



# A IN SIDE A

October 2019

# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Brothers,

We are half way through another good semester for our Fraternity. I am excited for all of the content we are sharing in this issue of Inside AKL. The good work our students do, which is shown in this edition, is one of the things that makes our organization so special. The pictures remind me a lot of my undergraduate experience this time of year.

As we are halfway through the semester this is also a good time to remind all of our members that hazing has no place in Fraternity. Our own organization unfortunately has seen the effects of this the last couple of years which has resulted in losing chapters. Luckily it has not cost a member a life. It has never been an acceptable activity for our experience. Fraternities across the country have seen an uptick in this behavior. We will continue to educate our members on the dangers of these activities and we will continue to hold our chapters and members accountable. That is why I am proud that Alpha Kappa Lambda supports the End All Hazing Act which is currently going through congress. You can read more about this initiative [here](#).



Fraternally,

Jeremy Slivinski,  
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Executive Director

*(Cover Photo) Gamma Lambda Chapter at Temple University hosted their These Hands Don't Hurt event alongside Purple Thursday, awareness day launched by the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Brother Nico Bynum adds his hand to the Chapter's Promise Wall banner.*



## 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](#)

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### Statistics

Active Chapters & Colonies: 30+  
Undergraduates: 1,000+  
Alumni: 26,000+

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# These Hands Don't Hurt

## Supports Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October 1981 saw the “Day of Unity” conceived by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Over the following six years the “Day of Unity” evolved into a week, and October 1987 marked the inaugural Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Alpha Kappa Lambda recognizes that sexual assault is a serious problem on college campuses and believes that it can be fought through education, service, and philanthropic projects.

The first These Hands Don't Hurt event was held in the mid 90's at the Beta Zeta Chapter at East Tennessee State. The event was quickly adopted by the National Fraternity and was officially established as AKL's National Philanthropy in 1996. Since then, chapters have tailored the event to their campuses and communities, finding creative ways to offer support. The hallmark of These Hands Don't Hurt is the “Promise Wall.”



(Above) Gamma Gamma Chapter at Rutgers State University.

(Left) Beta Tau Chapter at Southern Illinois State University raised over \$450 and 280 articles of clothing that were donated to a local women's shelter.

While a Promise Wall can take many physical forms, the fundamental idea of the Promise Wall is that advocates take the pledge against domestic violence and sexual assault by pledging their hands will not be used to harm another.

Advocates can take the pledge and physically add their “hand” to the Promise Wall in a number of ways. Paper hands can be traced and cut out prior, where advocates add their signature or words of support before attaching to the wall. If your campus allows washable paint, hands can be

painted and stamped onto the Promise Wall. Pro-tip: have latex gloves and wet wipes on hand for easier clean-up.

A Promise Wall should be displayed on campus or in the community. It can be part of an existing structure such as a wall or window in a public building on campus. Or a free-standing wall constructed by the chapter with materials like ply-board. Other options include banners, posters, or tri-folds that are transported easier.

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## THESE HANDS DON'T HURT **CONTINUED**

In addition to a Promise Wall, chapters should focus on awareness, volunteering, and donating funds.

Chapters should include education with their Promise Wall by having literature/resources available. It's not always about raising the funds for a big check but starting the conversation and having correct information to share. Spread the word, encourage others to take the pledge.

Service events can be done by volunteering at a shelter, hotline, or other organization that needs hands-on assistance. Contact your campus health/wellness center to see if they have any upcoming events they need volunteers for. It may not always be the most glamorous role, but they need assistance in promoting, setting up, and running events.

While service is about donating your time, philanthropy is about raising funds. Donations can be collected in exchange for adding a handprint to the Promise Wall or as an optional

contribution to their participation. Or partner with a local business to start a fundraiser. Be transparent with where money collected will be donated. Contact the organization you intend to donate to and invite a speaker or representative to your event.

These Hands Don't Hurt does not end with October. Continue to support survivors and give back all year long.

*(Top Right) Lambda Chapter at Emporia State University raised over \$800 this year from their annual Date Auction. All proceeds were donated to SOSKansas, whose goal is to improve the lives of those impacted by sexual and domestic violence, child abuse and neglect.*

*(Bottom Right) Gamma Alpha Chapter at the University of Missouri partner with the women of Alpha Chi Omega to support True North, a comprehensive domestic and sexual violence victim service program that provides all victims with safe housing, advocacy, and support.*



# Pig Skin Pass Off

## Sigma Chapter at the University of Central Missouri

Since 2012, brothers of Sigma Chapter at the University of Central Missouri have hosted their annual “Pig Skin Pass Off” event. The week before UCM’s family weekend, the chapter walks one of the upcoming game footballs from the opponent’s campus back home to Warrensburg, Missouri.

