



THE LION'S LORE

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS BETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

KANSAS BETA HAS HIGH RECRUITMENT STANDARDS

Strategies for Growth and Strong Membership

Chapter Adviser **John Hatfield '77** remembers that when he was recruitment co-chairman with **Ed Kite '76** back in 1974, recruitment began after finals week in May and was mostly a summer affair.

This year, Recruitment Chairmen **Jake Stephens '26** and **Grant Snowden '26**, assisted by four brothers, will have a class of 30 recruits for fall 2025 wrapped up by May, when Hatfield was just getting started in 1974.

"It begins so shockingly early," said Housing Corporation President **Steve Lacy '76**.

Starting early is one way Kansas Beta has set a high recruitment standard. The chapter was rewarded last year when it won the national SAE Outstanding Recruitment award. The award was a culmination of years of effort to fine-tune the approach. The process combines high standards for recruits, tight coordination between alumni advisers and the recruitment team, and well-organized planning and execution.

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

High standards start with a high school GPA of 3.5 for every recruit.

"We are really kind of stingy about that," said Stephens. "We've had to drop legacies because of the 3.5."

As a result, the chapter has fewer problems with the transition from high school to college. Stephens and Snowden said they also look for young men involved in sports, student government, who have had a job, and are comfortable in groups of people.

FRATERNAL LEADERSHIP

Another major contribution to success has been guidance from alumni advisers. In late October, Lacy and Hatfield go to the house and, with the previous recruitment chairmen, interview candidates for the new year. Once the team is chosen, Hatfield conducts intensive training.

In addition to Stephens and Snowden, this year's team includes **Gunnar Gross '28**, **Nick Pearson '28**, **Henry Merkel '28**, and **Connor Keogh '28**.

Every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m., the recruitment team has a call with alumni advisers. Every Sunday evening, the team meets to plan their week. They get some names of prospects from a database called ChapterBuilder, but many come from referrals.

RECRUITMENT METHODS

The main method of recruitment is planned dinners at a restaurant where chairmen sit down with a prospect.

"We have a spiel about SAE that emphasizes four pillars: grades, philanthropy, intramurals, and the social scene," Snowden said.

They don't just go to Kansas City and Wichita. Kansas Beta caps the number of signings from eastern Kansas to 60% of the class. Kansas Beta prides itself on strong recruitment in western Kansas and also recruits out-of-state.

They supplement dinners with other social gatherings during the year

The most formal event is at the Mission Hills Country Club in Kansas City.



Recruiting Co-Chairs Grant Snowden '26 and Jake Stephens '26 holding 2024 Zeal Award.

SETTING BOUNDARIES

There is no alcohol at these events. Kansas Beta has been a "dry" house since 2015. This means that even recruiting chairmen who are the legal drinking age, don't do so in front of recruits.

"You shouldn't have to get a guy drunk to get him to sign a card," Stephens said.

Use of the word "pledge" is discouraged because recruits are initiated within 96 hours of beginning their fall semester, a measure introduced by SAE national to stifle hazing.

The chapter's success in recent years has helped recruiting. Alumni are eager to refer candidates.

"Alumni are proud to refer candidates to such an accomplished chapter," Lacy said.



LANDON TROUT '25 WINS FRATERNITY SENIOR AWARD

Brother **Landon Trout '25** won the 2024-25 award for the senior K-State

fraternity member who had the biggest impact on his chapter and the school.

The "Influential Senior of the Year" winner was announced at the annual K-State Fraternal Excellence Awards in February.

Trout was nominated for the award by current Chapter President **Jack Hanahan '27** and immediate past President **Jack Pearson '26**.

They cited his work as SAE house manager, responsible for keeping the house clean and free of damage, as well

as his role as risk manager, responsible for following chapter and university safety regulations.

"Landon is a fine young man with great personal character who never forgets his sense of responsibility and emanates an aura of inspiration to those around him," Pearson wrote in recommending him for the award.

In addition to his leadership positions in the chapter, Trout was an individual national champion on a K-State crop judging team that won multiple national championships.

Trout will graduate in May with a B.S. in agronomy and minors in plant pathology and agricultural economics. He plans to marry fellow K-State crop judging team member Ashley Chandler in December.

Jack Pearson '26 Elected VICE PRESIDENT OF INTERFRATERNITY COUNCIL



Jack Pearson '26 moved seamlessly from eminent archon of Kansas Beta last year to executive vice president of the

Interfraternity Council in 2025.

