

# AKA IN THE SIDE A



January/February 2020



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

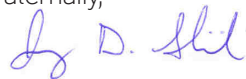
Brothers,

We wrapped up another Clark-Thompson Presidents' Academy and Officers' Institute this past month. It is rejuvenating getting to meet our new leaders each year at the Academy. New leaders bring in an energy that cannot be replicated. They have great ideas, pride for Alpha Kappa Lambda, and an interest in making a difference. This event has occurred for three decades and made a difference for thousands of members. We wouldn't have been able to do it without generous support from our alumni. So I want to say thank you to all of our donors. You have made a difference so that these new leaders can do the same.

2020 is a new year and like every new year we expect it to bring new opportunities. We hope you are a part of those opportunities.



Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. D. Slivinski'.

Jeremy Slivinski,  
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Executive Director



## WHO WE ARE

InsideAKL 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](#)

### *Creative Director/Editor*

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### *Statistics*

Active Chapters & Colonies: 30+

Undergraduates: 1,000+

Alumni: 26,000+

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# Leadership Weekend

## Clark-Thompson Presidents' Academy & Officer's Institute

*On January 17-19, 2020 more than 100 AKL chapter leaders met in Carmel, Indiana for the annual Clark-Thompson Presidents' Academy and Officers' Institute. This annual event provides leadership training to newly elected chapter officers, as well as a focus on national brotherhood.*

Running for over a decade, the now largest Alpha Kappa Lambda national event began in 2007 by providing a weekend of professional development for incoming chapter presidents. Additional tracks were added beginning in 2014, growing steadily the last few years.

2020 program tracks were offered for Chapter Presidents, Vice-Presidents and/or Risk Managers, Recruitment Chairs, and Treasurers. This year the Five Ideals of our fraternity, Leadership, Scholarship, Loyalty, Self-Support, and Judeo-Christian principles provided program theme areas.

Friday evening after dinner, AKL Assistant Executive Director Jeff

Szumanski led the chapter presidents and vice-presidents/risk managers in a discussion of the AKL Creed and how living the Creed is important in our daily lives.

Following sessions on Friday included presentations on effective leadership and accountability. Chapter leaders discussed the importance of different leadership styles that encourage members' commitment to the values and goals of AKL.

On Saturday, chapter presidents and vice-presidents/risk managers had a full agenda. Topics included chapter scholarship programs, collaborating with university officials, new member education, accountability, and health/safety conduct issues.

Tom Healy of LaunchPoint provided an engaging keynote speech, remembering to have fun and keep guys motivated. Chapter officers had an open forum with AKL Executive Director Jeremy Slivinski, where they were able to ask questions and get



*Chapter Presidents come together from different universities. (Left to right) Jake Riski (Alpha Omicron Chapter at CU Boulder), Sebastian Samaniego (Alpha Rho Chapter at UTEP), Richard Lawler (Gamma Omicron Chapter at Dalton,) Chase Howard (Gamma Xi Chapter at Clayton,) and Chase Wallace (Gamma Rho Chapter at ASU.)*

insight on challenges facing fraternities on campuses and nationally.

Chapter treasurers and recruitment chairs had programs focused on their respective areas. Treasurers spent the day working with staff from OmegaFi on using the online billing system, building a chapter budget, and

accurately maintaining membership rosters and financial records.

Recruitment chairs went through Recruitment Boot Camp, hosted annually by Tom Healy and volunteer alumni and inter-fraternal advisors.

*Continued on next page...*

**“My favorite part of Presidents' Academy was when all us brothers got to hang out after a long day of training and share our experiences as a brotherhood.”**

**– Sebastian Samaniego, UTEP**

## FRATERNITY NEWS **CONTINUED**

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The intensive boot camp assisted recruitment chairs in building and finalizing recruitment plans and scheduling. Volunteers worked with the leaders to develop strategies for successful recruitment and how to engage all chapter members in recruitment 365 as “the lifeblood of the fraternity.”

“Tom was very helpful and I think he did a great job of motivating everyone.” said Cameron Bublick, Gamma Gamma Chapter Recruitment Chair from Rutgers University. “The most helpful thing I learned from other brothers and volunteers was to be more goal oriented rather than having arbitrary recruitment goals. It was a good experience overall. I learned a lot from other people more experienced than I was.”

