



April 6, 2026

Dear Brother,

“My colors fade...for want of wearers.”

Those words, spoken centuries ago, carried a charge that eventually brought Kappa Sigma to America. They were a warning: that even the noblest traditions die without men willing to sustain them. Today, those words carry fresh urgency for Epsilon Gamma.



Before we share a single detail about what’s ahead, we want to start with two words that are long overdue: *thank you*. Whether you’ve given financially, shown up at Homecoming, kept in touch with your pledge brothers, or simply carried the values of Kappa Sigma into your family and career — you are part of the reason this chapter has endured for more than 85 years. That kind of loyalty doesn’t happen by accident. It happens because what we experienced together in Ruston was real, and it marked us for life. So before anything else: thank you, Brother.

We’re writing today with remarkable news and a frank request that calls on every brother who has ever worn the Star and Crescent.

The remarkable news: after years of planning, sacrifice, and perseverance through a global pandemic, construction is complete. The Epsilon Gamma chapter house is not a rendering. It is not a plan. It is a permanent, fully operational home at 417 West Mississippi in Ruston — a great location only a block away from the original house. Brothers are living in it right now — study rooms are full. The chapter room hosts initiations. For the first time in a generation, alumni are returning to campus and walking through the doors of a home worthy of what Kappa Sig means to all of us. The transition from borrowed spaces and temporary arrangements to a permanent chapter house is real.

But a building alone does not secure a legacy. A previous campaign raised over \$1.3 million from alumni — generosity that laid critical groundwork. Yet the combination of pandemic delays, inflation, and rising material costs pushed the project well beyond original estimates, leaving substantial remaining debt. Through it all, brothers Scott Hill and Jerry Lorey personally guaranteed the construction loan, putting their own names on the line to ensure the house was finished. Their courage kept the dream alive. Now it falls to the full brotherhood — all of us — to ensure that what they protected becomes a permanent home, not just a permanent debt.

Here is the reality: we need the brotherhood to come together now and secure

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what has been built.

Under the current financial structure, housing costs would consume over 80% of chapter dues and require 100% occupancy at rates that aren't competitive with other fraternities at Louisiana Tech. Having the highest dues structure on campus and the lowest social budget is a model that will not survive at Louisiana Tech. If we cannot reduce the debt, we cannot keep the house affordable — and if we cannot keep it affordable, we will lose the very thing the brotherhood built together. The window to act is narrow.

Let us be direct: this is urgent. The house is complete, but the debt threatens everything it was built to protect. A small group of alumni volunteers has come together under Twelfth Gate Foundation, Inc. to develop a long-term, sustainable solution — but no small group can do this alone. This will take the full brotherhood standing together. Any solution must keep Greek life affordable — Louisiana Tech prides itself on being one of the best values in higher education, and competition among fraternities means we cannot simply raise rates and expect to recruit the caliber of young men this chapter deserves. The Foundation has set two clear financial targets: \$1.5 million makes the mortgage serviceable and keeps Greek life affordable for our chapter. \$2.5 million eliminates the debt entirely and secures the home for the Epsilon Gamma chapter indefinitely.

If you're wondering whether what happens in that house really lasts — consider Sean Casey '87.

Sean arrived at the Kappa Sig house in the fall of 1986 with, as he puts it, “a lot yet to learn about life.” What he found was a brotherhood that became his news source, daily planner, and social compass. He sweated through Hawaiian Party prep — hauling trailer loads of oak trees out of the woods of Webster and Bienville Parishes to raise that annual timber shrine. He celebrated with brothers who became, in his words, the kind of men who “almost 40 years later would at a moment's notice drive across multiple states in the middle of the night if I or my family needed help.”

That's not a figure of speech. When Hurricane Katrina devastated southeast Louisiana in 2005, a Kappa Sigma brother opened his home to Sean, his family, and two family friends — for nearly two weeks. When Hurricane Ida struck in 2021, that same brother did it again. No questions asked. No hesitation.

