



# Beta Theta Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau

The University of Kansas  
Summer 2024

STAY UP-TO-DATE WITH THE CHAPTER, UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO [HERE!](#)

## CHAPTER HOUSING UPDATE

This Fall, the brothers of Phi Tau will be following through with their plan of living in the 1137 Indiana house! Our new location will be fully-adorned with a Phi Tau flag and wooden letters on the front wall of the facility. Our doors are always open to our valued alumni, feel free to stop by during the school year to meet the resident brothers!

## HOMECOMING UPDATE

Homecoming is October 18th and 19th this year and will be a little different given construction on the stadium. We look forward to reconnecting!

**Friday:** The Active/Alumni golf tournament is a perennial favorite. We've chosen the course, reserved the tee times and carts, will stock up on beverages and now you just need to show up and have fun. [Sign up for golf](#) by 09/22 and receive a Phi Tau golf towel! First tee time is 9 am. Lunch is on your own. The post-golf social & dinner will be at the house, 1137 Indiana Street, Lawrence. Regardless of whether you play golf, join us Friday afternoon at the Phi Tau house as we regale the tall tails of the hole in one ... that almost happened. Meet the undergrads and their new digs. Dinner is included for those who [RSVP for the social!](#)

**Saturday:** We'll tailgate at Arrowhead this year and will try to organize a section to sit in. Check back here for ticketing information. [RSVP for the tailgate!](#) Depending upon game time, plan to spend time after the game at a social event, TBD, in KC!

**After homecoming weekend:** This year we will hold graduate council elections. We'll be electing a new President, Secretary and Treasurer. Information about the positions are on our Graduate Council page or ask current officers for details. The meeting will be held after homecoming weekend, date TBD.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE RESIDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As the Summer draws to a close, we're excited to be preparing for all the events we have planned for the semester! In addition to the philanthropic, community service, and brotherhood events, we also have a variety of alumni events planned which I would now like to cordially invite you all to! Below is the list of events we are hoping to host:

- A dinner at the house, prepared by us! Warm food and cold drinks.
- TopGolf mid-September in KC! We've done this event before and it's been a huge success. We're looking forward to playing golf with you all here, in addition to homecoming!
- Dinner & Football watch party mid November. Beverages provided!

If you are able to attend, please RSVP by contacting either myself or Tom. Both our contact information are located at the end of this letter.

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## SUMMER EVENTS

### Clinton Lake Cookout 6/22

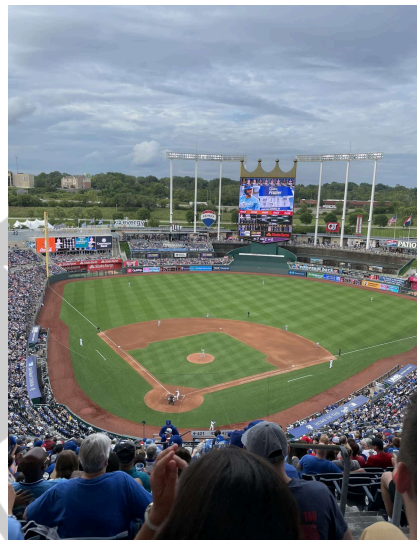
On June 22, the brothers of Phi Tau gathered at Clinton Lake for a big summer cookout. The day was filled with laughter and camaraderie as we grilled burgers and hotdogs, sharing stories and reminiscing about our summer activities. The smell of barbecue and the sound of music created the perfect backdrop for bonding, as we played games like cornhole and frisbee on the grassy shore. A few of us took a dip in the lake to cool off from the summer heat. As the sun began to set, we sat around a bonfire, roasting marshmallows and talking late into the evening. It was a day of deepening friendships, with new memories made that will last a lifetime. The event reminded us of the strength of our brotherhood and the joy that comes from spending quality time together.



Brothers posing for a picture at Clinton Lake

## Royals Game 7/20

On July 20, the brothers headed to Kauffman Stadium to watch the Kansas City Royals take on the Chicago White Sox. The atmosphere was electric as we cheered on the Royals, who dominated the game and secured a 6-1 victory. Dressed in our team colors, we joined the crowd in chanting and celebrating each run, feeling the energy of the stadium with every play. Between innings, we shared snacks and drinks, enjoying the camaraderie that comes with being part of such a close-knit group. The highlight of the night was when the Royals sealed the win, and the stadium erupted in applause, with high-fives and cheers all around. As we made our way out of the stadium, the sense of pride and unity among us was undeniable. The game was more than just a victory for the Royals; it was a bonding experience for our fraternity. The night ended with us heading back, still buzzing from the excitement and the shared memories of a fantastic evening.