An aspect of Presidents’ Academy that was valuable to all officers was the opportunity to connect with brothers from other chapters.

From conversations about event management, FSL policies and procedures, to improving chapter morale, brothers attending the leadership weekend came to realize all chapters have strengths and challenges.

These chapter leaders realize that it is important to remember that they are not in this alone but have a network of brothers across the country who they can count on for support. Let’s keep the conversation going on social media on both local and national fraternity social media platforms.



[www.facebook.com/AKLFraternity](https://www.facebook.com/AKLFraternity)



[@AKLFraternity](https://twitter.com/AKLFraternity)



[@AKLFraternity](https://www.instagram.com/AKLFraternity)



*Below: Chapter Officers from Mu Chapter at the Ohio State University and Alpha Phi Chapter at the University of Idaho visit AKL National Headquarters before traveling home to share all they learned with their brothers.*







Top Left: Gamma Tau Chapter Officers from Indiana University (left to right) Recruitment Chair Parker Allen, Chapter President Quinn Kelly, Vice President Ethan Lesser, and Treasurer Phil O'Leary.

Bottom Right: Gamma Gamma Chapter Officers from Rutgers University (left to right) Chapter President Josh Simpson and Recruitment Chair Cameron Bublick.

**“My favorite parts of Presidents’ Academy was meeting representatives from other chapters across the nation and trying to give them ideas on how to continue to grow. Some planning we have taken back was some new sober brotherhood events we can use to help bring our brotherhood even closer than we currently are.”**

**– Quinn Kelly, IU**

Bottom Left: Beta Tau Chapter Officers from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (Left to right) Chapter President Trevor Corey, Treasurer Spencer Gruse, and Recruitment Chair Graham Mueller.

**“My favorite part of Presidents’ Academy was definitely watching the McGregor/Cowboy fight with the rest of the brothers. It was a really cool experience, a national brotherhood event, that I feel really brought everyone together on a more informal basis.”**

**– Trevor Corey, SIUE**







Top Left: Chi Chapter Officers from California University of Pennsylvania (left to right) Chapter President Damian McCloskey, Recruitment Chair Evan Quattro, Historian Billy Kraft, and Recruitment Chair Mike Fortney.

Top Right: Mu Chapter Officers from the Ohio State University (left to right) Risk Manager Austin Retzloff, Chapter President Jack Watkins, Recruitment Chair Zach West, and Treasurer John Vu.

Bottom Right: Alpha Omicron Chapter President from Colorado University Boulder, Jake Riski.



**“My favorite part of Presidents’ Academy was getting to spend time with our other chapters around the country. The most helpful thing I learned was that transformational leadership is the most effective way to inspire others. Presidents’ Academy was an amazing experience and all four of our brothers who attended learned an incredible amount and made great relationships with our brothers. Next semester we plan to do a joint philanthropy event with our Indiana University chapter brothers as a result of these friendships.”**

**– Jack Watkins, tOSU**





*Top Left: Lambda Chapter Officers from Emporia State University (left to right) Recruitment Chair Jason Mitchiner, Vice President Joseph Benchama, Chapter President Mason Nicks, and Treasurer Cam Burnett.*

**“The most helpful thing I learned from Presidents’ Academy was how to motivate members to engage in all activities. Since returning I have been able to better motivate guys in planning events and remain excited to execute the events.”**

**– Mason Nicks, ESU**

*Bottom Left: Gamma Pi Chapter from the University of Connecticut (left to right) Social Chair Larry Garelli and Chapter President Miles Strickler outside AKL National Headquarters.*

*Bottom Right: Alpha Phi Chapter Officers from the University of Idaho (left to right) Treasurer Taylor Anderson, Vice President Parker Green, Chapter President Jordan Hieronymous, and Recruitment Chair Vaughn Schroeder.*



**“One of the greatest parts of Presidents’ Academy for me was meeting other officers and share advice to better assist my chapter and community. Having this many brothers in one place and having the opportunity to connect with any of them, no matter their background, is something that only a fraternity can give you.”**

**– Jordan Hieronymous, Idaho**







*Top Left: Gamma Lambda Chapter at Temple University spend a Sunday morning with a city block cleanup.*

*Top Right: Chi Chapter at CalU of Pennsylvania assist with a cleanup in Elco, Pennsylvania.*

*Bottom Left: Gamma Upsilon Chapter at Saginaw Valley State University build "Dogs of Character" volunteering at Amazing Grace Animal Rescue.*

*Bottom Right: Delta Chapter at the University of Kansas partnered with the Lawrence Community Shelter by donating cases of water to assist those in need.*



# Mason Brocksmith

## Gamma Delta Chapter – University of Montevallo

*An annual election at Presidents' Academy, this year Mason Brocksmith was elected as the AKL NEC Undergraduate Representative.*

### What are you studying at Montevallo?

"I'm a leadership communication major and I aspire to be an entertainment director for Carnival Cruise lines."

