



September 2022 Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter Newsletter

We're back!

Not just back on campus, we're back in the House!

Save the Date: Saturday, October 15, 2022 – Homecoming vs. Minnesota. Come down for the game and visit the AXP Chapter House!

Reminder! Please join the official Phi Kappa Facebook and LinkedIn Groups:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/7006013/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/168602433263416>

Official Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter email: PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com.

THE Phi Kappa Crows are back in 311 E. Armory!

Great news! As the Undergraduate Chapter, Hunter Santiago and the Graduate Chapter work diligently on assembling a fall pledge class, the Chapter is officially occupying 311 E. Armory. It's great showing the House off to potential postulants. Lots of work has already been done to the House (see Work Weekend below) and lots still needs to be done, but there are Brothers in the House. Come and visit at Homecoming!



Fall 2022 Rush Update

The Fall 2022 Rush is underway. Led by Brother Hunter Santiago, the Undergraduate is hard at work recruiting potential new members. Three have already signed up and the Chapter is working diligently to up that number. Stay tuned for future updates.

As a reminder that Rush is and always has been a team effort, please reach out to PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com if you know any students on campus this school year or next year. The Chapter is very interested in connecting with everyone we can. Whether those students are able and willing to join Phi Kappa, may know men who are interested in learning more about us, or could become allies that help us spread the word about the Chapter, we would love to get to know any contacts you have. Please let us know who you're in contact with on campus. Thanks Brothers!

Homecoming 2022

Homecoming is October 15, 2022 – Time to Come Home!

Now that AXP members are back in the house, it is time to come for the game and visit the Chapter House! The undergrads (yes, we have undergrads!!!) and many grads have worked hard getting the house back in shape. And like the Fighting Illini Football team, AXP is in the early stages of building something great. Come see for yourself.

To celebrate the Chapter's relaunch, we have the following planned at the house: BBQ on the front lawn immediately after the game (approximately 3:00 pm since game starts at 11:00 am).

We invite Brothers, spouses and families to stop by 311 E. Armory to see the Chapter House-- take a house tour, enjoy provided food/beverage, tell some old stories to our undergrads (exaggerating is ok!), and get reacquainted with old friends.

Please RSVP at the link below to help give us a rough idea on attendance:

[Illinois Homecoming 2022 \(google.com\)](#)

Still need a place to stay for the weekend? The house will have a very limited number of rooms available for a donation. We are still working out the details. If interested, please express your interest in the above link. We will contact you with more details.

For those of you who want to hang out at the house and watch the game, we will have the game on the Chapter's projector TV.

Please consider donating to the Graduate Chapter to help cover the costs of homecoming:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=THYQQVHRTMW9U

Adopt a Pledge

Please join the six Brothers who have already committed to the ADOPT A PLEDGE campaign. We're still looking for additional donors to help us reach our goal of covering the first year's dues of the Rechartering Class (each Postulant's first year dues will be around \$685). Please make your donation to [ADOPT A PLEDGE here](#).

Phi Kappa Building Association Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Phi Kappa Building Association was held on July 30, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Brother Kevin Anetsberger, President. Thirteen Brothers were in physical attendance. Four Brothers joined virtually through a Zoom call. Board members present were Kevin Anetsberger, Jacob Gamboa, Jason Luksis, Tim Bextel, and Randy Von Ryan. Board members not in attendance were Linc Hobson, Tom Fifer, and Jonathan Lippner.

President's Report (Recap) – Brother Kevin Anetsberger

- This upcoming fall AXP will have Phi Kappa undergraduates living in the house
- The Chapter is still exploring fund raising options
- Two projects upcoming: 1) finish upgrades to electrical system for better AC to the 2nd floor and 2) revisiting Phi Kappa Building Association bylaws for improvements
- Working on an inventory for what other accessories are needed for the house such as ritual equipment and recreational equipment

Vice Presidents Report (Recap) – Brother Tim Bextel

- Finished all financial items with DKE
- Refunded all security deposits to DKE
- Leases for undergrad brothers living in have been signed
- Using LegFi for lease payment system including security deposits

Treasurer's Report (Recap) – Brother Jason Luksis

- Overall, Phi Kappa received 4 years of rent from DKE
- Will have rent coming in this year from the AXP Undergraduates
- Due to the timing of Undergraduates, we probably be operating at loss this school year
- Recommendation is to ask AXP National for relief from some of our fraternity payments
- Still have a cash positive reserve
- Looking into revisiting formal fundraising effort now that we have some major recent accomplishments behind us
- Still have funds remaining from the generous donation of Brother Robert Weiss

Maintenance Report (Recap) – Brother Brad LaPayne

- Received quote to finish upgrades to electrical system for the AC on the 2nd floor
- Work was done to both North and South dorms
- Planning – a very long-term project is converting the main 3rd floor dorm to three individual rooms
- The boiler failed this past year on coldest day of the year, but has been fixed
- One window on the first floor is broken

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business – No New Business

The Board thanked Brother Brad LaPayne for his years of service to the Phi Kappa Building Association.

