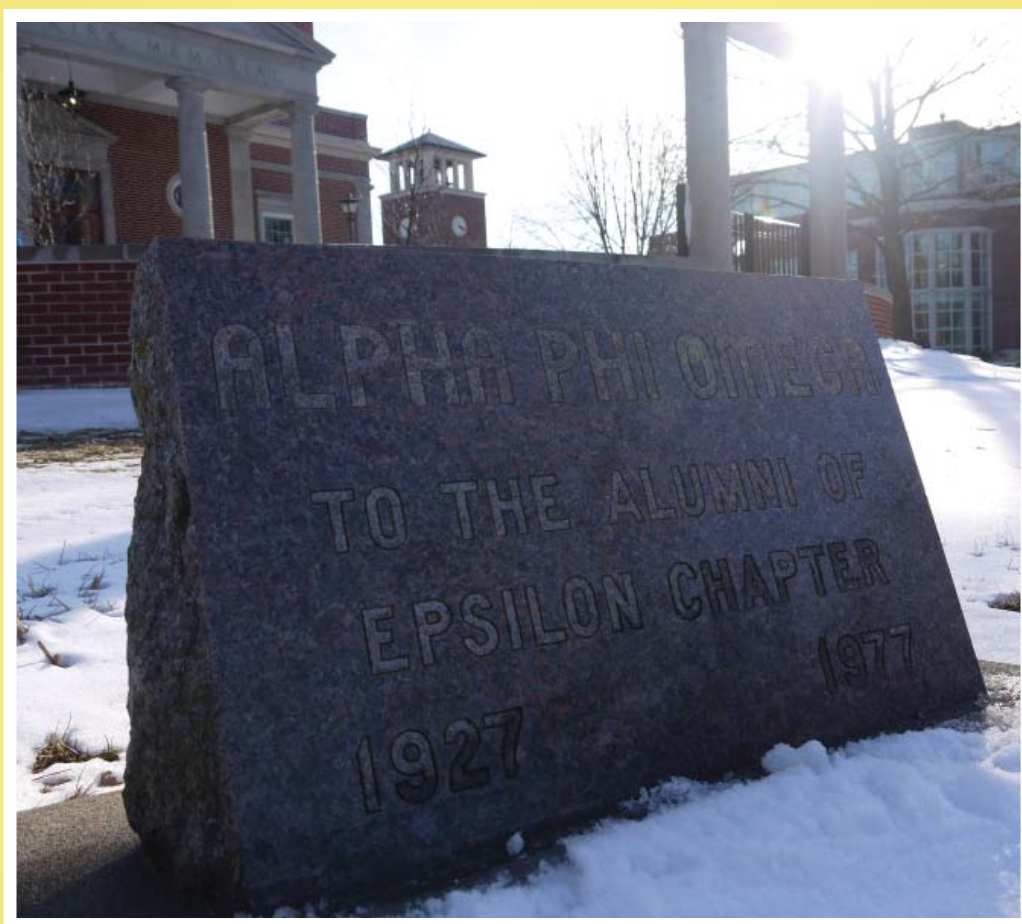




# History of Epsilon



After the end of World War I, our society woke up to see a world in disarray. A result of this awakening was the expansion of the Scouting movement. Along with this movement was the founding of the Alpha Phi Omega Service Fraternity at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania in 1925. It was founded upon the principles of the scouting movement to “assemble those who have had experience and training under the Scout Oath and Law... to develop friendship, to encourage service, and to enable its members to become leaders of America’s youth through character building, citizenship, college spirit and manly strength.” Alpha Phi Omega is based on this statement with leadership, friendship, and service as our three cardinal principles.

Soon after the first chapter was founded, it quickly expanded to three other campuses. In less than two years, the fraternity then expanded to the school that is now known as Truman State University. Being the fifth chapter this chapter was called the Epsilon Chapter.

The Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega was founded on December 13, 1927 by ten young men, who were all former scouts. Ever since, Epsilon has been a leader both at the national level of the fraternity, and on the campus of Truman. Some of the service projects that Epsilon has worked on in its first fifty years included running Red Cross drives, putting up squirrel boxes on campus, being tour guides for visit days, and helping out at registration.

In 1977 the Epsilon Chapter celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. This was an unusual event for the chapter with a memorial being placed on the Truman Quad dedicated to the Alumni of the Epsilon Chapter, and our first female member of Epsilon, Mary Ann Wolf, was activated. Admitting women to our chapter opened a new era to our chapter’s history.

