



Chi Agitator

CHI CHAPTER OF KAPPA SIGMA OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY | SUMMER EDITION 2024



**FOUNDED
1885**

139th YEAR

IN THIS ISSUE



GRAND PRIX1

GRAND MASTER
REPORT.....2

HOUSE CORP
REPORT.....3

HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE BIOS.....4-5

UNDERGRADUATE
PROFILES6

ALUMNI UPDATES
& SUPPORTING CHI.....7

SAVE THE DATE &
STAY CONNECTED.....8

Chi Takes 1st & 2nd in Grand Prix

Hi Everyone,

As you may have heard, on Saturday April 21st the Kappa Sigma team brought home a 1-2 finish at the 2024 Purdue Grand Prix! This was an amazing accomplishment and we could not have done it without each and every one of you. We are still in shock, and the whole house is still celebrating our domination. We led from start to finish, with our 2 karts being the only ones to lead the race. Aidan did an absolutely perfect job and destroyed every record we could have imagined. As a rookie, Aidan finished first and led 158/160 laps. He beat the race time record, finishing it the fastest in all of history at this track. I finished 2nd, leading 2 laps after Aidan pit and before my pit-stop. I also would have beat the old record if Aidan wasn't in front of me (by a huge 18 seconds!!!). We put our stamp on the Grand Prix and are already looking forward to next year!

The house could not be more happy, and our team put in tremendous effort to get us where we are. The new kart that we built for Aidan was by far the fastest kart on track, and there was no competition for us. A 1-2 finish was as good as it gets, and we broke every record we could. Both karts worked perfectly with no issues throughout the race. Our pit stops were the 2 fastest pit-stops of the race, meaning our training over this Summer had an incredible impact not just for the pit-stops, but also easing some of the nerves as we have been in this situation before. From the start of last Summer, the kart we bought, the people we worked with, every race we entered, every practice day, and every single one of you allowed for us to

work as hard as possible to absolutely dominate the competition. We could not be more thankful for all your support throughout these past years.

At the awards banquet, we received 6 trophies:

1. 1st place
2. 2nd place
3. Thomas L Green Award - Given to the Champion
4. Pole Position
5. Most laps led
6. Rookie of the Year

Again, we are so appreciative of all the support you have given us. None of this would be possible without all of the support you have shown our current brothers. We look forward to doing this all over next year!

AEKDB
Raif and Aidan



Watch the Video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u18SNn7p47A>



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HALL OF FAME: OCTOBER 25-27, 2024

Help us Honor Inductees: Nick Hoppenjans '00, Jeff Rigdon '79, Brendan O'Connor '02

RSVP here: <https://chikappasigma.org/events/chi-hall-of-fame-weekend-october-25-27-2024>



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



GRAND MASTER REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Grand Master
Theodore Schaal '24

Grand Procurator
Alex Park '24

Grand Master of Ceremonies
Ashton Steele '24

Grand Scribe
Austin Springer '21?

Grand Treasurer
Alex Petrus '24

ALUMNI ADVISORS:

Alumnus Advisor
Tim Brinkmeyer '08

Assistant Alumnus Advisor
Vince Schissler '00

Assistant Advisors
Jeff Kamm '00
Kevin Lichterman '01
Bryan Searcy '01

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

Steve Springer '67 – President
Matt Brozovic '82 – Secretary
Kevin Lichterman '01 – Treasurer
Rich Adams II '83 – Trustee
Peter Evers '10 – Trustee
Charlie Marshall '61 – Trustee

My name is Teddy Schaal '22, and I am proud to say that I have been elected to the position of Grand Master of the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma for the 2024/2025 school year. I would like to start by telling you all a little bit about myself. I am from Littleton, Colorado, and am studying computer engineering here at Purdue. Being from out of state, my first week at school was a big adjustment. Unlike many of my peers, I did not know anyone else who was attending Purdue.

Because of this, I decided to look at joining a fraternity. During my rushing process, many fraternities were open and friendly. However, when I first walked into the Chi Chapter, I instantly knew where I belonged. The strong sense of brotherhood was evident upon first contact. Ever since that first encounter, the past two years have been a blur, filled with both good and bad times. However, no matter the situation, I always had my brothers with me. Now, as Grand Master, I hope to carry on the long-standing tradition of brotherhood that has predated any of us as individuals.

Firstly, I would like to commend the efforts of our Grand Prix Team. For those who have not heard, Chi had two drivers participate in the 2024 Grand Prix Race. Out of a field of over 30 drivers, our drivers were able to claim 1st and 2nd place overall. An astounding accomplishment that we hope to build upon going into future years.

Not only did we have an outstanding year in terms of extracurriculars, but we also established ourselves as a growing academic fraternity. This past spring, the Chi chapter had an average semester GPA of 3.16, the highest semester GPA in recent history. This put us in the top half in terms of GPA of all fraternities within the interfraternity council. With this outstanding achievement, I hope that us, as a chapter, continue this positive momentum going into the next academic year.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we initiated 23 outstanding young men last spring semester. Each one of these individuals has demonstrated their everlasting commitment to embodying a true Kappa Sigma. I do not doubt that the future of Chi is bright with these fine gentlemen further establishing us not only as a top fraternity on campus but as a leading chapter within Kappa Sigma.

As we go into next year, I have many ambitious goals for us as a chapter. I am determined to continue to raise our chapters's GPA, further establishing us as a top academic fraternity. I hope to be a top 10 recruiting chapter this coming fall. And finally, to continue our streak of dominance at the 2025 Grand Prix. To accomplish these goals, it will take an immense amount of effort as a chapter. But I know that the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma will continue to thrive and reach new heights.

Roll Chi and AEKDB.



House Corporation Report



It has been almost 25 years since the remodeled and expanded Chi Chapter House reopened. Maintaining the qualities we expect for our chapter house is becoming a challenge. This summer, in addition to the usual summer maintenance, cleaning, patching & painting, Omni Services is completing some

significant repairs like replacing the entire floor in the first-floor women's bathroom; replacing both HVAC circulating pumps; and replacing other worn or broken parts of the building. The good news is that Chi is still one of the best-looking houses on campus.

The chapter will again begin this fall with 122 members. So far, summer and fall rush results are promising. Unfortunately, only 58 members have chosen to live in the house this fall [75 are required]. The other 64 members, including 52 seniors and 12 Spring Initiates, have chosen to live in apartments. This is a common trend in the Greek Community that we hope to change in the future.

The Chapter's grades improved significantly this spring moving Chi academically to 20th out of 40 fraternities. Last year's 36 spring and fall pledge class's grades were again below the rest of the chapter. Focusing on further improving the chapter's academic rankings, pledge grade standards and mentoring members will be an ongoing

Chapter and Adviser emphasis. Helping Chi to stand out on campus, Greek Life Services' Chefs Angel and his wife Veronica continue providing Chi with the best food on campus. Our terrific House Mother, Teri Battleday, has given us notice that she will be retiring at the end of the spring semester. We are searching for a replacement, but Teri will be hard to replace. Significant donations from Chi Alumni made it possible for Chi's 2024 Grand Prix team to purchase a second cart, repair the old cart and do a lot of practice enabling them to place first and second in this year's race. Special funds are planned beginning this summer to support the development of future winning Chi Grand Prix race teams and to improve the appearance and function of the chapter house.

Finally, as reminders:

August 24, 2024 Chi fall House Corporation Meeting;
September 20&21, 2024 Alumni Golf Outing;
September 28, 2024 Homecoming;
October 26, 2024 Hall of Fame Dinner;
April 26, 2025 Grand Prix Race;
Other Events TBD by the chapter.

We are excitedly looking forward to "everything good" that will result in moving forward with a new operating and communicating synergy between the Chapter Executive Committee, the Chapter Membership, the Chapter Advisors, and other Alumni Groups.

Doug Kowert '60
House Corporation President

2025 GRAND PRIX FUND RAISER

Chi won the 2024 Purdue Grand Prix race with the help of outstanding Alumni generosity. These funds made it possible to purchase a second cart, repair the old cart, train, maintain and practice for the race. Grand Prix Racing can be expensive. So, we need to begin planning and working for the 2025 race.

