

BAAA ^{THE} Journal

Issue No. 1

Summer 2020



Table of Contents

3	Editor's Note
4	BAAA Mission and Goals
5	Introducing BAAA Task Groups
6	SELF Update
7	BAEF Update
8	Alumni Letters: 60 Years of KA
10-13	Alumni Travels: Evan Thibaud
14-17	Spring Graduates
18	Alumni Bulletin
19	Contact Us

Pg. 8 Alumni Letters

Hear from a member of SELF and PC '61 member Gary Turner about what he's been up to!



Pg. 10 Alumni Travels

Evan Thibaud (PC '10) has been enjoying an atypical quarantine, hear from him first hand about his travels!



Pg. 14 Spring Graduates

Hear from our newest alumni on what they'll be doing now that they've graduated!

Editor's Note

Brothers,

I'm excited to share with you the first edition of the BAAA journal. The main purpose of this newsletter is to provide meaningful content and updates by our alumni for our alumni. We are striving to facilitate alumni engagement. This means providing an opportunity for our brothers to reconnect with brothers from the past and make new connections with brothers they might not have had any previous interactions with.

We all want to see the alumni base maintain and build on its vitality. We feel this newsletter is a good start to help achieve this goal.

For those that don't know, my name is Jack Conroy and I am a 2018 graduate from PC2k14. During my years at S&T, I witnessed the incredible engagement from our alumni base. It was always a cool experience to spend time with pledge classes from years ago who were meeting up to reflect on their time as undergraduates at KA and their years after S&T.

Although the stories and brothers involved in those experiences were different, there was a common theme across the pledge classes. KA provided lifelong friendships. These are the people we share our major life events with, from supporting us on our wedding days to our first big promotions, arrival of our children, or long anticipated

retirements. Along with the good, we can also lean on our brothers for support when the inevitable hard times come. The great times are that much greater when we have our brothers to share them with, and the rough times are that much more bearable when we have our brothers supporting us.



As you read through the rest of the newsletter, if you have any thoughts, comments, or suggestions on things you liked, didn't like, or how to improve please reach out to me at 636-234-8585 or jackryanconroy@gmail.com. This newsletter is for our alumni so we want to cater to the type of content our alumni want to read about.

