



# Chi Agitator

CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA SIGMA OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY | SPRING EDITION 2025

## Chi Hall of Fame Weekend Honors Three Purdue Alumni

Purdue’s Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma hosted its 26th Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony from October 25-27, 2024, celebrating three alumni for their achievements and contributions. The weekend featured house tours, a reception, dinner, and the induction ceremony at Ross-Ade Stadium’s Buchanan Club. The Chi Chapter continues to recognize alumni making an impact while strengthening the brotherhood.



### 2024 Inductees:



Jeff Rigdon built Rigdon Construction into a \$30 million company. He’s also been active in his community, serving on the Danville Chamber of Commerce Board and coaching youth sports.



Nick Hoppenjans a re-founding father of the Chi Chapter Nick has worked in engineering and banking and is now VP of Automation and Process Engineering at CoBank He also coaches youth sports and founded “The Den”, and “FC Cincinnati” fan groups.



Brendan O’Connor has a background in intelligence and public service, Brendan has held high-level government roles, including Deputy Intelligence Chief for SOCOM. He now works in data strategy for Indiana’s Family and Social Services Administration and helps veterans transition back into communities.



FOUNDED  
1885

140<sup>th</sup> YEAR

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**SAVE THE DATE: Chi Reunion & Hall of Fame Weekend**  
**November 7-9 | Events Will Take Place in Chicago**  
*More Details to Follow Soon*



**KEY  
CHAPTER  
LEADERS  
& ACTIVE  
VOLUNTEERS  
2024-2025**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Grand Master - Alex Park '22*

