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December 2017 Issue: Alumni & Undergraduate

# Learning From Our Mistakes



Brothers,

This month I had the sad experience of closing our Eta Chapter at Washington State University. One of our oldest chapters fell due to poor choices made by undergraduate members, most notably hazing. Eta Chapter's situation is not unique. AKL and other Fraternities across the country have seen a significant increase in certain behaviors. As an industry we are trying to figure out why this is happening. More importantly though we are trying to figure out how to reduce or stop it from continuing.

I am proud to be a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda. I am proud of our traditions and our history. I believe we have many great years ahead of us but only if we focus on reducing the troubles that continue to haunt Fraternities. One step in that direction will be taking place this January. Next month a more detailed announcement will occur sharing that Alpha Kappa Lambda has taken the same steps that Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon and Zeta Beta Tau have already taken. We will be eliminating our new member education program and instituting a direct membership model.

We are doing this with hopes it will reduce the significant increase in hazing that we are seeing. We are doing this with hopes that member retention will increase. We are doing this with hopes more men will want to join our great organization. Most importantly though we are doing this because it is the right thing to do. If we are a family than we should welcome our recruits into the family, the Brotherhood, from day one as if they are one of us. We should place in front of them no more expectations than we place in front of any other Brother on a daily basis.

Some will ask, "How will a man prove he is worthy of our letters if there is no new member or pledge process?" The answer is a man must prove he has the right to be a Fraternity man every day he wears the letters, not simply during a 6 to 8 week period. More importantly a member of Alpha Kappa Lambda, a Man of Character Committed to Making a Difference, must always strive towards our Five Ideals. Our Ritual makes this very clear. It doesn't say "Congrats on completing pledgeship, you are now done." To take it a step further we must view a member's success today as simply the starting point for tomorrow. We expect, and will now more heavily emphasize this expectation, that our members will continually earn their right to call themselves men of AKL.

In the words of Fellow Pilgrim: ***We must realize what these Ideals of ours mean in daily life. We must realize that they are the working rules by which we are to be guided...They are not impossible for us to adhere to, and we dare not lower our Ideals merely because we cannot achieve the immediate and complete realization of them.***

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. D. Slivinski".

Jeremy Slivinski,  
Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Executive Director

# Chapter Spotlight Gamma Nu at Mansfield

**No-Shave November** is a month-long journey during which participants forgo shaving and grooming in order to evoke conversation and raise cancer awareness, explains the non-profit organization's website. Participants "grow awareness by embracing their hair, which many cancer patients lose." Donations are usually used to educate about cancer prevention, save lives, and aid those fighting the battle.

While many No-Shave events follow the organization's mission precisely, individuals and groups still use the concept of growing their beards for fun, to promote other philanthropies, and start a conversation for service projects. Our Gamma Nu Chapter at Mansfield University recently ditched their razors and held their own No-Shave November inspired philanthropy.

Gamma Nu Chapter began their "Bro Shave November" with a goal of raising \$50 for Cystic Fibrosis Research. Six brothers participated in growing their beards and tabling on campus to collect donations every Friday in November.

The brother with the most amount in donations by November 21st had to shave into a wacky beard for the week of November 27th through December 1st. Examples of wacky beards were shared on the chapter's social media page to be voted on by the public for the winning "Cheshire cat."

The brother with the second most amount in donations by November 21st was able to shave early, and the rest kept their unshaven faces until December 1st. In total, \$86 was raised and donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Research Incorporation.

*Right: The brothers who collected the most donations. Seth Lomas (left) sporting "The Cheshire" beard and Andrew Menges (right) who was able to shave early. Below: Gamma Nu brothers collecting donations on campus. Each participant had a jar where donations "voted" for who had to shave into a wacky beard.*



# Member Spotlight Tristan McGuire at Beta Chi

*Tristan McGuire, Recruitment Chair of our Beta Chi Chapter at George Mason University, recently participated in "Big Man On Campus," a philanthropy held by the women of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority at GMU. The purpose of "Big Man On Campus" was to fund raise for cancer research, support cancer patients, and raise awareness of Breast Cancer, the National Philanthropy of Zeta Tau Alpha.*

