

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Homecoming Tailgate**  
Saturday, November 1  
vs. Virginia

**14th Annual Kappa Sigma  
Alumni Celebration**  
Friday, November 14  
Night before Clemson game

Stay tuned to [www.kappasigmagt.org](http://www.kappasigmagt.org) for details and information on Kappa Sigma football ticket blocks.

## ALUMNI OFFICERS

### **The Alpha Tau of Kappa Sigma House Corporation**

#### **President**

Chris Finke  
cjf@aecatl.com

**Vice President**  
Marshall Hunter

**Treasurer**  
Michael Orndorff

**Faculty Advisor**  
Matt Noury

**House Manager**  
Clay Edwards

**Secretary**  
Jimmy Fortuna

#### **Members at Large**

Geoff Gill  
Don House  
Al Pierce  
Bill Goodhew  
Frank Gill III  
Steve Millspaugh  
Derik Davis  
Drew Philippo  
Charles Spiggle  
Michael Dudgeon  
Michael Pouncey  
Steve Norris



# THE ALPHA TAUKER

[www.kappasigmagt.org](http://www.kappasigmagt.org)

September 2014

Alpha Tau of  
Kappa Sigma

## HOUSE CORPORATION REPORT

### 7 Great Reasons to Renew Your Participation with Alpha Tau this Fall

#### **Alumni Association Offers Plenty of Ways to Uphold Your Connections and Enhance Your Kappa Sig Experience**

*By Chris Finke, President, The Alpha Tau of Kappa Sigma House Corporation*

There are plenty of reasons to maintain your connections with Alpha Tau long after graduation, and I thank the brothers who have remained active in their alumni years. For those of you who may have fallen away from Kappa Sigma, we've compiled 7 great reasons to make this the year you renew your commitment to Alpha Tau.

- 1. Our new house.** The beautiful new Kappa Sig facility is a gem on campus, and as an alum it serves as your forever home at Georgia Tech. Come back to see the grand new house—which was made possible thanks to the support of hundreds of our brothers.
- 2. We like to party.** And we're throwing two great ones this fall. Our Homecoming tailgate will be held before the Virginia game on November 1, and we're hosting a Kappa Sigma Alumni Party on November 14, the night before the Clemson game.
- 3. We're working hard for you, and getting recognized for it too.** The Alpha Tau of Kappa Sigma House Corporation received the Outstanding Corporation Award at the Kappa Sigma Eastern Leadership Conference in New Orleans in July. Read more on page 4.
- 4. The alumni aren't the only ones winning awards.** The undergraduate chapter won the Founders' Award of Chapter Excellence (FACE), and Alumnus Advisor Buck Cooke was recognized for his volunteer work as well.
- 5. We're a more than generous group.** More than 430 of you bonded together to contribute \$2.3 million to allow us to build our new chapter house. That's pretty impressive when you think about



it. There's nothing we can't do as a unified brotherhood.

- 6. We offer plenty of ways for you to reconnect with old friends and with Alpha Tau.** From our frequent events, this newsletter, and our online community, there are great and fun ways to find old friends and make new ones.
- 7. You're the key to our past, and the link to our future.** As a thriving alumni association more than 1,100 strong, we boast generations of brothers that have contributed to our rich history. We have collectively preserved traditions, enriched lives of young men, and kept a thriving organization going strong at Georgia Tech for 120 years. You have a unique place in that history, and are asked to maintain your connections to pay it forward for future generations.

We've got a great new house, a thriving active chapter, an award-winning House Corporation, and a strong alumni base. If you haven't been involved the past few years, I personally invite you to renew your participation this fall. As you can see, there's no reason not to.

