



AKA

ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA

Delta Dispatch
University of Kansas
Spring 2024





Chairman's Report

Mark Mears

Delta '81

The momentum continues to build at AKL Delta Chapter—with even more exciting news on the way!

We started off last fall by moving into our new chapter house—christening the house as well as celebrating the completion of Phase I of our New Chapter House Improvement Plan during our AKL Alumni Homecoming event in late October. The house looks amazing, and is literally the “talk” on campus, but we’re not done yet!

Today, I am happy to report that we have received enough fundraising commitments to begin Phase II of this project, which will focus on building out the Brotherhood Activity Room (BAR) on the Lower Level. This will create a unique indoor facility that features a Sport Court (Pickle Ball, Futsal/Soccer, Floor Hockey) as well as a Pool Table, Ping Pong Table, Foosball and a new Exercise Room to go along with big screen TV’s and a new sound system and lighting package.

Work is expected to commence soon with the project being completed this summer in time for our men to return for the fall semester. The completion of Phases I and II will help us achieve our goal of providing the very **BEST** “fraternity living experience” at KU!

But 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.

To that point, I am excited to announce the creation of the new **AKL Mentoring Program**! Built upon the foundation of the KU Mentoring+ platform as part of the Jayhawk Career Network, AKL will be the very first Greek house on campus to have our own affinity group to allow us to interact with each other directly. This will create opportunities for alumni to mentor actives as well as fellow alums!



There are now many important ways for you to reengage in your fraternity to help make a difference.

NEW ERA OF GROWTH!

The house looks amazing as we are hoping to begin work on Phase II (lower level Brotherhood Activity Room) featuring a unique, multi-functional Sport Court for indoor Futsal, Pickle Ball, and Floor Hockey. Our goal is to create the very best “fraternity living experience” at KU and we’ve made great progress, but we still need your help.

Please join us in thanking the many brothers who have stepped forward to lead and contribute financially to this project to-date:

Recognition for campaign leadership

Tim Barton Mark Mears Joseph Prelogar William Taylor John Yorke

CONTRIBUTORS

LOGOS

Tim Barton Dave Ferdman
David Booth Jay Litteken William Taylor
Steve Craig Tim Reed John Yorke

DELTA

Steve Buchner Kent Dickinson Chuck Frickey Peter Levy Greg Payne
John Creighton Duane Drake Steve Harman Mark Mears Joseph Prelogar
Bob Denzel Barry Duwe Kevin Jackson Mike Miroslaw Martin Ufford

OREAD

Brian Arensberg Michael Heck Pat Murphy Don Ringstrom Russell Smith
Kit Chadick Dave Henry Kevin Pavicic Gerry Roberts Richard Willard
Steven Cochran Stephen Hill Greg Rieke Jim Rumsey Roger Williams
Bruce Coffey Richard Jones Dick Ringstrom Pat Sirridge Kevin Winkley
TJ Snyder

If you have not yet done so, I hope you will carefully consider making a generous end of school year donation that will create a “living” legacy for the men of AKL today and for many generations to come.

By Credit Card: <https://donorbox.org/akl-delta-chapter-new-house>

By Check: AKL Building Association
Attn: Buzz Prelogar, Treasurer
10307 Garnett St.
Overland Park, KS 66214

If you have any questions, please reach out to Buzz Prelogar at buzz@thefactory-kc.com

New AKL Chapter House

Phase I – Exterior/Interior Property Refresh, Signage & Basketball Court



New Shutters, Study Room Blinds, Crow's Nest Railing & Paint plus new Stackable Washers/Dryers



