



## Alumni Chapter Commander, Chris Schumm Nu #1845

After a very long year, I am looking forward to reconnecting with Sigma Nu Alumni at our regular events, reunions, and homecoming in the fall of 2021. I have used the hiatus from travel and socializing to focus on planning and rebuilding our membership communication and membership management systems. The following is a list of matters addressed by the Alumni Chapter during this quiet period:

1. We have used the past year to evaluate and determine the proper technology and platform for maintaining and building better alumni communications. A special thanks goes out to Brother Charles Wheeler, Nu #1699 who has assisted in the feasibility study and recommendation of new software to build our membership data base and communication. We anticipate rolling out our new website and membership management system later this summer.
2. Skip Granger has been invited serve as a guest columnist for the next few issues. We intend on continuing to request alumni participation in the newsletter to help us reminisce and preserve our history. Likewise, if you know a Brother that has an interesting story or that should be recognized for their achievements, we would like to know.
3. Every year great leaders of Nu Chapter are leaving us to enter into Chapter Eternal. We are attempting to recognize recently deceased brothers in our obituary section. Please notify us if you have information about the passing of a Brother so we can honor them with a proper remembrance. Recently, a scholarship fund for Nu Chapter of Sigma Nu was established through the KU Endowment. Please consider making a contribution to this fund in memory of the deceased. Your contributions will help honor their legacy by providing leadership scholarships to seniors living in the chapter house. More information how to give to this scholarship fund can be found in the giving section of the newsletter.
4. Our active chapter rush chairmen have done an excellent job of recruitment in a very difficult environment. The University prohibited rush parties this year, making it particularly challenging. Two blast email notification were sent out to Alumni seeking referrals. To date that have signed 25 candidates for the fall pledge class. They intend on holding back 2 or 3 spots for summer and formal rush. If you would like to recommend a candidate for this coming fall semester, please reach out to me as soon as possible so we can make an introduction. Furthermore, rush for the 2022 Fall pledge class begins in October of 2021. Referral candidates should demonstrate the following qualities: strong academic performance, extra circular activity participation and leadership, sound moral compass and character.

Please call me at 913-206-9207 or email me at [schummc@gmail.com](mailto:schummc@gmail.com) if you have any questions.



On April 28th, Jon Brax, Nu #1676, and I attended a special recognition dinner honoring the graduating senior class. Seniors were presented them with their pins from the alumni chapter as they were formally inducted. Our goal is to recognize our seniors and gain their commitment to be involved in the chapter immediately after graduation.

**Front Row, R to L:** Max Umali, Business Analytics and Marketing; Zach Marso, Finance - BDO Consulting, New York; Brody Jacobsen, Civil Engineering, KC DEMO; Wyatt Rugan, Accounting - KPMG, KC;  
**Middle Row, R to L:** Max Vincent, Finance - Piper Sandler, Minneapolis; Adam Gleason, Civil Engineering - HTNB, Kansas City; Ryan Eskina, Civil Engineering Affinas Corp, KC; Tyler Miller, Aerospace Engineering - Sierra Nevada Corporation; Chad Coates, Accounting - Ernst and Young

**Back row, R to L:** Blake Marsee, Economics and Political Science - University of Texas Law School; Scott Van Kiersbilck, Information Systems - Advanced Technology Group, KC; JD McPherson, Mechanical Engineering - Delta Engineering; Zach Schmitt, Exercise Science and Pre-Dentistry, Dental School; Jacob Scott, Mechanical Engineering - Burns & McDonnell, Denver; Logan Karolevitz, Accounting - RSM, KC

## News for Older Nus by Skip Granger Nu #1099

By way of introduction I pledged Nu Chapter in 1960. I graduated from KU Law School in 1967 and worked as the research attorney for the Supreme Court of Kansas before going back into the travel business. Through my business travels, I met wife, Mary Ann [Johnson] Granger, a KU Tri Delt. I am a guest columnist and will be commenting on views from my era. For the past year I have been publishing a Sigma Nu email newsletter, which I have been distributing to over 150 brothers from my time at KU. I have lived in the Phoenix area for 4 years, moving from Marin County, California, where I spent 50 years as a venture capitalist, founding Menlo Capital, as well as Starry Night Winery.

