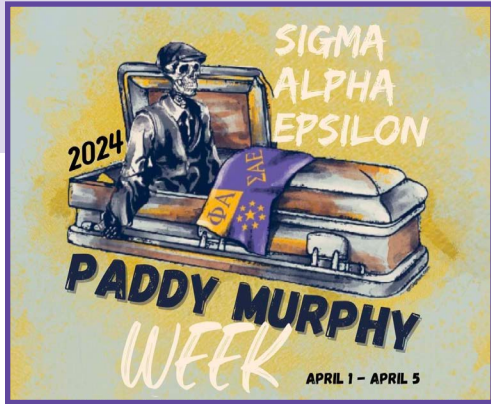




THE LION'S LORE

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS BETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON



PADDY MURPHY WEEK IS NOT LIKE YOU REMEMBER IT

about philanthropy, evolving the annual celebration into a competition among sororities for charity.

then, Kansas Beta has improved to the point that it was named the top ΣAE chapter in the nation in 2020 and 2023.

How the celebration of Paddy Murphy—a legend about a gangster shot dead in Chicago during Prohibition—made such a benign transformation is just short of a miracle.

Some ΣAE chapters dropped Paddy Murphy celebrations altogether. **Dr. Spencer A. Long**, Chief Operating Officer for ΣAE National in Evanston, Illinois, said he didn't know about Paddy Murphy when he was attending Central Michigan University, where he was initiated in the fall of 2004.

OUR PADDY HISTORY

Fraternities across the nation have been under pressure for decades to curb drinking and drugs. "Zero tolerance" policies led to numerous fraternities being kicked off campuses, including many ΣAE chapters and some fraternities at K-State.

Chapter Adviser **John Hatfield '77** said the focus shifted to philanthropy in recent years. ΣAE national now has on its website a guide to conducting Paddy Murphy week for charity, including a history of the legend of Paddy Murphy, a planning guide, and event ideas. This year, each sorority paid \$100 to enter the Paddy Murphy competition.

Alumni of a certain age may remember the Paddy Murphy celebration as a weeklong party with plenty of liquid nourishment. The week culminated in a funeral for Paddy with a designated brother carried in a casket on a procession around campus, ending in Aggieville.

This year, Paddy Murphy at Kansas Beta was the first week of April—and it was very different. The biggest change was that the week was all

We narrowly avoided that fate. In 2015, alumni stepped in and made Kansas Beta a dry house; any events with alcohol would now be offsite. Since

THE WEEK'S FESTIVITIES

One of the most creative events was the casket decorating competition. Each sorority painted a plywood casket cover to dramatize the gangster and funeral theme. Photos of the painted casket covers were posted on the chapter Instagram page, and the sorority with the most likes, Kappa Alpha Theta, was the winner.

MONDAY night was a sorority three-on-three basketball tournament, won by Kappa Kappa Gamma.

TUESDAY was the annual Shrimp Boil event at the chapter house, which was open to all on campus, and a selfie contest; sororities competed to get the most selfies with an ΣAE brother. Freshman **JP Harris '27** dressed up as Paddy Murphy for the occasion.

WEDNESDAY'S annual event drew a big crowd around the basketball court: a sorority 10-on-10 dodgeball tournament (with brothers as coaches), won by Alpha Delta Pi.

THURSDAY featured a "penny war" at the Student Union: sororities competed to get the most pennies, using designated coins to penalize their rivals.

FRIDAY evening was the funeral, where a solemn story of Paddy Murphy was read and the oldest senior brother, **Juan Pineda Gomez '24**, popped out of the casket."

"The week was a great example of bringing the chapter together to have fun and make a positive impact on our community as well as supporting campus sororities." —**Ashton Boomer '26**, Philanthropy Chairman

PAINTED CASKET WINNERS



Winner:
Kappa Alpha Theta

2nd Place:
Alpha Xi Delta

ΣAE announced that Chi Omega won the weeklong Paddy Murphy competition, with Gamma Phi finishing second. **ΣAE donated \$1,000 to a charity chosen by the winner and \$500 to the runner-up.**

Paddy Murphy 2024 raised a total of \$3,234 for ΣAE-designated charity Children's Miracle Network in addition to money donated to sorority charities—double the take from last year.