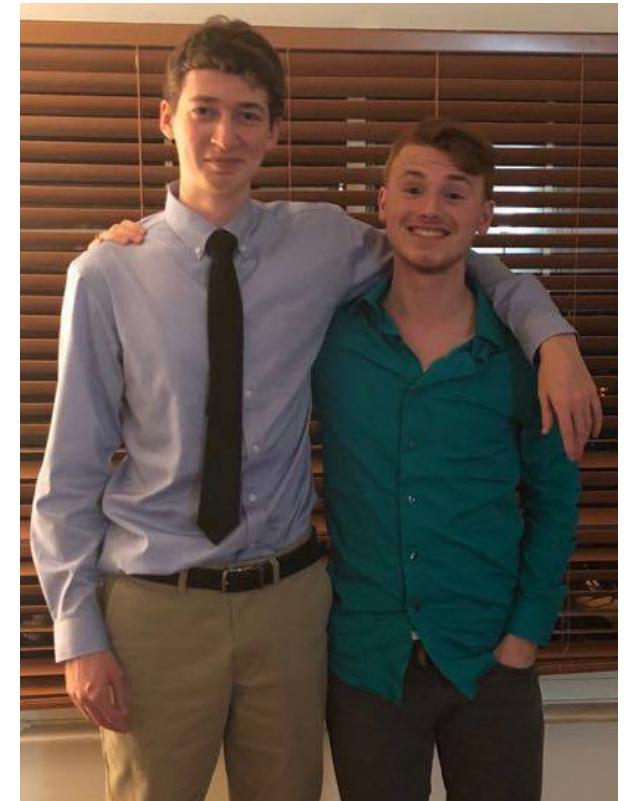
"I wanted to participate to help in the pageant, it was fundraising for cancer research and I had a grandfather that passed away from cancer a couple years ago." said Tristan about his motivation. "I also wanted to participate to help make Alpha Kappa Lambda even more present in campus events."

"Big Man On Campus" consisted of 4 different fundraiser events at various restaurants as well as a talk given on Sexual Violence. The final event was a Beauty Pageant Tristan competed in. The pageant consisted of a swim suit competition, a talent completion, a sash completion, and question/answer.

"The support of my brothers was amazing. Active brothers and pledges attended the fundraisers, and donated money to Breast Cancer Research. My big brother, Jon Rose, in particular made a large donation. With 20 AKL members this semester, I had attendance numbers comparable to the contestants from fraternities with fifty brothers or more. Also, for the talent portion of the pageant I sang and one of our pledges, Willy Fraiser, performed the Spanish drums behind me."

"It meant a lot to me to represent Alpha Kappa Lambda to the Greek Community as a whole, this Fraternity has really helped me grow into the man I am now. I'm excited to see what things myself and my brothers are involved in for semesters to come."

*Thanks to Tristan for speaking with InsideAKL and congratulations on his success and demonstration of on-campus involvement! Pictured, Tristan McGuire (right) with his little brother Alex Geyer (left.)*



**“ It meant a lot to me to represent Alpha Kappa Lambda to the Greek Community as a whole, this Fraternity has really helped me grow into the man I am now. ”**

# Chapter Activities Photo Gallery



Above: Brothers of our Gamma Pi Chapter at the University of Connecticut took a break from studying to volunteer at a local Soup Kitchen in Willimantic, CT.

Below: Members of our Saginaw Valley State University Colony spent a Saturday morning assembling Salvation Army gift bags for families in need.



Above: A brother from our Gamma Theta Chapter, at Boise State University, participating in their AKL Haircut Auction. \$5 Holiday Haircuts were also available by Paul Mitchell Hair Salon. All proceeds benefited the Women's & Children's Alliance.



Above: The chapter celebrated as the overall winner for SIUE's Make a Wish Philanthropy.

Below: AKL tabling for donations and to raise awareness of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy.



