



AKA

ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA

Delta Dispatch University of Kansas Fall 2024





Chairman's Report

Mark Mears

Delta '81

The men of AKL Delta Chapter have just completed their fall semester at KU with many significant accomplishments to be proud of this past year, and many more yet to come.

The Alumni Board recently hosted our K.C. Holiday Luncheon, which also serves as the Annual Meeting of the AKL Building Association. In addition to enjoying some amazing Jack Stack BBQ as well as the company of Delta alums spanning many generations, we listened to reports from representatives of the Alumni Board, the Ochino Foundation as well as both our outgoing and incoming chapter presidents.

I am proud to say that, through the tremendous work of many caring and committed individuals, the chapter is in excellent shape on every level—physically, interpersonally, academically, professionally, financially, and, of course, socially. All founded upon a shared mission to create the very BEST fraternity living experience at KU!

We all know that the fraternity experience represents much more than just a brick 'n mortar facility to live in—rather it provides an opportunity to build relationships along with both personal and professional skills that can last a lifetime. For that reason, the theme of our Annual Meeting was about the importance of creating a “living” legacy based upon the commitment of one's time, talents, treasures and experiences to help keep the flame of AKL's Five Ideals alive for generations to follow.

One of our biggest accomplishments was the completion of Phase II of our \$750,000 Chapter House Improvement Plan featuring our new Brotherhood Activity Room (BAR) on the Lower Level. This unique indoor facility features a Sport Court for Pickle Ball, Futsal/Soccer, Floor Hockey as well as a Billiards, Ping Pong, Foosball, Poker and an Exercise Room to go along with big screen TV's and a new sound system and lighting package. In addition to unveiling a wall plaque recognizing the generous donations received from 45 caring alums, the Alumni Board highlighted three “living” legacy builders for their special contributions.

For his creative vision, financial commitment and development outreach, the Alumni Board voted to name the Sport Court after Tim Barton '85. In addition, the Alumni Board recognized the dedication of Joseph “Buzz” Prelogar '65 for his outstanding financial and project management by naming the new Executive Conference Room in his honor.

Finally, the Alumni Board recognized John Yorke '62 for his many years of faithful service to the fraternity—including serving as board president, chapter advisor and scholarship team advisor—by naming the 2nd Floor Conference Room after him.

If you are interested in exploring ways to become a “living” legacy builder, please reach out to me at mmears@airmail.net.

On behalf of the Alumni Board, we wish you and your family Happy Holidays!

Fraternally,
Mark Mears '81



KU/KSU Watch Party

In lieu of our traditional Alumni Homecoming event due to the Jayhawks playing their home games at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, we hosted an Alumni Watch Party to unveil the new Brotherhood Activity Room (BAR) on our lower level! In addition to a unique indoor Sport Court for Pickle Ball, Futsal or Floor Hockey, the BAR features activities such as Billiards, Poker, Ping Pong and Foosball as well as 3 big screen TVs and a new sound and lighting system for watch parties and other social events. We had a great time meeting alumni while eating some great BBQ and watching the rivalry game. Despite the final score, we enjoyed a successful night with our alumni and current members.



NEW AKL Delta Chapter Mentoring Program!

While many of you have generously donated financially to support Ochino Foundation scholarships, or most recently, to the New Chapter House Improvement Plan, there is a new way to re-engage with your fraternity that is absolutely FREE!

In partnership with the KU Alumni Association through its Jayhawk Career Network and related KU Mentoring+ platform, we have created a special affinity group for AKL Delta Chapter—providing alums with an opportunity to donate a portion of their time, talents and experiences for the benefit of active chapter members still in school. Special thanks to Ryan Grimsley, active chapter vice president, for coordinating this effort.

Wouldn't you like to play an important role in the lives and careers of our younger AKL brothers to create a virtuous cycle of reciprocity that will strengthen the lifelong bonds of brotherhood for future generations?

Well, now you can—and it's easy to sign-up, fill out your profile and get matched!

