



2025 ANNUAL EDITION

PROUD TO BE A PHI!

Kansas Gamma

Friendship

Sound Learning

Moral Rectitude

Gazette

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 18, 2025

KSU Fall Classes Begin

October 11, 2025

KSU Homecoming
and open house with
free BBQ, free
gameday parking
and house tours.

Football KSU vs TCU



Phi Delta Theta KSU
Official Facebook Page



Follow Us on X Social



Our Instagram Page

Building a Lasting Legacy

As we continue to recruit high quality men each year, it is exciting to witness these fine men learn the principals and valuable life lessons during with their time on campus as a KSU Phi Delta Theta member. Our fraternity is now **debt-free** and we are preparing it to continue for another successful 100 years. - Walt Lane



Picture taken Fall of 2024 and includes our new members.

Our alumni continue their support for the scholarship programs at our fraternity which reward the students in our chapter when they receive a high GPA or demonstrate exemplary activity. Donations to this 501c3 can be made by going to the website at www.phidelt.com/giveback Please watch our fraternity donors video www.phidelt.com/video

Message From Our Advisory Board President - Chris Steincamp

Brothers,

We had a very successful year during the 2024/2025 school year at the Phi Lodge.

The financial accounting system has been upgraded so that we are able to keep a good handle on the finances both now and moving forward. This is an important improvement. The financial situation is strong thanks to your generosity and Bret and Walt's management. As a result, we have been able to pay off the debt on the House this year. Walt also added amenities for the Phi's in the House so that they have access to breakfast in the mornings prior to class. I think that you will find that the House is in better shape than it has ever been!

We have dramatically restructured the housing contract so that the same basic contract applies to Fall and Spring Pledges as well as out of house members. The new contract is designed to create incentives for upper classmen to continue to live in the house during their Junior and Senior years. Most of us that lived at our old 508 Sunset fraternity house lived in the house for our entire four years of college. We are fortunate to have too many members for that to be possible in the new house, which is a good problem to have. We have seen a positive response to the new Housing contract. We feel that having upper classmen in the house will provide some leadership to the Pledges and younger actives and will have a positive impact on the overall culture of our fraternity. We have already recruited to capacity and are full for next year as of this writing. We also completed a training session which was required for all members, provided by the Manhattan Police Department. The training focused on emergency response, including in the event of incidents involving over consumption of drugs or alcohol. This training will be required every year so that all of the members know what to do, and also what not to do, in the event of an emergency. Our goal is to make all of the members safer while they are at the House.

I would encourage all of you to let us know about motivated and impressive young men that may be interested in the fraternity. Our recruitment chairs have been successful at bringing in quality pledge classes, but referrals may well lead to them getting to know strong candidates that can improve the active chapter. Remember that we are typically finished with recruitment by February or March each year so you should provide referrals starting January.

I would encourage all of you to visit your fraternity at Kansas State, as you have time, and meet the young men that are continuing the strong tradition of the Phi Delta Theta. I believe that you will be proud of the group. As you all know, the lifelong positive impact of Phi Delta Theta on all of our lives is invaluable. The values of Phi Delta Theta carry forward long after college is over to improve both our lives and those of our associates and communities. Feel free to reach out to me at any time if you have questions or would like to get involved.

Yours in the Bond,

Chris Steincamp, Bond 1096

President, Kansas Gamma Alumni Advisory Board



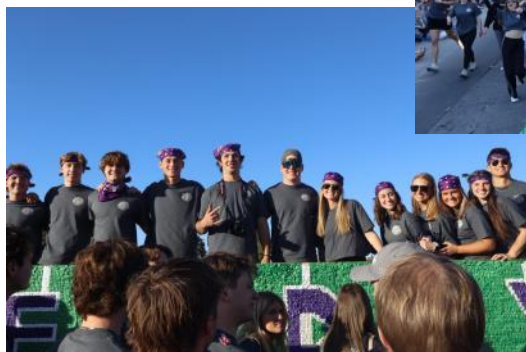
Phi Delta Theta Homecoming - Our Desire to Win



Phi Delta Theta, Kappa Kappa Gamma and Lamda Chi Alpha were teamed up for Kansas State's Homecoming

SAVE THE DATE!

Invitation to all KSU Phi Delt Alumni for free BBQ, house tours and free gameday parking Saturday October 11, 2025 at our fraternity house. Sorry, no alcohol is allowed to be served, but great food!



We didn't win 2024 but we will try for 2025!



PHI DELTA THETA

Because the greatest version of yourself

Freshmen KSU Phis Win First Place at Pledgeketball

Every fraternity pledge class competes in the annual basketball tournament hosted at Phi Delta Theta. The tournament now called "The New Member Basketball Tourney" includes more robust referee handling with fair and safe play. And our pledge class won!