Today Epsilon is one of the strongest organizations on the Truman State University campus. Its membership included former president of the Student Senate. It is also the largest non-honor group on Truman’s campus, with over 200 members. Epsilon’s service program now includes programs with the Salvation Army Food Pantry, Red Cross Blood Drives, Camp Silver Meadow, Ray Miller, and Twin Pines Retirement Community. Through friendship and service, Epsilon is poised to lead the Kirksville and Truman communities into the twentieth century.

# Important Dates in the History of Epsilon Chapter



## 1925

- On December 16, Frank Reed Horton establishes the Alpha chapter of Alpha Phi Omega at Lafayette College in Easton, PA.

## 1927

- On October 17, the founders of the Epsilon chapter present a petition for a charter to the Faculty Council of Northeast Missouri State Teacher's College and to the national organization of Alpha Phi Omega.
- On December 13, the 10 Founding Fathers are initiated as brothers of Alpha Phi Omega in the then-new Kirk Auditorium; the members elect Orval B. Craig as the first chapter president and Clark D. Stutler as secretary.

## 1934-1939

- Epsilon is not active, most likely due to the prevailing economic conditions that limited the number of men able to attend college.

## 1936

- The Alpha Omega chapter of Alpha Phi Omega is founded on May 17 at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

## 1939

- Epsilon is reactivated in the spring; the president is George Friedmeyer.
- Epsilon extends honorary membership to Delbert Maddox.

## 1941

- Epsilon sponsors the first recorded drive at the college for the American Red Cross on Nov. 11; \$1,210 is donated.

## 1942

- Epsilon extends honorary fraternity membership to college President Walter H. Ryle for his continued support of Epsilon's program of service.

## 1943

- As its last official act before going inactive, Epsilon donates a war bond to the Student Memorial Fund in support of Allied Forces during World War II. In one year's time, more than 90 percent of Epsilon's active membership was summoned to serve in the war. Nevertheless, faculty

advisor Ralph Shane points out in the June 4, 1943 edition of the Teacher's College Index, "the organization is disbanded only temporarily."

1944-1946

- Epsilon is again no longer active, apparently because of the lack of men on campus due to serving in World War II.

## 1946

- Epsilon is re-activated as a chapter in the spring; the president is Arthur S. Huff.

## 1947

- Arthur Harrington joins the Epsilon chapter as a faculty advisor.

## 1946-1967

- Epsilon conducts several service projects. In Walter H. Ryle's History of the Teacher's College, there are several projects listed including "helping in campus beautification at Christmas-time by decorating the lighting one of the evergreen trees on the campus; helping the administration each quarter during registration; working with the bloodmobile; helping Blue Key to line up floats for the homecoming parade; directing traffic at football games; ushering at assemblies and intercollegiate athletic games; helping in Red Cross drives; conducting fingerprinting projects on campus; sponsoring a fall camporee for the Boy Scouts of the Thousand Hills District; acting to provide guides on Parent's Day." Ryle also adds that Epsilon "stands ready at all times to lend a helping hand."

## 1951

- Epsilon hosts its first "Ugly Man On Campus" competition; college President Walter H. Ryle wins the competition.
- The April 12, 1951 edition of the Index notes that Epsilon held its first "Smoker" event in Kirk Auditorium, where chapter members entertained prospective members and discussed the aims of the fraternity while playing cards, listening to records and enjoying refreshments.

## 1953

- Epsilon Founding Father Alfred T. Hutchinson dies (July 29, 1904 - Aug. 27, 1953) and is interred in Hammond, IN.

## 1958

- Epsilon presents a clock to the college that will be used in Kirk Auditorium.

## 1962

- Epsilon begins a lengthy service as the publisher and editor of the Truman Homecoming programs; this is a job that Epsilon fulfills well into the 1970's.

## 1963

- Epsilon Founding Father Edwin D. Myers dies (Aug. 5, 1900 - Dec. 11, 1963) and is interred in New Boston, IL.

## 1967

- The name of the school changes to the Northeast Missouri State College.

- Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity undergoes significant structural changes at its constitutional convention.
- Epsilon Founding Father J. Bryan Caviness dies (Jan. 16, 1908 – Jan. 18, 1967) and is interred at Leadwood Cemetery in Leadwood, MO.

## 1970

- Epsilon Founding Father James H. Streeter dies (Oct. 4, 1905 – Jan. 27, 1970) and is interred at Plainview Cemetery in Pollock, MO.

## 1972

- The school's name changes from Northeast Missouri State College to Northeast Missouri State University.
- Epsilon Founding Father Richard S. Griffith dies (Jan. 5, 1904 – May 14, 1972) and is interred at Holy Hope Cemetery in Tucson, AZ.

## 1973

- Epsilon installs squirrel boxes on the University Quad, and is therefore responsible for the overpopulation of squirrels on the University campus. This also leads to a new breed of man-eating squirrels.