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

*Grand Master*

**John Merlie**

5th Year Mechanical Engineer  
Charlotte, NC  
johnmerlie@gmail.com

*Grand Procurator*

**Nolan Williams**

3rd Year Aerospace Engineer  
Hickory Flat, GA

*Grand Master of Ceremonies*

**Eric Johnston**

4th Year Business Administration  
Peachtree City, GA

*Grand Scribe*

**Ben Coordes**

4th Year Mechanical Engineer  
Alpharetta, GA

*Grand Treasurer*

**Jonathan Carroll**

5th Year Mechanical Engineer  
Marietta, GA

*House Manager*

**Courtland Granish**

3rd Year Industrial Engineer  
Sandy Springs, GA

*Pledge Educator*

**Jacob Glasgow**

3rd Year Aerospace Engineer  
Chesapeake, VA

## CHAPTER REPORT

### Alpha Tau Receives Highest Recognition from Kappa Sigma, Pledges 24 New Members

Alpha Tau Chapter is pleased to report that we received the Founders' Award for Chapter Excellence (FACE), the highest possible award that a chapter can receive from Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Read more about the award on page 4.

We have gained 24 new pledges for the fall 2014 semester—one of the best classes we've recruited—thanks to the use of the new house during recruitment. The chapter boasted a 3.05 GPA for the spring 2014. The chapter also implemented the Star Brother Program, through which each pledge is paired with an older brother in his major as a tutor and mentor.

During the spring semester, brothers donated a total of 2,452.5 service hours (28.85 per brother) and raised a total of \$14,782 for charity. We have also recently volunteered with Atlanta Mission and Open Hand Atlanta. This semester, we will be hosting the first annual Kappa Sigma Games, with all proceeds to be donated to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

We are proud to report that the chapter is now 82% ritually proficient, meaning that 82% of active brothers have attained at least one level of ritual proficiency.



## ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

### Donor Participation on the Decline

#### Get Involved This Year as We Expand Our Base of Supporters

We ended our 2013-14 giving year August 31 with the lowest donor participation levels we've seen in the past 5 years—80 participating donors. Now that our capital campaign fundraising efforts have ended, it

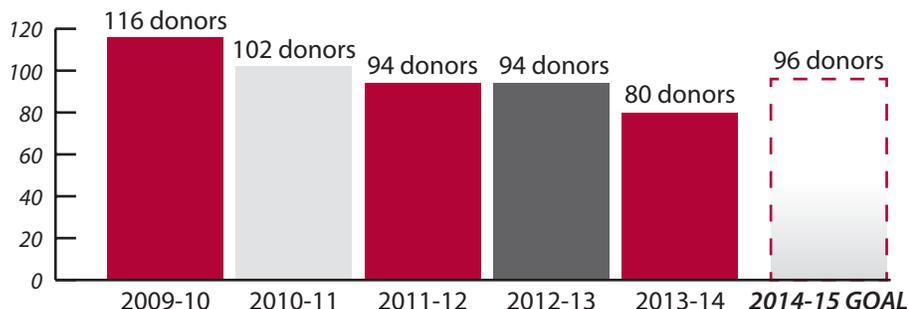
is more important than ever to build up our annual fund—the operating budget for The Alpha Tau House Corporation—to enable us to mail communications, host events, maintain our beautiful new house, and do

even more to enhance your alumni experience.

We're asking for your help as we have a specific goal to meet this year. **In 2014-15 we are fully committed to expanding our base of supporters to include more brothers, and are striving to add 16 donors to bring our total participation to 96. Can we count you among them?**

Make your gift by logging on to [www.kappasigmagt.org](http://www.kappasigmagt.org) or by calling 800-975-6699. We thank those alumni who have already added their names to the Honor Roll in 2014-15: **John R. Harris Jr. '50, Gary L. Harrell '84, Robert S. Parks '57, Terry A. Graham '69 and Hugh D. Perry Jr. '51.**

#### Annual Fund Donors



## ALUMNI PROFILE

### A Rewarding Alumni Experience

#### *Drew Philippo '92 Had Unique Opportunity to Lead Construction of New Alpha Tau House, and Credits His Career Success to Kappa Sig Connections*

