



THE LION'S LORE

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS BETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

KANSAS BETA IS NO. 1 SAE CHAPTER IN THE NATION!

Also Wins All-Fraternity Chapter of Distinction Award



Our 2023 NIC Award of Distinction.



The 2023 Lion Trophy for the top SAE chapter in the nation—us!

It is getting very crowded on the trophy mantle at 1015 Denison Avenue in Manhattan. That's because Kansas Beta just won two of the most prestigious national awards in the Greek system!

Kansas Beta was named the No. 1 Sigma Alpha Epsilon chapter in the nation (out of some 240 chapters), winning the John O. Moseley Award for fraternity zeal. According to award criteria, the winner "best exemplifies a model chapter who excels in its operations and brotherhood ... going above and beyond expectations."

SAE at K-State was also one of eight chapters (among more than 6,000 across 58 men's fraternities) to receive the Chapter of Distinction award from the North

American Interfraternity Conference (NIC).

This is the second time the chapter has won these awards, as they won them respectively in 2020 and 2021.

"It is truly an exciting time to be associated with Kansas Beta," Housing Corporation President **Steve Lacy '76** said. "We are extremely proud of our young men for securing these unprecedented achievements."

In addition to these awards, SAE continues to excel on the K-State campus:

SPRING 2023 ACADEMICS

Kansas Beta achieved a 3.5 GPA, second only to FarmHouse among

fraternities. Twenty-six percent achieved a 4.0.

MEMBERSHIP

The house was again full as this school year began, with 61 brothers living in the chapter house and a total membership of 111. A promising pledge class of 30 was initiated in late August.

GOALS

At their fall 2023 retreat, chapter officers set the goals of winning Fraternity of the Year at K-State, achieving a 3.5 GPA or higher, winning intramurals, retaining 95 percent of members, and raising \$8,000 for charity.

Faternally,
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PADDY MURPHY

The spring 2024 alumni newsletter will highlight how Paddy Murphy was celebrated back in the day and how it is celebrated today. We need your help! Send your memories and photos of Paddy Murphy celebrations to **Greg McCune '76**, Alumni Communications Coordinator, 847-650-0895 or gregamccune@gmail.com.

CLIMBING A MOUNTAIN FOR BROTHERHOOD

Two years ago, Kansas Beta Chapter Adviser **John Hatfield '77** was trying to think of a positive experience that would help new members bond as a pledge class.

"There's this misconception that hazing is a bonding experience," Hatfield said, noting that hazing has rightfully been banned for years. "The challenge was to come up with idea that doesn't involve hazing."

Thus began the annual pledge class pilgrimage to Colorado to climb a 14,000-foot mountain as the culmination of new members' first week living in the chapter house.

During the week prior, Hatfield took the pledges through a "Leadership Development Week" that included sessions on courage, organization skills, vulnerability, expectations, and how to lead themselves daily.

"Men like a rite of passage," Hatfield said in explaining why the climb is one of the most popular things for new members.

Unlike back in the day, when pledges spent a semester as lower-class citizens, new members don't remain

pledges long. ΣAE National requires they be initiated as actives within 96 hours of university classes beginning.

On Friday, August 18, the class of 30 new members (plus three who pledged last spring and two who couldn't join last year's trip) piled into three vans driven by some of their fathers. They drove seven hours to near Mt. Evans, with an elevation of 14,265 feet, for the second annual new member mountain climb.

Early Saturday, they drove up Mount Sky Scenic Byway, the highest paved road in North America, to the beginning of the hike. Before starting, the group talked about courage, perseverance, and grit, then they hiked five miles, scrambling over rocky terrain, ascending about 1,800 feet, and passing mountain goats.

It was challenging, according to three of the new members: **Luke Shideler '27** (Shawnee, Kansas), **Alex Simonsen '27** (Olathe, Kansas), and **Luke Brickei '27** (Manhattan).

"I'd never hiked a mountain before," Simonsen said. "That was actually my first time going to Colorado."



The group reaches the summit!