## 1976

- Epsilon visits Camp Thunderbird near Moberly, MO for the first time. The camp is owned by the Boy Scouts of America.
- At the National Convention in Atlanta, GA, Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity votes to extend full active membership to females.
- A Little Sister program is started at Epsilon, with three females in the first pledge class.

## 1977

- Epsilon opens its membership to females, and Mary Ann Wolf is initiated as the first female member of Epsilon, and serves as president of her pledge class.
- The Epsilon Chapter celebrates its 50th anniversary on Dec. 10, 1977. Alpha Phi Omega National Leadership Development Chair Clark Israel was the keynote speaker for the banquet. Epsilon Founding Father Russell Murfin also spoke during the banquet.
- The chapter placed a headstone in the University's Quad to commemorate the members of Epsilon from 1947-1977.
- Advisor Arthur Harrington celebrates his 30th anniversary as an Epsilon advisor.
- Epsilon changes its meeting dates to Tuesday evenings, and also changes its procedures to allow for officer elections each semester, as opposed to yearly.

## 1979

- The Family Flower concept is begun at Epsilon as the University encourages organizations on campus to "start

some new traditions." The family flower heads are Randall Cupp, Yellow Roses; Gary Pagliai, Pink Carnations; Steven Wolf, Red Carnations; Jennifer Gardiner, Red Roses; Dariush Eghbali, White Carnations; Denise Brandt, White Roses. The White Roses died out and became the flower for the advisors.

- Denise Brandt serves as the first female president of Epsilon.
- Epsilon Founding Father Otho L. Barnett dies (July 9, 1905 - Sept. 5, 1979), and is interred at Maple Hills Cemetery in Kirksville, MO.

## 1980

- Epsilon wins the 'Man Mile' award at the Section 49 Conference.
- Epsilon chapter participates in the annual 'Keep America Beautiful' day with service projects throughout Kirksville.

## 1981

- The first Blue and Gold chapter newsletter appears in October and serves to the present day in that function at Epsilon.
- Epsilon hosts the Section 49 Conference.

Epsilon extends honorary fraternity membership to Carol Race.

## 1982

- National Executive Director Warren Spoon speaks at Epsilon's annual formal on April 23, located at the Hungry Peddler's Restaurant. The event concluded with a dance at Theta Psi's dance hall.
- Epsilon awards its first chapter Distinguished Service Key to active brother Randall Cupp at its spring formal.

Epsilon assists in hosting the National Convention in Kansas City, MO.

- Epsilon extends honorary fraternity membership to past University President Walter Ryle for his long support of Epsilon's program of service.

## 1983

- Epsilon extends honorary fraternity membership to Susan Murfin, wife of Epsilon Founding Father Russell Murfin.

## 1985

- Northeast Missouri State University changes its mission from a regional school to the only statewide liberal arts public university in Missouri.
- Section 49 Chair Eddie Mackie begins and awards the first Gold Sashes at the 'Golden Eagle Banquet,' Epsilon's formal on April 13. The first recipients were actives Chuck Caverly, Joy Jenkins, Jodi Miezio, Jim Mossop, Mark Rash, Steve Rodgers, Ruth Rogers, and alumnus Randall Cupp.

## 1986

- Linda "Mom" Caraway joins the Epsilon chapter as an advisor.

**1962**  
Epsilon begins a lengthy service as the publisher and editor of the Truman Homecoming programs; this is a job that Epsilon fulfills well into the 1970's.





Epsilon Chapter participating in Big Event 2014

- Epsilon hosts the “Spring Into Brotherhood” Section 49 Conference, welcoming Alpha Phi Omega National Executive Director Pat Burke as the keynote speaker.
- Epsilon Founding Father Russell Murfin, 79 years old at the time, is awarded an Epsilon chapter Distinguished Service Key at the Section 49 Conference banquet.
- Epsilon adds the Scouting chair position to the chapter’s executive committee.
- The Alpha Phi chapter (Washington University) joins Epsilon at Camp Thunderbird.

### 1987

- Epsilon celebrates its 60th anniversary, , and commemorates this event by re-enacting the charter ceremony of 1927.

### 1989

- Epsilon extends honorary fraternity membership to Steve Brown and John Rowe.  
The fall 1989 pledge class gives the “service log” as its gift to the chapter. It is a wooden log that bears the fraternity’s Greek letters carved into its side.  
Epsilon Founding Father Lyman F. Williamson dies (April 9, 1907 - July 12, 1989) and is interred at Palm Cemetery in Orlando, FL.