Fraternally,

John Conroy
Jack Conroy



BETA ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

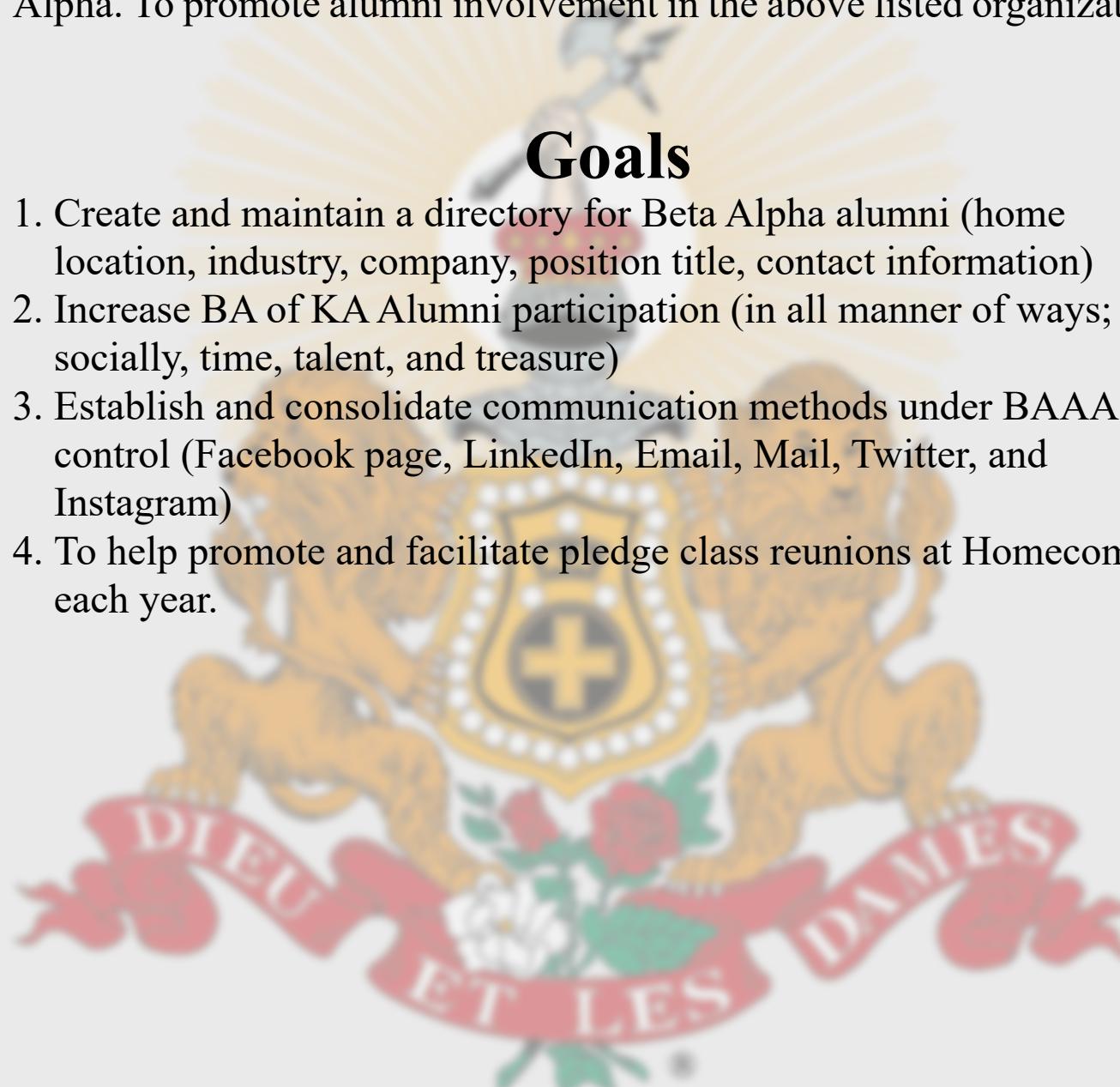
Mission, Goals, and Structure

Mission Statement

Communicate the endeavors of the Chapter, SELF, BAEF and associated alumni chapters (South Central MO, Gateway and KC) to Beta Alpha alumni by maintaining accurate contact information on alumni and sending regular correspondence. To also communicate alumni news back to the alumni body. To give clear direction on how to donate to Beta Alpha. To promote alumni involvement in the above listed organizations.

Goals

1. Create and maintain a directory for Beta Alpha alumni (home location, industry, company, position title, contact information)
2. Increase BA of KA Alumni participation (in all manner of ways; socially, time, talent, and treasure)
3. Establish and consolidate communication methods under BAAA control (Facebook page, LinkedIn, Email, Mail, Twitter, and Instagram)
4. To help promote and facilitate pledge class reunions at Homecoming each year.



BETA ALPHA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Task Groups

BAAA Website

Contacts: Joe Studer & Jared Hanisch

The BAAA Website will be the future home of all things related to Beta Alpha Alumni. The BAAA site will provide an alumni portal, allowing alumni to reach out to each other, update their contact information with BAAA, and to network within our community. Our team is currently made up of two alumni and one member of the active chapter, however we're always open to more help! If you've got any experience in website development, or want to learn, please reach out!

BAAA Newsletter

Contacts: Jack Conroy & Paul Roseman

We plan to turn the BAAA Journal into the main source of information for our alumni. Whether that's alumni events, updates on Homecoming or St. Pats, or updates on what's going on in everyone's lives; the BAAA Journal exists to bring us all together.

Alumni Communication Channels

Contact: Brad Bales

Our Alumni are involved and active all across the country (and the internet). BAAA has consolidated the alumni communication channels across social media (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn) to provide a unified front of communication for all of our alumni, wherever that may be.

Alumni Database

Contact: Clayton Newburry & Gary Turner

Until this point, there hasn't been a strong effort to collect and maintain contact information for our alumni, leading to sharded communication (and a lot of dropped messages). We've created an [Alumni Reporting Form](#) (Click to fill out!) to help keep contact information for all our members up to date.

