



NFL great Roger Craig poses with Omega alumnus Dick O'Donnell.

Alumni make their mark in NFL, NHL, sports areas

Being a sports fan is nothing unusual for fraternity members, but making careers in such – or a second career, as the case may be – has come true for a small group of Omega alumni.

A golf outing intended to get some advice and funding for a startup brought a “retired” alumnus into the sports arena.

POST RETIREMENT GIG

After a long career in marketing and public relations, **Dick O'Donnell** (Omega No. 900) was asked to meet with a former college baseball player who was seeking to build an app to help high school athletes promote themselves.

The 20-something entrepreneur was seeking advice to help him get his idea off the ground. O'Donnell was intrigued with the guy calling him “as smart as any CEO I've worked with, and I've worked with hundreds of

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Omega's 100th

Now's the time to register

On the event of the 100th anniversary of brotherhood at the Omega chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, we cordially invite you to attend a gala celebration on **Oct. 29, 2022** on the Purdue University campus.

There will be a 4 p.m. reception in the Purdue Memorial Union's South Ballroom and a 6:30 p.m. banquet on that date in the North Ballroom.

The north ballroom is limited to 500 people. Make sure you make your reservations early so you are not left out. (When we had our 75th anniversary in 1997, we had turn away alumni who tried to make last-minute reservations.)

For early arrivers, there will box lunches available at the fraternity house, 330 N. Grant St. Lunch reservations can be made online alongside your banquet registration.

We have already heard from nearly 100 alumni who are planning on attending and we are nearly six months out!

Online reservations also allow you to provide information for our 100th anniversary directory that will be distributed on Oct. 29. So, please make your reservations online!

You may also mail your reservations (and payment) using the form in this mailing, but we prefer online registration. RSVPs must be made with \$100 payment per person by Sept. 29, 2022. You are also invited to cover the registration costs for our undergraduate members as well.

Oct. 29 is a non-football weekend (meaning it's an open weekend and team is not playing



David Lane

Greg Linder

RSVPs will be accepted online at this link:

<https://purdue.university/plkappa100>

Make sure to use the https://

home or away). We did that intentionally so that hotel rooms will be plentiful and affordable. A listing of suggested hotels is included in this mailing.

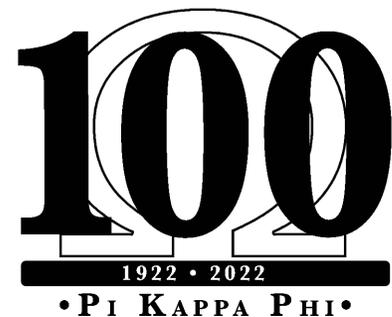
We both are honored to be co-chairmen of this celebration. We look forward to hearing your stories and seeing you in person this fall!

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Co-chairmen, Omega's Centennial Celebration

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them” over his four decades of professional work.

The problem for that guy – Sean Leary, founder and CEO of Sports Thread – was he had an idea with an intended product, but no customer base nor testimonials.

“I was golfing with a friend from Denver and he asked if I would mind golfing with him and talking to this young entrepreneur,” O’Donnell said. “And so, I did. He had just started his company to help high school students find scholarship offers online. He built a crude version of the app, and he wanted some advice and venture capital. So, I helped him and brought him into my network in Silicon Valley.”

O’Donnell graduated from Purdue in 1974 in science and communication after doing science writing for the Purdue Exponent. He turned his undergraduate writing experience into a public relations-marketing job with Purdue’s School of Science. That was followed by a stint with Burson-Marsteller, the world’s largest PR and advertising agency in Chicago.

From there he transferred to California to start a Silicon Valley office for the agency in 1983.

“I spent over 40 years in corporate marketing and PR for high tech companies,” he said. “I worked for, or with, 400 high-tech companies, including Apple and Steve Jobs.”

That 2017 golf outing came some nine years after he retired from marketing.