Phi's Sponsor Multiple Philanthropic Events



Our annual car wash brought in a whopping \$662 to help fund members with the Iron Phi program



12 sororities compete at our annual volleyball tourney, raised \$400 for Phi Delt "Live Like Lou"



Out Phi's continue to support Big Brothers and Sisters Program Every Year



PHI DELTA THETA
Bonds the greatest friends of society

Pies With Phis with (of course) the Pi Phis



Taking pies in the face for donations towards supporting ALS and the Ali Kemp Foundation.

The Live Like Lou Foundation received \$748 of the proceeds from the event.



Sororities Compete at Phive Days of Giving Philanthropy

Prior to last year, it was Phive Days of Christmas. It is now called Phive Days of Giving and hosted in the later fall.

The philanthropical event raised \$2538 for Live Like Lou ALS Foundation with a pumpkin carving contest, a day with puppies (hosted by a local animal shelter), a sorority pickleball tournament, and donations through Canes Chicken sales.



Sororities love our philanthropy



A day with the pups



Pickleball tourney for sororities compete at Phive Days of Christmas

Raised \$2538 For Live Like Lou ALS Foundation

Dad's Weekend Tradition - KSU Football and Tailgating



Phi dads enjoyed the day playing a poker and a cornhole tournament at the fraternity



Phi Delt dads hung out to watch the Cats game and drink some brewskis.



Our Fraternity Awarded Chapter of the Year by IFC



2023-24 President Elliott Cozine
Receiving Chapter President of
the Year Runner-up by KSU IFC



Elliott Cozine, Bond 1861 Holds Award
from KSU IFC for Chapter of the Year
(out of 21 chapters)



KSU Phi Delta Theta Receives Purple Circle Award for Leadership and Community Excellence

Phi Delt Brecken Kasel Received Best of Kansas Award



KSU Phi Brecken Kasel, Bond 1917 won the prestigious Vanier Family Business Administrations Best of Kansas Scholarship and received \$20,000 per year for a total of \$80,000 towards his education in Business Administration.

Wow! Special congrats to Brecken.

KSU Police Department Welcomed to Our Fraternity

The KSU Police department were invited to our fraternity to present safety training, alcohol and drug awareness, and the KSU Lifeline 911 protocols.



Mom's Weekend Hosted Spring of 2025



we ♥ you
mom



Catered lunch and then night out at Tubby's
This year mom's weekend silent auction raised \$3,800!

More Awards from National Convention - Plus Gold Star!



Every year our fraternity receives these awards for excellence while at the Phi Delta Theta annual convention held at Miami, Ohio Summer of 2024. This past year we received Outstanding Chapter, Excellence in Academics, Hayward S. Biggers Ritual Award, Risk Prevention, General HQ Reporting, and New Member Retention plus The Gold Star! All proudly mounted on our "wall of fame". This year's awards will be received later summer 2025.

Pictured holding awards is our KSU Phidelt active members who attended the Phi Delta Theta National Convention held at Miami, Ohio. Trace Ward, Brooks Oddo, Morgan Aust, Ethan Potter and (top row) John Beemer and Andrew Wilson.

Our 10 KSU Phi's That Achieved Iron Phi

Congrats to Our 10 KSU Phi's That Achieved Iron Phi 2024/25



Brecken Kasel



Ryan Horsch



Ben Smith



Trace Ward



Will Fleming



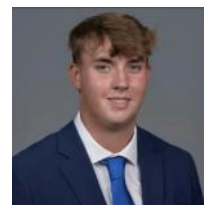
Tank Turner



Cooper Rech



Luke Hill



Luke Davis



Thomas Homant

Become an Executive Mentor at KSU

The Executive Mentor Program is available to any alumnus interested in mentoring a KSU student. It is an outstanding program that is well managed and available to most all the KSU colleges. The mentor and the student are able to "select each other" on a KSU website and the mentorship can last through the course of time until the student graduates. This program is highly recommended with tremendous success. If interested, contact the program director Mallory Carpenter by emailing her at ementor@ksu.edu

How mentors support their mentees

- Setting and achieving goals
- Honing professional skills
- Exploring career opportunities
- Building a professional network

The weblink to read more about the program or for registration (mentors and mentees) is available by clicking [WildcatLink Program \(ksu.edu\)](https://www.ksu.edu/wildcatlink)

Mentor Monday

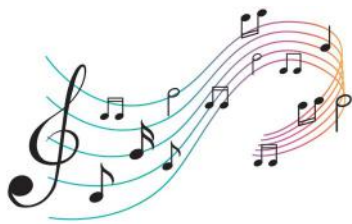
Mentee Brandon Sievert, Junior, majoring in Management Information Systems

Mentor Scott Tatno, Senior Director of Technology Delivery, Consulting - Cerner Corporation

"Scott not only let me know what I need to do schoolwise to 'get the job', he also gave an authentic job shadow experience. The day I spent at Cerner felt very real, as if I was going to be starting there tomorrow. I left feeling much more confident and excited about being an MIS major and my future career."