His election to the position is the second-consecutive year Kansas Beta has landed a brother on the IFC leadership. **Mitch Warren '26** served as vice president of community wellness in 2023-24.

Pearson will be responsible for maintaining the budget, adhering to bylaws, and planning and executing Greek Week. He is a junior majoring in sales from Overland Park.

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

We appreciate everyone who supported Kansas Beta Chapter in 2024. Your selfless contributions help us build a bright future for Sigma Alpha Epsilon at K-State!

If there is an error in your listing or your name is mistakenly omitted, we sincerely apologize. Please contact our communications coordinator at cmoore@penningtonco.com to submit a correction.

Kim Chandler
In memory of
Jerome L. Chandler
Stu Rogers
Troy Sharp
John P. Jung '57
William Sinderson '58
In memory of
Paul Bader '59
Mike L. Stout '58
In memory of
Joseph H. Stout '66
Frank C. Chrisbens '59
David F. Chelesnik '61
Terry Knowles '61
Roger Coulter '62
Warren C. Hixson '62
Melvin R. Renner '62
Michael C. Rose '62
Edward A. McConwell '63
Jim Breneman '64
Russell T. Dowell '64
Spencer A. Puls '64
Gen. Richard B. Myers '65

Brian N. Minturn '66
Lawrence P. Becker '67
In honor of
John E. Becker '72
Daniel E. Fankhauser '67
Robert E. Judd '67
Ken Underwood '67
Dr. William P. Beezley '68
Darrel D. Jones '68
Al C. Enlow '69
James Schucart II '69
2nd Lt. Roger S. John '70
Steven F. Randle '70
Alan G. Brummell '71
Gary L. Cohen '71
Victor L. Doperalski '71
Kent Tomlinson '71
T. Mark Anwander '72
Curtis L. Bock, D.V.M. '72
Lloyd K. Culbertson '73
Stan Bert '74
Lonnie Hoffman '74
Charles Q. Chandler IV '75
John W. Morgan '75

William K. Shaw '75
Bradford L. Smith '75
Greg McCune '76
In honor of
John Hatfield
Thomas B. Bowles '77
Terrance J. Garvert '77
Robert A. Steele '77
Jeffrey Berke '78
Steven R. Brewer '78
Dr. Michael A. Hattan '78
Don Herold '78
Robert G. Bernica '79
Kenneth Alan Christie '79
Steve Deck '79
Joseph C. Glotzbach '79
Thomas E. Miller '79
Charles L. Elsea '80
Jeffery Jones '80
Randall L. Garvert '81
Paul J. Lacy '81
Gregory A. Trempey, M.D. '81
Brian E. Calovich '82

Robert Chandler '82
John G. Hart '82
Eric A. Hartenstein '82
Michael Mueller '82
David Calovich '83
Randy J. Gassman '83
Garrison L. Hassenflu '83
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Jeffery C. Blue '85
Thomas P. Hoover '85
Daniel T. Sachse '86
Frank Ornelas '88
Patrick Kellerman '89
Edward F. Wettig III '89
Kirk A. Franz '95
Shad P. Metcalf '96
Nate Perry '96
Ryan D. Turner '98
Matt Fitzmaurice '10
Scott Barnow '18
Ryan Schippers '19
Chase Stalder '19
Greyson P. Rogers '20

WINNERS GET NEARLY \$2,000 IN PRIZE MONEY AT SAE GOLF OUTING



Hunter Hatcher '24

It was a tight finish at the 2024 SAE Alumni Golf Outing last October, as the winner had to be determined by a tiebreaker.

The Manhattan Country Club

professional chose handicap holes for the tiebreaker, which handed victory to the team of **Lukas Freelove '24, Hunter Hatcher '24, Sam Stewart '24, and Rob Freelove**. They shot -12 (58) in the scramble format on the par 70 course.

Their win turned back a bid for a second consecutive championship from a team led by **Brett Ambrosier '23 and Josh Priddle '23**, who were victorious in 2023. They also shot -12 (58) and were joined this year by **Rick Ambrosier** and **Steve Priddle**.

Third place, with a score of 61 (-9), was the team of **Will Cocking '21, Noah Wildman '22, Hank Cocking, and Darrin Wildman**.

First place netted \$800 in prize money, followed by \$600 for second and \$460 for third.

Even though the event was held on October 25, the brothers teed off in nice weather.