### 1990

- Epsilon conducts its first Chapter Program Planning Conference (CPPC).
- Epsilon extends honorary fraternity membership to Thomas Smotherman.
- Epsilon is one of several chapters to financially contribute to the construction of the new Alpha Phi Omega National Office building in Independence, MO. Members of Epsilon attend the Nov. 17 dedication ceremony for the new National Office building.
- Fall 1990 President Brian Moore is called up late in the

semester to active armed forces duty in the Middle East for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The executive committee selects Epsilon advisory chair Linda Caraway to moderate the remainder of the fall chapter meetings until elections.

### 1991

- To better handle the growing demand for its service, Epsilon amends its bylaws to split its Vice President of Service position into two positions (First Vice President of Large Service Projects, and First Vice President of Regular Service Projects). This occurred after much chapter debate.

### 1992

- Dr. Ken Carter joins the Epsilon chapter as an advisor. Epsilon celebrates its 65th anniversary, and commemorates the event by planting an oak tree on the Quad at NMSU’s campus.

### 1994

- To better handle the growing demand for its service, Epsilon amends its bylaws to split its Vice President of Service position into two positions (First Vice President of Large Service Projects, and First Vice President of Regular Service Projects). This occurred after much chapter debate.
- Epsilon brings 50 new prospective brothers into pledge membership, one of its largest pledge class to date.
- Epsilon hosts the Section 49 Conference.
- Epsilon Founding Father and first chapter president, Orval B. Craig, dies (Aug. 19, 1907 – March 29, 1994) and is interred in Ballwin, MO.

### 1995

- Founding Father of Epsilon, Russell Murfin, dies (Oct. 15, 1906 - Sept. 30, 1995), and is interred at Sabbath Home Cemetery in Adair County.

### 1996

- Per legislation signed by Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan,

Northeast Missouri State University changes its name to Truman State University.

- Northeast Missouri State University changes its name to Truman State University.
- The paddle wars take on new meaning, as the spring pledge class gives a second paddle to Epsilon.
- Epsilon wins Outstanding Large Organization of the Year Award.
- Alpha Phi Omega adopts a risk management policy at its National Convention in Phoenix, and directs chapters to develop specific chapter policies as well.

### 1997

- In the spring, the pledging program undergoes significant reformation to better reflect national fraternity standards.
- Epsilon reaches the 150-member mark.
- Due to its growing size, Epsilon can no longer meet in Science Hall 274, and relocates to Benton Elementary School (at the southeast corner of First and Patterson streets) for its regular chapter meetings. The chapter would regularly meet there until spring 1999.
- Epsilon approves more than 150 bylaw amendments.
- Epsilon runs a record-setting Truman Blood Drive.
- The chapter participates in a limited fashion in its first National Service Week.
- Epsilon wins Truman’s Outstanding Organization of the Year award.

### 1998

- The last surviving Founding Father of Epsilon, Clark D. Stutler, dies (Sept. 19, 1906-Feb. 11, 1998) and is interred at Fairmount Memorial Terrace in Denver, CO.  
Epsilon is awarded the Region VIII Best Service Project Award for Camp Thunderbird.
- Epsilon brothers vote to approve a chapter risk management policy.

- Epsilon begins Campuswide Service Week begins at Truman.
- Epsilon wins Outstanding Large Organization of the Year Award.
- Epsilon reaches the 200-member mark.
- Epsilon hosts the Section 49 Conference on April 3-5.
- Epsilon establishes its chapter Web site for the first time.
- Truman President Jack Magruder personally recruits Epsilon to provide large service projects for the campus.

### 1999

- In a week devoted to service, Epsilon prompts Truman President Jack Magruder to declare “National Service Week” campus-wide.
- The “Old Couple” tradition begins with Epsilon’s spring pledge class. Brothers Kelli Kamp and Dan Horst serve as the first actives to voluntarily re-complete the pledge requirements with the pledges.
- At the Section 49 Conference, hosted by Delta Delta chapter, Epsilon wins the Man-Mile Award, the Spirit Award, the Service Award, and the Roll Call Award.
- Epsilon, along with national service sorority Alpha Sigma Gamma, sponsors ‘Eating Disorders Week’ for Truman State University students.
- On April 17, Epsilon hosts a Boy Scout Merit Badge Day on campus.
- Epsilon is awarded Outstanding Large Organization of the Year.
- Epsilon sponsors an Ugly Man on Campus competition; Truman President Jack Magruder wins the competition with a hilarious photo of himself.
- Epsilon begins meeting in the newly-renovated Violette Hall 1000.
- Fall 1999 Epsilon President Anne Chopin receives Truman’s Outstanding Organization President of the Year Award.