Brandon

Over 100 Year Tradition to Serenade Sororities at KSU



PHI DELTA THETA
Become the greatest version of yourself



KSU Phi Delts visit all the sororities and perform our annual serenades.



PHI DELTA THETA
Become the greatest version of yourself

Once Again - Voted #1 by Social Media "KSU Chicks"



KSU Chicks is a popular social platform with over 20K followers on Instagram voted us #1.



Phis Enjoy Spring Formal and Spring Break



The Phi Delts Spring Formal held at the Regalia Hotel at Lake of the Ozarks.



Freshmen and Sophomore classes went to Panama Beach for Spring break.

First Place Intramural Softball and Ultimate Frisbee



Phi Delt Softball Team Wins First Place



Our Phis Win Campus-Wide Ultimate Frisbee Tournament

House President John Beemer - Instituting Success

Dear Alumni of Kansas Gamma,

We're proud to share that the Kansas Gamma Chapter continues to excel in almost every way possible. The past twelve months have brought new achievements, fresh momentum, and a deepened commitment to the values that we hold at Phi Delta Theta of Kansas State.

This spring, we were honored to be named IFC Chapter of the Year, a recognition that reflects not just one achievement, but the sum of our chapter's work in the last year. It's a testament to the high standards our brothers strive to uphold, built on the foundation that alumni like you helped create. This award is given to the top fraternity among all 21 fraternities on campus. Our chapter's membership continues to grow and thrive. We initiated 30 new members this fall who are already doing great things for the house. Also we are excited to have already secured a full 35-man class of quality men for next fall.

Once again this year we accomplished one of the most meaningful milestones through our philanthropy by earning Iron Phi Chapter status for the second time in history. Through this process we were able to raise over \$11,000 collectively for the Live Like Lou Foundation and Phi Delta Theta Foundation. We are excited to continue this achievement year after year and hopefully continue to make a big impact in the future.

Academically, Kansas Gamma has remained competitive holding one of the top GPAs among all fraternities at K-State. In intramurals, we continue to show up strong, with high participation across all sports bringing a few championship wins. Nationally, our chapter was recognized as a Gold Star Chapter once again, placing us among Phi Delta's most exceptional chapters across North America.

More than anything, we are always reminded of the importance of connection between brothers in the house and alumni across generations. The support we receive from you, whether through donations, mentorship, or other opportunities continues to inspire us and fuel our progress. We're proud of the strides we've made this year, and even more excited for the path ahead. Thank you for being a part of our legacy and for helping ensure Kansas Gamma continues to grow, lead, and thrive.

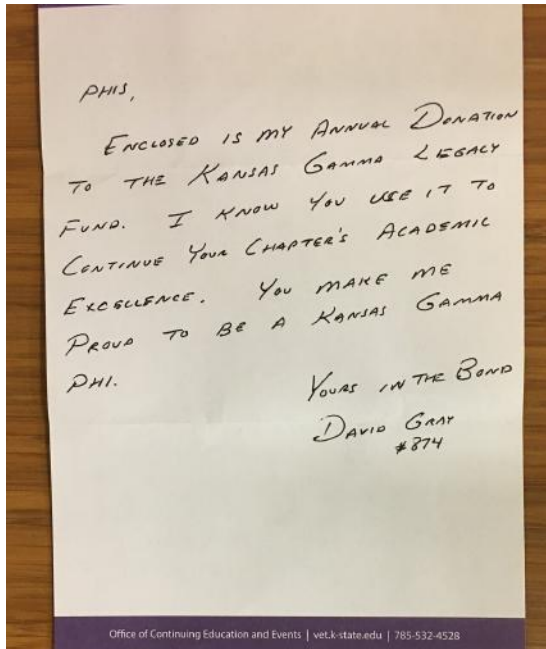
Yours in The Bond,

John Beemer, Bond #1890

President - Phi Delta Theta, Kansas Gamma



Heartfelt Donations and Letters We Receive



Many times we receive very generous checks as a donation to our fraternity and to our Legacy donor program which funds our successful scholarships for our KSU Phi students. The letters we receive are read and shared by our advisory board. These letters motivate us and remind us that we are doing a great thing for our fraternity.

Thank you to all who regularly donate and help keep our fraternity the best fraternity on campus!

