



## 310 N. BISHOP HAPPENINGS

Gamma Kappa of Theta Chi Alumni Newsletter

### President's Report

- Presidential Report
- CAB Update
- Alumni Work Weekend
- Live-in advisor update
- House improvement
- Alumni Reunion
- Helping Hand Award
- Call to action

It is with joy that I greet you for this semester's edition of *The Happenings*. Despite all that has gone on in the world around us, there is much (good) news to share! I continue to be encouraged by the direction our chapter is heading and want to make my first plea (of many) to ask you to get involved with our endeavor to better, in every sense of the word, the Gamma Kappa chapter of Theta Chi. As you'll see, the tone of this newsletter shares a vision of the future and all we need is a contribution from YOU to accomplish these lofty goals. This idea of ongoing contribution to the brotherhood is embodied by oft-muttered phrases of the past, from informal ("*Theta Chi 'till I*

*die*") to formal ("...[*Theta Chi*] *extends a helping hand to all who seek it.*"). As you read through the updates, please imagine a way in which you might lend the Helping Hand.



Kyle Morgan ('06)  
President, Gamma Kappa  
House Corporation

### Chapter Advisory Board

The Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) experience has been rewarding in a number of ways since we launched less than a year ago. In talking with the other CAB members, we knew we would enjoy reconnecting with fellow alumni and we were all excited for the opportunity to connect with undergraduate brothers and impart whatever wisdom we have amassed since leaving Oxford. The current CAB members on average graduated 15 years ago, and while we don't take ourselves too seriously, there is no shortage of coaching, challenging, and mentoring. Hearing the other CAB members on our calls with the Gamma Kappa Executive Committee reminds me that I am the person I am today because of the resolute men that came together at 310 N. Bishop to promote knowledge, advance culture and build character. The CAB has been impressed by the current Gamma Kappa brothers, and their sincere approach to reestablish the important foundations of fraternity life that have been lost over time for a variety of reasons. The headline topics we focused on over the last year include:

- Creating an effective Executive Committee
- Reconstituting Chapter Meetings which fell off for a few years.
- Importance of creating a Standards Board and setting expectations for brothers and holding them accountable.
- Establishing a solid relationship with IFC and Miami



In true Gamma Kappa fashion, our icebreaker of getting to know the undergraduates was to get and give views. While my views have changed a lot since graduating in 2003, I am happy that many of the things I cherished on campus still resonate with the current brothers.

-John Newell ('02)  
President, Chapter Advisory Board

# Alumni Work Weekend

One of the highlights of this past semester was the Alumni Work Weekend (7/23-7/25). Brothers spent a tireless Saturday afternoon working to remove the old wooden patio (built in the '70s), do some landscaping, and clean out the shed. We found a number of mementos along the way- a wallet from the 90s (can anybody reach out to Amy and let we know we found a key to her Saturn?), a pee-soaked mattress from who-knows-when, and a rock that had “Kyle” painted on it (is that you Riddle?). We hope this can be the start of an annual tradition that shows the undergraduate men that stewardship of the property at 310 N. Bishop continues past graduation. Start thinking about a trip to Oxford July 2022!



Before:



After:



# Live-in Advisor Update

A call for live-in advisor candidates went out in the last version of *The Happenings*, and I am beyond excited to announce that one of our very own Gamma Kappa alumni answered the call. Chris Norman ('75) retired from a successful non-profit management career to move back into the Theta Chi house. That's right, "move *back* into." Chris was part of one of the first classes to live in the chapter house at 310 N. Bishop St. Chris has been instrumental as a set of alumni boots on the ground, and has been well-received by the undergraduate men. Not only has Chris served as an attentive live-in advisor, but has also begun to serve in a property managerial role. We owe a debt of gratitude to Chris for not only taking on the much needed live-in advisor position, but giving so much of his time and energy towards the betterment of the chapter. We envision utilizing Chris' fundraising experience to help with chapter fundraising in the near future. Just one example of an alumni lending a helping hand, in a *big* way.

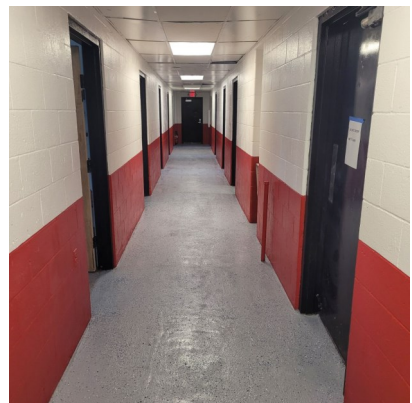


# House Improvement

We have prided ourselves on sound financial stewardship and timely, yet targeted, house improvement projects over the past two years. Unfortunately, owning an almost 50-year old home (that houses college-aged guys), sometimes requires more “maintenance” than “improvement.” While we did utilize a fair share of alumni elbow grease (previous page), and we did manage a few house improvement projects (pictures below), this semester was marked more by house maintenance. One *major* upgrade however, was the replacement of the roof. This was only made possible by the generosity of one anonymous alumnus who oversaw the re-roofing project. This immediately put an end to our annual game of “*How much damage will the leaky roof cause this year?*” and we are incredibly grateful to this alumnus for offering his professional skill to the chapter. Other projects included: re-epoxying of the hallway floors, upgrading the bathroom mirrors, lights and partitions, and replacing most of the toilets and urinals. Less glamorous, but desperately needed updates!