### Were you always interested in joining a fraternity? Why did you join AKL?

"When I came to Montevallo, Greek Life seemed to be a way of life at such a small campus like Montevallo. I ended up going through formal recruitment and received so much more than I expected when I joined a fraternity."

"I originally went through for the social assurance on campus but over time I have held Social Chair, Recruitment Chair, Brotherhood Chair, Vice President, and now President of AKL. When I first joined AKL, I always told

myself I would give my everything to everything I do, but did not expect half of what I have received."

### Tell me more about AKL's tradition on Gold Team and College Night?

"Montevallo's homecoming tradition is the longest running homecoming IN THE WORLD. The student body splits based on our school's colors (purple and gold) and the students on the sides, write, direct, choreograph, compose music, and cast an original Broadway style musical production."

"Since AKL has been established on campus, we have loved everything about College Night. We have had brothers become leaders, composers, choreographers, on the athletics teams, and in every aspect of the game you are sure to find our whole chapter being heavily involved. I'm not a big theatre guy myself, but I have been cast in the show the last two years and have encouraged a number of guys to audition along with me."



### What is your favorite AKL memory (so far) or how have you experienced brotherhood first hand?

"My favorite AKL memory so far was a night when we were playing disc golf around campus (something AKL is highly known for at Montevallo) where brothers have walked around the campus and set up landmarks we have to hit with a frisbee in the least amount of throws possible."

"Easily being my favorite brotherhood activity, I love texting in our groupchat asking if anyone wants to go play, regardless of the time. I love having brotherhood and fellowship available at any moment."

*Continued on next page...*



*Above: Gamma Delta Chapter Officers (left to right) Treasurer Bobby Smith, Chapter President Mason Brocksmith, Recruitment Chair Jon Shields, and Risk Manager Austin Mitchell. Below: Mason cheering on Gold Side at College Night.*



## UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT **CONTINUED**

### **Why did you choose to run for the NEC Undergraduate position?**

"I ran for the NEC position, because I love to not only represent my chapter, but my fraternity as well wherever I go. I am a man of character wherever I go, so why not spread the love I have for my chapter, throughout the organization as a whole."

"I hope to show this love for our fraternity on a national level and demonstrate that this brotherhood is not something taken for granted. I believe it is often overlooked, this brotherhood is all about love and I genuinely want to spread that mentality across chapters."

### **What was your favorite part of Presidents' Academy?**

"My favorite part of Presidents' Academy was getting to know all my brothers nationwide. We might be very different, but we all hold the same Five Ideals."

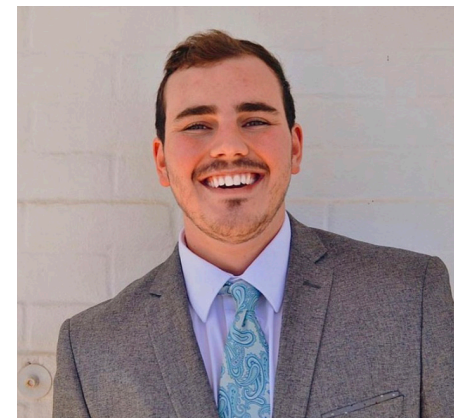
### **What was the most helpful thing you learned at Presidents' Academy?**

"I learned a lot of information about other chapter's philanthropy events and really enjoyed sharing our ideas with everyone."

"Gamma Delta Chapter is also planning to revamp our continuous education process over time and with some help from other chapters and the shared information of what they do. The end goal is to develop our education process over time and see it come together as solid programming."