Donations go 100% toward our KSU fraternity.

Go to www.phidelt.com/giveback for info.

Kansas Gamma 2025 Executive Team



30 New Fall 2024 Members



Congrats!

30 new Phi's from Fall pledge class. The KSU Phi Delta Theta highest Bond number is now 1946. A Spring pledge class is planned for 2026. We should be at Bond 2000 in 2 more years!



Pledge Class Project - Pledge Room Improvements



Recruitment Brings More New Quality Members - Top Picks

The fall 2025 recruitment team have already signed 35 new quality young men for our fraternity. Ethan Potter and Nik Pai reported they have more men wanting to join our fraternity than we have capacity so they were able to focus on recruiting only who they believe will fit the mold of a quality KSU Phi. The active chapter greatly appreciates the financial support given by Housing Corp and our alumni support group to help with our recruiting efforts. We plan to have a Spring pledge class in 2026 with the plan to keep our fraternity house at capacity every year.

Many requests for recruitment come through our website www.Phidelt.com. It is energizing to see requests posted with comments such as this:

"I was at the recruitment weekend a couple weeks ago. Out of all the fraternities I met with, yours stuck out, as you seem to be really high quality guys, while you also have one of the highest GPA's on campus.

If possible, I would definitely take advantage of the opportunity to meet with you guys again and determine if I am the kind of member you want, as well as if you are the fraternity that is right for me."



Click the image to watch a recruitment video made by prior active members a few years ago.

This video also provides an excellent tour of the interior and exterior of the house.

The recruitment committee finds the top candidates who want to join our fraternity. There are more prospects that want to be a KSU Phi than we can pledge. We are usually at capacity with 31 pledges before summer. It is exciting to be a part of the highest ranked fraternity on campus.

NOTE: BEGIN YOUR REFERRAL PROCESS NO LATER THAN DECEMBER '25 FOR THE 2026 FALL SEMESTER. BY MAY WE ARE FULL!

A mother commented to one of our alumni: "her son had a wonderful time at the fraternity last year and is really looking forward to coming back this fall to see his new fraternity friends again."

**Want to Refer
a Phi?**



www.phidelt.com/

GETTING STARTED

GOOGLE FORM

-CAN FIND THE LINK IN OUR INSTAGRAM BIO
-FILL IT OUT WITH ALL OF THE NECESSARY INFORMATION

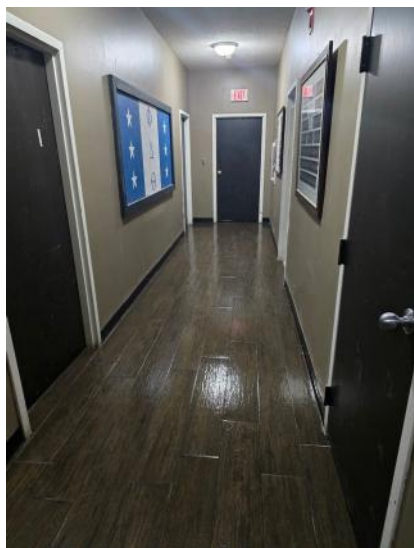
TOUR THE HOUSE

-GET AN INSIDE LOOK OF OUR HOME VIA A VIRTUAL HOUSE TOUR
-CAN BE FOUND IN THE RECRUITMENT INSTAGRAM HIGHLIGHT

WAIT FOR A RESPONSE

-OUR RECRUITMENT CHAIRS WILL REACH OUT TO YOU WITH DETAILS ABOUT FURTHER STEPS

How We Prepare The Fraternity House Each Semester



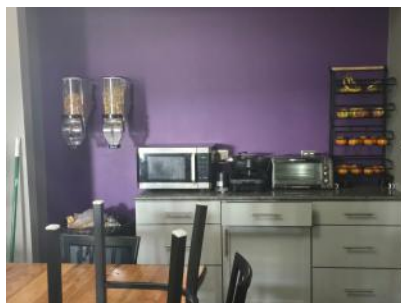
At the end of each semester (Christmas break and summer break) the alumni housing corporation invests funds to “reset” our fraternity house and get it back to cleaned and repaired shape again. This involves tremendous time investment to project manage and handle contractors to perform the necessary repairs. Our goal is to maintain the beauty of our fraternity house and not allow it to degrade over time.

Starting fresh each semester allows us to hold the student fraternity members (actives) accountable to repairs that we consider egregious in nature and they are billed for those costs. These photos are examples of the finished cleaned and repaired condition we provide the students. It is important to us that they live in a safe, clean and functional environment.



