

# SEVEN **720** TWENTY

PHI KAPPA PSI OKLAHOMA ALPHA

The newsletter for alumni and friends of the Oklahoma Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi at the University of Oklahoma | Spring 2022

## STAY CONNECTED

**Chapter Website**  
[www.ouhipsi.com](http://www.ouhipsi.com)

**Chapter Facebook**  
[@PhiPsiOklahoma](https://www.facebook.com/PhiPsiOklahoma)

**Chapter Instagram**  
[@ouhipsi](https://www.instagram.com/ouhipsi)

**National Website**  
[www.phikappapsi.com](http://www.phikappapsi.com)

**Foundation Website**  
[www.pkpfoundation.org](http://www.pkpfoundation.org)

### Update Your Information

Make sure you stay up-to-date on what is happening within the chapter and organization. Complete the form on the back of this newsletter, place it in a stamped envelope and mail it to the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation. You can also use the link at the bottom of the form to submit your information electronically.

### Support Oklahoma Alpha

Gifts to the Oklahoma Alpha Chapter Housing Fund can be made by check, credit card and/or appreciated securities. These gifts are 100% tax deductible through the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation.

You can give online using a credit card at [pkpfoundation.org/support-ok-alpha](http://pkpfoundation.org/support-ok-alpha) or by mailing a check to:  
Phi Kappa Psi Foundation  
5395 Emerson Way  
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Checks should be made payable to the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation and note OK Alpha Chapter Housing Fund on the memo line.



**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**  
OKLAHOMA ALPHA



## THE SUESS CONNECTION

### Three Generations of One Family in Phi Psi

"You have to be odd to be number one," said Dr. Seuss, the famous children's author. There are not one, but five Suess family members that call themselves Phi Psi's from Oklahoma Alpha. The spelling is similar, but the Suess brothers will bristle with the comparative reference to the author.

As legacies go, the Suess connection is a great one. It spans the 50's, 80's, 90's and 2020's. Beginning with T. John Suess Buffalo '52, the patriarch of the family, followed by his sons John P. Suess Oklahoma '84, Jim B. Suess Oklahoma '86, Jeff M. D. Suess Oklahoma '87, and Josh W. Suess Oklahoma '89. With the newest addition, his grandson, Jonathan Suess Oklahoma '21, the legacy has added another generation.

It was a happy surprise to their father when John was initiated into the brotherhood in 1984 followed closely by Jim in 1986. Jim remembers fondly that his "dad loved coming to the house and I loved having him there. Dad loved hanging out talking to the guys with a beer in his hand." When it came time for Josh to accept his bid in 1989, he recalls joining Phi Psi was "automatic because it was a family tradition."

The candle that was lit in 1952 is still burning; A young boy who attended tailgates with his family as a child is now an adult, as well as member of Phi Kappa Psi - Jonathan Suess Oklahoma '21. The son of Jeff and grandson of T. John Suess, Jon was gifted his grandfather's badge and holds that close to heart alongside the stories he heard from his family before joining, alongside his own he has now created.

Some of the Suess family's warmest memories from their collegiate years were when they were with their brothers, both familial and fraternal. Whether it was gamedays or social events, spending time with the Brotherhood, with their family, was paramount in their undergraduate experience. Jim and Josh both stay in touch with their Phi Psi brothers to this day, continuing the connection of brotherhood throughout their lives.

Now that the older siblings have moved away, pursuing their careers and with families of their own, we can hope that their Phi Psi family legacy will continue to live on through generations to come. Perhaps we can make the Suess family legacy required pledge learning. For if we do, the Suess' will say, "Today I shall behave as if this is the day I will be remembered."

## NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA ALPHA

## UNDERGRADUATE UPDATE

## An Update from Our Chapter

After a tough two years of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, the undergrads have a clear goal of building up numbers and continuing to grow significantly within the next year.

For homecoming, we were paired with the Gamma Phi Beta and Sigma Phi Lambda sororities. We managed to place first in the float design and placed top five in the dance competition.

Our football tailgates had very good alumni turnout last fall, especially for the Nebraska game where we saw many brothers come together for such a historic rivalry. The undergrads would also like to thank brother Shane Merz for donating Red River Shootout tickets to some of the brothers who were not able to afford them. It was the very first OU/TX experience for the majority of us.

With all of the accomplishments we have had this year, our biggest highlight of the year was by far our centennial celebration at Remington Park in Oklahoma City. The undergrads can all say that they had some of the best memories of their collegiate experience that night. We would like to thank all of the alumni that were able to make the celebration possible.

In November, we welcomed several members of the Iowa Beta chapter for the weekend of the Iowa State game. We had a blast with the young men of their chapter and made many connections during our time spent with each other.

Toward the end of the Fall semester, we swore in our new upper executive team in President Court Waters, Vice President Anthony Whitehorn, Corresponding Secretary Braden Giesecke and Treasurer Jon Suess.

We also had another great experience at our annual Founder's Day celebration at the Jimmie Austin golf course in Norman. For philanthropy, we had every brother participate in the Big Event for OU where we completely cleaned up a local park in Oklahoma City.