But this young guy’s idea intrigued him enough to start consulting for him – sometimes part time, sometimes full time despite the fact the company was Denver-based, and O’Donnell was in San Jose, California.

“I helped him grow the company,” he said. “Now, we have more than 1 million high school students on the app who use it for promoting themselves and communicating with college coaches.”

The business grew from three people in Denver four years ago to now 18 in Colorado to nearly 100 licensed distributors nationwide.

The app has been used by nearly 5 million athletes, parents and coaches to register for tournaments, upload highlight videos for self-promotion and to communicate with prospective college teams.

“I got involved with my marketing background in helping them to market the app, doing PR, etc.,” O’Donnell said. “On any given weekend, we may have up to 50,000 students involved in basketball and football tournaments using the app.”

O’Donnell’s work with Sports Thread kind of reminded him of another client



many years ago – another who had no users, nor testimonials – when he helped launch the Macintosh computer with Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

O’Donnell’s first experience with sports marketing came years ago with the San Francisco 49ers.

“One day while working at TIBCO Software, the CEO walked into my office and said, ‘I met this guy this morning, Roger Craig. Can you use him?’ ”

Craig was a three-time Super Bowl winner for the 49ers. O’Donnell hired Craig and used him in the company’s marketing and PR activities. Some 20 years later, Craig is now vice president for business development for the company.

“I’ve brought Roger into Sports Thread as an advisor, and he works on several media relations and promotional activities.”

His second chance with sports marketing came many years later by a chance meeting over a golf game.

For O’Donnell, sports marketing isn’t much different than marketing for a Fortune 500 company. “I think all marketing is marketing and all PR is PR,” he said. “It’s simply a process of positioning the company once you have product, communicating that positioning, getting customers and, most importantly, getting user testimonials from those customers. Then you grow your user base, and you scale the company.”

He credits Pi Kappa Phi – particularly his time as chapter president (archon) his senior year – for his business success, too.

“I think the leadership and communication skills I learned from being archon helped me in my career, regardless of what career that was going to be,” O’Donnell said. “To co-exist in a fraternity setting, you must communicate well when you have 40+ independent souls living together in small house.”

Those fraternity connections continue for O’Donnell. He participates in a monthly Zoom call with chapter brothers from his era, including brothers **Craig Llewellyn** (Omega 913), **Danny Schlegel** (891), **Randall Braun** (910), **James Cain** (870), **Stephen Brant** (918), **Fred Schwartz** (906), **Sonny O’Drobinak** (882), **John Harangody** (908), **Kevin Sullivan** (886), **Charles Keever** (925), **Charles Petersohn** (926), **Jim Redenbarger** (914) and others.

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By reading the Omegalite and his monthly calls with his contemporaries, he's proud to see how the chapter continues to thrive and the product it has to promote.

"I smile when I see the character of the guys in the chapter today," he said.

Marketing is marketing.



IT'S ALL IN WHO YOU KNOW

To a certain extent, now nearly 30 years later, a fraternity alumnus is doing something for his career that he did for fun while he was a student.

As chapter social director in the early to mid-1990s, **John Gulla** (Omega No. 1358) would determine what party favors or sports apparel he would get for his brothers. Today, he does that very thing, but for the National Hockey League as its senior director of consumer products.

"Little did I know when I was the social chairman at the fraternity – when everybody thought all I did was party planning – that I was also in charge of all favors, or swag," Gulla said. "I remember looking through the various products available and I became very well versed in applications and embroidery."

In his role, he works with vendors, licensees, teams and sponsors determining who will be an official licensee of NHL products. He has worked with all the major apparel and headwear vendors during his career.

"I'm not a lawyer, but I am well versed now in trademarking and registration marks," he said. "I literally spend a quarter of my day with staff attorneys."

Those conversations can be negotiating the specifics of NHL agreements or stopping counterfeit product in the market place.

"We have so many bootleggers we have to deal with," he said. "We confiscate so much fraudulent gear at Customs like from Bangladesh and such. We have lawyers who will send me photos of gear and ask which licensee is that, like I know them from all our clients, but I can generally identify stuff that's bootlegged, crappy products."