New Chef Services Upgraded and Expanded

Starting fall of 2024, we expanded the chef services to provide a to-go style breakfast, hot lunch, and dinners. This additional service required 2 chefs to accommodate the more expanded time period of service. We also purchased 2 additional new stainless commercial grade freezer and fridge units so we doubled the food storage capacity. Due to some challenges we faced with abuse in the kitchen, we now close it down at 7pm each day and built 2 kitchenette areas in the dining room so the active members can microwave and prepare their own desired "after-hours" food. We also supply and freshly stock the kitchenettes with fruit, paper plates, milk and various condiments. A full size fridge is also at the kitchenette so the students can temporarily store some items or "call ahead" for food to be saved for them if they can't make it in time for dinner. I receive feedback from alumni that recall food service never being this good at fraternities, so I suppose you could say we set the bar pretty high at Phi Delta Theta.



We Keep Improving: Parking Lot Reno, 10Gb Fiber and More



Our fraternity has received incredible renovation on the inside of the house so when you walk in the door you see wood ceilings, columns, flooring and features which resemble a lodge look. This style of design was built with the intention to **immortalize the traditional name "Phi Lodge"** we have used for our fraternity house through the years. We completed the final phase of the major exterior look of our fraternity that makes our house the talk of best KSU fraternities. But we all know it isn't all about the beauty of the building. It is the people INSIDE that makes us awesome. We now have over 70 members comfortably living in this newly renovated gem

that are extraordinary individuals. Every year we are top ranked at KSU. Add our size to the equation and we blow all the fraternities away. We have more excellent young men wanting to join our fraternity that we can accept each year.

This summer of 2025 we continue to make more improvements to our fraternity home and which require us to receive donations from the alumni. Please consider helping us by going to www.phidelt.com/giveback. **100% of the money goes to scholarships or fraternity home improvements.**

- New Parking Lot Reno \$105,000 (thank you Brad Razook!)
- \$9000 Internet Upgrade to 10Gb with 12 V7 high speed wifi AP's on 25G Enterprise Fortress Gateway
- New \$6000 stainless kitchen serving table
- Over \$13,000 various other repairs and improvements performed summer 2025
- \$15,000 additional landscaping improvements fall 2025

You have an opportunity to tour your incredible fraternity home any time. All our alumni our welcome to visit and meet our active membership!



Birdseye View of Our Property



Parking Lot Reno Summer 2025

The History of 1545 Denison Fraternity House



Thanks to Justin Zeh, Bond 1371 for these old photos.



Our fraternity house was purchased from a defunct Tri-Sigma sorority in 2002. We began the journey for major transitional changes in 2012 to what it is today "The Phi Lodge".



Alumnus Scott Anderson, Bond 1328 donated 8 months time collecting vintage tile pieces and personally crafted the mosaic crest. He used a projector on meager backing to fasten the pieces together.



Top: A Colgate Phi helps a young community member carve a pumpkin. Above: Scott Anderson, Kansas State '00, recently completed this tile project in the Kansas Gamma chapter house.

Our crest highlighted in the 2003 issue of The Scroll.

Message From Our Chapter Advisor - James Barrick



Dear Kansas Gamma Alumni,

I hope 2025 is off to a great start for you. As I enter my 8th year as the Chapter Advisor, I remain proud of what Kansas Gamma continues to accomplish.

This past year, the chapter upheld its reputation for excellence - posting top GPAs among fraternities, initiating 30 new members, and remaining active in philanthropy and campus life. These achievements reflect strong leadership and a focus on recruiting high-quality men. The Chapter was also awarded Interfraternity Chapter of the Year for 2024 at the K-State Fraternal Excellence Awards Ceremony. This award speaks to the dedication and hard work our active members put in to be leaders within the chapter as well as on campus.

At the same time, we continue to navigate challenges facing the Greek community. Risk management and member well-being are top priorities. In 2025, we will continue expanding training on conflict resolution, alcohol awareness, and emergency procedures, while offering mentorship to help student leaders succeed.

To keep moving forward, **we need you**. Volunteers are a necessity to keep the chapter operating successfully. Please consider donating some time or getting involved in some capacity to ensure the future of Kansas Gamma remains successful. Whether through mentoring, serving on a committee, organizing alumni events, or making a financial gift - **your involvement matters**.

If you're interested in giving back or reconnecting, please reach out:

My Cell: **913-638-4069**

Email: james.barrick.iv@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting Kansas Gamma. Let's continue building a strong, safe, and thriving chapter together.

Yours in the Bond,

James Barrick '08, Bond 1426

KSU Phi Delta Theta Chapter Advisor

"To do what ought to be done but would not have been done unless I did it, I thought to be my duty."

Alumni Donate Christmas Gift to Active Members



Lights are wifi controlled so you can use them all year for various themes such as KSU purple!