## Completed Projects

- New bathroom mirrors, lights, partitions
- New toilets
- Plumbing upgrade in much of the house
- New roof
- Removal of decrepit backyard deck
- Clearing out of brush from parking lot/driveway
- Clearing social room closet; restocking tables/chairs
- New skylight



## Upcoming/Potential Projects

- Fence replacement
- Back stairwell replacement
- Definitive backyard plan
- Repaving of driveway/parking lot
- Centralized fire detection system (mandated by university -2023)
- Fire suppression system (mandated by university- 2025)

# Alumni Brotherhood Events

Unquestionably, the most notable event of the year (amongst the alumni) occurred in October 2021. Brother Steve Davis ('74) organized a reunion for Gamma Kappa brothers of the 60s and 70s. Despite the rage of the delta variant, the event was well-attended (over 50 brothers!) and extremely well-reviewed. It began with a golf outing at Hueston Woods, and followed with a night out uptown (O Pub) on Friday night. Chuck Giller ('75) hosted a tailgate Saturday afternoon (with a special appearance by President Crawford!). The weekend concluded with a banquet at Hueston Woods Conference Center. Brother Davis served as emcee of the banquet which included "\$2 bill Gamma Kappa Trivia, a "Back to the Future" video which included pictures old and new. It was amazing to see conversation pick up where it left off 50 years prior! Additional pictures can be found on [Facebook](#).



Most impressive, however, was the acknowledgment of one of our Gamma Kappa brothers by the national chapter. A representative from IHQ was on-site to award Bob Coughlin ('83) the prestigious *Distinguished Achievement Award*, an award given to Theta Chi alumni for "exceptional professional accomplishments, career achievements, and community or public service." Mr. Coughlin was well-deserving of the award, only given to about 80 total alumni to date, having been the Founder of Paycor and the Flying Pig Marathon, in addition to his unending (domestic and international) philanthropic efforts. For a full biography of Brother Coughlin, refer to the [Summer '21 edition of \*The Rattle\*](#). More details regarding the Gamma Kappa reunion will follow in a this summer's edition of *The Rattle*.

## The Helping Hand Award

To acknowledge those alumni that go above and beyond in bettering the chapter experience. The *Gamma Kappa Alumni Helping Hand Award* will go to 1-2 alumni bi-annually to acknowledge their generosity and embodiment of the fraternal spirit.



There were many qualified individuals for the *Gamma Kappa Alumni Helping Hand Award* this past 6 months. Chris Norman's ('75) hand continues to help so a future award seems more appropriate, though his impact and influence on the chapter exceeds that of any alumni over the past number of months. However, no other alumnus has done as much over the past 6 months for the chapter as **Steve Davis ('74)**. He has served as a de-facto social media chair, keeping the [Facebook group alive](#), all while planning a first-of-its kind 50 year reunion in the midst of a pandemic. This is the type of connection that our alumni base has been missing and I hope it spurs more alumni to do likewise.



---

## Call to action:

I. **We need alumni volunteers!** There are many opportunities (with varying time commitments) to get involved. We need more Board Members for the House Corporation and the Chapter Advisory Board. We would like to have a diverse set of alumni on these boards, grads from the past 5 years as well as those from 50 years ago (and everything in between). We would also like to start to train officers-elect for each of the board positions.

There are also opportunities for web design/updating, social media management, fundraising events and more (maybe you can be on a committee to formalize *The Helping Hand Award!*?) Whatever time you feel you are able to give, we will be able to put to good use!

II. Please update your contact information (including profession, location, and graduation year) on our [constant contact account](#). This will help us begin to organize our vast alumni network!

III. Be on the lookout for future fundraising opportunities. We plan to create a 501(c)3 foundation specific to the Gamma Kappa Chapter. We intend this to help with capital improvement projects regarding on-campus housing (message [Kyle Morgan](#) for more details), as well as undergraduate scholarship opportunities for tuition and professional development conferences.

IV. Forward this on to more Gamma Kappa alumni, especially if you did this with previous Gamma Kappa-related communications.







A drawing of the original Gamma Kappa Theta Chi house on College Ave.

## Gamma Kappa House Corporation of Theta Chi Fraternity Board Members

---

### President:

Kyle Morgan ('06), M.D. ('10, Ross University School of Medicine)  
Pediatric anesthesiologist - Pediatric Dental Anesthesia Associates  
Memphis, TN

### Vice President:

Thomas Vaccaro ('09), J.D. ('12, Capital University Law School)  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney - Franklin County (OH) Prosecutor's  
Office  
Columbus, OH

### Treasurer:

Wes Ernst ('06), CPA  
Director- BKD CPAs & Advisors  
Cincinnati, OH

### Secretary:

Michael Roney ('08), J.D. ('14, Capital University Law School)  
Attorney, Financial Services Office - Ernst & Young  
Twinsburg, OH

### Officer:

Douglas Grove ('06), CPA  
Corporate Tax Manager- AptarGroup, Inc.  
Libertyville, IL

### Officer:

Nick Schubert ('07), MBA ('11, University of Notre Dame), MSF ('15,  
Indiana University)  
VP Operations – Platinum Equity  
Columbus, OH

(Please join us!!!)