

# A IN THE SIDE A



March 2017 Issue: Undergraduate

# Greetings Brothers,



It is hard to believe that almost three years have passed since Alpha Kappa Lambda turned 100. The Fraternity has been busy those three years as we continue to grow and work toward those Five Ideals that we all subscribed to when we were initiated into this great organization. We still remain a “small” organization and as is the case many times for such organizations we tend to do some things very well and others not so much. I will personally own the reality that our communication has been sporadic at best and falls in the area of “improvement needed.” Our start to improving this is reintroducing Inside AKL.

Historically Inside AKL has been a newsletter we used to communicate to our undergraduates from time to time. We are expanding it now to be a mechanism of providing monthly updates to both our undergraduates and alumni. There will be two versions. The undergraduates will get a version with general news and columns focused on their operations. The alumni will get a version with general news and alumni interest columns. We will be sending this out digitally and encouraging members to share it via social media.

For our undergraduates we hope this will help build stronger bonds from chapter to chapter around the country. For our alumni we hope this will be the first step to reengaging you with Alpha Kappa Lambda. Our National President, Don Enstrom (Phi, Oregon State) likes to remind us that the undergraduate experience represents less than 5% of the time we are actually members of the Fraternity. There was a time in our history that suggested your experience in Alpha Kappa Lambda was only in college. If we are to succeed for another 100 years we need to increase our realization that our membership experience should include the years after college.

I am a Generation X member by birth, which means social media came after I graduated. You may be like me and find Social Media a distraction sometimes. Even if this is the case I urge you to connect with us via those avenues. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Log into [myAKL](#) and make sure we have all of your updated information. Sync your LinkedIn and Facebook accounts to your myAKL account. The more you do the easier it will be for us to stay connected.

I hope you enjoy this issue and the many that will follow.

Fraternally,

Jeremy Slivinski,  
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda Executive Director

# Chartering Gamma Sigma



**National President Don Enstrom (Phi, Oregon State) and Executive Director Jeremy Slivinski (Beta Nu, VCU) present Chapter President Chris Kim (Gamma Sigma, ODU) with Gamma Sigma's charter.**

*On February 17, 2017, members of the Old Dominion Colony were initiated and signed their charter to become the Gamma Sigma Chapter of the Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda. In addition to the chartering members, the National Executive Council traveled to Norfolk and was in attendance for this historic occasion. Chris Kim, now Chapter President, shared his thoughts on the chartering ceremony and becoming a chapter.*

"Three years ago, I joined a colony not knowing what I was getting myself into. Since the moment, I had joined Alpha Kappa Lambda at Old Dominion University, chartering had always been our focus as a collective. We were nothing but a small group of guys just trying to leave a legacy, and it seemed like everything was working against us to keep us from our goal. But we could not let that stop us. We grinded harder as an organization with every hardship we faced, and tackled

**"We were nothing but a small group of guys trying to leave a legacy."**

them on together as a brotherhood. Our collective endeavor has pushed us to really become Men of Character and has formed a deep companionship within the brotherhood."

He continued, "None of this, however, would have been possible without the support of the National Headquarters, our advisors, and fellow supporting chapters who pointed us in the right direction and provided us with innovative ways to structure our newly founded organization. Words cannot describe how it feels to finally have received our charter as Gamma Sigma. As I walked up to the podium to accept our charter, I fought back tears knowing how hard we had all worked to make it this far. We had finally made it. I will always cherish the memories and lifelong friendships made with my fellow Founding Fathers and hope future generations can share my experience as well."

Jeffrey Szumanski, AKL Chief Operating Officer said, "Chartering a new chapter is always exciting for everyone involved. The men see it as a culmination of the work they have done up to this point, but also acknowledge it is the first step on a long road to being an active member and alumni of the fraternity. They knew the goal and worked extremely hard to reach it. We will continue to work with them as they transition from colony to chapter but know there is already as solid base in place to build upon"

The Gamma Sigma chapter currently has 43 members and is looking forward to a strong recruitment class this fall semester.



# An Interview: With Brother Andrew Jackson



Above: Andrew Jackson's campaign photo and Mu Colony Members. Right: Mu Colony after a guest speaker on the importance of mental health.

**Congratulations to Brother Andrew Jackson on his** recent election as Student Government President at The Ohio State University! The Fraternity Alpha Kappa Lambda reached out to Andrew to learn more about his experience and campaign.