- In a week devoted to service, Epsilon prompted Truman President Jack Magruder to declare National Service Week campus-wide.
- To recognize her support of Epsilon's endeavors, Epsilon grants honorary membership to Kathy Rieck, the University's Director of Admissions.

**2000**

- At the Region VIII Conference in Norman, OK, Epsilon receives the Man Mile Award.
- The spring pledge class travels to Columbia, MO for the first “Destination Unknown,” a day where pledges travel to a location unknown to them to foster brotherhood and pledge class unity. This event has since become a staple of Epsilon pledge classes.
- Brother Steve Schnurbusch is crowned as the first “Mr. Epsilon” at the inaugural male beauty pageant at Camp Thunderbird.
- Mr. Tim Barcus joins Epsilon as a chapter advisor.
- In fall 2000, Epsilon endures a risk management crisis involving an off-campus incident that prompts an investigation by the University as well as the national fraternity. Epsilon President Vicki Ahn sets an exemplary leadership example by helping steer Epsilon through the crisis and helping protect Epsilon's charter.
- Gene Owens, longtime friend to Epsilon and Camp Thunderbird ranger, dies on Dec. 18.
- At the National Convention in Philadelphia, Epsilon wins the bid to host the next Region VIII Conference

**2001**

- Epsilon sponsors and organizes the inaugural “The Big Event” in Kirksville, a day of service that brings campus organizations together to give back to the community. “The Big Event” has since become an annual, featured community service event throughout Kirksville and Truman State University.
- Epsilon welcomes members of the UM-St. Louis petitioning group (later the Sigma Alpha chapter) to Camp Thunderbird.

**2002**

- Epsilon hosts the Region VIII Conference on Jan. 18-20, with almost 500 brothers attending.
- Epsilon alumnus Jim Roach is elected Section 49 Chair at the Section 49 Conference hosted by Alpha Phi chapter; he is the first Epsilon brother to serve in that position.
- Representatives from Epsilon travel to St. Louis for the re-chartering ceremony of the Sigma Alpha chapter (UM-St. Louis) on April 21.
- Recent Epsilon alumna Amy Metzger, who was training to become a pilot, dies in a plane crash near St. Louis on April 23, 2002. Epsilon conducts an Alpha Phi Omega Memorial Ceremony in her memory on Truman's campus in front of Kirk Memorial. Amy's younger sister Diane Metzger, an active in the Delta Delta chapter, delivers the keynote address at Smoker the following semester. The Fall 2002 pledge class is named after Amy Metzger.
- Pam Ryan joins the Epsilon chapter as an advisor. Epsilon attends Camp Jo-Ota near Clarence, MO, for the first time on Nov. 1.
- Epsilon as presented with the “Good Neighbor” award from the American Red Cross for excellence in the blood drives.
- Epsilon wins the “Man Mile Award” as well as the Josiah Frank National Historian's Award at the National Convention in New Orleans. This makes Epsilon a national award-winning chapter for the first time.

**2003**

- Epsilon hosts its 75th anniversary reunion on March 28-29, coinciding with formal. Alpha Phi Omega National President Bobby Hainline is the keynote speaker, and more than 100 Epsilon alumni return to Kirksville. Nine of the chapter's Distinguished Service Key recipients are also present for the weekend festivities. This event is highlighted in the fall issue of the fraternity'sTorch & Trefoil publication.
- Epsilon sponsors an Ugly Man on Campus competition.
- Epsilon grants retiring University President Jack Magruder honorary membership for his long support of Alpha Phi Omega on the campus of Truman State University.

- Brother Gabe Kennon is crowned Truman Homecoming King; he was sponsored by Epsilon. The chapter also participates in a weeklong array of Homecoming competitions, including volleyball, Scavenger Hunt, Banner, Street Graffiti, Philanthropy, Spirit, Flag Football, Trivial Pursuit, and Ultimate Frisbee competitions. Epsilon won 2nd place Outstanding Organization overall, while winning numerous awards.
- Epsilon grants honorary membership to Allen Caraway, spouse of advisor Linda “Mom” Caraway.

**2004**

- Epsilon wins the Most Spirited Chapter Award at the Region VIII Conference in Omaha.
- Epsilon spearheads a “Trading Spaces” style service project on Truman's campus, redecorating several residence hall rooms free of charge. This is prominently covered in the Index.
- At the Section 49 Conference hosted by the Beta Psi chapter in Cape Girardeau, MO, Epsilon wins the Man Mile Award and the Road Warriors Award.
- Also at the Section 49 Conference, brothers Nick Harbison and Kristina Sis are Epsilon's first recipients of the new Section 49 Railroaders Award.
- Epsilon wins the Section 49 Fellowship Challenge paddle from the Sigma Alpha chapter.
- Advisor Linda “Mom” Caraway receives the Phyllis C. Tenney Excellence in Advising Award at the National Convention in Denver. This national fraternity award is given to advisors who provide service to chapters of an exemplary nature for an extended period of time. Many Epsilon alumni and actives submitted nominations on her behalf.

