



ATΩ Kappa Rho: Alumni Newsletter

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Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the first alumni newsletter. As our chapter grows older and we begin to actually have alumni, we feel that it is ever important to keep those who have gone before us informed of their ol' fraternity alma mater. Therefore, please take a moment to pour yourself a cup of tea or wine and catch up on the happenings of "the dear old gold and blue."

Chapter Culture

As I finish my senior year, I cannot help but look back on my time in ATO with fondness. With imminent graduation comes a contemplative perspective which I am sure you all remember as alumni. Nostalgia for brotherhood retreats, semi-formals, and running around in a turkey costume abound; and you begin to think: How has the chapter evolved over my time here? Have I left a legacy which will propel the chapter into the future as the beacon of respect and fraternal love, the same principles for which I initially joined?

To answer simply: I think so. I am part of the epsilon class, the last of the second generation of kappa rho. My pledge class will be the last class that actually knew some of the founding fathers who first chartered our organization. As we pass on into an adult world of jobs, families, and houses, the true test of kappa rho's values will take place. At risk of glorifying the original pledge classes of kappa rho, there will be no one left who knows what it is like to be the lowest man on the totem pole. Our chapter has gone from its original handful of members to consistently close to one hundred every year. We no longer are seen as the new kid on the block, but a worthy and respectable addition to the Greek Life scene on Samford's campus. Despite this growth, however, Kappa Rho's core values remain the same.

Granted, things look different from when you were here. Nowadays, we meet in Reid Chapel for chapter meetings. As you will see in our recruitment article, we have leaned into spring recruitment and have great creative minds coming up with the kind of fun that only college fraternity men can have. Our step sing shows are big, and well loved throughout Samford; just as the majority of our fraternity is as well. Some things still remain the same. We are still the most respected fraternity on campus. We respect women, and are known for doing so. We still do not haze. We still do ritual at the beginning and end of every chapter, and we still do not have a house.

No matter your thoughts on your time at Kappa Rho we want to convey one thing: we will be here when you come back. Though the people change, and the everyday

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Instagram:
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alphatauomega@samford.edu

chapter culture will shift slightly, kappa rho will still hold firmly to the values on which it was founded: "To bind men together in a brotherhood based upon eternal and immutable principles, with a bond as strong as right itself and as lasting as humanity; to know no North, no South, no East, nor West, but to know man as man." Whenever you return, whether it be five or fifty years, we hope that you will still recognize what, at its core, remains ATO Kappa Rho.

Brice Boyer, Senior, Epsilon Pledge Class

Social Service

Social Service has been such a great outlet for me to get involved in ATO. I have built so many relationships with the brothers in the fraternity and also members of the Birmingham community. Discussing service opportunities during rush was one of the major reasons why I chose ATO. Being a brother of Kappa Rho has strengthened my heart for service and provided a structure for me to give back to my community. During my freshman year, we served at the Greater Birmingham Humane Society. Every Tuesday and Thursday my brothers and I would go walk dogs, clean cages, and help the shelter in any way needed. Being able to serve during pledgship provided a great opportunity for me to grow closer with the Iota pledge class and older brothers.

Moving on to my sophomore year, ATO served with the Lovelady Thrift store all year. Once again, the brothers really help out in whatever way is necessary every week. We organized clothing racks, move furniture, unload donations, and clean up the parking lot. It is very rewarding to provide our services to organizations that are in

need of them. This year I have been given the privilege of serving as one of the Social Service Chairs. It has been an honor to work side by side with organizations of the Birmingham community and also watch as the brothers give their time to serve the community. I believe social service is a vital part of ATO and is an important tradition that will continue on for many years to come.



Cole Powers, Social Service Chair

A Word From our Fearless Leader

When one initially looks at our current executive board, one of the first things they may notice is how young we are, but we strongly believe this is one of our chapter's greatest strengths. With having different and fresh perspectives, we are able to promote a progressive style of setting goals and achieving them while combating the problem of "doing things a certain way just because we have always done them that way." Granted, because we have a young exec board, we also have to ride the learning curve, but we would like to take this opportunity to discuss where we are and where we plan to go as an executive board. One of our main goals for this semester is to decrease apathy among our members, and we believe that the solution to this is empowering committees. We have found that when brothers have a sense of responsibility, or "skin in the game" if you will, their overall involvement increases, and their general attitudes change for the better to enrich the chapter. Another current project we are working on is reviewing and modifying several of the local bylaws. With several changes to different aspects of our chapter over the past few administrations, like scholarship for example, there are many inconsistencies and outdated language that need to be addressed and adjusted. By doing this, we are resetting the foundation for our administration and the ones to come in the future.

This year, Kappa Rho has a record number of officers and a very strong freshman and sophomore presence within the administration. With them being the future leaders of the fraternity, we are grateful to have them in positions where they can develop their style of leadership and begin to see how our chapter values affect how we make decisions and strive to present ourselves on campus. Before we hosted our bi-annual officer retreat in January, we had the officers and executive members draft goals for their positions and start thinking of logical steps to achieve those goals. More importantly, we wanted them to think of *why* they set their particular goals and how they reflect our chapter culture. At the beginning of February, we met with every officer individually to help further flush out their goals and their motivation behind them. We believe that those meetings will directly correlate to what we are able to achieve this semester. We recently concluded another round of officer meetings at the beginning of March, but now we are focusing more on plan execution rather than goal setting. With the semester roughly halfway over, all the work we put in on the front end of the semester will begin to pay off in the coming weeks. The brotherhood events, social functions, philanthropy efforts, and other campus involvement that our chapter is known for is still a priority, and we are doing everything in our power to make things "normal". Concerning COVID-19, we have not let that get in the way of making the most of this semester. We are constantly adapting, improvising, and improving ways to continue to foster brotherhood and keep Kappa Rho as the top chapter at Samford University.