Entry & Signage

Basketball Court

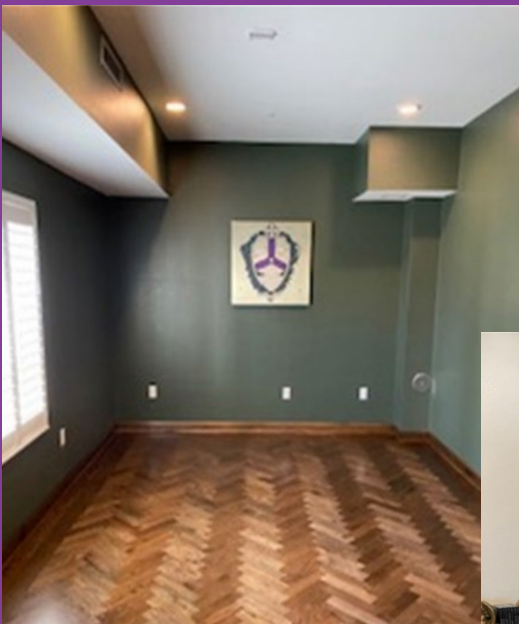


New AKL Chapter House

Phase I – Living Room w/ Stone Fireplace & Wood Flooring plus House Director Suite



Phase I – Dining Room, Parlor, Exec Conference Room & Trophy Cases



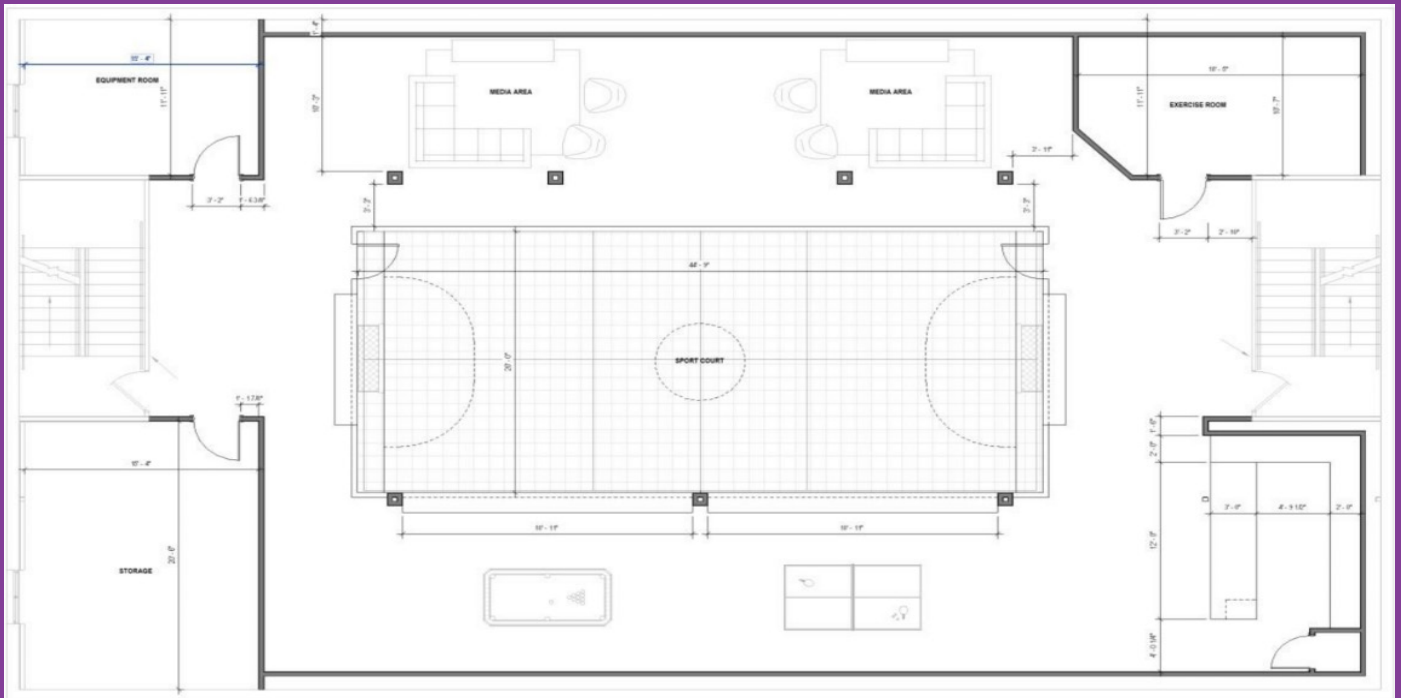
New AKL Chapter House

Phase I – Spacious Back Deck w/ Tables, Adirondack Chairs, Gas Grills & Fire Pits



New AKL Chapter House

Phase II – Lower Level Brotherhood Activity Room
w/ Multi-Use Sport Court



NEW AKL Delta Chapter Mentoring Program!

