KAPPA SIGMA
FRATERNITY
Established 1869

Delta Alpha Chapter
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapter Brochure

RUSH KAPPA SIGMA 2011
The Delta Alpha chapter of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity has a rich history dating back to the early twentieth century. Prior to becoming a chapter of a nationally recognized fraternity, we had humble beginnings as a small Boosters Club of only ten members. Wishing to solidify their friendships and organization, the members of the Boosters Club petitioned to become a recognized fraternity at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. On March 9, 1914 the Boosters Club officially became the Opheleum Fraternity. The name comes from the Greek Word Ophelia, meaning “to help.” Its name shaped the organization’s overarching goal of always being of service, whether that be serving the individual student, overall student body, or greater Pittsburgh community. The five main areas of service emphasized at the newly established fraternity were literary activity, music, sociability, athletics, and politics.

After seven years of being a local fraternity the members of Opheleum petitioned to become a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. On April 12, 1921 they became the 109th chapter of Kappa Sigma or, as it is known today, the Delta Alpha chapter. This would ring in the modern era of our fraternity and set a strong foundation for our brotherhood in the years to come. The four pillars at the heart of Kappa Sigma are fellowship, scholarship, leadership, and service. These pillars along with our three watchwords, commitment, diligence, and initiative, have helped to transform our brothers into better men. Delta Alpha has produced great men and notable alumni such as Edgar D. Mitchell, who was a pilot on the Apollo XIV mission and was the sixth man to set foot on the moon, and Howard Harpster, who was an inductee in the College Football Hall of Fame. Over the years we have played an active role in our campus community and have established a well recognized presence. To this day Kappa Sigma continues to foster strong brotherhood and strives to help young men reach their full potential.
KAPPASIGMA | SCHOLARSHIP

We recognize that one of the greatest hesitations associated with Greek Life is a perceived lack of focus on academics among members. This is untrue, especially in a highly academic setting such as CMU with such a strongly academic student population. Our brothers are leaders in their colleges, regularly holding TA positions. Many brothers will note that their grades actually have improved since joining Kappa Sig while others have noticed no change whatsoever - certainly not a negative one!

Academics are a priority at Kappa Sigma. One of the key benefits to joining the house is the ability to leverage the experience of upperclassmen to your academic advantage. Whatever class you’re struggling with, you can almost certainly find a brother who’s been down the same road before you and will be more than happy to sit with you at any time of the day or night and help you out. Our brothers’ academic accomplishments have been recognized on deans’ lists in many of CMU’s colleges and through selection to the second-year academic honor society, Lambda Sigma. Another advantage to having such a diverse membership is the sharing of textbooks between brothers which allows easy access to any needed course materials without paying the bookstore’s high costs.

Kappa Sigma maintains a scholarship program intended to ensure that our brothers achieve their academic goals. Leaders within the house assist in the setting of appropriate academic goals and the needed steps to attain those goals. While Kappa Sig encourages and requires strong academic performance from our brothers, we will never turn a brother or potential member away because of academics. You will only find academic help and encouragement from our house at all times, no matter your situation.

KAPPASIGMA | LEADS

Kappa Sig Cum. GPA (median/avg) 3.31/3.25 [Spring ’10]
CMU All-Men GPA (avg) 3.18 [Fall ’09]
CMU All-Fraternity GPA (avg) 3.11 [Fall ’09]
CMU All-Student GPA (avg) 3.20 [Fall ’09]
Kappa Sigma’s nickname of “Top of the Quad” doesn’t only apply to the location of our chapter house. Kappa Sig is easily the most social fraternity on campus, holding regular events amongst brothers as well as joint events with sororities from CMU, Pitt, and Duquesne University.

Joining Kappa Sigma may be the single greatest action you can take as a student at a work-centric school like CMU to expand your social network. This will not only make your day-to-day experiences at school more varied, interesting, and fun but will also help you make connections and **friendships for life**. One of the social strengths that sets Kappa Sig apart from other houses is that the people you meet will not be limited to other CMU students; our brothers regularly count students from the other major schools in Pittsburgh amongst their friends because of the joint events planned by our house.

