



# 2024 Chi Chapter Hall of Fame

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024 | PURDUE UNIVERSITY

# WELCOME

## TO THE 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

The 26th Annual Chi Chapter Hall of Fame Awards are presented by the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Purdue University. Conceived as a means of honoring our alumni for outstanding achievements and service, this award has become an integral part of our tradition here at Chi Chapter.

Kappa Sigma is a national fraternity with great pride and a tradition of excellence that our many distinguished alumni have served to enhance throughout the years. Since its founding in 1885, Chi Chapter has seen many brothers rise to positions of prominence.

Congratulations to those who have been awarded this honor!

### THIS YEAR'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES ARE:

Jeff Rigdon '79

Nick Hoppenjans '00

Brendan O'Connor '02



# PROGRAM

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## **WELCOME**

Peter Evers '09

## **GRACE**

Ashton Steele '22, GMC

## **DINNER**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Peter Evers '09

## **UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNITION**

Steve Springer '67

## **STATE OF CHI CHAPTER**

Teddy Schaal '22, GM

## **STATE OF ALUMNI ADVISOR'S ACTIVITIES**

Vince Shissler '00

## **STATE OF CHI CHAPTER HOUSE ASSOCIATION**

Doug Kowert '60

## **HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Jeff Rigdon '79

Nick Hoppenjans '00

Brendan O'Connor '02

## **CLOSING**

Peter Evers '09

## HALL OF FAME

# Jeff Rigdon '79



Jeff was initiated into the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma in 1979 and graduated in 1981, describes his time at the fraternity as transformative. "The Kappa Sig house was a place where I always had someone I could count on. To this day, I stay in contact with many of my brothers and see several from time to time."

Jeff's career in construction began with roles at C.H. Garmong as a Project Manager and at Charles C. Brandt as a Superintendent. Reflecting on his career, he says, "I was president of Rigdon Construction from its beginning in January of 1995 until I sold the company to my son, Nate, in December of 2023. We took the company from nothing to doing over \$30,000,000 in contracts during that period. The fact that over 90% of our projects were either from repeat customers or referrals from past clients and architects speaks for itself."

In addition to his professional achievements, Jeff has been deeply involved in his community. "I served as President of the Danville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow by the Avon Rotary Club. I've been a member of both Danville and Avon Chambers of Commerce for 28 years." He also shares his passion for youth sports and education: "I've coached little league baseball and youth basketball and provided financial and personal support for most Danville school programs, especially sports programs."

Jeff's commitment to community development extends to his role as a member of the Board of Directors for the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership. He lives with his wife, Teresa, and their three children: Kelsey, married to Cody Long with three children (Weston, Barrett, and Rory); Nate, married to Brittany (Bart) Rigdon with two children (Kierlan and Graham); and Katie.

Reflecting on his fraternity experience, Jeff advises undergraduates, "Enjoy what you have today. Friendship and brotherhood are so easy now, but these will be lifelong friends and that is worth it." Today, after selling his company, Jeff continues to support Rigdon Construction in a flexible role, saying, "I sold the company in December of 2023 and agreed to 'hang around' for one year." His legacy in the construction industry and his community involvement leave an enduring impact on all who have had the privilege to work with and know him.

## HALL OF FAME

# Nick Hoppenjons '00



Nick is a distinguished professional and community leader whose career and personal life are deeply rooted in his experiences with the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Initiated in 2000 and graduating in 2003 with a Bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University, Nick was a re-founding father of the Chi Chapter and served as social chair for two years. His involvement with the fraternity was instrumental in shaping his leadership and social skills, helping him transition from a reserved student to a confident leader.

Nick's professional journey began with roles at CSX Transportation as a Process Engineer and at Toyota as a New Model Project Manager and Production Planner, where he was recognized as a JKK Champion for his problem-solving skills and commitment to quality. He then transitioned to Cincinnati Children's Hospital as a Project Manager for National Collaboratives, improving care for children with chronic conditions. Nick continued to build his career in the banking sector, holding positions at Fifth Third Bank and US Bank as a Process Engineer and Vice President of Automation. Currently, he is the Vice President of Automation and Process Engineering at CoBank. His professional accolades include earning a Six Sigma Black Belt and being a SAFe Agile Product Manager.

In addition to his career achievements, Nick is actively involved in his community. He has coached soccer and baseball and has been a key fundraiser for the Redwood School. He also founded "The Den," an FC Cincinnati fan club dedicated to introducing families to soccer fandom. His passion for community service is a testament to the values instilled in him during his time with Kappa Sigma.

