



# ATΩ Kappa Rho: Alumni Newsletter

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## In This Issue

- Welcome!
- Taulympics
- Brother Spotlight
- Step Sing 2022
- Alumni Highlight
- Spring Break 2022
- A Message From Gym Mob

## Welcome!

Hello and welcome to the first alumni newsletter. As our chapter grows older and we begin to actually have alumni, we feel that it is ever important to keep those who have gone before us informed of their ol' fraternity alma mater. Therefore, please take a moment to pour yourself a cup of tea or wine and catch up on the happenings of "the dear old gold and blue."

## Taulympics 2022



One tradition unique to the Kappa Rho Chapter is Taulympics. For Kappa Rho, Taulympics is a game designed to bring brothers who don't usually see each other together and

allowing them to compete in random challenges all the while strengthening brotherhood.

From the beginning of Kappa Rho's founding, taulympics was a staple of the brotherhood, yet was discontinued in later years. However, about two years ago, Taulympics was thankfully brought back to life, using the same principals it was founded on to make a difference in the brotherhood. At the beginning of the semester, team captains are chosen from the senior class, drafting the younger brothers onto their team to get ready to compete. Through activities like team hangouts and dinners, brothers can compete for points to help their team win

## Alpha Tau Omega Social Media Accounts

Instagram:  
[@samfordato](#)

Facebook:

[Alpha Tau Omega at Samford  
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Link to our Web page:  
<http://www.samfordato.org>

### Contact Us

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Taulympics. The title of Taulympian is given to the brother who is able to earn the most points individually during Taulympics, to encourage even more competition amongst participants.

One of the most defining features of Taulympics is its random events. Whether that be a cabbage eating contest or a race to take a picture with a statue, Taulympics finds ways to reinvigorate brothers to have fun while also getting close to one another.

Throughout its history, one of the most important results of Taulympics has been getting seniors back into the ATO loop. While many seniors end up less active towards the end of the year, Taulympics works to get them back in the mix, able to bond with the younger brothers. For Taulympics head Ian Lansing, "Taulympics brings brothers of all ages and friend groups together to promote chapter unity and common purpose, supported by the competitive element and brotherhood."

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## Brother Spotlight

David Sputh is currently a sophomore and the treasurer of Kappa Rho. David is majoring in business and specifically, he is a Brock scholar. This is a very prestigious major because only a select group of students in the business school are able to have this major. It is a very long process of interviewing with the heads of the department, making sure that you have the best grades possible, and are involved in the business school.

David was accepted into the program in the fall and now he gets to, in a way, create his own major. What this means is that he gets to choose topics that will work together in the business world, but that will stand out and be impressive. David has



chosen to create a major that incorporates economics with philosophy and theology.

This will allow him to pursue his desired career path, but will also help him grow in his faith, which he takes very seriously.

On top of all of his other responsibilities, he is also interning at Regions Bank Headquarters in downtown Birmingham. Every week, David will spend 19-20 hours there on top of the classes that he is taking. This is a dream internship for him to have and the experience he is receiving, has been and will continue to be invaluable for the future to come. Even with all of these responsibilities, David continues to be one of the most active brothers in ATO Kappa Rho.

He frequently attends the ATO Bible study that occurs every week and he is always looking for ways to encourage other brothers. He attends the major brotherhood events that are going on to continue his involvement and grow his friendships with the other brothers. With his responsibilities as treasurer, he is always ahead of major deadlines and is willing to work with brothers about helping them figure out ways to pay their dues while also having compassion for the circumstances surrounding that brother. He will also frequently remind brothers of upcoming deadlines so that they will not get unnecessarily fined.

Overall, David is one of Kappa Rho's very best and he is the picture of what we strive to grow our brothers into. He is dedicated, hardworking, a servant, and Kappa Rho would not be what it is today without David.

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## Step Sing 2022

2022 began to bring back normalcy to the campus of Samford University. Classes were back, campus was buzzing, and old traditions were reignited with even greater passion than before. One tradition that burst back onto the scene was StepSing.



StepSing excited everyone on campus and people were itching to participate. The brother's of Alpha Tau Omega were no different. With a whole school year passing without StepSing, the brothers were ready to go. The title of Alpha Tau Omega's show this year was "Swept". The brothers played the part of sailors lost at sea and sang sea shanties, songs from musicals, and even some classic rock. The theme was chosen by the directors of the show Justin Samuel and Kevan Coyle. When asked why the name "Swept" was chosen Samuels said "The name of our show was chosen based on a couple things. Something that we like to do is create a fake show and make the title work for the fake and the real one to add some suspense and secrecy to what our real theme is. It's fun to see the guys get involved with the fake one and really try to convince their friends that the fake theme is the real theme." The fake theme being janitors.

