



THE HUSKER SIG

Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi
at the University of Nebraska

RECOGNITION & CELEBRATION OF THE CHAPTER ADVISOR AWARD & PETERSON AWARDS

During UNL Homecoming weekend in October, the Alpha Epsilon Chapter (AE) celebrated our fortunate blessings of being awarded two Peterson Awards in the past two years. Last year the active chapter earned the distinction of receiving the Gold Peterson Award and being ranked the number four Sigma Chi chapter in the nation! This year we achieved a Blue Peterson Award and were very competitive again as the chapter was ranked in the top ten Sigma Chi chapters nationally. The brothers have worked hard as a chapter and have learned how challenging it is to sustain consistent, outstanding results each semester.

I am very proud of the Chapter's unwillingness to be mediocre. When AE held elections this past year, the platforms presented for Consul and ProConsul were outstanding! The visions presented by all candidates were similar, and all talked about leadership within Sigma Chi Fraternity, UNL, and by being the best men they can be individually to achieve these goals. This attitude of not settling, and wanting to be a "top three house" on UNL campus lead to the summer rush program recruiting 40 pledges for

this fall's pledge class! We initiated 37 and our house is 120 members strong!

We also celebrated the 2024 Sigma Chi Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award this past October. It was a great honor for me to receive this award, and I firmly believe it reflects all of the hard work the active chapter has put forth these past few years. Advising is a balancing act of communicating a vision of leadership but letting the young men take the lead on their projects or issues and learn from the experience.

It is very important to me to acknowledge the unwavering support given to me by **Curt "Woody" Denker** and **Colin Crayne** our House Dad and Assistant Chapter Advisor. Woody is my mentor, friend, and "sounding board" when I need advice with Sigma Chi topics. He is the cornerstone of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter! And I think it would be safe to say that without the presence of Woody, Alpha Epsilon would be in a far different place than we are today. His continued service is a blessing to me, the AE Alumni Chapter, house corporation, and all the past and current active members that have had the pleasure of working with or having a connection with Woody!

My thanks and recognition to all the past Consuls, ProConsuls, Magisters, and Executive team members that I have had the pleasure of working with over the past almost seven years. It has been a true pleasure of mine to watch you grow in the leadership roles you've held and to have been a part of the process that has served you well in becoming the leaders of men that you are today.

Finally, I asked the audience to take a moment and think about "that person" in their life that has inspired you, pushed you, influenced you to do better! I asked the active members to "be that person for someone else" by paying it forward and be a mentor themselves.

I am so proud of the young men of the AE Chapter and their accomplishments. Your desire to be the best fraternity in Sigma Chi, and to be the best fraternity on UNL campus is inspiring!!

In Hoc,
Dr. Michael A. Cover '90
Chapter Advisor



Dr. Cover and undergraduate brothers with their girlfriends



Dr. Cover with alumni and active brothers

ALUMNI CHAPTER PRESIDENT UPDATE

Since this is my 50th year of being involved in Sigma Chi since I was initiated, I decided to share a little history of why I stay close to the Alpha Epsilon Chapter. My pledge class was initiated in the Spring of 1974 and I lived at 1510 Vine Street until Summer of 1977. Since graduation, I have been a Chapter Advisor, Sigma Chi Building Corporation Treasurer under Corwin Moore, President of the Building Corporation and President of the Alumni Chapter. Alumni brothers **Corwin Moore**, **Greg Kallos**, **Jim Wagner**, **Jack Shultz** and **Bill Shreve** encouraged me to stay involved. My decision to remain connected has been the best decision I could have ever made even though there were a few challenges through the years.

Currently, I get together monthly with one of my former roommates for lunch, I tailgated with an alumni group before this year's Colorado football game, and I recently played in a September golf event with two of my pledge

class brothers and another former roommate from 1510 Vine Street. My medical, financial, legal, insurance, veterinarian and agricultural relationships are all Sigma Chi's. **My guess is there are many similar stories of long-term relationships with Sigma Chi brothers.**

We have not done a good job of sharing information since 2014. I have retained newsletters that date back to 1991. We shared information about alumni over the past 33 years in a number of ways:

- "Do You Know Anything We Should Know"
- "Brothers In The News"
- "Where Are They Now"
- "Individual Recognition"
- "Spotlights"
- "Alumni News"
- "My View: Alumni Musings"
- "Alumni Updates"

The Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter would like to hear from you and so we can share the information through the Husker Sig. Please send any information to:

**Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter
P.O. Box 95141
Lincoln, NE 68509**

In Hoc,
**Curt "Woody" Denker, AE '77
President
Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter**

ANNUAL DUES LETTER & ALUMNI RESPONSES

Alumni Brothers received the annual dues letter with the August of 2024 *Husker Sig*. I wanted to share three letters, with all of our Brothers, that were sent back with their annual dues check of **\$50.00**.

