

ANNUAL FUND

Your Donations Fuel Our Success

As reported to the right, the undergraduate chapter is working hard to maintain the legendary history and reputation we've all worked so hard to build over the course of the last 120 years. Your financial contributions fuel their success, and help preserve our chapter for the future.

Help us get a head start on our next 120 years by making your donation to kick off the 2015-16 annual fund. Go to www.kappasigmagt.org to make your donation.

ON THE WEB

Stay Connected throughout the Year

Be sure to regularly log in to www.kappasigmagt.org for ongoing exclusive content you won't find in print. Recent headlines include:

- A Game of Inches: From Tech to TV (Alumni Profile on **John Pouncey '96**)
- New HC Treasurer Mixes Business with Fraternity Fun (Alumni Profile on **David Archer '96**)
- Kappa Sig Alum Among the "Lost Dodd Boys" (News story on **Steve Norris '71**)

While you're on the site, update your email address to receive our monthly eLetter.

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THE ALPHA TAUKER

www.kappasigmagt.org

October 2015

Alpha Tau of
Kappa Sigma

ALUMNI REPORT

6 Reasons Kappa Sig is Not Your Stereotypical Fraternity

Alpha Tau Chapter is Flourishing in a Time When Many Fraternities are Not

In a day and age where the headlines are riddled with negative incidents in the fraternity world, Alpha Tau Chapter is thriving. Comprised of a strong group of undergraduate leaders and backed by a solid alumni network, Kappa Sig has been working hard to combat the negative stereotype that surrounds the Greek world today. Thanks to strong alumni support, Alpha Tau continues to provide young men with an environment that nurtures leadership, personal development, and other skills necessary for a successful college career and life beyond.

Here's how:

- 1. We're recruiting men whose core values are aligned with Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service.** Focusing on these fundamental values of our fraternity, we've set qualitative and quantitative benchmarks and expectations for our new members to achieve.
- 2. We're increasing our power and our presence.** The chapter has improved in every measurable category this year, from GPA, to community service hours, to Homecoming rank. We have also been more recognized on campus with both the administration and the student body.
- 3. We're making a difference and raising awareness for a critical cause.** The chapter recently hosted the second annual Kappa Sigma Games: Kick the Stigma event in support of mental health at Georgia Tech. The event, which started last year in response to losing a chapter brother to suicide in 2013, grew from 100 participants



in 2014 to 400 in 2015.

- 4. We have one of the greatest houses on campus.** Our brothers rallied to build a magnificent home at Georgia Tech, serving as the place we can all come back to as alumni and for future generations of Kappa Sigs to grow into men of character.
- 5. We're committed to a lifelong experience.** We value our alumni members, and want to preserve the bonds they formed at the fraternity and with each other. In addition to our annual Homecoming bash and poker tournament, we hold great parties throughout the year, like this fall's 120th anniversary celebration and our road trip to South Bend, Ind.
- 6. We have a strong legacy on campus.** As the chapter celebrates the 120th anniversary this year, we are especially honored to preserve our history and the generational characteristics of Alpha Tau that make us all part of a strong, unified brotherhood.

Kappa Sigma will continue to flourish with a strong undergraduate chapter and your ongoing support. Read inside for more ways you can get involved with Alpha Tau Chapter this fall.

A Family Legacy

Eric Brower Follows in the Footsteps of His Father, Bill '90, to Form Lifelong Friendships at Alpha Tau

For **Bill Brower '90** and his son Eric, Kappa Sigma runs in the family. A current 5th year student at Tech, Eric is following in his father's footsteps as a member of Alpha Tau.

"So much has changed [since my days in the fraternity], I don't feel he is following so much as blazing a new and more challenging trail, and I'm proud of that," said Bill of his son. "I encouraged him to visit Kappa Sigma during rush, but to find the best fit for him."

It turns out that Kappa Sigma was very much the right fit for Eric.

"Before even coming to college, I had gotten to know several of my dad's brothers from his time there, and it was really cool to see how they still meet up years later," said Eric. "After joining the fraternity, it was pretty clear to me how some of the traits I admired in my dad are also represented in our

fraternity culture."

