

The Phi Kappa

Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho

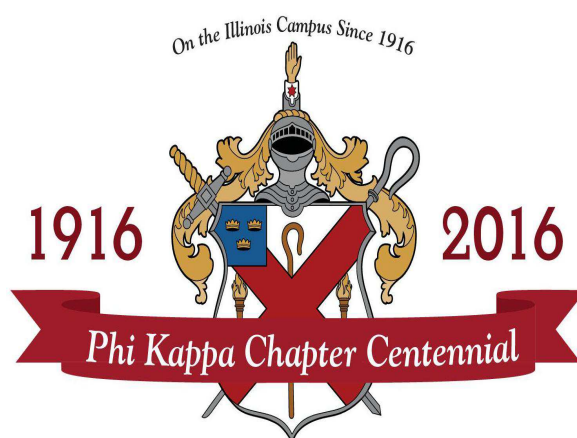
News

Centennial Celebration Edition

The Phi Kappa Building Association extends a big “Thanks” to everyone who attended the Centennial Celebration on June 10th and 11th and made it a fantastic success!

Many of you traveled great distances to be with us in Champaign to Celebrate our Centennial. We appreciate your efforts to be with us at the Chapter House BBQ and the Feast of the Fraternity on Saturday evening. It was great to see everyone and to catch up. It was a much more relaxed atmosphere than it tends to be for Homecoming.

That said, we will be planning on a larger crowd for this year's Homecoming than we have had in recent years. Many Brothers said that they plan to be at this year's Centennial Homecoming Celebration. We hope to see many of you who couldn't join us on June 11th on October 29th. Who knows, we may even have a football team worth watching this year! At any rate, there will likely be a tailgate party or two to attend. If you're planning on trekking in for the weekend and setting up a tailgate party near the stadium, please share with us those plans and we will pass it along to other Brothers.



Annual Meeting Set

The Annual Meeting of the Phi Kappa Building Association will be held on August 20, 2016 at 1:00 PM at the Chapter House, 311 E Armory, Champaign, IL 61820. Business includes election of 2 Directors for a four year term and approval of a restatement of the Association's Bylaws. For more information, contact the Secretary at www.illinicrows@gmail.com or write to 816 Dennison Drive, Champaign, IL 61820.

Phi Kappa and Life, Through the Eyes of a Marine

By Brian R. Bland, Phi Kappa, '63

As an AXP Postulant in 1946, following orders and obeying the rules wasn't too tough for Chuck Schunk. He already had survived some of World War II's fiercest battles in the Pacific.

Joining the Phi Kappa Chapter at age 24, Schunk found many veterans among the forty-five Crows, but he was the only ex-Marine in his twenty-member pledge class.

“More than half the house might have been vets,” recalled Schunk, now 94. “Many of us were 24 to 28 years old.”

Although the Chicago-area native initially had no plans to join a fraternity, his brother Frank – fifteen years his elder -- had been a Crow at Illinois, graduating in 1928.

“The GI Bill got me into Illinois,” Schunk explained. “I enjoyed meeting the guys (at AXP) and I realized the costs would be about the same as living in the dorms.”

Once aboard, Schunk worked without stopping. He took classes all year 'round, became Chapter President, played varsity tennis, won the All-University Table Tennis championship, played on intramural teams, majored in Commerce and graduated in 1948 – all in just over two years!

Like many Phi Kappa alums, Schunk clearly remembers bunking in the frigid third-floor dorm. His uniform was “long johns, a couple of sweatshirts, a ski cap and all the blankets you could find.”

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For The Next Hundred Years!

Laying the Foundation for Phi Kappa's 2nd Century

Excerpts from Building Association's Board Report at the Feast of the Fraternity Banquet

Our Proud History From our founding 100 years ago as the Phi Kappa Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho on the University of Illinois campus in Champaign, Crows have been at the heart of Greek life at Illinois. With more than 1,100 Brothers initiated, the Phi Kappa Chapter has influenced the lives of numerous men, cultivating lasting friendships in the process. Many of our best college memories are linked to our AXP experiences.