Today, I am covering one of the most prolific brothers in Nu chapter history, Harrison F. Johnson, Jr... or as we know him, Ace. He pledged in 1957 and became better known by KU and the town of Lawrence when he purchased the Stables in 1964. Prior to that, he served his country in the Army for 3 years, mainly in Africa. So many of us knew Ace as a pledge brother, friend, and especially as the owner of the Stables... our beloved Snake pit drinking hole. How many parents wondered why we wrote so many checks to "The Stables", yet we still knew so little about riding horses!

I called Ace to get his input before chronicling his life and spoke for an hour. He says that his health is good and that he is enjoying a quieter life in Independence these days. When he first moved there, he totally refurbished the family mansion and pool, where we held so many rush weekends, and turned it into a 5 unit Bed and Breakfast. During my 5 semesters as Rush Chairman, an invitation to that party pretty well assured a bid. In between, Ace ran a catering business for 35 years, which he started out of The Stables and Sanctuary. He also ran The Shanty below the Red Dog where the you descended down a brass fire pole with your date to arrive at the bar for Sigma House parties.

When Ace opened The Sanctuary upstairs, a membership club, and like others in Lawrence, it was primarily an after hours lounge. That is where he hosted our Nu Chapter reunion long ago. It became the site of a burglary some years later, with 3 Sigma Nus present at the time, one of whom was shot and killed. The burglar searched for Ace, who was not there, to open the safe. The perpetrator later died in prison. Those close to Ace said he never fully recovered from the experience and began to talk about getting out of the bar business which he eventually did.

My pledge father, Claude Jardon N 1077, recalled one well documented event... "I was there upon the occasion that Ace described to you. My memory (and a very vivid one it is) is that several brothers were visiting on the second floor landing probably about two in the morning after one of our big formal parties (the White Rose: tuxedos, etc.) Ace was visiting with us and then just sort of disappeared in the direction of the portico. (We presume he was sitting on the carport deck railing and fell over backwards into the bushes on the ground level.) Several minutes later a very disheveled Ace came slowly up the stairs. He still had the sandwich in hand. I think that the good Lord was looking out for Ace that night as concrete is under two of the three sides of the portico. Good memories of good times."

Al Higdon also provided an interesting story... "Your mention of Ace Johnson brought a smile to my face. He and I were pledge brothers. In the early seventies, now living in Wichita, my Pi Phi wife and I took our three then-grade school kids to Lawrence for a look around and visits to the two houses. Afterwards we stopped in for a late lunch at The Stables, then owned and run by Ace. Our kids finished their hamburgers before the adults so I passed out some coinage for them to amuse themselves on the various game machines available. With lunch over and the five of us back on the turnpike for home, our son, from the back seat, said, "Dad, when I grow up can I go to KU?". Swelling with pride I glanced at Judy next to me, and said, "Sure, Adam, if you'd like to". "Oh boy," he responded, "I'm gonna bring a lot of quarters." A dozen years later he pledged Nu."

So many legendary pictures and stories about our friend Ace... but none quite as interesting as this picture of him burning the mortgage on our beloved Stables!



A GROUP GATHERED AS ACE JOHNSON BURNS HIS MORTGAGE AT THE SANCTUARY

## In Memory of William “Bill” Oliver Nu #945

Bill passed away last December in Walnut Creek CA after battling Covid 19 for 15 brave days.

From Kansas City, Bill graduated from KU with a degree in Economics. After serving in the Navy, his entire career was in publishing, most recently with Harcourt, Bruce & Jovanovich.

He was a life long fan of his beloved Jayhawks and was a committed Sigma Nu alum. Reflecting his character and values, Bill was an advocate of the homeless, and had a passion for environmental and education issues. He entertained his family with his encyclopedic knowledge of history and sports statistics and constantly sought to expand his children and grandchildren’s minds.

Bill is survived by his wife Doreen, two daughters, four stepsons and a total of 16 grandchildren.

