



## AEPKS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

### April & May 2021

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#### *From the Upsilon*

Dear Brothers of the Alpha Epsilon Chapter of Phi Kappa Sigma,

Since the last Greek Week Special Edition Newsletter we have all been busy as a chapter preparing for finals. It doesn't mean we haven't had some time to have some fun though. This weekend myself and 16 others were able to attend a private Alpha Epsilon showing of Godzilla vs. Kong. More on that below from our next Upsilon, Kevin Berner. Also in this edition there is a word from this last semester's Iota, George Beck and graduating student Zachary Haney on his Skulls experience.

Last thing from me, thank you all for this semester as Upsilon. This semester has been a success thanks to you guys. Your donations to both the Out of the Darkness Walk and to Lurie Children's Hospital for Greek Week were truly amazing. Also seeing you all at the two events the Upsilon ran was truly a pleasure and you can look forward to more of that from my capable successor Kevin. Next semester I will be moving on to Pi and Lambda, and I look forward to continuing to serve the chapter in those roles. I hope to see you all at a Smoker some day soon.



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## *Introduction to the New Upsilon*

Worthy Brother Phi Kaps,

I would like to formally introduce myself as the newly elected Upsilon for the 2021 Fall semester.

My name is Kevin Berner, and I am currently wrapping up my first year as a Civil Engineering student. As a recently initiated member of the fraternity, I am excited to take on a leadership position that will enable me to meet many of the great alumni that helped make our chapter what it is today.

With the COVID-19 pandemic trending in a positive direction, I look forward to hosting both online and in-person events next semester. This goal will, of course, depend on state and city guidelines, but I would like to rekindle relationships between active members and alumni in both mediums. Information regarding upcoming events will be sent out closer to the fall.

I can be reached at this email [upsilon@aepks.com](mailto:upsilon@aepks.com) and look forward to meeting many of you soon!

Lastly, I would like to highlight the chapter's most recent Brotherhood event. On Saturday, May 1, the chapter rented out a movie theater for a private screening of **Godzilla vs. Kong**. Seventeen brothers were in attendance, and some even dressed in banana costumes to show their support for their favorite gorilla.

Fraternally,

Kevin Berner (Brother Stress Test, AE 2024)

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## *AE Class of 2024, a Word From The Iota*

As the chapter comes to the end of very unusual year, there is a certain level of recognition that is deserved for our newest brothers. The 3 individuals that have joined our organization and brotherhood did so in an unprecedented time, when the traditional rush and new member experience was not guaranteed for them. These three young men, Kevin Berner, Huy Cao, and Anthony Nowacki, committed to an organization during an unprecedented time in recent history. Their college experience beginning mostly or entirely online prompted a desire for belonging and friendship, all of which they found in Phi Kappa Sigma.

With the new member education process beginning online, including a virtual pinning event, the new member class made every effort to make the most out of their unique experience. With a rather small class, we had a very rare opportunity to engage in much more in depth and intimate conversations and extend beyond what was included in the pillars education material. As the situation with COVID changed over the course of the semester, we were slowly, but happily able to integrate the new members into the house. The first time the new members were able to attend a house meal, even though in a separate designated eating area, was a turning point for the new members. Soon, we began to have in person classes, and were able to exchange more deep ideas about the subject matter being taught in class, and I am proud to say they took all the teachings of the New Member process to heart and it showed.

With our culminating experience being our retreat just before initiation, I was able to observe our newest initiates appreciation of culture and history at the Art Institute of Chicago. The three new members proved to be wonderful additions to the house, as throughout the night the interactions they had with brothers and the sincere words they shared during our traditional gavel pass only reaffirmed our beliefs that they will do great things for the house in the future.

Although they may be the smallest class in Alpha Epsilon history, I am confident that the future of the Fraternity rests in capable hands with our newly installed officers and the drive of our newest members will ensure our chapters longevity will continue to be *Stellis Aequus Durando*.

Fraternally,  
George Beck (Brother Lenny, AE 2023)



Pictured from left to right (Kevin Berner, Huy Cao, Anthony Nowacki, & George Beck)

## *A Word from a Graduating Brother*

Worthy Brother Phi Kaps,

My name is Zachary Haney, and I will be graduating this semester with both a Bachelor's in Architectural Engineering and a Master's in Structural Engineering. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at IIT and Phi Kappa Sigma. I am sad to leave, but excited for the coming adventures ahead in my life.

One of my most remarkable accomplishments within Phi Kappa Sigma was running recruitment week for 3 semesters as Chi. Within this role, I encouraged brothers to expand their social skills while engaging with PNMs, effectively increasing our Fraternity to be the largest on campus as of Spring 2021 (despite the effects of COVID-19!). I also hosted a wide variety of events, including one with an inflatable obstacle course and human hamster ball. My last semester as Chi, I pioneered the first ever virtual recruitment week due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This opportunity proved to be difficult due to the troubles of connecting with the PNM's online. However, we recruited three new guys that stayed with us throughout last fall and this spring. I had the opportunity to serve as their new member mentor through the position of Lambda, too! This was alongside their Iota, George Beck, a good friend of mine that



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the chapter as the first “Covid” New Member class.

I am appreciative of the memories and experiences that Alpha Epsilon of Phi Kappa Sigma gave me. My heart goes out to all of the friends I have made along the way, especially my roommate of seven semesters, Daniel Rappoport. I enjoyed learning how to successfully operate a house, effectively study at 3am on a few cups of coffee, and balance my school work alongside a fantastic group of brothers that I will have for as long as I live.

Thank you for listening to my experiences at Alpha Epsilon. Here’s to the next “Chapter” of my life!

Fraternally,

Zachary Haney (Brother Ol' Yeller, AE 21)



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