## **Any other Student Government experience?**

My freshman year as a Senator I sat in the Diversity & Inclusion Committee where we worked on resolutions to better the entire Ohio State community. There I created a program called EndHateOSU to end stereotypes and bias within different communities on our campus.

This past year I served as Recruitment Coordinator for Student Government where we increased the representation of our student government to look more like the student body as a whole.

## **What do you hope to accomplish?**

With my partner Sophie, we ran on three main ideas: Inclusion, Sustainability, and Affordability. Overall, we want to ensure that current and future Buckeyes have a campus that they feel included at. Studies show that if you aren't secure in yourself at your place of learning then you won't succeed.

Making Ohio State more sustainable is important to us with our current climate and the vast need at Ohio State for more accessible recycling off-campus, at Greek Life houses. Affordability is very important to both Sophie and me because we are both on full ride scholarships, so making sure that other students

have the same opportunities is very important to us to ensure that Ohio State remains a beacon of college affordability with the amount of scholarships and grants offered to students.

## **What motivated you to run?**

I decided to run for President for our student government because I knew that the way that I liked to help others was by advocating for them.

## **Were any brothers active in your campaign?**

I think being a brother in Alpha Kappa Lambda has helped me because of the support I have had from my brothers. From new members who would come up and ask me about the campaign, to the other Founding Fathers who have truly become my brothers and have been there when I always need them. My fraternity "little brother" has become my best friend and he has truly been such a crucial part of my life, not only during campaigns, but outside of them. Joining AKL has given me a family I never knew I would have, and for that I am truly grateful.



# The Value of Greek Community Leadership Roles

*A few years ago (okay, more than a few) I had the awesome responsibility of being the IFC President at Ohio University. As new leaders take over in Greek communities throughout the country, I'd like to share some of the key things I learned in this role to articulate the amazing lessons you can receive in these community-wide positions and how they can shape your future leadership skills. Here is what I learned from this valuable experience and how it served me well moving forward:*

**Exposure to Diversity:** I wouldn't classify my college experience prior to joining IFC as involving much diversity in terms of the people I surrounded myself with; this wasn't by choice but simply the realities of how we all typically gravitate to those that are similar to us. Because I was IFC President I met a lot of people, interacted with Presidents of other student organizations and attended way more campus events. All of this collectively exposed me to diverse people by every measure possible and gave me such a better perspective of our entire campus community, as opposed to just my little bubble of friendships. I believe this has served me well in life because I can understand a wide-range of viewpoints, challenges, attitudes and behaviors, as opposed to only those that are very similar to me. As an adult, you are far better

off understanding a variety of perspectives as opposed to only those that view the world the exact same way you do - understanding people from all walks of life, rather than just your own, will serve you incredibly well as a leader.

**Leading a Variety of Organizations:** Being a leader within one organization is far less complicated in a lot of ways than leading an entire community full of different organizations that oftentimes have competing interests, values, missions, visions and overall ways of conducting themselves. When you are leading a community-wide council, you must have a grasp on every organization and really understand the "big picture" rather than just trying to advance one specific organization. This experience in college continually helps me in my business now because I have a stronger awareness of how a variety of organizations function within an industry and am able to create "win-win" scenarios, as opposed to being narrow-minded and only understand how my business functions.

**Building Consensus:** Trying to build consensus among people or organizations with differing views can be incredibly challenging - fortunately, I had to do it every week for two years on IFC so I had plenty of

practice! Learning how to find common ground, build bridges and have a variety of people/organizations coalesce around a common path forward is an incredible skill to possess and I feel fortunate to have gained that experience being on IFC. It is something I pride myself on as being one of my strengths and I am constantly looking for opportunities to bring people together and rally them around a common vision.

**New Friendships:** I have no problem admitting that I was just like most fraternity guys waving the "our chapter is better than yours" flag and thinking "all the guys in XYZ fraternity are losers". A funny thing happened when I joined IFC - I realized that our chapter members were very similar to members of other chapters on campus. Some of my best friends in college came out of relationships formed from our IFC executive council and I've maintained them for over a decade since we graduated. Trust me, I got a lot of "how the hell can you be friends with that guy from XYZ chapter?" from my brothers but it was well worth it to develop these great new friendships and gain an understanding of just how petty these little rivalries were in our community!