If you're interested in helping any of these groups (or want support in starting one of your own) or just want to be included in BAAA planning emails, please reach out to

betaalphaalumni1903@gmail.com

SELF Board

The SELF Board did not meet in April due to COVID-19 concerns, however an update from the following areas was distributed to the Board members: Financial Report, House Report, No. 1's Report, BAEF report, Campus report, and the BAAA report. The house was closed during mid-March due to the University shifting to online classes only. This resulted in SELF being unable to collect nearly two months of payments from the active chapter; the plan to recoup this deficit will be over a 5 year period by increasing the monthly payment due from the active chapter a little more quickly than otherwise. In addition, the SELF board negotiated an extension to the mortgage payments to make them interest only for 6 months since it was unclear when the chapter house would reopen.

The SELF Board formed a committee in May which included Brothers Sowers, Schmidt, Hennessey, Borgmann, Markus, and Bradley to develop guidelines to re-open the house in August during the age of Covid. Included in the plan was the decision to upgrade the HVAC system to include UV purification to each unit so air recirculating throughout the house would be free of bacteria and germs. The plan also included each brother to pass a University approved scan before entering the house, capacities for each common area to social distance, hand sanitizing stations at each point of ingress, limitations on visitors, the requirement to wear masks in common areas, plating meals so brothers would eat in their rooms, etc. These guidelines would be subsequently relaxed if both the house and the campus case counts declined to low levels.

The SELF board will likely meet virtually in October and plans are underway to continue the tradition of awarding scholarships to the active chapter members, however that too will be virtual.

-Tim Bradley, SELF President



Beta Alpha Educational Foundation



It is starting to look as if the pandemic will disrupt our normally planned activites for Homecoming. Homecoming is a great time to see fellow alumni and reconnect, but for the BAEF it is also our main fundraising event. We would like to ask all alumni to please consider making a donation for scholarships. We traditionally give about \$20,000 in scholarships per year from individual, non-endowed scholarships. The BAEF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and your donation is tax deductible.

Recent tax law changes and increased amounts for standard deductions have made it more difficult for some to itemize charitable contributions. If you are retired and have IRA, please consider using a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA to donate to the BAEF.

You can donate in the following ways: Send a check to BAEF, P.O. Box 1884, Rolla, MO 65402-1884 or you can go to our website, www.baedu.org and donate through PayPal. We recently had our website professionally made. Check it out! On our website you can also choose to make your donation re-occur annually.

Please help us help our student brothers by making a donation. Thank you so much!

Jim Hennessey '84
President - BAEF

Alumni Letters

Reminiscing on 60 Years of KA

In 2021 it will be 60 years since our pledge class became KAs. Hopefully, in 2021, without COVID-19, we can have a pledge class reunion at the KA house at Missouri S&T in Rolla. In fact, I recommend that the pledge class of 1960 join us since theirs this year was unable to be held.

What am I doing? Although I have been retired from full time work since April of 2004, I have continued to do part time work in construction inspection of water line and sewer projects, and in the last 14 years have provided inspections and audits for Hanson Professional Services of precast concrete plants under a national contract with the national precast concrete association. Thanks to this I've been able to see many places in the U.S. that I never would have otherwise.

My wife, Pat, and I have been married now for 51 years, visiting Paris for our 50th last year. Our four children are now married and we have a total of ten grandchildren. Unfortunately, they all live 6 or more hours away from us and the St. Louis area in Lake Saint Louis. We keep busy with many friends in our 55 years of age or older senior community and other friends throughout the St. Louis area.

I encourage all pledge classes to maintain and re-establish your ties to Beta Alpha of Kappa Alpha through our Beta Alpha Alumni Association. Our goal is to keep active the memories, relationships, and communications we all have through KA and Beta Alpha.

Feel free to call Pat & I, or stop by any time at (314) 225-7238, gmturnersr@gmail.com, or 2186 Hawks Landing Drive, Lake Saint Louis, MO, 63367.

Gary Turner, Pledge Class of 1961

Your Story Here

Have something you'd like to share about:

- Your Business?

- Personal Life?

- KA Experience?

- Or anything else?

Then please reach out to [betaalphanalumni1903@gmail.com](mailto:betalphaalumni1903@gmail.com), or anyone in our Contact Us (pg. 19) section to get started!