The friends you make through Kappa Sigma last longer than an event or a college term - these friendships are for life. Kappa Sig brothers regularly plan spring break and summer vacation trips together, and connections with brothers and the house are life long. Many brothers return to our house at the Top of the Quad annually after graduating - alumni regularly visit as long as 50 years after they’ve left CMU!

If you’re looking for something to do on a weekend or slow night, Kappa Sig is the house you want to be at. When not hosting events, our brothers constantly find things to do with their house full of best friends, including heading out into the city, getting tickets to a Pittsburgh sports game, or enjoying one on our house’s big-screen TV complete with stadium couch seating.

Kappa Sig Brothers with Sisters from the Pitt chapter of Theta Phi Alpha after a social event at the house

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KAPPA SIGMA | ATHLETICS

Athletics are an integral part of the lives of our brothers. Kappa Sigma has become increasingly involved in every level of athletic competition at Carnegie Mellon including intramural, club, and varsity. Our brotherhood is very proud of our student athletes and recognizes the importance of their tireless efforts. The fraternity is highly supportive of its brother athletes and ensures that no fraternal commitments interfere with their athletic commitments or their ability to compete at the highest level. Also, our members are always on hand to watch and cheer on their fellow brother as he competes and pursues his athletic goals. In the past our house has been well represented on the football, swimming, water polo, and lacrosse teams.

While Kappa Sigma does not mandate that our brothers be involved in athletics, the vast majority of them choose to participate through our house’s intramural program. The house’s intramural chairman facilitates the process of fielding a team and guarantees that so long as there is a single interest to compete in a particular sport, Kappa Sigma will field a team for that intramural. We love to compete, but more importantly love to play the game. The balance struck between competition and fun is something you won’t experience anywhere but a Kappa Sigma intramural team.

Kappa Sigs combine athletics and service in the 2010 CMU/Pitt Barefoot soccer tournament

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KAPPASIGMA | BOOTH

As a student at Carnegie Mellon, the most anticipated event of the year is easily Spring Carnival. The entire school shuts down for an extended weekend and the Morewood parking lot is transformed into a fun and exciting carnival scene, complete with all the traditional rides and food you would find at your hometown fair. Yet, it is unlike any other carnival because of the special feature booths built by student organizations on campus. The booths come in all shapes and sizes and have many incredible themes. The booths tend to be very elaborate, sometimes having multiple stories and being wired with electronics.

At Kappa Sigma we love to participate in booth or “boof,” as we call it. It’s a great way to express our creativity and talents, whether they be in construction, painting, game design or even CAD. Our brothers work together and in a few short weeks create something to astonish the rest of the student body. Last year our booth focused on kicking it old school, and emphasized the traditional carnival games. We had a milk bottle knock down game and a more unconventional game of plunger darts. Building a booth is a blast and there are so many ways to get involved and apply your talents to the booth’s construction.

The Kappa Sig booth under construction in 2010
KAPPASIGMA | BUGGY

Carnegie Mellon’s annual buggy competition is one of the highlight events of the year that differentiates CMU from any other university in the country. But, what is buggy? Buggy is an extreme gravity sport that combines engineering/mechanical know-how with pure athletic ability to create an intensely competitive environment that dominates CMU’s campus once a year. For all those involved it is an adrenaline rush, unmatched by anything else CMU has to offer. Kappa Sigma’s Buggy program has a rich legacy of excellence and dominance. Its legacy is marked by eleven championships and over fifteen top three finishes in its extensive history.

After a brief absence from competition during the past few years Kappa Sig is preparing to throw its hat back into the ring. Currently we are in the process of rebuilding our program from the ground up, starting with a completely new buggy built from scratch. Its an exciting time to be a member of the Kappa Sigma buggy team and opportunity abounds freely at every level. We are looking to fully develop both our mechanical and pushing teams in the next year, so all new-comers are welcome, regardless of prior experience. The Kappa Sigma buggy program provides a rare opportunity to be part of a newer buggy organization as it grows into a fiercely competitive force to be reckoned with on the CMU buggy circuit.

