

216



Newsletter of Kappa Chapter, Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

WINTER 2025

If you have personal or professional news or photos to share in the newsletter, please email to KappaCouncil@uncpikapp.com.



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BROTHERHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Calvin DeVore '26

Mount Airy, North Carolina

Majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Entrepreneurship. Calvin previously served as our chapter Historian and represented Kappa at the 58th Supreme Chapter. On campus he is a member of Scale and Coin Business Society, the Carolina Alumni Student Advisory Board, and works as a teaching assistant for the business school. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with friends, going on runs, and watching the Tar Heels. Calvin has a twin brother, Hartley, who is also a fellow Kappa. Upon graduation, he will be beginning his career in commercial real estate as an Analyst at Clear Path Asset Management.



[LinkedIn](#)

Nicolas Buchta '27

Manhattan Beach, California

Majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Sustainability. In his free time, Nicolas enjoys anything involving the beach, including surfing and playing volleyball. He is involved with the Real Estate Club, and has maintained a 4.0 GPA in his studies. This upcoming summer, Nicolas will be EY Parthenon as a Summer Associate on their Transaction Real Estate Team in the Los Angeles Office. Before that, he will be spending this spring at IE Business School in Madrid as part of a study abroad program.



[LinkedIn](#)

Judson Ohmstead '28

Shelby, North Carolina

Double majoring in Neuroscience and Psychology and minoring in Chemistry. Judson's goal is to become a dentist. On campus, he is involved with Little Lab at UNC Adams School of Dentistry and acts as Treasurer for Smile



[LinkedIn](#)

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BROTHERHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Continued from previous page

Scholars. He was recently admitted to the Morehead Cain Scholarship through the Sophomore Intake Program. This upcoming summer, he will be taking part in the Morehead-Cain Civic Collaboration Summer.

Sam Evans '29

Morgantown, North Carolina

Majoring in Economics and minoring in Environmental Science. Sam enjoys spending time outside by hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping, and playing sports such as golf and tennis. Sam is involved with multiple clubs on campus, including Moneythink, Cru, and he is a member of the Club Golf Team. This previous summer, he worked as a volunteer at Camp Keesem, spent time as a tennis instructor, and visited Yellowstone National Park.



LinkedIn

Newest Brothers

We are happy to report that, this fall, we held a strong fall rush. While IFC numbers were competitive across the board, our chapter brought in 18 new members. This pledge class, known as the Alpha Thetas, is filled with commendable individuals, and we are extremely excited to have them among our ranks.

Bode Boyer *Huntersville, NC*
Everett Brinkley-Coyle *Wilmington, NC*
Sam Evans *Morgantown, NC*
TJ Fergus *Winston-Salem, NC*
Krish Gandhi *Chapel Hill, NC*
Trent Hazle *Winston-Salem, NC*
Parker Joyner *Wilmington, NC*
Jason Krieg *Chapel Hill, NC*
Wes Krieg *Chapel Hill, NC*

Eli Lorberbaum *Chapel Hill, NC*
Noah Ross *Raleigh, NC*
Nick Santucci *Morristown, NJ*
Brent Sonne *Naples, FL*
James Staats *Chapel Hill, NC*
William Starling *Winston-Salem, NC*
Broderick Taylor *Sherrills Ford, NC*
Stuart Vaughn *Winston-Salem, NC*
Jai Yalla *Charlotte, NC*

The Chapter also just concluded spring rush, securing 12 new Associate Members. This was the largest pledge class on campus this semester, and brings in a diverse group of men from across the country. They include 3 from North Carolina and the rest from Texas, Maryland, Connecticut, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Arizona, DC and Florida. Additionally, the class includes a Robertson Scholar and 2 Navy ROTC members.



The Alpha Thetas, the Fall 2025 New Member Class

Philanthropy

Over the past year, our chapter has raised its most ever with \$25,350 raised to support the ability experience. This was raised through our **Call-a-Thon** of last semester and **War of The Roses** this semester. During War of the Roses our brothers were on campus engaging with the community throughout multiple events. These events included Pie-a-Pikapp, puppy ice cream social, dodgeball tournament, and a celebratory concert.

Event Spotlight: Puppy Ice Cream Social

In a new event this year, our chapter hosted a puppy ice cream social where we were able to have puppies from a local organization and serve ice cream to attendees. In this event we also invited Best Buddies, our community partner supporting those with disabilities, who were able to come out and enjoy time with the brothers.