Our Brothers have gone on to successful and distinguished careers in business, engineering, technology, entertainment, medicine and countless other endeavors throughout the globe. With our common bond of Brotherhood we sought to enhance the lifelong intellectual, moral and social development of our members through the guidance of our Landmarks.

We not only learned the importance of friendship, knowledge, service, morality, character, teamwork and excellence, but also acquired valuable leadership, organizational, and social skills that serve us to this day. Oftentimes, these traits have been integral to our personal success and shaped us into the men we are today.

This year, we celebrate the Centennial of the Phi Kappa Chapter and its 29 Founding Brothers. A Brotherhood that has endured for more than a century. Our Brotherhood is a special connection that was built during our time spent in the Chapter House at 311 East Armory, our home away from home.

But for Phi Kappa to remain competitive and continue our legacy **For The Next Hundred Years**, we must build upon this foundation to ensure the success of future generations of Phi Kappa Brothers and the Chapter's continued presence on the Illinois campus.

Our Challenges

A Changing College Environment Fraternity life on campus is fundamentally different from what most of us experienced. No freshman rush and pledging. No pledges living in the House. No cook. No served or formal meals. No open air dorms. Most Brothers live outside the House. And those that choose to live in the House generally only stay for a year or two, then move into apartments. Students, and their parents, have many more housing options including updated university residence halls and modern apartments and suites.

A Challenging Legal Environment Increased scrutiny by University, local law enforcement agencies and injured parties make an effective and enforced Risk Management program paramount in today's environment. Social media and smartphone cameras make almost every student activity a public and documented event. A recent incident at the Chapter House involving alcohol and an injury caused the Chapter's University Recognition to be suspended and exposed the Chapter and its individual residents to legal and financial liability.

Restoring Old Traditions, Discipline and Respect The past couple of decades have been difficult ones for Phi Kappa Chapter and the Chapter House. First, the Chapter became inactive in 1995 and when the Chapter was re-colonized 2003 it was like starting from scratch. With no older, experienced Brothers as examples, new Undergrad Brothers were left to find their way. Many cherished traditions were not passed on and thus, lost. Often, more experienced adult advice and guidance was lacking. Important social niceties were neglected and respect for Chapter property and cleanliness were not universally observed.

An Aging House Ninety-four years ago, just six short years after the founding of the Phi Kappa Chapter, our Chapter House at 311 East Armory was completed. A bargain: \$56,000 including the lot. At the time, the most expensive Chapter House among the AXP Chapters.

Since 1922 it has been the centerpiece of Phi Kappa Chapter life and the place most Phi Kappa Brothers have called home at the University of Illinois. Until the recent modifications required for code compliance, the House had undergone only minor renovations since being built.



**A Testament To Our Past.
A Legacy For Our Future.**

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As you'll recall, when the Chapter suspended its on-campus presence in 1995, the Chapter House was vacated. Without the income from undergraduate residents and with limited financial reserves, the Phi Kappa Building Association (the non-profit corporation that actually owns the Chapter House) found it financially necessary to lease the House to an unrelated fraternity for 8 years. They were not good stewards of our Greek Landmark House and our House suffered from vandalism and neglect.

So, when the Phi Kappa Chapter was re-colonized in 2003 and undergraduate Brothers once again occupied the House, the Building Association began to repair and update the House and it's been playing catch up since. First a new roof, then new windows, then the City code compliance issues requiring sprinklers throughout, new fire doors, corridors, areas of rescue on each floor and a second means of egress from the second and third floors. Then many smaller projects arose, some very sorely needed, like the plumbing upgrades (cabinets, sinks, valves and drain replacements), main stairway rebuild, new second floor carpet squares, card room, landing and dining table sanding and refinishing projects, emergency shower repair and sump pump replacement. The cost to legally and safely remain in the House while retaining the House's status as a Greek Landmark on campus cost nearly \$400,000 and necessitated taking out a short term balloon note mortgage of \$152,564 due in July 2018.

