

# AKA IN THE SIDE



# AKA

August 2017 Issue: Alumni & Undergraduate



# Back to School Back to Business



August is a big month for AKL as the majority of our chapters return to campus. Normally, we are bouncing back from a quiet and relaxed summer. This year was a little different. Staff spent a good amount of time traveling to chapters for summer meetings and to do leadership training. Some of those visits are listed later in this newsletter. It also was a very loud summer for our society. This is important because on the college campus Fraternities and Sororities are focused on many times to provide support, leadership and change when there are social ills.

Two topics that we have seen continuously through the summer are the issues of hazing, and more specifically the tragic death at Penn State as well as hate speech and equality issues as seen at Charlottesville. Add to that the ever increasing issue of mental health and you will find it has set up a very chaotic start to the fall academic year. Alpha Kappa Lambda is very specific about the issues of hazing as well as discrimination/hate issues.

There is no room in our world for either. As our purpose is to develop our men to be able to assume the leadership responsibilities of our communities it means that simply saying these things are wrong and not allowed is truly not enough. We must be agents of change on our local campuses and in our communities on these issues. This year I will be pressing our undergraduate chapters to find ways of being that positive change.

As many of you may know tragedy hit our Fraternity last year as we experienced multiple suicides. Mental health has become an increasing issue on college campuses. Alpha Kappa Lambda is committed to doing whatever it can to provide support to our students. In an effort to make sure our students have the resources they need we will be piloting a program this fall focused on this issue. If we deem it beneficial we hope to expand it to all of our chapters in the spring.

I look forward to a hard, productive and fun year ahead.

Fraternally,

Jeremy Slivinski,  
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Executive Director

*Front Cover: Mu Colony Members at the Ohio State University's Student Involvement Fair.*

# Leadership Opportunities UIFI



*As summer winds down and the first day of school looms for our undergraduate members, chapter leaders and UIFI scholarship recipients return from their summer leadership experiences.*

*Continued on next page...*



# Leadership Opportunities Continued



*Sal Fierro (second from right)*



*Joseph Ortiz (center, blue polo)*

*In our June/July issue we introduced you to the* recipients of the Alpha Kappa Lambda Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute (UIFI) Scholarship. After attending their respective sessions, InsideAKL followed up with two leaders, Sal Fierro (Texas Tech Colony) and Joseph Ortiz (Gamma Rho at Arizona State) to learn more about time collaborating with other Fraternity and Sorority leaders.

*What challenges about Greek Life did you discuss and what will you do to address them?*

**SAL** "At UIFI, we tackled on lots of issues that surround and follow the Greek community. We spoke about hazing, community outreach, recruitment, and values of our organizations. Through out the whole experience we would address issues that would normally be know but not talked about like preventive measures in case of emergencies (Ex. Penn State death). Another huge challenge Greek life faces is the recruitment under the values of our founding fathers and how recruiting under such values could increase the longevity of our organizations."

**JOSEPH** "At UIFI we discussed how Greek Life is dying, and how it's not just at a single campus here

and there, but a national trend. Growing on that, we spent time addressing how to bring Greek life back. Greek life as a whole recruit and help grow gifted, strong willed people, and its our duty to take everyone who has joined an organization and make them into the best person they can be. As of now Greek life is stigmatized as a group of organizations that a detrimental towards students by being outlets for risky and illegal behavior; at UIFI we discussed bringing Greek life back towards its original goal: being groups of like-minded individuals that have strong values and beliefs that help grow and better each other while giving back to the communities they live in."

*What was the best piece of advice you received while at UIFI?*

**SAL** "The best piece of advise that I received throughout UIFI was that as a start up colony we should focus on creating a strong brotherhood first before wanting to do anything else."

**JOSEPH** "While I was there I was told to 'Live my Ritual' and I underline that capital R for a reason. Everyone organization has a ritual, a ceremony,

# Leadership Opportunities Continued

something that bonds its members and brings them closer. I love my fraternity, and when I was told this it reminded me what I really signed up for when I initiated into this fraternity: being a Man of Character that will live by the values I swore I would when I took my oath. Every person at this event could relate to the following in some form: that our rituals and the values that back them were less of something we try to embody every day, and something we use to become better men and women, and more like a single ceremony that is to change a person's title from "pledge" to "active".

"After realizing this I can say that I will absolutely be going back to my chapter, Gamma Rho, and working my hardest to instill in the brothers there the importance of living our Ritual in our daily lives. That's the goal of our pledge process, to build Men of Character that want to live their lives by our values every day, and the fraternity gives the support and accountability to do it. By making our daily rituals, such as checking for your keys, phone, and wallet (three point check if you know it) before you leave a room, include our fraternity Rituals we become Men of Character that live by our values."