Brothers and friends enjoyed the Puppy Ice Cream Social

Our Third Annual War of the Roses

The conclusion of War of the Roses was marked by a celebratory concert featuring Harvey Street, honoring the winning sorority and crowning their representative as the War of the Roses Rose Queen. This year's winner was Caroline Carpenter of Alpha Phi, who helped raise \$2,380.

The moment was especially meaningful, as Caroline is the daughter of the late Kappa brother Reggie Carpenter. Reggie, class of '85, served in the U.S. Navy for 29 years. We were honored to celebrate Reggie's legacy and his daughter's achievement at the concert.



During the event, Kappa donated \$3,500 to Best Buddies



2025 Rose Queen Carolina Carpenter

SOCIAL MEDIA

CHAPTER

- f Facebook**
www.facebook.com/pikapphq/
- Instagram**
www.instagram.com/pikappunc/
- in LinkedIn Group**
www.linkedin.com/groups/12549492/

ALUMNI

- Instagram**
www.instagram.com/uncpikappalumni/



IFC Exec Members

Harrisen Ulrich, VP of Recruitment

Michael Morris, VP of Finance

Aidan Tobin, VP of Public Relations

For the second consecutive year, our chapter is proudly represented on the UNC Interfraternity Council. Brothers Harrisen Ulrich, Aidan Tobin, and Michael Morris comprise three of the Council's nine members, serving as VP of Recruitment, VP of Public Relations, and VP of Finance, respectively. Their leadership reflects our chapter's continued commitment to service, engagement, and excellence within UNC's Greek Life community.



Brothers enjoying the IFC President's Cocktail

Awards and Recognitions

Kappa Brother Presented with Howard H. Baker Leadership Award

On October 29, 2025, Pi Kappa Phi's national CEO Jake Henderson came to visit our chapter and sit in for a chapter meeting. At the end of the meeting, Henderson surprised the chapter by presenting the Howard H. Baker Leadership Award to Andrew Davis. The award, named in honor of Brother Howard Baker, Alpha Sigma (Tennessee), who served as a U.S. Senator and Senate Majority Leader, recognizes one student member out of all 12,000+ Pi Kappa Phi students across the nation with the most outstanding leadership and involvement in campus and community organizations, independent of his chapter. Some of Davis's experiences include serving as the chapter's Archon, serving as President of UNC's Order of the Golden Fleece, and cycling Gear Up Florida.



Pi Kappa Phi CEO Jake Henderson (right), presents Brother Andrew Davis with award

Kappa Brother Admitted into Student Naval Aviation Program

In the Fall semester, Scott Groome was selected to become a Student Naval Aviator. Upon graduation in May, he will commission as an officer in the U.S. Navy and report to Naval Air Station Pensacola to begin his training at flight school. Scott comes from a long lineage of UNC Pi Kapps, one per year for the past three years in a row now, that are also Naval Aviators. In total, Kappa Chapter has three current undergraduate brothers involved in Navy ROTC, one of the highest amounts across all fraternities on campus.



Brother Scott Groome

Parents Weekend

The brotherhood enjoyed another exciting weekend as we hosted our annual Parents Weekend. On October 24, we held a cocktail event at a new Chapel Hill venue, 140 Social, followed by a post-game tailgate on October 25 after our unfortunate overtime loss to No. 19 Virginia. Parents Weekend is always a meaningful opportunity for the brotherhood to grow closer while connecting with one another's families.



Brothers and parents enjoying the Parents Cocktail



Brothers and parents at the UNC v. Stanford game

GO HEELS!



2025-26 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Feb 2	7 PM	Syracuse	Chapel Hill (Smith Center)
Feb 7	6:30 PM	Duke	Chapel Hill (Smith Center)
Feb 10	7 PM	Miami	Coral Gables, FL (Watsco Center)
Feb 14	2 PM	Pitt	Chapel Hill (Smith Center)
Feb 17	7 PM	NC State	Raleigh, NC (Lenovo Center)
Feb 21	1 PM	Syracuse	Syracuse, NY (JMA Wireless Dome)
Feb 23	7 PM	Louisville	Chapel Hill (Smith Center)
Feb 28	TBA	Virginia Tech	Chapel Hill (Smith Center)
Mar 3	7 PM	Clemson	Chapel Hill (Smith Center)
Mar 7	6:30 PM	Duke	Durham, NC (Cameron Indoor Stadium)
Mar 10	TBA	ACC Tournament	Charlotte, NC (Spectrum Center)

CHAPTER REPORT

Ben Barber '27

Archon

My name is Ben Barber, and I am proud to introduce myself as the President of the Kappa Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi. I am a junior pursuing a dual major in Biology and Business Administration, with a strong interest in the intersection of science and business, particularly within the biotechnology sector. Outside of the classroom, I stay actively involved on campus as a drummer for three different bands, including one within Pi Kappa Phi, and I enjoy staying active through fitness and playing basketball, especially in our Backyard Basketball League.