"We also use holograms to catch fake stuff. And all the stuff that is a higher level of sportswear is going to be made overseas. If a team wins a division, though, we will keep those orders domestically so we can get them made over and over quickly."

His college experience as well as connections brought him to where he is today – not in the league he most connected with as a youngster, either.

At Purdue, he majored in communication with a specialty in public relations. But after an internship with the athletic department while on campus, he knew his passion was not in PR.

"I learned quickly that I liked working sports, but I did not like the PR side of it, so I was not going to start over with my major," he said.

Gulla grew up outside New York City and a childhood friend's dad had the coolest job he could think of – a vice president for consumer products for the NBA. So, Gulla reached out to the dad for advice.

"He was great, he was trying to get me interviews," Gulla said. "He then started his own consulting agency in Manhattan. He made contact with a lapel pin company in California and they do all the Olympic pins and my old boss got them all their licenses for the NHL, NBA, colleges, NASCAR, you name it. He ended up hiring me as a sales assistant and I got so much exposure to all the professional leagues."

While working for that company in Irvine, California, Gulla got valuable exposure to all four professional sports leagues.

"I moved there and was a brand manager for four or five years," he said. "I made contacts with the NHL and NBA and got offers from both and I wanted to come back home to New York."

He got job offers from the NBA – Gulla's dream job – and the NHL. He chose the NHL because he liked the culture better.

In his NHL career, which now

spans 20 years, he been on the ice after an NHL championship, been kissed by a famous actress and was in charge of keeping the Stanley Cup for a while.

"In one of my roles, I deal with all the players' headwear, so that would include the championship hats," he said. "When they clinch, we go on the ice with the championship hats. The very first year that I did it was when Colorado won and Carrie Russell the actress was dating one of the Avalanche. Then afterwards, when we were in the locker room, she acts like she knows me and we were best friends and she comes up to me and gives me a big kiss."

And then was the night he had the Stanley Cup in his hotel room in Florida during a promotional tour.

"So, the guy who kept the Stanley Cup for these events wanted to go out for dinner and wanted to know if he could keep it in my hotel room," Gulla said. "I said 'yes, of course,' but after I thought about it I got nervous. What if someone steals it, it would be like major news."

The trophy did not get stolen, but did pose with some photos with him and some friends.

The No. 1 question he gets is what happens to the championship apparel made when a team loses the championship series.

"Anytime I tell someone what I do for a living – which is kind of hard to explain really – they always ask, 'What do you do with the losing team's hats?' he said. "We used to send them to third world countries, but sometimes you'd see photos of those hats, so we now in our contract require the licensee to destroy the product."

Gulla maintains Purdue season football tickets with fraternity brothers all these years later. As was the case when he was a kid growing up near the big city, it's all about relationships and those party favors so many years ago.

"I remember bringing in these really cool Pi Kappa Phi sweatshirts that were a clean screenprint; they had a distinct look that I wanted," he said. "Who would have thought what I was doing in the social role would literally be what I do for a living?"

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MR. VIDEO FOR PURDUE ATHLETICS

A change in majors along with joining a fledgling program opened doors that allowed an Omega alumnus to jump start his aspiring sports video career.

As a student, Hunter Massingill (Omega 2065), now video coordinator for Purdue Athletics, got his chance shortly after the Big Ten Network started its Student U program.

The Big Ten Television Network started broadcasting in 2007, and some three years later it started Student U on a limited basis at the then 11 Big Ten schools. Today, the Network has expanded its use of student to do video work, for on-site production and commentary for all the Olympic sports. Meanwhile, in 2014 Purdue started a video and film studies major.

Massingill, who graduated in film and video studies in 2017, had initially hoped to become a sports psychologist by majoring in psychology. It took him two to three years to realize working in video was his calling.

So, he changed his major and eventually took a sports video production class that does work alongside the Big Ten Network. It's a class that he now teaches.