Our Chapter House in Champaign is now in compliance with the city building code that is required of all fraternity houses. It has been a struggle to gain compliance with twists and turns that made the effort take longer and cost more than anticipated. The city code compliance supervisor became a bit impatient with us and the university folks were beyond impatient. However, Phi Kappa is now in full compliance and preparing to begin its second hundred years here at the University of Illinois.

Our Chapter House is the heart of Crow fraternal life at Illinois and a public representation of the fraternity's Brotherhood. But today, Phi Kappa faces significant challenges from other fraternities, university residence halls and modern apartment style campus housing. Students and their parents demand more for their housing dollars as they expect more space, privacy, and amenities. No more sleeping in common cold room dorms or having just two electrical outlets per room. Global warming or not, air conditioning has become the norm. Other fraternities on campus are in the midst of or have completed major projects already. Phi Kappa needs to offer amenities similar to other living facilities while charging comparable room rates to attract quality young men who share our vision of excellence.

The House has survived decades of intense fraternal use. However, the years have taken their toll. After 94 years, many of our house components are well past or nearing the end of their expected life or have been significantly overcome by newer technology. The Chapter House is becoming less competitive, more costly to operate, and does not provide the quality living environment expected by collegians and their parents. We must offer a safe and structurally sound House for our resident Brothers that instills confidence in our resident Brothers and their parents.

Thus, we believe that a major investment in our Chapter house may well be needed to best serve the long-term future of the Phi Kappa Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho at the University of Illinois.

Because today, perhaps more than ever, we believe college fraternities such as Alpha Chi Rho, can still play a relevant role in shaping the lives of young men. The Chapter House can provide a small-group living environment that offers our Brothers a solid foundation for their education and also affords opportunities for the development of leadership and social skills.

Our Needs

To Protect Our Reputation And Minimize Our Liabilities, we need to implement and enforce a comprehensive and effective Chapter Risk Management program.

To Assure Continuous Adherence To Fraternity Standards And Our Risk Management Policies, we need to retain a live-in Resident Advisor and to provide suitable living accommodations for him in the House.

To Provide Financial Stability And Resources, we need to retire the Chapter House balloon note mortgage and begin rebuilding the Phi Kappa Building Association's necessary financial reserves.

To Impart The AXP History, Traditions And Ideals That Identify Phi Kappa Brothers, we need to initiate an ongoing mentoring program for our undergraduate Brothers.

To Provide A Safe And Efficient Chapter House For Our Undergraduate Brothers, we need to make our Chapter House meet and exceed the needs and expectations of today's students, and their parents, for safety, comfort, and affordability.

Our Plans

To Begin Communicating With The Alumni Brothers On A More Regular Basis. To seek your advice and counsel, and yes, your financial support, to help guide and sustain Phi Kappa.

To Reexamine House Finances Analyze what we charge House residents vs. actual expenses; review our Resident Brother lease terms; institute security deposits for damages, etc. ***Continued on Next Page***

To Develop, Communicate, Implement And Enforce A Comprehensive Chapter Risk Management Program to protect the Chapter's reputation, status on campus, and its property.

To Retain A Live-in Resident Advisor to assure full compliance with Alpha Chi Rho's ideals and adherence with the Chapter's Risk Management program.

To Ensure That The House Is Kept Clean And Neat through Brother work programs and resident paid cleaning services.

To Seek Additional Graduate Brother Financial Support First to retire the Chapter House balloon note mortgage; then to begin rebuilding the Phi Kappa Building Association's necessary financial reserves; and finally to provide for future House repairs, upgrades, renovations and improvements.

To Establish A Facilities Committee Of Alumni Brothers who are experienced in the fields of architecture, engineering, construction, and finance to oversee future repairs, renovations and improvements to our Chapter House. We expect that it will begin with a thorough engineering study of the Chapter House to document the condition of the structure and its operating systems with an estimate of the efficiency and remaining service life of each component. It will also review and document all City and University building, fire code and zoning requirements and restrictions on our landmark structure. It will analyze the needs and expectations of tomorrow's students and their parents. It will explore heating, cooling and electrical system upgrades to improve the Chapter's energy efficiency and reduce utility expenses.