KU Mentoring+ Platform Sign-Up Instructions

- Visit mentoring.ku.edu and create a free profile using an email address. Current KU students can use their single sign-on to create a profile. Alumni should use a work or personal email account and are usually approved within 24 hours.
- During the sign-up process new users will be asked to answer questions about educational and work history. New users will also be asked to choose from a list of help topics they are willing to discuss with other Jayhawks. Please create a detailed profile (including professional photo), because detailed information helps students and other alumni best identify the Jayhawks with the right expertise and experiences to help them with specific questions and/or needs they have.
- Once approved, explore the platform. Visit:
 - o Career < Jobs to see the job board (please note the majority of positions on this job board are for experienced job seekers. Students looking for work or internships should visit hirejayhawks.com).
 - o Career < Career Paths – for detailed information on the skills, common levels of education, personalities, and work responsibilities associated with specific industry areas. The platform will also suggest individuals you might want to network with and open job positions within the industry you are exploring.
 - o Connect < Community – to search and filter for the nearly 10,000 KU alumni (and growing) on the platform. You can use location, industry, help topic, and dozens of other filters to search for the right fit for your networking and mentoring needs.
- Finally, join the AKL group:
 - o Go to Connect < Groups and find AKL and request to join. We are right on top!
 - o By joining the AKL group you:
 - o You make it easy for other AKL members, students and alumni, to find you and message you through the platform.
 - o You will receive monthly emails to help keep you up-to-speed with what is happening at AKL.
 - o Gain access to AKL resources posted on the group site.
 - o Participate in group discussions.

Alumni Spotlight



Joe Hatzfeld
AKL '18

Joe Hatzfeld represents an excellent example of how the AKL fraternity experience lives up to our mission of creating men of character, committed to making a difference.

Despite being a double-legacy of Sigma Nu, Joe came to KU in 2018 as a freshman from Olathe, KS with no interest in joining a fraternity. His aspiration was to become a Civil Engineer, and he felt the potential distractions of “fraternity life” would inhibit his ability to receive the quality of education he desired. Upon meeting a few members of AKL, and seeing how serious they were about scholarship, he changed his mind and decided to pledge AKL.

At the time of Joe’s arrival, the chapter was unhoused and met each Monday night for Chapter Meetings in a conference room located within the Kansas Union. Joe was impressed by both the professionalism of the executive board in running the meeting as well as the commitment and dedication of its diverse membership to fulfill the Creed of AKL while living out our Five Ideals – building a solid foundation upon which to form life-long bonds of brotherhood.

While considering himself an introvert, Joe stepped out of his “comfort zone” to serve as an officer within the house. Joe started as the Recruitment Chairman, and the following year was elected Chapter President as Delta Chapter transitioned from being unhoused to housed as part of the 4-year lease of the DU house.

It was during this transition, which included the Covid-19 pandemic, where Joe felt his greatest growth – both personally and professionally – took place. When asked which of the Five Ideals resonated most with Joe he said, “When I first joined AKL, my focus was on Scholarship; however, because of my growth experiences within the house, I left realizing the importance of Leadership.”

Today, Joe serves as a Civil Analyst at Kimley-Horn, a Civil Engineering firm located in Kansas City. While building client relationships, Joe credits his role as Recruitment Chairman for helping develop skills in sales and relationship building as well as his role as Chapter President for honing his communication (both oral and written) and leadership skills.

Without citing any specific events, activities or special moments, Joe’s fondest memories of AKL were times he spent with various brothers in the house just doing “life” together.



President's Report

Braden Hoffman

Delta '22

The AKL Chapter House at 1505 Sigma Nu Place welcomed sixty-two men into its doors at the beginning of the 2024 fall semester. This includes thirty-four new members due to the efforts of our elected Recruitment Chairs, Blake Fries and Ben Anderson. This exceeded our goals and represented the largest recruitment class AKL has brought in since returning to campus. A successful move-in process was made possible thanks to our House Director, Sara Russell, and new House Manager, Evan Bannister.

The Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda has built a tradition of leadership and excellence through the consistent application of our Five Ideals: Judeo-Christian Principles, Scholarship, Leadership, Loyalty, and Self-Support. Our Five Ideals were expressed throughout the past year through philanthropy, community service, brotherhood, leadership, recruitment, and social events.