BROTHER LANDON TROUT '25 CARRIES ON K-STATE CROP JUDGING DYNASTY

By **Greg McCune '76**, Alumni Relations Coordinator

KU fans love to taunt Wildcat Nation by claiming that K-State has never won a national championship. But K-State is a powerhouse in Crops Judging, and Kansas Beta brother **Landon Trout '25** just led the team to another national title.

Trout, a junior in agronomy from Scott City, Kansas, won the individual championship at the collegiate Crops Judging competition in Idaho in April. That was after he finished second in the Fall, 2023 competition in Chicago.

The K-State team won the national title in both Chicago and Idaho, extending a long tradition of dominance. The Chicago victory was the 18th in the last 25 years.

Team Advisor Dr. Kevin Donnelly said, "This was the best team I have ever worked with." He has coached crops judging for nearly three decades.

For the fall competitions each team has three members, and each competitor gets 4.5 hours to complete the following: identify 200 plant or seed samples of crops and weeds; grade eight samples of grain according to federal standards; and analyze 10 seed samples to pick out extraneous material.

The spring competition is very different, with more of an emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking.

Like any elite sport, crops judging requires a lot of practice. Trout said he spends about 15 hours a week practicing, including two nights a week



The K-State Fall Crops Judging team holds the National Championship trophy. From left: Quinten Bina, Ranae Sinclair, and Landon Trout '25.



The victorious K-State Crops Judging team in their purple and white overalls. From left: Joel Bryan (alternate), Molly Kane (alternate), Landon Trout '25, Ranae Sinclair, and Quinten Bina.

of formal practice during the competition season and many hours on his own identifying and grading samples.

"Attention to detail (and a good memory) is the key to being a great crops judge," Trout said,

Trout's father farms in western Kansas and Trout joined Future Farmers of America in high school, which introduced him to judging.

With his agricultural background, Trout was rushed by the FarmHouse and AGR fraternities but wanted to do something different. His sister lived in an apartment across the street from the ΣAE house and liked the guys. She urged him to take a tour of the house, and he pledged.

Despite his large commitment to crops judging, Trout has been active in Kansas Beta, serving as house manager last year and risk manager this year. Trout also has a part-time job on campus, analyzing wheat samples for genes resistant to rust.

"It is a juggling act," Trout said of time management. As house manager last year, "it was hard getting back to check house duties (by members) every day at 5 p.m.," Trout said.

This summer he will intern for a crop consultant in North Dakota, helping farmers make decisions on how much fertilizer to apply, seeds to plant, and other management decisions. After completing his B.S., Trout plans to go to graduate school.

Even with all his commitments, Trout said he still finds time for a social life. Not surprisingly, his girlfriend, Ashley Chandler, is a member of the Crops Judging team. She finished third in the nation at the recent competition in Idaho.

WARREN ELECTED TO INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL

Mitch Warren '26, a sophomore from Olathe studying electrical engineering, is the first ΣAE elected to the IFC since 2020, when **Ryan Montgomery '20** served as vice president. Before that, **Jeremy Campbell '19** served as president in 2018. IFC represents the 22 fraternities on campus, and Warren will serve as the vice president, responsible for philanthropy, community service, and council programming. He served as vice president of the Kansas Beta Chapter last year.



2023 Alumni Donors

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Purple and Gold Society (\$2,500 and above)

Lonnie Hoffman '74

Brotherhood Society (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Lawrence P. Becker '67

Al C. Enlow '69

John W. Morgan '75

Jeffrey H. Berke '78

Archon Society (\$500 to \$999)

Roger W. Coulter '62

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Frank Ornelas '88

CHAPTER REPORT CARD

Compiled by Jack Pearson '26, Chapter President

#1 ΣAE Chapter in the nation in 2023.

One of eight national **CHAPTERS OF DISTINCTION** among all fraternities in 2023.

106 active members

Chapter house full at **61**

Retained all **30 ACTIVES** initiated in the fall.

Recruitment: Signed **27** of our 29-new member goal.

Fall GPA 3.46, **27 MEMBERS HAD 4.0.** Zero had below 2.0.