**2005**

- Epsilon hosts the Section 49 Conference on April 8-9. Stephen Hadwiger joins Epsilon as a scouting advisor.
- Revisions were made to the chapter risk management policy and related bylaws.
- Epsilon wins the Man Mile Award at the Region VIII Conference in St. Louis.

**2006**

- Representatives from Epsilon travel to St. Charles, MO for the re-chartering ceremony of the Alpha Delta Sigma chapter (Lindenwood University).
- Epsilon wins the ‘Man Mile Award’ at the Section 35 Conference in Kansas City, MO.
- Epsilon wins the ‘Man Mile Award’ at the Section 49 Conference in Edwardsville, IL.
- Linda “Mom” Caraway celebrates her 20th anniversary as an Epsilon advisor.
- Epsilon alumnus Dan Clark is elected Section 68 Chair in eastern Tennessee.
- Epsilon receives the Alpha Phi Omega Chapter of Excellence Award at the National Convention in Louisville, KY.
- Susan B. Murfin, honorary member of Epsilon and

spouse of deceased Founding Father Russell W. Murfin, dies (July 10, 1909 – July 11, 2006) and is interred alongside her husband at Sabbath Home Cemetery in Adair County, MO.

**2007**

- Epsilon receives the Alpha Phi Omega Chapter of Excellence Award.
- Epsilon celebrates its 80th anniversary with a weekend of activities on March 23-24.
- Alumnus Randall Cupp (Fall 1978) creates the chapter Distinguished Alumni Key at Epsilon's 80th anniversary formal. Jim Roach (Spring 1997) is the first recipient. Epsilon hosts a successful Ugly Man on Campus competition to raise money for the re-building of the Newman Center, which was destroyed by fire.

**2008**

- Camp Jo-Ota is moved to Camp T-Bird following a pricing disagreement.
- Epsilon heads south over Spring Break to help build houses for hurricane victims.
- Revisions to Chapter Bylaws are made following a difficult meeting over suspensions in December 2007.
- Epsilon website is redesigned. Jill and Matt Crowe become new advisors.

**2009**

- Epsilon alumnus Philip Slocum (fall 1970) becomes a community advisor for the Chapter.
- Epsilon receives the Alpha Phi Omega Pledge Program of Excellence Award as well as the Chapter of Excellence Award.
- The Boy Scouts of America put Camp Thunderbird near Moberly, MO, up for sale.
- Advisor roles are discussed and new structure is implemented
- Major bylaw revisions to reduce redundancy in the bylaws are made.

Epsilon sponsors and organizes the inaugural “The Big Event” in Kirksville, a day of service that brings campus organizations together to give back to the community. “The Big Event” has since become an annual, featured community service event throughout Kirksville and Truman State University.

**2010**

- Epsilon alumna Marlene Clark is elected Section 49 Chair at the Section 49 Conference, hosted by Delta Delta chapter.
- Epsilon attends the Silver Meadows Girl Scout camp near Columbia, MO

**2011**

- The Linda Caraway Excellence In Leadership Award is created and awarded at Epsilon's spring formal on April 9. This award is given annually to the active member who, over the course of the academic year, has most consistently displayed the Cardinal principle of Leadership. Brother Liz Bledsoe is Epsilon's first recipient.

2001





- The Cupp of Brotherhood award is created and awarded at Epsilon's spring formal on April 9. This award is given annually to the active member who, over the course of the academic year, has most consistently displayed the Cardinal principle of Friendship. Brother Brendan O'Brien is Epsilon's first recipient.
- The Murfin Plaids spirit group are created and awarded at Epsilon's spring formal on April 9, to recognize those brothers who go above and beyond the call of duty in the specific area of scouting & youth services. Alumni brothers Randall Cupp and Jim Roach are on hand to present the inaugural Murfin Plaids to brothers Patrick O'Donnell, Bridget Rothermich, Justin Swank, Samantha Tucker, & Glee Williams.
- Epsilon welcomes alumna Kara Jo (Levery) Humphrey as a chapter advisor.
- Epsilon welcomes alumna Marlene (Clark) Talbert as a chapter advisor.

## 2012

- Nikki Kwarta & Kate Hays start the full Epsilon online family tree and online photo archive.

## Traditions of Epsilon

During Epsilons 75+ years, numerous traditions have evolved and help define our chapter. Some of these traditions have fallen away with time, some have gone on for decades.