The following officers were elected:

President – Kevin Anetsberger

Vice President – Tim Bextel

Treasurer – Jason Luksis

Secretary – Tom Fifer

Graduate Chapter Annual Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter was held on July 30, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Brother Brian Schmidt, President. Thirteen Brothers were in physical attendance. Four Brothers joined virtually through a Zoom call. Board members present were, Brian Schmidt, Dean Camberis, Jonathon Binkley, Andy Kosowsky and Dale Marquart. Board members not present were Joe Zollner and Alex Kay.

President's Report (Recap) – Brother Brian Schmidt

- The Graduate Chapter accomplished a lot in its first year. The Rechartering Committee developed the By-Laws for the Graduate Chapter and got final approval from both the Building Association and National Fraternity. The Graduate Chapter secured Hunter to oversee the recolonization, worked alongside him throughout the fall semester to make the best of each challenge and opportunity we were presented with, hosted Homecoming, set up a regular communication schedule, and ended the semester with a plan for recruiting in the spring. We created the first nominating committee, which secured commitments from four Brothers to be nominated to serve on the Graduate Chapter. The Graduate Chapter hosted several events, both in

person and virtually, and reconnected with a lot of Brothers.

- Moving forward, the Graduate Chapter's focus is on sustaining the momentum we've built over the course of the first year. We have a plan for newsletters and social media posts to our Facebook and LinkedIn accounts to keep everyone informed of our activities. We intend to hold more events in collaboration with the National Fraternity's Events and Outreach Committee. We will be providing support to the Resident Colony as the Undergraduate Brothers transition away from operating under Hunter's leadership and into being self-reliant. We will engage the Graduate Brothers to continue filling the pipeline of volunteers for both new and sustaining activities.
- The Board is most excited in the opportunity to engage with the Graduate Brothers in order to learn how it can best serve the Phi Kappa alums. We're equally excited to build up support for the Resident men. The Rechartering Committee and the Graduate Chapter have put a lot of preparation into this year. We want to be able to help when called upon, but distant enough from the Resident men to ensure they have the same opportunities we did to lead, grow, and solve the difficult challenges they will face during their undergraduate years. We're not here to smother the Undergraduate Chapter as a "Helicopter Board" or tell them you how to do the things they will learn that they need to do. We are here to help, to brainstorm with, and to call in support - if we're able - when they ask.

Vice Presidents Report (Recap) – Brother Schmidt for Brother Joe Zollner

- The Graduate Chapter had three active committees.
- Pledge Class Champions Committee – Purpose is to connect/engage Graduate Brothers from related classes. Need to revitalize the effort and add new members to the Committee.
- Rechartering Initiative Committee – Purpose is to support the Undergraduate Chapter and Hunter Santiago through the recolonization process. Will revisit the Committee’s purpose as we move out of recolonization and into steady state.
- Nominating Committee – Purpose is to recruit the best-qualified candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Phi Kappa Building Association and Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter. The Vice President is the Committee chair with one member from the Phi Kappa Building Association (Brother Linc Hobson) and one member from the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter (Brother Vic Enchelmayer). The Committee recruits possible candidates and makes official recommendations prior to the annual meetings.
- Potential future committees include a Website Committee (purpose is to evaluate options and develop a Graduate Chapter website), a Mentoring Committee (purpose is to assist the Mentoring Director’s efforts to assist the Undergraduate Chapter), and an Events Committee (purpose is to assist the Events Director’s efforts regarding Graduate Chapter events). The Website Committee may morph into a more general Social Media Committee. These committees provide various opportunities for Graduate Brothers to make a positive contribution without

officially serving on the Graduate Chapter Board.

Treasurer’s Report (Recap) – Brother Dean Camberis

- Opened bank account and PayPal account for the Graduate Chapter
- Assisted with paying for the Phi Kappa Undergraduate Officers to go to the National Fraternity Conference
- Continuing with fundraising for any undergraduate needs and alumni events
- 7 Graduate Brothers have signed up for the Adopt a Pledge program – still looking for 5 more Graduate Brothers to a “adopt a pledge” and assist with the initiation fees.