"I didn't have any idea this is where I was going to end up; yeah, it would be cool, but I didn't know what that path looked like to get there and here I am," Massingill said.

"I called games as a Purdue student," he said. "I did some play-by-play, I did color commentating for a lot of our games and I loved it and I loved the production side of it. It was kind of a pipe dream to work in some kind of sports, being at games, doing the production in whatever capacity."

The road to a video coordinator's job at a big-time sports program is competitive. His second opportunity came when he started doing some video work for a small, local cable company – Mulberry (Indiana) Telecommunications – that broadcasts high school sports. Mulberry is a town of less than 3,000 population, less than 15 miles from the Purdue campus.

Around the same time, Purdue basketball was selected to represent



the USA in the World University Games in Taiwan. Before leaving, the team played exhibition games at Carmel and Lafayette Jefferson high schools. Because Massingill was near campus that summer one of the people he knew from Purdue Athletics through the Student U class reached out to see if he could help.

"I did those live productions for the basketball team and that was like a pseudo interview, a trial period, and I then interviewed and got hired a short time later," he said.

His job has two primary areas of responsibility. It includes providing streaming video of Purdue events and making them available for the Big Ten Network – both through live broadcasts on BTN+ and through its social media platforms. And the other part involves supervising the Student U as assistant director of broadcast services.

"The video coordinator portion of my job involves baseball, softball and soccer, so I do all of their game film, practice film, scout film, video for recruits, handle the video systems, supervise camera operations on the fields and lot of the technology," he said.

"I teach the class that fills all the student crew positions for the Student U streams that we do," he said. And Massingill just finished his fifth semester teaching the very class that started his video career.

The video he produces is stored two places. The first is on a server available to the Big Ten Network (live broadcasts or for social media feeds) and where Purdue can access it to breakdown film by the coaching staffs. Practices are videoed and available for viewing by coaching staffs, too. The second is on more the well-known Synergy Sports platform. That video is accessible by all

NCAA Division I schools for scouting and by the NCAA itself in evaluating officials.

Massingill's video responsibilities spill over to football and men's and women's basketball post-game press conference coverage along with live streaming coaches shows on social media.

He is at all the home games for his primary sports of baseball, softball and soccer and some of the road games producing streaming video. Similarly, he is charge of production for the three major sports postgame press conferences on social media and distributing highlights to television stations across three states and national networks upon request.

Chances are if you saw a video clip of a Purdue coaches' and players' press availability on your local news, he provided it.

"I love doing stuff with basketball Coach Matt Painter because he speaks well, he answers questions really well, he's not giving you one-word answers, he's always very thoughtful and his basketball knowledge is just off the charts," Massingill said. "I could just sit and listen to him talk for hours."

He also calls women's basketball coach Katie Gearlds a "clip machine" for her natural ability to connect with players, fans and reporters.

"She has quotes left and right that makes our job easy," he said.

Purdue Athletics production of video is relatively new and ever expanding. The Big Ten has not yet done this, but ESPN is installing full production studios in the ACC and SEC.

"I think that's coming in college athletics and there are a ton of schools building out what I do," he said. "Furthermore, the broadcast material is becoming somewhat autonomous in their broadcasts. So, it's not just a single camera following a baseball game and it's not all just ESPN or FOX coming in to do games either."

Those studios will help produce high quality video production and broadcasts of the various Olympic sports.

Like other alumni, Massingill credits his fraternity experience for giving him an advantage in his career.

"It goes without saying: The fraternity definitely developed my

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interpersonal skills,” he said. “You get used to talking to new people all the time. You get used to developing relationships quickly. Those skills definitely helped me out. It helped me balance a busy schedule, too.”

His volunteer work while an undergraduate helps his marriage. His wife, Kenzie, who is expecting their first child, works with people who are autistic.

“Working with people with disabilities in the fraternity gave me a lot of respect for what my wife does, just the patience you have to have,” he said. “We might have done it for an afternoon or for the Halloween party. Those were all the fun times. They were excited to see us. There’s a whole another side to having to work with kids who are autistic that is not all just fun. They have day-to-day lives that are not always positive for the entire day.”