## In Memory of Larry L. McKown Nu #1016

Brother Larry passed away last December in Wichita KS at age 87.

Larry served in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War and following his military service he attended KU. He was a member of the football team from 1956-58 as quarterback. He was an Honorable Mention All-Big 8 player. He graduated in 1960 and helped to establish the Wichita Jayhawk Club in 1968.

He was employed by First Securities Company for 31 years and served on the Board of Directors as Executive Vice President. He retired in 2003 as First Vice President of Stifel, Nicolas & Company.

Larry is survived by his wife, Sandra, two sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

## In Memory of Ken Hickerson Nu #1212

Brother Ken passed away last October after a courageous battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. From Des Moines Iowa, Ken earned a Journalism degree at KU.

After college he worked for a large ad agency in New York City. As one of the original “Mad Men” of the advertising world he later worked for ad agencies in Kansas City and then started his own agency in 1978. His successful advertising career spanned 46 years.

Ken was awarded the prestigious Silver Ad Award from the American Advertising Federation in 2019. The KU Journalism school has established a lecture series in his name.

He is survived by his wife Andrea, children Kevin and Leigh and four grandchildren.

## In Memory of Joe “Smokey” Ensley Nu #984

Joseph "Smokey" Ensley passed away peacefully on May 25, 2021. Born in Bentonville, AR, Smokey moved to Joplin, MO with his parents, Harold Ensley and Oba (Tennyson) Ensley, when he was five years old. Smokey went on to play basketball at the University of Kansas, where he was a proud and eternal Jayhawk. He met his wife, Dodie Ensley, who predeceased him in 2003, while they both were students at KU. After college, he served as second lieutenant in the Army at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Smokey will be remembered for his strength of character, unfailing wit, and legendary storytelling. He touched the lives of countless people in his path, from his time spent coaching baseball and basketball, to the many years as principal of Lott Ensley Marketing, a confectionary distributor. Smokey is survived by two sons and their families: Michael and Laurie Ensley and their children, James and Sophie, of Sudbury, MA and Christopher and Beth Ensley and their children, Olivia and Tess, of Overland Park, KS. He is also survived by his brother, Dusty Ensley and his wife Diana, of Kansas City, MO.



## Alum Spotlight: Emerson Lynn Nu # 1303

Brother Emerson Lynn '69 Nu1303 recently set a world record for his age and weight class in Bench Press. He now holds two world records. Emerson also holds two national power lifting records in the Dead Lift and Bench Press.

From Iola KS, Emerson graduated from KU with a Journalism degree in 1973. Carrying on a long family tradition in Journalism he has been Editor and Publisher of numerous community newspapers in Vermont for almost 40 years. He continues today as editor emeritus of the St. Albans Messenger. His father, Emerson E. Lynn, was the longtime publisher of the Iola Register and is in the Kansas Press Association's Hall of Fame.

Those of us who were his contemporaries in the Sigma Nu house remember him hitting the weights in the house basement after hitting the books presaging his lifetime success in both Weightlifting and Journalism.

Submitted by Bob Matejka, Nu #1245



## Save the Date - Nu Chapter "Jailbreak" Reunion Oct. 16 2021

KU has announced that they are resuming full in-class instruction in the Fall and are scheduling the Homecoming and Alumni weekend for October 16<sup>th</sup>, the home football game with Texas Tech.

The Actives will host a reunion of all Chapter alums that weekend with a special invite to those classes from the '50's and '60's.

Formal Sigma Nu reunion weekend activity will start with a meeting at the House Saturday morning. However, as in past years, all brothers will be invited to an informal gathering at a local watering hole Friday afternoon. Spouses are welcomed at all weekend activities.

In keeping with the 50's and 60's theme of this reunion brother Mike Ashley '66 #1229 will perform his 60's redux music show at the Sigma Nu House after the football game.

KU has announced the KU Homecoming weekend and hotel rooms will fill quickly. Make your hotel reservations now and stay tuned for more detailed reunion information.



