

AKA  
IN THE SIDE

AKA  
Xi Chapter



November 2017 Issue: Alumni & Undergraduate

# A Message From the Executive Director



Brothers,

We are losing the good fight and we need your help. Our chapters and campuses are seeing an unprecedented amount of poor decisions by students. This has been one of the busiest fall semesters in my entire time with AKL. In speaking with campus conduct officers, it is not just fraternities. I don't know what has caused this change in student behavior, but it highlights why character development is more important than ever before. Many of our chapters already take this seriously and I am very proud of those groups. Unfortunately, some of our chapters and members don't. There are two solutions to this and both are needed.

First, our undergraduates must take our Ideals and Creed seriously. This is an educationally and socially maturing process. We must teach our members our higher standard and hold them to it. If you don't, your chapter will fail. Good fraternities look nothing like what we see on TV and at the movies. We have to stop trying to follow those examples. Make sure your members understand this and are part of the chapter for the right reason. If not, show them the door. Don't risk you and your chapter's future for men that wear our letters on their clothes but not in their hearts.

Second, alumni need to step up. Our chapters need support in almost every way possible. They need financial support to keep their houses compliant and to provide scholarships to qualified students. They need facetime with alumni that can reaffirm what Fraternity really is. They need backup when they have to make the hard decisions of holding members accountable. It is good for the undergraduates to see you at homecoming or at a tailgate. It is great for them to see you at a chapter meeting or at Ritual. We are always looking for alumni willing to serve as a chapter advisor or on an advisory committee. Please let us know if you can help.

If things don't change we will lose chapters. This isn't a threat, but a reality. Today's Fraternity needs a lot of support to succeed and that support starts with you.

Fraternally,

Jeremy Slivinski,  
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Executive Director

*Front Cover: Xi brothers at Truman State University outside the chapter house used for their philanthropic haunted house.*



# Spooktacular Xi Cover Article

*For over thirty years, the brothers of Xi Chapter at Truman State have hosted their annual Haunted House philanthropy. This year the chapter raised \$2,528.25 and logged approximately 700 community service hours for setup and working of the Haunted House.*

All proceeds were donated to the Northeast Regional Food Bank in an effort to directly help the low-income communities in the Kirksville community. The area's annual average income is \$24,000 less than the \$34,000 Missouri average. "Our goal is to make as much money as we can to be able to make a difference with the Food Bank," said Vice President Francisco Juarez.

"Our donations make an incredible impact for the Food Bank, for every dollar the Food Bank is able to turn that into \$21 worth of groceries. This food bank is the only food bank in the state to provide food at no charge to other organizations such as such kitchens, shelters, and other agencies. They make sure that the food goes to those that need it the most."

Planning for the event begins the semester prior to the Fall, beginning with the selection of dates to run the Haunted House. Input is taken from chapter members on how long the philanthropy will be active as well as the times that work best with students' schedules. This year the chapter decided to extend the Haunted House from the usual three days to five consecutive days.

Physical construction of the Haunted House begins in September, usually requiring two weeks to complete. Everyday, brothers work together to finish various tasks such as: transporting the wood for the walls, constructing the walls, putting up tarps, hanging the ceiling tarps, and finally the decorations. Once construction is complete, the fire department does an inspection to ensure all safety precautions are met for the public.



In order for the Haunted House to operate, brothers and volunteers fill roles such as: concessions, greeter, ticket seller, makeup artists, and performers to scare in the haunted house. Roles are assigned by the Haunted House/Philanthropy Chair. All brothers are expected to be participate everyday of the event unless a valid excuse is sent to a chapter officer.

*Article continued on next page...*



*Left: Brothers begin construction, turning an open area of the chapter house into a haunted maze.*

*Above: Brothers Long Le, Stephen Powers, and Michael Clarkson tabling at Truman's Student Union.*

# Spooktacular Xi Continued

When asked about non-member volunteers, Francisco said "Non-members are always welcome to volunteer. At the beginning of October, I sent out a google form to all of the sororities on campus. This form invited them to participate for a chance to get service hours."

Training sessions for volunteers are planned Philanthropy Chair and Vice President. At these trainings, waivers are signed and volunteers are educated on emergency action plans for the event.



Non-member volunteers have the option to either be a makeup artist or someone who scares in the haunted house pending their attendance to one of the trainings.

In addition to construction, advertising plays an integral role in the planning for the haunted house. This year the chapter sold tickets in the Student Union building, handed out flyers, and shared event details through various posts on social media.