Both of Eric's parents have Kappa Sig connections, as Bill met his wife DeAnn (a little sister) thanks to the fraternity. In fact, Eric currently lives in room 302, which is sponsored by his parents through the chapter's capital campaign, and Bill was present for his son's initiation into the fraternity.

While father and son each report vastly different experiences in the fraternity and on campus during their time at Georgia Tech, one thing remains steadfast in their Kappa Sigma membership: the lifelong friendships.

"It's nice knowing my brothers will be there for life, just like many of my dad's brothers have been a part of his (and my) life," said Eric.

After Georgia Tech (Phys 1990), Bill earned his PhD in Physics at the University of California, San Diego, then worked for MIT Lincoln Laboratory for 16 years. In 2012, he co-founded nou Systems, Inc., a small business headquartered in Huntsville, Ala., providing engineering services to the Department of Defense. He and DeAnn have another son, Evan.

Eric is an Industrial and Systems Engineering major. He serves as Grand Procurator at Alpha Tau, works at WREK radio, and performs in the Georgia Tech marching band). He hopes for an opportunity to work at the Jet Propulsion Lab on the Europa Mission after graduation, where he served as an intern.



Bill Brower '90 (left) with his wife DeAnn and son Eric outside of room 302 at the Kappa Sig house.

Then & Now

Best Fraternity or Campus Tradition

Bill: Black and White, and "borrowing" the T.

Eric: Caroling up and down Techwood after the holiday semi-formal.

#1 Hangout on Campus

Bill: PJs.

Eric: With other brothers at the Kappa Sig house.

Best Bar

Bill: The Pit, obviously.

Eric: The best bar on campus was in the old house. Now the old bar is mounted on a wall in the Pit, right behind the new best bar on campus.

Typical Nightly Dinner

Bill: Spegeti, garlik bred, korn, orng drank (cigarette ashes and floor wax, optional).

Eric: Tony cooks ribs or chicken that are professional grade; he's the best chef on campus. Best meal you'll ever have is when we smoke pigs overnight for Homecoming in the fall.

CHAPTER NEWS

First Alpha Tau Scholarship Awarded to Legacy Brother

Atlanta Native Steven Johnston, Brother of Current Alpha Tau President, Wins Award

Congratulations to **Steven Johnston** (younger brother of current chapter president **Eric Johnston**), who was the first student selected by Georgia Tech to receive a scholarship awarded from the Alpha Tau Chapter of Kappa Sigma endowment fund. Steven will receive \$1,450 this fall and another \$1,450 in the spring.

This initial scholarship award represents the culmination of years of coordination with the Georgia Tech Foundation. It is yet another distinction which will set Alpha Tau apart

from other campus organizations in the years to come.

"To me, Kappa Sigma is a home away from home"

Steven Johnston was born in Atlanta and currently resides in Peachtree City. He's studying to become a Mechanical Engineer with a minor in Computer Science.

"To me, Kappa Sigma is a home away from home," he said. "No matter how bad my

day or week has been I know I can go back to the house and find someone to talk to who can help me with whatever issue I have and get my mind off of things. I also find it very enriching to be part of a chapter with many traditions that has spanned 120 years. I also have the privilege of having my older brother as part of my chapter. Seeing his example has helped me learn what it means to be a Kappa Sigma and how to emulate its principles in my everyday life."

ALUMNI Q&A

Check Your Ego at the Door

Simple Life Lessons, Along with Values Instilled at Kappa Sigma, Led to the Appointment of Roy Malone '80 as NASA Center Director

Congratulations to **Roy Malone Jr. '80**, who was recently named Director of Center Operations at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center this year. In this Q&A, he shares how his Kappa Sig experience helped him on his career journey and the success he has found along the way.

"Becoming a member of Kappa Sigma...helped reinforce important lifelong personal behaviors – compassion, teamwork, respect, and willingness to give to others."

What are the top 3 things you gained from your Kappa Sig experience?

1. The power of being a part of a community of like-minded people that can leverage each other's strengths to help each person and the team be successful.
2. The importance for new college students away from home for the first time, facing a very demanding academic experience, to find a place where they feel like they belong and are included.
3. Despite the incredible time demands to

succeed as an undergraduate at Georgia Tech, you can and should take time to have some fun and recharge your batteries.

Did your membership in Kappa Sigma help put you on the path to your successful career today? How?