Some key highlights included the unveiling of the new Brotherhood Activity Room (BAR) on the lower level of the chapter house during the KU vs. K-State Football Alumni Watch Party. The active chapter, along with alumni and parents, came together to cheer on the Jayhawks and see all the new basement amenities. The event was a remarkable success, with great attendance thanks to Roger Williams and our Loyalty Chair, Jackson Kuhl.

Additionally, AKL's own platform for the KU mentoring program is being created to connect alumni with active members.

Led by Philanthropy Chair, Lucas Reiter in partnership with Community Service Chair, Nate Hesse and their respective teams, AKL won the "Chapters for Charity" event in April last semester – beating out all Greek houses on campus. The contest included multiple competitions, culminating in an overall winner and a prize of \$1,000. Additionally, we won the award for National Ritual Celebration Week among all Greek houses. As part of our multi-pronged "These Hands Don't Hurt" campaign during both Sexual Assault Prevention Month in April and Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October, we raised a significant amount of awareness and financial contributions for The Willow – a women's shelter in Lawrence. Finally, we raised the most money among all participants for the Lenexa Fire Department's "Hero Pull." For our efforts, we were honored to receive the KC Metro Organization of the Year award from the Special Olympics of Kansas. This fall semester, we raised nearly \$5,000 through these various philanthropic and community service events and competitions.

I am proud to report that AKL was well-represented at the recent Sorority & Fraternity Life Awards Ceremony this spring. We received a Mark of Excellence (the highest honor!) in two categories and a Mark of Distinction in the others.

Academic Achievement – Distinction
Civic & Community Engagement – Distinction
Diversity & Inclusivity – Distinction
Personal & Professional Development – Excellence
Holistic Wellness – Excellence

Faternally,
Braden Hoffman



2024 Fall Recruitment Update



Our chapter has found much success in recent years by recruiting a diverse group of high quality men from across the nation, and this semester was no different. Co-chairs Ben Anderson and Blake Fries did a great job recruiting these outstanding men during their term as Recruitment Chairmen. We are happy to announce that we held our formal initiation on December 9th, which added 34 new members to the chapter!

We are excited to introduce our 4 new recruitment chairs for the following year. If you know anyone interested in AKL for this upcoming spring semester please have them contact one of our new Recruitment chairs:

Andrew Murray: andrewmurray006@gmail.com (913) 683-9838

Ian Coe: iancoe@ku.edu (314) 686-2049

AJ Payton: ajpayton@icloud.com (630) 715-7613

Sam Koenen: samuelkoenen320@gmail.com (630) 272-9209

Meet the Fall 2024 New Members



Fall '24 New Members



Mason Kuhn
Batavia, IL
Business Administration



Logan Burnett
Olathe, KS
Accounting



Braden Myers
Naperville, IL
Supply Chain
Management



AJ Payton
Elgin, IL
Psychology/ Pre-Law



Tate Everard
Overland Park, KS
Business Administration



Jackson Cetera
Frisco, TX
Business
Administration



Brooks Barrett
Overland Park, KS
Architecture



Ethan Mowry
Lenexa, KS
Exercise Science



Andrew Murrar
Lenexa, KS
Finance



Walter Blau
St. Paul, MN
Finance and Philosophy



Sam Ortega
Olathe, KS
Business Administration



Silas Stemler
Collegeville, PA
Accounting



Andre Davis
Lawrence, KS
Business



Brady Bechtel
Naperville, IL
Business Analytics



Sam Koenen
St. Charles, IL
Physical Education



Riley Ballinger
Edina, MN
Finance



Josh West
Eureka, MO
Business, Analytics



Bode Kalisch
Omaha, NE
Mechanical Engineering



Joshua Ellis
Fort Calhoun, NE
Exercise Science



Josh Biehl
Omaha, NE
Business Administration



Andrew Sharoki
Overland Park, KS
Accounting



Tommy Kaiser
Chicago, IL
Business Analytics



Liam Mitchell
Aurora, IL
Physical Education



Cam Walker
Minneapolis, MN
Business Analytics



Gavin Englehart
Batavia IL
Business Administration



Anders Pearson
Houston, TX
Business Administration



Sammy Sheshappa
Overland Park, KS
Business Administration



Tucker Johnson
Long Island, NY
Business Marketing



Drew Sheets
Lenexa, KS
Journalism



Landon Basov
Overland Park, KS
Journalism



Luke Alwin
Batavia, IL
Business Administration



Josh Burner
Naperville, IL
Finance



Ryan Friddle
Lake Zurich, IL
Business Administration



Ian Coe
St. Louis, MO
Finance

Homecoming

This year's annual Homecoming competition was a huge success for the house!