To Sigma Chi Alumni,

Enclosed is my check for the dues. I enjoy reading the news from Lincoln. I have regretted that I have never had the occasion to visit the house at 1510 Vine Street, since I left in 1953. It must be amazing to see how things have changed in 70 plus years. I lived there when the last of the WWII Vets were either Seniors or Juniors. It was a group of Vets that put the "Musk Op" plaque in place? Many of the members did not approve of it. After the University I was drafted into the Army and this was still the Korean War Draft. I did my service in France and stayed there after my service. I had a business in France and then return to the states in 1992. I have lived in Scottsdale, Arizona since 1999.

Again, thank you for keeping me up to date on news from Sigma Chi.

*In Hoc,
Alan Jensen
Class of '53*

I enjoy catching up on house happenings with the newsletter and I appreciate the efforts of alums and actives that keep the information flowing to us.

*In Hoc,
Kim Houtchens AE '68*

August 28, 2024

Dear Woody,

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$225.00. \$50.00 for annual dues and the remaining \$175.00 as a contribution. The latest "Husker Sig" indicates a most successful year.

*In Hoc,
Dan E. Tolman*

If you have not already done so, please consider paying your annual dues for 2024 in the amount of **\$50.00** and mail to: **Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter, P.O. Box 95141, Lincoln, NE 68509**

In Hoc,
**Curt "Woody" Denker, AE '77
President of the Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter**



CONSUL CHAPTER UPDATE

Brothers, as my time as Consul draws to a close, I'm excited to share the incredible strides we've made at Alpha Epsilon this year. Thanks to the generous contributions from alumni, chapter parents, and our Housing Corporation, we've been able to renovate the common areas on the first floor of our chapter house. These upgrades include new couches, freshly painted walls, refinished floors in the John Wayne Room, and new study tables that provide dedicated space for our brothers to study and collaborate.

This summer, our recruitment efforts were a great success with the addition of **Hank Phillips '27**, **Hank Kriegler '27**, and **Mason Bach '27** leading our recruitment team. We welcomed 38 new brothers to Sigma Chi, making the fall '24 pledge class one of the most diverse in recent years. These brothers come from all across Nebraska — Omaha to North Platte — as well as nine other states. Under the guidance of Magister **Grady Wright '25**, they completed their journey to full brotherhood with initiation on September 28th.

Our chapter's philanthropic efforts have reached unprecedented heights. Under the leadership of Philanthropy Chair **Joseph Maier '25**, we are on track to raise over \$30,000 this year. A highlight was our "Clash Against Cancer" fundraiser, a joint effort with the Beta Mu Chapter at CU Boulder, which raised over \$22,000 in connection with the CU-Nebraska Game, all of which will go to support the Huntsman Cancer Foundation.

Beyond our walls, our brothers continue to excel. Four brothers — **Gus Kriegler '26**, **Taelin Baumann '26**, **Kayden Kettler '27**, and **Trenton Andringa '27** — were recently selected to join the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, bringing our chapter's representation in the society to over 20 members. Additionally, many of our brothers are actively involved across campus, with eight currently holding executive roles in various UNL clubs. We also celebrated our chapter advisor, **Dr. Mike Cover '90**, for receiving the prestigious Erwin L. LeClerg Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award.

Looking ahead to the spring semester, I'm incredibly proud of where we stand as a chapter. We are planning a spring '25 pledge class, so please feel free to share potential candidates' contact information with me or our Head Recruitment Chair, **Hank Phillips**. We also have ambitious plans for this year's Derby Days, aiming to set a new record for funds raised in support of the Huntsman Cancer Foundation. The dedication of our brothers at 1510 Vine St. continues to grow each year, and our house is always open for alumni to visit and see the recent improvements firsthand.

If you're interested in getting more involved or would just like to stop by, don't hesitate to reach out at **(720) 484-1236** or via email at **Loganwal0214@gmail.com**.

