



THE HAWKEYE

IOWA ALPHA CHAPTER OF PHI KAPPA PSI • FALL 2023

A Generous Start

David Theobald '98 on Receiving the First Kinnick Scholarship



David with his family.



David (right) with Bill Newgard '98 in Kansas City for the 2023 NFL Draft.

As the first in his family to attend a four-year college, **David Theobald '98** was applying for any scholarship he could find at the University of Iowa. He stumbled upon a new one called the Nile C. Kinnick Scholarship, offered by Phi Kappa Psi. David applied, got to know Iowa Alpha's recruitment leaders over the summer, and the rest was history.

David not only became a Phi Psi Brother, but he was the first recipient of the Kinnick Scholarship, which earned him \$500 to help with textbooks. "It was a great way to get incoming freshmen interested in the Greek system and to market the Fraternity," David said. "The scholarship was proof of Iowa Alpha's strong stance on being good students in addition to having fun, which was super important to me."

ROOM TO GROW

UI was much bigger than David's high school, and going through recruitment and joining Phi Psi seemed like the best way to broaden his social circle. He was right: while David

was already confident in the classroom, the brotherhood helped improve his social skills and networking capabilities.

"At the time it was a fairly small Chapter, and it felt like a place where I could immediately get involved and make a difference—both in the Fraternity and the broader Iowa Greek community," he said.

STILL RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Professionally, David has been in the IT field for approximately 22 years from consulting to developing, product management, and more. He's spent over 15 of those years at Akamai Technologies, where he is currently a director of product management.

"We design, build, and deploy cutting-edge technology to help our customers provide their end users with top performance and security," he explained. "Akamai serves over 30% of the world's internet traffic! It's very nerdy but addictingly challenging work at a global scale."

WHAT'S NEXT?

From weddings and golf trips to Iowa tailgates, David has kept up with multiple era Brothers through the years. He also loves playing golf and tennis, spending time with his wife, Jessica, and two kids, Addison and Morgan (plus in-laws and Brothers in the Des Moines area), and following his kids' many club sports.

David can't wait to see Iowa Alpha's continued success and encourages Brothers to get involved on campus and live out the Creed daily. "Dream big, but keep taking small steps in the right direction each day."

"I hope the Kinnick Scholarship continues to grow and expand into the future," he added. "It's a great way to find like-minded students who will provide additive value to the brotherhood."

You can find David at dctheobald@gmail.com. Learn more about this year's Kinnick Scholarship on page 2!



Have you visited with your Iowa Alpha Brothers? Submit your photos to our Dropbox here bit.ly/pkpiaphotoupload, and they may be featured in the next issue of *The Hawkeye*!

Becoming Like Nile

2023 Kinnick Scholarship Awarded to 15 Students



Our 15 finalists stand proud with the Kinnick Scholarship Committee at the 2023 Nile C. Kinnick Scholarship Award Ceremony.

In May 2023, **Ben Hill '22**, **Charlie Doubet '22**, and **John Barton '21** embarked on a mission to find exceptional leaders, athletes, and scholars honoring **Nile Kinnick '38**, a celebrated Brother of Phi Kappa Psi. The committee received 508 applications and conducted 494 interviews from June through early August, ultimately selecting 68 semi-finalists to move to a second round of

interviews, traveling across Illinois and Iowa and accommodating virtual meetings when needed.

Iowa Alpha's fall semester began with the 27th annual Nile C. Kinnick Scholarship Award Ceremony. After careful deliberation, the finalists were awarded a total of \$15,000 in scholarship funds ranging from \$500 to \$2,500. The brunch event on August 20 recognized 15 incoming UI freshmen who embody Brother Kinnick's qualities: academic excellence, discipline, integrity, and service to others.

The award ceremony was a great success, featuring guest speakers **Michael Doty '10** and UI Professor Dan Matheson along with UI staffers and Iowa's IFC and FSL members. Professor Matheson reflected on his time in the professional sports world and shared his five

keys to success. Brother Doty shared a about his life, Phi Psi experience, and the legacy Nile Kinnick left within the Iowa community and our brotherhood.