**Drew Philippo '92** has had quite a rewarding alumni experience. As the Construction Committee Chairman for the new Alpha Tau house, Drew had an up-close-and-personal way to give back to Alpha Tau and to make a lasting impact on its rich history. Why does he volunteer? "It's a way to give back to the chapter that has so strongly influenced my life," he says. And Kappa Sigma continues to give back to Drew in a big way, too, as his entire career has been made possible thanks to Alpha Tau. He owns an engineering firm with fellow Alpha Tau brother **Justin Tracy '95**, and has networked with several other brothers throughout his career.

#### *You served as Construction Committee Chairman for the new Alpha Tau house. Tell us a bit about that role.*

I managed the construction process from design through construction with the help of my Construction Committee volunteers **Matt Noury '02** and **David Archer**, as well as ad hoc members **Michael Pouncey '94** and **Chris Finke '94**. It was a huge effort but for the most part I really enjoyed it. It was also a great way to get to know some of the older alumni that helped as well as getting to know the chapter, from getting their design input through move-in at completion.

#### *Why do you choose to volunteer as an alum?*

It's a way to give back to the chapter that has so strongly influenced my life.

#### *You were among the top supporters of the capital campaign, and have been a consistent donor to the annual fund. Why is it important for alumni to financially support the efforts of The Alpha Tau of Kappa Sigma House Corporation?*

Having a strong house corporation and a good house is vital to the success of the chapter and really ties the generations together.

#### *What are your thoughts of the new house? Why would you encourage other brothers who haven't yet seen it to come check it out?*

I'm the most biased person to whom you can ask that question, but I think the new house

is excellent, the best on campus and one of the best in the country. I think we tried to capture the effect of the old Pit (now with a second story) while integrating it into a really nice house, and I would encourage folks to come by and see how we did.

#### *What has been your most rewarding experience as an alum?*

Being involved in the construction of the new house and seeing everybody's reactions as they came through for the first time. That was really gratifying.

#### *In what other ways do you stay involved in your alumni years?*

The football season tailgate has been a lot of fun and helps keep us connected.

#### *Tell us more about your life outside of Kappa Sig (family, career, hobbies, etc.).*

I'm celebrating 22 years of marriage to my wife Stephanie, who was a little sister and sweetheart at Alpha Tau. I own an engineering firm with **Justin Tracy** (Alpha Tau '95) and **Steve Gaddy**, both of whom allowed me to spend a lot of time working on the new house over the last couple of years. I enjoy building stuff, woodworking, and sports.

#### *So you're in business with a fellow Alpha Tau. How did that come to fruition? What is it like to work with a brother?*



*Drew Philippo '92*

When I received my bid to join the fraternity, **Mike Dudgeon '89** told me (as he told many others) that while I would have fun in the fraternity, the most important part was that these guys could one day be the guys I did business with and that those contacts, and connections were worth a lot. As it turns out, my entire career has been impacted by Alpha Tau brothers. I got my first job out of col-

lege on a referral from **David Archer**, who was a co-op at that company at the time. Later when I was working for another engineering firm I recruited **Justin Tracy**, who was looking to move back to Atlanta. Along with another former colleague, we all got together and started our firm, **GTP Consulting Engineers**. That was 10 years ago, and overall it's been a lot of fun. The firm is doing well, so I guess we are doing okay with it all. Another brother, **Matt Gill '96**, got me involved in doing electrical studies for him when I was still an electrical contractor and that has become a good portion of our business. He and **Marshal Hunter '92** continue to help steer work our way and, as much as possible, we do the same for them. Working with a fellow brother is fun. When we relax at work to tell stories about our time in college, it's always a good time.