**-Tom Healy**

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# Affiliation Binding for Life



***Beta Nu alumnus and founding member Guy Davis facilitates a conversation between active undergraduate brothers and a panel of alumni.***

***On February 15th Beta Nu Chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University*** had a special chapter visit. Headquarters Staff met with the undergraduate chapter and were joined by Beta Nu alumni: Guy Davis, Kent Nicely, Nick Applegate, John Linthicum, Bill Auchmoody, Brad Schardein, Greg Turner and Bob Dudas. The agenda for the meeting was to share some chapter history and past accomplishments and help the chapter develop goals as well as increase student-alumni communication.

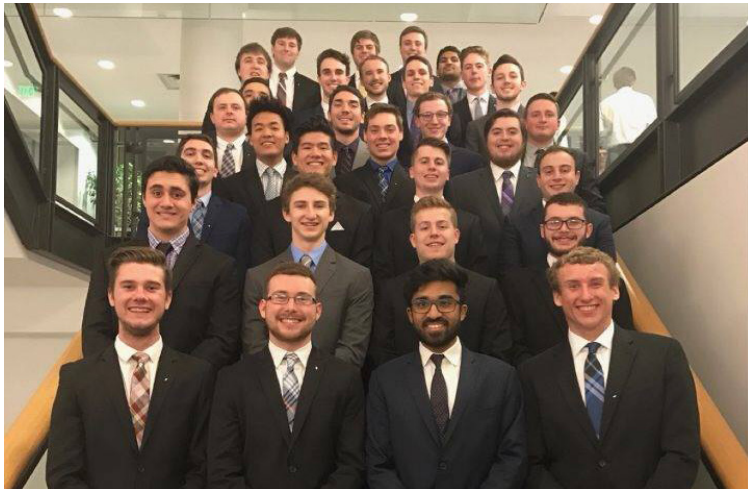
The alumni spoke of the early years of AKL at VCU in the 1980s when chapter accomplishments included becoming a chartered chapter of AKL, obtaining housing near campus and having Guy Davis as an elected undergraduate member of the NEC in 1986. In recent years Beta Nu was awarded the Founder's Cup in 2012 and John Linthicum currently serves as a NEC Director.

Financial stability, excellence in academics, growth in membership, increased contribution to IFC and campus activities are areas where the undergraduate brothers identified as starting points for solid chapter operations.

The undergraduate brothers of Beta Nu appreciated having the opportunity to meet with Headquarters Staff and other alumni brothers, many of whom are founders of the chapter. Beta Nu plans to increase contact with chapter alumni to help strengthen brotherhood as friendship of the highest calling through valuable alumni advice and support.

Undergraduates in other chapters are encouraged to reach out to their alumni as well. It may feel daunting to reconnect with older members, names you hear within the history of your chapter but not necessarily been properly introduced to. An easy connection we all share is brotherhood an ritual. Begin by inviting alumni to pinning and initiation ceremonies, being sure to give them notice in advance. Planning a family-focused homecoming activity. Or even setting up a weekly email newsletter to keep alumni informed of current chapter happenings.

# Expansion Update



*Indiana University Colony Members*



*Gamma Gamma at Rutgers University Colony Members*

*The past few years have been an exciting time for the expansion of Alpha Kappa Lambda to both new universities and returning old chapters.*

The Indiana University Colony has gotten off to a quick start after their founding in Fall 2016. Currently at 48 members, they are one of the fastest growing Colonies in Alpha Kappa Lambda. They placed 3rd out of 31 IFC fraternities at Indiana University for Chapter GPA during the Fall 2016 semester. Goals for the Indiana University Colony include being approved to Charter and reaching 65 active members in the Fall.

The newest Colony of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Gamma Gamma Colony, was recolonized at the beginning of Spring 2017. Already 15 members strong, the Colony members are excited to bring Alpha Kappa Lambda back to Rutgers University. Membership goals for Gamma Gamma Colony are 25 in the Spring and 30 in the Fall in order to apply for Chartering in 2018.

Brother John Morytko, an original Gamma Gamma Chapter Founding Father, had this to say about AKL's return to campus: "I'm excited to see young men at Rutgers once again have the opportunity to become members of Alpha Kappa Lambda. Gamma Gamma's return will have a strong positive impact on both the national fraternity and the university community."

Alpha Kappa Lambda has Colonies at the following Universities: Mu Colony at The Ohio State University, Alpha Alpha Colony at New Mexico State University, Alpha Beta Colony at the University of Arizona, and at Saginaw Valley State University.

