

GAMMA + Rho

SECURING THE LEGACY — PG. 2
CHAPTER WELCOMES 59 — PG. 3
GAMMA-RHO ZETA HONORED — PG. 3
ALUMNI MAILBOX — PG. 4

A LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ALUMNI PUBLICATION

♦ UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ♦

FALL 2018

Gamma-Rho Zeta Closes in on Two Milestones



The Chapter House in 1930.



The Chapter House in 1958.



The Chapter House today.

Our Chapter began as a local fraternity at OU named Sigma Phi, which was chartered as Gamma-Rho Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha on October 9, 1926. Three years later the new fraternity completed its first owned Chapter House at the southwest corner of Lindsay and College Avenue, on what at the time was open prairie. The “Palace on the Prairie” was completed in 1929 and will turn 90 years old this academic year.

The Chapter House changed over time with an addition in the 1950s and our recent refurbish-

ment five years ago. It is one of only two original chapter houses on the OU campus still used by its founding fraternity. Our Chapter House has served as home for thousands of our brothers during their time at OU and is a focal point of pride for our alumni.

Another milestone is rapidly approaching, as Gamma-Rho Zeta will soon initiate its 3,000th member, the most of any chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha. Our Chapter House, the bedrock of our fraternity, populated by 3,000 outstanding mem-

bers over the years, is tied together by our ritual. House, men, ritual: the three foundation legs of our Chapter. As these milestones approach, I will soon be retiring as president of Sigma Phi, our building corporation, where I have had the honor and privilege to serve for the last 15 years.

In Z.A.X.,
Bob Canfield, GP 876
Sigma Phi President
bobcanfield876@gmail.com

The Chapter has seen many milestones and reasons for celebration. Thanks to generous donations from our alumni and friends over the years, Gamma-Rho Zeta has continued this tradition of excellence.

We recently learned that our current online gift processor will soon discontinue its support of the platform we use to process online gifts for Gamma-Rho Zeta. Luckily, we have secured a new online giving platform through Omegafi: <https://contributions.omegafi.com/contributions/product/1672-lxa-ok-house-corporation>. For those who currently have gift payments, we will provide a form for you to update your information with the new link as well.

Each of us understands our contributions are an investment in the future of Gamma-Rho Zeta. Alumni donations ensure our continued success at the University of Oklahoma and provide a legacy upon which to build an even greater brotherhood.

We are thankful for your support and encourage you to stay up to date with the Chapter’s increased progress this year. If you have questions, please contact our campaign coordinator at (785) 843-1661.

Gamma-Rho Zeta
Transitions to New
Online Giving
Platform



SECURING *the* LEGACY

HOW SERVING AS HIGH ALPHA INFLUENCED SAMUEL JACKSON, GP 2767

When Samuel Jackson, GP 2767 first stepped foot on the University of Oklahoma's campus, he felt confident Greek life was for him. His mother was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta at OU and his dad was a member of Delta Tau Delta. Samuel grew up hearing about their positive experiences. "I chose Lambda Chi for a handful of reasons, but primarily for the role models. I spent most of my time on the golf course in high school, but I knew that I wanted to focus on my academics and personal development in college. I would not have had the same success if it were not for brothers like Nick Creedon, GP 2598, Zach Schuermann, GP 2649, Alex Berney, GP 2658, and Bailey Champagne, GP."

Looking to these examples of the Gamma-Rho Zeta values, Samuel felt confident taking on roles such as High Sigma and High Alpha. "I have learned a lot about myself as a leader from both positions. High Sigma was a fun role where I was able to serve as an academic mentor for the Chapter and identify our top associate and active members. High Alpha enabled me to take charge of an organization, which I value immensely. I have been fortunate to have a passionate group of officers working alongside me to better our fraternity."

Even outside of the Chapter, Samuel has taken on numerous leadership roles within OU's community, including special events chairman for the energy management association and member of Crimson Wishes executive committee for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. "I have been involved in a handful of organizations outside of Lambda Chi Alpha, and that is



mainly due to the great mentorship I received as an associate member. I am also a part of a group of students called LEAD Team at OU where I serve as an ambassador for the Leadership and Volunteerism office."

"The best part of joining Lambda Chi Alpha has been the friendships I have developed throughout my experience. I know I will carry many life lessons from my experience into the future and that these relationships will transcend our college years."

As High Alpha, Samuel offers the same advice he was provided during his time as an associate. "Our Chapter offers a wide variety of opportunities to get involved. I have enjoyed my service on the Zeta, but I look forward to finding new opportunities as my presidency comes to an end. From intramurals to Sooner Scandals, there are infinite ways to serve the Chapter and I plan on seeking these out."

While looking to the future as a finance and energy management major, Samuel reflects on his favorite aspect of the Gamma-Rho Zeta brotherhood. "The best part of joining Lambda Chi Alpha has been the friendships I have developed throughout my experience. I know I will carry many life lessons from my experience into the future and that these relationships will transcend our college years." He can be reached at samuel.b.jackson-1@ou.edu.

How Will You Commemorate Gamma-Rho Zeta's Milestones? ADD YOUR NAME TO OUR DONOR LIST TODAY

In spring 2018, 18 generous alumni responded to our call for support and donated more than \$4,500 to Gamma-Rho Zeta. These funds were used to provide scholarships and leadership opportunities, contribute to our capital campaign efforts, strengthen our alumni relations program, and create our memorial walkway. Supporting these opportunities helps us continue Gamma-Rho Zeta's legacy at the University of Oklahoma. Donors are listed in their cumulative giving level.