Nick resides with his wife, Megan, and their two children, Reid and Grey.

Reflecting on his time with Kappa Sigma, Nick credits the fraternity with helping him develop both personally and professionally. He recalls meeting Adam Bender and forming lifelong friendships with fellow founding members Conrad, Vu, and Dave. "These relationships and the experiences we shared at Chi were pivotal in his personal growth, teaching him perseverance, accountability, and the importance of community. Without a doubt Kappa Sigma and specifically the men of the Chi Chapter made me the person/man that I am. I grew socially and

## HALL OF FAME

# Nick Hoppenjons '00(*continued*)

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had the unenviable (turned out not to be a bad gig) task of being the spearhead into the social scene for the young chapter. I learned to persevere even though most responses were “you’re who from what?” And built a connection with other houses. I learned so much from James in how to work and study which I greatly needed to learn. I learned accountability when my 1.25 semester GPA was posted to the whole house - turned my academic career around. There are countless things in my time at Chi that moved me forward as a human. Even today, while kids and jobs and life get in the way I’ve still able to take two trips with brothers. We talk constantly and our shared experiences at Chi provides so many happy/ cloudy memories.” Nick encourages “current and future undergraduates to cherish their time in the fraternity, emphasizing that the friendships and brotherhood formed during these years will be lifelong. Appreciate the support system they have in their brothers, as these connections will provide invaluable support and joy throughout their lives. My journey from a shy, reserved student to a successful professional and community leader exemplifies the transformative power of the Kappa Sigma brotherhood.”

## HALL OF FAME

# Brendan O'Connor '02



Brendan is a distinguished professional whose career and personal life are marked by significant contributions to his country, community, and fraternity. After earning a BA in Political Science from Purdue University in 2003, where he was an active member of the Purdue Crew Team and Kappa Sigma fraternity, Brendan pursued a career in intelligence and public service. He achieved a Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence from the Defense Intelligence Agency's National Intelligence University in 2017.

His professional roles include Deputy Intelligence Chief for SOCOM's Operation Gallant Phoenix and Deputy Chief of Staff for Indiana's MPH agency.

His exceptional service in Operation Inherent Resolve earned him the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Currently, Brendan serves as the Data Strategy and Analytics Director for Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), where he enhances data-driven initiatives for effective social service delivery.

Beyond his professional achievements, Brendan founded the Indianapolis chapter of "The Mission Continues," a national organization helping veterans reintegrate into civilian life through community service. His dedication to Kappa Sigma fraternity is evident through his extensive involvement and recognition, including the Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

Brendan lives with his wife, Meghan, and their two children, Kennedy and Finneas.

He views Kappa Sigma as a "values-based institution that helps individuals realize their full potential, encouraging undergraduates to serve causes greater than themselves". Brendan O'Connor's life exemplifies a commitment to excellence, service, and leadership, making him a role model for both his peers and the younger generation.

# HALL OF FAME

# PAST INDUCTEES

## 2022

Mike Pritchett '61  
Steve Funk '69  
Vince Shissler '00  
Omar Khayum '02

## 2021

Walt Eversman PhD '56  
David Danner '67  
Kevin Lichterman '01

## 2020

Chris Monzel '87

## 2019

Mark McKechnie '86

## 2018

Jack Rozwat '80

## 2017

James C. Cloyd III '67

## 2016

Rich Adams II '83

## 2015

John Thatcher '67

## 2013

Mike Cline '84

## 2012

Sam Zimmerman '67

## 2011

Kent Pierce '51  
Matt Brozovic '82  
Tim Gonderman '83

## 2010

Seth Bogin '00  
Conrad Hammond '00  
James Shively '00

## 2009

Adam Fisher '59  
Michael Pursley '65  
Brad Edwards '83  
(2004 Inductee)

## 2008

Joel Bates '53  
Roger Mayes '66

## 2007

Dean Spencer '53  
Dale Kramer '58  
Frank Caputo '66

## 2006

Charles Aldag '52  
Sam Smith '58  
David Robinson '68  
Don Dunbar '81

## 2005

Mike Gray '54  
Dwight Abbott '55  
Bob Worrell '66  
Jeff Minner '81

## 2004

Allen Dickason '70  
Bradley Edwards '83  
Michael Griffin '90

## 2003

Ben Mottleson '45

## 2002

Daniel Evans '49  
Charles Benner '66  
David Derrick '66  
Samual Rich Tiller '83