This year, brothers walked over 118 miles from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. There are usually three to five brothers who volunteer to walk each day, and volunteering is open to all chapter members. In addition to collecting monetary pledges on campus from brothers, family, and friends, the chapter was able to raise over \$1,000.

All funds are donated to the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, one of Alpha Kappa Lambda’s National Philanthropies. The cause has a more personal connection to Sigma Chapter brothers because one of the chapter’s Founding Fathers when rechartering battles the disease.

Cystic Fibrosis is not a very common or well known disease that affects the lungs, pancreas, and other organs. It is a progressive, genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time. Sigma Chapter chooses to walk these long distances to raise awareness for those living with cystic fibrosis who cannot do the same.

*(Top Right) A few of the Sigma Chapter brothers who volunteered to walk for the “Pig Skin Pass Off.”*

*(Bottom Right) Sigma Chapter brothers after a long 118 mile walk from Topeka, KS back to UCM in Warrensburg, MO.*



*(Right) Alpha Zeta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University and their loved ones during Family Weekend.*



*(Bottom Left) A few brothers from Delta Chapter at the University of Kansas celebrating Dad's Weekend*

*(Bottom Right) Gamma Lambda Chapter at Temple University welcomed back families and alumni for a Parent/Alumni tailgate.*



# Dwight Dawson

## Eta Chapter '66 – Washington State University

*"I have always used my middle name Dwight"* says Donald Dwight Dawson. "Which I don't recommend because it confuses the government." The Eta Chapter Alum sat down with InsideAKL to discuss life, career, and a big wedding anniversary.

### **Donald please tell us how you found and joined AKL at Washington State University?**

"From small-town Anacortes, Washington, I applied only to Washington State University and was accepted to begin in the Fall of 1965. My girlfriend's big brother, John Swenson, had recruited me to pledge AKL, which I did after just a few weeks in a dorm. Initiation was a fun experience, the good-natured character building concluded with a strong sense of belonging."

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

"Being House Manager was developmental for me for the organizing and discipline that it required. And it also enabled a relationship with our House Cook Toni who taught me large scale cooking and how to properly prepare heads of lettuce for salads. I also got to know cleaning chemicals, bathroom fixtures, showers, laundry washers, and dryers and ironing boards more than I could have later on. As a Senior, I served as Vice-President of the house with President Jim Peters, who was also in our wedding party."

### **What other organizations were you involved in on campus?**

"As a Freshman, I was in the WSU Marching Band and was cast in theatre productions. As a Sophomore, I was tapped by the WSU Yell Squad which occasionally traveled with the football and basketball teams. The Squad had tremendous gymnastic maneuvers some of which I could do. The Around-the-World stunt with the



*Dwight Dawson and his wife Candace Swenson Dawson.*

lady partner flying all around me and finally flipping over onto the field was my favorite. I never dropped her once. Doing continuous backflips the length of the field I could not do."

### **Overall, what was your college experience like?**

"Paying for college was a challenge since there was no family financial support. My summer earnings and a 'National Defense Student Loan' was supplemented with a small salary and free meals as sorority Houseboy (kitchen help and server) at Alpha Omega Pi and Alpha Gamma Delta. Aside from the financial challenge, another motivator for getting through college was my Draft Number and

the Viet Nam Conflict that was raging large in those years."

### **What was your college major and degree and did you enjoy college?**

"The degree I completed was a B.S. in Psychology although I heavily weighted Business Administration courses. Securing a good job with that degree was worrisome but I was fortunate to land a Human Resources job with Texaco, Inc. at a refinery in Casper, Wyoming. Networking with the father of another Eta Brother, Tom Atkins, made that first job interview possible."

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## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT **CONTINUED**

"After 3 years, I moved on to Miles Laboratories, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio as Personnel Manager at an imitation-meat (Morningstar Farms) research and production plant. After 7 years there and wanting to move West again, I was hired by Conoco, Inc. to be Plant Personnel Manager at the Billings, Montana Refinery."

"After 3 years I was promoted to the same role at the largest Conoco Refinery, in Oklahoma. Just two and half years later I was transferred to the top HR job for the Domestic Refining Department, and moved to Houston, Texas."

"After 14 years with Conoco, I started my own firm, Kulshan Consulting, and specialized in team development, executive development and leadership training."

