

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 2024



REFLECTING ON FOUNDERS DAY

Event Highlights and Recap

Founders Day 2024 was a night to remember in OKC...assuming you didn't have too much fun.

We packed the house at Remington Park with 48 in attendance, including the undergraduate members of Oklahoma Alpha and its Spring Pledge Class. A special thank you to the alumni who sponsored the undergraduates' tickets to the event.

The night kicked off with an eventful cocktail reception, and many stories were retold by alumni to the undergraduates. After one of the best dinners in recent years, several alumni with the Oklahoma Housing Corporation and Oklahoma Alumni Association updated the brotherhood on the accomplishments of the last year and all of the things to come in the coming year. Brother **Greg Ward** presented the upcoming Oklahoma Alpha chapter house renovations that included several 2nd-floor bedrooms as well as the multi-purpose basement.

Brother **Geof Ferrer** outlined the Housing Corporation's fundraising efforts, including said renovations, which are a part of the overarching

Carry It Forward Campaign. A special thank you again to all those who have supported the chapter through various donations and contributions of time. The support from alumni has been essential for Oklahoma Alpha's success during the first year of the chapter's re-founding effort. It will be even more necessary for our alumni to continue to support the chapter as the undergraduates kick off summer recruitment for its Fall 2024 pledge class.

Oklahoma Alpha's President, **Travis Finch**, reported all the successes the chapter had in its first year since re-founding last Fall. These men have accomplished a lot since their initiation into our fraternity and have the drive to grow the Chapter exponentially. Brother **Brandon Nofire** gave a special speech about Phi Psi men in politics and announced his campaign for Oklahoma State Senate. Along with honoring all of those who joined Chapter Eternal, we took a moment to remember specifically **Pete Kelntos**, who recently passed. His legacy and contributions to our fraternity will be remembered by all who were impacted by his life.



NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA ALPHA

ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

President
Beau Dismukes '14

Vice President
Nicholas Wiltshire '14

Treasurer
Kyle Scott '16
khscott1112@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
Yuta Daughters '15

Historian
Chirstian Braun '15

HOUSE
CORPORATION

President
Shane Merz '85
smerz@alum.mit.edu

Vice President
David Curtis '81

Treasurer
Aaron Claybaugh '94

Secretary
Michael Byers '15
byersmichael97@gmail.com

Board Members
Jeff Scott '11
jdscott1993@gmail.com

Greg Ward '85

Matt McCoy '90

Todd Waldeck '77

Derek Neidig '93

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

Name: Aaron Claybaugh, *Oklahoma* '94

Occupation: District Controller for Waste Connections

What made you want to join Phi Psi? I wanted to meet people. I didn't know anything about Greek Life in general. I was invited to Phi Psi events and felt like I fit in; they were a good group of guys.

What are some of your cherished Phi Psi memories? The time we did our pledge kidnapping of Ryan Sykes. We decided to kidnap him by tempting him with a 12 pack of Drummond Bros. beer. We took him to the University of Arkansas, looking for a Phi Psi chapter, but we found out there was no active chapter at the University of Arkansas. So then we went to Lawrence, Kansas, and got to have a cookout and spend the night at the Phi Psi chapter at the University of Kansas.

Having that close group of guys stay together was huge. While I was there, we got kicked out of the Chapter House. We got apartments together; it was a challenge but an amazing experience, and some men became better from it. I remember sitting in Ryan Sykes room playing Madden Football.

What kind of work have you done since graduation? Industries, roles, etc. and where are you now. I'm coming up on my 20-year anniversary with Waste Connections. I've worked for them in OKC the entire time. One of the roles I've enjoyed the most is hiring recent college graduates as controllers, training them, and watching them take advantage of the company's opportunities to move to different parts of the country and taking a promotion by moving. This made it an easy transition getting back into Phi Psi because I was already dealing with kids around that age.

Roles you held and currently hold in Phi Psi?

- Vice President – those were good times when everything was going well.
- President – that was challenging because it was while we were out of the Chapter House.
- Currently House Corporation Treasurer



What surprised you about Phi Psi after you joined? When I initially joined Phi Psi, I didn't think much about it being much more than a group of guys and a big house, so I was surprised by the extent of Phi Psi locally – the Alumni connections, Alumni's impressive career success, and Alumni's dedication to the fraternity.

Since graduating, how have you stayed connected or involved with Phi Psi? Either your chapter, or at a greater level. I was disconnected from Phi Psi for quite some time to focus on my own life (career, family, etc.). I was recruited to get re-involved around 10+ years ago.

Since graduating, why have you stayed connected or involved with Phi Psi? I enjoy the brotherhood – getting connected with Phi Psis of different generations. I enjoy succeeding – being part of something that's bigger than myself. I feel like I can help, even in a small way. If we can take things somewhere and I can be connected to it, then as time goes on it's nice to come back to campus knowing I can point to the Chapter House and say, "I'm a member there; that's my place."

NEWS FROM OKLAHOMA ALPHA

UNDERGRAD HIGHLIGHT

Name: Travis Finch
Major: Architectural Design
Hometown: Keller, Texas

What do you want to do for a career?
 Work for an architectural firm and, one day, start my own firm.

What are your extracurricular activities? (intramural sports, clubs/associations you're involved in outside of Phi Psi, etc.)
 Member of American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS)

What made you want to join Phi Psi?
 I was part of a lot of organizations in high school. Coming to college, I missed being part of something bigger than myself. Looking for brotherhood most, I liked the vibe Phi Psi gave; it was the vibe I was looking for.

What are some of your cherished Phi Psi memories?

The tailgate right after initiation – I remember realizing that the brotherhood extends beyond just the brothers my age. It wasn't until then that I realized how big the brotherhood of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity really was.

Founders Day 2024 – Getting to be around the alumni and hear their stories was probably my most favorite memories. The entire night was a ton of fun and one that I will always remember.

Some parents are hesitant to let their son join a fraternity; How did your parents react to you joining Phi Psi?

My parents were hesitant about me joining Greek Life, but Michael Warren persuaded my parents about the benefits of Greek Life, not only in college but after college too; during Parents Weekend.

What has surprised you about Phi Psi since you have joined?

I was surprised to learn how large of an organization Phi Kappa Psi is despite its local size. I've been impressed by the level of involvement between alumni and the undergraduates. I couldn't have anticipated



how many life lessons I've learned by being part of a fraternity that can't be taught anywhere else.

What is your current position(s) in Phi Psi?
 President, Scholarship Chairman, Housing Chairman, and Co-Chair of Recruitment

What would you say to a potential new member about Phi Psi?

We're a small organization, which is better because you're a member, not just a number. While every fraternity on campus will tell you they'll "make you the best version of yourself," the difference is that other frats have already defined what a "better version" is, but at Phi Psi you define what that is, not us.

Any final words?

I'd like to reiterate my appreciation for all the help that Alumni have provided to us, especially to Jeff Scott and Michael Warren for the time, help, and mentorship.

STAY CONNECTED

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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 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.





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

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Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

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Save a stamp and update your information online at
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JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING EVENT

April 20
SPRING FOOTBALL GAME

April 27
OU VS TX
OU BERM BASEBALL
401 Imhoff Road, Norman, OK

May 11
OU VS BAYLOR
OU BERM BASEBALL
401 Imhoff Road, Norman, OK

June 8
TULSA BREW TOUR
McNellies at 409 E 1st Street, Tulsa, OK

August | Details TBD
GOLF SCRABBLE

November 23
ALABAMA VS OU TAILGATE

OKLAHOMA

ALUMNI
ASSOC.



Scan to view a
full list of events.