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.

Two Delta alums, Jacob Shamblott '12 (Chicago) and Ryan Reddy '12 (Denver), are now established in their careers and recently expressed a desire to “pay it backward.” They have agreed to leverage their Business/Finance backgrounds for the purpose of mentoring actives who are interested in pursuing careers in similar fields.

“I strongly believe that as we grow and progress in life, it’s essential to help others along the way. When I was a part of AKL, I had an amazing time, made unforgettable memories, and formed lifelong friendships with my brothers. Now, I am in a position to provide guidance, advice, and mentorship to our younger brothers to assist them in navigating the educational and professional landscape.”

- Jacob Shamblott, '12



“It is tough to put into words the impact that both KU and AKL had on my life. I made amazing lifelong friends, lots of memories and learned so much about myself. After graduation, I have continued to learn, grow, and develop personally and professionally. I believe this growth has put me in a position to support the active brothers of AKL in achieving their career goals.”

-Ryan Reddy, '12

In addition, we have alums who are lawyers, doctors, engineers, architects, sales leaders, journalists, marketing and communications professionals who can help broaden our reach to many other disciplines.

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!

NEW AKL Delta Chapter Mentoring Program!

KU Mentoring+ Platform Sign-Up Instructions

We are pleased to announce the creation of an AKL group on KU Mentoring+, the University's home for mentoring, networking, community, and opportunity within the Jayhawk Career Network.

The platform and group are free to join and will help our members, students and alumni, connect with and support one another in the career development space.

It is simple to join:

- 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 needs that they have.

Once approved, explore the platform.

Visit:

- 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).
- 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.
- 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:

- Go to Connect < Groups and find AKL and request to join. We are right on top!

By joining the AKL group you:

You make it easy for other AKL members, students and alumni, to find you and message you through the platform.

You will receive monthly emails to help keep you up-to-speed with what is happening at AKL.

Gain access to AKL resources posted on the group site.

Participate in group discussions.

AKL Founder's Day XGolf Challenge



This spring, the Active Chapter and several Alumni traveled to Leawood, KS to participate in this year's annual AKL Founder's Day XGolf Challenge. Besides the fun that was had while golfing, the Alumni present were able to mingle with the current men of Alpha Kappa Lambda and share the experiences they had while in the house while hearing and learning about what is going on in AKL today. Awards named after our fraternity's 11 original founders were given to both Actives and Alumni to commemorate outstanding performances (e.g., Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Longest Putt, etc.).



Alumni Spotlight



Bill Taylor
AKL '64

For this edition of the Delta Dispatch's Alumni Spotlight, we would like to illuminate Bill Taylor. Mr. Taylor has thirty-five years of experience in public accounting, principally in the financial services industry, serving many major such organizations in Kansas City, St. Louis, and Minneapolis. Mr. Taylor was a co-owner and director of a community bank for fifteen years, actively involved in the acquisition, borrowing, lending, and sale activities of the bank and its holding company.

Since retirement from Ernst & Young LLP, he has joined the Boards of RBC Funds, a private insurance company, and a private technology company; served on the leadership team for Citizens for Higher Education, a group of executives advocating for Kansas state funding of higher education.

In recent years, Mr. Taylor has been a member of the Boards of Directors and Treasurer or Finance Chair of the Kansas City Symphony, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, UMKC Foundation, Church of the Resurrection Foundation, and Breckenridge Creative Arts.

Mr. Taylor is a graduate of the University of Kansas and holds a master's in accounting from the University. He has been active in several activities at the University, including the KU Endowment Association Board of Trustees, the KU Alumni Association Board of Directors, the University Multicultural Scholars Advisory Council, served as Chair of the Research Institute Board of Directors at the Medical Center and the Business School Board of Advisors and was a recipient of the Business School Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Taylor has also been very generous in giving back a portion of his time, talents and treasures to Delta chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda's by serving on the Alumni Board while contributing financially to both the Ochino Foundation and the AKL Building Association.

His wife Marilyn is a graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in Spanish. Their son Jeff and his wife, Jane, live in St. Louis with their son, Benjamin. The Taylor family actively supports and provides scholarships for young women in memory of their daughter Megan.



