



Fall 2021 Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter Newsletter

Key Phi Kappa Item #1...BROTHERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP to recruit for our in-coming pledge classes by recommending young men who might be interested. If you know someone or have suggestions, please contact Brother Andy Kosowsky at either Andrew.Kosowsky@sbcglobal.net or PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com.

Key Phi Kappa Item #2...MORE GRADUATE CHAPTER SOCIAL EVENTS ARE COMING! Be on the lookout for invitations to a virtual watch party for the Illini-Maryland basketball game on January 6th and an in-person game watch and happy hour at the Illini-Northwestern basketball game on January 29th.

Key Phi Kappa Item #3...ADOPT-A-PLEDGE Opportunity! Brothers, as we navigate the tricky and highly competitive U of I Fraternity recruiting process, our recruiting team is faced with many challenges (see article below). One obstacle that all of us can relate to is the impact of 1st year National Dues on a college student's budget. One way Phi Kappa is trying to lessen that financial impact AND show how much we value the importance of the first 10 refounding members is by paying the 1st year dues for these critical members. How can you help? Easy, by Adopting a Pledge and paying their dues (estimated to be \$682.37) or by donating any amount for part of a pledge. Brother Kevin Anetsberger (Building Association President), Brother Brian Schmidt (Graduate Chapter President) and Brother Linc Hobson (not an officer, just a really great Brother) have already signed up. Your donation offsets a cost to the Graduate Chapter (making those funds available to further market the Chapter), strengthens your bond to the House, helps fund a new member and links you directly to a member of the refounding Pledge Class. If you can help, please contact Brother Brian Schmidt at PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com or 630-536-6000.

The News You Need to Know!

Homecoming 2021

Phi Kappa had a great turnout at the AXP Homecoming tailgate this year. Despite having a few hiccups in getting the tailgate put together, we had 17 brothers who attended. The only bad part of the day was the Illini getting destroyed (that seems to be a consistent event shared by the Brotherhood) by Wisconsin. All the brothers had a great time grilling and sharing old and new memories during the tailgate. We also got to all meet Hunter in person and hear about our rechartering progress. Some of us also got to explore all the new changes on campus and spend time at our favorite bars and restaurants from our undergraduate days.

Building on our success at Homecoming and keeping with our new trend for January Phi Kappa Zoom calls, we're putting together a virtual watch party for the Illini-Maryland (the old-timers still can't believe this is a conference game) on Thursday, January 6, 2022. Be on the watch for an update with the specifics.

Also please be on the lookout for our next in-person alumni event which will be around the Illini-Northwestern basketball game in Evanston on Saturday, January 29th at 3:30 pm. We plan on following up the game with a happy hour event...more to come on this in-person Graduate Chapter event.

It was great seeing everybody at Homecoming and we look forward to seeing everyone at our winter meetup.

*Brother Alex Kay, '15, Events Director –
Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter*

Introduction of Hunter Santiago, AXP Leadership/Expansion Consultant



I would like to introduce you all to Hunter Santiago. Hunter joined the AXP National Headquarters staff this summer as a Leadership/Expansion Consultant. He was specifically hired to support Phi Kappa's return to the UIUC campus this fall. He moved to campus in late August and has been working with the National Fraternity, the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter Board, and the Phi Kappa Rechartering Committee to begin our recolonization effort.

Hunter is a graduate of Coastal Carolina University, where he graduated with a BS in Recreation and Sport Management. While studying at Coastal Carolina, Hunter became a Founding Father of the AXP colony on that campus. He was instrumental in getting his colony started and is looking forward to returning this winter for the colony's chartering. The Founding Father experience makes Hunter uniquely qualified to build on the lessons he learned from his colony's Leadership/Expansion Consultant and apply them to Phi Kappa's return to campus.

To keep in touch with Hunter, follow his progress on campus, and help him bolster AXP's online presence, please follow the [AXP.Illinois](#) Instagram account. Please also join me in welcoming Hunter to Illinois for the next year while he works to "Bring Back Phi Kapp'!"

