



THE LION'S LORE

A PUBLICATION OF THE KANSAS BETA CHAPTER OF SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON

SAE WINS K-STATE FRATERNITY OF THE YEAR FOR 2025

CHAPTER SWEEPS FIVE OTHER AWARDS



Kansas Beta was named K-State Fraternity of the Year for 2025 and swept five other awards at the annual Fraternal Excellence Awards banquet on February 24.

SAE also won the K-State top chapter award in 2021. This adds to three national SAE Zeal awards won in recent years: 2020, 2023, and 2024.

Chapter President **Andrew Meyer '28**, a sophomore in civil engineering from Lake Winnebago, Missouri, hailed the award as more than just a one-year recognition of success.

"It represents hard work building a culture of excellence at Kansas Beta," he said. "The members of our house live out the 'True Gentleman' every single day through academic excellence, respectful treatment of others, active campus involvement, and holding ourselves accountable."

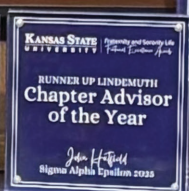
To win the K-State award, the chapter submitted a detailed application outlining its achievements in 2025, including strong academics, community service and philanthropy, an anti-hazing program, and a program to check on members' wellness during the year.

The chapter's active social calendar without a single incident or violation of university policy during 31 events was also highlighted.

The other five awards won by SAE are:

- **Steve Lacy '76**, Alumnus of the Year. Lacy, who is president of the House Corporation, has been instrumental in the chapter's success. His dedication extends to every facet of Kansas Beta and includes weekly check-ins with chapter leadership to make sure they stay on track to meet goals.
- Outstanding Program of the Year. This was for the SAE Chapter Dinner Speaker Series. The speaker series, organized by **Demmy Idowu**

- '28, featured several prominent community members, including the K-State basketball head coach, Riley County Police Department, a leadership studies professor, and a speaker on diversity and inclusion.
- Excellence in Engagement Award. This award recognized the outstanding contribution of the chapter to the community and philanthropy through numerous events.
- **John Hatfield '77**, runner-up for Chapter Advisor of the Year. Hatfield offers outstanding training and orientation programs to members as well as daily advice. He has a special way of connecting with young men that brings out the best in them.
- **Bryce Myers '26**, runner-up for Influential Leader of the Year. Myers, a junior in economics and data analytics from Colby, Kansas, has served in multiple chapter leadership roles across four semesters as risk manager, vice president, and chaplain, and he has also been active in campus organizations.



A Place to Thrive on Campus

SUPPORT HOUSE PROJECTS IN 2026

As you can see on page 1, we have much to be proud of from the ongoing performance of our 120-member undergraduate chapter, with leadership that is clearly recognized across the K-State campus. I am especially encouraged by the strong officer lineup for 2026. Kansas Beta continues to be a top chapter in academics, social events, philanthropy, and community service.

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

The House Corporation has led a 10-year complete makeover of the chapter house, investing more than \$1.3 million donated from our generous alumni. Planned summer 2026 projects focus on upgrades to the main floor, including replacement

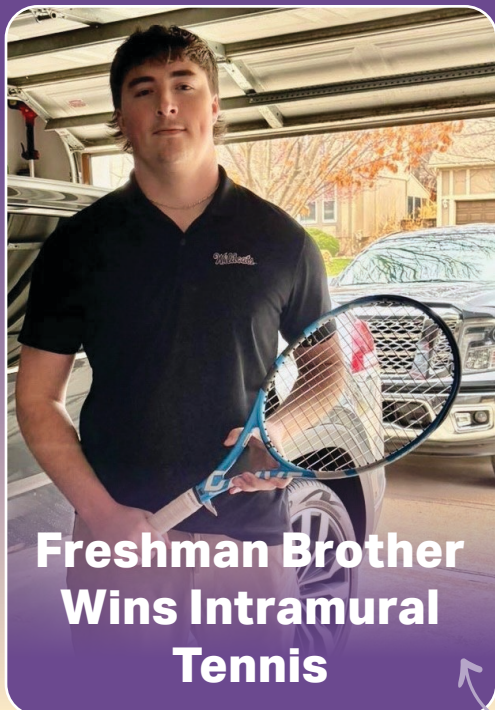
of the quarry tile entryway that was installed more than 50 years ago along with certain furniture and accessories. In addition, there will be needed parking lot and exterior lighting improvements. The total cost is expected to be about \$50,000.

Your donation today will help raise the funds required to complete these needed improvements.

You can contribute by scanning the QR code to visit kansasbetahousecorp.causevox.com. 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
House Corporation President
steve.lacy@steve-lacy.com
(515) 240-1960

SAE BROTHER ELECTED IFC VICE PRESIDENT



Freshman Brother Wins Intramural Tennis

Congratulations to **Cooper Hodapp '29** for his first-place finish in intramural tennis singles!