*Grand Procurator - Zander Visser '23*

*Risk Management - Gregorio Oliveira '23, Patrick Fuery '23, Nick Burris '23*

*J-Board - John Castronovo '22*

*K-crew - Andrew Sobczak '22*

*House Manager - Kristian Demaree '23*

*Assistant House Manager - Nick Siebel '24*

*Parking Lot - Andrew Sobczak '22*

*IT Head - Daniel Speicher '22*

*Grand Scribe - Chris Kulas '23*

*Assistant Scribe - Artem Kolomiets '24*

*Academic - Saverio Miller '23, Charles Smith '24*

*Alumni - Ramiro Rodriguez '24*

*Diversity and Inclusion - Dre Long '23*

*Historian - Joe Funk '24*

*Grand Master of Ceremonies - Ashton Steele '22*

*Rush - Donnie Casillas '23, Chris Kulas '23,*

*Roman Locke '23*

*Social - Donnie Casillas '23, Sam McBroom '24, Carson Anslinger '24*

*BHD - Dre Long '23*

*Brotherhood - Eli Schuman '23*

*Guards - Ian Head '24, Kaiden Thomas '24*

*Sheet Sign - Ramiro Rodriguez '24*

*NIB Program - Artem Kolomiets '24*

*Mom's Day - Noah Kaplan '22, Sam Sprunger '23*

*Butter Up - Chris Kulas '23, Kristian Demaree '23,*

*Joe Funk '24*

*Dad's Day - Gregorio Oliveira '23*

*Grand Treasurer - Alex Petrus '23*

*Risk Management - Gregorio Oliveira '23,*

*Patrick Fuery '23, Nick Burris '23*

*J-Board - John Castronovo '22*

*K-crew - Andrew Sobczak '22*

*House Manager - Kristian Demaree '23*

*Assistant House Manager - Nick Siebel '24*

*Parking Lot - Andrew Sobczak '22*

*IT Head - Daniel Speicher '22*

**ALUMNI ADVISORS:**

*Alumnus Advisor - Tim Brinkmeyer '08*

*Assistant Alumnus Advisor - Vince Schissler '00*

**FACULTY ADVISOR**

*Michael Cline '84*

**HOUSE CORPORATION**

*Doug Kowert '60 - President*

*James Shively '00 - Vice President*

*Charles Marshall '61 - Secretary*

*Kevin Lichterman '01 - Treasurer*

*Dave Druetzler '81 - member*

*Benjamin Townsend '09 - member*

*Peter Evers '10 - member*

**House Mother**

*Teri Battleday*

**EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

*President Steve Springer '67 -*

*Secretary Matt Brozovic '82 -*

*Treasurer Kevin Lichterman '01 -*

*Trustees - Rich Adams II '83, Peter Evers '10, Charlie*

*Marshall '61*



# Grand Master REPORT

## Alex Park

Serving as Grand Master of the Chi Chapter has been one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life. This role has allowed me to grow as a leader, strengthen my ability to make tough decisions, and develop a deeper appreciation for the bond we share as brothers. From day one, my goal was to push our chapter forward—whether that meant improving operations, fostering stronger brotherhood, or leaving a lasting impact on our campus and community.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of my time as Grand Master was not only seeing the progress we made as a chapter but seeing each brother grow as a man. Watching brothers step up, take initiative, and make meaningful contributions reminded me why this fraternity is so special. It was inspiring to see the collective effort that went into strengthening our presence and upholding the values that define us. Of course, this journey wasn't without its challenges. Difficult decisions had to be made, and there were moments that tested both my leadership and my patience. But through those obstacles, I learned the importance of communication, accountability, resilience and most importantly delegation. Facing adversity head-on and working with the Executive Committee to find solutions helped us grow stronger, both individually and as a chapter.

As I reflect on my time in this role, I am incredibly grateful for the support of my brothers and the friendships that have grown even stronger throughout this experience. The late nights, the shared victories, and even the tough moments have all contributed to an unforgettable journey. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and I have no doubt that this chapter will continue to thrive in the years to come.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Grand Master. It has been an honor, and I look forward to seeing the great things that lie ahead for our fraternity.

Fraternally,  
Alex Park

## It's a WIN at the Grand Prix



# CAMPUS FACTS

## Values

6 Pillars: integrity, respect, honor, inclusion, innovation, and growth

## #of Students

44,170 Undergraduates  12,917 Post-Grads

### Greek Life

There are **11** cooperative houses, more than **80** Fraternities and Sororities on campus, and over **6,500** students in greek life (20% of the undergrad population)



### Meal Plan Rates

\$1,700 - \$5,695 per semester



### Dorm Room Rates

\$4,493-\$8,729 per academic year for single, double, triple

<https://housing.purdue.edu/my-housing/indy/info/rates>

### Top Undergrad Majors

Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Experimental Psychology, Aerospace, aeronautical and astronautical/space engineering

### Top Ranking Programs

#1 Biological/Agricultural Engineering, #2 in Aerospace/Aeronautical/Astronautical Engineering, #5 in Civil Engineering, #6 in Industrial/Manufacturing/Systems Engineering, #6 in Best Engineering Schools

### Tuition

\$9,992 for IN Residents  
\$28,794 for Out-of-State  
\$12,587 Avg Aid given to students (37% of students)



### Sports Won

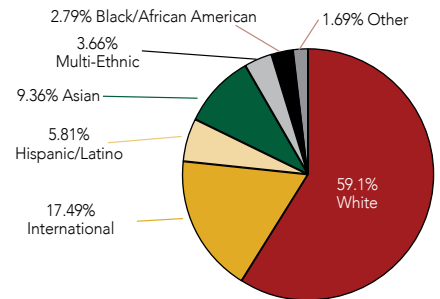
31 National Championships

### Majors Over 200



### Clubs on Campus

Over 1,000+ registered organizations & Clubs



### Purdue National Ranking

Ranked #46 in the nation for national universities (Ranked #8 amongst public institutions)

41%

Female

59%

Male

Undergraduate Students

67%  
Graduation  
Rate



50.28%  
Acceptance  
Rate

# CHAPTER FACTS

The Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma has made great strides within the past year. To kick off, the Kappa Sigma Racing Team from the Chi Chapter secured a triumphant victory at the 67th annual Purdue Grand Prix, marking their first win since 1975. These two brothers demonstrated resilience, work ethic and determination to dominate the race by lapping nearly the entire field and claiming the 1st and 2nd place trophies. The Chi Chapter celebrated this amazing victory, recognizing the hard work and determination that brought the prestigious trophy home once again. This win is a testament to our amazing program and the unwavering support from our dedicated alumni.

