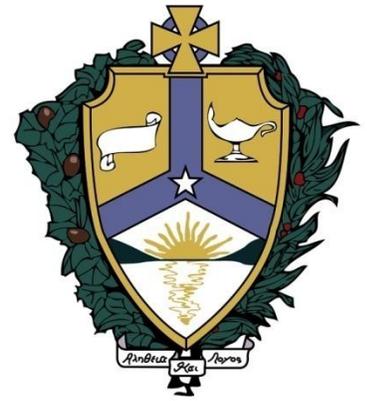


# INSIDE AKA



February 2012

## AKL is Hiring for the 2012 – 2013 Academic Year!

The Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda is currently seeking qualified applicants to serve as Chapter Services Consultants for the upcoming Academic Year. The positions will have start dates of June/July.

Chapter Services Consultants serve a variety of important roles for Alpha Kappa Lambda. The primary function is to travel from campus to campus providing education, assistance and evaluation of our chapters and colonies. During the summer they are responsible for helping with educational conferences such as our regional leadership events and this year's Conclave.

An additional function, that we would like to highlight, is that the Chapter Services Consultants are heavily involved in expansion. We highlight this because for this upcoming academic year we are anticipating a very large push to new campuses. Our goal is to start four new groups. Very few men ever have the opportunity to be on the ground leading such an effort. It is an opportunity that can't be missed.

Men interested in this opportunity can apply by clicking [Employment Application](#). If you would like more information you can contact Jeff Szumanski at [jeffrey@akl.org](mailto:jeffrey@akl.org).



## Internship Opportunities at NHQ



Almost every major educational institution has an internship requirement for their undergraduate programs. Many students struggle finding an opportunity that interests them, gets them the academic credit they need and provides real work experience.

Luckily Alpha Kappa Lambda has internship opportunities at the National Headquarters that provide such an opportunity and this summer we need more help than usual. We have three big areas of focus that interns can help: Conclave, Database Implementation, Expansion Preparation. If these or other areas interest you please apply online at: [AKL Internships](#). As a note these are non-paid opportunities but we do provide housing and food stipends.

## Your Legacy Is What You Create, Not What You Inherit

From the Executive Director's Blog: <http://aklnhq.wordpress.com/>

Living in Indianapolis and being a Colts fan I have great interest in what is happening with the Colts organization. Most recently the buzz has been about the firing of Jim Caldwell, a coach who has coached three seasons with a winning record overall. This is a man that went to the Super Bowl his first season as coach. So how did he fail?

One would argue that he was not the one that failed, that he did his head coaching duties. I could agree with that to an extent but I think he set himself up for this failure when he positioned himself to take over the team. I believe that when he was named heir apparent (while his predecessor was still around) he did so by giving away his rights to do it his way, he gave up the opportunity to create his legacy.



Fraternity and Sorority leaders are not necessarily in the same position as a person applying for a head coach of a football team but they can take a lesson from this. No matter how good something is, when you are in charge you need to own it and to some extent control it. It needs to be your legacy. It needs to be better than what it was before.

You need to view the work that was done and the successes of the past as the foundation for you to build your legacy on. You are not moving into the "house", you are adding on or renovating it. When you leave your position, do you want people to say "He/She kept it together" or do you want them to say "That is when the organization really exploded and he/she took it to the next level".

My challenge to our Fraternity and Sorority leaders, from the of national boards all the way down to the new member class officers: Create your legacy, don't live in someone else's. If you do I think things are going to get even better.

## GreekLifeEdu: A Requirement for New Members, A Program for All Members

As the recruitment of new members rolls into their education of the Fraternity and campus life, it is important to process them into GreekLifeEdu.

This exercise serves as a basic introduction to societal challenges they may face in the upcoming months. The AKL Education Foundation provides a grant to the Fraternity to use this highly regarded program. A program which is utilized by both universities and other organizations within the Greek Community.

As AKLs not only do you meet the requirement for initiation, but you also gain access to trends and knowledge acquired through qualified research. The member will be able to complete the unit in a short and easily understood timeframe. Chapters wishing to obtain an alcohol waiver must have all members complete this requirement. In addition, consideration is given when determining a chapter's Accreditation.

## UIFI 2012 – An Experience You Can't Miss, An Opportunity We Can Provide

UIFI is a five day institute that brings together fraternity men and sorority women from across North America to create opportunities to explore, define, and enhance their leadership skills, personal awareness, commitment to their fraternity or sorority, and grow to expect values based



action from themselves and those they lead. At UIFI, you will be given the skills to improve your own leadership abilities and positively affect your chapter, council, and community.

Participating in UIFI means that you are willing to talk about how fraternity and sorority leaders live their Ritual. It means having the courage, character, and commitment to do what is right and devise a plan to change the current direction of some fraternities and sororities. It means having a vision of positive change.

The institute is interactive, fun, challenging, and intentional. During a session, you'll experience hands-on interaction, experiential activities, discussion time, and personal reflection time. There is considerable focus on the positive aspects of fraternities and sororities in addition to important discussions about issues that threaten our future.