President's Report

Braden Hoffman

Delta '22

The Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda has built a tradition of Leadership and Excellence through the consistent applications of our 5 Ideals: Judeo Christian Principles, Leadership, Scholarship, Loyalty, and Self Support.

Our 5 ideals were expressed throughout the past year through Philanthropy, Brotherhood, Leadership, Community Service, and social events. Some key highlights were moving into the new AKL Chapter house, our annual Founder's Day event, and the "Chapters for Charity" Philanthropy event.

The new AKL Chapter House at 1505 Sigma Nu Place welcomed 60 men into its doors at the beginning of the 2023 fall semester. A successful move in the process was thanks to our House Director, Sara Russell, and new House Manager, Hunter Audano. The Chapter House has a finished first floor with spectacular plans for the basement which will make AKL the best fraternity living experience.

The Founder's Day event this year took place in Leawood at a virtual golfing facility called XGolf. The active chapter along with several Alumni came together to have some fun on a Sunday afternoon. Superlative awards were made by Roger Williams in the names of our founders and passed out after the conclusion of the event to those who it correlated with. Loyalty Chair Jackson Kuhl, and Roger Williams worked together to create an amazing event to celebrate our founding date and thank you to all who showed up!

Led by Philanthropy Chair Lucas Reiter, AKL won the "Chapters for Charity" event in April of this semester. The contest included multiple competitions that then led to one overall winner in the end. These competitions included basketball, and pickleball tournaments, a March Madness bracket tournament and most importantly a health and hygiene drive where the house collected numerous toiletries that were then donated. AKL dominated this event causing us to win \$1,000 for a charity of our choosing! The event was a massive success and set a blueprint for future executive boards to follow through with.

The Delta Chapter welcomed in 12 new members this spring because of the efforts of our newly elected Recruitment Chairs Blake Fries and Ben Anderson. They are looking to increase the numbers even more by gunning for around 30 new members this Fall!

I am proud to report our efforts have been recognized as AKL was well-represented at the recent Sorority & Fraternity Life Awards Ceremony this spring. We received a mark of Excellence (the highest honor!) in most categories and then a mark of Distinction in the rest. We also won the award for National Ritual Celebration Week.

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

Fraternally,

Braden Hoffman



2023-2024 Executive Board



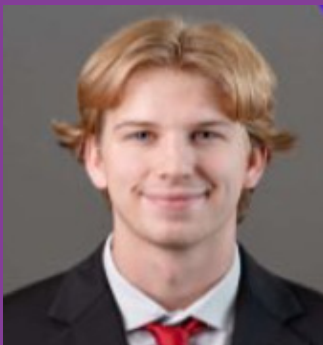
President:
Braden Hoffman
Lawrence, KS
Finance and
Accounting



Vice President:
Ryan Grimsley
Dallas, TX
Computer Science



Treasurer:
Drake Doser
Shawnee, KS
Accounting



Secretary:
Logan Eaton
St. Louis, MO
Business
Administration



Co-Recruitment:
Blake Fries
Frankfurt, IL
Finance and
Business Analytics



Co-Recruitment:
Ben Anderson
St. Louis, MO
Pre-Med



Loyalty:
Jackson Kuhl
Olathe, KS
Civil Engineering



Co-Social:
Julian Sanchez
Warren, NJ
Finance



Co-Social:
James Murnane
Houston, TX
Finance



House Manager:
Hunter Audano
Olathe, KS
Architectual Engineering



Co-New Member Ed:
Cadynce Marlow
Shawnee, KS
Sports Management



Co-New Member Ed:
Spencer Hill
Overland Park, KS
Finance



Philanthropy:
Lucas Reiter
Shawnee, KS
Excercise Science



Chaplain:
AJ McDonald
Shawnee, KS
Sports Management



Scholarship:
Hani Ibrahim
Amman, Jordan
Human Bio - Pre Med



Risk Management:
Jake Martin
Omaha, NE
Mechanical Engineering



Community Service:
Nate Hesse
Wichita, KS
Human Bio - Pre Med



Communications:
Daniel Woo
Omaha, NE
Journalisn

2024 Spring Recruitment Update



Our chapter has found a lot of success in recent semesters in recruiting 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 men during their first semester as the Recruitment Chairmen. We are happy to announce that this spring new members had their formal initiation on April 30th, and it went wonderfully adding 12 new members to the chapter!