"The Haunted House does an unexpected job of bringing all of us together to bond more than most events," said Francisco as he reflected on his personal experience with the event.

"Everyone gets to know each other even more than we already knew each other before with the breaks and the hours of service that we commit to the philanthropy event. After I calculated the amount of hours I was shocked to put a number to the amount of hours that we all spend together all while being able to raise a large amount of money every year for the Food Bank."

Congratulation to Xi chapter for all their hard work and another successful Haunted House! If you would like to see your chapter's event highlighted in a future issue of InsideAKL, email [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org) or fill out our online submission form [here](#).



***Above: Xi Chapter and volunteers after the final Haunted House run. And Francisco Jaurez, Vice President, presenting a representative of the Missouri Food Bank with a check for over \$2,500.00***

***Left: Brother Long Le showcases some of the special effect makeup done by volunteers.***



# Halloween Watch Beta Nu at VCU

*This October, Beta Nu Chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University* hosted the 30th Annual Halloween Watch. As the longest running student-run philanthropy at VCU, Halloween Watch started as a way for the chapter to give back to the Richmond, Virginia community. Bill Auchmoody, chapter alum and the man to introduce the event, explained, "The main goal was to keep children safe as they crossed the streets and to make sure no one got separated from their parents. It was so well-received that the following year we included all Greek organizations on campus."

"The first year there was no real philanthropic effort to it. The event was really an effort to build good relations with our neighbors in the surrounding community. My hope was that Halloween Watch would introduce our organization (and other Greeks groups) as responsible and caring that wanted to be good neighbors to the Richmond community."

In addition to this year's patrol of the fan neighborhood, Byron Marshall, philanthropy chair, planned additional fundraisers. Through a dunk tank on campus, a Chipotle fundraiser, and a cookout on campus, the chapter was able to raise \$1,200 for Safe Harbor Domestic Violence Shelter.

Around 80 individuals met at the VCU Commons (top right) to add their hand to the chapter's "Promise Wall" and for a speaker from Safe Harbor before the local neighborhood patrol (bottom right).



When asked how he envisioned the event growing and changing over time, Bill said "Initially I hoped it would grow to the point that all Greek organizations on campus would be involved. When you're 19 years old you don't really think about anything lasting 30 years. It's hard to believe that's been 30 years."

The chapter would like to thank the following organizations for participating: Alpha Sigma Alpha, Zeta Tau Alpha, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Xi Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi, and Sigma Sigma Sigma.





# Getting Spooky with AKL

*Alpha Kappa Lambda brothers across the country* got in the Halloween spirit at the end of last month, hosting pumpkin-spiced philanthropies, service events, and mixers.

- Beta Psi Chapter at Missouri State University hosted a pumpkin carving philanthropy taking a stand against domestic violence (top right and bottom middle.) Donations were collected for Harmony House, who provide shelter, advocacy, and education to survivors of domestic violence.
- Gamma Sigma Chapter at ODU and the women of Alpha Xi Delta for a pumpkin carving mixer (bottom left.)
- Texas Tech Colony members spent a day painting pumpkins with The Children's Home of Lubbock and The Ronald McDonald House (bottom right.)





# These Hands Don't Hurt Lambda at ESU

*Lambda Chapter, at Emporia State University, had a very productive October as activists for Domestic Abuse Awareness Month.*

This month, the chapter was able to raise \$1,600 from their 8th annual Date Auction. The chapter presented a check (top photo) to SOS Kansas whose mission is to “empower and advocate for those affected by sexual and domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect.”

In early October, the chapter attended a campus event to hear a speaker on sexual harassment (bottom left.) In the chapter’s October newsletter, they stated “the speaker found a way to address the serious topic of taking a stand against sexual harassment, yet allowed for every fraternity and sorority member that attended to feel comfortable participating in discussions.”

Later in the month, the chapter hosted its own These Hands Don't Hurt event. Alec Walberg, Community Service Chair, arranged for on-campus tabling where a board was present for members of the university community to add their hands and names in purple in gold. The chapter’s goal was to share that they are “against any form of abuse or harassment.” Allison Garrett, President of Emporia State University, even stopped by to add her hand-print (bottom right.)

Keep up the good work brothers!