Love and Respect,
Josh Chiodo (President)
Wesley Nance (Vice President)

Brother Spotlight

While so many brothers of the Kappa Rho chapter are already doing incredible things in the greater Birmingham area, Alabama, and around the country, we would love to highlight one in particular: Steven Fruehwald. Steven is a 21 year old from Madison, Alabama, and he is a second year pharmacy student. Along with being a



Dean's list student the past two semesters, being a student ambassador, and being Class President of his Pharmacy Class, Steven is also involved in involved in SRT (Samford Recruitment Team), PPAG (Pediatric Pharmacy Association), SSHP (Student Society of Health-System Pharmacy), and SCCP (Student College of Clinical Pharmacy).

Fruehwald is currently competing in the ACCP (American College of Clinical Pharmacy) clinical research competition. His team is still in the competition and are 1 of 40 teams that have been selected to advance to the next weekend. Fruehwald and his team just submitted their LOI and are waiting to see if they will be selected to write a full research proposal. *“The LOI Submission round is intended to help students refine any future full proposal submission and allow the Review Panel the ability to select teams to submit full proposals based on their innovative and quality LOI submissions. Each year, the Competition Oversight Panel will issue a request for proposal to address a clinically focused research question in a select pharmacotherapeutic topic or disease-state area (e.g. Nephrology, Infectious Disease, Hypertension, etc.)”*

Fruehwald is interested in doing pediatric oncology, which, at its simplest, can be described as children with cancer. He is preparing to apply for residency programs this upcoming year and has a goal of working either at the Vanderbilt University medical center, Children's Center at UAB, or with St. Jude's. Steven is also interested in going back to medical school to become a pediatric ENT surgeon (Otolaryngologists) or a plastic surgeon.

Drake Anthony, Chaplain

Alumni Highlight

Here at ATO Kappa Rho, we are extremely proud of our various alumni and all of the great accomplishments they have gone on to do after graduating. In this inaugural edition of the newsletter, we interviewed former brother Jackson Collier to see what Kappa Rho life was like when he was a brother as well as checking in on what he is up to post-graduation. Jackson is a part of the Alpha pledge class which makes him one of our first brothers. We were interested to see what the culture was like back then compared to now according to Jackson he said, "It was an eclectic mix.

I was part of the Alpha pledge class that included some preppy guys, granola types, athletes, etc. Just a very diverse, but very caring group of men." Although many things have changed, we still share many of these values, especially diversity. When asked about what pledgship was like during his time at ATO Jackson said, "There was true bonding and learning that wasn't centered around humiliation or other means of proving yourself." He went on to say that it was extremely easy to get close with the brothers through various means like serving on a committee and volunteering in the community. This truly highlights what we are most proud of here at Kappa Rho. Following this, we posed Jackson with the question of what his favorite experience was. Without any hesitation, Jackson responded saying, "I definitely have to say wearing a chicken suit and running around an obstacle course for charity. The inaugural Taukey Hunt." We still proudly continue the yearly Taukey Hunt to this day.

Currently, Jackson is in law school at the William H. Bowen School of Law in Little Rock, Arkansas where he has the incredible responsibility of covering the Arkansas Razorbacks for the Rivals network. Lastly, and most importantly we wanted to hear any advice he has for the current brothers of Kappa Rho. Jackson made it clear that the best advice he could be is to make an effort to stay in touch with your brothers after graduation and that the relationships you build at Samford should carry over into life.

Isaiah Strong, Alumni Relations Chair

Recruitment Update

This past spring semester recruitment was more of a challenge than in previous years. As many of you know, the spring recruiting cycle is very informal. It is a jam-packed week of events, and once the week ends, PNM's are voted on that Sunday at chapter. Since there was no Step Sing this year, I took the liberty to stretch the recruitment events over a two-week period rather than just one jam-packed week. By stretching the events out over a two-week period, we were available to schedule six events and not have several back-to-back nights. This format I think allowed us to cast a larger net-- especially for guys that did not plan on rushing initially. The spaced-out format also increased brother attendance overall. Going into recruitment, the event schedule went as follows: Feb 8th Videogame Night, Feb 9th Tacos and Tater Tots, Feb 11th Quidditch, Feb 15th Milk Night, Feb 16th Board Game Night, Feb 18th Charcuterie Night.

Despite our organization, we faced several hurdles once the week started, as is the case with recruitment every semester. Quidditch ended up being canceled due to inclement weather closing the IM fields, so in its place, we did an impromptu Pizza

night. We split up into three groups and went to three different restaurants. I am still very proud of the flexibility that our brothers showed that night in adapting to our plans. Once the first week concluded we did a first night of voting and ended up extending 5 bids in the first week. The following Monday was the highlight and new flagship spring recruitment, Milk Night. My mindset for this event was just to simply buy as many different kinds of milks I could and the rest would take care of itself, which it did. We had 18 different versions of Milk dairy, non-dairy, and flavored. Prepacked cereal packs were provided as well as prepackaged cookies. And we had several tables of milk related drinking games as well as a milk chugging contest.

Recruitment ended on charcuterie night, a night of class and sophistication. At this event everyone who attended was encouraged to wear their fanciest attire. Monocles were provided at the door. We served sparkling apple juice and prepackaged



charcuterie snack packs. This propelled us into the final night of voting the following Sunday and, in the end, we extended 13 bids total. 10 accepted which was one more than what ATO Nationals expected from us. Additionally, as of right now, recruitment will go back to being formal in the fall semester.

Downen Fife, Recruitment Chair

