

GAMMA-KAPPA OF KAPPA SIGMA



SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2022 HAS GIVEN OUR BROTHERS THE FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY ABROAD, CARRY THEIR ASPIRATIONS TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, VOLUNTEER WITH MIRACLE FAMILIES, DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS WITH THE NATIONAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP FORUM, AND LEARN FROM STATE LEADERS ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN STATE POLITICS



Henry Harris ('21)



(From left to right): Logan Doggett ('19), Van Connelley ('19), Derrick Doggett ('19), and Jackson Brooks ('19)

BROTHERS IN EUROPE

In addition to the week-long Winter Intersession trip to Costa Rica that several of our brothers went on in January, brothers Henry Harris ('21), Derrick Doggett ('19), Logan Doggett ('19), Jack Clayville ('19), Van Connelley ('19), and Jackson Brooks ('19) have been given the opportunity to study abroad in Europe for the semester through the University of Oklahoma's Study Abroad program.

Henry Harris, a junior Finance major, has been studying abroad from OU's Arezzo, Italy campus. When asked what made him want to study abroad, he replied, "My dad lived in Italy for 3 years in the Arezzo area. His experiences combined with wanting to get out and experiencing a different culture was what made me want to study abroad. After finding out OU had a campus there and that I had the opportunity to study abroad I realized there won't be a better opportunity to do so."

Harris's travels haven't been limited to just Arezzo, either. So far, he has also traveled to Siena, Milan, Munich, Pompeii, Florence, Rome, and Madrid. His favorite out of those locations has been Madrid, and he also has a trip planned to Greece.

With so much going on in Ukraine the past few weeks, Harris was thankful to say that it had not affected them at all in Italy and that is hopeful things stay that way.

Harris was also asked what he hopes for from the rest of the trip. He replied, "I hope to be able to see more of Europe like Sweden, Norway, and Austria before I leave. On top of that, interacting with and having dinner with local families has been a great opportunity that I want to continue."

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With regard to coursework, Harris is currently studying Italian Cultural Literacy (a combination of basic Italian language and Italian history), Italian Renaissance Art History, Italian History Through Film, and Business Ethics. He described Italian Renaissance Art History as being "a great course to experience because it has us travel to different locations every week to see major frescoes or art pieces."

More information about OU's Study Abroad programs in Arezzo can be found [**here**](#).



LMU
Lincoln Memorial University



(From left to right): Jamie Peck ('18) & Cole Miller ('18)

CONTINUED EDUCATION

As our chapter's senior class prepares to graduate in May, many brothers have made plans for what they hope to accomplish professionally upon receiving their diploma. Several brothers have accepted full-time job offers with very reputable firms, and others have decided to continue their education. Two brothers that reached significant milestones in following their dreams are Jamie Peck ('18) and Cole Miller ('18).

Brother Peck has decided to continue his education with the University of Oklahoma by attending law school at OU Law. Given that studying for the LSAT (Law School Admission Test) and getting into law school itself is no small task, we asked Brother Peck about his experience in preparing for the LSAT and how it felt to get accepted into law school. He replied, "During the process of applying for law schools, I had to create an account with the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) and register for the LSAT. I bought a study guide for the test at Barnes and Noble and spent the summer studying for it and doing practice problems. After my first attempt, I registered for a second test and applied to OU Law and the Oklahoma City Law School. I improved my second score by several points and was accepted into both schools. It was a huge relief getting into them, and I was really happy that I would get to continue studying at OU Law, which is the school I've wanted to go to since I was in high school. Every decision I've made in my education has been toward that goal, and so for it to finally pay off after years of work is incredible."

Brother Peck also described some of his hopes for the future, both in his studies in law school and his career beyond: "I'm expecting law school to be a difficult process, but once I've graduated, I'll be able to work in a career that I love. I'm excited for the ways I'll be able to use my law degree to help people all over Oklahoma."

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In addition to brother Peck reaching a significant milestone, brother Cole Miller set a goal of attending dental school before he even enrolled at OU. That goal was reached with Miller's acceptance into Lincoln Memorial University College of Dental Medicine in Knoxville, Tennessee. Miller described the process of studying for the DAT (Dental Admission Test) and how it felt being accepted into dental school:

"It's a long, expensive, and sometimes stressful process. School wise you have all your science pre-requisites and general coursework to do well in. I did my best to get as involved as possible with extracurriculars and volunteering with my course load, but it was pretty tough at times. When it came to studying the second time for the DAT I got in the mindset of studying over pretty much anything. For about a month I studied around 4 hours a day. Once classes ended I immediately switched to 8-10 hour days of studying for about 3 weeks. I had to miss out on several things like seeing friends and even had to minimize my time at home for Christmas so I could get back to studying. Once I was accepted into a school it was a huge weight off my shoulders. I accomplished my major goal of undergrad and I now get to head to the next step of accomplishing my dream. My overall stress decreased dramatically and I now have a lot more time to do the things I enjoy doing. I'm incredibly excited to start this fall."

Miller was asked what he looks forward to in his studies at LMU as well as his career beyond. He replied, "I'm looking forward to just serving people. Dentistry offers a unique way to give back. I anticipate specializing in pediatrics, but that's subject to change. My main goal right now is to just get my DMD. Being a lifetime Oklahoman, moving to Tennessee for school will be different and I'm often asked by family if I plan on coming back. It's all up in the air right now, but all I know right now is I want to help those who don't normally have access to this kind of care. Once I stop practicing down the road I would like to go into academia and help prepare other people looking to make a difference in people's lives."

Miller is expected to graduate from LMU in 2026 with his Doctorate of Dental Medicine, MS in Biomedical Sciences, and an MBA.