The brothers spent hours and hours practicing to get specific moves down, certain vocal parts honed in, and just getting to grow closer to one another while moving outside comfort zones. When also asked about his favorite part of being a director Samuels exclaimed "My favorite part about directing the show was hands down getting to see some of the guys really come out of their shells and be super out there." Step Sing was a new thing for a lot of the brothers and many of the participants were from the very large freshman and sophomore classes who had never participated in StepSing before. Sophomore, Jack Scontras said "My favorite part about StepSing was being able to perform in front of a crowd, it was my first time doing an activity like this in front of a large audience." A thought that echoes in the minds of many of the brothers.

Overall, though ATO did not win this year, the brothers left their all out on the stage and inspired many people in the audience and received much praise from students and faculty alike for the awe inspiring performance they put on. With a new StepSing committee being appointed, ATO Kappa Rho is already looking toward the future with their eyes set on sweepstakes and the growing bonds of brotherhood that come with StepSing.



## Alumni Highlight

Here at ATO Kappa Rho, we are incredibly proud of our various alumni and all of the outstanding accomplishments they have gone on to do after graduating. In this edition of the newsletter, we interviewed former brother Levi Edwards. Levi was a part of the alpha pledge class, the first after the chartering of the chapter. Levi caught me up on what he has been doing since he left Samford during our conversation. After graduation, Levi moved down to Mobile, Alabama, and started working for AL.com as a breaking news reporter. After working and living in Mobile for a year, Levi felt like he needed to make a change and move on to what he wanted to do in his career. So, in August 2020, Levi got a job working for the Las Vegas Raiders as a digital team



reporter. It was a dream of his to report for a professional athletic organization. Levi's articles are found on the Raider's website covering topics from training camp, draft, free agent signings, and other events with the organization. Levi also makes appearances on podcasts and posts pregame reports before every game on his Instagram @theleviedwards. Personally, Levi said he felt that this year has been a time of growth and bettering himself.

After catching up, Levi reflected on his time with Kappa Rho. He was proud of how much the chapter grew in membership and respect during his time. He also mentioned how vital the chapter's diversity is from different social, economic backgrounds, races, and creeds. Everyone was different, and he joined to be around different people, making ATO stand out from the other fraternities on campus. This difference helped prepare Levi for the real world, where he works with people of differing backgrounds. The brothers of Alpha Tau Omega are happy to celebrate Levi's successes and are proud of his membership in Kappa Rho. Keep up the great work, and keep living the dream.

## Spring Break 2022

### Brothers and Spring Break

Spring break is one of the best times of the year for students, and the brothers of Kappa Rho wasted no time in going out and enjoying themselves. Ethan Merrifield and Evan Simons followed the Samford men's basketball team to the SoCon tournament, where they cheered the team on in its win over UNCG and loss to Furman. "Furman was a really good game until the end with some missed shots and bad calls, but the experience overall was amazing, and I wouldn't trade it for anything," Merrifield said.



Wesley Ledbetter traveled out west to Wyoming to try his hand at skiing on the slopes of Jackson Hole. Ledbetter said that "we looked over the mountains in awe of the wonderful creation that God has created. It was a much-needed break to get away from the craziness of school".

True to their Stepping roles, eight brothers went sailing on a cruise to Nassau, the Bahamas, and Coco Cay. Warm waters, bright sun, and good friends was the best way to spend time, they thought. In addition to spending quality time away from the business of college, they managed the feat of winning a pool volleyball tournament.

## An Extra Special Message From Gym Mob

Health and fitness is something ATO Kappa Rho strives to promote to all brothers. Whether that be through running groups, gym groups, sports teams, and much more, Kappa Rho aims to promote healthy physical activity. A recent movement that has become very popular within the chapter has involved going to the gym and lifting weights. Starting out as a small group of guys passionate about becoming healthier and of course, bigger, GYM MØB has transformed into a large community of brothers, encouraging one another with fitness tips and motivation. Having more experienced brothers mentor and guide, members of Kappa Rho can share their journey in the gym as well as a shared focus organizing workouts and encouraging everyone to stay fit and healthy.

GYM MØB is currently awaiting executive approval to be formally recognized as a fraternity program within Kappa Rho and thankfully, they have received support from the CEO of Alpha Tau Omega, Wynn Smiley. Smiley mentioned how it could be a very successful program if recognized, exclaiming “Kappa Rho should have a health and fitness chair because the healthier you are, the better ATO chapter you are going to have.” The current head of GYM MØB, Ian Lansing, is very passionate about the program, encouraging others with his advice such as: “Never skip leg day” or “PR or ER.”

In order to foster success, GYM MØB has established a specific group chat where members can converse with each other, offering advice, motivation, exercising facts, and much more. GYM MØB has also established an executive ranking program where members who have shown the most dedication to the program can earn spots as the CEO, CFO, CSO (chief spotting officer) and many more, fostering a friendly competitive attitude with the aim to push each other forward. The members who are currently in GYM MØB are very excited for the future, continuing to encourage future pledge classes to join with the hopes of rapid growth. Ultimately, GYM MØB aims to have fun, but in the process promote health and fitness to brothers with the hope that it carries with them into the future.