"My final year of work was as an embedded Team Consultant for a 250 member Chevron Oil Team assigned to build a \$43 Billion gas plant in Australia. My retirement now

includes a lot of cycling (now mostly on an e-bike), some racquetball and continuous learning as an oil painter."

**We know this is a big year for you and your family, your 50th Wedding Anniversary! Tell us how and when you met your wife and about your family.**

"My wife, Candy Swenson, is a Kappa Delta and lived a few doors away from the AKL House. I actually knew her in high school but dated others at WSU. We were married the August after my graduation, and the rest is history. My wife's wisdom, stubbornness, loyalty and other strengths have made our long marriage possible. Huge for us has been having a sense of humor about most everything. Our only son is a high school teacher; he and his family now live in our Houston neighborhood. Having a very smart 4 year old granddaughter just 6 doors away is more than we dreamed of."

*Continued on next page...*

*(Right) The newlyweds in their first apartment in Casper, Wyoming, 1969.*

*(Below) WSU's 1967 Yell Squad. Dwight (2nd Row, 2nd from left) and Eta Chapter Brother, John Swenson (front center) was Yell King and now Dwight's Brother in Law.*



"We held an Open House in August to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. It was a wonderful event, with 71 attendees; that made us feel most wealthy in Friends. They have been a large part of our success in marriage, wherever we have lived."

"In December, to continue the celebration, we will spend a week in Los Cabos, Mexico with Brother John Swenson and his wife of 51 years. (John is my AKL Brother and my wife's brother.) The two of them helped us celebrate our 1st anniversary in San Francisco and Napa Valley."

**What is your fondest AKL memory?**

"My time at WSU and becoming an AKL was the very best preparation I could have had to accomplish all that I did. How could I learn so much and have so much fun at the same time?"

"Brother John Swenson was a few years my senior at the Eta House. I knew him a little in high school but

benefited greatly from his model in college. He prompted me to do things that I, on my own, would not have attempted. Trying out for the Yell Squad and getting involved in Fraternity leadership and a variety of campus activities are examples of his urging. I later served on the WSU Activities Board that brought in Peter, Paul and Mary and Kenny Rogers and the First Edition, among others."

**What advice do you have for college men joining AKL as new members of established chapters or recolonized chapters?**

"My advice to new members of our Fraternity is to be bold, get involved and stay true to your values and those of AKL. Remember that its very difficult to learn anything when your mouth is flapping, listen a lot! Do not hesitate to take action to protect the House from the wrong-path actions that can do so much damage to the Fraternity, the Greek system and yourself. The benefits of being an AKL are so

substantial they must not be damaged by the selfish and mindless actions of a very few."

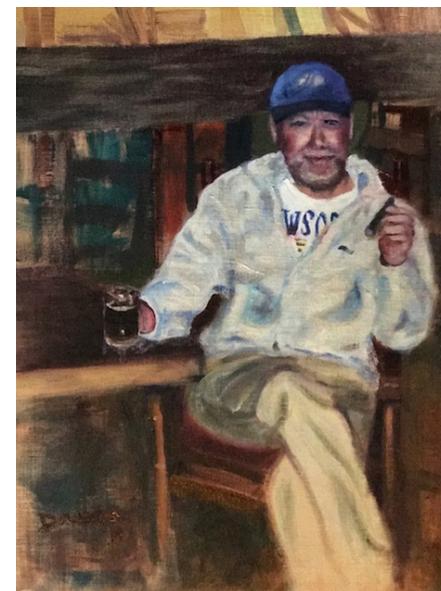
**What advice do you have for a young college graduate looking at his first position out of college?**

"Trust your instincts, be aggressive and have confidence in the education and leadership skills you have acquired. Stay close with your Brothers and help them as you can."

"Life is great, but my new favorite quote is 'I never knew growing old would happen so fast.'"

*Thank you Dwight for taking the time to sit down and chat with us! If any readers have an alumni they'd like to see featured in a future issue, please email [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org)*

*(Top Right) An oil paint self-portrait done by Dwight.*





*(Left) Chi Chapter at California University of Pennsylvania remain back to back CalU intramural champions with another undefeated season.*

*(Bottom Left) Gamma Lambda Chapter at Temple University ran the field after their game against Georgia Tech.*

*(Bottom Right) Psi Chapter at Iowa State University celebrate another win at their intramural football game.*



# Planning Your Social

## Being Smart With Halloween Themes

*When planning an event, the organization and members should consider two areas when developing a theme:*

**Prevention:** Prevention is the action of stopping something from happening or arising. While a party, mixer or Halloween event is intended to be fun; careful thought needs to be put into the theme and expectations of members and guests in the planning phase.