Each UIFI participant will develop their own unique personal plan of action and be challenged to make a commitment to leading positive change within their organization. Creating positive change is a challenge, one that each participant must be willing to undertake.

The AKL Education Foundation is pleased to offer annually 8 scholarships for registration to this program. Many members have completed UIFI and the experiences they have had were phenomenal. You can get information about the program at <http://www.nicindy.org/programs/uifi/>. You can apply for a scholarship from the AKL Education Foundation by going to [Alethia Scholarship](#).

## 2012 Clark – Thompson Presidents' Academy

Congratulations to the 28 men that attended our 2012 Academy. Chapter Presidents from across the country had the opportunity to meet their peers, learn about the responsibilities of being President and work with National Staff in what was a very busy weekend.

The Academy is provided thanks to a generous grant provided by the AKL Education Foundation. Individual donations and a permanent fund established by our Mu Chapter make the grant possible.



We look forward to the success this year brings with the strong leaders our undergraduates have elected.

## Risk Management – Don't Get Soft This Spring

The spring semester is already underway and in less than a month many of our chapter members head to spring break. When they return they will focus on finals and their summer plans. Many times the last thing on their minds is Risk Management. When your chapter is not thinking about it is when problems can happen.

Start off your semester by reviewing the risk management expectations as a chapter. Review the rules, discuss procedures and identify where the chapter needs to improve its operations. If you need help doing this ask a local volunteer or a National staff member to assist you. We can arrange a visit or even do a simple Skype call with your group.



A friendly reminder to our seniors that are preparing to graduate. Just because you are leaving and don't have to "worry anymore" about what happens to you does not mean you shouldn't worry about what happens to the chapter. Follow the rules and policies to the end. Don't leave a mess for the guys that have to return in the fall to clean up. Thank you in advance to all the members that didn't need this reminder.

## 2012 Conclave Next Summer

The 2012 National Conclave will be held at the [Norfolk Waterside Marriott](#) in Norfolk, Virginia on the weekend of August 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. We have exceptional rates at the hotel of \$89.00 a night. Transportation to and from the airport is inexpensive and the closest airport (Norfolk International) is serviced by Southwest Airlines.



Registration rates are \$300 to \$400 per delegate this year (each chapter is required to send two). There are reduced rates for non-delegates and the option for non-delegates to simply purchase meals. You can find more information and register here: [2012 Conclave](#).

Conclave is the biennial business meeting of the Fraternity membership. National officers are elected, legislation is considered and the direction of the Fraternity for the next two years is established. It is important that all chapters and corporation boards send representation. At this event we also hold alumni activities and educational programming. Look for requests for programming ideas to be emailed in the next few weeks.

The biggest mistake a chapter makes is not budgeting for the trip. Your chapter should start setting aside money now for registrations, airfare or gas, hotel costs and any incidentals like food while traveling. The more you save the better off you are and if you don't end up spending it all it means you have extra for the following year's budget.

## OmegaFi Update

Many of our members are noticing we are relying more heavily on OmegaFi for specific activities. This is the near future of our Fraternity. Many National organizations, such as Alpha Kappa Lambda, have been searching for a multi-faceted solution for membership management. OmegaFi is one of the very few providers currently and in our opinion the best.

Currently OmegaFi provides the vault financial management system for all of our chapters. The results can't be argued. Our chapters in general have seen a 20% increase in collections of dues and fees based on historical averages for chapters that didn't use professional services. They also provide undergraduate database assistance, and new member reporting/billing functions. The new member reporting has had some "hiccups" but we attribute this to the challenges of change. As always we will continue evaluating and adjusting as needed.

What many do not know is that OmegaFi now handles the AKL Education Foundation annual appeal activities. This is important because it establishes a consistent repetitive appeal program that brings in the funds to support the Foundation's grant and scholarship programs.

This summer we will be adding yet another program offered by OmegaFi that is called Compass. Compass is a national database solution that will allow us to move our database to a state-of-the-art system that expands our opportunities. Membership tracking information will be more detailed, chapter and corporation access to the National database will be a click away, and the current Vault system will seamlessly integrate chapter records into the database. Membership activities reports, chapter activities, officer positions, awards information, career information and so on will all be captured.

It may seem silly to be excited about something like this but we believe once you have viewed the system you will understand how big of an investment and what opportunities lie ahead for AKL. Databases are the most valuable asset for Fraternities. Securing and developing ours is extremely important if we want to be successful for another 100 years.

## **Staff Contact**

Do you need to get in touch with NHQ? If so here is how you can do it:

The Fraternity of Alpha Kappa Lambda

354 Gradle Drive

Carmel, IN 46032

Website: [www.akl.org](http://www.akl.org)

Email: [nhq@akl.org](mailto:nhq@akl.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/AKLFraternity>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/AKLFraternity>

Phone: 317-564-8003

***Suggestions for future articles in Inside AKΛ can be emailed to [info@akl.org](mailto:info@akl.org). The focus of this newsletter is to keep our undergraduate membership informed. Your thoughts help us improve this communication.***