KAPPASIGMA | GREEK SING

The last of the Big 3 events is Greek Sing, an annual charity show in which Greek organizations at CMU stage short plays and musicals to raise money for various charitable organizations. In recent years over $30,000 has been raised for charities. The show features two types of performance, singles and doubles, featuring a single house or a fraternity/sorority pair, respectively. The performances are judged by campus or Pittsburgh celebrities and a winner is crowned in each category. Nothing unites the CMU Greeks quite like Greek Sing on yearly basis.

Kappa Sigma is proud to be a participant in this fun and memorable event. When it comes to Greek Sing our house has a light-hearted attitude ensuring that both the cast and audience have a great time and are roaring in laughter. Past performances include The Nightmare Before Christmas, The Blues Brothers, and Robin Hood: Men in Tights. Each performance requires countless hours of work, both on the stage and behind the scenes. There are plenty of other ways to get involved outside of acting and tech including playing an instrument, set construction, and fundraising. A Kappa Sig Greek Sing Performance is definitely something you will want to be a part of during your time at Carnegie Mellon.
As Kappa Sigmas we realize the important role that our communities have played in helping us to develop into the individuals we are today. Thus we understand our responsibility to give back to those communities which have given so much to us. Service, one of the four pillars that our fraternity was founded upon, is at the heart of our organization. We continually strive to serve our local communities in whatever ways possible, whether it be through raising money, spreading awareness, or volunteering our time and efforts. Our brothers perform volunteer services for their communities at home as well as numerous Pittsburgh-based organizations including the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society, TV and Radio station WQED, and the Hillman Cancer Center. Larger philanthropic events that Kappa Sigma participates in include the 1000+ Day of Service, The Waldorf School Spring and Winter Fairs, and Relay for Life.

Finally, the Kappa Sigma national philanthropy is “A Greater Cause” - an initiative to promote volunteerism, citizenship, and service for the community. Kappa Sigma provides numerous opportunities to volunteer in the greater Pittsburgh Area and there is truly nothing quite as rewarding as working together with a bunch of your closest friends to do something for the greater good while still managing to have a blast.
KAPPASIGMA | HOUSE

The Kappa Sigma House at 1063 Morewood is the pride of the Fraternity. We maintain a spacious 3-story building at the top of the Greek Quadrangle. The house consists of four unique room types including a large single (slightly smaller than a CMU double), a large double with a loft area, and two singles with private porch access. Living in the house is a truly unique experience that offers amenities not available in a dorm setting. One of the highlights of the house is our TV room with stadium seating for 30-40 people. It is a lively area on days of Steelers’ games in the winter and provides an arena for videogame tournaments amongst brothers. Our common areas provide a great atmosphere for relaxing and studying and are home to our billiards and foosball tables. Another feature of the Kappa Sigma house is its fully equipped industrial kitchen. It leaves nothing to be desired and even features a deep-fryer for preparing tasty, midnight snacks. Occupied by our brotherhood since the mid 1900’s, the Kappa Sig house is truly a home to brothers.

Being a member of the fraternity also entitles you to leave CMU dining and join the house meal plan. Every night of the week Brothers and pledges enjoy a gourmet dinner prepared by our personal chef. Typical dinners include chicken enchiladas, ribs, salmon, and steak. Dinner is sit-down and family style, and many brothers enjoy the daily company that comes from it. The meal plan provides an atmosphere you won’t get by being a part of CMU dining. Our chef also prepares lunches during the early afternoon hours that can be eaten quickly to not interfere with class schedules. Living and dining in the fraternity is an amazing experience and can often be more affordable then the campus alternatives.

Eating outside at the house in Spring
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If you have any questions or want more information about Kappa Sigma, feel free to contact us

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