Probably centered around the importance of empowerment and leveraging your strengths and managing your weaknesses. My experience at Kappa Sigma helped reinforce the concept that success was not up to me by myself and how powerful it is to empower each member of a team to leverage their strengths to come together and make each other and the team successful. I think often when we all face difficult situations (like some of the undergrad courses at Tech), we feel alone and isolated. Being a member of Kappa Sigma helped me to work through those times and understand that I was not alone.

Why are you proud to be a member of Kappa Sigma?

Becoming a member of Kappa Sigma was probably my first experience in becoming a part of a large well-respected organization that helped reinforce important lifelong personal behaviors – compassion, teamwork, respect,

and willingness to give to others.

What is your advice for active brothers as they begin to embark on their career journey?

My experiences in the workforce have taught me that being successful in life has a lot more to do with the softer skills than the hard technical skills. Technical competence is your ticket to the game and is essential, but the softer skills will determine the level of your success once you get there. For me in my journey, in addition to being technically competent in the areas of my responsibilities, my success has been driven by passion and how I treat others (who I work for, my peers, those that work for me). I have a philosophy that I am not better than any other person, nor is any other person better than me. I truly believe that having humility and checking your ego at the door is essential to success in today's society.



Roy Malone '80

ALUMNI EVENTS

Preserving Lifelong Friendships

Alpha Tau Offers Plenty of Opportunities to Reconnect in Our Alumni Years

Our alumni organization exists to extend your membership in Kappa Sigma long beyond graduation. Thanks to all alumni who have taken advantage of our frequent opportunities to reconnect with fellow brothers.

Alpha Taus Take on the Midwest

Talk about a great alumni event! Thanks to the Alpha Tau brothers who joined us for a great weekend in the Midwest last month. After meeting in Chicago, we enjoyed a Cubs vs. Cardinals game on Friday, took a chartered bus to South Bend for the Tech vs. Notre Dame game on Saturday, then rounded out the weekend with a Bears vs. Cardinals NFL game on Sunday.



Celebrating 120 Years of Alpha Tau

Alumni from every generation came back to celebrate the 120th anniversary of our chapter during the first weekend of October.

First Annual Poker Tournament at 2015 Homecoming Party

Alumni young and old gathered to test their skills in a "Tech-sas" Hold 'em style tournament this year, in conjunction with our always-fabulous Homecoming Alumni Party.





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Inside: 6 Reasons Kappa Sig at GT is Not Your Stereotypical Fraternity

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A Look Back at Our Old House

As Alpha Tau celebrates its 120th anniversary this year, we are taking a look back through our history to preserve the best memories and photos from over the years.

We came across this picture of the old house, as it looked over seven decades ago.

Thanks to **Michael Pouncey '94** for providing some background on its history: "This house sat on 3rd Street, mostly under what today is the Connector. They moved it to the east side of the lot when 75/85 was originally built, then abandoned it to be demolished when the interstate was widened in 1952. We've called 182 6th Street home since then."



Do you have stories, photos, or memories to share from throughout our chapter's history? Submit them at www.kappasigmagt.org.

A NOTE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Guiding Alpha Tau as We Grow

Chapter President Eric Johnston on the Most Important Aspects of Leadership

Chapter President **Eric Johnston** is committed to advancing the values and history of Kappa Sigma. Not only did he participate in the initiation of his younger brother, but he has also led Alpha Tau to improve in many areas last year--from GPA to community service participation to Homecoming recognition.

He writes, "In my opinion, the most important part of leadership is growth. I love watching and helping people grow. Since I've been initiated, I have served in a position every semester and been to every leadership

conference offered, and with that, have gained a lot of experience that I felt could be shared with younger brothers filling new positions and stepping outside of their comfort zones. Serving as president provides me the opportunity to work directly with everyone in the chapter and guide them both as leaders and as college-aged adults growing up.



Eric Johnston

Externally, I wanted to put Kappa Sigma on the map as an involved organization on campus. My goal is and has been to keep developing new relationships in the administration and other organizations on campus, and I felt that my previous relationships would help us continue achieving that goal. The end goal altogether was to make us an all-around better chapter, internally and externally, and I felt confident that the best way to do that was to serve as president."