The active members reached out with wanting to put up Christmas lights. We couldn't have them on ladders (safety concern) so we made a \$12,000 investment in professionally installed permanent LED lighting surrounding the entire fraternity house. These lights can be controlled to different lighting scenes and colors for year-round use. Ho-ho-ho!

We Awarded \$9,250 to 23 KSU Phi's

Our chapter paid \$9,250 in scholarship rewards last school year!!

- 1 members awarded \$250 for achieving 3.500 - 3.599 GPA
- 4 members awarded \$300 for achieving 3.600 - 3.699 GPA
- 6 members awarded \$350 for achieving 3.700 - 3.799 GPA
- 9 members awarded \$400 for achieving 3.800 - 3.899 GPA
- 3 members awarded \$500 for achieving 4.000 GPA
- 3 members awarded \$1000 additional for achieving 4.000 GPA and the George Hanson award

KSU Phis Have 2 Alumni Awards Provided Annually

The awards are planned to be provided annually during mom's weekend.

We also award over \$14,000 per year to members with over 3.5 GPA

PHI OF THE YEAR:

Award Amount = \$1000

The award was founded by KSU Phi Brad Homant (Bond 1238) and his wife Christine. This award goes to a Kansas Gamma chapter member who best demonstrates the principles articulated in the Bond of Phi Delta Theta. The member must have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Winner for 2024-2024 will be announced as separate email this August.



BROTHERHOOD AWARD:

Award Amount = \$2500

This award was founded by the four Razook brothers who are KSU Phi Delta Theta alumni. They all have been very successful in life after college and have a desire to help a graduating senior who has left a legacy within the fraternity of character, leadership, scholastic achievement and one who was helpful and enjoyable around others. This person demonstrates a balance in life that allows them to excel in multiple aspects while being a Kansas Gamma Phi.

Winner for 2024-2025 will be announced as separate email this August.



All of the awards are subject to change based on funding. Scholarship awardees must be in good standing with the Kansas Gamma chapter, Chapter Advisory Board, and Housing Corporation at the time of evaluation and receipt of award in order to be eligible.

What is Kirk Horner with Bond #1000 Doing Now?

It is hard to believe that we will have new fraternity brothers assigned with Bond numbers over 2000. As we all remember, Bond 1 is held by Louis Bate who was initiated Feb 25, 1921. Bond number 1000 was given to Kirk Horner as a 1979-80 pledge class member. The highest Bond number today is held by Austin Burnett, Bond 1946. With approximately 35 in each pledge class, we will be celebrating Bond 2000 by fall 2026.



Kirk Horner, Bond 1000 retired as President of Hollis Miller 2023 decided to donate his time as a volunteer park ranger at Grand Teton Park.



Kirk with his wife Kelly enjoying retirement

Steve Hougland Hosts 2025 Kansas Gamma Founders Event

On Friday April 18, 2025 Steve Hougland, Bond 937 hosts an informal fellowship celebrating our Founders at Austin's Bar & Grill at Olathe Kansas for the KSU Phis. Steve plans to continue this tradition at similar date and same venue each year. Come join us next year!



22 Phi's meet at Austin's Bar & Grill. Active members attend along with presentation by Walt Lane, President of the KSI Phi alumni club.



Low Bond number recognition goes to KSU Phi Luke Schuler, Bond 859



Josh Kirk Bond 1523, Brennan Trupka Bond 1515, and Paul Bird Bond 1513 joined to tip a few beers and reminisce.



Steve Hougland decided to give Phi of Year to Walt Lane, Bond 1028

KSU Phi Delt Pledge Class of 1980-81 Lake Event

This pledge class has stayed in touch with each other by meeting at locations such as Chicago and Lake of the Ozarks since they first met 45 years ago.



Drinking beer and reminiscing



Cajun shrimp boil



The Legendary Warner Harrison



Friends for a lifetime

Phi Delt Flashback Pics - Recognize Anyone?



Picture of KSU Phidelt pledge class of 1955

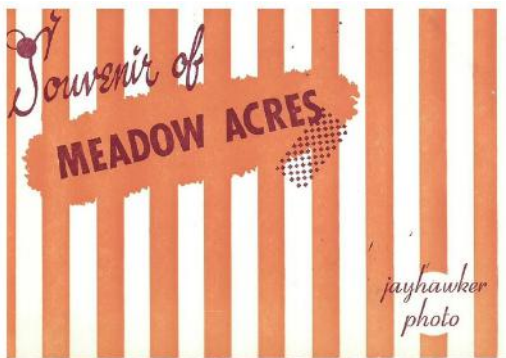
KSU Phidelt pledge class of 1955. Pictures provided by Andy Sorkin, Bond 551. Andy hopes to hear from his fellow pledge class brothers if possible and provide any names he is missing. His email is andyboy1938@gmail.com

Pictured left to right:

Front Row: Kenny Schafer, Charles Moggie, Kent Heintz, Sam Cliff, ???