Travels - Evan Thibaud



By John Destefano, PC '16

For most of us the pandemic has meant staying safe and staying home; unless you made a promise in Turkey to return your friend's van to Norway and you get stuck at the Albanian border in Greece. Evan Thibaud (PC '08) started his trip May of 2019 hitchhiking from Bermuda to Portugal by sailing across the Atlantic.

My goal was to make it to Istanbul for a friend's wedding I had met in Mexico four years prior. At the end of my month in Turkey, I met a Norwegian guy (Erik) at a hostel who had been traveling by Van to India. When Erik found out he wouldn't be able to pass through Iran because of missing his Visa window, he offered for me to drive his van back to Norway for him. Unfortunately, the next day I left for Italy. It ended up being another

month before Erik contacted my friend and asked why I didn't follow up on the van before I had left. I responded "What the hell was I supposed to ask?! Remember last night after we had some tequila you were going to give me your VAN?". Turned out this was exactly what I was supposed to ask. If I could get from Prague to Istanbul in the next five days, the van would be mine for as long as I wanted under the sole condition I return the van to him in Norway.

So began my epic adventure. My friend, a Mining Engineer and a Sig Tau from Rolla joined me in Bucharest and we explored the mountains of Transylvania, eventually crossing into Moldova, Transnistria (a country I didn't even know existed until the day before I was attempting to visit), and Ukraine together before he continued his journey to NZ for his next job. Now alone, I continued on to Poland and Hungary, through the Balkans to Greece.

Evan had been working in Athens at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and found himself unable to cross the border to Albania to continue his trip. With it being too cold to want to return to his sailboat home in Chattanooga Evan was determined to keep his promise to return the Van. After being chased out of a few towns by the police, he found a beach in Nea Michaniona he would be able to stay at with free wifi until he was able to cross the border into Albania, over two months later. This was the first time Evan had been stationary in more than nine months of intense travelling.



"I finally had a chance to slow my life down and reconcile with being alone during my journey, discover financial education, and rethink my diet and how poorly I was taking care of myself. I was alone except for the old men who would walk the beach every day. I made a connection with them that is hard to explain, they were very nice to me and would bring me food all the time. I'm very extroverted but being alone helps you understand yourself and your needs, and you become very okay with that.

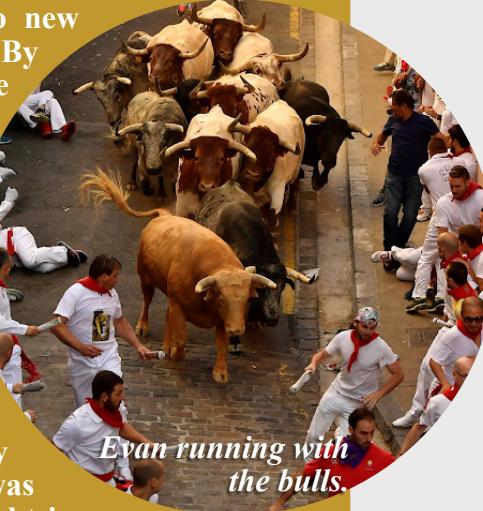
Travelling has opened my eyes to many big aspects of life but also small ones. I have been able to drastically improve my networking and career possibilities. Walking into a conference and meeting someone and being able to say cheers to them in their native language is fun. The conversation quickly changes from work to the adventures that can be found in their country and they love to share. Before you

know it, you exchanged business cards without ever talking about work.

Launching myself out of my comfort zone taught me more lessons than I could have imagined. I'm often travelling alone so it helps build confidence and open myself up to new cultures and ideas. By learning how to see the good in other cultures and religions I can now understand other's points of view while remaining critical of them and myself. This happens randomly like when I was checking into a flight in Nicaragua and the customs agent asked me my Nationality and I responded with American and she was upset and bounced back saying everyone in North and South America are "Americans". I could tell there was a lot of history behind her statement but all I could say was I am from the United States of "America" and I didn't mean to sound condescending.

One issue I struggle with since traveling is seeing people back in The States complain on social media while the rest of the world dreams of living in the USA. I still get chills when I think of the time I heard a short Thai man perfectly sing the Jay-Z song about New York City having streets paved in gold. It's a figure of speech but the world really does see the opportunity the USA presents for a more prosperous life. Many of us take for granted our wildlife and land management which is envied around the world. The ability to own a gun and hunt is more difficult in many places and we take for granted all wild animals we see while driving down the road.