OU DANCE MARATHON

This spring, our brothers participated in the University of Oklahoma's Dance Marathon (OUDM), an official philanthropy event sponsored by the Campus Activities Council at the University of Oklahoma. Brothers Clayton Chiariello ('21) and Ryan Barnett ('21) led our chapter as the Team Captains to meet the needs of Miracle Networks families and show their children a fantastic time.

OUDM benefits Oklahoma's children by raising money for the Oklahoma Children's Hospital Foundation, which funds research at the Oklahoma City Children's Hospital to ensure every child receives the best care, regardless of ability to pay. In addition, the brothers of Kappa Sigma pledged to volunteer for twelve hours to represent the time that Miracle Kids stay in dialysis or chemotherapy, that doctors and nurses remain on call, and for twelve months out of the year that students fundraise for OUDM.

Each year the event raises hundreds of thousands of dollars, and this year was no different, with OU students helping to raise over \$730,000 for Miracle Families. Our Brothers had the pleasure of sponsoring the Hurley Family and young Jeremiah, one of two of their young Miracle Kids involved in the Miracle Family network. He has remained planted in the Miracle Network since he was born with a diaphragmatic hernia, suffering from extremely low blood sugar levels and respiratory issues. Today Jeremiah is perfectly healthy and has no ongoing medical needs but his older sister Mattie suffers from scoliosis and a diaphragmatic hernia.

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Looking back at his twelve hours on his feet, Clayton Chiariello (21') said, "OUDM is a place for those kids to feel normal. They get to laugh and have fun and make friends. I saw how much of an impact just one day can have. I gave one Saturday, and I was able to change lives. That is really eye-opening. I think it is so important for our members because there are lessons in giving back."

Our brothers participated in fun games and extraordinary dances and made unforgettable memories with the Hurley family and other Miracle families. Our goal was to make Jeremiah feel special and loved and give him and his family another reason to keep fighting.

If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about the Hurley family's story, the Miracle network, or how to get involved, visit [OUDM](#).



(From left to right): Dillon Martin ('19), Rushabh Verulkar ('19), Ryder Goering ('19), Jayke Flaggert ('19), and Kurtas Edmonds ('19)

NSL RETREAT

Early this spring, our brothers participated in the National Student Leadership retreat at Ascend Camp and Retreat Center in Dallas, Texas. Brothers Dillon Martin ('19), Rushabh Verulkar ('19), Ryder Goering ('19), Jayke Flaggert ('19), and Kurtas Edmonds ('19) were all drawn to this retreat to better focus on leading purposeful lives that are defined by leadership, fellowship, and vulnerability.

The National Student Leadership Forum is an organization that hosts events across the United States at a state and national level by Governors, Members of Congress, U.S. Senators, and other prominent U.S. government leaders. Their purpose is to gather young people of diverse aspirations and backgrounds and equip them with valuable leadership principles. However, the central focus of these gatherings is to study the principles Jesus lived by and grapple with their meaning. They believe that actual change starts first within ourselves, and from there, it can extend to others and, ultimately, the world.

This event hosted a range of speakers from around the region headed by Representative Tracey Robert Mann, a businessman, and politician, who currently serves as the U.S. representative from Kansas's 1st congressional district. Our brothers went horseback riding and spent quality time learning about what it means to build a community through servant leadership. Moreover, they spent most of their time in breakout groups with other young student leaders, where they learned and talked about what it looks like to be a man and how to be a good husband and father later in life.

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Looking back at his experiences at the event Rushabh Verulkar ('19) said, "the leadership retreat provided me with an opportunity to not only surround myself with good company, but also to form lasting connections and friendships with those with similar goals and morals. The weekend gave me an entirely new perspective on leadership, emphasizing the importance of vulnerability and genuine community building."

If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about the organization or wants to get involved visit **National Student Leadership** and **Oklahoma Student Leadership**.



STUDENTS FOR STITT

Recently, the brothers of Kappa Sigma had the opportunity to meet with Oklahoma's state leadership at the State Chamber of Commerce in Oklahoma City, OK. Brothers Jayke Flaggert ('19), Ryder Goering ('19), Kenny Cervantes ('19), Ryan Spurgeon ('19), Nick Divirgilio ('19), Luke Hefner ('21), Ryan Barnett ('21), and other students leaders across the state participated in a dinner hosted by the Governor and associated staff.

The brothers of Kappa Sigma had the opportunity to discuss the future of the State with Josh Kraft (Political Director to Lieutenant Governor), Josh Cockroft (Political Director to Governor), Donelle Harder (Campaign Manager for Governor), Chad Warmington (State Chamber Chairman), and Governor Kevin Stitt. He introduced them to their role in his campaign and the value they could bring to campaigns across the state.

As the acting Field Director for Students for Stitt, Jayke Flaggert ('19) believed that our members "walked away [from the event] with a better knowledge of some of the issues facing our state. I think it provided a great networking opportunity for our members to make connections in state government and pursue internship/job offers relating to the Office of the Governor."

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Looking back at his experiences at the event Luke Hefner ('21) said that he "learned how the program allows young well-minded individuals to experience and be genuinely included in a high-level political campaign. It helps students gain the skills and knowledge they'd need to pursue their careers while also providing them with great financial opportunities."

The brothers of Kappa Sigma had the unique opportunity to learn more about what it would look like to learn how to intern or volunteer on campaigns this election cycle, meet the current state interns, hear from candidates, and learn more about the campaigning cycle.

If you or anyone you know would like to learn more about Students for Stitt or wants to get involved, reach out to Jayke Flaggert at jayke@stittforgovernor.com or **405-291-0891**

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