Our Commitment

Your Phi Kappa Building Association, through its nine Officers and elected Members, is committed to **Laying the Foundation for Phi Kappa's 2nd Century.** But we need every Brother's help to assure success. From some, we will ask for their professional time and expertise. From others we will ask that they assist in mentoring our newest Brothers through visits, letters, stories, and occupational guidance. From all we will seek financial support.



Veteran?

If you are a Veteran, please let us know so we can include you in our Veteran's' Day salute.

Just send a short email to:

illinicrows@gmail.com with your name and Class.



Phi Kappa and Life, Through the Eyes of a Marine

At that time, and for decades afterward, city fire regulations required the third-floor windows to be open.

Did the hardened military veterans laugh at the Fraternity's rules for dining, studying or general conduct?

Just the opposite. "If you didn't measure up you got 'further instruction' from a former Infantry captain -- a tough guy," Schunk said.

Study hours were strictly enforced. "From 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. you could've heard a pin drop," he recalled.

"There was no alcohol in the house, even when we had parties," Schunk stated, adding: "I fined one man fifty dollars for breaking the rule." (That's \$500.00 in today's money).

"We wore suits and ties for evening meals, Monday through Thursday and on Sunday," he said. He rated the food, from the female cook, as "fair."

Despite the formality, however, no fines were levied for bad language during meals. Why? "Our second language was 'Marine Corps,'" Schunk joked. "Not bad, exactly, but sometimes people could really cut loose."

In addition, "Friday was a casual night when you could really open up, and sing dirty songs," (a tradition that went on for decades).

"We had a bit of hazing," Schunk acknowledged, "but I eliminated some of it when I was president." Of course, the pledges sometimes got revenge. We'd dig a hole, fill it with water and throw seniors in," Schunk explained. "It had to be planned well -- almost a military operation." One victim was the former Infantry captain mentioned earlier, "but he nearly fought off four of us before we could get him tied up and into the mud bath."

One effect of having a campus full of returning veterans, Schunk said, is that the male to female ratio among students was about seven-to-one. His academic and athletic schedule, along with a tight budget, kept his socializing to a minimum, but he does remember the Crows serenading sororities.

One of Schunk's fondest memories from his forty-year management career is building The Racket Club in Crystal Lake, IL, which he ran for a decade, blending his love of business and tennis. The club is still open. After spending six decades in the Chicago area and three more in San Diego, Schunk moved to Georgia four years ago to be near his three grandchildren. At 94, he still drives -- and still teaches tennis, as he has for 44 years.

But sometimes, as part of his legacy for his family, he lets his mind travel back to his pre-college days, and he writes about those lush and violent Pacific islands -- Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Okinawa.



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illinicrows@gmail.com

Tradition Revived

To begin the Chapter's 2nd Century at Illinois, Brother Russell Weisbard, Class of 1997, revived a House tradition when he presented Alejandro Gonzalez, the 2016-2017 Resident Chapter President, with a garnet and pearl AXP Badge.




The Badge is a gift of Brother Moore, Class of 1936, which has been passed down from the retiring Chapter President to the incoming President. But the tradition was lost when the Chapter went inactive in the 1990's. Brother Weisbard has been safekeeping the Badge almost 20 years waiting for the right opportunity to pass it on. And the Feast of the Fraternity, marking Phi Kappa's 100 years on campus, was the perfect opportunity.



Congratulations

2016 Graduates



Taylor DeSanto
Tyler Kamp
Kevin Letterly
Mike McGinn
Matthew Reardon
Jackson Shedlebower

Phi Kappa Centennial Commemorative Coins Available

You'll treasure these heavy weight coins and their brilliant colors. Order today while supplies last.



Just \$20 for the first coin, \$12 for each additional coin mailed to the same address. Two coins mounted on a plaque make a great addition for your office or den. Make your check payable to: **Phi Kappa Building Association** and mail to 816 Dennison Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 with your name and address.



1918 Paddle



Impromptu Auction



Memorabilia



Ken Chapel National President



Dining Line