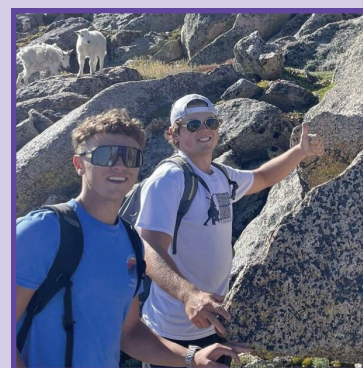
Shideler and Brickei had hiked before—but never a mountain like that. The group had to stop several times to catch their breath because of the thin air.

Chapter Vice President **Mitch Warren '26**, who had gone last year, went along and used an Apple Watch to track their progress. A few brought small oxygen cans to help breathing and prevent altitude sickness.

After three or so hours, they all reached the summit, where they posed for pictures with ΣAE and K-State banners.

"The views of the mountains in the distance were awesome," Brickei said.

The vans picked them up at the summit and took them to Idaho Springs, where they gorged on Beau Jo's pizza, a Colorado favorite.



Grant Braddock '26 (left) and JP Harris '27 encounter mountain goats as they hike Mt. Evans.

While the ride, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder for hours, wasn't comfortable, the members said it forced them to get to know their new brothers better. Everyone thought the mountain climb was cool and would do it again.

"It was definitely a good bonding moment for us—we did something hard together and got it done," Shideler said.

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Carson Gillmore '26

Social Chairmen

Kayson Graham '26

Reece Grafel '26

Philanthropy Chairmen

Luke Olsen '26

Ashton Boomer '26

Recorder

Logan Losey '26

OUR ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT GROWS | Second Annual Event Is a Hit



Our 74 participants for 2023.



The winning team for 2023! From left: Danny Espinoza '23, David Grammer '23, Josh Priddle '23, and Bret Ambrosier '23.

The second year of our tournament was a great success on a beautiful, early fall day at the Manhattan Country Club. Boiling hot Kansas weather ended just in time for the event on the afternoon of Friday, September 8.

Chase Stadler '19 did an outstanding job organizing the event once again, ably assisted by **Justin Tinkler '22**.

A total of 74 golfers teed up on the par-70 course, enough

for a foursome on each of the 18 holes at the start, plus two. The number of golfers was up 11 from the 63 for our inaugural tournament last year.

The winning foursome was **Bret Ambrosier '23, Danny Espinoza '23, David Grammer '23, and Josh Priddle '23**.

They dominated the course with a score of -12 (58) in the scramble format.

The second-place team, with a score of -11 (59) included **Ben**

Stout '95, Shad Metcalf '96 and Pat Davie '94 as well as friend Tom Giefer.

"The tournament was a blast," said Priddle. "We had an amazing time reconnecting with brothers and meeting some from classes before us."

After finishing, golfers enjoyed cold beer during a catered dinner on the patio of the country club.

The next morning, Kansas Beta hosted a tailgate at Bill Snyder Family Stadium before the football game with Troy. The alumni event coincided with Father's Weekend at the house, swelling the crowd to more than 350 people.

Stadler said the date for next year's tournament will be set once the home football schedule is finalized.

"We will definitely be playing again next year," Priddle said.

Living as a True Gentleman | Remembering Joe Stout '66



At the funeral for **Joe Stout '66**, who entered Chapter Eternal on August 14 at age 78, one of his closest friends from ΣAE, **Bob Judd '67**, read the True Gentleman.

"It was very appropriate and moving," said Joe's son **Ben '95**.

Pledging ΣAE in 1962 and following his brother **Mike '58** to K-State and Kansas Beta, Joe's affiliation with ΣAE was a major point of pride for the rest of his life.

"Two things were really big for my dad," Ben said. "First was the relationships you make [in the fraternity]. Second, I think he valued leadership opportunities for young men, to be a part of something that was bigger than just themselves."

Joe held numerous leadership positions during his time in the

house, including eminent archon, vice president, and treasurer. He also was a delegate to the national convention in Atlanta and national leadership school.