If you know anyone interested in AKL for this upcoming spring semester please have them contact one of our Recruitment Co-chairs:

Blake Fries - blakejeff412@icloud.com - (815)-641-6500

Ben Anderson - 23andersbe@ku.edu - (636)-692-1511

Meet the Spring 2024 New Members





CJ Strout
Elgin, IL
Finance



Scott Wyatt
Overland Park, KS
Marketing



Jonas Oesterli
St. Louis, MO
Architecture



Truman Hill
Lawrence, KS
Finance



Jackson Kirk
La Grange, IL
Business Administration



Emmet Gutierrez
Burr Ridge, IL
Finance



Ben Syrup
St. Louis, MO
Finance



Patrick Engels
La Grange, IL
Finance



Johnny Mozis
La Grange, IL
Finance



Jamieson Peplow
St. Louis, MO
Accounting



Jack SanFilippo
St. Louis, MO
Architecture



Sean Meeks
Lemont, IL
Business

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. The dinner featured Mike Heck as the President of the Ochino Foundation Board of Directors who spoke on the Foundation and the importance of scholarship at the dinner, and it also featured special guest appearance from Ben Berardi '18. The men of AKL got to hear from Ben who has been through it all on his personal academic journey and gave a lot of insight on how to navigate through college. The speech touched many members as they realized that it is never too late to turn things around and hard work and perseverance can come a long way in the classroom.



Scholarship



The Ochino Foundation

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

The Ochino Foundation would like to recognize the following scholarship recipients for their outstanding classroom performance in the 2023 Fall semester, including six with a 4.0!

Name	GPA	Scholarship Award
Tyler Gelsomino	4.0	\$600
Ryan Grimsley	4.0	\$600
Jason LaFleur	4.0	\$600
Ben Anderson	4.0	\$600
Braden Hoffman	4.0	\$600
Robbie Metz	4.0	\$600
Jackson Kuhl	3.90+	\$400
Daniel Mannella	3.90+	\$400
James Murnane	3.90+	\$400
Eli Wurster	3.90+	\$400

Scholarship Recipients



Tyler Gelsomino



Ryan Grimsley



Robbie Metz



Ben Anderson



Jason LaFleur



Braden Hoffman



James Murnane



Daniel Mannella



Jackson Kuhl



Eli Wurster

Ochino Foundation Contribution Options

There are 3 tax-deductible ways to support Ochino scholarships:

- For general scholarship purposes, by check to Ochino Foundation, c/o Jeff Bennett, 9414 W. 157th Court, Overland Park, KS 66221
- For general scholarship purposes, by check to KUEA, Gift Processing Department, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928 (indicate Ochino Foundation Scholarship Fund, acct. #42859 in the Check Memo)
- For the Jacoby Memorial Scholarship, by check to KUEA, Gift Processing Department, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928 (indicate “Dr. Robert E. Jacoby II Memorial Scholarship” in the Check Memo) or online at

The following alumni have contributed to the Ochino Foundation since December 2023. Thanks for your generous support!

Bob Denzel, John Eagle, James Hamlett, Kevin Pavicic, Fredric Prater, Tim Reed, Jim Rumsey, Tom Snyder, Bill Taylor, Roger Williams, John Yorke


If you have any questions, please reach out to Mike Heck at michael.heck77@outlook.com

Philanthropy

A message from our Chairman: Lucas Reiter

CHAPTERS FOR CHARITY - AKA

Ballard Center Food and Clothing Drive



BRING HYGIENICS, (SOAP, SHAVING CREAM, TOOTHPASTE), CANNED GOODS AND GENTLY USED CLOTHES.



LEARN MORE 



CHAPTERS FOR CHARITY - AKA

About the Ballard Center

The Ballard Center partners with individuals and families to achieve stability through early childhood education and needs-based services by cultivating a strong network of organizations, businesses, and individuals dedicated to serving our community.