Second Row: John Reynolds, ???, Bob Carlson, Andy Sorkin, James Schmitz, Ron Stansbery

Back Row: ???, Joe Headley, Dick Brantingham, Clancy Norris, ???, Guy Stanley, Jerry Nuss, ???, and Bruce Stover



Andy Sorkin with Phi's at party: Andy Sorkin, Joe Headley Bob Carlson, Kent Heintz

Let's see your vintage pics on the next newsletter by emailing alumni@phidelt.com

A Tribute Memorial to Hal Ross - Thank you Hal



Hal Ross 1925-2025

Hal Ross, Bond 328, born as an only child on April 29, 1925 and passed away at Eastborough Kansas on Friday, March 21, 2025 was 99 years old, just one month away from 100 years.

Hal graduated from Ottawa High School in 1943 and was a member of "the greatest generation" serving during the war as a civilian for the Army Ordnance Department at the Sunflower Ordnance Works in Desoto, Kansas, operated by the Hercules Powder Company. Hal worked in a government laboratory which obtained rocket powder samples from the production line and tested them for compliance with army specifications. At war's end in 1945 he continued his education at KSU as a Phi Delt. Chris Steincamp's (our current advisory board President) father knew Hal very well at the fraternity and said Hal was known to be a somewhat shy person.

Most of the Phi's at that time were veterans from the war and, as a result "things were pretty wild at 508 Sunset". Chris' father recalled Hal usually avoided getting involved in too many of the "high jinx" going on at the fraternity but reportedly offered encouragement from the sideline. Hal stayed connected to his friends from Phi Delta Theta for his entire life.

Hal's greatest contributions to Kansas Gamma came at a time when we needed it the most. When we were desperate for funds to be able to close on the purchase of our current chapter house, Hal stepped up with a huge financial support and made it happen. It was only because of his cash gift he made with no conditions that we were able to buy the house we are in today. The second thing that Hal did for us was set up the "Kansas Gamma Phi Delt Foundation". It was solely his idea to do this and he fronted all the legal costs to get it done. This has grown to a significant fund and the money used to help with Scholarship funds for our members. We all owe him our gratitude for these leadership actions. He truly practiced the motto of making the Kansas Gamma Chapter of Phi Delta Theta a better place each and every year.

Hal graduated on 1949 with a BS Degree in Flour Milling Administration. He grew up in the milling business with his father, who managed the Ross Milling Company, Ottawa, Kansas. Flour milling was a passion he had since youth. Realizing he might not always be a profession in flour milling he sought further education in Law at KU. On graduation in 1952 he received an LLB and later his Juris doctorate.

When he and his family moved to Wichita, he began his milling career working at the Wichita Terminal Elevator Inc., later becoming Vice President and Manager. He enjoyed his time on the Wichita Board of Trade and the grain storage business. He was a member of the Kansas Wheat Improvement Association, and the Wichita Traffic Club. In 1959 with the purchase of the Kansas Milling Company, he moved the office of the Terminal Elevator from the Board of Trade Building to the offices of the Kansas Milling Company. At that time, as one of the managing officers, he directed the operations of the well-known malted wheat department. He also took over as wheat buyer for the mill which had a flour capacity of 20,000 cwt per day and was the largest mill in Kansas. Notably, Wallace Champeny Bond 376, a KSU Phi from Oxford Kansas bought and restored the Oxford Flour Mill with Hal Ross which was the last operating water powered flour mill, powered by water from the Arkansas River.

During his time at the Kansas Mill he was Vice President and member of the Millers National Federation, a president of Southwestern Millers Group, and the Board of Trustee of the Mills Mutual insurance company. In 1974, the family sold the flour mills at Wichita, Newton, Wellington, Hutchison and the elevators at Wichita and Belle Plaine to Cargill, Inc. Hal then established law offices in the Brown Building, later in the Bank of America Center (Ruffin Building) where he continued to manage his farms, the Oxford Mill and various investments until his death.

Besides Hal's devotion to KSU and our Phi Delta Theta chapter, his hobbies included stamps, coins, and postcard collecting and later was one of three friends who published a book, *Pearless Prince of the Plains*, postcard view of early Wichita. Hal served as KSU Foundation Trustee. In 1994 he made a gift to K-State for the purpose of building a new teaching flour mill on campus. The new mill used cutting edge technology from Switzerland and the US with a flour capacity of 200 cwt per day. On completion in 1998 Kansas State University graciously named the new mill after Hal.