Within the fraternity, I have been fortunate to serve in a variety of roles, most recently as Warden, as well as contributing to our social, philanthropic, Associate Member Education, and recruitment committees. These experiences have strengthened my leadership skills and given me a comprehensive understanding of our chapter's operations and goals. I am committed to fostering accountability, personal growth, and unity among our members while ensuring Pi Kappa Phi continues to positively impact our campus and community. I am truly honored to serve as president and look forward to building upon our chapter's strong foundation together.



Some of our new Executive Council Members attending Pi Kapp College in Dallas, Texas

2026 KAPPA CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Archon: Ben Barber

Vice Archon Internal: Eric Rodenburger

Vice Archon External: Chris Mingo

Treasurer: Vedant Chenshetty

Secretary: James Tillman

Warden: Kautilya Chopra

Historian: Mason Nichols

Chaplain: Aidan Tobin

House Manager: Jack Jones

Risk Manager: Matthew Barghout

Standards Chair: Finn Harris

Philanthropy Chair: Broderick Taylor

Brotherhood Chair: Harrisen Ulrich

KAPPA COUNCIL REPORT

Ryan Ferraioli '12

Vice President, Kappa Council, Inc.

Fellow Pi Kapps and Parents,

2025 was another year of excellence for the chapter, as the Fall semester saw continued success across academics, philanthropy, recruitment, and financial stewardship.

Kappa Chapter once again distinguished itself academically, achieving a chapter wide average GPA of 3.6 for the fall semester. Additionally, our students continued to excel within the university's most prestigious programs, best highlighted by the successful admittance of all our sophomore applicants to the Kenan-Flagler Business School, while sustaining one of the highest populations of Morehead-Cain and Robertson Scholarship recipients amongst IFC chapters. This level of excellence was recognized by the national Fraternity, who awarded Pi Kappa Phi Foundation Scholarships to two of our members—Andrew Davis and Guillermo Estrada.

The fall semester marked the return of Kappa's signature philanthropy event, War of the Roses. This year's event featured expanded participation among UNC sororities and raised over \$15,000 for The Ability Experience, surpassing last year's total. We remain proud of the chapter's dedication to supporting individuals with disabilities while strengthening their relationship with our Panhellenic peers.

These achievements drove strong recruitment results, with 18 new members joining in the fall and 12 in the spring, the latter representing the largest spring recruitment class among all fraternities on campus. The spring pledge class includes 11 freshmen and one sophomore: three from North Carolina and nine from out of state.

The financial strength of the chapter remained a bright spot, supported by consistent collections and full house occupancy. Kappa Council is pleased to report that the chapter once again met all its financial obligations for the year, making timely payments to all vendors, the national Fraternity, and Kappa Council. Furthermore, the chapter continues to be good stewards of its financial resources, striking a comfortable balance between long term savings, investment in brotherhood events, and campus engagement.

Looking ahead, both Kappa Council and the chapter's executive council remain committed to maintaining and enhancing our housing facility at 216 East Rosemary Street. To that end, Kappa Council spent approximately \$88,000 on repairs and improvements in calendar year 2025, following an aggressive year of "catch up" maintenance in 2024 of approximately \$197,000. While significant work remains, we are encouraged by our members' improving sense of ownership and financial accountability for the house. Their partnership in this shared responsibility reflects the maturity and stewardship we value in Kappa Chapter, and we are grateful for their continued investment in preserving this cornerstone of our brotherhood.

As we approach our final mortgage payment in Q4 2026, we want to underscore a fundamental truth: this achievement represents the cumulative investment of Kappa Council, our past alumni donors, the national Fraternity, and—importantly—the cumulative on-time rental payments of sixteen undergraduate classes beginning in 2010 when my class first moved into the house. Each tenant made their one-time contribution during their brief residency, yet the collective impact of these payments across each pledge class has enabled Kappa Council to sustain local alumni ownership of this vital asset. We could not have reached this milestone without their partnership, which serves as a powerful reminder that our strength lies in the sustained commitment of many, not the repeated contributions of a few.

Kappa Council remains confident in our undergraduate members as they uphold the values and traditions that have defined Kappa Chapter for over a century, and we invite you to consider how you might further engage in supporting their continued success.



Steven (Brigs) Briganti, '78

Captain Steven (Brigs) Briganti, USN (Ret.) (UNC '78) has lived a life that arcs among improbable areas of high-stakes leadership and exploration of tech frontiers. Sporting a dossier of national security triumphs—ranging from commanding a Navy aviation squadron to working Pentagon–Hill relations and leading worldwide cyber operations—his foundation traces back to 216 Finley Road and Pi Kappa Phi.

For Brigs, the fraternity was more than a social anchor; it was a laboratory for developing values that would later define his 23-year naval career and his prolific journey as a corporate innovator. Though recruited from Pennsylvania for soccer and serving in Navy ROTC, Brigs found sanctuary in Pi Kappa Phi.

“I need to thank my tolerant brothers that helped an immature and cocky jock to develop and adapt socially, reinforce good values, show me superb approaches to leadership outside of the military, and recognize the value of lifelong friendships,” Brigs said. “I also quickly realized the importance of total focus on academic excellence—two weeks after graduation, flying was unforgiving—deadly—if you weren’t disciplined to know your stuff ‘cold.’” He added, “Whether in business, military or any profession—teamwork, accountability and tradition all matter. All of my experiences at Pi Kapp helped my transition to dangerous flying operations at sea and a rewarding professional career.”

“Thanks to my brothers, I learned early the value of a great ‘wingman’ watching my six o’clock. In the Navy, I learned to thrive under pressure and rarely get overloaded,” said Brigs.

Brigs’ naval career was characterized by a pursuit of excellence, leading him to advanced education at the Naval War College, Stanford (Hoover Institution “think tank”) and MIT. He taught at advanced warfare schools, directed battle group flight operations, tested drones, missiles and advanced weapons systems technologies, commanded a 350-person Navy squadron and commanded global cyber operations. “Even while in command as ‘Sword One,’ leadership wasn’t just about giving orders,” he added. “It was about fostering a ‘values-based,’ supportive environment where people from all walks of life—often in their late teens—must pursue personal excellence to meet very unforgiving standards, or people die.”

Since retiring from the Navy in 2001, Brigs has become a powerhouse in the tech and entertainment sectors. As Executive Producer and Board Member at Xenon Pictures, he has contributed to culturally significant films like Oscar-nominee *Straight Outta Compton* and documentaries such as *Welcome to Death Row* and *About Face: Jewish Refugees in the Allied Forces*.

As a serial entrepreneur, Brigs co-founded Soliddd, an optical tech company developing the world’s first eyewear allowing the legally blind to see; cyber security non-profit SINET; a real estate sales company (#145 on *Inc. 500*); and aerospace/defense drone manufacturer AIRO Group; and is busily inventing a new type of drone and a new AI/digital tech that could reduce time and energy of processing all data worldwide. He serves on several private equity and aerospace companies’ boards.

Brigs remains grounded in personal resilience and commitment to service. A widower residing in West Palm Beach and Annapolis, he finds balance in walking his current canine companion Dani, performing services for veterans, mentoring young fraternity members, and exploring. He said, “I think my message is to align with people who share your values and value something bigger than yourself. The rewards will come, but few are greater than the returns from acts of service and kindness.”

To Brigs, the true measure of success is not financial reward, but a life lived with accountability, excellence, and a commitment to helping others—thankfully, lessons he first learned in the bonds of Pi Kappa Phi.



Brigs and Jasper, 2017

Neil Koul, '11

“These are my people,” is what Neil Koul thought in 2009 when he pledged Pi Kappa Phi. As a member of the re-founding group, he explored other fraternities but ultimately learned they didn’t quite fit.

“They just didn’t feel right,” he recalls. “But when I met the guys who formed my core group—and who, to this day, are my closest friends—I knew I was with the right people.” The group’s diversity stood out immediately. “It never felt like one of those ‘monotone’ fraternities. That’s what made Pi Kappa Phi at Carolina different.”

Neil now lives in Charlotte with his wife Rosie and their children Vivian and Teddy. He serves as the Executive Director of Enterprise Data Analytics at Mount Sinai Health System.

Neil laughs when recalling Rosie’s first visit to 216 East Rosemary. “I showed her our composite, and in my photo from all those years ago I had a full head of hair,” he says. “She started laughing and pointing, asking, ‘Wait—is that really you?!’”

Reflecting on the Kappa Chapter today, Neil emphasizes the importance of culture. “Over time, our chapter has changed in a lot of ways,” he says. “What matters most—through good times and bad—is protecting the culture. That sense of belonging, no matter who you are, is our greatest strength.”

When asked what Pi Kappa Phi taught him that he still carries into his life and career, Neil points to mentorship. “I was a junior when I joined the re-founding group, and underclassmen would come to me for advice,” he says. “That’s still my favorite part of what I do today—mentoring and coaching people to grow into the best versions of themselves.”



Christopher W. Cole, '71

Rear Admiral Christopher W. Cole, USN (Ret.) (1967 Kappa initiate, and Keith Rollin’s Big Brother) is one of those larger-than-life figures who spent over three decades flying helicopters, leading people, and quietly making a real difference for the Navy and the United States.

A proud St. Petersburg, Florida native, Chris graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 1966 and then headed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on an NROTC scholarship. While at UNC, he joined Pi Kappa Phi, building lifelong friendships that still exist today. Keith Rollins fondly remembers him as a “serious student and a darn good intramural athlete.”

When asked how he remembered Chris as an undergrad, Kirk Preiss shared, “I first met Chris in 1969 when I was a pledge at Pi Kappa Phi at UNC. Our fraternity was a close-knit and diverse group, with brothers from across the country and athletes across various sports. Chris was our quintessential military leader, serving in the ROTC during the Vietnam War. Even then, he possessed the qualities you would expect in an Admiral: he was polite, loyal, confident, and level-headed, yet remarkably humble and quiet. These were rare traits to find in college at that time.”

Just a few months after graduation, Chris was already in flight school, and by October 1972 he had his wings as a Naval Aviator. For the next 32+ years, he lived the life of a helicopter pilot—flying missions, commanding squadrons, and eventually stepping into bigger leadership roles. He commanded two Navy Regions: one in the Republic of Korea from 1997 to 1999, and another in Norfolk, Virginia. His final tour brought him to the Pentagon, where he served as Director of Ashore Readiness on the Chief of Naval Operations’ staff.

Steve Briganti, a Kappa '75 initiate and another naval aviator, recalls visiting with Rear Admiral Cole to seek advice about his own naval career and decisions about retirement timing, and was graciously received and mentored “Kappa man-to-Kappa man” by Chris.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

When Chris hung up his uniform in 2004 as a Rear Admiral, he didn't exactly slow down. He went on to become CEO of the Association of the U.S. Navy from 2018 to 2020, and has been deeply involved with the Military Bowl Foundation for years, eventually serving as Chairman of the Board, and helping produce that annual college football game that honors and supports our service members and their families.

In short, Chris has been the kind of leader who spent a career taking care of people in the air, on the ground, and long after retirement.

As of the writing of this article, Chris is challenged with some health issues, and your thoughts and prayers for Chris, his wife Nancy, and his daughters are welcomed.

Thank you to Mike Collins '74 for writing our Alumni Spotlight articles.

In Memorium

William Henry Bunch, '82

www.walkersfuneralservice.com/obituaries/william-bunch

James Howard Carraway, MD, '58

www.hdoliver.com/obituaries/Dr-James-Howard-Carraway-MD?obId=44753573

Norwood Graham Clark Jr., '64

www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/norwood-clark-obituary?id=60654095



Bunch



Carraway



Clark

To notify us of a Brother's passing, please contact us at KappaCouncil@uncpikapp.com.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumni Weekend

On November 8, our chapter hosted its annual Alumni Weekend Tailgate ahead of the Tar Heel football game against Stanford. Kappa brothers, current and alumni, enjoyed a beautiful day tailgating, eating delicious food prepared by our new chef, and reconnecting with one another. Following the tailgate, we were fortunate enough to watch our final win of the season as the Tarheels outlasted Stanford 20–15.



The Alumni Weekend Tailgate



Alumni enjoying the annual tailgate

QUICK LINKS

Kappa Chapter

uncpikapp.com

Pi Kappa Phi National Organization

pikapp.org

UNC General Alumni Association

alumni.unc.edu

UNC Student Stores

unc.bncollege.com/shop/unc/home

Carolina Athletics Store

shop.goheels.com

UNC Rams Club

ramsclub.com

UNC Ticket Office

goheels.com/sports/2020/10/26/tickets-home