# Chapter Activities Photo Gallery



*The newest initiated members of our Upsilon Chapter at the University of Northern Colorado.*



*Brothers of our Gamma Delta Chapter at the University of Montevallo celebrating the end of the semester.*



*Lambda at Emporia State University brothers Alec Walberg (second from left) and Eli Stewart (center) were elected to ESU's Interfraternity Executive Council Board.*



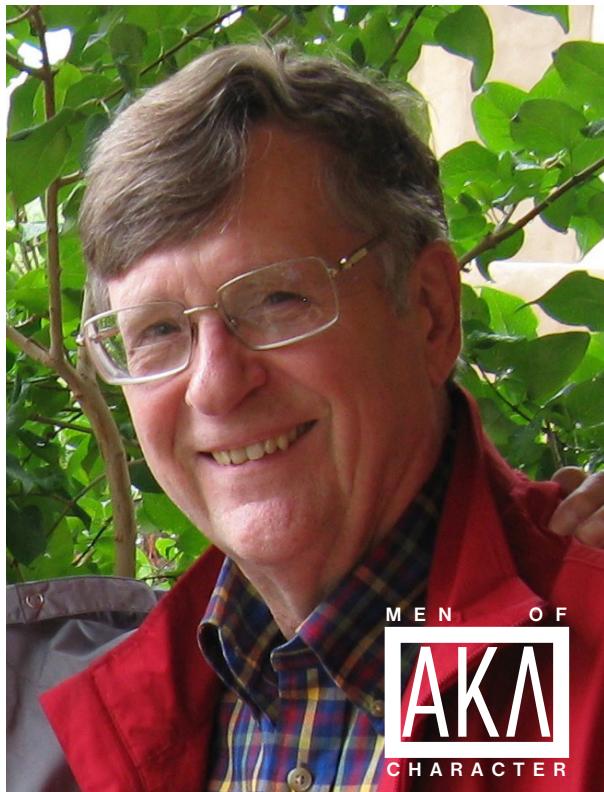
*Our Alpha Phi chapter house at the University of Idaho feeling festive for the holiday season.*



*Lambda Chapter at Emporia State University celebrating their "College-Giving" brotherhood dinner.*

*Our Beta Chi Chapter at George Mason University initiated nine new members. Congratulations!*

# Alumni Spotlight Tom Tierney, Gamma '61



*InsideAKL recently reached out to speak with Tom Tierney, Gamma Alum of University of Illinois at Urbana, to talk about the opening of his new musical THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY. For more information on the show, please check out a review in the Times Square Chronicles [here](#)!*

## Tell us about your college and fraternity experience at University of Illinois, Urbana?

"As a freshman at U of I, I lived independently my first semester, then began to visit fraternities and to consider joining one. This process went on a while during my second semester of freshman year, and somehow, I was invited to the AKL house for dinner one evening. At the time I did not know any of the members there, but almost immediately enjoyed the group and was impressed with their ideals and interests. Since I had already been writing music in high school, it turned out there were a good number of the members there that had an interest in music, another important draw."

"U of I had always been my choice of college as I originally planned to study architecture. At the end of my first year, I changed to marketing. All along I was taking music courses; studying piano, music theory, and music literature. I also had family history with the university. My grandfather and mother had both graduated from the U of I. All in all, it was a very positive experience. And the many friends I made at AKL have remained an important part of my life through the years since graduating."

"I went on to earn a masters degree in Communication, specializing in advertising and broadcasting. I continued in a PhD program, doing

all the course work, but not completing a dissertation as I was eager to go to New York to pursue writing music for theatre. While in grad school, I earned extra money working in a local advertising firm, Scott Associates, where I wrote ads and commercials, as well as doing some marketing. All this experience proved very valuable when I did move to New York."

## Did you hold any leadership positions in the chapter or in other campus organizations?

"I was briefly social secretary which involved setting up exchange parties with sororities and arranging other AKL events. And key to my own music interests, I composed original music for several Stunt Show entertainments for the fraternity. These were 10-minute stage show musicals put on with the help of a sorority, and we were award winners in this Homecoming activity on a couple occasions. Also, for the University Illini Union, I served as an event coordinator for several other campus events."

## Tell us a bit about your career path?

"When I moved to New York in 1969, the experience in the Champaign-Urbana ad agency proved helpful in getting a "day job". After many interviews, I was hired by New York Telephone in their public relations department. After a stint in their directory area, I made the switch to exhibits and displays."

*Article continued on next page...*

# Alumni Spotlight Continued

"This turned out to be a fortuitous move as phone service took a nose dive in NYC in 1970, and they needed an idea for an exhibit at the New York State Fair that was not promotional. I proposed a musical show that sang about the telephone's history and how the company was working hard to improve service. The execs loved the idea and asked me to find someone to write the show. So, I went home one weekend and wrote 2 songs."