Our service as coordinators was rewarding, imparting valuable lessons in time management and adaptability. Balancing the number of interviews per day, setting realistic expectations for the duration, and adhering to the schedule ensured fairness and efficiency.

Thank you for entrusting us with this responsibility. We are honored to help broaden the meaningful impact of Iowa Alpha and perpetuate the important legacy of Nile C. Kinnick.

In the Bond,
Nile C. Kinnick Committee



Brothers of all classes gather at 363 for Bid Day.

Why Iowa Alpha Was the Right Choice

"As a new initiate, Phi Kappa Psi has provided a great deal to me. It's allowed me to develop meaningful relationships with my Brothers, which I will carry well beyond my time in college. Their guidance helps me strive daily to honor our Fraternity legacy in my personal and academic life. Iowa Alpha truly values community service, an invaluable lesson I will bring with me moving forward. Phi Psi has done a lot for me, and I know it will continue to do so for all Brothers in the future."

—Ethan Walz '23

"For four years, Phi Psi has been the foundation for nearly all my accomplishments at Iowa. That said, one truth has become more evident than the rest: when you're surrounded by peers who share similar academic, professional, and personal aspirations, there is no ceiling for what can be accomplished. My Brothers know I'm terrible at keeping things short and sweet, but I have to say this as I conclude my time on campus: you all have been my friends, teachers, thorns in my side, supporters, and most importantly, my family for four years; I'm grateful for every single one of you.

Thank you for helping me along this crazy journey, and thank you, Phi Kappa Psi, for bringing us together. LEDN*!"

—John Barton '20

*Live Ever, Die Never

WELCOME, NEW 2023 MEMBERS

Russell Anglada
Kyle Behrens
Sam Cary
Cooper Chiafos
Tommy Felstead
Ben Fess*
Jonathan Fier
John Gurskis*
Will Hartman^
Andrew Helle
Matthew Holje
Ben Johnson^
Andy Kaiser

Zach Karcz^
Zach Keane
Sean Kelley
Myles Kelly
Dylan Kleyman
Sam Klinger\$
Reid Kraus^
Jacob Kumoto
Marco Leitao
Charlie Lenihan
Nate Macek*
Matt McGarvey
Jack McLaughlin*^

Charlie McMurray
KJ McNeive*^
Elijah Moore
Brady Morgan
Tyler Munson^
Jackson Names^
William Naour
Spencer Nieman^
Nate Obbink
Michael O'Brien
Joel Poltronieri
Rocco Punelli
Kynan Renshaw

Carter Rial^
Carl Roemke
Caleb Scott
Luke Soldati
Henry Tasker\$
Ryan Tomaszewski
Aiden Van Iddekinge^
Warren Wells^
Luke Wohlwend^

*Legacy

\$Kinnick Scholar
^Kinnick Applicant



Any Brother Can Get Involved

Leadership and Chapter House Improvement Updates from Your Chapter Advisor



The executive team enjoys a full day of planning (and a little bit of fun) while participating in UI's high ropes course.

Fraternity leadership is a formative step in any Brother's career. Our Chapter has grown to about 160 members with a 21-member executive team, who was invited to the UI Challenge Course for a leadership retreat as a capstone of the annual workweek.

The retreat's core purpose is personal and group growth, achieved through challenging activities that enhance communication, cooperation, and problem-solving skills. Employing an experiential education approach, the exec board engaged in and reflected upon each challenge to foster unity and practice vulnerability. The evening concluded with a vision-planning session at City Park, charting Iowa Alpha's course for the upcoming year over steaks and salmon.

From the day's activities and discussions, leadership is focused on improving in these areas:

- **Recruitment and Brotherhood:** Phi Psi is dedicated to strengthening the brotherhood through strategic recruitment from IFC and to the Nationals Headquarters, building upon its strong legacy.
- **Career Advancement:** Older members are seeking expanded opportunities outside the Chapter through career-oriented connections or study-abroad opportunities. Our Speaker Series has been a great way to build connections with alumni. **If you are a professional willing to speak with members about your career field, or if you have study abroad advice, please reach out.**
- **Meeting Decorum, Member Retention, and Chapter Expectations:** A change in billing service providers (and lingering COVID habits) has made reestablishing chapter

governance practices and policies a top priority to enhance accountability.