Views from the brothers' seats at Kauffman Stadium

## Leadership Academy

At the Leadership Academy, brothers Jordan Outler and Ryan Hillis immersed themselves in a weekend dedicated to personal growth and leadership development. The event brought together members from various chapters, creating an environment of learning and networking. We participated in workshops that challenged them to think critically about our roles as leaders, both within the fraternity and in our broader communities. Engaging in team-building exercises, they strengthened their bonds and learned the importance of effective communication and collaboration. One of the most impactful moments was hearing from alumni who shared their experiences and offered valuable insights on how to lead with integrity. Throughout the weekend, they were encouraged to reflect on our values and how we can embody them in our daily lives. By the end of

the Leadership Academy, they left with renewed motivation and a deeper sense of responsibility to uphold the principles of Phi Kappa Tau. The experience not only enhanced their leadership skills but also reinforced the unity and purpose that define our brotherhood.



Brothers Jordan Outler and Ryan Hillis at Leadership Academy in Oregonia, OH



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

When your Beta Theta chapter isn't getting involved on campus, they're getting involved everywhere else they can! Here are a few brothers developing their professional skill sets this summer:



Pictured here is brother Paul Carney Jr with J.J. Lewis, CEO of North Star Reach Camp and fellow Phi Tau during his marketing internship in Barretstown, Ireland, working for a SeriousFun Camp!

Paul gained valuable insight about how camps spread awareness of their brand using specific platforms and how their activities run uniquely on site for each of their locations.



Pictured here is brother Jonah Gonzales standing with one of the vehicles owned by his employer, Dayton Freight Lines!

During the summer, Jonah had the opportunity to rotate through various roles at the St. Louis service center. From learning management skills through dock supervision to enhancing his communication skills in customer service and learning how to operate a forklift, his journey was both challenging and rewarding.



Pictured here is brother Jordan Outler with his supervisor and fellow Phi Tau Matt Cobb during his marketing internship with Accumatch Consulting!

Jordan enjoyed his experience. It was unique getting to work alongside another Phi Tau. He learned the basics of what it's like to work in an office environment, as well as what it's like running multiple social media accounts for a company.



Pictured here is brother Zach Schubert with his supervisors in front of a Pilatus PC-24 during his aerospace engineering internship with Duncan Aviation!

During his time there, Zach learned a lot about the inner workings of an aerospace company, gaining experience in everything from quoting aircraft sales to aiding the engineers in parts development.

## FINAL ADDRESS

Overall, it's been a very successful summer for your Beta Theta chapter. As we look forward to the fall semester, we have just a few announcements for you all before we leave you until our next newsletter publication comes in October.

The first announcement is a reminder to [update your contact information](#) on the website. This is the best way to stay up-to-date on the activities of the chapter as well as the alumni. We're looking forward to expanding our alumni family!

The second is unfortunately on a more serious note. Please allow us to offer the opportunity for you to support Gen Dal Porto's Fight Against Mesothelioma, a rare type of lung cancer.



Gene is a beloved member of our Fraternity, '80s re-founding father of Beta Theta and is facing his toughest challenge yet: a battle with lung cancer. As he is to undergo treatment and fight for his health, we want to rally around him with brotherhood, support, and financial assistance. The Goal is to raise \$5,000 to help cover Gene's medical expenses, including treatment costs, medication, and travel to appointments. Any contribution will bring us closer to easing the burden and help him focus

on what matters most— getting better. [You can help us achieve this goal here.](#)

**That's all for this edition of the Beta Theta Chapter Newsletter! We're looking forward to connecting with you all again soon. Until then,**

**In Phi,**



*The brothers of the Beta Theta  
Chapter of Phi Kappa Tau*

## 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.



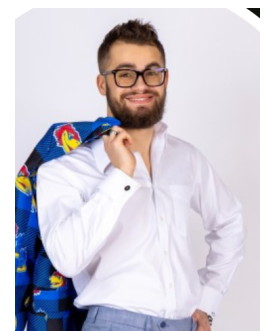
**Jordan Outler, Community Service Chairman-** I joined Phi Tau because I felt welcomed as an individual and immediately became a part of the brotherhood. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the fraternity because it just feels like hanging out with a big group and friends and doing things together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



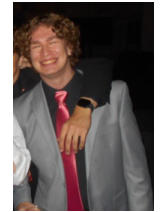
**Paul Carney Jr, Academic Chairman-** I joined Phi Kappa Tau because of the brotherhood I saw when invited to an event. This eager small group of individuals was set on redefining what it meant to be a part of a fraternity. I never even considered joining a fraternity before I met the guys at Phi Tau. 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, Recruitment Chairmen-** 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.



**Zach Schubert, President-** Phi Tau has been one of the best decisions I've made in my college career. It's truly been a pleasure getting to grow alongside this wonderful group of guys. We've learned a lot through this journey of revitalizing the chapter, and one of the greatest lessons we've learned is the value of a close-knit community. We would never be able to develop ourselves into men of character without the bond and passion for growth that we all share.