ALL OVER THE PLACE

From the farm fields of rural Illinois to the bustle of the big cities, an Omega alumnus went from an Olympic invitee during high school to NFL suite sales during his multifaceted career.

Carson Woods (Omega 1301) played high school football and baseball, but his real success was in trap and skeet shooting outside a small community about an hour and half from Chicago, Dwight, Illinois. His high school had about 250 students and there were 72 in his graduating class.

“For me the thing about sports is that it was the great equalizer,” Woods said. “It didn’t matter what you looked like or where you came from. For me that’s what sports allowed me to do. I played high school football and baseball and was good in both, not good enough to play at Purdue.”

To stay connected to sports, he

became a manager for the Purdue football team – one of three who did such in the last 35 years, the others being Stephen Binko (Omega 1246) and Kaleb Stephens (Omega 1879).

“I love football and some of my best memories were going to football games with my dad, like we’d go to an Illinois game once a year or so,” Woods said. “I loved the pageantry, the excitement and being part of things.”

After graduating in marketing and finance in 1992 as a Top 100 Student at Purdue, he entered the world of consulting.

“What was interesting to me at Andersen Consulting, which is now Accenture, was a chance to see the world,” he said. “It was also an opportunity to punt down the road of what I wanted to do.”

But sports kept tugging at him. Jake Olesen (Omega 1778) opened the door for Woods. He had a connection with Purdue alumnus Rick White who had previously served as president of Major League Baseball Properties, the licensing & merchandizing arm of the league. White had a connection who remembered Woods from his student days.

Woods began working for White’s agency to launch international marketing for the Heisman Trophy and the Canadian Football League that had up to seven teams in the US in the mid 1990s. Woods also did work for the US Open.

In his marketing job, Woods came up with a proposal for the Amateur Trapshooting Association, headquartered in Dayton, Ohio. When he was traveling back and forth between Dayton and New York, he got connected to a professional hockey team.

“The Columbus Blue Jackets learned about me and brought me on to sell personal seat licenses, which was kind of a unique thing back then,” he said. “What was cool is that I was part of the original franchise.”

After three years there, it was back to management and sales – first in financial services with Edward Jones and Lincoln Financial before he bought a Liberty Tax franchise in Columbus, Ohio. He expanded that business to four offices, which he still owns today.

“Out of the blue in 2017, I was contacted by a sports management recruiting firm for junior- and mid-level management jobs,” he said. “I

kept getting emails about this project out in Los Angeles. I didn’t know if I wanted a new job, but it wouldn’t be bad to hit the reset button. On the final day you could apply, I called the rep in Cleveland who was running the search and I was off to LA.”

He started as a premium sales consultant for the NFL’s Los Angeles Chargers, which had moved from San Diego in early 2017.

“I talked to some of my sports mentors who said, ‘dude it’s LA, it’s the NFL and if you do well with the Chargers that’s even going to help you more because you sold the tougher sale,’ he said.”

Nonetheless, he hit that reset button and it was off to LA.

The team’s suite inventory is 262 in SoFi Stadium, nearly twice as many than other NFL stadiums. Suites range from seating eight to 40 people for \$125,000 to \$300,000 per season.

“As senior director of premium sales, I had not previously sold a suite,” Woods said. “Within the first month, I was able to sell to a wealthy individual and a big Chargers fan. That gave me confidence that I could tell the story to my staff – here’s a sale you can close in a six-week period starting from ground zero.”

Shortly thereafter, all his contemporaries in suite sales were fired. Being the lone one retained, he wondered about his future.

“Over the next two years after being the No. 1 sales rep for the Chargers, they brought me into a partnership role in selling to corporate sponsorships.”

Then Covid hit. Eventually, Woods hired six sales agents and collectively his team did \$14 million in sales.

Through it all – from growing up on a farm to living in metropolises – one career more than any other stood out.