Within our brotherhood, we are excited to welcome the Beta Epsilon member class, with a staggering thirty-four initiated! These new members represent a significant milestone for the chapter, displaying strong recruitment efforts and enthusiasm among campus students. With 34 young men committed to the values of Kappa Sigma—service, leadership, fellowship, scholarship—the chapter looks forward to these new members and watching them develop into outstanding campus leaders and future alumni who will carry on the fraternity's legacy. With the new member class looking to run important aspects of the house, we are excited to see the improvements they

contribute to the Chi Chapter. Finally, to end the fall semester off with a bang, the Kappa Sigma intramural soccer team won the championship with a heart-stopping overtime victory. Our brother, Ryan MacDonald saved the game with his electric goal in overtime against Zeta Beta Tau. His goal erupted in a massive celebration, with his teammates rushing the field and hoisting MacDonald onto their shoulders. This thrilling win not only elevated the Chi Chapter's spirit but also set a high benchmark for more athletic achievements within Kappa Sigma.



We look forward to the amazing experiences our brothers will continue to share in the upcoming years! With each success, we are reminded of the power of unity and the promise of an even brighter future for the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma.

# Glimpses of the Past and Present



Fall Rush 2024



Philanthropy event in 2021 in support of the Jared Valentine Foundation



September 2024, First Responder Appreciation Day



Annual Youtide philanthropy Event, December 2023



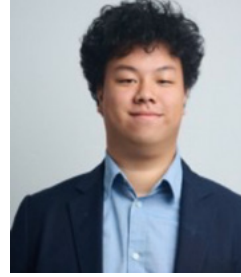
Moms Day April 2023

# UNDERGRAD PROFILES



## Meet Raif Shah

Initiation Year: 2021  
Anticipated Grad Year: 2025  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Career Plans: I hope to work as a Race Engineer in IndyCar!  
Chapter Involvement (Current or Past): Current Grand Prix Head and Driver, Alumni, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Campus Involvement (Current or Past): Formula SAE  
What Does Chi Mean To You: Chi is the place where my favorite memories are made, with the best people.  
Favorite Chapter Memory: Finishing 1st and 2nd in Grand Prix last May.  
Advice for New Members: Work hard and don't be afraid to ask for help.



## Meet Kyle Han

Hello, my name is Kyle Han. I am a senior undergraduate student at Purdue University, majoring in Bioengineering. Originally from San Francisco, I am currently conducting research at the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research, focusing on enhancing NK cell function in solid tumors for immunotherapy. Beyond academics, I am actively exploring future opportunities in research and development within the pharmaceutical, biotech, and FMCG industries to drive meaningful advancements in human health. At Chi, I have had the privilege of serving as the New Member Academic Head, having joined as a member of the Alpha Omega Pledge Class. For new members, my best advice is to embrace every opportunity that comes your way and engage with the people around you as much as possible. These experiences will lead to lasting friendships, invaluable memories, and personal growth that will stay with you long after graduation. Initiation date: 4-14-23



## Meet Blake Alvarado

Hi, I'm Blake Alvarado, a member of the Kappa Sigma Chi Chapter's Beta Alpha pledge class. I'm currently a Junior at Purdue University studying

Finance and Accounting. I'm originally from Fishers, Indiana, and after finishing my first semester as a junior, I started a tax internship at Blue and Co. LLC in Carmel, Indiana. After graduation, I plan to pursue my Master's degree in Accounting and work toward my CPA certification, with the goal of joining a public accounting firm. In the Chi Chapter, I've had the privilege of serving as the head of the Recruitment Team, and I'm also involved as an Academic Mentor and a member of the Philanthropy, Alumni, Community Development, and Social Committees. Joining a fraternity was a big decision for me, and from the start, I knew it would offer incredible opportunities for personal growth, leadership, and lasting friendships. I was drawn to Chi because of the values it stands for—community service, academic excellence, and a strong, supportive brotherhood. Being part of the fraternity has allowed me to contribute to the campus culture while connecting with like-minded individuals who share my goals and ambitions. It's also helped me find a balance between personal development and building meaningful relationships. For new members, my advice is to approach this experience with an open mind and a sense of responsibility. Fraternity life is about more than just social events; it's about being part of a community that values integrity, respect, and growth. Take the time to learn from those who have been here longer, but also bring your own ideas and perspectives. Build real relationships, stay focused on your academic and personal goals, and remember that the bonds you form here will shape your future. Be active, stay humble, and make the most of every opportunity to lead and serve. AEKDB. Initiation date: 11-17-22