Please consider sending tax deductible donations for the 2025 Grand Prix Racing Fund to:
Kevin Lichterman [Education Foundation Treasurer], 5043 Fargo Ave, Skokie IL 60077; phone 773-425-7523

For any further information, please contact:
Steve Springer [Education Foundation President] 317-374-3517
Or
Doug Kowert [House Corporation President] 312-337-0685

Meet Our Chi Chapter



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.



Nick Hoppenjans '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.

Hall of Fame Inductees

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 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.”



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, Mehgan, 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.

— UNDERGRADUATE Profiles —



Chris - ___ '23

Hello, my name is Chris, I am from Park Ridge, Illinois. I am a Sophomore and member of the Beta Gamma pledge class (Fall '23). I am majoring in Financial Counseling and Planning, and double minoring in Management and Business Economics. I anticipate on graduating in the spring of 2027. Coming from high school, very few people I knew went to Purdue, Kappa Sigma allowed me to meet new people on campus and form bonds that will last a lifetime. Before receiving a bid from this chapter I felt valued, accepted, and welcomed instantly. Out of the other houses I rushed, Kappa Sigma quickly felt like a second home. After my first year as a brother, I wholeheartedly believe I made the right decision in accepting my bid to this house. My pledge class is of a smaller size, which has allowed me to form tight bonds with everyone. From late night studying microeconomics with fellow brothers, Kristian Demaree and Roman Locke (Fall '23), to pick up hockey games with brothers from different pledge classes, Kappa Sigma has shown me the true values of brotherhood. This upcoming fall, I will be acting as the head of the Alumni Committee, Public Relations Committee, and T-Shirt Committee. If I could go back and give my newly initiated self some advice I would say, get involved as much as you can within the house, the bonds you make with other brothers during those times will last a lifetime. Roll Chi and AEKDB.



Donnie Casillas '24

Hi, my name is Donnie Casillas, and I'm a member of the Beta Gamma Pledge class for the Chi Chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity at Purdue University. I was born and raised in Crown Point, Indiana, graduating from Crown Point High School in the Class of '23, and now I'm pursuing a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. I wasn't initially sold on rushing a fraternity during our freshman orientation, known as Boiler Gold Rush, but I decided to give it a shot. It turns out that joining Kappa Sigma was one of the best decisions I've ever made. While I explored many different houses during syllabus week, what really stood out to me about Kappa Sigma is that I could be myself without having to play a role to fit in with the houses culture.

From the moment I walked through Kappa Sigmas doors, I felt a fantastic atmosphere where brothers knew each others majors and hometowns. This showed me that Kappa Sigma truly embodies a brotherhood with genuine personalities, rather than operating like a business. One of my favorite moments as a brother in this house was witnessing a brother from my pledge class, Aidan Fox, make history in the annual Purdue Grand Prix Race, winning with ease and bringing home the first-place trophy for Kappa Sigma. This achievement was a significant moment in our chapters history, and we aim to continue making history by winning again this year.

As I enter my second year, I serve as one of the chapters Social Chairs, along with participating in several other committees. I am dedicated to making a positive impact on the chapter and setting great examples for future initiates. For those planning to rush in the future, I would tell them that Kappa Sigma is an investment that gives back tenfold and will serve great purpose for their time at Purdue and beyond!

ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS & SUPPORT

ALUMNI UPDATE



James
Shively



Initiated In 2000 and Graduated in 2001

Degree – Chemical Engineering, minor in Political Science

Career – Run Chewy’s international operations. Started working at ExxonMobil. Went and did MBA at the University of Chicago with a focus around International Business, Strategy and Finance. Left ExxonMobil and took a role at BP. He ran the U.S. business development for BP’s U.S. business. This involved refining, distribution and retail strategy.