- **Philanthropy:** Dance Marathon, Boys and Girls Club, and Students Care are the philanthropic priorities of the Chapter. There is an expanded vision to grow philanthropic efforts and surpass historically great funding goals.

Our House Corporation members met following the Kinnick Scholarship Brunch. We uphold our responsibility to keep the Chapter House in good condition, and with the summer's updates, we think you'll agree it's the best on campus. We've tackled the following initiatives this summer:

- Upgraded alumni communications to continue the lifelong brotherhood.
- Enhanced live-in check-in/check-out processes, including mandatory security deposits.
- Executed general maintenance repairs on doors, alarms, and sprinkler systems to successfully pass city fire and rental inspection.
- Awarded funding to newly announced Kinnick Scholarship recipients.

Fraternally,
Adam Parker '09, Chapter Advisor

Alumni participation is the foundation of our successful Chapter, providing mentorship and guidance for Brothers as they grow and develop. We're always looking for additional support to contribute to the continued legacy of Iowa Alpha and are confident you'll find it rewarding. To learn more, contact phikappapsiowaalpha@gmail.com.

Chapter Officers

President

Mitch Joines '21
(712) 635-458

Vice President

Hayden Huntley '22
(515) 745-7524

Treasurers

Johnny Buenz '21
(612) 499-0033

Charlie Doubet '21
(720) 229-7130

Alumni Relations Chairman
Max Simmons '22

Risk Management Chairman
Steve Schnur '22

House Managers
Drew Henderson '22
Clayton Muszynski '22

Philanthropy Chairmen
Noah Haeger '22
Jack Rausch '22

Social Chairmen
Mason Drazan '22
Sam Lococo '22

DEI Chairman
Sam Swenson '22

**Career Development and
Scholarship Chairmen**
Kyle Horak '22
John Mattson '22

Corresponding Secretary
Ethan Hetzler '22

Recording Secretary
Evan Schultz '22

Chief Marketing Officer
Dylan Stokes '22

Brotherhood Chairmen
John Barton '20
George Wolfe '21

Recruitment Chairmen
Ben Hill '21
(720) 595-4115

Matthew Riedl '21
(515) 414-6268

Send your potential new members here!
phikappapsiowaalpha@gmail.com
Please include name, major,
hometown, and hobbies.



SAVE
the
DATE

Founders Day Weekend
February 16-18, 2024

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



THE HAWKEYE

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Growing with Purpose Brothers Set the Stage for Fulfilling Future

Our Chapter has settled into the 2023-24 year nicely. Our fall began with the District V Council Meeting at the beautiful Kansas Alpha Chapter House in Lawrence, Kansas, where Iowa Alpha won a Chapter Excellence Award.

Next, the fall 2023 executive board went on a retreat at the UI Challenge Course filled with fun, goal planning, and bonding. The retreat included a high ropes course and a lovely dinner, followed by a wonderful planning session—not only for the year to come but for the future as a whole.

After a successful fall recruitment, we welcomed 48 new members to Iowa Alpha. We are so excited about this class and know they will do great things in our Fraternity and beyond.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

From the retreat to this year's Kinnick Scholarship recipients, **check out even more Iowa Alpha updates inside this issue.** There is a lot more work ahead, and we are excited for what's next to come. Live Ever, Die Never!

Fraternally,
Mitch Joines '21
Chapter President



Chapter President Mitch Joines '21 (right) with Phi Psi Executive Director Ron Ransom, Butler '00 at the Phi Kappa Psi campfire event in Indianapolis.



Hayden Huntley '22 (second from left) and Max Simmons '22 (second from right) Chapter Excellence Award from PKP Executive Leaders Bob Marchesani (far left, President, IUP '79/Butler '94) and Chuck Brandman (far right Treasurer, Case Western '70) at the District V Council event in Lawrence, Kansas.