## Meet Teddy Schaal

Hello, my name is Teddy Schaal, and I'm from Lone Tree, Colorado. I'm a junior at Purdue University, majoring in Computer Engineering with a minor in Business Economics. I'm proud to be a member of the Beta Alpha pledge class of Kappa Sigma fraternity's Chi Chapter. Recently, I had the honor of serving as Grand Master of the Chi Chapter, and this semester, I'm interning as a Launch Engineering Co-op on Tesla's New Products Launch Team. Within the chapter, I've also had the opportunity to lead as the head of the Academic, Social, and Recruitment committees. Before attending Purdue,

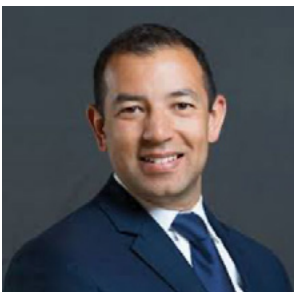
I graduated from high school in Wisconsin in 2021 and spent a gap year in Colorado. Starting college without many connections pushed me to seek out a community, and I found that in Kappa Sigma. From the beginning, I felt the genuine care and camaraderie within the Chi Chapter—a brotherhood that truly feels like family and has shaped my college experience. To new members, my advice is simple: the more you invest in the house, the more you'll gain in return. Take full advantage of the opportunities available—whether that's joining intramural sports, getting involved in committees, or finding your passion within the brotherhood. Your efforts will create lifelong bonds and memories. Initiation date: 11-17-22

# ALUMNI Profiles



## Doug Kowert

Doug Kowert holds a degree in Civil Engineering and is the Owner of DAK Associates. His former roles include Vice President at Walsh Construction and Managing Director at Schal International. His background in big construction and project management testifies to his expertise in the field. Years of leading massive projects, Doug has honed the ability to oversee complex operations, large teams, and the successful completion of multimillion-dollar projects. His dedication to excellence and dedication to the industry tell a lot about the significance of persistence and expertise in professional growth (Initiated: 10-03-1960).



## Kevin Lichterman

Kevin Lichterman graduated with a degree in Communication and Media Studies in 2003. He is currently Senior Vice President at Wintrust Bank. He has been in the position of President at National Data Research and Vice President at American Landmark Properties. His career reflects leadership in financial services and property management. Through this broad experience in these industries, Kevin has developed expertise in financial planning, corporate leadership, and business development. His life is a testament to the importance of adaptability and relationship-building for achieving business success. (Initiated: 01-07-2001)



## Martin Roeder

**Initiation Year:** 2001 | **Grad Year:** 2004

**Major:** Computer Engineering | **Current Title & Employer:** iOS Developer at Allstate

**Past Employers & Titles:** Motorola Solutions, Blackberry

**What You Like To Do Outside of Work:** I spend most of my time driving my three kids to their after school activities. Leah is 7, James is 5, and Elizabeth is 1.

**When at PU, What Were You Involved In In The Chapter if Applicable (Title):** I spent a few semesters on the Grand Prix and Football Butter-ups committee.

**What is a Favorite Memory:** Football weekends at Purdue.

**What Does Chi Mean To You:** The continued operation of the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma at Purdue means you will always have a home on campus. I've always referred to our chapter house as "The House." After I brought my kids to Purdue this year, they too were calling the chapter house, "The House."

**Advice You Have for Undergraduates:** Don't be afraid to change direction. Find what you love and don't waste time on work that doesn't interest to you.



## Tim Brinkmeyer

Tim Brinkmeyer, initiated in 2008 and a 2013 graduate of Public Relations, has pursued a career in project management. He has worked as a Buyer/Planner for Parker Lord and as a Professional Speaker for the John Maxwell Team, specializing in leadership and organizational competencies. His professional path demonstrates flexibility and strong communication abilities. Tim's public relations experience has been critical to his ability to handle teams, conduct presentations, and establish business relations. That he has managed to move from one industry to another is a testament to the process of lifelong learning and embracing new challenges.

