

A IN THE SIDE A



October 2017 Issue: Alumni

An Opportunity to Learn



Front Cover: Donald Enstrom, AKL National President, and Jeremy Slivinski, AKL Executive Director, with the Gamma Sigma Chapter at the Indiana University chartering ceremony.

Brothers,

Each year as we approach Halloween the National Fraternity sends out messages reminding our undergraduate members to be respectful and that cultures are not costumes. It is unfortunate that we have to share the message because our hope would be that in this day and age our students would already think about these issues. The reality though is that education and reminders must happen as we continue to develop ***“Men of Character Committed to Making a Difference.”***

Earlier this year I shared that we will be encouraging our chapters to focus on equality, diversity and other social conversations that are very prevalent on their campuses. It is my hope that this year we use Halloween for something more than a reason to party. Let’s have conversations within our chapter about awareness and sensitivity to our fellow human beings that may come from different backgrounds or cultures. Instead of just telling everyone at a meeting that certain costumes are not allowed up your game so to speak and discuss they “why” they shouldn’t be done.

In all honesty, I wish I had such discussions when I was an undergraduate. I look back now on the costumes we wore, including me, for Halloween and for mixers and I wonder how many of the friends and brothers at Virginia Commonwealth University felt hurt or betrayed by our decisions. Most of us have learned from our mistakes and hopefully those that follow us learn from us instead of making their own.

Have a great Halloween. Be Safe. Have Fun. Care for Others.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. D. Slivinski".

Jeremy Slivinski,
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Executive Director

Chartering Gamma Tau



On September 29, 2017, members of the Indiana University Colony were initiated and signed their charter to become the Gamma Tau Chapter of the Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda. In addition to the chartering members, Donald Enstrom, National President and National Headquarters Staff traveled to Bloomington, Indiana and was in attendance for this historic occasion.

The Indiana University Colony was founded a year ago in Fall 2016 with its original thirteen colony members. After a successful year of recruitment and growth the colony was officially chartered, seeing nearly 60 new brothers initiated.

Pictured left to right is Jeremy Slivinski (Executive Director,) Jake Chatfield (Gamma Tau Chapter President,) and Donald Enstrom (National President.) Congratulations again to our new brothers!

Chapter Activities Photo Spread

Chapters and colonies have been keeping busy with a successful fall semester. From chartering ceremonies and colony pinning ceremonies, to philanthropies and Homecoming celebrations with Alumni. Check out the following pages for some photos of our active undergraduate and alumni members. Also make sure to follow the National Fraternity on social media @AKLFraternity (facebook, instagram, and twitter) for updates on chapter and colony news.



Above: Newly pinned Alpha Omicron Colony members at the University of Colorado Boulder.



Left: Jeremy Slivinski, Executive Director, addressing the newly initiated Gamma Tau Chapter Members at their chartering ceremony.

Chapter Activities Continued



Far Left: Gamma Gamma Colony members at Rutgers having some fun at the 10th Annual Rutgers Bed Races.

Above: Saginaw Valley State University Colony members.

Close Left: VCU Basketball Coach Rhoades supporting our Beta Nu members at a dunk tank philanthropy supporting These Hand's Don't Hurt.

Chapter Activities Continued



Top Left: Xi Chapter at Truman State active brothers and new members outside the chapter house for the 2017 Otter Picture.

Bottom Left: Members, alumni, and dates of the Xi Chapter for a Homecoming Banquet at the chapter house.

Below: Xi Chapter alumni spanning the years enjoying the Homecoming Banquet.



Alumni Spotlight



M E N O F
AKA
C H A R A C T E R

InsideAKL recently reached out to speak with Cody Carlson, Gamma Nu alum from Mansfield University to catch up about life as a recent alum and the transition from student to young professional.

Article continued on next page...

Alumni Spotlight Continued

Tell us about your undergraduate experience with AKL at Mansfield University.

"I joined my second semester freshman year. The first semester not in AKL was my worst semester. I knew about AKL because of one of the founder's mom and mine were friends. I knew it was there but wasn't sure it was for me. That's why I didn't join the first semester. My freshman roommate, David Lewis, was on the same wavelength, didn't consider joining then ended up being my Vice President when I served as President."

"Another member at the time, Dillon Mullroy really got me into it. He kept after me the whole semester and didn't give up until I joined. I liked AKL because it was young, a place to join that was relatively new. When you look at the fraternities at Mansfield, you could tell stereotypes of each. Except AKL, they had all walks of life."

What development did the fraternity provide that the overall college experience did not?

"It made me more social. To get out, and reach out to people more. First semester of college I didn't really talk to anyone. I had a small group of friends, but we didn't do a lot. Fraternity developed my social and communication skills. From Executive Board Meetings, to chapter speeches, to public speaking; it all helped prepare me for my job."

"AKL also set me apart in terms of professionalism. We were the guys that dressed up on campus. People would notice we were dressed up then see the AKL pin."

