

Shahid Khan

Illinois '70

Oxford Cup Roll No. 082

July 27, 2017 | Snowbird, Utah

Shahid R. Khan, *Illinois '70*, was initiated into the Sigma Rho Chapter on October 12, 1968 as Roll No. 1086.

On January 4, 2012, he became the owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars. His dream of owning an NFL team had become reality on December 14, 2011, in a unanimous 32-0 vote by NFL owners in support of his purchase of the franchise.

Khan's passion for the National Football League took root long before his entry into the league. His dream of one day owning an NFL team began while watching games with his fraternity brothers in the basement of the Beta Theta Pi house as a student at the University of Illinois. Through the success of his own business, Flex-N-Gate Corporation, his dream came true 40 years later.

Khan's history with Flex-N-Gate started in 1970, when he worked at the company as an engineering student at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. A naturalized U.S. citizen, Khan came from his native Pakistan in 1967 at the age of 16 to attend college. When he graduated in 1971, he became Flex-N-Gate's engineering manager. In 1978, Khan left Flex-N-Gate and with \$13,000 in savings and a \$50,000 loan from the Small Business Loan Corporation, he created the start-up Bumper Works, which revolutionized the industry through an innovative one-piece bumper design that is still considered the industry standard for all seamless steel bumpers worldwide.

When Flex-N-Gate came on the market two short years later, Khan purchased his former employer and brought Bumper Works into the fold. In 2015, Automotive News ranked Flex-N-Gate Corporation as the 10th-largest original equipment supplier in North America and the 38th largest supplier in the world.

In 2007, Khan received the Minority Business Leadership Award from the National Minority Supplier Development Council and has continued to earn honors throughout the world for his example as a successful minority business owner, which extends to the NFL as in 2011 he became the first team owner of minority ethnicity in league history.

In 2013, Khan complemented his sports club portfolio with his purchase of the London-based Fulham Football Club. As chairman of Fulham, Khan became the only person in the world to own 100 percent of both an NFL club and a Barclays Premier League team.

Then, in September 2016, Khan purchased full ownership of Four Seasons Hotel Toronto, regarded as one of the premier destinations in the luxury hotel segment anywhere in the world.

Ranked 84th on the Forbes 400 Wealthiest Americans list in 2016, and the wealthiest person in the world of Pakistani origin, Khan and his wife, Ann, are philanthropic leaders both in their newly adopted hometown of Jacksonville as well as in Illinois, where they met as students while attending the University of Illinois. In 2007, the Khan Foundation was formed to expand research at the University of Illinois, with Ann Khan serving as the foundation's president. Since its inception, the Foundation has given out more than \$5 million in grants nationwide.

The Khans have focused their charitable giving in the Jacksonville community through the Jaguars Foundation. Since 2012, the foundation has provided more than \$9.3 million in grants to support children's and family programs, the NFL/Jaguars Play 60 youth fitness program, military and veterans, women's health issues, neighborhood revitalization, and other NFL and team-related initiatives.

Khan has served on many University of Illinois boards, including the Engineering Board of Visitors, Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Alumni Board, MechSE Extern Program, University of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors and the Presidents Council. Khan was inducted into the Engineering at Illinois Hall of Fame in 2010.

Khan shares his passion for the American dream with his family, and he and his wife Ann have passed on their commitment to work and service to their two grown children, Tony and Shanna.