Secretary’s Report (Recap) – Brother Jonathon Binkley

- 39 Graduate Chapter Meetings have been held this past year
- Working to consolidate the Graduate Brother contact list. We currently have contact information for around 600 Graduate Brothers.

Mentoring Director’s Report (Recap) – Brother Andy Kosowsky with Brother Hunter Santiago)

- First year focus was assisting with the recruiting process
- First recharting class initiated 12 Undergraduate Brothers
- Undergrads have been involved with philanthropy event called Hoops for Ukraine that was put together by the Illinois Chabad Organization
- The Undergrads had a semi-formal dance
- Undergrads are meeting every week in preparation for upcoming fall rush and overall school year

- Hunter Santiago will be on-campus during the 2022 Fall Semester
- Brother Kosowsky asked any Brothers who know of any freshman that can be contacted to potentially be in the next postulant class to please contact him
- Looking to do a leadership seminar
- Looking to do an event where the Graduate Chapter welcomes the graduating seniors to the alumni network
- Looking into what type of career assistance we can offer for graduating Brothers

Communications Director's Report (Recap)
– Brother Dale Marquart

- Goal is to increase communications with the Graduate Brothers
- Will push to have more Graduate Brothers join both the LinkedIn and Facebook pages
- Need to create a Graduate Chapter Website
- Regularly scheduled newsletters

Events Director's Report (Recap) – Brother Alex Kay

- No Report

Old Business – No Old Business

New Business (Recap)

- Brother Jacob Gamboa recommended creating a "show bedroom" in the House for walk throughs and recruiting purposes.
- Brother Kevin Anetsberger is compiling a list of goods to procure for the house/undergraduates.
- Brother Brad LaPayne is getting a dumpster dropped off at an appropriate time to clear out the extra furniture.

The Board thanked Brian Schmidt for his years of service to the creating the Graduate Chapter and leading the recolonization efforts.

Elections were held. Dale Marquart and Vince Kurr were elected to three-year terms. The following officers were elected:

President – Alex Kay
 Vice President – Joe Zollner
 Treasurer – Dean Camberis
 Secretary – Jonathon Binkley
 Communications Director – Dale Marquart
 Mentoring Director – Andy Kosowsky
 Events Director – Vince Kurr

Work Weekend

Work Weekend was held on Friday, August 12th and Saturday, August 13th. It had been a while since Phi Kappa had to get the House ready for AXP undergraduates so there was a lot to do. Brothers Andy Kosowsky, Rich Furr, and Kevin Anetsberger joined Hunter Santiago and the Undergraduate Brothers in tackling the list of things that needed to be done. The work included general yard work, all floors mopped and vacuumed, bathrooms cleaned, basement painted, kitchen cleaned, vines removed from windows and doors, old furniture and mattresses removed from house and, most importantly, the DKE letters removed from the exterior. Please see the pictures at the end of this newsletter. It's not perfect and there's more to do, but, once again, it's Phi Kappa's home. A big shout out of "thanks" to all those who helped out.

Brother Brian Schmidt Spotlight



Brother Schmidt, '09, has been very active in AXP since the day he pledged. He served as President of the Undergraduate Chapter and he's been THE driving factor in both the Graduate Chapter's formation and the Phi Kappa re-colonization efforts. Brian served as the VP of the Building Association and as the chairman of the Building Association's committee tasked with evaluating an undergraduate return to campus. The committee is now the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter. He worked closely with the U of I's Department of Fraternity and Sorority Affairs. His diligence, tact and relationship building efforts resulted in Phi Kappa being taken off of indefinite, double-secret probation and returned to good standing with the University. He worked closely with AXP National to obtain the resources necessary to staff the recolonization efforts. His experience as a "Crow Coach" for Purdue aided our recruiting efforts on campus. In short, we would "be back" without him. Thank you, Brian, for all your efforts!

Now, how did Brother Schmidt get to 311 E. Armory? He headed south out of Lemont, IL to the U of I after just missing out on West Point. How he joined AXP is a

convoluted tale involving potential tuba fraud, 6:00 am ROTC meetings at the Armory, an inherent desire to live closer to the Armory that ISR and DU's inability to answer a simple phone call. These points overcame his initial reluctance to join because, in his own words all he "knew about fraternity men at the time was that they were dangerous party animals that would ruin his collegiate opportunities." He'll be happy to regale you the long version (it is quite entertaining), but the Cliff Notes version is that his roommate wanted to go Greek and, despite every fiber of his being screaming "NO", Brian, being a good roommate reluctantly agreed to go with him to a Delta Upsilon recruiting party. Unfortunately for DU, but fortunately for AXP, their DU recruiter wouldn't answer the phone and they were denied entrance. However, the strong and noble men of AXP were hanging out on the porch, so Brian's roommate (again, despite heavy reluctance by Brian) didn't want to miss out on a social opportunity so Brian trudged across the street and up the front walk. They "kinda" knew one of the Crows so a relationship was established and both Brian and his roommate pledged. The rest is, as they say, history.