*The Family Flowers:* At the pledge initiation, every pledge is designated as a member of one of the six family flowers. Pledges take the same family flower as their big brother. When we have events, such as the T-Bird skit competition, the family flowers compete against each other for honor and glory. The Family Flowers were started in 1979. At the time the University was encouraging organizations on campus to start some new traditions, so the brothers at the time came up with the idea of the family flowers. The people who are at the head of the Family Flowers are: Randall Cupp, Yellow Roses; Gary Pagliai, Pink Carnations; Steven Wolf, Red Carnations; Jennifer Gardiner, Red Roses; Dariush Eghbali, White Carnations; Denise Brandt, White Rose. The White Roses died out and became the flower for the advisors.



*Big Brothers:* Every pledge is assigned a big brother, who is chosen from the active membership. Each big brother is responsible for creating a pledge binder for their little brother, and then being their sponsor and guide throughout their pledge season. At the end of pledge season the big brother is supposed to make a letter sweatshirt for their little brother. In return the little brother is required to buy their big brother a paddle.

*Pledge Class Paddle:* The Pledges are entrusted a six-foot paddle, originally donated by the Spring Pledge Class of 1981. They are supposed to protect the paddle from abduction by actives, associates, and alumni. The paddle must be present at all active and pledge meetings, and major fellowship events and service projects like Camp Thunderbird. This is a friendly competition that encourages the pledges work together to protect the paddle. As a result of the name change of the University a new paddle was desired and the Spring Pledge Class of 1996 gave the Chapter this gift. Because there are now two paddles, the actives are supposed to protect the one that is marked NMSU.

*Nickname Ceremony:* Big Brothers give their Little Brothers a nickname at a ceremony during which the pledges are presented with pledge membership cards and their Family Flower. The meaning of their nickname is supposed to be revealed at activation the following semester, if it is not already apparent.

*“Fieldtrip” to the AFW-E Headstone:* During the last pledge meeting the pledges are led by their pledge class trainers to our chapter's memorial, where our legend and its significance are explained. This continuing tradition was started with the Fall Pledge Class of 1977. In the Fall of 1996 the story of the founding of the Epsilon Chapter and the reading of the names of our Chapter's Founding Fathers was added to this tradition.

*The Chaplain Report:* During the Chaplain report members of the Chapter can receive congratulations, praise for a good job, or a word of encouragement. This is done through the “Pat on the Back,” the “Hug Buddy,” and the “Warm Fuzzy.” Other awards that are voted on weekly during the Chaplain Report vary between the Active of the

Week, Pledge of the Week, Sweet of the Week, Creep of the Week, and the Dork of the Week. In past years, winners of these awards got magnets.

*Distinguished Service Twinkie:* A spoof on the Distinguished Service Key. Committee heads choose a committee member who has worked extra hard behind the scenes. Their award is a Twinkie. This tradition began with Chaplin Amy Metzger in Fall 1999.

*Camp:* The Epsilon Chapter's largest service project and fellowship event every semester. The Epsilon Chapter travels to a nearby camp for an evening of fellowship activities, a bonfire, and the nickname ceremony. The following morning, the chapter wakes up early for a day full of service for the camp we stayed at. Beginning in Fall 2010, Epsilon travels to Camp Silver Meadow, a nearby Girl Scout camp. Previous Camps included Jo-Ota, a local church camp, and Camp Thunderbird, a Boy Scout camp. In January 1998 at the Region VIII Conference at Washington University, Epsilon won the Best Region VIII Service Project Award.

*X-Notes:* A camp tradition. During camp, brothers create bags and leave notes in others bags. Called J-Bags at Jo-Ota, T-Notes at Thunderbird, and SNotes at Silver Meadow, brothers look to reading their bags full of messages from friends after camp.

*Ashes:* A camp tradition. The members of the Chapter are asked to bring along an empty film canister to use to hold the ashes of the camp fire at Camp Thunderbird or Jo-Ota. Epsilon brothers then hold onto these ashes until the next camp, where they are encouraged to throw them back into the fire. The ashes from camp have been to many different Boy Scout and Alpha Phi Omega events.

*The Gold Sash:* The Gold Sash is an honor that is given to members that have displayed the Three Cardinal Principles well beyond what a regular active member is required to do. All active and alumni members in good standing can be elected to receive this distinguished award by the current members who have a Gold Sash. This award is given to our members at Formal in the Spring.

*Beads:* These are awarded when specific events, achievements, or positions which are attended by, or attained by one of our members. This is based on the use of beads in the Boy Scouts. This was started in the Fall of 1996 under the Scouting Chair Stephanie Landess. A breakdown of the colors and their meanings appears later on in the history.