## 2001

Gene Grotnes '48  
Bill Schulenberg '48  
John Haimbaugh '52  
John McCammon '62

## 2000

Robert Jones '61  
Charles Marshall '61  
John Prentice '66

## 1999

Robert Landis '30  
James Hunter '54  
Walt Richey '54  
Bruce Storm '56  
Eric Wenaas '59  
Michael Zachary '67  
Michael Eskew '68  
Jan King '68

## 1998

John Feinler '47  
Jack Houston '50  
Kenneth Appel '54  
Robert Schweikher '55  
Alan Crebo '60  
Walter Myers '61  
Ronald Yara '66  
Steven Beering '85

## 1997

Elmer Oliphant '11  
George Goodwin '27  
James Hill '31  
George Burnell '33  
Robert Keim '39  
Byron Anderson '45  
Lloyd Zickert '45  
Richard Freeman '47  
Robert Covalt '50  
Walt Houston '51  
Jerry Albrecht '54  
Gordon Binder '54  
Kenneth Bishop '54  
Daniel Meyer '55  
Russell Maier '56  
William Topercer '58  
Robert Sorensen '60

# CHIC CHAPTER MAN OF THE YEAR

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2000 Joseph Harshman '48

2001 Scott French '81

2001 Mike Galt '82

2002 Robert Sorensen '60

2003 Doug Kowert '60

2004 Eric Wenaas '59

2005 Jim Milner '79

2006 Joseph Harshman '48

2007 Stuart Williams '00

2008 Mike Griffin '90

2009 Lloyd Zickert '45

2010 Gordon Binder '54

2011 William Topercer '58

2012 Steven Beering '85

2013 Mike Eskew '68

2014 Charlie Marshall II '61

2015 Steven Springer '67

2016 Ronald Tadashi Yara '66

2017 Andrew Castor '84

2018 Jim Zeitler '65

2019 James Shively '00

2020 Michael Cline '84



# CHI CHAPTER UNDERGRAD UPDATES

Hello Brothers, below I have highlighted several events that Chi has partaken in this past year. To begin with, as many of you know, Chi took both first and second at the 2024 Grand Prix Race. The winning driver Brother Fox (Pictured Below) hopes to continue to bring glory to Chi throughout his time at Purdue University.



Looking to the future, Chi hopes to expand and field 3 Grand Prix carts at the 2025 Grand Prix. Over the summer, members of the Executive Committee and our Alumni Advisor (Brother Tim Brinkmeyer) attended the Kappa Sigma Leadership Conference in New Orleans, LA. At this conference, they were able to learn about how to better lead our chapter from our Supreme Executive Committee and other distinguished speakers. As a chapter, we were recognized as a Top 2025 Recruiting chapter with over 70 pledges for the 2023/2024 Academic Year. Additionally, Brother Mark Tardy was identified as an outstanding Grand Master during his term.

With the lessons learned from this Leadership Conference, we hope to have a strong transition going into this school year. With rush this year, it is a goal of the Chapter to exceed our goal of 70 Pledges. Starting this fall, our rush chairmen, (pictured below) have been working to expand the chapter to new heights; not only socially, but academically.



(Left: Aidan Fox, Middle: Roman Locke Right: Blake Alvarado)

We continue to build our brotherhood hoping honor the culture and history of our great chapter.

AEKDB  
Roll Chi



# CHI CHAPTER VOLUNTEERS & OFFICERS

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Grand Master

Theodore Schaal '22

Grand Procurator

Alex Park '22

Grand Master of Ceremonies

Ashton Steele '22

Grand Scribe

Zander Visser '23

Grand Treasurer

Alex Petrus '23

## FACULTY ADVISOR

Michael Cline '84

## ALUMNI ADVISORS:

Alumnus Advisor

Tim Brinkmeyer '08

Assistant Alumnus Advisor

Vince Schissler '00

Assistant Advisors

Jeff Kamm '00

Kevin Lichterman '01

Bryan Searcy '01

## HOUSE CORPORATION

President

Doug Kowert '60

Vice President

James Shively '00

Secretary

Charles Marshall '61

Treasurer

Kevin Lichterman '01

Members

Dave Druetzler '81

Benjamin Townsend '09

Peter Evers '10

## 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

## HOUSE MOTHER

Teri Battleday

A E K A B



**Not for an hour...a day...  
or college term only...but for life.**

**FALL 2024  
KAPPA SIGMA FRATERNITY  
CHI CHAPTER  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY**