



The Phi Kappa

Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho

News

RECHARTERING UPDATE!

The Re-Chartering Committee has been leading the charge to get the Phi Kappa Chapter re-started once again in its glory on the University of Illinois campus!

The re-chartering work started in November of 2019 when, at the Building Association's annual meeting, the Brothers voted to approve a committee to investigate what was necessary to get AXP back on campus. Since then, the Re-chartering Committee has been hard at work with the University, AXP National, the Phi Kappa graduate brothers and the Building Association formulating and executing on that goal...recolonization.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday August 7, 2021

Summer Party at the House!
Come join us to celebrate Alpha Chi Rho's 100th Birthday!

All brothers are welcome to join the Board of Directors for the Annual Building Association meeting to review our ambitious plans to renovate and rejuvenate the Phi Kappa Chapter. 10am – 5pm house tours available and dinner will be served 6pm.

Stay tuned for more details!

Phi Kappa News

PHI KAPPA BROTHER SPOTLIGHT – DR. BRIAN BRAUER, '94

On their recent Re-Chartering Committee trip to the University, Brother **Andrew Kosowsky (87)** and Brother **Brian Schmidt ('09)** had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Brian Brauer ('94). Dr. Brauer is an instrumental part of the University's management team and his outstanding work was a key factor in making the University a worldwide leader in providing a safe environment for students during this difficult year.



PHI KAPPA CROWS FIRST OFFICIAL VIRTUAL SOCIAL

Yes, Brothers, Phi Kappa has officially entered the modern, connected world...the Graduate Chapter hosted its first ever general Zoom call. Better yet, it was organized by Brother Vic Enchelmayer, '70...who dares say that you can't teach old Crows new tricks! Also, thank you to all the graduate brothers that attended, it was great seeing such a strong turnout.



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Phi Kappa: What is your current professional title, and what role did you play in the effort to combat the spread of COVID-19 at the University of Illinois this past year?

Dr. Brauer: Dr. Brian R. Brauer, Associate Director of the Illinois Fire Service Institute and Emergency Operations Center Manager for the University of Illinois. In February, Champaign County closed their emergency operations center (EOC) for renovations, so when the pandemic reached our shores, the EOC at the UI which I manage filled the role of supporting the emergency response for both the UI and the county. I worked alongside local fire, police, EMS, and public health leaders to manage the emergency aspects of the pandemic- closing the teaching portion of the UI while ensuring continuity of operations for housing, animal care and feeding, and critical research along with ensuring that local hospitals and first responders locally had the needed protective equipment. I worked with the bioprocessing lab at the UI to produce thousands of gallons of hand sanitizer, designed and ordered the face coverings for the UI (with the Brauer Strap™), and led the team to review and approve unit-level plans so they could return to campus. I created a program on how to keep yourself safe from the SARS-CoV-2 virus and delivered it virtually two dozen times. In August my team was tasked with standing up a program to ensure that persons were compliant with their saliva testing before they could be admitted to campus buildings. In December I was a part of the vaccination planning team, and for two months we ran the largest and first mass vaccination site in the state. Most recently my team and I have been reviewing departmental event plans for end-of-semester activities and summer camps to ensure they are as safe as reasonably practical.

Phi Kappa: What is something you have learned, or taken away, from the experience of getting thrust into such uncharted waters?

Dr. Brauer: The biggest takeaway- the ability to innovate and build relationships trumps any plans we had in place. The plans worked as a framework, but it was the relationships we had amongst the campus leadership which allowed us to pivot and swerve with every new wrinkle in the pandemic.

Phi Kappa: What is any advice you have for Phi Kappa as we prepare to return to campus this fall?

Dr. Brauer: It was the diversity of Phi Kappa as an undergrad which helped me think more inclusively throughout my career. The variety of majors, ethnicities, and worldviews was beneficial then, and keeping in touch with many of my brothers more recently helped me have respectful conversations with persons on campus who held different views than I did. It was these undergrad experiences in AXP which laid the foundation for my successful interactions with persons with differing viewpoints. My advice- collect stories from other alumni to help tell the story and sell the value of Being Men.

To Dr. Brauer, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with the Brotherhood and thank you for all your outstanding work in making the University a safer place. We're honored to have you in the bond.

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The call was on Saturday, January 23, 2021, and was attended by 35+ graduate brothers ranging in years from 1957 to 2015...that's seven decades of Brothers! The call consisted of five parts: a) explaining the overriding purpose of the call; b) an update on the Chapter House including a video tour; c) an update on the rechartering efforts to restart Phi Kappa at the University; d) a trivia contest; and e) breakout sessions for each decade.

The overriding purpose was to reconnect AXP and the Phi Kappa Chapter with its graduate brothers. In the fall of 2020, the Rechartering Committee decided to conduct a virtual event to serve as a re-connection point between the Brothers and the House. We also wanted it to be a way to build momentum and enthusiasm for the re-colonization efforts of the chapter.

Brother Brian Schmidt ('09) then gave an update on the Chapter House (now 100 years old) highlighted by his walk thru video. The House has changed a lot over the years, but the video brought back memories.

Brother Schmidt then provided an overview of the re-chartering efforts. He has led an intense effort to get the Chapter back in the University's good graces, off of perpetual probation and to the point where the Office of Greek Affairs has endorsed our return. A lot of hard work has been done and there is more hard work to come, but we are now on the path to bring AXP back to Urbana-Champaign.

Brother Enchelmayer then hosted a trivia contest with questions on AXP, the Phi Kappa Chapter and the University in general. Brothers actually remembered Crow history, the nicknames of House dances and rooms and that there is bulldozer buried under Memorial Stadium.

Finally, there were breakout sessions for Brothers from the various decades to get together and reminisce. Some connections had remained strong over the years and some were reconnected through the chat. It was good to get together and talk about old friends, good times and the House we called home.

Thank you all for being part of the Phi Kappa graduate chapter. For those of you that attended the call, thank you for taking the time to learn about what's happening right now. For those of you reading this, thank you for your interest. We look forward to seeing more of you on future calls and, when possible, at in-person events.

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PHI KAPPA BUILDING ASSOCIATION – SUMMER 2021 UPDATE

Any major updates from the Building Association?

In April the building association approved \$90k to support the rechartering committee's efforts. These funds will be essential early on as we work with the National Fraternity on finding founding fathers and hiring an onsite consultant. The building association is throwing its full support behind the committee with the goal of having the house leased to our new brothers starting Fall 2023.

Are there any planned projects for the house this summer?

Planned house projects for this summer include:

- (1) Creating 3 new large bedrooms in the dorm with heat and AC for those rooms (est. \$100k).
- (2) Replacing the full patio doors on the first floor, along with the basement door and front door (est. \$30k)
- (3) New hot water tank

Do we have any tenants for the Fall 2021 semester?

DKE has agreed to lease the house for another year which is great albeit with only 12 guys again due to reduced rush last year. Approximately \$55k in income to be realized this next year.

Phi Kappa News



Rechartering Committee “Refounding Fathers” Update

Greetings, Brothers! The Rechartering Committee has been making considerable efforts to prepare for our return to campus. Phi Kappa has gained University approval to begin on-campus recruiting in the Fall of 2021. Candidates for a full-time, on-campus expansion consultant (someone to be on-campus to help recruit, train and retain new brothers) are currently being identified and interviewed by the National Fraternity. More Graduate Brothers have recently come forward to help shore up the recently formed Graduate Chapter. The primary goals of the Graduate Chapter are to a) re-energize the Phi Kappa alumni base and b) support the future Undergraduate Brothers.

Our focus now is on recruiting young men to be the Refounding Fathers. We are looking for young men who have a friendly personality, maintain a positive outlook, want to make a difference and are willing to put in the work to make the re-chartered chapter a reality.

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Rechartering Committee “Refounding Fathers” Update (Cont’d)

The Rechartering Committee will be working with the University, National and on-campus expansion consultant to recruit, involve and retain this next wave of Phi Kappa brothers.

The University’s Office of Greek Affairs has suggested that having a small group in place at the start of the school year is likely to result in a quicker and more successful re-colonization process. If we can get a group of 5 or more Refounding Fathers lined up, they can apply to be a Registered Student Organization. This carries benefits including official university recognition and preference in obtaining meeting space. We are currently working on identifying and recruiting interested students.

How you can help in this effort? We need help identifying young men who might be interested in being one of the first members of the revived chapter. If you know any young men, either a current student or an incoming student (freshman or transfer) at or coming to the Champaign/Urbana campus, please consider them as new members in Alpha Chi Rho. These young men can be family members, a son of a friend or neighbor, or known to you through some other relationship/acquaintance (work, school, sports teams). Please send us an email at phikappagradschapter@gmail.com so that we can discuss it with you prior to reaching out to the young men.

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Rechartering Committee “Refounding Fathers” Update (Cont’d)

Another way you can help is by serving as a mentor for our new undergraduate brothers. If you are willing to be a Contact/Mentor in your professional field, please let us know. We would like to start compiling a list of Graduate Brothers who are willing to share their expertise and experiences with the next generation of Phi Kappa Crows. The time commitment for this should be low and would consist of occasional phone calls or emails with the assigned student. The goal is to just offer them some insight, guidance and support as they prepare for the professional world.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you in advance for any help you can provide!

In the Bond,

Brother **Andrew Kosowsky, '87**
Rechartering Committee



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PHI KAPPA BUILDING ASSOCIATION

Brothers – YOU can help in three (3) ways.

1. Contact the Building Association at

PhiKappaBuildingAssociation@gmail.com to:

- Learn more about becoming a Building Association Director
- Donate any memorabilia you'd like to see returned to 311 E. Armory
- Discuss contributing to any special projects, such as infrastructure repairs

2. Contact the Rechartering Initiative at PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com to:

- Learn more about how to help Phi Kappa return to Illinois
- Help guide the undergraduates to a continuously successful future
- Help engage alumni and bring us together in the spirit of Brotherhood

3. Contact the National Office at AlphaChiRho.org to:

- Update your contact information
- Learn how to re-engage with the fraternity at large
- Contribute to the Educational Foundation

You may donate by any of the following methods:

Mail your donation

Alpha Chi Rho - Phi Kappa Chapter, PO Box 103, Westmont, IL 60559

Paypal:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=K2437WYYDZ9YL