# Chapter Activities Photo Gallery



*Above: SVSU Colony Members celebrating the Fall 17 colony pledge class completing their ALPHA Experience New Member Education Process.*

*Below: SVSU Colony volunteered at Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity by sorting the wood room. The chapter said "it was an incredibly enriching experience and we had a lot of fun doing it!"*



*Above: Gamma Delta at Montevallo, celebrating as Intramural Champions.*



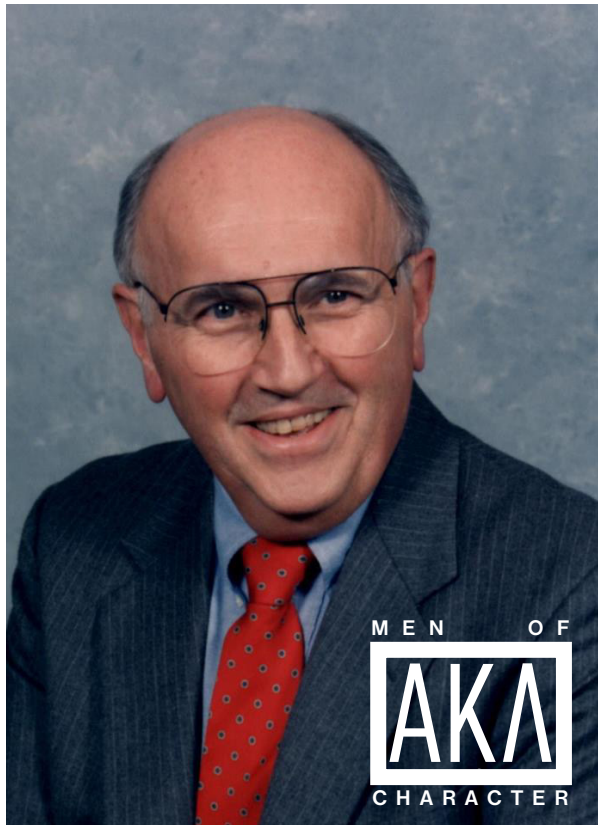
*Left: The Mu Colony at the Ohio State University practiced Recruitment 365 to continue growing.*

*Below: Gamma Beta at Alabama volunteering for The Culverhouse School of Accountancy LIFT program.*





# Alumni Spotlight Roger McGary, Chi '60



*InsideAKL recently reached out to speak with* Roger McGary, Chi alum from California University of Pennsylvania to catch up about life, career, and what he learned as a firefighter.

## **Tell us about your college and fraternity experience at California University of Pennsylvania?**

"I did college the hard way. I had no study skills, nor did I know how to take notes. That resulted in a two semester 'vacation' after my first year. After completing some vocational training as a radio announcer, I had a radio job offer in the spring of 1957. I also had the opportunity to return to California for a summer semester and if successful continue on in the fall. Toss of a coin, and my decision was back to school for the long-term career goals."

"Getting to AKL was the result of an old high school classmate/friend (Ross Farber), a member of Tau at Penn State. After we organized a local non-affiliated fraternity (Pi Delta Chi) we talked about becoming a chapter of a national. I made contact with then executive director Lou Bacon. We became a colony in 1959 and chartered spring of 1960."

"As a colony we took on a variety of community projects such as cleaning and painting the local library. My college life circled around fraternity, the Tower Times (college paper-sports editor) and a stab at tennis. The fraternity led to a couple of long term friendships, and the sports editor's job got me hired by a regional daily newspaper upon graduation."

## **Did you hold any leadership positions in the chapter or in other campus organizations?**

"I was the founding president of Pi Delta Chi and held that position for two years. Those who have served as a chapter president can appreciate the frustration that you go through in trying to guide the organization on the right path."

"The concerns I have today for the Greek system resolve around the stupid stuff that's done; most of it around the aspect of hazing. I'm not sure what's in our DNA that make us want to do that stuff. AKL's support of community service versus hazing was extremely appealing to all of us who were in that charter class."

"A recent article in the New York Times spoke to the tremendous growth in Greek organizations on college campuses around the United States and unfortunately the negatives tied mostly to hazing."

"When I turned 18 I became a volunteer firefighter and continued as a responder up until 2013. I currently serve as a church usher at St. Luke Lutheran in Silver Spring, Maryland."

***Article continued on next page...***

# Alumni Spotlight Continued

## What did you study in college?

"I entered California when it was still known as California State Teachers College. When I graduated it was California State College and probably 25 years ago became California University of Pennsylvania. My major was secondary education with in geography and an English minor. I also have a Master's in Public Administration from John Jay College, City University of New York."