**Cultural Appropriation:** Cultural appropriation is the adoption of certain elements from another culture without the consent of people who belong to that culture. When leaders take the time to think through event planning in compliance with the risk management policy of the organization and determine a theme that is culturally appropriate, you are on the path to a great event!

So, please stop, plan, and think!

**Event themes should NOT be disrespectful or degrading to any person or population. When selecting a theme, make sure it:**

- Does NOT rely on the stereotypes of certain groups.
- Does NOT encourage offensive dress or costumes.
- Does NOT stereotype men or women.
- Is NOT sexist. If you're unsure, try interchanging the word/theme with a racial word/theme.
- Is NOT centered on making fun of a particular group of people, culture, or organization.
- Does NOT lend itself to members, new members, or guests taking the theme to a place that is disrespectful or degrading



## All Fun, No Foul: Creative Yet Inoffensive Party Themes

While any theme can go wrong, below are some of the better themes that can assist your organization in the brainstorming and prevention planning process.

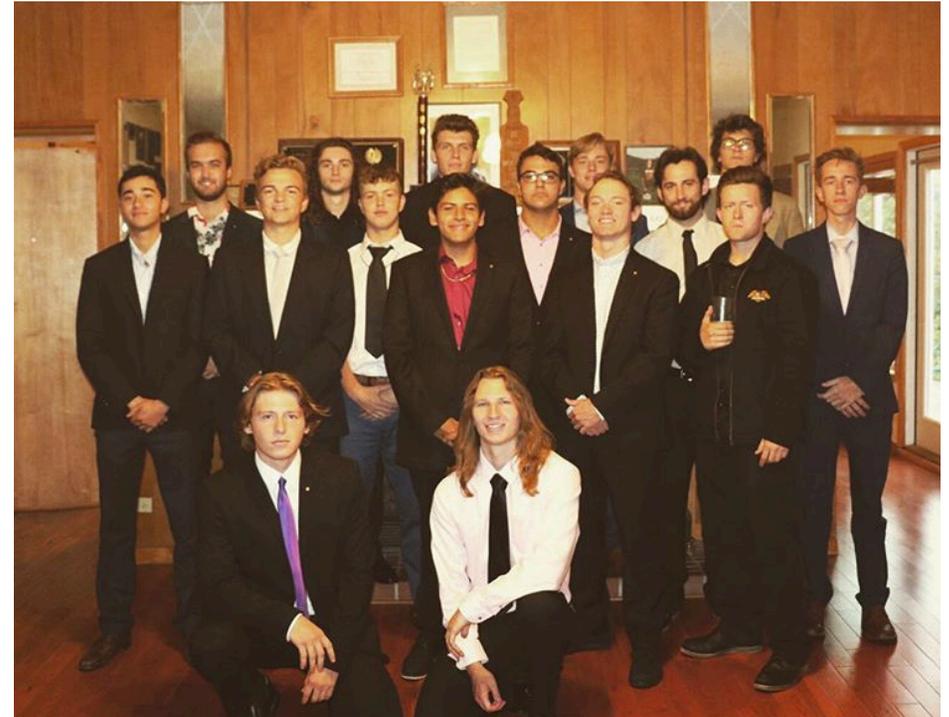
- Thrift Store
- Emoji
- Heroes and Villains
- Disco Party
- Decade themes
- Mardi Gras
- Toga
- Famous Couples
- Winter Wonderland
- Safari
- Rodeo
- Movie themes
- Casino Night / Viva Las Vegas
- Castaway/Shipwrecked
- Sporting event themes
- Pirates of the Caribbean
- Party like a Rock Star
- Once Upon a Time (fairy tales)
- Fire and Ice
- Outer Space/Aliens
- Movie Premiere (Red Carpet)
- Under the Sea
- Grayscale or Specific Color
- Olympics
- March Madness/Jerseys
- Down in the Denim/Jarty Party
- When I Grow Up
- Blacklight/Glow in the Dark
- Ugly Sweater
- Roaring 20s
- Alice in Wonderland
- Four Seasons
- Carnival or Circus
- Prom Party
- Board Game Bash
- Talent Show



*(Top Left) The brothers of Alpha Zeta Chapter at Northwest Missouri State University enjoyed nice weather during their highway cleanup event.*



*(Bottom Left) Psi Chapter at Iowa State University join the women of Alpha Chi Omega at their Pizzapalooza.*



*(Top Right) Brothers of Alpha Phi Chapter at the University of Idaho were collectively awarded over \$1,500 for last semester GPA's.*