With a year full of accomplishments achieved and memories made, the undergrads are as excited and motivated as ever to see the house grow even more next year.



## HOUSE CORPORATION

## President

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## Vice President

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## Treasurer

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## Chapter Advisor

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Greg Ward '85  
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Jeff Scott '11  
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## President

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## Treasurer

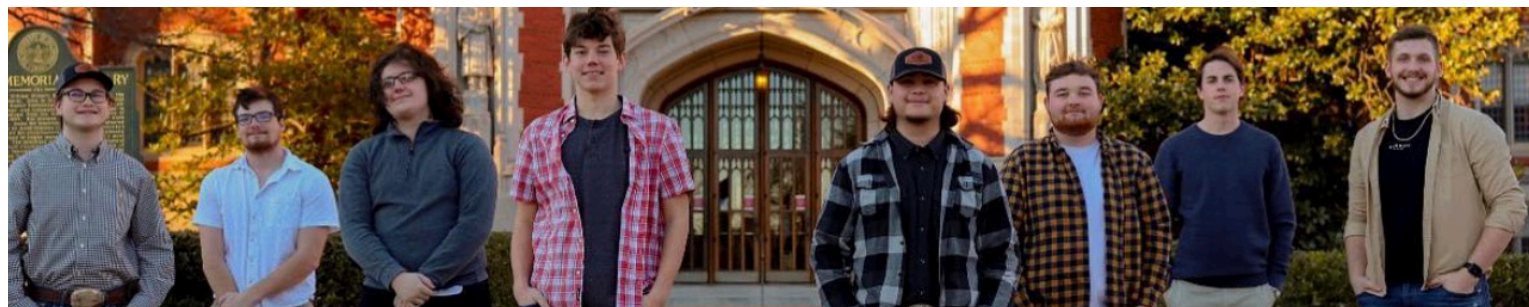
Jonathan Suess '21  
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## Corresponding Secretary / Alumni and Public Relations

Braden Giesecke '19  
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## NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA ALPHA



## THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

### An Update from Our Alumni

Last year we wrapped up Oklahoma Alpha's centennial celebrations. 100 years - Let that set there for a moment. That's a long time. Generations of Phi Psi brothers have been given the same opportunity to learn the great joy of serving others, make life-long friends, and have a memorable college experience. With the purchase of 720 Elm back from the University, we look to the next 100 years. A lot has changed. If you haven't been back to the Chapter House in a few years, come by and see for yourself the updates and renovations. Meet and get to know the next generation of Phi Psi brothers.

The COVID pandemic took a toll on OU's enrollment and college experience. Much like the "raging typhoid fever epidemic" that challenged our national founders, we persevered. We launched a new fundraising campaign to help give our guys an even-footing for housing, the Carry It Forward Campaign.

As part of this campaign we built our first website! Be sure to bookmark it here: <http://ouhipsi.com>. More about this in the near future. Let us know what you think.

Our long-term success is based on consistent leadership and support. Thanks to the efforts of Brothers Jeff Scott '15, Jesse Hopper '16, Kevin Copeland '17, and too many to name here – our Alumni Association is flourishing! Founders Day events in Norman and OKC have been sold out and well attended. Alumni events for baseball and Tulsa brewery tours are just a couple of annual get-togethers we look forward to every summer!

Brother Jeff Scott has moved to the Housing Corp Board where he is making an immediate impact. The Alumni Association is in great hands with Beau Dismukes '18 at the helm. At his side are Vice President Michael Byers '15, Treasurer Justin Ludlum '15, Secretary Kyle Scott '16, and Historian Nick Wiltshire '18.

Not everyone is happy with our progress. We have recently become the target of a rash of vandalism incidents costing us thousands of dollars (see below image of stolen aluminum letters from our wall). It hurts our progress and we could use your help. Please consider a donation to help us get security cameras. "A full security package costs us over \$9,000 to install and maintain, if we're going to do it right", says Brother Matthew McCoy '90.

All donations should be made through the House Fund here: [pkpfoundation.org/support-ok-alpha](http://pkpfoundation.org/support-ok-alpha)

A special thanks to the following volunteers at the Housing Corporation who have made an impact to our progress: Brothers Shane Merz '89, Greg Ward '89, Aaron Claybaugh '98, John Pate '83, Jeff Scott, and Matthew McCoy. Without volunteers and sharing the work load, we would not exist. If you would like to get involved, please contact us. We have opportunities in over a dozen committees from risk management, communications, mentoring, to fundraising and event planning.



*"A full security package costs us over \$9,000 to install and maintain, if we're going to do it right"*

~Brother Matthew McCoy '90

## NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA ALPHA

## CARRY IT FORWARD CAMPAIGN

### Join Us By Giving Back Today

In 1969, Phi Kappa Psi undergraduate brothers came up with the idea of running the football from Norman to Columbia, Missouri for the highly anticipated then Big 8 matchup. The 450-mile trek through 3 states was a new unofficial world record for farthest handoff of a football. Sooner Coach Fairbanks came to the Chapter House at 720 Elm, where he autographed the football at the start of the run.