Based upon our results within the 3 competitions (Chalk Drawing, Pickle ball Tournament, Canned Food Drive Sculpture) we placed 3rd overall among all Greek houses. We were awarded a plaque at halftime of the KU vs. Houston football game. Throughout the competition, we helped raise over \$200 worth of canned and boxed goods to be donated during the holidays.



Scholarship Dinner

This semester's Scholarship Dinner meeting saw over \$5,000 worth of scholarship money given out to those active members who exercised academic excellence in the past school term. We were very grateful to hear Mr. Greg Payne, a former AKL and managing partner at Grant Thornton, share his wisdom and advice with the chapter.

Recognizing overall excellence in academics, leadership, brotherhood and service, the 3rd annual Robert E. Jacoby II Memorial Scholarship recipient is Robert Metz, who received his award during the Scholarship Dinner along with \$2,750. Congratulations, Robert!



Scholarship



The Ochoino Foundation

The Ochoino Foundation supports our Scholarship Team by inspiring the highest levels of academic excellence among the men of Delta chapter.

The Ochoino Foundation supports our Scholarship Team by inspiring the highest levels of academic excellence among the men of Delta chapter.

The Ochoino Foundation would like to recognize the following scholarship recipients for their outstanding classroom performance in the 2024 Spring semester.

The Dalton Hawkins Memorial Scholarship for \$600 goes to the member with the highest GPA. This year, we had eleven men tie with a perfect 4.0 GPA! Members who achieve a GPA of between 3.90 – 3.99 receive a Yorke, Prelogar & Mears Scholarship for \$400 each.

Name	GPA	Scholarship
Award		
Ben Anderson	4.0	\$600
Aiden Bannister	4.0	\$600
Peter Dillon	4.0	\$600
Ryan Grimsley	4.0	\$600
Treovor Holloway	4.0	\$600
Hani Ibrahimi	4.0	\$600
Jackson Kuhl	4.0	\$600
Jason LaFleur	4.0	\$600
Gabriel Kraft-Jarombeck	4.0	\$600
Robert Metz	4.0	\$600
James Murnane	4.0	\$600
Blake Fries	3.90+	\$400
Tyler Gelsomino	3.90+	\$400
Andrew McDonald	3.90+	\$400

With nearly \$12,000 awarded for academic excellence, the Ochoino Foundation would like to recognize all Delta alumni who contributed in 2024 to make these scholarships

possible:
Stephen Buechner

Kit Chadick

Bob Denzel

John Eagle

James Hamlett

David Henry

Gordon Kauffman

Mark Mears

Kevin Pavicic

Fredric Prater

Tim Reed

Jim Rumsey

TJ Snyder

Bill Taylor

Roger Williams

John Yorke

Ochino Foundation Donor Spotlight – Kit Chadick '81

This year's Ochino Foundation Donor Spotlight features Kit Chadick '81 who has established an endowed gift – now in excess of \$3,000 – to support the spiritual growth of Delta Chapter members.



While serving as Senior Vice President of Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley helping his clients grow their financial wealth, Kit believes in using his financial resources to help young men grow in their faith journey. An example of living out Judeo-Christian Principles within our Five Ideals.