*Pancake City:* This is a tradition that usually follows most regular Chapter meetings and other Chapter functions where the members make the trek to Pancake City on Baltimore

Street to enjoy fun, fellowship, and good food with each other. Often there is a grub fry eating contest to accompany the experience.

*Thursday Night Dinners at Main street:* Dinners at Main street is an event in which the members of Epsilon gather to have dinner with each other in the Main street Market Dining area in the Student Union Building. When this tradition was started is unknown, but it is one of the more popular events, where brothers can socialize in a very relaxed environment.

*“Don't forget, Tuesday dress up and Thursday wear your letters”:* A common call that is heard by the members of the Epsilon Chapter at our Tuesday night meetings. This began as a Public Relations push, but has evolved into one of the major traditions of Epsilon.

*Semi-formal:* The first semi-formal of the Epsilon Chapter was held 5 December 1997 at the Catholic Newman Center in Kirksville. The concept was brought out when Fellowship Chair Shannon McCarty and Fundraising Chair Amanda Bowles were brainstorming for Fellowship ideas while sober driving for our sister sorority, Alpha Sigma Gamma. The idea of a semi-formal was created and the Newman Center was picked because they offered us free rental in exchange for helping out with the Mary Immaculate School Carnival. The theme for the first semi-formal was “Baby, It's Cold Outside!” The semi-formal became tradition when the Chapter was rewarded for making its Service hour goal in the Spring 1998 semester with another semi-formal.

*The Presidential Gavel:* This tradition has become almost as annoying as it is fun. When a new President of the Epsilon Chapter is sworn in he receives the Presidential Gavel from his predecessor to use to help run the meetings. All of the members of the Epsilon Chapter are responsible to try to steal the gavel when the meeting is not in session. Most of the time the President will spend two weeks whining about how the gavel is missing or trying to get it back. Usually the members return the gavel after a couple of weeks so that the President will at least have a chance at keeping it. However there have been problems in the past with members choosing not to return the gavel, resulting in a replacement donated by the Fall 1996 Pledge Class, which is, of course, missing.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is Alpha Phi Omega?**

Alpha Phi Omega is a National Service Fraternity-college students gathered together in an organization based on fraternalism and founded on the fellowship of principles derived from the Scout Oath and Law of the Boy Scouts of America. Its purpose is to develop leadership, promote friendship and provide service to humanity.

## **Who Can Join?**

Any student duly enrolled at Truman State University, who joins with the chapter's members in their service projects, accepts the principles of Scouting on which the Fraternity's ideals are based, and meets the standards of the Epsilon Chapter.

## **Why Should You Join?**

College should be more than the acquisition of facts and figures; it should also broaden you experiences, expand and test you inherent abilities and sharpen you social skills. Alpha Phi Omega, through its unique program of leadership, friendship, and service, can add this necessary but often lacking aspect of college life, and at the same time enable you to help others while helping yourself.

## **Can I join APO and still be involved in other activities?**

Yes! Many of our members are involved with several organizations on campus. As long as APO members complete requirements to remain in good standing each semester, they have flexibility in determining how much they do with APO and their other organizations. We also offer different types of membership to meet the needs of our members.

## **What kinds of things would I do in APO?**

The possibilities are endless. There are always many different service projects going on in APO, whether it is playing cards with the residents at the Twin Pines nursing home, working with kids at the local YMCA, writing letters to pen pals at elementary schools, working at the local library, helping out with blood drives for the Red Cross, and so many more. In addition to service events, brotherhood activities give APO members the chance to form friendships and have a great time. Events range from the weekly brotherhood dinner to movie nights to the annual Formal dance.

## **What kinds of leadership opportunities are there in APO?**

Leadership is one of the cardinal principles of APO, and we strive to give our members numerous opportunities to hone and develop their leadership potential. During the pledging process, pledges can assume various roles within the pledge class to plan service projects or other events. The executive board for the chapter typically has fourteen elected positions and seven appointed positions, allowing for a typical board of 20-30 people each semester. This large board gives many people to take an active role within the chapter, and there is a position to fit just about any interest or talent members may have. In addition to these positions, members can be leaders by acting as a project leader or family head.

## **How large is the organization?**

APO is currently the largest organization on the Truman State University Campus. Membership varies from semester to semester, but we typically have about 200 members. A typical pledge class has about 45-60 people.

## **Is it hard to gain admission into APO?**

No. APO is not exclusive in its recruitment process, so anyone with the desire to serve is encouraged to join. As long as you complete the rush requirements (usually three service events and three fellowship events), you will be invited to join the organization.