According to Judd, Joe returned from one of those national meetings to become the first Paddy Murphy during Kansas Beta's mock mourning of the Chicago mobster—who, legend has it, was killed by a ΣAE brother during Prohibition.

Joe graduated with a degree in agricultural economics and began a 30-year career in the banking industry in Wichita and Emporia. In 1964, he met Mary Lea Holmquist, an Alpha Delta Pi member at K-State, and they were married two years later.

Both of their sons, **Brady '92** and **Ben**, pledged ΣAE. Brady entered Chapter Eternal in 2021.

Joe was an active alumnus, serving as an officer of the Kansas Beta House Corporation.

Fraternity brothers **Joe Stout, Bob Judd, and Bill Kennedy '64** remained close friends after college, attending many K-State football bowl games together with their families. "We grew up listening to fun and funny stories about the ΣAE house," Ben said.

In addition to his banking career, Joe continued to run his family's farm and ranch and was on horseback riding the ranch well into his 70s, according to Ben.

"Bob Judd came up to me after the service and said: 'I was listening to what the pastor said about your dad during the service, and in my mind, I was going check, check, check.' Sounds a lot like the True Gentleman," Ben said.





**WE'RE #1
AGAIN!**

**Kansas Beta has
won two national
awards this year.
Check out the
details inside!**



THE LION'S LORE

SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Henry Anderson '27 | *Prarie Village, Kan.*

Henry Basham '27 | *Dallas, Texas*

Colton Berger '27 | *Lawrence, Kan.*

Grant Braddock '26 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Luke Brickei '27 | *Manhattan, Kan.*

Colin Burmeier '27 | *Manhattan, Kan.*

Luke Carson '27 | *Manhattan, Kan.*

Ben Carter '27 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Maxwell Coughlin '27 | *Kansas City, Kan.*

Sam Decker '27 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Jake Disney '27 | *Salina, Kan.*

Jack Hannahan '27 | *Overland Park, Kan.*

JP Harris '27 | *Knoxville, Tenn.*

Cole Havelka '26 | *Liberty, Mo.*

Cole Houck '27 | *Elkhorn, Neb.*

Mick Huber '26 | *Gretna, Neb.*

Turner Jones '27 | *Kansas City, Kan.*

Ty Marsh '27 | *Shawnee, Kan.*

Bryce Meyers '26 | *Colby, Kan.*

Collin Schroder '27 | *Shawnee, Kan.*

Connor Sheehee '27 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Luke Shideler '27 | *Shawnee, Kan.*

Alex Simonsen '26 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Eli Singleton '27 | *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Spencer Straub '26 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Sam Swickard '27 | *Overland Park, Kan.*

Mason Thomas '27 | *Shawnee, Kan.*

Cole Vader '27 | *Olathe, Kan.*

Kolten Walker '27 | *Solomon, Kan.*

Tanner Werth '27 | *Hays, Kan.*

LOOKING BACK ON A PRODUCTIVE YEAR *Updates from the House Corporation*

As you can see from our two national awards on page 1, we have much to be proud of with today's Kansas Beta Chapter. I am especially encouraged by the strong officer lineup for 2023. Kansas Beta aspires to remain a top chapter in terms of academics, athletics, social events, philanthropy, and community service.

Over the last several years, we have worked aggressively to fill the chapter house with quality men, significantly improve the physical structure, and carefully manage our finances. These efforts have clearly paid off.

Plan to join these annual events next fall—2024 dates to follow!

KEEPING THE HOUSE IN SHAPE

The House Corporation completed upgrading the five chapter house restrooms and replacing the glass

block windows in the formal living room. The total cost of these projects was approximately \$200,000, and they were completed during the summers of 2021 and 2022.

Summer 2023 projects included renovating the second- and third-floor hallways, including upgrading the fire alarm system along with painting and ceiling- and floor-covering replacement for a total cost of approximately \$100,000.

Thank you for your continued financial support. I promise you the money is carefully managed and invested in the future of Kansas Beta, which is bright.

Yours in the Bonds,
Steve Lacy '76, '77

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All 2023 contributors will be recognized in the spring 2024 newsletter.