CHAPTER REPORT CARD

- Our fall 2025 GPA was **3.48**, with **27 members** achieving a 4.0.
- The chapter house is currently at capacity, housing **61 live-in brothers**.
- Kansas Beta has **120 total members**, including those living out of the house.
- Recruitment is going well, with all **25 open in-house spots filled** for fall 2026. The team is now working to secure out-of-house new members.
- The chapter is doing well in intramurals, with **first place in singles tennis** and softball season approaching.

For the third consecutive year, a member of Kansas Beta has been elected to the K-State Interfraternity Council, which represents fraternities across campus. **Demmy Idowu '28**, a sophomore from Overland Park, was elected vice president of community wellbeing.

He follows **Jack Pearson '26**, who was IFC executive vice president in 2025, and **Mitch Warren '26**, who was vice president of community wellness in 2024.

Idowu, a computer science major, will be responsible for organizing events that support the mental and physical health of the Greek community.

HELPING THE HOMELESS ONE CUP AT A TIME

Almost every Sunday morning, **August Liberty '23** and a few friends head to the Crossroads neighborhood of Kansas City and a little park near Crown Center where they walk around and talk to individuals experiencing homelessness.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Liberty carries a carton of coffee and a tote bag with cream, sugar, and cups. He hands out the coffee as a conversation starter.

"It's not really about the coffee. It's about the people," said Liberty, whose day job is selling commercial property insurance for RT Specialty. "It's kind of like a peace offering. We're here to be your friend."

Every other month, Liberty brings lawn chairs on a Sunday morning and serves breakfast burritos, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and water bottles.

Why does he do it?

"I think I always knew I had a heart for community service. I don't know where that came from," said Liberty, who served as community service chairman during junior year living in the SAE house.



Liberty and his friends serve breakfast to individuals experiencing homelessness at a park in Kansas City.

HOW IT BEGAN

He started volunteering with the homeless when he moved back to KC after graduating with a degree in finance and minor in financial planning in 2023. A year ago, his roommate challenged him to start his own outreach. Then, a second friend said the same thing, and they put their heads together to figure out how to do it.

They settled on the idea of handing out coffee based on a program Liberty had seen in Denver called "Christ in the City." The Sunday morning coffee in KC is almost entirely self-financed by Liberty and his friends.

The goal is to combat hopelessness simply by talking with people on the streets. Through trial and error, Liberty said he has learned what questions to ask and what might be inappropriate. His group works in pairs, for security, and they try not to hurry from one person to another so conversations can develop.

LENDING AN EAR

Liberty has had opportunities to turn the Sunday ministry into a formal thing with financial backing from a local Catholic church. He's holding back for now to see how it goes. Homelessness is a complex problem, but he has noticed a theme.

"It is almost always ruptured relationships," he said. One thing leads to another, and many homeless people

have exhausted all their relationships.

"You could give someone an apartment with everything they need. But if they are hopeless or lonely, at the end of the day, none of that would matter," Liberty said.

Liberty is not sure what impact the coffee walks are making. His hope is that they can motivate a drug addict or an alcoholic to seek help, or to convince someone contemplating suicide to live one more day.

He is realistic about the problem. "They have to want to help themselves," Liberty said. Through conversation, Liberty hopes to encourage them to seek help without taking on their problems himself.

Liberty said his years in the SAE house taught him how to interact with all kinds of people, and this has served him well in connecting with the homeless. He has also learned something from the friends who help him serve coffee on the streets.

"It is changing the hearts of the volunteers maybe more than the homeless."



Liberty takes a break to chat during one of his Sunday walks serving coffee.

The Lion's Lore is looking for alumni who are doing interesting things at work, with family, volunteering, hobbies, traveling, etc. If you would like to nominate an alumnus for a spotlight in a future newsletter, email gregamccune@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATES



ALUMNI WEEKEND 2026

Join us this fall for the **SAE Alumni Golf Outing** and our tailgate before the football game against Houston!

GOLF OUTING – OCTOBER 9

1 p.m. shotgun start
Location: Stagg Hill Golf Club
Four-man scramble
\$120/player

FOOTBALL TAILGATE – OCTOBER 10

Shamrock Zone tickets available
(\$100/ticket)
Limited ticket supply

RSVP to **Chase Stalder '19** for golf and Shamrock tickets at (785) 280-3273 or chase.stalder@gmail.com.



THE LION'S LORE

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Thank You, Generous Donors

We appreciate the committed alumni listed below who have supported Kansas Beta Chapter in 2025 and 2026 (so far!). Their contributions are a testament to their personal SAE experiences and a commitment to Kansas Beta's future on campus.

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.

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