You studied mass communication and are currently a Morning New Anchor & Producer for WENYTV. Was this the career path you always envisioned and what led you to your current position?

"Back at a 5th grade career day, the class went around and shared what we wanted to be when we grew up. Another kid said he wanted to be a sports broadcaster for ESPN and I thought that sounded cool, so I also said sports broadcaster. That stuck with me through middle and high school. When I got into college, we had a campus television station where I got started in sports, reading scores and highlights. My senior year, I was lucky enough to get internship at my current station through networking with the school."

"A Mansfield alum was in charge of the station and answered questions about my career path. She said I needed an internship to get ahead in the field. A couple days later I received an internship opportunity from her. I mostly interned on the news side, but still liked sports."

"Depending on the position, some interns are hired right after college but usually as a reporter,

occasionally a guest anchor. An opening later becomes available where they like to promote from within."

"My first anchor opportunity came six months in, nine months in I had my own show. The usual anchor for the 11pm weeknight show was going on vacation and I got to fill in. After filling in, I talked to the usual anchor about co-hosting. She liked the idea but the station didn't agree, saying I was 'too new.' That made me humble, looking back I think the station had more in store for me. They didn't want me to get discouraged, and later pitched the idea of my current weekend morning show."

What is the significance of the media with today's college students?

"Let the media know when you're doing some positive event. I really want to see more positive coverage of fraternities in the media. The media can only cover the bad stuff if they don't know about the good stuff. Find the closest local news station, I guarantee they have a community email or tip-line. Type up a press release including; date, time, contact information, location, and directions if needed. Also, don't be discouraged if they don't show up. Sometimes news stations are short staffed, busy, etc."

Article continued on next page...

Alumni Spotlight Continued

A lot of times we hear our members say, “the news is out to get us.” As someone that reports the news, what are your thoughts when you hear that?

“It’s really disheartening to me to hear ‘the news is out to get us.’ Reporters usually try to stay biased. We’re not coming after you, only reporting the facts. At my station we always try to get both sides before running a story.”

“It’s tough to see comments of ‘fake news.’ I use it as a joke. It’s tough with the extreme left and right news agencies that report their own, and people thinking the “mainstream media won’t show you this or that.” People are saying local news are skewed. My station is affiliated ABC and CBS so if readers don’t like a story they run then they assume we’re the same. We really don’t work together at all, local news is a lot different from national news.”

**With college students and people being so connected through social media, how does this effect the world of mass media?
Advice for college students to see through good and bad? Keep themselves educated?**

“Watch the news. Be informed. Pay attention to what’s going on. In case anything bad happens at school or fraternity, have a plan ready to go. I wouldn’t put it above news agency to go looking for a story getting and trying to get a reaction.

“Have a plan, be ready, talk about what you need to talk about. Doesn’t always have to be a death, but the actions of one or two members reflect upon your entire chapter. It’s a tough conversation to have, but brothers need to talk with each other and Nationals so as to have guidelines ready to go.”

Where do you get your news from?

“The station of course gets its news from National News Outlets. But we also get it from the community. We have an email account that anyone can send ideas, press releases, etc. We sometimes get it from social media, for business openings and closings.”

“What we do in the morning is preview events happening that day or weekend. Which is why I need to go in at 2am for a 5am show. We see what other news is running. Do we need to run the same story? Without crediting another outlet, how do we run it as our story? Our media partner is a local newspaper, the Star Gazette. If we don’t have time to verify a story they’ve already printed due to a business not open that early in the morning or something, we can work with them until we get a media contact.”

Any final thoughts you would like to share?

“As it pertains to career and getting a job out of school, internships. The experience will set you so far ahead. If I didn’t have my internship while I was in school, I’m not sure if I would’ve gotten my job as soon as I did.”

“As it pertains to fraternity operations, open communication. Be transparent with everything. Make sure all members; executive board, chairs, and brothers know what’s happening. Keep mentioning an upcoming event three times during the week. Hold people accountable. If someone doesn’t show up to an event and you know they knew what was happening, don’t let it slide. School work or a job is understandable but next time you want as many present as possible.”

“And in general, have fun with your brothers. Make time to have brothers bonding, it’s extremely important. If everyone is bonding, you’re going to look like a cohesive unit inside and out.”

Cody can be reached with questions or ideas at ccarlson@weny.com



Left: Cody was recently recognized at the New York Associated Press Awards, winning “Best Public Service Report.”

More details to be published this month at AKL.org!



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Happy Halloween from
Alpha Kappa Lambda



Inside AKL is a monthly, educational publication by the Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, for undergraduates and alumni. 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 submitted using the link below.

[Online Event/Article Submission Form](#)

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Statistics

Active Chapters & Colonies: 43

Undergraduates: 1,600+

Alumni: 25,149

Spring New Members: 257

Fall New Members: 554

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