These alumni are representative of the many career paths fraternity members follow. Their experiences emphasize the importance of leadership, planning, and utilizing professional contacts. Through continued activity in their respective careers and continued learning, they have built successful careers that serve as inspiration for existing members of the fraternity. Their success reaffirms that hard work, persistence, and good interpersonal relations are the most significant predictors of long-term success.



# How to Support *Chi*

As we approach the end of another remarkable year, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support of the Kappa Sigma Chi Chapter Educational Foundation. The generosity of our alumni brothers has been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission of fostering academic excellence and leadership among our undergraduate brothers.

This year, we are reaching out to ask for your continued support as we embark on several critical initiatives that will have a lasting impact on our chapter. Your tax-deductible donation will directly contribute to three key areas:

**1. Updating Educational Facilities:** Our chapter house is not just a home; it is a place where young men come together to learn, grow, and prepare for their futures. But it has been 25 years since the last major renovations and the old girl is showing her age. We are in the process of updating our educational spaces to create an environment that fosters academic success and leadership development. Your gift will help us provide the tools and resources needed to enhance these facilities.

**2. Scholarships for Undergraduate Brothers:** We believe that financial barriers should never stand in the way of a brother's education. With your help, we can continue to offer scholarships that support deserving undergraduates who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a commitment to our values.

**3. Supporting Our Grand Prix Team:** This past year, our Kappa Sigma team made history at Purdue University's Grand Prix event by securing both first and second place finishes! This incredible achievement would not have been possible without the support of donors like you. As we look ahead to next year's race, we aim to build on this success by investing in our go-karts and drivers. Your donation will ensure that we remain competitive and continue this proud tradition.

Your contribution, no matter the size, will make a tangible difference in the lives of our current brothers and the future ability of our chapter to attract top talent.

## **TAX ADVANTAGES**

The Foundation is an IRS 501(c)(3) entity. Of particular advantage, is that you can send a check directly from your IRA. For those of you subject to RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) your donation does not then become a distribution of ordinary income and the tax advantage accrues even if you do not itemize.

We also point out that essentially 100% of your donation goes to the benefit of the chapter. All the efforts of this board, the house board, and the numerous other alumni who give so generously of their time, are without compensation. Although there has been some discussion of doubling our salaries it would appear they will remain at zero.

There are many good organizations vying for your support. Not many of them can claim essentially no administrative costs nor can they match the satisfaction of supporting that fraternity, that home, that helped prepare you for what you have become.

We kindly ask that you consider making your donation by December 31st to maximize your tax benefits and help us start 2025 strong. You can make your gift online at [www.chikappasigma.org/donate](http://www.chikappasigma.org/donate) or by mailing a check to Kevin Lichterman, Board Treasurer, 5043 Fargo Ave, Skokie, IL.

Thank you for being an integral part of our Kappa Sigma brotherhood. Together, we can continue building a legacy of excellence that will benefit generations of brothers to come.

With heartfelt gratitude, AEKDB.

Kappa Sigma Fraternity Chi Chapter Educational Foundation  
Steve Springer, President



Chi Chapter  
Kappa Sigma Fraternity

c/o Fraternity Management Group  
P.O. Box 12010  
Tucson, AZ 85732

Address Service Requested

Prsrt Std  
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Permit #2216

**Homecoming Weekend in West Lafayette - October 24-26, 2025**

**Hall of Fame/25th Anniversary of 2000 Class Weekend - November 7-9, 2025**

See more details at the link here: <https://chikappasigma.org/events>

**DON'T MISS!**



**STAY CONNECTED  
WITH CHI CHAPTER**

Website <https://chikappasigma.org>

Facebook @Purdue Kappa Sigma Chi Chapter <https://www.facebook.com/groups/592653728010686>

Instagram @purduekappasig <https://www.instagram.com/kappasig/>

Linkedin Kappa Sigma, Chi Chapter- Purdue University <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3613955/>