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# 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.”*



Brother Jordan with his brothers celebrating his younger brother's high school graduation



Brother Ryan and Associate Nathan at a Childish Gambino concert in KC



Brother Ryan with Bill Self while working at the Bill Self Basketball Camp



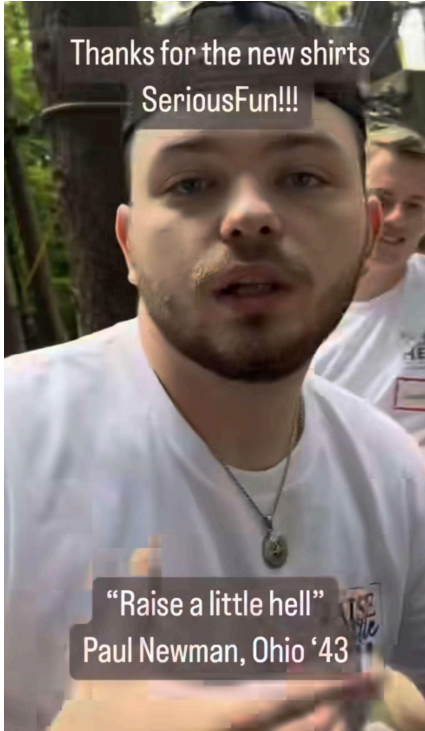
Brothers Jordan and Ryan with other Phi Taus in front of Shideler Hall in Oxford, OH



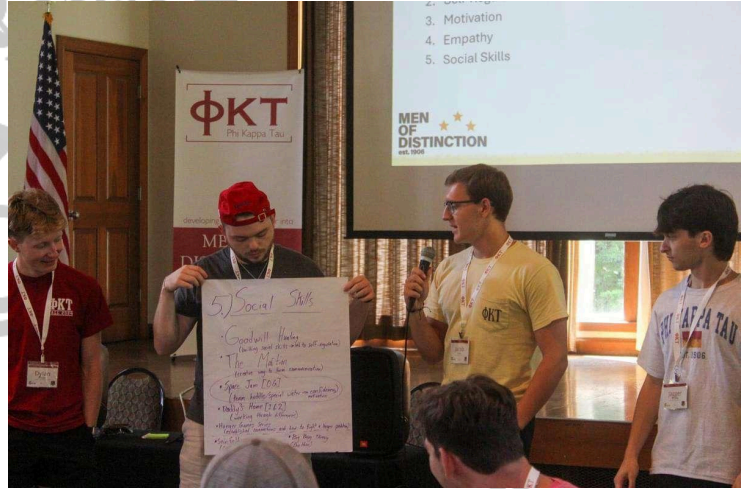
Brother Jacob Haefele with his family at the College World Series



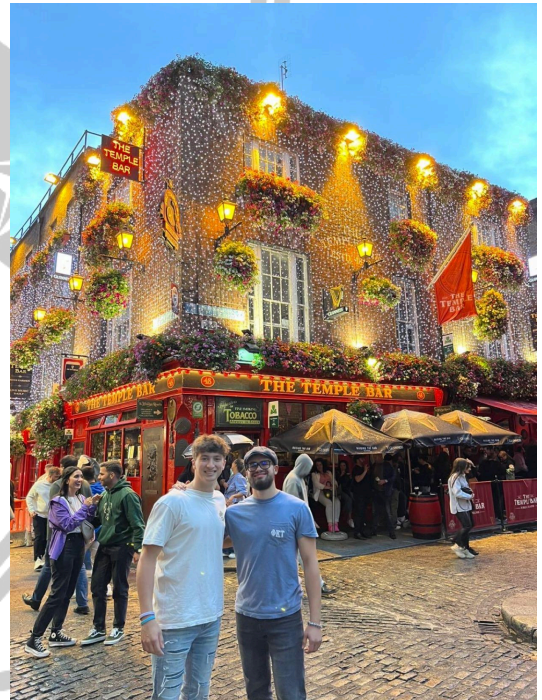
Brothers Jonah, Jacob, and Connor Brace enjoying a lake day



Brother Jordan featured on the National Phi Tau Instagram account



Brother Jordan presenting at Leadership Academy



Brothers Zach and Paul in front of the Temple Bar in Dublin, Ireland

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## Chapter Contact Info

Zach Schubert, Chapter President - (402) 613-2963 [kuphikappatau@gmail.com](mailto:kuphikappatau@gmail.com)

Tom Gooden, Graduate Council President- (314) 974-0023 [thomassgooden@gmail.com](mailto:thomassgooden@gmail.com)

## Websites and Social Media

[HQ Website](#)

- Update your contact information [here](#)

[Beta Theta Chapter Website](#)

[Alumni Page](#)

[Giving Page](#)

[Beta Theta Alumni Facebook Page](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)



Newsletter created by Za'Vion Sykes and Zach Schubert.