Out of this reluctant recruiting, Brian's life was forever altered. He met his wife, Selin, through the House, developed life-long friendships with his Brothers (their wedding was a mini-Phi Kappa reunion), provided him with professional development opportunities, didn't seem to inhibit his ability to get his undergraduate degree in Aerospace Engineering and led him to his current career. After returning to the U of I and getting his Masters' degree in Aerospace Engineering, Brian was hired by Brother Kevin Anetsberger to run one of his companies, Deep Coat Industries ("DCI"), a vacuum metalizing company in the

Chicagoland area. And to think, Brian originally thought that fraternities would limit his opportunities.

Brian understands the value of fraternity and has continued to give back to AXP, both at the national and local level. At the national level, in 2017 Brian was asked to be part of the AXP Crow Coach program. That program, a national network of alumni volunteers that mentored Undergraduate Chapters, was created to provide the chapters with a resource to help guide them through the myriad of issues, big and small, that could derail their efforts. The goal was to provide counseling to prevent non-critical issues from growing into critical problems and to help deal with critical issues before they became serious, if not Chapter crippling, problems. Brian's role was to help the AXP chapter at Purdue correctly deal with those issues before either the University had to do something or AXP National had to do something. As Brian puts it...“preventive, not punitive measures”. This role also gave Brian insight into what AXP National wants in a Chapter, what Universities want in fraternities and what were some “best practices” for re-colonizing Phi Kappa.

From Crow Coach, Brian went local and, in conjunction with Brother Anetsberger, started the grass roots efforts to re-start AXP at the U of I. When they started in 2018, things were bleak at 311 E. Armory. Phi Kappa's status was revoked with no return date. The House had been an AirBnB and was currently rented to another fraternity. The last recolonization effort some 20 years ago had blossomed at first, then fizzled and died without alumni support. National had other issues to deal with. No other alums were actively working to bring Phi Kappa back and there was even a discussion about

selling the house. Not exactly the best situation to try to recruit people to help out.

But Brian took the leadership effort to determine interest, to find Brothers and to engage those Brothers in the effort. He did it the Crow way by building relationships, by helping Brothers remember why they joined and by reminding those Brothers that we owed the legacy of Phi Kappa to help others experience the same benefits. The results speak for themselves...even in the face of a pandemic, we're back on campus occupying the House.

Brother Schmidt will be stepping away from his leadership position in the Graduate Chapter. He's passed the torch to the team. He's looking forward to starting a family and getting adjusted to the responsibilities of parenting. He's spent so much of the last decade working and filling volunteer roles and he wants to be more present at home. He's also looking forward to what he can accomplish at DCI. He believes that the next few years will be very exciting for the company.

Brother Schmidt led us to the promised land, but the work is far from over. Even though he won't have an official role, he does plan on staying involved. He looks forward to upcoming events that he can drag his pledge class to especially since his wife is now serving on the National Fraternity's Events and Outreach Committee. His wisdom and experience will be sought out and he has some thoughts on the future of Phi Kappa. He believes that the three key success factors for the Chapter's immediate future are: 1) undergraduate recruitment – this will be a primary focus for both the men of the Resident Colony and the Graduate Chapter; 2) improved communications – the Graduate Chapter will need to expand its communications efforts to get one-on-one

engagement with the Brothers who aren't involved today, so that we can ensure we're providing them value and incentive to stay involved and give back; and 3) mentoring – the Graduate Chapter will need to be available and present for the Resident Colony/Chapter to call upon for guidance, support, and course corrections so we can help them continue building for a better tomorrow and avoid another decline or catastrophe. Solid advice.

His parting thought is “give back at every opportunity you have to do so”. We all learned from our time in the House. The good times and experiences speak for

themselves, but even in the times we were challenged, we learned something and that made us better prepared for the difficult situations we've all faced in our post-graduate lives. No matter how you got into AXP, we're all Brothers now so stick together, communicate with each other, reconnect with old friends, and don't be afraid to reach out to other Brothers. So many of us care and will be willing to support each other once we are reminded of how important Phi Kappa was to us.

Gentle Ask

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter at PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com.

Donations to the Building Association cover capital improvements, upkeep, and maintenance: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=K2437WYYDZ9YL

Donations to the Graduate Chapter cover the costs of events and other activities of the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=THYQQVHRTMW9U

Work Weekend Memories