*Thank you Mason for sitting down and talking with us at InsideAKL. If any members wish to spotlight an undergraduate or alumni member in a future issue, email [info@AKL.org](mailto:info@AKL.org)*

*Top Right: Gamma Delta Chapter Brothers supporting "Gold Victory" at College Night. Bottom Right: Mason, professional fraternity man.*





*Top Right: Gamma Alpha Chapter at the University of Missouri supporting their chapter brother Colin Kelsey for his senior night hockey game.*

*Bottom Left: Gamma Rho Chapter Brothers at Arizona State University traveled to Sedona for a brotherhood event sight-seeing Devils Bridge Trail.*

*Bottom Right: Gamma Delta Chapter at the University of Montevallo led Gold Side to victory at College Night's ultimate frisbee game.*



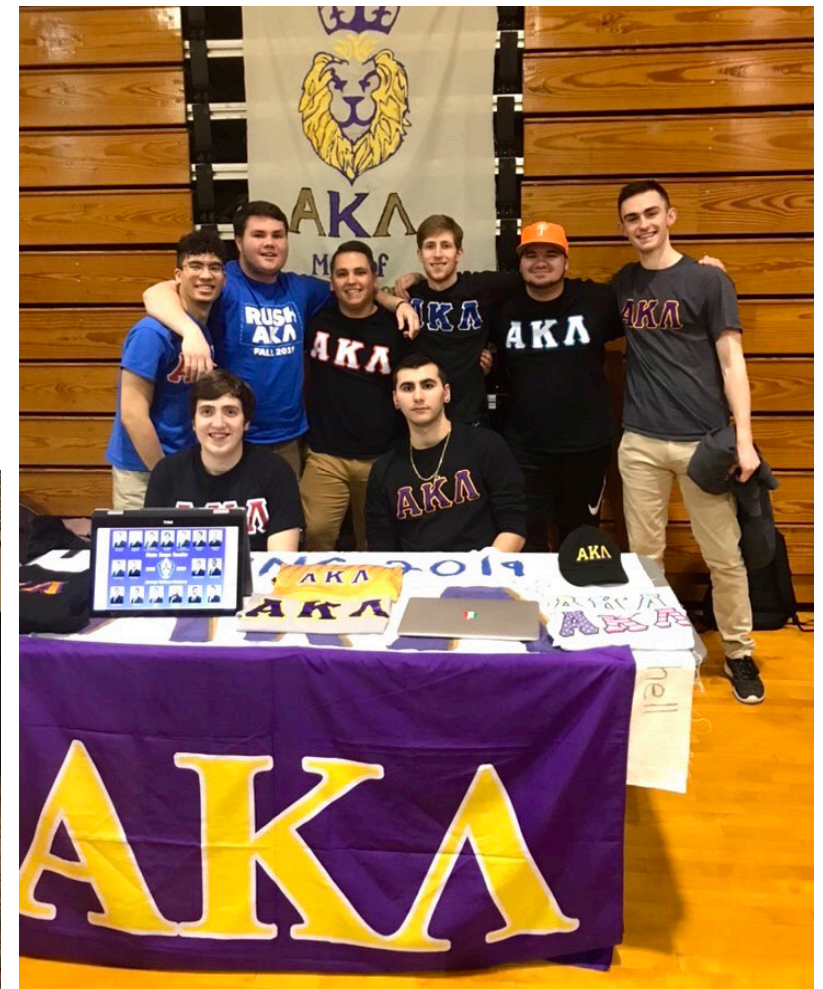




*Top Left: Sidney Breyfogle, Alpha Zeta Chapter Brother from Northwest Missouri State University, representing AKL at the 2020 LIV Super Bowl.*

*Bottom Left: Delta Chapter at the University of Kansas celebrate with a Valentine's Day Formal.*

*Bottom Right: Gamma Kappa Chapter Brothers at Fairleigh Dickinson University participate in an interest fair for potential new members.*





# Spring Break Safety

## Have Fun & Stay Safe

*With Spring Break right around the corner, our insurance partners at Holmes Murphy published some tips to have fun in the sun while remaining safe. In a report on Spring Break from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, sociologist Dr. Raquel Kennedy Bergen said, "Unfamiliar locations increase vulnerability. Psychologically, people may be more inclined to try new behaviors and step outside their 'comfort zone' when away from home." Exercise care not to place yourself in physically dangerous situations you would not dare to undergo at home.*

### Before You Go

Know what's happening en route or at your travel destination. Check the US Department of State for information on security risks. If traveling abroad, register with the Smart Traveler Enrollment so the US embassy or consulate can contact you in case of an emergency.