“I treasure the memories and the connection I have with these brothers,” Sean wrote, “and that house in Ruston that will always be a home for me.”

We can tell you from personal experience that Sean's story is not the exception but the rule.

When our brother Scott was diagnosed with cancer, the prognosis shifted from hopeful to serious when it metastasized. Surgery followed, then recurrence, then treatment at MD Anderson. Throughout months of uncertainty, fraternity brothers checked on him at least ten times more often

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than local friends. That's not a commentary on his local friends — it's a testament to the depth of bonds forged at the Epsilon Gamma chapter decades earlier. When his son Jack surprised the family by choosing Louisiana Tech and pledging Kappa Sigma, the lifelong bond of Epsilon Gamma was evident as four legacy brothers were initiated with Jack by our own highly respected GMC, Dr. Steen Trawick '88.

Nearly 40 years later, those friends and brothers remain some of the closest people in his life, and that is precisely why he is involved in this effort today: so that future young men have the same opportunity to develop bonds that last a lifetime.

That's what this house makes possible. Every square foot of 417 West Mississippi enables the intangible transformation that makes Kappa Sig extraordinary. The chapter room where leadership is tested. The common areas where strangers become brothers. The study spaces where academic discipline takes root. The gathering places where alumni return and reconnect with their roots. This physical space is the catalyst for Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service — the four pillars that every one of us pledged to uphold.

Brother, we are asking you to make the most significant gift you can to this campaign.

For some of us, that's \$5,000. For others, it's \$25,000 or \$50,000 or more. Whatever your capacity, we encourage you to stretch — because the earlier these gifts arrive, the less interest the Foundation will incur, and the faster we secure a sustainable future. Multi-year pledges of three to five years make significant gifts achievable, and every dollar moves us closer to eliminating this debt for good.

If you hold appreciated stock, have a Donor-Advised Fund, or are eligible for a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA, **these giving vehicles may allow you to make a larger gift while maximizing your tax benefits.** Details are included on the enclosed reply card, and we welcome a personal conversation about how to structure your gift in the way that works best for you.

Naming opportunities are also available for leadership gifts. If you'd like to discuss placing your name — or a family name, or the name of a brother who shaped your life — on a space in the chapter house, please reach out. These recognitions are meaningful not just as honors, but as permanent reminders to every future brother that alumni stood behind them.

Stephen Alonzo Jackson, the man who transformed Kappa Sigma from a small group of friends into an international brotherhood, once challenged his brothers to hand down their values as "a precious heirloom to ages yet unborn." He dreamed of a fraternity whose principles would outlast any single generation. That's exactly what we're doing here. We're not building a house — the house

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is built. We're securing a home where the bonds of Kappa Sigma will continue to shape men of honor and courage for decades to come.

We took an oath that was "not for a day, or an hour, or a college term only, but for life." This is what that oath looks like in practice.

Please review the enclosed materials, complete the reply card, and return it at your earliest convenience. Or call either of us directly — we'd welcome the chance to talk, brother to brother, about what your gift can do.

With deep gratitude, AEKΔB,



Scott Schneider '86

Co-President, Twelfth Gate Foundation, Inc.



Blake Wilcox '86

Co-President, Twelfth Gate Foundation, Inc.

P.S. The chapter must have a sustainable financial model in place before Fall 2026 rush. Your gift now — especially if made through appreciated assets or a multi-year pledge — directly reduces the interest burden and accelerates our path to financial stability. Please don't wait.

P.P.S. Neil Carlisle said it best: "No one had more fun than we did in Kappa Sigma at Tech." Let's make sure the next generation of brothers can say the same thing 40 years from now. Your investment isn't in real estate — it's in the experiences that define lives. AEKΔB.

Your donation may qualify for a tax deduction even if you do not itemize. Talk with your financial advisor to make the most of the new giving incentives in 2026.

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