"These became the basis of a show that the company embraced, and it even made its way to the Texas State Fair where it won first prize! That began my career path of writing original shows for corporate events. I continued this for NY Tel, then in 1975 opened my own company, Twinsun Music, where I wrote and produced many shows through the 90's and beyond. This included more than 100 shows and conventions - for IBM, State Farm Insurance, Coca Cola as well as AT&T's theme song at Disney's EPCOT Center where it played 144 times a day for 10 years. There is more info on my company website [www.TwinsunMusic.com](http://www.TwinsunMusic.com)"

"Because I was self-employed, it gave me time to develop my own music for theatre projects. This included 6 musicals for Theatreworks/USA, a company specializing in one-hour musicals for young audiences. These toured the country for several years, and one of these, THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE, recently completed its 25th year of touring. Other musicals

along the way are: ELEANOR - An American Love Story (Ford's Theatre and many others), NARNIA (more than 1000 productions through the U.S. and worldwide), PETS! (Off-Broadway), JUNGLE QUEEN DEBUTANTE (Seattle's Village Theatre) and Tommy Tune's one-man musical ICHABOD in Boston and New York."

## **Tell us about the musical you wrote that recently opened in a NYC dinner theater?**

"THE YEAR OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY is based on the novel by Christopher J. Koch that became the 1982 film starring Mel Gibson, Sigourney Weaver and Linda Hunt (Oscar winner for her role as a male photo-journalist). My co-author Jeffrey Haddow and I acquired the stage rights in 2011 and have been writing and developing the musical since then. We have done several staged readings in New York (including the York Theatre Company's Developmental Musical Series) and the show was selected for Theatre Harrisburg's (PA) New Works Festival in 2016."

"This year we were invited by Feinstein's/54 Below, a popular cabaret venue in NYC, to do a concert presentation of excerpts from the musical. That was successful, including a surprise 'rave' review. Our goal now is to mount the show in a regional production where we can test it with audiences, and eventually bring the musical to a Broadway theatre. We are working with a couple producers who share

our enthusiasm for the project, and are committed to helping us move the show forward."

## **Tell us a bit about your family life?**

"In 1970 I met Maureen Ahearn, a native of Manhattan who worked with me in Public Relations at New York Telephone. She helped me produce that first NY State Fair musical. A friendship grew, and we were married in 1974. We don't have children, but in 2001, we adopted a bulldog Maggie who became a key family member. Maureen and I split our time between an office/apartment in Manhattan and our home in New Jersey. And in recent years, we spend a few winter months on the gulf coast of Florida."

## **Any advice for undergraduate members?**

"The main advice I'd give is to follow your dream. It's quite rewarding to pursue what you love, but you need to be prepared to work hard to achieve that dream. Don't be afraid to take risks. For the performing arts, it's important to study thoroughly what you want to do, and not be discouraged by rejection. Work with coaches and teachers who can advise the best way to move forward in the business. Knowledge is valuable, as is making contacts in your field and networking. There are lots of opportunities, it just requires a bit of research to find the best path."

# Winter Break Checklist Holmes Murphy

*It's time to make sure that Greek undergraduate* leaders, chapter advisors and alumni take the time to ready their chapter facilities for the colder months and winter break. Our partners at Holmes Murphy Insurance developed this Winter Break Checklist (left) and safety prevention tips (below) to help prepare for the upcoming break period.

## Frozen Pipe Prevention Tips

- Don't turn off the heat (minimum 60 degrees)
- Recommended daily walk-through of facility
- Seal cold air leaks near wiring, vents, and pipes
- Disconnect garden hose
- Consider insulating crawl spaces and attics
- Wrap pipes with heat tape

## Fire Prevention Tips

- Prohibit smoking or candle burning in facility
- Inspect smoke detectors and sprinklers regularly
- Properly store flammable materials
- Pull curtains away from furnaces
- Unplug unnecessary items
- No space heaters

## Vandalism Prevention Tips

- Install motion activated lights or a timer
- Recommended daily walk-through of facility
- Change door code to limit access to property
- Replace broken windows
- Maintain exterior of house