*Overall, how would you describe your experience?*

**SAL** "My experience at UIFI was life changing and eye opening! I have never been so humbled and introduced to such kindness that I just want to stay feeling the same way forever."

**JOSEPH** "This experience has been eye opening. I'll be living my Ritual every day, I will be holding brothers accountable to our values, I'll be a Man of Character until I die. The friends I made at this event are life long, and the things I learned will be with me forever, and I'll be educating those about it for as long as I can. I loved it."

**Alpha Kappa Lambda proves 10 scholarships every year for members to attend UIFI. More information about UIFI can be found at <http://nicindy.org/programs/uifi/>**



# Globe Trotters Study Abroad Experience



*This summer, Spencer Swift, Gamma Theta at Boise State, (pictured above) returned from a semester long study abroad in Costa Rica. InsideAKL reached out to Spencer to learn more about his experiences. Continued on next page...*



# Globe Trotters Continued



*Spencer enjoying some of his free time.*

## *What were you studying on your trip?*

"I've wanted to learn another language since I was in high school. I took a few Spanish classes and decided to get a Spanish minor at Boise State. That's one of the main reasons I chose Costa Rica; and also due to the fact that I had been there before (for the span of a week) and enjoyed my time there. The program I was in offered plenty of Spanish courses, so I finished nearly half the minor in that semester alone. However, my real growth in learning Spanish came from just every day life there. I lived with a host family that didn't speak any English and made quite a few good Costa Rican friends, so that was where my real growth came from."

## *Did you notice any cultural differences?*

"A huge difference I noticed is how relaxed people are there. There aren't a lot of strict deadlines and a lot of people just seem to go with the flow. There's a term people use there called "Tico Time" (tico is a local word meaning Costa Rican). The term refers to a lot of the locals' nonchalant attitude towards being on time to things."

## *What was your favorite memory of the trip?*

"There are thousands of great memories from my time abroad; it was the absolute time of my life. Definitely one of my favorite memories would have to be my hike of Cerro Chirripó. This hike goes up to the highest point in the country. I did the trip one weekend with two of my friends from the program. We hiked a total of 40 km (around 26 miles) in about 24 hours. It was easily one of the hardest hikes I've

ever done, and we ran on only 3 hours of sleep so we could hit the peak by sunset. The top was absolutely incredible; it one of my most draining/rewarding experiences I've ever had."

## *How did you get involved in study abroad?*

"I knew that I wanted to study abroad before I even entered college, so I started making my plans during my freshman year. I, however, started really early and it's possible to plan for a study abroad semester even just a few months before you leave. For anyone considering going abroad, I recommend that you get all the details as soon as you can on how to make it happen. I also recommend that you stay on top of everything you have to complete/know before leaving; there was definitely preparation I had to do beforehand in terms of classes and registration."

## *Anything else you'd like to share?*

"My trip was absolutely incredible. I took surf classes, completely improved my Spanish, and traveled every weekend with people on my program who I became very close with. I'd say to anyone considering studying abroad to absolutely do it if they can fit it in their schedule, even if it's just a few weeks in the summer. Also, for anyone who does go abroad, I recommend trying new things and getting out of your comfort zone. I knew a few people on my program who stayed home every weekend, never tried speaking anything other than English, and wouldn't go out at night, and they were miserable for it. Any experience is what you make of it in my opinion."

# Summer Retreats & Visits

*Summer is an easy time to get lost on vacation and separate yourself from the stress and workload of the school year. While it's important to take that break for your mental and physical health, we can't completely forget about our responsibilities. National Headquarters suggest a continued communication between officers and members as well as at least one planned summer chapter meeting to touch base on preparations for the fall. This summer several members of the National Headquarters Staff spent time on the road visiting chapters with various programming and additional assistance.*

## **Sigma at Central Missouri**

The Sigma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda at the University of Central Missouri requested assistance from the Coordinator of Growth, Jeremy Roberson, in the form of a campus visit to their Summer Chapter Meeting on July 14th and 15th. Sigma Chapter has big goals for the fall semester including recruiting at least 25 new members and increasing their chapter GPA from a 2.9 to above a 3.0.

Jeremy met with the Chapter Executive Board the night before the Chapter Meeting to help each officer with their semester plans and goals as well as advising on recruitment strategies for the rest of summer and formal recruitment in September. During the Chapter Meeting, Jeremy provided advice and support not only with recruitment planning but with chapter finances, merchandise, and alumni relations.

Every summer, Sigma Chapter mails personalized Alpha Kappa Lambda postcards to future freshman students at Central Missouri welcoming them to college and offering assistance moving into their residence halls. This allows the Chapter first contact with potential new members and greatly increases the likelihood of those potentials joining Alpha Kappa Lambda.