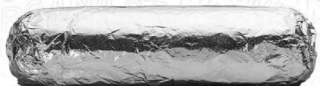
The Ballard Center provides wrap-around supports to families through their food pantry, clothing closets, emergency assistance programs, and other initiatives.

With our national Philanthropy being These Hands Don't Hurt, AKL wanted to show support in April since it is National Sexual Assault Prevention Month. We made a banner and hung it in the front of the house for April that emphasized These Hands Don't Hurt, and Sexual Assault Prevention Month. We participated in a Chipotle Fundraiser Night where we would receive 25% of all sales from that night. In April we also hosted a car wash where we served food and washed cars in support of Sexual Assault Prevention. Also this semester AKL participated in KU IFC's Chapters For Charity. Chapters for Charity is a five-part competition that includes a March Madness bracket submission competition, a social media competition raising awareness for the Ballard Center, a pickleball tournament, a 5v5 basketball tournament, and a food and goods drive supporting the kids and families that the Ballard Center supports. We did exceptionally well in these events and finished 1st out of all the chapters in IFC raising \$1,000 for a charity of our choice. With all of these events combined, we raised a total of \$1,429.58 which will be donated to the Lawrence Sexual Trauma and Abuse Care Center.



WE CAN DO THIS!! FOOD WITH INTEGRITY


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CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA
25% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10TH | 5-9PM
911 MASSACHUSETTS ST STE A, LAWRENCE, KS, 66044

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **YXKW67R**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

 **CHIPOTLE**

For online orders to count toward the fundraiser, they must be placed for pickup only from the restaurant location of, and during the hours of, the fundraiser. Delivery orders and gift cards do not qualify. \$500 minimum event sales required to receive any donation.

Community Service

A message from our Chairman: Nate Hesse



In cooperation with our Philanthropy Chair, Lucas Reiter we worked hard to raise awareness for key charities and our community this semester. We participated in the “Polar Plunge” where we jumped into an ice-cold pool of water in support of the Special Olympics, and raised over \$1,300 for the cause. On multiple occasions, we went to local parks to pick up trash and help keep our community clean. In tandem with our Philanthropy Team, we also participated in the Sorority & Fraternity Life-sponsored “Chapters for Charity” event, which we ended up winning, giving us \$1,000 towards the charity of our choice.



Brotherhood

Spring Formal - Shady Gators

This Spring the men of AKL took their formal trip down to Shady Gators at the Lake of the Ozarks in the middle of April. There we enjoyed beautiful weather, views and housing, all thanks to our social chairs James Murnane and Julian Sanchez! We were able to enjoy a boat ride and a day out on the lake Saturday afternoon, followed by a lovely formal dinner that night.



Spring Break

This semester, the men of AKL were able to travel all over the nation together during the week of spring break. Dozens of men traveled to Panama City Beach and spent the week on the water together. While others went and climbed the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. These trips created even more memories of our brotherhood to last a lifetime.



Mom's Weekend

Over the weekend of April 12th to April 14th, we were able to have our moms up to Lawrence for a few days to visit. Friday night we held an auction out on the deck, and Saturday we were able to go to a Kansas Baseball game before heading to Logie's Rooftop that night! Once again a big thanks to Julian Sanchez and James Murnane for planning this wonderful weekend.



Brother Spotlight

Tyler Gelsomino

AKL '21



This semester's Brother Spotlight is on Tyler Gelsomino, or commonly known around the house as "Gels." Tyler is a senior from Elmhurst, IL majoring in Exercise Science. Two years ago, Tyler served as Chapter President. Tyler played an instrumental role in furthering the growth of this renewed version AKL's Delta chapter. If you ask anyone about Tyler, 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.

Tyler is consistently on the list of those receiving Ochino Foundation scholarships based upon his excellent grades. Congrats Tyler on the spotlight, and thank you for being such a positive role model for everyone to follow. Good luck on your post-college endeavors and keep up the good work.

We are all very proud of you!

Gallery



Mom's Weekend



Mom's Weekend



Mom's Weekend



Mom's Weekend



Spring Formal



Spring Formal

Gallery



Spring Formal



Spring Formal



Spring Formal



Spring Formal



Chapters For Charity



XGolf

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