Future expansion plans for Alpha Kappa Lambda include the return of Alpha Omicron Chapter to the University of Colorado Boulder in Fall 2017, Texas Tech University in Fall 2017, the University of Virginia in Spring 2019, and Towson University in Fall 2020. If you have connections to students, AKL alumni, or university faculty members at those universities please contact Jeremy Roberson, Coordinator of Growth, at [jroberson@akl.org](mailto:jroberson@akl.org)



# Mark Your Calendars 2018 National Conclave

## *Following an exciting 2016 National Conclave*

in Fabulous Las Vega, Nevada, Alpha Kappa Lambda is excited to be planning the 2018 National Conclave, hosted in the Bahamas! As the first Alpha Kappa Lambda Conclave hosted abroad, it's one you don't want to miss. Be sure to make a room reservation by July 3rd, 2018 for a group rate and check back for registration information.

More information as well as a tentative event schedule can be found online by [clicking here](#).

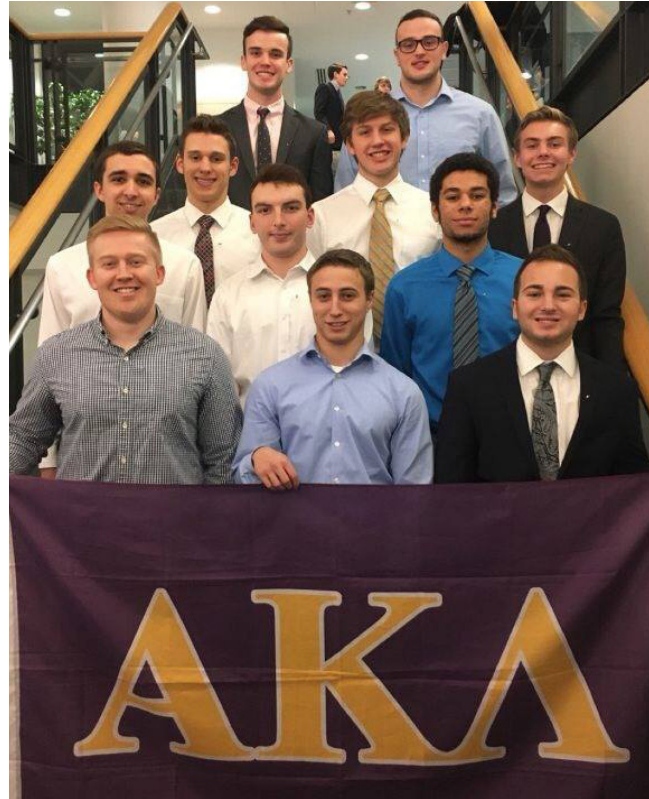
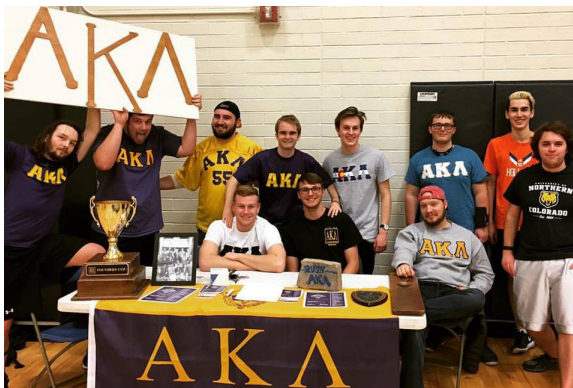
**Where:** Atlantis Paradise Island Resort

**When:** August 1 - 4, 2018

Brothers are encouraged to bring their families on this very special trip! Our brotherhood extends beyond chapter operations, but is friendship of the highest calling. Our aim is to incorporate this friendship into our years well past our undergraduate careers into our futures.







Counter-clockwise from top right:  
Indiana University Spring 2017  
Pledge Class, Alpha Beta at the  
University of Arizona, Upsilon at the  
University of Northern Colorado,  
and Gamma Rho at Arizona State  
University.

Inside AKL is a monthly educational and alumni publication by the Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda. Brothers and friends are encouraged to submit news, articles and photographs of chapter events, philanthropy and service projects as well as other notable achievements. Correspondance can be emailed to [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org) with "Inside AKL" in the subject line.

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#### ***Statistics***

Active Chapters & Colonies: 42

Undergraduates: 1,277

Alumni: 25,149

Spring New Members: 257

Fall New Members: 554

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