## Harrington Holloway Foundation Update

Steve Sears, Nu 1570, Harrington Holloway Education Foundation President & Treasurer, is pleased to announce a bequest received from the estate of Don Raidt, Nu 954. Don generously chose to leave one-third of his estate to HHEF. And although medical expenses drew heavily from his estate during his final years, his gift is still one of the most generous in our chapter's long history.

A special thanks to Brother Charles "Chuck" Lowry, Nu 1159, Don's dear friend and executor of his estate. Chuck devoted countless hours and epitomized the highest values of Sigma Nu in his years of caring for Don and administering his affairs.

Rest in peace, Brother Raidt. And thank you for all your many gifts to Nu Chapter.

### DONATIONS FROM GENEROUS ALUMS TO NU CHAPTER'S ACADEMIC FUNDS WILL SUPPORT TWO ACTIVE MEMBERS IN 2021-22



**HARRINGTON  
HOLLOWAY**  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
NU CHAPTER of SIGMA NU

UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS MADE TO THE  
**HARRINGTON HOLLOWAY FOUNDATION** WILL  
PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO A JUNIOR MEMBER  
WHOSE FAMILY SUFFERED A TRAGIC AND  
UNEXPECTED HARDSHIP

TO DONATE, SEND A CHECK TO:

**HARRINGTON HOLLOWAY EDUCATION FOUNDATION**  
P.O. BOX 7272  
KANSAS CITY, MO 64112



MEMORIAL GIFTS MADE TO THE **NU MEMORIAL  
FUND** WILL PROVIDE TUITION ASSISTANCE TO A  
MEMBER CHOOSING TO LIVE AND ACTIVELY  
PARTICIPATE IN THE HOUSE AS A KU SENIOR

TO DONATE, SEND A CHECK TO:

**KU ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, ATTN: WHITNEY ESCALANTE**  
P.O. BOX 928  
LAWRENCE, KS 66044-0928  
REFERENCE: SIGMA NU MEMORIAL/CLASS OF '67 FUND

**SUPPORT THE FUNDS THAT SUPPORT OUR MEN!**

CONTACT STEVE SEARS, NU 1570    STEVESEARS79@GMAIL.COM

## From the House Mother, Terry Dannatt



I have been a House Director for 28 years, but when I found the Sigma Nu house, I became a Mom for some of the finest men at the University of Kansas. They immediately welcomed me as their "Queen". My heart melted.

I've been their greatest cheerleader in their philanthropy events, basketball tournaments and academic achievements as well as Rock Chalk revue. I keep a picture of my new recruits on my wall and work with them on a lot of projects. I keep a huge first aid kit, sewing kit and lots of batteries to see them through their first Sigma Nu year.

The Sigma Nu fraternity exudes leadership and high standards for their members which makes me feel very proud. The men are so kind to me and help me in every way. Since I've been house mom, Mama T, I have not had to carry packages or anything for that matter. The men escort me to dinner every night except during Covid-19. We all had to adjust during Covid-19, so men would take turns with masks on to talk to me in my room.

My job is to make sure all men have a positive, safe campus experience at the Sigma Nu house with the feeling they are at home. With the assistance of the Executive officers, advisors and Corporate officers, we have essentially completed this mission.

## From the Parents Club President, Dena Steen



My name is Dena Steen, and I will be the Sigma Nu Parent's Club President (for my second time). My oldest son, Logan Steen, was my first Sigma Nu (graduated 2020), and my younger son, Landon Steen, was just initiated in January, and is my second Sigma Nu.

What makes Sigma Nu Parent's Club so rewarding is the opportunity to work with the men of Sigma Nu, the Alumni and Corporation Board, house mom, and parents.

The mission of our club is to be a support system. Each semester, our club gives financial scholarships for those members who receive a 3.5 or higher GPA. We look to assist with housing and brotherhood opportunities. Recent projects include: Study Lab remodel, reframing of original charter, formal living room improvements, Sunday meals, Rock Chalk Revue tickets for all members to attend, new 70" TV for the dining hall...anything we can do to help.