## **Gamma Alpha at Mizzou**

Jeremy Roberson along with Chris Peck, Gamma House Manager, also visited our Gamma Alpha Chapter at the University of Missouri to assist with their formal recruitment. The first day consisted with a group brainstorming session where Jeremy and Chris pushed the chapter to discuss what type of guy they wanted to recruit, how to do it, and easy topics to discuss with potential new members.

Days two and three were devoted to the actual formal recruitment process. The chapter banded together, keeping one another engaged and excited about the process. Jeremy's and Chris' roles were not to be the recruiters but to support and answer questions if the chapter needed it. Ultimately it was the active members who pushed through to engage the PNMs and represent their fraternity in the short time they had. Jeremy and Chris were "extremely pleased to see a group of men who were excited to recruit and really listen to ideas and be a part of the discussion."

## **Beta Psi at Missouri State**

James Boyle, Regional Manager, visited the Beta Psi Chapter at Missouri State during their summer chapter meeting. While there, he assisted the chapter in prioritizing recruitment and academics for the upcoming Fall semester. The chapter used their time to pinpoint areas for improvement from the past year, allowing for a brainstorm around weak spots to be better prepared than previously. James was also able to sit down with a group of officers and discuss their goals for officer positions as well as for the whole chapter. The chapter left their summer meeting more organized, prepared, and confident for a positive Fall semester.

## **Gamma Omicron at Dalton**

James also made a trip out to the Gamma Omicron Chapter at Dalton State University. The meeting was set up to get everyone on the same page regarding academics, recruitment and alumni relations. After the chapter meeting, the officers and James reviewed their objectives for the Fall. Discussions focused on ways to improve their academic plan, which James will be assisting with throughout the semester, as well as ways to improve their impact on the surrounding community.

If your chapter has a request for a visit from a NHQ staff member, please contact the office in advance to start scheduling.



## Alumni Spotlight



*Congratulation to alum Phil Gomez, Iota at Kansas State University, on his recent recognition as the 2017 Terry Vaughn Award for Male Soccer Referee of the Midwest Championships!*

*Continued on next page...*

## Alumni Spotlight Continued



*Earlier this summer, Phil Gomez traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the 2017 US Youth Soccer Midwest Regional Championships. Going into this year's championships, Phil's goal was to make this year his "best tournament yet" and reach his goal of getting assigned a whistle to a Regional Final.*

Surpassing his goal, Phil was honored as the 2017 Terry Vaughn Award - Male Referee of the Midwest Championships! The Region II Championship Administrators selected Phil out of 220+ referees from 13 state associations at the Midwest Regional Championships. "I'll be honest and say I had no idea and when it was announced I was filled with emotion," Phil shared. "[This] award has more meaning to me than anything else."

"That emotion coming from years of hard work I've put in, the setbacks that have knocked me down hard, to my mentors guiding me and pushing me to keep going & improve, and my family and friends who I don't see as much as I would like to because of this lifestyle. And of course the emotion that this award has a greater meaning being named after Terry Vaughn, a former FIFA Referee from Iowa who is battling Huntington's Disease," shared Phil. "Mr Vaughn is a great man that I looked up to when

I first started refereeing and would say hi to him as he walked down the tunnel to work MLS matches in Kansas City," continued Phil "To have my name next to his by receiving his award is a dream come true and something I'll remember forever. I wish to meet Mr. Vaughn soon to tell him my story and to hear his journey and I can only hope to become an outstanding referee like him one day."

"Thank you everyone for your support because without it I wouldn't be here at this moment. You're the ones that keep me going and makes me enjoy what I do every time I step on the pitch. Time to continue to follow my passion and see where my journey will take me."

Congratulations again to Phil on his recent award! If you have an alumni you'd like to see featured in upcoming issues please email [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org) with "InsideAKL" in the subject or fill out an article form [here](#).



# Four Years For Life Alumni News & Events

## Gamma Beta Chapter Alumni at Alabama

### Alabama vs Florida State Tailgate Atlanta, Georgia

The AKL Gamma Beta Alumni Association will be hosting a tailgate party on Saturday, September 2nd prior to the Alabama vs. Florida State kickoff game at the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta.

The festivities will kickoff at 3:00 p.m. EST and continue through the end of the game. Everyone is welcome to stop by prior to the game for some food and drinks. Anyone without tickets is welcome to stay and cheer on the Crimson Tide at our custom tailgate trailer with two TV's and a speaker system.

The event will take place just east of the new dome, in a tailgating area referred to as "The Gulch." Food, beer, and mixed drinks will be provided for alumni, friends, and family. The Gulch can be reached easily via Marta from the Georgia Dome/Philips Arena Marta Station, or driving/using Uber with the address 30 Centennial Park Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30303. A brand new ramp has been built for easy access to this lot.

