



Sigma Nu

Gamma Kappa Chapter

UPDATE: Fall 2020



Greetings Sigma Nu GK Alumni,

I hope you and your families have all been staying healthy and happy during this past fall as we have transitioned out of 2020 and into 2021! This is the third Sigma Nu Newsletter we have published to update the alumni of the ongoing shenanigans and activities at the GK Chapter here in Boulder, CO. My name is Breck Hesselman GK 2346, and I am the current Alumni Relations Chairman. We missed reconnecting with you all at our usual Sigma Nu Alumni tailgate, but hopefully next season we will all be together again, and we can watch some football. This will be my last time composing the Newsletter, as our newly elected Alumni Relations Chairman, Benny Khouri will be taking over for the semesters to come. I hope you enjoy reading up on some of the chapters past, present, and future accomplishments and goals.

Executive Board Briefing

Happy New Year from E.C. Stokley Brace, L.C. Max Wilson, and the rest of the outgoing executive board! This was truly an experience that we will remember and talk about at alumni weekends to come. It was a long 6 months of separation for Gamma Kappa before we could all come back together in the fall.

This was a difficult semester to plan towards as state mandates and case counts continued to vary week to week. That being said, I couldn't be more proud of our chapter for carrying on strongly under such circumstances. Our rush chairmen designed a COVID safe recruitment plan that earned us top bidding chapter of the semester in the IFC. Additionally, we maintained a strong behavior and reputation on the hill with no public health violation tickets or disciplinary sanctions from the IFC. Additionally, we did not experience any COVID outbreaks internally as we all maintained strong health practices throughout the semester. Being the only open gym and basketball court in Boulder, the health and fitness of Gamma Kappa had never been more notable.

Unfortunately, our annual Dare to Play philanthropic event with the Global Down Syndrome Foundation had to be cancelled for obvious reasons, but we look forward to taking the field next fall if permitted. Thankfully, we were able to partake in Global's annual fashion show which was put on virtually by the contestants.

The highlight of this semester had to be our first in-person chapter meeting back from quarantine. It was refreshing to once again hear each chairman's report, slam the gavel to regain

everyone's attention, and listen to the “said brother’s” stories of the week. If there was one thing this pandemic taught me, it was to be more thankful for the unity that this great chapter is blessed with when we congregate. I look forward to the next alumni tailgate when that unity can be expanded between all brothers and alumni in due time.



Pictured:
L.C. Max Wilson (left) &
E.C. Stokley Brace (right)



Philanthropy & Community Service:

Ethan MacKenzie & Max House

Myself, Ethan Mackenzie was the Philanthropy and Community Service Chair alongside my partner Max House. As you all know, it has been a very unique time this past year but we are still trying to make an impact. We had originally planned for a basketball tournament during the month of April that would be used as a fundraiser for the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, but unfortunately that had to be cancelled. As the semester progressed, we were able to have the Global Down Syndrome Fashion Show virtually, however we still had to postpone our Dare to Play football fundraiser. This was really upsetting and put Max and I into a bind of how to still have philanthropic events given our circumstances. We ended up having to hold off this semester with philanthropic events, however, I am excited to pass on this position to the two great brothers, Aidan Greenfeld and Ben Wohl that are excited for what challenges are to come. They have already come up to me with ideas of how to host fundraisers and community service events in a safe new way. They are smart and passionate about the positions and are going to do some really amazing things, so keep up to date with the newsletters because you won't want to miss them.

Formal:

Seth Goldberg & James Dunbar

Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, Sigma Nu Gamma Kappa Chapter was unable to host a Spring 2020 formal event or a Fall 2020 formal event. We attempted to plan a formal event but deemed it unsafe. The new formal chairmen Jack Merkel, and Liam McDonagh are eagerly awaiting the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine so that they can organize a safe and exciting formal for all of the Brother's in Sigma Nu Gamma Kappa Chapter.