“I probably belonged in sports marketing all the time,” he said. “The one common thing over my entire life, even when I was a kid through high school, I always had that creative, entrepreneurial mindset that tends to be a more marketing mindset. Every role that I’ve had, I’ve been somewhat a creator even in the financial industry.”

He remembers growing up on a

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Moms Day returns after three-year absence

The chapter hosted a highly successful and massively attended Moms Day 2022 on April 2, starting with the arrival of the Pi Kappa Phi team and ending with a banquet celebrating fraternity.

More than 250 people attended the capstone event – a banquet highlighting the school year and its members. Attendees heard from chapter president **Andrew Eichmeier** (Omega 2207), Ability Experience chairman **Sam Bogner** (2216), historian **Ted Brandon** (2210), chapter Journey of Hope alumnus **Michael Bailey** (2129) and keynote speaker **Brent Grunig** (1454).

Eichmeier lauded the chapter's accomplishments in many areas that led it to once again to being a finalist for Purdue's top fraternity in 2022, an award that will be given later in April.

"I am blessed to have been able to meet so many wonderful people during my time in the fraternity and I have learned many lessons that will stick with me for the rest of my life," Eichmeier said. "Your sons are a part of an organization that changes thousands of lives through its networks, service, and philanthropy."

Bogner explained the four major events related to the Ability Experience fund-raising as well as what chapter members do for and with people with disabilities – the David Feltner Memorial Bike-a-Thon, Arctoberfest, War of Roses and Pi Kapp 100. Bailey subbed for his mother who was to give her

reactions to her son being part of the chapter and riding across the country on the national Journey of Hope programming, but she was unable to attend at the last minute.

Brandon thanked those who make the fraternity what it is today including honoring chapter academic advisor **Rita Baker** and **Leo Dunbar's** family who hosted the Pi Kapp 100 team the Friday night before the team's campus arrival earlier in the afternoon.

Grunig, who is a 2001 graduate of the chapter, works as the assistant executive director of chapter growth and development for the national fraternity.

Grunig congratulated chapter members for their commitment to service.

"Frankly, Purdue is the top and what an ideal chapter involved with The Ability Experience looks like," Grunig said at the banquet. "In fundraising, Omega has historically been a Top Five chapter. Omega is THE shining example in overall programming."

He also has consistently been impressed with the guys who comprise the chapter.

"What truly sets Omega ahead of the pack of our chapters nationally is the high quality of men that have joined and continue to lead this chapter to success," he said. "The chapter has consistently achieved top awards for both the chapter and individual members for the last 15-20 years.

"As you can see, the Omega



Alumnus Brent Grunig (Omega 1454), who works for the national fraternity, was the Moms Day keynote speaker.

Chapter is a true example of when fraternity is done right, it can produce men who embrace their role as a leader, puts service before self, and improves the world around them."

Grunig also talked about his experience while at Purdue.

"My pledge class celebrated 25 years of friendship last fall in French Lick for an extended weekend where many memories, stories, and laughs occurred," he said. "There also may have been an attempt to relive some of our college days, and unfortunately, the recovery in our 40s is just a bit different. I've been very blessed to continue to have these men in my life."

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farm and wanting to get away.

"As a kid, we didn't have all the connections to the outside world, you didn't have the Internet and didn't have cell phones," he said. "I remember walking the farm fields, pulling weeds thinking 'get me the hell out of here.' My dad used to tell me that I was going to end up in a major city one day and now I've lived in Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. Sports has been such a part of my DNA, it does pull you back in."

Woods says, sports as a business is a lot different than being a fan.

"Sports, on the business side is an

amazing experience, but it's a hard career," he said. "Am I here because I'm smart and work hard, yes. But I am also here because I am lucky. No. 1, I got the opportunity to come back in the sports world after leaving it."

As a youngster, he knew all the professional players' names.

"I was a sports fan growing up. I could probably still name the starting lineups of the 1984 Cubs," he said. "Now, I probably cannot name 10 baseball players. I'm more a fan of the sport than I am a fan of the players. I'm a fan of pro football, but I don't play fantasy football."

Today, his only go-to sport is

Purdue football.

Sports brings the world together in strange ways. In February, Woods was fortunate to host representatives from his beloved childhood team, the Chicago Bears at Super Bowl LVI in a suite at SoFi Stadium. Just as the game wrapped up, one of the people hollered at Woods and said "Scott's from Dwight (Illinois) as well."

Little did he know, but Woods spent the Super Bowl alongside a kid home his hometown. Again, from the farm to the big city through a sports connection.

Chapter News

Want to nominate someone to be an alumni initiate?

Do you know of someone who fell through the cracks while an undergraduate who might benefit from being a fraternity member later in his life?

Perhaps you had a pledge brother who quit due to financial problems. Maybe he had to go back home to work on the farm or care for a family member. Maybe you know of someone from your Purdue days who didn't get a chance to pledge Pi Kappa Phi and would have, and will now, made a great brother.

If you answer yes to any of those questions and want to have that man be considered to be an alumni initiate, let us know.

The undergraduate chapter members control who gets initiated in Omega's name. However, alumni are welcome to send us a recommendation that chapter members may consider when classes resume this fall. Over the years, we've had dozens of alumni initiates. Typically, those men have assisted the chapter as an advisor or with a multitude of other efforts. Sometimes, we've initiated an undergraduate's dad who didn't get the chance to join a fraternity.

According to the Gold Book – the rules by which Pi Kappa Phi abide – alumni initiation is not only available, but it's encouraged. Here are the national guidelines:

"An alumnus initiate is a man who brings credit to the chapter or the fraternity through service or guidance to improve the welfare of the fraternity. Alumni initiates may include: fathers of undergraduate students; relatives of fraternity members; civic or campus leaders; advisors or any other males who bring credit to the fraternity."

If you have someone who will bring credit to our brotherhood, let us know at:

PKPomega100th@gmail.com

In your nomination letter, list the initiated brothers of the Omega chapter who support his candidacy. Let us know why you think the chapter should bestow such an



Spring 2022 Pi Kappa Phi-Omega graduates

honor. List the qualities of the man and the circumstances as to why he did not join a fraternity as an undergraduate student. Add any other pertinent information, too.

The nominee need not be a college graduate, but should have taken some post-high school classes. Former military qualify.

The reason we bring this up is that we'd love to do an alumni initiation alongside the Centennial celebration on Oct. 29. Such a ceremony will bring alumni back to their roots to what it means to be a Pi Kappa Phi. It can make our event this fall even more meaningful.

Chapter graduates 24

Pi Kappa Phi graduated 24 men this spring who hail from 10 different states with degrees in 13 different fields.

Not surprisingly, the plurality came from Indiana – nine of them. Second on the list was Illinois (4), followed by California (2), Maryland (2) and Massachusetts (2). Also, there were 1 guy from of the following states: Connecticut, Washington, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Kansas.

Eleven the new graduates earned degrees in engineering. There were four who earned engineering BS degrees in mechanical and two each in industrial, computer with one in biomedical. There were two graduates in the following fields: Finance, marketing and health & kinesiology. The remaining degrees were in film & video production, biology,

mechanical engineering technology, selling & sales, construction management along with a Master's degree in accounting.

Two of the new graduates will be working for the same company, Toyota, but in different sites.

Guys will be working for some major corporate names including: Titleist, JP Morgan Chase, Crowe, and Deloitte. One will be joining the military and two will be graduate students.

Special legacy initiation

Pi Kappa Phi initiated 16 new brothers on Sept. 19, 2021 including an historic initiation number.

Among the initiates was father-son legacy of **Rod and Wayne Morrow**. What makes that particularly special is that their initiation numbers are exactly 1,000 apart – 1,233 for Rod and 2,233 for Wayne.

Then in the spring 2022, the chapter initiated another 24 men bringing the all-time number of Omega initiates to 2,259.