Dena Steen  
Sigma Nu Parent's Club President  
913-378-6389



## From the Eminent Commander, Reser Hall Nu 2490

The Spring semester is coming to a close at Nu Chapter and with that comes news that needs to be shared. First of all, the grade report came in from the Fall 2020 semester and we got 6<sup>th</sup> in the hill overall and 4<sup>th</sup> when you take out the fraternities with less than 50 members with a 3.30 house GPA. Our GPA is far better than the all-undergraduate GPA at KU, which is 3.16 campus-wide, further proving the correlation between good grades and association with Greek Life.

Another thing that should be brought up our upcoming parent's weekend. This is particularly exciting because it reflects the beginning of the light at the end of the tunnel of the pandemic era Greek life is in right now. For all of the fall semester and up until very recently, social events have been outlawed by the IFC. Now being able to have events like Parent's Weekend is something that both our members and our parents are excited about. After all, the new parents have never experienced a Nu Chapter auction or even an evening out with all of their son's pledge brothers that they have surely heard stories about.

One more thing that recently happened that got our members excited was when one of our member's, Leo Shiker, father and uncle came to the chapter house for a barbecue. They were nice enough to come smoke enough ribs to feed all of the members that wanted food. It was a great experience and something that hopefully can happen again in the future. The Shiker's deserve a big thank you.

The thing I will close with is that elections are around the corner, with new executive officers being elected in late April and early May. Candidates for these positions are starting to get excited about what I'm sure will be a great year next year. I have no doubt that Nu Chapter is in good hands going forward for many years to come.



## Facility Updates

Many exciting updates are planned for the Governor's Mansion over the Summer. Of particular note are new modular furnishings and a new grill area - both featured below. Additional updates include:

- Repair and painting of the South Entrance pillars
- New wooden fence around basketball court
- Roof shingle and lightening rod repair
- Capacity analysis and corresponding repair for porches over car port and outside of Ice Box
- Proof of concept in Knave Cave. Room will be renovated with new modular furniture and layout in anticipation of future room renovation.
- Park lot line painting

Many thanks to the Facilities Committee, led by Jim Wilkinson Nu #1476

NU CHAPTER OF  
SIGMA NU  
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OP, KS 66213

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

WEBSITE: [KANSASSIGMANU.COM](http://KANSASSIGMANU.COM)

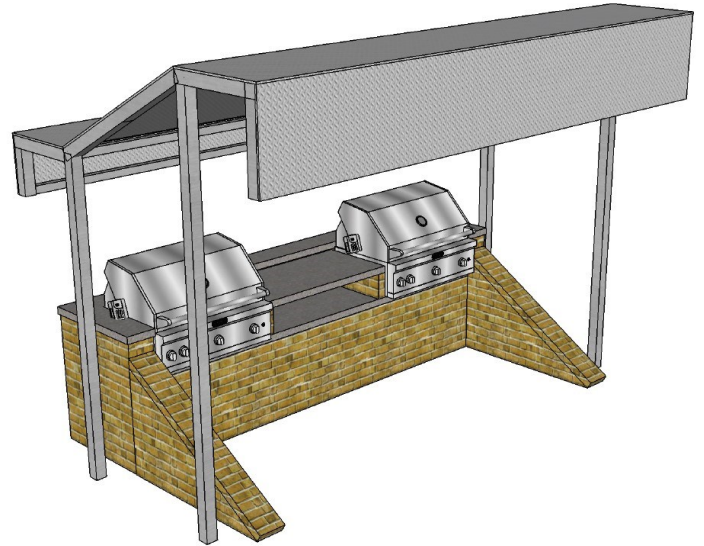
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TWITTER: KANSAS SIGMA NU

## Major Updates Coming Summer 2021



New modular furnishings will be appearing in many shared areas of the House such as the Call Boy Room, South Entrance and the Second Floor Landing. These pieces are designed for many uses but are specifically intended for academic collaboration - just like the furnishings in many of KU's newest buildings



Basketball Court grill renovation made possible by the generosity of John White, Nu #1668 and the Nu Chapter Parents Club. The grill will be ready for the Homecoming Reunion on October 19!