...Continued on p10



Evan running with the bulls.

Travels - Evan Thibaud



I miss how unquestionably diverse we are in America. Even in Rolla, you see students from around the world who have parents who saved their whole lives to send those students to America for a better education, an opportunity to better their English and a shot at a potential career. We are a conglomerate of religions and ethnicities trying to get along in a country with more land and population than most. This is what makes us wonderful but also adds extremely controversial subjects many other countries don't have to deal with because they're a majority of one religion or race. I don't believe we have it as bad as many other countries, we only see it and experience it more because there isn't a country in the world as economically strong and diverse as us. I am not going to act like I have seen the whole world or even remotely grasp the complexities of it but I do know the mindset in the USA has shifted

from being proud of our diversity to seeing it as a problem. We have a great room for improvement and we should work towards that as KAs and as citizens.

I remember being a student and participating in the Celebration of Nations with the BBQ Club and experiencing how wildly unique our fellow students were. I was not aware, nor interested at the time, as to what there was to learn but now I see how great such an event is. The food, the dance, and clothing are the first and obvious contrasts seen but once you dig deeper you can see why certain foods in a region are dominant or how the dance was influenced from other nations over time. All of this is learned slowly but naturally and I realized most of us all want to have good jobs and to be happy regardless of which region we come from.



I still get chills when I think of the time I heard a short Thai man perfectly sing . . . about New York City having streets paved of gold.

There isn't a clean way to wrap up the story about Evan because hell, he doesn't even know how it will end. What I can tell you is that Evan has demonstrated gentility, kindness, and a dedication to the community around him in a way quite rare in a time of such social and physical isolation. He has taken his experience from KA and begun to forge his own path in a way most of us wouldn't even consider. I hope this article finds you safe and well; we will get by, we will survive.



Do you have a story you'd like to share in the BAAA Journal?

We'd love to hear about it!

Please reach out to betaalphaalumni1903@gmail.com to tell us more.

About the Author

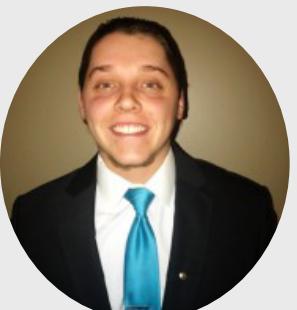
John Destefano (PC '16) is wrapping up his final semester of his Electrical Engineering degree remotely from his home in Maryland. After graduation, John will be attending Law School to become a patent attorney.

Spring 2020 Graduates



Rejoice, O young man in thy youth! Let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart, and in the sight of thine eyes! But know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity.

Ecclesiastes 11:9



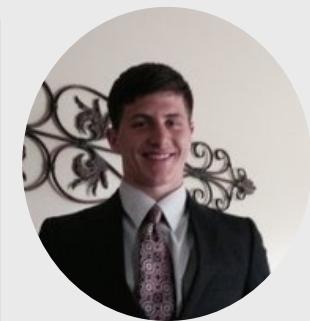
Adam Trenary

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Aerospace Eng.
Employer: EWR Radar Systems	Title: Radar Engineer
Location: St. Louis, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Merchandise Committee, IM Committee
Campus Involvement	AIAA, Rocket Design Team, GAMMA



Christian Matoushek

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Computer Sci.
Employer: Sense Corp	Title: Technical Analyst
Location: St. Louis Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Parliamentarian (VII), IT Committee Chair, Public Relations Chair, Prudential Committee, Social Committee
Campus Involvement	Interfraternity Council (Hades, VP Internal, Philanthropy Chair)



Cole Distler

Pledge Class: PC2k15	Major: Civil Eng. & Architectural Eng.
Employer: Whiting Turner	Title: Project Engineer
Location: Kansas City, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Steward
Campus Involvement	Head Surveying TA, ASCE