Rod and Wayne Morrow



Jonah Adler and Samuel Bernicke pose after the Spring 2022 Greek Awards ceremony. Trio honored in spring

At the recent Spring 2022 Greek Awards ceremony, Pi Kappa was one of two chapters to be recognized with multiple awards.

On April 18, the chapter received following awards:

- IFC Brother of the Year, Jonah Adler
- IFC Scholar of the Year, Samuel Bernicke
- Distinguished Service Award, Pat Kuhnle

The two undergraduate members were among eight IFC individual award winners announced at the ceremony. Pi Kappa Phi was among the two chapters to win more than one award out of the 41 campus fraternities.

Furthermore, Pi Kappa Phi was a finalist for the RB Stewart Award given annually to Purdue's best fraternity, an award it has won 10 of the last 15 years. This year's winner was Beta Theta Pi.

Adler, who was Pi Kappa Phi's vice president, is also the Interfraternity Council's Chief Justice. As chapter vice president, he was responsible for brotherhood events and involved in new member recruitment.

He maintains a 3.87 GPA as a junior on the dean's list while doing biomedical research and serving as a math tutor. He is from Vienna, Virginia and has previously been chapter house manager and IFC Director of Scholarship.

Bernicke maintains a 4.0 cumulative GPA as a sophomore chemical engineering major from Cincinnati, Ohio, who tutors chapter members in chemistry and calculus. He is part of Purdue's Honors College, on

the dean's list and minors in economics.

He conducts research on potential cancer immunotherapy nine hours each week on campus. This semester he was the IFC New Member Recruitment chairman and serves of the board of the Purdue Student Publishing Foundation, the non-profit organization that owns the Purdue Exponent. This semester, he was risk manager for the chapter.

The former chapter rush co-chairman will be an intern for Proctor & Gamble in 2022.

Kuhnle was honored for his service to Pi Kappa Phi as well as other chapters in the areas of strategic planning and new member recruitment during his three decades of volunteering to the Purdue Greek community. Previously, he has won the Father Phil Bowers Purdue IFC Chapter Advisor of the Year seven times and has been recognized by the national fraternity as an Advisor of the Year recipient.

War of Roses back, too

Pi Kappa Phi crowned its Rose Queen on March 25 during the War of Roses talent show and celebrated its all-time record fund-raising for the annual event, too.

Kassie Orander from Sigma Kappa was crowned the queen at the end of the two-weeks of events. She raised more than \$1,500 herself for the cause. Kassie is a freshman from Fishers, Indiana, studying elementary education.

The chapter – through contestant fees, contestant fund-raising, talent show ticket sales, t-shirt sales and donations – brought in \$16,209, an all-time record. The chapter held multiple events during the War of Roses competition – a dodgeball tournament, games night with Arc of Tippecanoe members, trivia con-

test and the talent show. The talent show, the capstone event, had 500 people in attendance on Friday night in Loeb Playhouse on the Purdue campus.

The chapter alongside Pi Kappa Phi's national philanthropic effort, The Ability Experience, raises awareness and funds for people with disabilities locally and nationally. In addition to working the Ability Experience, the chapter also partners with Best Buddies-Purdue and The Arc of Tippecanoe. Both local partner groups work with people with disabilities around campus and in the community.

You can still make a tax-deductible contribution to the cause at:

<https://www.classy.org/team/401350>

The 15 participating campus organizations included:

Alpha Chi Omega, Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Xi Delta, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, Delta Zeta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Kappa Delta, Maclure, Phi Mu, Phi Rho, Shoemaker and Sigma Kappa.

The fraternity included two Arc clients with special needs – **MaKayla Cornell** and **Brianna May** – who danced to a song alongside two chapter members. That act, which personified what the chapter does for people with disabilities, was easily the crowd favorite. It ended with a standing ovation.



Chapter members pose with the 2022 Rose Queen Kassie Orander and members of Sigma Kappa in Loeb Playhouse on March 25