## Beta Psi Chapter Alumni at Missouri State

### 25 Year Alumni Reunion Springfield, Missouri

Mark your calendars for Friday and Saturday, September 22nd and 23rd. Out for drinks on Friday with Saturday spent at a local park and a banquet in the evening from 5:00 - 10:00 pm. The banquet will be held at an event venue located 319 Walnut Street Springfield, MO.

Tickets can be bought online [here](#). \$45 for Saturday day events and evening banquet. Gifts will be optional in \$25 increments in advance.

Hotel Rooms can be booked [here](#) online at the University Plaza. Or call (417) 864-7333 and reference Alpha Kappa Lambda for a discount of \$102 plus taxes per night.

**Planning an event?** Let us know so we can feature your details in the next issue of "Inside AKL" by emailing [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org) or clicking [here](#) for our online event/article submission form.

## Beta Zeta Chapter Alumni at ETSU

### ETSU vs Mercer Football Game Johnson City, Tennessee

Saturday, September 23rd, Brother Roger Newton of Beta Zeta has reserved 20 tickets for the ETSU vs Mercer football game. Tickets are \$25 each. Their will be a tailgate prior to the game starting at 3:30 in Lot 22 (also called Landing Strip lot.) The parking lot opens at 8 am and the plan is to start gathering around 11 am with lunch beginning at 1 pm.

Roger is bringing a smoker to smoke some ribs and will provide burgers and dogs and chips, as well as bottled water and tea. He requests someone locally to bring a grill and guests are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert as well as anything else you would like to drink.

There will be one pop-up tent, however if anyone has an additional tent please bring it.

If you are interested in attending, please respond to Roger [here](#) stating: the number of tickets you need and/or number attending the tailgate. As well as what you might bring.

# 4 Ways To Recruit Like Facebook

Originally published August 8th, 2017 by [www.launchpointsolutions.org](http://www.launchpointsolutions.org)

*Some organizations are able to attract and retain top talent far better than their competition because they do basic things really well – below are four simple things Facebook does to attract top talent to work for them and specific actions your chapter can take to do the same:*

## They Have High Expectations

Facebook makes it very clear that they hire people who enjoy building things, are never satisfied with the status quo, are always trying to improve, have a creative drive and want to make an impact. This sends a clear message to potential candidates that it isn't worth applying unless you have exceptional talent while simultaneously being attractive to highly-talented individuals.

What are your organization's high expectations for potential members and how will you make those expectations very clear to all candidates?

## They Have a Detailed Process

Facebook has a detailed interview process to gauge the talent and cultural fit of their potential employees. Their steps include a phone interview to assess professional experience and passion for the company, a technical phone interview to assess talent relative to the position, an on-site interview with an office tour and then multiple interviews specific to the department the candidate is applying to.

Great recruiting organizations have a detailed process that gives them virtual certainty whether or not the candidate is the right fit for the organization.

What steps must a potential member go through in order to be offered a bid into your organization? How can this process be replicated over and over again to continually choose the best possible candidates?

## They Ask Great Questions

Facebook asks candidates a variety of hypothetical scenario questions and logic questions to evaluate how they will act and the way they think – all of which are done to determine if they are a fit for the organization. An example of a popular interview question is "On your very best day at work – the day you come home and think you have the best job in the world – what did you do?" Which gives the interviewer an idea as to how driven the individual is, a key characteristic they are looking for in candidates.

What thought-provoking questions can your organization ask to determine important insight into a potential member?

## They Find People Who Fit The Mission

Facebook believes that if you don't share the common values that drive the rest of the team, it probably won't work out. They are focused on finding people

who are deeply invested in the company and are committed to the company mission "to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected." Facebook looks at the world and sees more than 5 billion people who are not connected through their platform, which means a lot of work is yet to be done and it will take exceptional people to achieve the company mission.

What is the mission of your organization and how will you evaluate if a potential member fits it?

**-Tom Healy**





ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA

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# AKΛ



*Counter-clockwise from top right:*

*SVSU Colony Members enjoying their summer brotherhood retreat..*

*Brother Thomas Caruso of Gamma Pi at University of Connecticut taking his oath and accepting his appointment into the Air Force.*

*IU Colony Members at Indiana University's Student Involvement Fair.*

Inside AKΛ 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. Correspondence can be emailed to [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org) with "Inside AKΛ" in the subject line.

[Online Event/Article Submission Form](#)

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## ***Statistics***

Active Chapters & Colonies: 44

Undergraduates: 1,600+

Alumni: 25,149

Spring New Members: 257

Fall New Members: 554

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