Sign-up sheets were organized for runners who would go four to five in a car, and rotate the runners while the car would follow the runner carrying the ball. A majority of the approximately 70 members at the time signed up for at least one turn to advance the ball to Columbia. Day and night, they kept advancing the ball, until they delivered it Saturday on the field of play.

That spirit lives on and the meaning of "Carry It Forward" is the essence of our newest capital campaign to raise \$1 million over the next 3 years. Donations will help us continue to build on our vision of the future and carry forward the Phi Psi experience to the next generations.

All gifts to the campaign made through the Phi Psi Foundation are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.





## NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA ALPHA

## THANK YOU

We are so grateful to the following Oklahoma Alpha brothers who have committed to our campaign. With your gift, you join chapter brothers across the nation in celebrating Phi Psi's strong history at Oklahoma and our even greater future. This campaign brings with it a unique opportunity – one that will propel our chapter to the next level. Together, we are ensuring that the young men who follow in our footsteps in Oklahoma Alpha have a state of the art chapter facility to learn in, lead in and call home. We have moved the needle, but additional commitments are needed to accomplish our campaign goal of \$1,000,000

## DONORS

**William Henry Letterman Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$100,000 and above*

**Charles Page Thomas Moore Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$75,000 to \$99,999*

**Thomas Cochran Campbell Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$50,000 to \$74,999*

**J. Bart Aldridge Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$25,000 to \$49,999*

**Stanley Catlett Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$15,000 to \$24,999*

**Henry Griffing Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$10,000 to \$14,999*

**Stanley Hopper Circle**

*Giving Totaling \$5,000 to \$9,999*

**Johnny E. Pate Jr. '83**

**Platinum Member**

*Giving Totaling \$1,000-\$4,999*

**Gary L. Nichols '63**

**Additional Gifts**

*Giving Totaling up to \$999*

**Kevin R. Blatz '82**

**Eric M. Garrison '06**

**Timothy S. Kincaid '77**

**John E. Klentos Jr. '83**

**Eric J. Lensgraf '68**

**Reed W. Pigman Jr. '69**

**William W. Rhoades '56**

**James C. Tipton '58**

**Gregory S. Baker '76**

**Aaron M. Claybaugh '94**

**Kevin M. Lee Copeland '13**

**William W. Edwards '49**

**Kris W. Gray '90**

**William J. Long '92**

**Kenneth M. Mann '52**

**Louis L. VonTungeIn '67**

**Anonymous Donor**

Scan the QR code to join a giving society today!



## WAYS TO GIVE

**Tax Deductibility**

All gifts to the campaign through the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation and designated to the Oklahoma Alpha Housing Fund are 100% tax deductible.

**Online**

Giving with your credit card online at [pkpfoundation.org/ok-alpha](http://pkpfoundation.org/ok-alpha) is a quick and secure way to make an investment in Oklahoma Alpha. Online, you can make a one-time gift or establish a recurring gift in monthly, quarterly or yearly increments.

**By Mail**

You can mail a check or credit card gift to the campaign to the Foundation at Phi Kappa Psi Foundation, 5395 Emerson Way, Indianapolis, IN 46226. Please be certain to indicate Oklahoma Alpha Housing Fund in the memo section of the check.

**Estate Gifts**

The Foundation staff can work with you and your estate planner in designing a planned gift that meets your short and long-term financial goals and ultimately benefits our Oklahoma Alpha Chapter. Planned gifts include but are not limited to cash, bonds, stock, securities, personal property, retirement plan assets and insurance policies.

**Appreciated Stock/Securities**

Multiple benefits are realized when using appreciated stock as a means for giving. The Phi Psi Foundation staff can work with your financial advisor to ensure your stock gift maximizes charitable tax benefits, while also making a direct impact on Oklahoma Alpha.

**Matching Gifts**

Numerous companies offer matching opportunities for personal employee donations made to non-profit, tax exempt foundations. Ask if your employer participates in a gift-matching program.



**PHI KAPPA PSI FOUNDATION**

*Invest today. Change tomorrow.*

*If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign team at the Phi Kappa Psi Foundation by calling 317.275.3400 or emailing Lee Fuller at [lff@pkpfoundation.org](mailto:lff@pkpfoundation.org).*



PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY  
**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**  
**OKLAHOMA ALPHA**  
5395 Emerson Way  
Indianapolis, IN 46226

### KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP-TO-DATE!

Place this form in a stamped envelope and send to:

**Phi Kappa Psi Foundation**  
5395 Emerson Way  
Indianapolis, IN 46226-1415

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Initiate Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Save a stamp and update your information online at  
**portal.phikappsi.com**

## Save The Date! Grand Arch Council

Phi Kappa Psi is excited to invite brothers from across the country to convene in Indianapolis, Indiana, to help further advance Phi Psi's mission, pass important governance documents, and welcome Indiana Zeta back into the fold.

The 80th Grand Arch Council (GAC) is being hosted at the JW Marriott from July 27-31.

Brothers can register for the entirety of GAC, purchase a single-day pass or join in the Founders Cup Golf Outing at The Fort Golf Resort. GAC registration is not required for the re-chartering ceremony.

To learn more and to register, please visit  
**phikappsi.com/2022-gac**