Hal, THANK YOU for your support to our great fraternity as we send you our fraternal epitaph "In Coelo Quies Est".



More new Donations of Valuable Memorabilia on Display



Our living room now has a locked display case for our valuable memorabilia to be displayed.

If you have an item that you feel should be on display, please contact by email alumni@phidelt.com

This year we have added personally signed autographs from Clark Hunt and other notable Phi's.

Our latest new item to add to the collection! —>



Our Living Room Includes Incredible Phi Memorabilia

Over the years, we have preserved many valuable items that have been donated to our fraternity. From the Steinway piano donated by Hall Ross to the old photos Walt Lane preserved and restored and now on permanent display. We all remember that old signed Neil Armstrong photo right? It was completely faded and barely legible, but now fully restored. Also Walt has added many new items this year which include a personally signed photo from fellow Phi Clark Hunt plus Lou Gehrig and other notables Phi's.



K-State Phi Delta Theta Chapter Grand

The following alumni were reported to have passed away since our last newsletter.

Our thoughts and prayers go to their families.

In Coelo Quies Est (In Heaven there is Rest)

Maurice "Gary" Keeny, Bond 622, March 13, 2024

Don Gross, Bond 738, December 19, 2023

Larry O'Dell, Bond 1493, November 2023

Robert Balzerick, Bond 500, February 20, 2019

Larry O'Dell, Bond 675, July 5, 2022

Ron Gier, Bond 502, DOD not certain

Jay Benson, Bond 910, November 2, 2024

David Wilson, Bond 658, December 6, 2024

Stu Leonhart, Bond 614, December 24, 2024

Hal Ross, Bond 328, March 21, 2025

Gary Nelson, Bond 621, June 11, 2025 ([tragic homicide](#))

This list of deceased was reported to us since our last newsletter.

If you have information of a deceased KSU Phi Delta Theta fraternity brother that has passed away and has not been posted in past newsletters or has passed away during this year before next year's newsletter publication, please email alumni@phidelt.com.



Hal Ross, Bond 328. Instrumental in supporting our great KSU fraternity over the years and a KSU Trustee.

Rest in peace brother.

When a Brother in the Bond of our fraternity passes away, we receive many emails of heartfelt messages for the family. This is one [very special message sent by our brother Gary Nelson before he passed away on January 27, 2024.](#)

My deepest condolences to all; Brothers, Families, Friends...All. I have had this experience, there in our Chapter House on Sunset Ave. While that happened many years ago now ~ I think of that time frequently. It is a difficult time. The best thing we can do is to never take each other for granted ~ always appreciate one another. Live the Bond! Gradually the void, which is created in a loss, becomes part of life; never filling, eventually respected and honored. The treasures we have of our memories is how we get through it.

My thoughts are with you all.

Yours in the Bond

Gary Nelson, Bond 1099



Donations made directly to our fraternity and through Planned Estates can be made through our donation website link www.phidelt.com/giveback

If you have questions on how you may be able to designate your donation such as Planned Estates or one of our Scholarship programs, please email donate@phidelt.com

The Legacy Donor Program is Growing!



The Legacy donor list continues to grow!

100% of these donations go to YOUR FRATERNITY.

Proceeds go toward supporting scholarships for our Phi Delt actives.

Please help raise money for *Kansas Gamma 2023 - 2024*. We recognize all the Legacy donors with their name on a custom plaque displayed at our fraternity with the names updated quarterly. Special recognition at the 100 year banquet for all \$200+ donors!

White Carnation Donor: \$25-\$199

Sword and Shield Donor: \$200-\$499

Morrison Donor: \$500-\$999

Pallas Athena Donor: \$1000-\$4999

Founders: \$5000+

To make your donation to *Kansas Gamma 2024-25*, you can send a check to:

**KSU Phi Delta Theta
P.O. Box 982
Manhattan, Kansas 66505**

Please write "Legacy Donation" on the memo of your check.

All funds are securely received by the alumni housing corporation. You will receive a receipt for your payment. Email donate@phidelt.com for any questions or if you would like



PHI DELTA THETA
Become the greatest version of yourself
LEGACY DONORS

FOUNDERS

\$5000+

**SWORD AND
SHIELD**

\$200 - \$499

PALLAS ATHENA

\$1000 - \$4999

MORRISON

\$500 - \$999

WHITE CARNATION

\$25 - \$199



Find your place for donation. This plaque is updated frequently through the year so that your name is displayed as a current annual Legacy donor.

Ready to donate and have your name proudly displayed at our fraternity?

www.phidelt.com/giveback



PHI DELTA THETA
Become the greatest version of yourself

Names on Displayed Plaque Updated Every 6 Months