

GAMMA-KAPPA OF KAPPA SIGMA



WINTER NEWSLETTER



THE HOLIDAYS AND FALL SEMESTER ARE NOW BEHIND US, AND WITH THAT MANY EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR MEMBERS OF THIS GREAT BROTHERHOOD. AS WE HEAD INTO THE SPRING SEMESTER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO SPRING RECRUITMENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME NEW MEMBERS INTO OUR BROTHERHOOD.



(From left to right) Brothers Rush Verulkar ('19), Kurt Edmonds ('19), & Ryder Goering ('19)

STUDY ABROAD

Before everyone returns to campus for the Spring Semester, several of our brothers have been given the opportunity to study abroad in San José, Costa Rica for a Winter Intersession program. Brothers Kurt Edmonds ('19), Rush Verulkar ('19), & Ryder Goering ('19) were given the opportunity after being accepted into the JCPenney Leadership Program for outstanding students in the Price College of Business, and they will be receiving credit for the course **MGT 3233: Leadership in International Settings**.

The nine-day trip began on January 5th with their departure from the United States and is set to conclude on January 14th. When asked what he was most looking forward to on the trip, Kurt Edmonds answered, "In studying abroad with the JCPenney Leadership Program in Costa Rica, I am most looking forward to seeing new cultures. I have never had an extended stay in a foreign country before, so being in Costa Rica for nine days truly gives me the opportunity to see new ways of life. I am also looking forward to the eye-opening experience of being the foreigner in a country as opposed to the native!"

Ryder Goering was asked about his experience with the JCPenney Leadership Program thus far, and how that has led him to be able to travel to Costa Rica. He responded, "JCPenney has enabled me to partake in many interesting business opportunities. During the Fall Semester, we had a trip down to Austin to tour several corporations. I found a lot of benefit seeing firsthand how US businesses operate. Now, I was offered an opportunity to go overseas to see how local Costa Rica businesses compare. Although I have only been here a day so far, it has been great comparing and contrasting the two. I find it very interesting to expand my knowledge on cultures throughout the world as well."

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As their trip concludes, we look forward to hearing from Kurt, Rush, and Ryder about their experience, and also look forward to hearing more from some of our other brothers who will be studying abroad this spring.

To learn more about the JCPenney Leadership Program, click [here](#).



Kale Kitlowski ('20)

COAT DRIVE

With how fortunate many of us are to be able to live in warm houses and own warm clothing, it is important to give back when others are in need. Brother Kale Kitlowski ('20) and his father have helped to organize a coat drive every winter break in their hometown of Austin, Texas for the past four years as a way of trying to provide warm clothing for those who need it.

Brother Kitlowski's favorite part of doing the coat drive every year is "how much the community comes together. It is amazing to see how many people want to help and are proactive about it. In a time of high partisanship, seeing a community come together to help those less fortunate is awesome."

Kitlowski described what his hopes for the drive are this year, stating that "in Austin, it is no secret that there has been growth in the homeless population and it has been an issue within the city, however; this year we hoped that even with the grief that the homeless and less fortunate received, that people would still be willing to help. When the cold snap happened, people came together and still filled the closet with more than needed."

Kitlowski also added some details on where and how donations can be delivered or received: "The closet with the clothes is at the University of Texas Dell Seaton Medical Center. It is organized on Facebook and donations are brought to our house. The closet gets filled periodically throughout the winter and we collect throughout the year in preparation.

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So, if anyone would like to contribute or has old winter clothes they want to part with, feel free to reach out and I can collect in Norman!"

To contact Kitlowski about their coat drive and organize a donation, he can be reached through email at kale.kitlowski@gmail.com or cell at **512-569-1323**



(From left to right) Parker McGowan ('20), Brock Bossert ('20), Dillon Simon ('21), Ben Linkous ('19), and Ryan Barnett ('21)

SMC

Immediately following the start of the New Year, nearly a dozen of our brothers were given the opportunity to attend the annual Student Mobilization Conference (SMC) in Dallas, Texas. SMC Dallas is a conference that builds spiritual leaders for Christ from universities in Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Wyoming, and more. The conference offered a simple invitation to our brothers: Follow Me. 2000 years ago, Jesus gave an invitation that changed the world: “Come, follow me.” So, likewise, this year's conferences beckoned our brothers to question their willingness to follow Christ and challenged them to offer the same invitation of discipleship to the world.

The four-day conference kicked off on January 2nd and featured a powerhouse of quest speakers from around the country. Our brothers got to hear from Brent Reinke, Dr. Kennon Vaughan, Todd Ahrend, and David Platt, who guided them on their journey throughout the conference and the challenges they faced upon its completion. In addition to the main speakers, the breakout sessions advised our brothers on uncommon manhood, service leadership, faith-driven relationships, and how to navigate the fraternity world as a man of God.

At the conclusion of the conference on January 5th, David Platt finalized our brothers' time in Dallas by granting them one last piece of guidance: 4 truths, 3 problems, 2 conclusions, and 1 mission to follow the Gospel and the truth's we know from the Bible. As they departed, our brothers were asked “What the impact could be” and how that translated throughout their lives.

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Looking back at his experience at the conference, brother Brock Bossert ('20) said, "SMC is always a great time. It made a huge impact on my life last year, and I actively watched it change the hearts of guys I was close to that were there this year. Best thing I could do with my winter break for sure."

As we settle into the coming Spring 2022 semester, we are elated to hear more from our brothers' experiences and learn about what their impact could be for our Kappa Sigma Chapter, the University of Oklahoma campus, and the world.

To learn more about StuMo, you can click [here](#), and more info on their OU chapters can be found on Instagram (@**oustumo**) or on Facebook (**OU StuMo**).

CHAPTER UPDATES

- The Chapter recently concluded elections for its new Executive Committee. Former Grand Scribe Kurt Edmonds ('19) will remain on the Executive Committee as Grand Master. The rest of the group is composed of:
 - **Grand Procurator:** Brock Bossert ('21) (**Previous Position:** Risk Manager)
 - **Grand Master of Ceremonies:** Gilbert De Cardenas ('21) (**Previous Position:** Accolades)
 - **Grand Treasurer:** Drew Espindola ('21) (**Previous Position:** Intramurals)
 - **Grand Scribe:** Colby Dawson ('21)
- For Scandals this semester, our chapter will be paired with the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. The overall theme for the program is "Never Grow Up", with each cast putting their own spin on the theme. Zac Cowger ('18) is set to serve as lead director for one last semester.

To learn more about Scandals, click **here**

- The formal Spring Recruitment process is set to begin at the start of the Spring Semester. Brothers Zak McDonald ('21), Nick Lucas ('21), and Lucas Palenzuela ('21) will be leading our chapter's efforts.

To find the link for registering for Spring Recruitment, click **here**

- The chapter's Housing Board is requesting Hall of Fame nominations for the Hall of Fame Dinner, set to take place the same weekend as Homecoming this upcoming fall. Nominations can be sent to Jack Bache at **judybache@cox.net** or by filling out **this form**.

Past inductees can be found by clicking **here**

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