Pictured: A group of Brothers on a day ski trip to Copper Mountain over the weekend

Internal Social:

Sam Zientek

Between being in the midst of a pandemic and adapting to life on Zoom, we as a brotherhood relied on each other more than ever. Despite not ideal circumstances, we often found ways as brothers to entertain each other and maintain our close relationships and bonds. A favorite activity among the brothers was the “Tour De Franzia” race in which brothers paired up in teams of two and raced each other in carts around the basketball court. Another brotherhood that was popular amongst us was grilling burgers and hotdogs during our many brotherhood basketball tournaments. Normally we would have some fun events planned for Dads Weekend,

however, because of the circumstances being outside of our control, we were unable to this semester. In a year unlike many, we as brothers and close friends were in good spirits and kept the good times rolling through brotherhood events and our close company.



Pictured: Some of the older brothers preparing and showing support for their favorite MMA fighter, Connor McGregor and his fight that took place later in the day.

Recruitment:

Patrick Lloyd & Ryan Paganelli & Shane Ridler

This past fall recruitment year, we were put to the test with a very extraordinary circumstance of having no formal rush process but still needed to create a fall pledge class. At the start of the semester, we were very lost, because due to COVID-19, we were unsure if there was going to be any sort of new member class at all. We all sat down with our executive board and spoke with alumni and enacted a plan that would follow the current COVID-19 guidelines and find a way to fill a normal fall recruitment class. We ended up finding a full candidate class, and according to the IFC on The Hill, we were the house to have the most accepted bids for the semester. We ended up initiating a final number of 33 candidates for our Fall 2020 class. This year was definitely a learning experience for us and hopefully we helped to pave the way for the upcoming recruitment processes. We are very excited to see what the spring rush has in store and to meet the next potential new members!



Pictured: The new Fall 2020 initiates celebrating becoming brothers of Sigma Nu.

Leadership, Excellence, Achievement, Development (LEAD's):

Jack DeFrancesco

During this past semester, we have continued to hold LEADs meetings over zoom, holding numerous sessions for the Spring 2020 pledge class that still had to be done from last semester. We were able to get in all the standard lessons for the Fall 2020 pledge class through zoom meetings as well as some small in person meetings. It was obviously much harder to go through with the regular LEADs programming with Covid ordinances being very tricky to work around but we were able to work with it and get a typical LEADs education in for the past two pledge classes. Similar to what LEADs has always been, weekly meetings were held with active candidates to assimilate them into becoming a brother of Gamma Kappa. In addition to teaching the candidates about the history of the house and what exactly it means to be a brother, we also completed online alcohol and greek life education courses with the pledges. I am excited to pass this role on to our two new LEADs chairmen, the duo of Sam & Walt Zientek. Through many obstacles with Covid, we were still able to cover most of the LEADs material that is a part of a standard pledgeship.



Pictured: Amidst the pandemic, these brothers wanted to escape Boulder and decided to go on a 4-Day backpacking trip in Flattops National Park this past fall.

Public Relations:

Spencer Henderson

As Public Relations Chairman, my job is to keep our social media account running. We regularly utilize social media, particularly Instagram, to share chapter operation updates and feature brothers that have done exemplary work in school and in the Greek community. We now have almost 1,300 followers, we are always testing new types of content to increase the number of reactions, all in the hope of gaining more followers. Currently on our Instagram page we have a Sigma spotlight every week introducing the world to why we chose this brotherhood. Also, “Flashback Friday”, which is where we talk about the history of our fraternity and our important dates that are involved with it. The most beneficial function of Gamma Kappa’s social media accounts is communicating with other chapters across the country, building strong relationships that will extend beyond our four years at CU. We love to see what other Sigma Nu chapters around the country are doing, and how we can improve and excel with honor. Finally, I am excited to pass this position off to Cole Corrigan who already has some great new ideas in store.