*(Bottom Right) Brothers of Gamma Omicron Chapter at Dalton State College practice Recruitment 365 by tabling on campus.*

# Brotherly Bonding

## Find new ways to engage members

*From year to year, it may feel like your chapter is repeating the same brotherhood events. While building tradition is important and unique to every campus, chapters may also find benefit from trying something new. Here are a few ideas to engage initiated brothers and new members from our insurance partners at Holmes Murphy's list of ["101 Non-Hazing Activities for New Members."](#)*

- Host a speaker from the campus library to provide information regarding effective research
- Hold a discussion regarding membership standards and expectations
- Participate and attend regional and national leadership programming of the Fraternity
- Participate and attend local leadership programming of the University/College
- Utilize case studies on hazing and risk management to discuss positive methods of development and additional alternatives
- Write a letter to the founders
- stating your thoughts of the organization, make a copy for yourself
- Write a letter to a mentor thanking them for their guidance and leadership
- Write a letter to yourself to be mailed in two months or upon a major event stating your goals, aspirations, thoughts, feels, and hopes for continued development
- Conduct an executive board meeting with open and encouraged attendance of chapter members
- Conduct a joint meeting of the chapter executive board and the new member class officers
- Host/sponsor the University/College president to speak about the campus and his/her role and understanding of the Greek community
- Host/sponsor a speaker from the University/College career development/planning center
- Host/sponsor a faculty or alumni advisor recognition dinner
- Create and develop an event with a non-Greek organization
- Host/sponsor CPR and FIRST AID certification for all members of the chapter
- Host/sponsor a city council representative and/or Mayor to speak to the chapter
- Encourage members to register to vote
- Host/sponsor a financial advisor to discuss credit and personal finances
- Produce an educational project researching the founding and evolution of the organization
- Facilitate a discussion of Ritual and Initiation during chapter meeting. Ask what Ritual means to members and how it applies to everyday life.
- Host/sponsor a domestic abuse speaker with another organization on campus
- Develop and create an alternative spring break program for all members
- Recognize positive contributions to the chapter from alumni members, parents and volunteers
- Recognize the positive contributions of 1 member in each class year
- Encourage members who attend local, regional and national leadership programming to provide testimonials and speak of their experiences

*If your chapter has any special brotherhood events or traditions you would like to share with other chapters, please email [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org)*

# CLARK-THOMPSON PRESIDENTS' ACADEMY



## & Officers' Institute

The Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda proudly provides annual training for incoming chapter presidents and officers every January. The Clark-Thompson Presidents' Academy is generously supported via a grant from the AKL Education Foundation. In 2007, the Mu Chapter Alumni Corporation decided to graciously support the AKL Education Foundation and this program specifically through an endowment in honor of two of their alumni, Dean Clark and Harry Thompson. The Officers' Institute was added in 2014 in an effort to train and develop effective leaders in the chapter.

Training tracks are offered for the following: Chapter President, Treasurer, Recruitment Chair, and Vice President/Risk Manager. All officer elections should be completed and reported no later than December 4, 2019. All registrations must be completed by Wednesday, December 11, 2019.

More information and registration can be found online at [www.AKL.org](http://www.AKL.org)

**\$0**

**Chapter President**

Cost of President to attend are covered by the AKL Education Foundation

Cost of Officer to attend are billed to the chapter after Officers' Institute

Meals Included: Friday Dinner, Saturday Lunch & Dinner

Hotel Reservation Included: 1 Room per Chapter

Travel costs to Carmel, IN must be covered by the Chapter

**WHEN?**

**January 17 - 19, 2020**

**WHERE?**

**Renaissance Hotel : Carmel, Indiana**

**WHO?**

### **Clark - Thompson Presidents' Academy Attendees**

- All newly elected Chapter Presidents are required to attend.
- In order to be eligible and serve as Chapter President, that member must be able to attend Presidents' Academy.
- Any second term Presidents may be invited to Presidents' Academy pending approval from the National Headquarters. Please let the National Headquarters know if you plan on running for a second term.
- Any Colony Presidents will be invited to attend pending the completion, submission, and approval of their Chartering Petition.

### **Officers' Institute Attendees**

- All newly elected Chapter Treasurers are strongly encouraged to attend.
- All newly elected Recruitment Chairs are strongly encouraged to attend.
- All newly elected Vice-Presidents or Risk Managers are strongly encouraged to attend.
- A "Proof of Attendance" letter can be provided to any attendee if needed for an excused absence if requested for a teacher/professor.

# *National Conclave 2020*

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA



## *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!**