*Brothers can connect with Drew at [dphilippo@gtp-eng.com](mailto:dphilippo@gtp-eng.com).*

## GET AWAY

### Visit Your Kappa Sig Roots with Special Italy Vacation Offer

Want to visit Italy, see where our great Kappa Sigma Fraternity began in Bologna, enjoy great wine and food, and help out the Alpha Tau Housing Corporation at the same time? Join us in 2015 for the first annual trip to Venice-Bologna-Florence-Rome with options to extend the trip to Milan and Pompeii/Naples/Amalfi Coast. The 12-day (10 on the ground) base trip is expected to cost \$2,995 excluding airfare. The extended trip of 5 extra days is expected to cost an additional \$1,305 excluding airfare. Cost includes a \$250 contribution to the Housing Corporation in each patron's name. Departure date is flexible. For more details, please contact Brother **John Hewitt '71** at 404-310-7909 or [hues@mindspring.com](mailto:hues@mindspring.com).



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## In this Issue...

- 7 Reasons to Renew Your Ties to Alpha Tau this Fall
- We're Expanding Our Base...Will You Grow with Us?
- How Kappa Sigma Influenced the Career of One Alum

## CHAPTER RECOGNITION

### Award-Winning Alpha Tau

#### Active and Alumni Chapters Recognized at Kappa Sigma East Leadership Conference

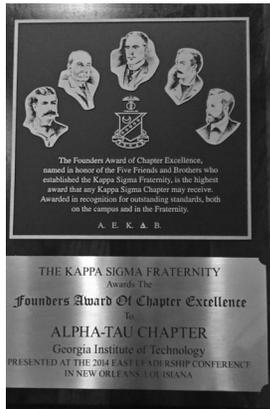
Alpha Tau won big at this year's Kappa Sigma East Leadership Conference in New Orleans.

The Alpha Tau House Corporation was presented with the Outstanding House Corporation Award, out of 318 eligible chapters. Chapter President **John Merlie** accepted the award on behalf of our House Corporation in front of 1,500 Kappa Sigmas, and writes this "Please assist me in making sure our volunteers get the appreciation they

deserve for being the best Kappa Sigma House Corporation in the country."

At the same conference, Alpha Tau was presented with the Founders' Award of Chapter Excellence (FACE), the benchmark award in Kappa Sigma. The FACE award recognizes outstanding chapter management, achievement and program development in all areas of operation.

Our chapter advisor Buck Cooke was also presented with an award for his work.



## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Roger Tarras '78

(roger.tarras@earthlink.net) I accepted a new position earlier this year as an area manager with Neocase Software and will be managing a sales team that covers the western U.S. and Canada. Neocase is a French software and professional services company that helps large human resources organizations transform their global service centers. As part of the career opportunity, my wife Lynne and I have recently relocated to the Denver area, where I look forward to reconnecting

with Alpha Tau brothers **Greg McCarter '78**, **John Cooper '75** and others.

### Ian Lehn '09

(ian.lehn@gmail.com) Just recently, the alumni and undergrads of Alpha Tau really came through to help myself and my company (BOOSTane) make a giant leap and have the chance at an unbelievable opportunity.

I was seeking help to launch my product—a fuel additive called BOOSTane that successfully raises 93 octane pump gas to a 110 race

fuel equivalent—to the finals of the SEMA Show, a "Shark Tank" style competition in Vegas.

I sent an email to both lists asking for their help (read it at [www.kappasigmagt.org](http://www.kappasigmagt.org)), and followed up twice more. All three outreaches resulted in huge numbers of votes, and eventually a place in the top five to compete at this year's SEMA show for \$150K in marketing.

Thanks to the brothers of Alpha Tau, as this is a perfect example of brothers coming to rescue and putting me through to the finals.

### Where's Your Update?

You've told us time and time again that the alumni updates section is your favorite part of *Alpha Tauker*. So why did only one brother take the time to share his news? This is your opportunity to brag about your family, share career accomplishments, relive funny memories, praise your lifelong friendships through stories of recent reunions, or show us pictures of any of the above.