Instagram: [@sigmanuboulder](https://www.instagram.com/sigmanuboulder)

Social:

Sean Defaria & Braden Sampson & Nekoda Schneider

As social chairs this semester and for the most part of last semester, planning parties and events was hard due to Covid restrictions. We could not operate and plan events with sororities as usual, and we thought of ideas of renting spaces out or restaurants but this was too much for the budget. We could do events with the brothers who live on prop which resulted in many internal social brotherhood events. We had a dye tournament on the sand court during early fall semester which for those who do not know is a popular drinking game in Boulder. The game involves two teams of two, where brothers throw dice into the air and try to have it land on the other teams' side of the table and bounce to the ground without the other team catching it. This was a great way to hang out with the brothers and continue to grow our friendships for the whole day. Overall, this time was very hard to form social events, and we still managed to have our fun, but we are looking forward to the good times and big parties to come. Our newly elected social chairs, Bradley Lienhart, Matt Gasparro, and Casey McGrath are well prepared to take on this important position in our house and are eagerly awaiting for the Covid restrictions to cease so the show can go on!

Pictured: Some of the main house guys relaxing on the roof and enjoying the sunset.



Mental Health And Wellness Report:

Charlie Coe

This semester, the house took a more serious approach to the Mental Health and Wellness of our house as a whole than we had in previous years. We held a chapter that allowed everybody to anonymously bring up some of the hardships they were dealing with by writing them on slips of paper and then randomly redistributing them to everyone in attendance to read one by one. This was a really special way we were able to hear about and show support for each other and have the realization that we are all dealing with some tough situations that might not be so prominent. We also addressed some of the more common and sensitive problems that are prevalent in our house in order to take a more cautious and preventative approach as we head into the future. These were just some of the events we incorporated to keep everyone level-headed during this pandemic.

Hot Tub:

Ryan Paganelli

Unfortunately, our hot tub was removed and we no longer have one.

Sigma Nu Recent Nominations & Awards:

Fall 2020 IFC Awards:

Greek Man of the Year: **Adam Wenzlaff**

Outstanding Senior Award: **Andrew Siana**

Individual Academic Excellence Award: **Cameron Carlson**

The Fall 2020 Gamma Kappa Scholarship Award: (\$1,000)

Recipients:

Ethan Mackenzie (Junior) - Academic Improvement

Max Wilson (Sophomore) - Academic Merit

For proven academic excellence during the Fall 2020 semester. I want to congratulate these men for their commitment to their own personal success and the success of the chapter.

New IFC Positions

Last year we had two brothers on the board of the IFC. Adam Wenzlaff as the President alongside Andrew Siana as the Treasurer. Now with their term being over, they have stepped down and three new brothers decided to run for positions and were elected. Ryan Paganelli is the new VP of Finance and Operations (Treasurer), Charlie Coe is the new Director of Athletics and Sportsmanship, and Kyle Pierce is the new Director of Technology.

Big Water Blue

In the midst of the pandemic, Cole Skach, active brother and former rush chair, made a commitment to make a difference. His vision was to help provide a safe and sanitized environment for the Boulder community as the population returned back to campus. With some hard work and dedication, he developed a high quality hand sanitizer and Big Water Blue was founded in 2020 with the purpose to help combat the pandemic. Overtime, the combination of Cole's relentless work ethic and dedication enabled him to provide companies nationwide with his products! We want to highlight the success story of our own brother scaling a business and helping communities, small businesses, and fraternities during an unprecedented time in our country. BWB is a high quality, FDA approved, WHO compliant, hand sanitizer with multifunctional and customizable features. To learn more contact: Andrew.Siana@colorado.edu



Pictured: Senior brother, Cole Skach and a sample of one of his products from his growing business, Big Water Blue



Pictured (left to right):
The Executive Council enjoying their annual dinner at the Boulder Chop House and tavern:
Treasurer- Oskar Wells, Novice Marshall- Jack Baker, President- Stokley Brace, Scholarship- Cam Carlson, Chaplain/House Manager- Jack Driscoll, Risk Reduction- Nate Bosnian, Recorder- Remy Paquet



Pictured (left to right):

We can't wait to see what our newly elected Executive board will accomplish for the semesters to come:

Risk Reduction- Peter Daichman, Scholarship- Ben Streett, Novice Marshall- James Johnston
Lieutenant Commander- Miles Page, Eminent Commander- Finn Moylan, Treasurer- Chris Green, Recorder- Jackson Levin, Chaplain/House Manager- Kyle Lynch