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Jim R. Grier III '60, retired chairman of Eby Construction Company, entered Chapter Eternal on June 27, 2023.



Jim had a passion for KSU engineering and football. His efforts earned him the College of Engineering Alumni Fellow and induction into the College of Engineering Hall of Fame. He served on the KSU Foundation Board of Trustees, the Civil Engineering Advisory Council, and the Kansas Board of Regents.

Jim supported Kansas Beta by donating generously and serving on the chapter's Education Foundation Board.

Chester C. "Chet" Wilcox '63 entered Chapter Eternal on August 26, 2023, in Carmel, Indiana.



At K-State he earned a degree in applied mathematics and a masters in statistics. He met and married Rosemary J. Haas, a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Chet was at the forefront of the computer age, taking computer programming and linear programming math to be ready for the huge emerging frontier of mathematical computer ocean and weather modeling. Chet spent most of his career as a civilian employee of the Navy in the field of applied math and oceanographic modeling, retiring from the federal government in 2000.

GEN. RICHARD MYERS '65 WINS ALUMNI MARCH MADNESS POOL

Former president of K-State and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, **Gen. Richard Myers '65**, won the inaugural ΣAE alumni March Madness pool.

Gen. Myers said he worked backward in the bracket, first picking his final four of UConn, Purdue, Iowa State, and Houston. "I love college basketball and pay attention to the better teams throughout the season," Myers said.

Second place went to **Adrian Pujol '95** in a tiebreaker over **Alan Stetson '80** in third.

Gen. Myers wins a K-State football signed by Chris Klieman. Pujol wins a basketball signed by Jerome Tang, and Stetson wins a K-State lavender sweatshirt.

Pujol is a director of SNP Distributors in Santa Monica, California. Stetson is senior trust and care officer for Assured Trust Co. in Overland Park.

The March Madness pool was the idea of Philanthropy Chairman **Ashton Boomer '26** to get alumni involved in Kansas Beta charitable giving. The pool raised \$640 for Children's Miracle Network, an ΣAE-approved charity. Boomer hopes that more alumni will join in the fun next year.



Gen. Richard Myers '65 with former K-State star Kamau Stokes at the Elite Eight game in Madison Square Garden in 2023.



KANSAS BETA ALUMNI WEEKEND

October 25-26

KANSAS BETA ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, October 25 | Manhattan Country Club

K-STATE VS. KU FOOTBALL TAILGATE/CHAPTER OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 26

"The chapter room was only used once a week, so it was more sensible to create a brighter, bigger space that can be used for a variety of other gatherings as well." –Bill Shaw '75, Alumni Facilities Manager



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KANSAS BETA PLANS TO TRANSFORM HOUSE BASEMENT INTO EDUCATIONAL CENTER

Atrend among fraternities at K-State is to create dedicated spaces, or "Educational Centers," within their houses for members to study. Both Delta Upsilon and FarmHouse, for example, have recently remodeled to offer this amenity.

Kansas Beta is one of the top fraternities on campus in academics (3.46 fall 2023 GPA) and wants to stay there by offering the same enhancement to our members.

This summer, Kansas Beta plans to revamp a large portion of the basement to create a bright and inviting study space—a 100-person capacity room where chapter meetings and other gatherings can be held, a revamped area for sports viewing and educational events, and upgraded flooring, lighting, technology, and furnishings.

The basement is the last major area of 1015 Denison that has not been substantially upgraded in recent years. Under the new plan, the cramped and dark chapter room (where members sat for decades around an oval or on pews to conduct chapter business) will be transformed. Also, the necessity of walking through the boiler room to get across the basement will be eliminated and replaced by a hallway around the mechanical room. Some walls will be knocked down to create a bigger communal space.

The total cost of the project is a modest \$200,000, of which \$50,000 has already been raised. By now you should have received notices from House Corporation President **Steve Lacy '76** seeking donations soon to cover the remaining \$150,000. Your generosity would be appreciated to ensure Kansas Beta remains best in class.

Mark your calendar to attend the chapter open house and tailgate on **October 26** (KU-K-State football weekend) to tour the awesome new space!



To make a gift by check:

Make payable to: Kansas Beta Educational Foundation
Mail to:
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