James spent time in London and Germany, received great experience in how companies operate at the international level. He ran refineries and petrochemical plants. James also ran BP’s plant in Charleston, South Carolina. From there, he went to Amazon and helped run and grow their logistics business from 2017-2021, which grew substantially. He left Amazon to run Chewy’s delivery experience team, which focused on improving the overall customer experience. Recently moved to head Chewy’s International Operations, which has been extremely successful in growing the Chewy footprint outside of the US.

Place of Residence/free time – Charleston, South Carolina. Father of two teenage kids, Senior and freshman in high school. Free time is spent

running or being on the water. He also loves to travel internationally. Planning to hike Mount Kilimanjaro in September with a childhood friend. Working on a private pilot’s license. Maintains a close relationship with his pledge class members from Chi and they occasionally do a guy’s trip.

Best lessons from the chapter – “The absolute indispensable experience of leadership. In a fraternal setting, you can be more vulnerable and really work to find your leadership style. Having a space to test who you want to be as a leader, and how you’d like to show up as a leader. You’re allowed to test what works and what doesn’t.” James was GM, and a re-founding member. Through this, he was able to work on finding the leader he is today. Also, “the lifetime bond that you develop being a brother of Kappa Sigma. There is nothing that they wouldn’t do for me and I for them.”

Advice for undergraduates – “Don’t waste the opportunity that you have while you’re in college. These four years give you an opportunity to find what you have a passion for. People don’t excel where they do not have strong passions in. Use these four years to find what you are passionate for and tenacious pursue it.”

SUPPORT

There is no better time than now to support Chi. Our chapter, like all fraternities, is as strong as our undergraduate members commitment to success, and our alumni and parent’s commitment to sharing some of their time and treasurer with the chapter.

Volunteer

Join other volunteers on our Advisory Board, Educational Foundation Board, or House Corporation Board. Contact Doug Kowert at dkowert@comcast.net or **312-339-0685** with questions.

Career Program

Join an in-person or virtual career panel this fall or spring or agree to hold a 1 on 1 conversation with the student in your career field. Contact Doug Kowert at dkowert@comcast.net or **312-339-0685** with questions.

Recruitment Recommendation

Provide a recruitment recommendation to the undergraduate chapter by filling out this recommendation form:

<https://www.chikappasigma.org/recruitment-recommendation>

One Time or Recurring Gift

Please consider a one-time or recurring gift to our Educational Foundation or House Corporation. You can donate online here:

<https://www.chikappasigma.org/donate>. You can contribute by mail as well: <https://www.chikappasigma.org/donate-by-phone-or-mail>.

Matching Gifts

Many companies match their employee’s charitable donations to nonprofit organizations. Please check with your employer’s Human Resource Department to see if they will match the donation you are about to make. Check out this list of matching gift companies:

<https://www.chikappasigma.org/matching-gifts>.

Required Minimum Distributions

For those of 73 and older you can contribute to the Chi Chapter of Kappa Sigma Educational Foundation using your IRAs, profit sharing plans, 401(k), 403(b), 457(b), and other defined contribution plans. You can contribute up to \$100,000 in meeting your required RMD but also this will reduce your taxable income if 70 ½ or older. Please contact Matt Noble at matt.noble@fmgutucson.com or **520-990-3250** if considering contributing via a RMD.

Become a Chi Regular Donor/Investor

You can give one of two ways:

- 1 Make a one-time donation via credit card or check to the Housing Corporation, and/or
- 2 Join our newly created 1885 Club honoring our chapter founding as a donor to the House Corporation and/or Foundation, which is a monthly recurring gift donation via credit card. A monthly gift of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more will make a difference in our future success.

Visit <https://www.chikappasigma.org/donate-now> to learn how you can support Chi through an online gift, check, or legacy giving.

Contact Doug Kowert at dkowert@comcast.net or **312-339-0685** or

Steve Springer at springer@msn.com or **317-374-3517** for more information.



Chi Chapter
Kappa Sigma Fraternity

c/o Fraternity Management Group
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**DON'T
MISS!**

Homecoming Weekend -October 25-27, 2024

See more details at the link below or scan the QR code to the right.

<https://chikappasigma.org/events/chi-hall-of-fame-weekend-october-25-27-2024>



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