of brotherhood, personal growth opportunities, leadership development, and philanthropic activities, but also for its commitment to diversity. Phi Kappa Tau embraces its diversity as a core value, having such an inclusive environment where members from different backgrounds can come together, learn from each other, and create a rich, diverse community is especially important to me.



GALLERY



“The vision of Phi Kappa Tau is to be recognized as a leadership organization that binds men together and challenges them to improve their campuses and the world.”



Brothers pose for a photo at the 2024 Spring Carnation Ball



Enjoying the appetizers at an alumni Topgolf event!



Brothers Jonah and Schub posing in front of Allen Fieldhouse



Brother Paul viewing through his Minecraft sunglasses



Father Schub, son Paul, and grandson Jonah posing with their family alcohol on father/son reveal night



Brothers Paul and Shub playing pond hockey



Phi Tau's Fall 2023 Intramural Basketball Team



Brothers Jordan and Ryan post-pie during the Fall Pie Kappa Tau event



Brothers posing before a KU football game



Fall 2023 Pledge Class performing their serenade for Alpha Chi Omega, a proud MOO Schub watches



Scene from the Spring Carnation Ball Dinner at Genovese on Mass



Action shot of one of Phi Tau's basketball games vs ATO during IFC's Chapters for Charity event



Your 2024 Beta Theta Executive Council!



Representing Phi Tau during a camping trip to Tuttle Creek State Park over Spring Break 2024



Beta Theta... Sponsored by Fast Twitch



National President Michael McCrum speaking at the 2024 Zenith Officer Institute in Chicago



Brothers showing off their artwork during Moms Weekend



Happy Friendsgiving from your Beta Theta Chapter!

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