- Complete routine maintenance on furnace/boiler
- Ensure furnace is on and thermostat is set at or above 60 degrees
- Ensure all hoses are removed from exterior water spigots/faucets
- Drain water lines in lawn sprinkler system where appropriate
- In extreme cold weather, open the indoor faucets slightly to allow water to trickle, as moving water does not freeze as easily; ensure no backup in drain
- Leave the doors to cabinets that contain water lines open, this will allow heat to enter the area
- Inspect all rooms
- Ensure all non-essential appliances and electronics have been unplugged
- Secure Chapter house and lock all valuables
- Contact the local police department or campus security to check on the chapter house
- Thoroughly clean Chapter house
- Confirm that heat registers are not blocked and combustible materials are safely stored. (Not next to or in the same room as the hot water heater and HVAC system)
- Remove all perishable food
- Lock all windows and repair all broken glass
- Ensure that exterior doors are well insulated and close and latch completely
- Inspect the hot water heater and exposed water lines and drain pipes for slow leaks
- Attach and secure downspouts with extension from foundation to prevent water damage, ensuring that they fully displace water away from foundation and other walking areas without draining onto the driveway, sidewalks, or patios
- Clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper roof drainage. Improper roof drainage can cause ice damming, which can cause interior water damage
- Clean exterior of house, removing any yard debris or materials that could be used to start a fire. Debris can provide an opportunity for an arsonist
- Check security/safety lighting
- Service and clean fireplace and chimney and check for defects or debris
- Check tenants rooms for the following:
  - Unnecessary damage. Any damage discovered should be documented
  - Unplug all nonessential appliances and electrical devices
  - Ensure heat registers are not blocked by personal belongings
  - Lock room/suite door for security

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# 2018 National Conclave

Atlantis Paradise Island Resort: August 1–4, 2018



REMEMBER  
YOUR



PASSPORT

[\*\*For more information, check out the  
National Conclave website here!\*\*](#)

[\*\*Don't forget your hotel!  
Reserve here!\*\*](#)

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for your Passport here!\*\*](#)

## Registration Costs

<b>Undergraduate Delegate</b>	\$350.00
	per delegate (\$700 per chapter)
<b>Alumni Delegate</b>	\$300.00
<b>Non-Delegate or Guest</b>	\$225.00
<b>Children (Under 18)</b>	\$100.00
<b>Hotel</b> per night (plus tax & fees)	\$209.00

### Registration Cost include:

- Access to all legislative and education sessions (for members)
- Access to Ritual Ceremony, Re-dedication Ceremony, and Omega Ceremony (for members)
- Access to all provided meals:
  - Friday: AKL Alumni, Friends, & Family Opening Reception
  - Saturday: AKL Education Foundation Luncheon
  - Sunday: Tasters Lunch Buffet, and Presidents' Honors Banquet
- Hotel and Travel costs not included



# CLARK-THOMPSON PRESIDENTS' ACADEMY



## & Officer's Institute

**January 12th–14th, 2018**

Renaissance Indianapolis North Hotel in Carmel, Indiana

More information can be found on our website [here](#).

### Information

- All new Chapter Presidents are required to attend. All newly elected Treasurers, Recruitment Chairs, and Risk Managers are strongly encouraged to attend.
- Registration can be completed through myAKL.org under "2018 Clark-Thompson Presidents' Academy and Officer's Institute" in Events.
- Attire is business professional with a formal group photo on Saturday. Although we will mostly be inside, Indianapolis average low temperature is 19 and high is 38 in January. There is a very high chance of snow on the ground.
- All attending should arrive no later than 2:30pm (EST) on January 12. Parking is free at the hotel and officers are encouraged to drive together. For those flying, AKL staff members will arrange a shuttle service from airport to hotel.

### Cost to Attend

<b>Total Cost for Presidents' Academy</b>	\$0 + Travel
<b>Total Cost for Officer's Institute</b>	\$0 + Travel

- Hotel and meal costs for each attendee are completely paid for by Alpha Kappa Lambda.
- Travel costs to Indianapolis must be covered by the chapter.
- Chapters traveling from the western portion of US, a hotel can be provided on Thursday if needed.



Inside AKL is a monthly, educational publication by the Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda, for undergraduates and alumni. Brothers and friends are encouraged to submit news, articles and photographs of chapter events, philanthropy and service projects as well as other notable achievements. Correspondence can be submitted using the link below.

[Online Event/Article Submission Form](#)

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Tom Tierney, Alum, Gamma at Illinois

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#### Statistics

Active Chapters & Colonies: 43

Undergraduates: 1,600+

Alumni: 25,149

Spring New Members: 257

Fall New Members: 554

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