## Was your first position after related to your college degree? What career path have you taken since that time?

"My entire adult life has been focused on emergency services, but my first career had only a little to do with college and that was as the sport's editor for the college paper. I worked for the Uniontown (PA) Evening Standard for five years. I joined the Uniontown Fire Department and the more I participated, trained, and responded to incidents the more I realized I wanted to be in emergency services."

"That desire led me to Allied Chemical, where I served as the Safety Supervisor responsible for safety, fire, and emergency medical services. From there to becoming the fire chief for Merck and Co. This site included numerous manufacturing facilities, a major research complex, a pilot plant, and corporate headquarters. After that I made a change from industrial to municipal and became the fire chief

in Takoma Park, MD. Over the next 17 years I served as the bureau chief for training, communications, and emergency management. Then moved to the field as a shift commander and retired as the department's safety officer. After that it was 10 years as the fire chief for the Silver Spring, MD Fire Department."



"I currently serve on the National Capital Region Incident Management Team as a Planning Section Chief and Incident Commander. I've deployed to a number of events including Hurricane Wilma and Hurricane Ike. The IMT's role is to assist local communities in managing their response and/or recovery efforts."

"In addition, I teach in the incident management curriculum for FEMA's National Fire Academy and Emergency Management Institute as well as the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute."

## You had a career and retired as a firefighter, what would you say is different about being a first responder now from when you started?

"An awful lot! Most critical is that of firefighter safety and health, primarily in the areas of building construction and materials used. Building construction has found a focus on light weight wood and metal trusses. These fail quickly under even moderate fire conditions resulting on firefighters falling through floors or the building falling on them. Soot and other debris that collects on a firefighter's protective envelope is loaded with toxins. The need for scene decontamination followed by station decontamination is critical."

"Those who are in the emergency medical field have also seen significant changes over the years. Today we have highly skilled paramedics who provide that very first intervention that saves 100s of lives every day. When I came on as a volunteer in 1956 we had a 45 hour course, that when completed, allowed you to fight all the fire you wanted. Today, most major jurisdictions provide over 700 hours of training before firefighters are put in the field."

*Article continued on next page...*



# Alumni Spotlight Continued

## Tell us a bit about your family life?

"I am married to the smartest woman, Nancy Cohen, I've ever known. She retired from the personnel department of DC Superior Courts and continues today as a volunteer mediator. She is so good at that the court uses her to evaluate and train other mediators. I have a daughter, Colleen Ramsey, by a previous marriage and Nancy and I share our two grandchildren. Jordyn is a sophomore at the University of Iowa with a journalism major and political science minor and Ryan is a high school junior. He is a southpaw and an excellent pitcher, so good that he has committed to the University of Maryland on a scholarship."

## What advice would you have for our chapters that maintain houses?

"Living in a house should be considered a privilege. Members should recognize that their parents are not there to pick up after them, thus the routine daily cleaning and maintenance is an absolute must. Next comes the aspect of member safety."

## Any advice for men who are interested in careers in firefighting?

"If you want a rewarding career, one where you make a difference to the people you serve, then being a firefighter-rescuer is where it's found. Your college degree gets you a step ahead, most fire departments

have career development requirements that include college for promotion to an officer's position. It's hard work, it can be stressful, but when you get a citizen walk up and hug you for what you've done you suddenly realize how important this work is to the community you serve."

"I'm reminded of an incident that occurred a number of years ago. I was shift commander and having dinner at one of our stations. The door-bell rang and an elderly woman, in tears and desolate was there carrying her dog who was not breathing. Our guys immediately took the dog and started CPR. After 20 minutes or so they stopped and consoled her, contacted family, and ensured that she got home safely. Three days later she showed up with a homemade cake, her way of saying thank you. That's the reward of providing a vital community service."

"Know that today's fire service is an 'all hazards' organization. In addition to fires, firefighters perform: emergency medical services, responses to hazardous materials incidents, high angle rescue, swift-water rescue, confined space rescue, and collapse rescue. For fire departments that provide emergency medical services about 80% of all calls are for medical emergencies."