### Protect Your Health

Are vaccinations required? Are there special food, destination, or other things you need to consider ahead of time? If you are taking medications, do you have enough for the trip? Plan a visit with your doctor or a travel medicine specialist at least one month before you leave the United States.

Find out if your health insurance covers medical care abroad—many plans don't! Consider additional insurance that covers health care and emergency evacuation, especially if you will be traveling to remote areas.

Pack smart and prepare a travel health kit with the items you may need on your trip, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, insect repellent, sunscreen, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, etc.



HOLMES MURPHY.



## Watch Your Step

There may be temptations on your break that involve different or high-risk activity. Think twice before putting yourself at risk for injury. Be sure to use appropriate safety gear before venturing out, such as seat belts, life vests, or knee pads. Remember that unintentional injuries kill more Americans in their first three decades of life than any other cause of death. In fact, injuries (both unintentional and those caused by acts of violence) are among the top ten killers for Americans of all ages.

Water-related injuries can be a special risk on Spring Break Trips. When swimming and boating, know what's expected and what you can do to prevent injury or death for yourself and others. Know how to swim. Wear your life jacket while boating. Avoid alcoholic beverages while boating. Complete a boating education course. Participate in the vessel safety check program.

### Limit Alcohol

If drinking alcohol is part of your break, remember that it can impair your judgment and actions. Alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes kill someone every 31 minutes and nonfatally injure someone every two minutes. Don't drink and drive. There are plenty of non-alcoholic alternatives.

### Protect Yourself From The Sun

After a cold winter, it's tempting to stay in the hot sun all day. Although getting a little sun can have some benefits, excessive and unprotected sun exposure can result in premature aging, changes in skin texture, and skin cancer. Always wear sunscreen with at least SPF 15. For eye protection, wear wraparound sunglasses that provide 100 percent UV ray protection.



# WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD!

*Top Right: Sigma Chapter new members at the University of Central Missouri welcomed to the brotherhood post Initiation.*

*Bottom Left: Mu Chapter at the Ohio State University welcome the newest brothers initiated into Alpha Kappa Lambda. Alethia Kai Logos gentlemen!*

*Bottom Right: Gamma Upsilon Chapter at Saginaw Valley State University extend bids to the chapter's newest members. Welcome to the brotherhood gentlemen!*







**“It rests with you, individually whether the Spirit of Alpha Kappa Lambda shall languish or flourish.”**

*Top Left: Lambda Chapter at Emporia State University welcome the newest member to Alpha Kappa Lambda. Top Right: Gamma Theta Chapter new members at Boise State University. Bottom Left: Gamma Tau Chapter new members at Indiana University.*

**“It is for you to determine what this Fraternity shall be in years to come.”**





*When?*

**JULY 30 – AUGUST 2, 2020**

*Where?*

**WILLIAMSBURG LODGE  
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA**

*Who?*

**ALL AKL BROTHERS, FAMILY &  
FRIENDS INVITED TO SAVE THE DATE!  
MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**



ALPHA KAPPA LAMBDA



EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda Experience has never been more important than it is today. On college campuses, in small towns, and big cities alike, society needs men committed to the Five Ideals of AKL: Judeo-Christian Principles, Leadership, Scholarship, Loyalty, and Self-Support.

The same issues which affect the world also affect Alpha Kappa Lambda. Our organization can help shape the future leaders of society by providing programming, scholarships, and guidance to our members.

We must bring ideals and values to the leaders we will depend on to make the world a better place – but we need your help!

[Click Here to Donate to the AKL Education Foundation](#)



When you give to the Alpha Kappa Lambda Education Foundation you help educate and empower young men who are committed to making a difference in their communities by learning, embracing and exemplifying AKL character.

All gifts to the Alpha Kappa Lambda Education Foundation are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

### Create Academic Success



Expand and endow our academic scholarship program. We cannot teach and provide young men with the AKL experience if they can't afford to attend college.

### Develop Our Chapters



Instill our values and fortify and strengthen the young men in every chapter across the United States.

### Flexibility for the Future



As history has shown, it's impossible to predict how the needs of students and society will evolve over the next century.