"This was our first year participating in the SAE Alumni Golf Outing," said



From left: Bob Beymer '78, Tom Kopp '79, and Alan Stetson '80.

winning team member Hatcher. "It was a great experience and an awesome way to connect with other alumni."

Hatcher is a grain merchandiser for The Andersons in Omaha. Sam Stewart is a project engineer at P1 Construction in Overland Park. Lukas Freelove is getting his master's at K-State, and Rob Freelove is senior vice president and chief medical officer of Salina Regional Health Center.

Chase Stalder '19 did an outstanding job again this year organizing the event.

A total of 75 golfers participated, enough for a foursome on each of the 18 holes, plus three.

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

The next day, Kansas Beta hosted a tailgate at Bill Snyder Family Stadium before the KU vs. K-State rivalry game, won for the 16th-consecutive year by K-State.



The second-place team, from left: Josh Priddle '23, Steve Priddle, Brett Ambrosier '23, and Rick Ambrosier.



More golfers! From left: Matt Worley '18, Zach Gerber '19, Brian James '19, and Matt Hollingsworth '19.



From left: Brad Estill '77, Mike Kunz '76, Don Herold '78, and Steve Hale '76.



CHAPTER REPORT CARD

- ✓ No. 1 SAE chapter in the nation for second consecutive year in 2024.
- ✓ Won "Advancing Chapter of the Year" at the K-State Fraternity Excellence Awards.
- ✓ Full house of 61 men. Has 120 undergraduate members, including those living outside the house.
- ✓ Retained all 30 members initiated in the fall.
- ✓ Recruitment is going well. Have signed 25 of 30 recruits (our goal number).
- ✓ Chapter fall GPA of 3.52, highest of all fraternities with more than 60 members. Thirty members had a 4.0.
- ✓ Freshman class had an outstanding GPA of 3.51 in their first semester of college.



SAE
Golf Outing
**Friday,
September 26**

Family Day
Tailgate and UCF
Football Game

Saturday, September 27

We have Shamrock Terrace tickets available for golfers again this year. Stay tuned for more information!



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ALUMNI NEWS

Larry Werhan '57 is 90 years old and spends time at home with his wife in Salina, Kan. He is still able to golf and mow his lawn, but he does not travel much or attend day-long events anymore. Email: larry.werhan4@gmail.com

Terry Knowles '61 is a retired FBI special agent enjoying life in Topeka, Kan. Email: nijknowles@cox.net

Jim Breneman '64 is essentially retired, "Unless a really good project comes along." He resides in Prairie Village, Kan., where he is active at church and serves as vice chairman of the Prairie Village Planning Commission. Email: jrbreneman41@gmail.com

Brad Smith '75 hasn't missed a home K-State football game this century, other than during COVID-19. He lives in Gardner, Kan., and spends time playing with his granddaughters. Email: brad@dapkc.com

Jeffery Jones '79 retired from BlueScope Steel in 2020, and he now enjoys traveling, raising, and showing show dogs (Scottish Terriers and English Cocker Spaniels). Jeffery lives in Leavenworth, Kan. Email: jonesbriar@aol.com

Landon Moore '17 lives in Shawnee, Kan. He bought a house in May 2024, and later celebrated his marriage on November 24, 2024. Email: landonwmoore@outlook.com

Colton Jenkins '18 resides in Kansas City, Mo. He enjoys working in Garmin's aviation division, and Colton is pursuing entrepreneurial venture side hustles. Email: cbjenkins796@protonmail.com

STAY CONNECTED



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HELP US FINISH PHASE 2

EDUCATIONAL CENTER NEARLY COMPLETE

Thanks to generous alumni, and the extended Chandler Family in particular, we were able to complete Phase 1 of our basement renovation project and create the all-new Kansas Beta Educational Center during summer 2024. This study space rivals other local houses and is perfect for large educational events, watch parties, or other brotherly gatherings. We plan to finish this two-phase project by the end of summer 2025

NEW BOILER AND HOT WATER SYSTEM NEEDED

Last fall, as we started to work on Phase 2, the nearly 50-year-old boiler and water heater failed. Your donation today will help cover the remaining \$85,000 needed to finish the north end of the basement renovations, the new boiler, and the new hot water system.

Only together can we help our brothers help themselves—that is how Kansas Beta's success story continues. Thank



Charlie Chandler '75 stands beside a plaque honoring his family's investment the Kansas Beta Educational Center.

you for your consideration and support for our continued success.

Yours in the Bonds,

Steve Lacy '76

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