

THE SKULL

Alpha Epsilon of Phi Kappa Sigma

FALL 2018



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From the Upsilon

Dear Brothers,

It's been a crazy year so far. In this publication, you'll hear from our brothers about the 99th Grand Chapter, the new Rack Room, and more.

Fall Smoker has changed this semester and I would like to thank everyone who helped make it happen. Special thanks to Hashem Amara for planning and making Smoker special this semester. Spring Smoker will be similar to the previous Smokers, with Scholarships and Chapter Awards still happening.

I have also planned a "Non-Smoker for everyone who couldn't attend Smoker. Happening at the house, to continue the per-semester Smoker tradition we now have going on and to get our New Members a taste of what's to come.

-Aurangzeb Razzaq



Message from the Alpha

Over the summer, we had the ability to send roughly thirteen members to this year's 99th Grand Chapter that was happening in New Orleans. We were able to do so with the help of our Housing Corporation, along with school activity funding. With so many members from our chapter going to New Orleans, a city most of us have never been to, it made planning, traveling, and the experience there so much more. From hanging out in the hotel to exploring the wonder that is Bourbon Street, having brothers from all around the country, but especially from my own chapter, made this experience like no other. For me, this was also the first time I went to a casino. I was able to learn the game Craps from the best, Leo Basset '08 and Jeremy Becker '17.

Going to Grand Chapter was a fantastic experience and an awesome way to start off the semester. Rush week this fall also went great. We pinned 17 new members and they're from all over the country. There is even someone from New Hampshire, the state I forgot existed. They've all been amazing throughout this semester so far. This group of guys is so willing to help out when needed, they're eager to learn about the Fraternity, and they just are wonderful to be around.

Along with that, we've just recently changed our position of Chi to be year long. We did this to give the Chi more time to plan for rush week as opposed to a winter or summer break. The Chi elections are also right after fall rush week, so they have the whole semester to prepare and focus on rolling recruitment. This is always talking about, but we struggle to do it. Hopefully now this will allow our Chi to lead the charge when it comes rolling recruitment. Our Chi has already expressed interest and ideas for making this happen, as well as we have started to see this already, especially with our new members. Since they still live in the dorms, they know more people, or possible their roommates or friends, and they see them as good fits for the Fraternities. With that, they have brought them around and showed them what it is like at Phi Kappa Sigma.

Another bigger change that we made was to the Rackroom on second deck. In recent years, it has had a constantly changing purpose from a game room, to extra beds, to a storage room and so on. This year our Brotherhood Chair planned for it to have a steady purpose. The Chapter went out and brought new furniture, a tv, and some board games and video games. The way it is set up now is for it to act as a Brotherhood Lounge. If people just want to hang out and play games, that is a perfect place to do so. Many of the brothers have been using it throughout the semester and everyone is loving it.

This fall has been exciting with many new changes that have been happening around the house. I can't wait for the rest of the events and new things to come. This is my last year at school, so just as always, the Fraternity has been making my college experience so much more than I could have imagined. Thank you to all the Alumni for all that you do big or small. Thank you to all the brothers that I have been active with for making these years some of the best of my life.

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CHI REPORT

by Justin Tringl, Chi

This semester, Fall Rush went off without a hitch. The events we had planned out were fairly successful, featuring a mix of our regular programs like Taste of the Quad and Wings Night as well as new events like Water Balloon Wars and my personal favorite, Taco Bars and RC Cars. Throughout the week, brothers had the opportunity to mingle with a few dozen potential new members. Ultimately, 18 bids were given out and 17 of those were accepted. This helped us grow the chapter by almost 50% this semester! Hopefully the work we did on values based recruitment this Fall semester will translate into another successful rush this Spring.



A NEW BROTHER'S PERSPECTIVE

by Nick Dela Cruz

The new member program I was given the pleasure of taking part in was instrumental in making me into the phi kappa I am today. The meetings felt like deep and genuine discussions on the chapter of Skull Sessions of that week, as well as a way for all of us to personally grow and learn about ourselves. I have never participated in a program that feels like it is so heavily focused on improving my life and who I am as a person. Outside of the structured program, I spent much of my time socializing with the brothers in the house. Everyone I talked to felt welcoming and interested in my contributions to the conversation. By the end of the semester, I truly felt like was a core part of the brotherhood and that this is where I belong. The responsibilities are minimal and so long as you make an effort to become friends with everyone in the house, you can rest assured that you will find a spot in the group I now consider to be my family.

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The New Brotherhood Lounge





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