***Thanks again to Roger for taking the time to share his story with us! Check out our featured article later in the issue where Roger shared some of his safety advice for chapter houses.***



***Above: Roger working in the Planning Section at Hurricane Ike, Galveston Texas.***

***Below: Roger critiquing a firefighting foam drill on flammable liquids.***



# House Safety Featured Article

*Earlier in the issue, we introduced you to Chi alum, Roger McGary. As a retired Fire Chief with an extensive career in emergency response and rescue, Roger sent us his notes on house safety to help chapter's risk management.*

***Below: Roger directing operations at a working fire in Takoma Park, Maryland.***



"In late October my wife and I spent family weekend with our granddaughter at the University of Iowa. Our trip included a visit to her sorority house. In my visit I observed two fire rated doors leading to enclosed fire stairs (first floor) propped open, one with a wedge and the other by several bricks."

"Listen up brothers! Those enclosed fire stairs with fire rated doors are there to protect you! Under no circumstance are they to be held open by wedges, blocks, ropes, etc."

"In a fire the enclosed stair towers prevent the spread of heat, smoke, toxic gases and fire to other floors. If you check your history you will find multiple incidents of fraternity/sorority members dying in fires from smoke, heat, toxic gases and fire that have spread up open stairwells. One of the most significant such incidents occurred a few years ago at the University of North Carolina where fire fraternity members died in their sleep on the upper levels from a fire at a lower level."

"If there is a need to keep these doors open then the use of magnetic releases, tied to the fire alarm/sprinkler system, should be used. When a fire or smoke is detected the releases are deactivated and the doors close."

"Other fire protection devices that protect your house include a fully automatic sprinkler system, a manual pull fire alarm system, smoke and heat detectors at all levels, smoke detectors in each sleeping room, enclosed and rated fire stairs exiting to the exterior, exit lighting at knee high level (easy to see when crawling under the smoke) and systems protecting cooking equipment. All of these systems should be connected to a 24-hour monitoring service. In addition, fire drills should be conducted and some of these should be no-warning drills."

"Be safe and if you have some specific questions feel free to contact me at ramcgary@outlook.com or (240) 375 - 4295"

## Holmes Murphy Fire Safety

***Our partners at Holmes Murphy Insurance have provided tips to keep your fraternity residence safe. For more information, check out their infographic [here](#).***

- Prohibit Candles
- Prohibit smoking in the house
- If you choose to allow smoking in a designated area outside the house, provide a safe receptacle for the disposal of smoking materials
- Don't overload electrical outlets
- Be clear with residents about acceptable appliances and power cords
- Prohibit space heaters
- Regularly clean lint traps and exhaust vents of laundry dryers
- Make sure that grills and fire pits are located a safe distance from the house
- Prohibit upholstered furniture on porches
- Store combustible materials safely and appropriately
- Hold regular fire drills
- Ensure that exit signs and emergency lights are visible and working
- Train residents on fire extinguisher operation
- Appropriately discipline those who cause false fire alarms
- Make sure that smoke alarms are not disabled
- Adequately maintain alarm and sprinkler systems
- Ensure that fire doors are used properly



# 2018 National Conclave

Atlantis Paradise Island Resort: August 1–4, 2018



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National Conclave website here!](#)

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## Registration Costs

<b>Undergraduate Delegate</b> per delegate (\$700 per chapter)	\$350.00
<b>Alumni Delegate</b>	\$300.00
<b>Non-Delegate or Guest</b>	\$225.00
<b>Children (Under 18)</b>	\$100.00
<b>Hotel</b> per night (plus tax & fees)	\$209.00

### Registration Cost include:

- Access to all legislative and education sessions (for members)
- Access to Ritual Ceremony, Rededication Ceremony, and Omega Ceremony (for members)
- Access to all provided meals:
  - Friday: AKL Alumni, Friends, & Family Opening Reception
  - Saturday: AKL Education Foundation Luncheon
  - Sunday: Tasters Lunch Buffet, and Presidents' Honors Banquet
- Hotel and Travel costs not included

## Chapter & Colony Notes



On November 2nd, our Psi Chapter at Iowa State hosted their "Snakl at AKL." The philanthropy event was \$4 before and \$5 at the door of an ice cream sundae and build-your-own rice crispy treat stations. All proceeds supported ACCESS in efforts to end sexual assault.



On November 9th, our Alpha Lambda Chapter at Northern Illinois hosted their 4th Annual "Mac & Charity." The annual event is a \$5 all-you-can-eat macaroni and cheese dinner benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.



On November 1st, our Gamma Pi Chapter at University of Connecticut partnered with Gamma Phi Beta and Alpha Delta Phi for their "Ice Cream Sand-Witches" event. \$3 each, all proceeds from late night snack purchases went to HuskyTHON



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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