There are 2 Tax-Deductible options for contributing to the Ochino

1. General Scholarship Fund
Ochino Foundation
c/o Jeff Bennett, Treasurer
9414 W. 157th Court
Overland Park, KS 66221
kuendowment.org/Ochino

2. Robert Jacoby Scholarship Fund
KUEA Gift Processing Dept.
P.O. Box 928
Lawrence, KS 66044-0928

(Indicate in Memo “Dr. Robert E. Jacoby II Memorial Scholarship Fund”)

[Kuendowment.org/Jacoby Scholarship](http://Kuendowment.org/Jacoby%20Scholarship)

Philanthropy

A message from our Chairman: Lucas Reiter



Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda got behind our national philanthropy, “These Hands Don’t Hurt” in a big, big way! On September 8th, we held a car wash at the house for everyone on campus. We had a great turn out and raised a total of \$600 over the course of the day. In addition, we participated in both a Chipotle and Jefferson’s percentage night where as a house we take in 25% of what we spend there on that night–this added another \$237 to our total donation to The Willow–a women’s shelter in Lawrence, Kansas.

Earlier this fall, Delta Gamma hosted a philanthropy event “Anchor Games” where our men took first place against all other fraternities. Later this semester, we participated in the “Hero’s Pull” challenge event hosted by the Fire Department of Lenexa, Kansas to raise money for the Special Olympics of Kansas. During this challenge event, we worked together as a team to pull a SWAT car and a fire truck while also raising money for a great cause. We raised a total of \$3,790 for the Special Olympics–the highest amount of all participants–while also taking 3rd place in the competition itself. We were recognized for our outstanding performance by being named the “KC Metro Organization of the Year” at a special award ceremony in Topeka, Kansas this month.



Community Service

A message from our Chairman: Nate Hesse



This past semester, my Community Service Team and fellow members of our fraternity performed many duties in support of our community. On various occasions, we cleaned up local nature centers and parks, including Clinton Lake and the Prairie Park Nature Center. In addition, our members also helped local Lawrence community members by cleaning their homes and yards as needed. We donated countless items to the Lawrence Humane Society and hosted them at our house for an awareness and adoption event for their dogs, which raised hundreds of dollars to support the work they do here in Lawrence.



Brotherhood

Fall Formal

In October, the men of AKL took their annual Fall Formal trip down to West Bay Resort in Kingston, Oklahoma. Thanks to our Social Chairs, James Murnane and Julian Sanchez who coordinated the weekend, we all enjoyed beautiful weather, amazing views and a lot of fun. We were able to enjoy a boat ride and a day out on the lake Saturday afternoon, followed by a lovely formal dinner that evening with our dates.



AKFL

This semester, the men of AKL participated in a chapter-wide football league. We held a draft at the beginning of the semester and a playoff bracket to decide the winner. Competitive games were played every week—culminating in a fun, festive trophy ceremony for the winning team.



Dad's Weekend

Dad's Weekend this year was a blast! Over the weekend of November 8th-10th we held our annual Dad's Weekend, which included a successful auction and watch party in the new remodeled basement. We helped raise money for the fraternity while also getting a big win against Iowa State!



Brother Spotlight

Braden Hoffman

Delta '22



This semester's Brother Spotlight is on outgoing Chapter President, Braden Hoffman. Braden is a junior from Lawrence, Kansas majoring in Finance and Accounting. Prior to his term as Chapter President, Braden served as a Co-chair for Recruitment during a time of transition as we entered into our new chapter house.

Braden played an instrumental role in furthering the growth of this renewed version of AKL's Delta chapter. If you ask anyone about Braden, they will tell you how hard of a worker he is, but also how good of a person he is. This was evident during his tenure as Chapter President; however, it has also been present in relation to his academic performance, which is consistently among the highest in the house.

Congratulations, Braden—it's an honor to feature you in the Brother Spotlight, and thank you for being such a positive role model for everyone to follow. Good luck on your future endeavors and keep up the great work.

We are all very proud of you!

Gallery



Dad's Weekend



Dad's Weekend



Dad's Weekend



Dad's Weekend



Fall Formal



Fall Formal

Gallery



Fall Formal



Fall Formal



Holiday Luncheon



Holiday Luncheon



Holiday Luncheon



Holiday Luncheon

Stay Connected with AKL

[AKL Kansas Website](#)

Contact us: mmears@airmail.net

[Delta Dispatch Archives](#)



[@aklkansas](#)