IHSV,
Logan Walsh '26
Consul



TRIBUNE UPDATE

Brothers, my name is Cole Berrett, and I have the honor of serving as the current Tribune of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. This past year has been a remarkable one for our chapter. We've grown our brotherhood to nearly 120 outstanding men and worked tirelessly to improve the physical structure of our house — all in pursuit of providing the best lifelong experience for our members.

A primary goal for us is to strengthen our connection with you, our valued alumni. In recent years, we've made strides in reconnecting, and we're eager to continue building upon this foundation. During Homecoming, it was inspiring to welcome alumni who traveled from multiple states and cities to visit the house. Hearing the stories and memories from the many generations of Alpha Epsilon brothers in Lincoln was truly impactful.

Sigma Chi is full of potential, and with your continued support and guidance, we hope to make 1510 your home once again. We've made significant improvements to our chapter house, and we take great pride in building a lasting foundation for the future of Sigma Chi. Our door is always open, and we warmly invite each of you to return, share in our present, and help us build a future where we can all grow together as brothers of this Gold Peterson chapter.

In preparing this year's issue of the *Husker Sig*, I spent time reminiscing on some of these memories with the latest photos. While much has changed over the decades, the memories remain close to us all. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at (402)-983-1430 or coleberrett@gmail.com. I would love the opportunity to connect and to foster meaningful connections between our active brothers and alumni.

We all share the bond of choosing to join this remarkable brotherhood, a choice that we will never regret. We look forward to welcoming you back to 1510, to relive memories that have shaped who we are today, and to honor the legacy we all share.

In Hoc,
Cole Berrett '25
Tribune

RECRUITMENT

This past summer, Brothers **Hank Kriegler**, **Mason Bach**, and I had the privilege of recruiting 38 new members into the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi. Our recruitment efforts were a tremendous success, bringing an exceptional group of young men into our brotherhood.

Our new brothers come from nine different states and carry an impressive average GPA of 3.7. We're incredibly grateful to have recruited such mature, driven individuals, and it's been inspiring to watch them begin their journey. Seeing their growth and enthusiasm reminds me of why I'm proud to be a Sigma Chi. I look forward

to witnessing their continued development and guiding them in understanding the values and lifelong commitment of being a Sigma Chi.

As we approach the end of the fall semester, we're already gearing up for Spring Recruitment. Hank, Mason, and I are committed to fulfilling our roles as recruitment chairs, ensuring that we bring in men who embody the Jordan Standard and will be leaders on campus. We're excited for what the future holds for this chapter and to continue advancing the ideals of our Fraternity.

In Hoc,
Hank Phillips '27

HOMECOMING

This year's Homecoming was a memorable event for Sigma Chi as we showcased our spirit, teamwork, and competitive edge. Our fraternity proudly placed fourth place overall, demonstrating our skills and camaraderie. Competing against numerous other groups, we also secured an impressive score in the blood/food drive Homecoming competition.

For this year's Triad, we were partnered with: Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Omicron Pi, and Sigma Alpha Mu. We had a wonderful time using our chapter house to host all of the float making, dance practices, and event planning. This group was wonderful to work with and it was great to connect with these chapters. Continuing to establish our men of good character status on campus.

The Yard Games were a highlight, with our members excelling in every challenge and taking first in washers and second in spikeball, which resulted in us taking first overall. Sigma Chi's determination and unity were evident. Our victory in these games is a testament to the hard work and dedication of every brother who participated.

Beyond the Yard Games, our fraternity's overall performance in Homecoming was commendable. Placing fourth overall is a significant achievement, reflecting our commitment to excellence and our strong presence on campus.

In Hoc,
Emmett Johnson '26



Homecoming Chairs Taelin Baumann '26, Emmett Johnson '26, and Kayden Kettler '27 standing in front of this year's float decorations



BEING MAGISTER OF THE ALPHA EPSILON CHAPTER – THE MOST IMPACTFUL EXPERIENCE OF MY LIFE

When I was a pledge two years ago, I was profoundly moved by the lessons and values we learned in our preparation for membership in Sigma Chi. It was a process of self-reflection, personal growth, and brotherly bonding that set me on a lifelong journey to become a better person. My mentality has always been that pledgeship truly is just the beginning, as a Sigma Chi is meant to carry those lessons in his heart and employ them throughout his life.

Our ideologies of constant self-evaluation and self-awareness shaped me into a more cognizant and driven person, allowing me to visualize the kind of man I wanted to be. I returned to the lessons of pledgeship daily to motivate myself to achieve the best for my life and for those around me. Having truly labored to integrate the lessons of pledgeship into my life and seen its transformative capabilities, I wanted to facilitate this transformation among our new members.