Connor Schott

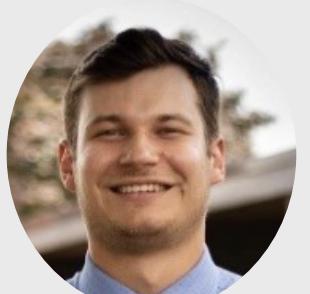
Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Aerospace Eng.
Employer: Graduate School	Title: Masters Student
Location: Rolla, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Treasurer (VI), House Manager, Merchandise Committee Chair, Brotherhood Chair, Public Relations Chair
Campus Involvement	Miner Motorcycle Design Team, AIAA, Sigma Gamma Tau, Order of Omega, GASA



Kyle Cage

Pledge Class: PC2k15	Major: Civil Eng.
Employer: Brinkmann Constructors	Title: Project Engineer
Location: Denver, Colorado	
Chapter Involvement	Sergeant-at-Arms (VIII)
Campus Involvement	ASCE, American General Contractors

Spring 2020 Graduates



Ian Aubuchon

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Geology and Geophysics
Employer: Terracon	Title: Engineering Technician
Location: St. Louis, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	IM Committee, Philanthropy Committee
Campus Involvement	ECO Miners

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Chemical Eng.
Employer: Black & Veatch	Title: Associate Asset Management Specialist
Location: Leawood, Kansas	
Chapter Involvement	Corresponding Secretary (IV), Recruitment Chair
Campus Involvement	AIChE, Undergraduate Research, Gaffer's Guild

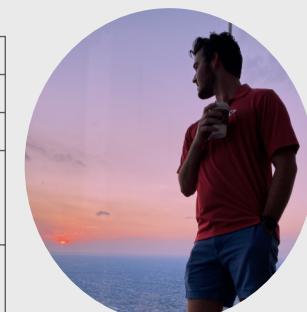


Will Schriewer



Joe Studer

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Computer Eng.
Employer: Google	Title: Software Eng.
Location: Seattle, Washington	
Chapter Involvement	President (I), Recording Secretary (III), Greek Week Chair, Intramural Chair, Public Relations Chair
Campus Involvement	Greeks Against Sexual Assault (President), IEEE (Secretary), Greek Advisory Board, Mentoring Makes a Difference



Austin Sylvester



Zach Ernst

Pledge Class: PC2k15	Major: Ceramic Eng.
Employer: GE Aviation	Title: Composites Engineer
Location: Asheville, North Carolina	
Chapter Involvement	Historian (V), Recruitment Chair, Greek Week Chair
Campus Involvement	Keramos, Material Advantage



Jacob Pappas

Pledge Class: PC2k15	Major: Civil Eng. & Architectural Eng.
Employer: Burns & McDonnell	Title: Civil/Structural Engineer Asst.
Location: St. Louis, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Merchandise Chair, Recycling Chair
Campus Involvement	ASCE (VP, Secretary), Solar House Design Team, ACI (Secretary), AEI (Treasurer, Secretary), Mentoring Makes a Difference, Chi Epsilon



Zach Wren

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Business & Management Sys.
Employer: NTP Cyber Security	Title: Security Advisor
Location: St. Louis, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Vice President (II), Marshal (IX), Brotherhood Chair
Campus Involvement	Student Union Board Marketing Director

Pledge Class: PC2k15	Major: Mechanical Eng.
Employer: Keyence	Title: Sales Engineer
Location: St. Louis, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Social Chair, Brotherhood Chair
Campus Involvement	Theta Tau Omega (Knob Trainer & Service Chair), ASME, Formula SAE, Order of Omega