Brian Schmidt, '09, President – Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter

Rechartering Recruiting Update

The fall semester is now more than halfway through and Phi Kappa's initiative to return to campus is well underway. Hunter Santiago, the National Fraternity's Expansion Consultant that has been leading our recolonizing efforts, has been living on campus to provide the most resources we possibly can to the effort. He has spent the last two months marketing, engaging with Registered Student Organizations (RSO's), reaching out to the legacies we have connected with, and collaborating with the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs office. His efforts have focused on laying the framework for our return by getting our name out on campus, learning the current fraternity and sorority environment at Illinois, and monitoring the school's responses to COVID-19.

Now that Hunter's "phase one" efforts are completed, he's been joined by one of his fellow Expansion Consultants, Nicholas Ramos, to begin the tabling and direct contacting efforts. We're really excited to have the support of both Hunter and Nick as we head into the period between midterms and finals. Now that the fall semester's fraternity rush has ended, we're ready to begin engaging the men on campus. Hunter and Nick are striving to develop the first Postulant class this fall/winter, and will work with that pilot group to enter the spring

semester with momentum and motivation to develop the second and third Postulant classes of the 2021-2022 school year!

Please join us in thanking Hunter, the Rechartering Initiative committee, the Building Association board members, and the Graduate Chapter board members for their hard work over the last two years to get us to this pivotal point in Phi Kappa's history!

And, most important of all, please reach out to PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com if you know any students on campus this school year. Hunter, Nick, and the Rechartering Initiative committee are 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 our return, 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!

Andy Kosowsky, '87, Graduate Chapter Mentoring Director

A Roadmap for the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter

This summer the National Council voted to approve the creation of the Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter as a separate entity from the Phi Kappa Building Association. The change in the structure coincided with the start of the Phi Kappa colony which is under the process of being re-founded on campus this fall semester. The National Council recognized the expanding group of Phi Kappa Brothers that are volunteering and getting involved with the Chapter and the competing priorities the Building Association faced prior to closing the

Chapter in 2017. The dual priorities of a) maintaining a safe, updated, and attractive property for college students vs. b) coaching, guiding, and mentoring a Resident Chapter are not well suited for one board to tackle by itself. By dividing Phi Kappa's leadership team into two bodies, both groups will be empowered to stay attentive to their specific responsibilities and volunteers will be able to sign up for roles that are more aligned with their interests.

The Building Association will continue to oversee the care and improvement of 311 E. Armory, manage the leasing efforts, and direct fundraising efforts. The Graduate Chapter will focus on the social and operational aspects of the Graduate Chapter, specifically: planning events, communicating with Graduate Brothers, and advising the Resident Chapter. The volunteer positions on the Graduate Chapter board include President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Mentoring Director, Communications Director, Events Director and Resident Chapter President (when the Resident Chapter regains its Charter).

The Graduate Chapter had a great time hosting our first event, the 2021 Homecoming celebration. Although the football team let us down, catching up with the Brothers who attended was a lot of fun. We look forward to hosting more events in

the coming months, helping spread the word of the projects both Phi Kappa boards are working on, and coaching the Resident Chapter into a sustainable and well-run undergraduate group.

The Graduate Chapter Board's directors were appointed at its creation and will be elected, alongside the Building Association's directors, at Phi Kappa's Annual Meeting this year. Please join me in thanking the Graduate Chapter Board Members for their service in our inaugural year:

Joe Zollner ('86), Vice President
Dean Camberis ('05), Treasurer
Jonathon Binkley ('15), Secretary
Andy Kosowsky ('87), Mentoring Director
Alex Kay ('15), Events Director
Dale Marquart ('82), Communications Director

If you are interested in volunteering to help the Phi Kappa Grad Chapter, please contact me at PhiKappaGradChapter@gmail.com or 630-536-6000. Have a great autumn and early winter, Brothers. We'll be in touch soon!

Brian Schmidt, '09, President – Phi Kappa Graduate Chapter