Unfortunately, shortly after being elected as Magister, disaster struck. I had a medical emergency that created new challenges for me to be Magister. Thankfully, my brothers were there for me. The support from my brothers during my hardship made me value this opportunity to serve the chapter even more.

I was able to share my story with the pledge class, making an effort to lead by example and show



Magister Grady Wright '25 and the fall '24 pledge class

how Sigma Chi values empower us to live our best lives and give us the strength to overcome such hardships. From working with this new pledge class I found myself reinvigorated and energized to pursue my own best life. Their hard work and active engagement in the process was an inspiration — and that's the beauty of our process — pledgeship is a time to reevaluate ourselves as well as guide the newest class to

success. As powerful as pledgeship was for me when I went through it, nothing was better than going through it a second time. I am proud to have led 38 new brothers through the journey in becoming a Sigma Chi.

In Hoc,
Grady Wright '25
Magister

FRESHMAN'S PERSPECTIVE

As a freshman from Illinois, I began my college journey at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a lot of unknowns. Coming from out of state, I wanted to connect with others and make a place for myself in this new environment. Over the summer, I decided to rush Sigma Chi, a fraternity known for its values and commitment to personal growth and brotherhood. I didn't know that this decision would not only shape my college experience but also offer me a welcoming community away from home.

Summer rushing for Sigma Chi was a new experience for me. From the very beginning, I felt a genuine interest from the rush chairs and brothers who reached out. They wanted to know

about me, where I came from, and what I hoped to achieve at UNL. Their questions weren't just surface-level — they were interested in who I was as a person. As we spent time together, through the zoom calls and other events, I began to realize that Sigma Chi wasn't just a fraternity focused on social life. It was a group of men who truly embodied values of friendship, justice, and learning.

The summer rush experience wasn't just about joining a fraternity; it was about finding a group that would help me through the highs and lows of college life. Looking back, I'm grateful for taking the leap and stepping into Sigma Chi, and I'm excited for the journey ahead with my brothers.

I hope my journey with Sigma Chi will continue to provide me with opportunities for personal growth, leadership development, and deeper connections with my brothers. I also look forward to taking on more leadership roles that will challenge me and allow me to give back to Sigma Chi as it has given to me. Additionally, I hope to connect with Sigma Chi alumni who can offer mentorship and guidance as I prepare for life after college, building a network of support that will last long after graduation.

IHSV,
Luke Johnson '28

VISIT AE ONLINE

We publish a hard copy of *The Husker Sig* twice a year with support from your annual dues to the Greater Nebraska Area Alumni Chapter. We hope you enjoy it. Remember to “fill in the blanks” between the printed editions of *The Husker Sig* by visiting our website, which is dedicated to undergraduate and alumni interests alike. We’re working on getting better and faster at posting news, and the more you use it, the better we’ll get! Visit Alpha Epsilon at www.unlsigmachi.com.



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Alumni Chapter
P.O. Box 95141
Lincoln, NE 68509-5141

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PHILANTHROPY

The Alpha Epsilon chapter had an incredible philanthropic fall semester! We raised over \$10,000 for the Huntsman Cancer Foundation in the first three months of the school year alone.

Three different fundraising events helped us reach that goal. First, we partnered with the Beta Mu chapter at Colorado Boulder for the ‘Clash Against Cancer’ in which we competed with our rival school to raise money for Huntsman.

We also hosted two different philanthropy events here on campus. In September, we held our annual ‘Sigma Carnival’ event with a

dunk tank and carnival food. In October, we partnered with the Gamma Phi Beta sorority for the first-ever ‘Pumpkin Smash,’ which was the philanthropic highlight of the semester.

We delivered over 400 pumpkins to the Sigma Chi house from a local pumpkin patch. Students from around campus bought tickets to paint the pumpkins or smash them, all while enjoying apple cider and cookies. We made over \$5,000 on that night alone and were thrilled to donate the extra pumpkins to the Malone Center, a community program for underprivileged kids.

While the fall was a massive success, we still have big plans for the spring with our annual Derby Days week just around the corner! Stay tuned for ways you can help contribute to our \$30,000 fundraising goal for the 2023–2024 school year!

In Hoc,
Joseph Maier ‘25



Freshmen helping with the ‘Pumpkin Smash’ event with Gamma Phi Beta



Kayden Kettler and Joseph Maier donating extra pumpkins to the Malone Center



Clash Against Cancer Banner