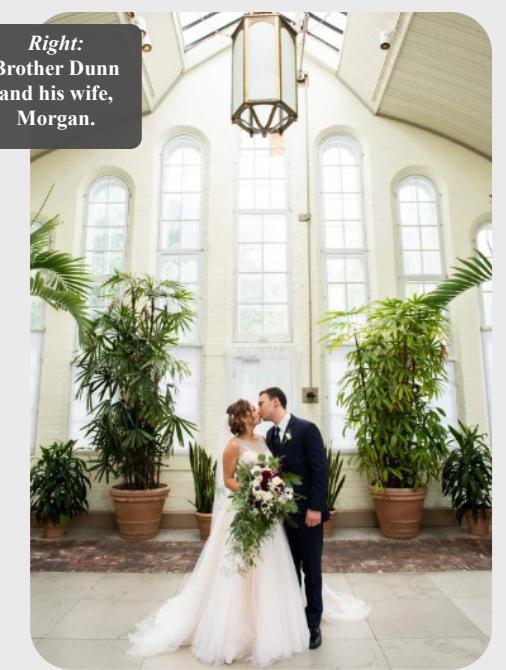


Kurt Schueddig

Pledge Class: PC2k16	Major: Chemical Eng.
Employer: Jost Chemical Company	Title: Production Engineer
Location: St. Louis, Missouri	
Chapter Involvement	Historian (V), Sergeant-at-Arms (VIII), Philanthropy Chair
Campus Involvement	St. Pats Board (Second Masterguard, Sales Manager, Campus Sales), Student Council (Recorder, Executive-at-Large), Order of Omega

Alumni Bulletin

Contact Us



Right:
Brother Dunn
and his wife,
Morgan.



In spite of quarantine, brother Jim Hennessey (PC '83) recently proposed to his now fiancee, Chris DePalma! Congratulations Jim and Chris, we're all excited for you!

Brother Chris Borgmann (PC '00) recently retired from the Missouri Army National Guard after 20+ years of service! He began his career as an enlisted mechanic and later got his commission through ROTC. During his time in the service he flew Apache and Blackhawk helicopters, and went overseas twice on Deployment. At retirement he was a Major (O4).

~Weddings~

Andrew Dunn (PC '14) & Morgan Watts

Tyler Zaring (PC '13) & Alexis Jenkin

Paul Rosemann (PC '10) & Evan Thompson

~Engagements~

Jim Hennessey (PC '83) & Chris DePalma

Chris Markus (PC '10) & Gabby Clark

Cody Call (PC '12) & Kate Crowley

Joseph Raymond (PC '15) & Andrea Vehige

Zach Ernst (PC '15) & Cristin Durbin

Jacob Pappas (PC '15) & Antonia Frankovic

Ryan "Wayne" Gallagher (PC '15) & Chloe Reagan

Will Schriewer (PC '16) & Ally Achenbach

Zach Wren (PC '16) & Jade Sterling



Above: Brother Wren recently proposed to his fiance Jade Sterling, KA Rose '19

Interested in sharing something in the Alumni Bulletin?

Reach out to the BAAA Newsletter Team at betaalphaalumni1903@gmail.com, or on any of our social media accounts!



BAAA Contacts

President
BAAA Website
BAAA Newsletter
Alumni Communication Channels
Alumni Database
General Email

Facebook Group
Twitter
LinkedIn

Alumnus Advisor
Number I
Recruitment Chair

Facebook Page
Instagram
LinkedIn Page
Twitter
Website

BAAA Social Media

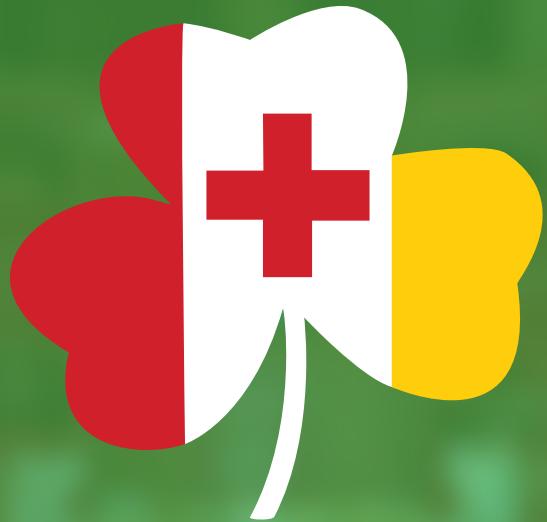
Kappa Alpha Order - Beta Alpha Alumni Association
[@BetaAlphaAlumni](#)
Kappa Alpha Order - MS&T

Chapter Contacts

Jim Hennessey (jim.hennessey@outlook.com)
Tommy Wagner (twbh3@mst.edu)
Brendan Schanuel (bmsxc4@mst.edu)

Chapter Social Media

Missouri S&T - Kappa Alpha Order
[@mst_ka](#)
Kappa Alpha Order - Beta Alpha Chapter
[@MST_KA](#)
www.mst-ka.org



Interested in joining BAAA?

Want to be featured in the next
Journal?

Email:
betaalphaalumni1903@gmail.com