Green Level

(\$500 and above)

Jim Litton, GP 290
Thomas Bush, GP 451
E. T. Laird, GP 468
James Robinson, GP 626
Philip Lewis, GP 881
Andrew Turner, GP 877

Greg A. Vlahos, GP 972
Cary Marshall, GP 1159
Chad Higbee, GP 1265
Dr. Kevin Hook, GP 1427
Michael Yaffe, GP 1745

Purple Level

(Up to \$499)

George Orr, GP 290

Ronald Sheffield, GP 515
William Pitts, GP 603
Montgomery Moore, GP 956
Trevor Tullius, GP 1905
Anthony Cristelli, GP 1804
Julie Phillips

Chapter Welcomes 59 Associate Members

Andrew Althaus
Grant Appelbaum
Evan Arnold
Chase Bell
Alex Bighorse
Austin Blaylock
Andrew Bowman
Hudson Brock
David Cabrera
Colton Chelootz
Joshua Cohlma
Sammy Cooper
Johnathan Cowen
Matthew Dawson
Trey Donnan
Parker Dugan
Cole Earnest
Ryan Francis
Austin Gifford
Scott Gipson
Jackson Griffith
Ryan Grote
Trey Huelskamp
Ben Jensen
Ryan Kurtz
Matthew Loftis
Carson Lund
Kyle Macadam
Caleb Magness
Matthew Maier
Jon Matthews
Kellen McBerry
Harrison McCormick
Chase McMillan
Nate McMillen
John Nork
Reid Pierce
Stephen Price
William Puiggari
Cobb Raring
Ryan Rasnic
Cole Reed
Will Rhodes
Mitchell Ross
Jonathan Schlegel
Matt Sewall
Isaac Stoops
Jackson Surret
Chase Taylor
Zach Taylor
Preston Taylor
Zane Torres
Colin Tucker
Jackson Wagner
Connor Weemes
Adam Weiss
Michael Werner
Connor Whitehurst

Members of Lambda Chi
Alpha and Pi Beta Phi
at Sooner Scandals'
runner-up performance.



The Crescent Is Our Symbol; The Cross Is Our Guide

Gamma-Rho Zeta Honored for Outstanding Volunteerism

The men of Lambda Chi Alpha enjoyed an immensely successful spring semester full of community service, academics, and philanthropy. Our Chapter continues to set the leadership example for our peers, prospective students, and surrounding community.

The Return of the White Rose Pageant

The reintroduction of the White Rose Pageant was a success for Gamma-Rho Zeta. The pageant had not been conducted in four years, but that was not apparent as the event raised over \$2,500 for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Norman. The pageant had contestants from six Panhellenic chapters at the university, with Delta Gamma securing first place. High Theta **Chapman Wise, GP 2823** worked tirelessly to gather information on the event from alumni and former contestants to ensure a successful return. The Chapter will continue this philanthropic event in the spring and incorporate a fall basketball tournament at the Chapter House.

Chapter Receives President's Award for Outstanding Volunteerism

Gamma-Rho Zeta has always taken pride in serving our community, but this spring our efforts came to fruition after receiving the President's Award for Outstand-

ing Volunteerism. The men of Gamma-Rho completed nearly 2,800 community service hours upon submitting our President's Trophy application. The Chapter was also awarded runner-up for the President's Trophy last spring, the most prestigious award available to Greek organizations at OU. Both of these awards portray the Chapter's dedication to producing members of character who excel in academics, leadership, and service.

Gamma-Rho Zeta Welcomes 59 Associate Members

This fall, our Chapter signed an impressive 59 associate members due to a collective recruitment effort led by our High Delta, **Andrew McDonald, GP 2775**. The Chapter looks forward to mentoring and developing these young aspirants into men worthy of our bond.

Connect with Lambda Chi Alpha

It is an exciting time for alumni involvement with many new opportunities for engagement with the Chapter. Through collaboration with the Gamma-Rho Alumni Association and our High Rho, **Aidan O'Brien, GP 2822**, we are coming up with new ways for alumni to reconnect and engage with the Chapter. To stay up to

(Continued on page 4)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting for members of the S.P. Holding Company and the Gamma Rho Alumni Association, non-profit Oklahoma corporations, will be Sunday, November 18, at 3:30 p.m. at the Chapter House (904 College, Norman, Oklahoma).

The meeting will be convened for the following purposes:

- To elect officers and directors to serve for the ensuing year until the next annual meeting of members.
- To act upon other matters as may properly be heard before the meeting.

This meeting is being held as specified in Section IV of the bylaws of the corporation.

By order of the Board of Directors,
Robert Canfield, GP 876
Secretary, S.P. Holding Company



Gamma-Rho Zeta

Alumni Association

P.O. Box 721891

Norman, OK 73070

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Gamma-Rho Zeta Honored

(Continued from page 3)

date with alumni tailgates, networking opportunities, and more:

- Join our Facebook page: OU Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni.
- Join our LinkedIn page by searching Lambda Chi Alpha - University of Oklahoma.
- Update your contact information at www.oulambda.com through the alumni tab on the homepage.
- Contact High Rho Aidan at aidan.m.obrien-1@ou.edu.

The Chapter is looking forward to a well-rounded year that includes philanthropy, academics, and service. I would like to thank our incredible housemother, Mom Roberts, and outstanding Chapter adviser, **Rodger Lalli, GP 2767**, for their dedication and hard work devoted to the Chapter.

In Z.A.X.,
Sam Jackson, GP 2767
High Alpha
samuel.b.jackson-1@ou.edu

Attention: This newsletter is intended for Lambda Chi Alpha alumni and parents. If your son is still attending the University of Oklahoma, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he is no longer in school, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Alumni Mailbox

William Hunt, GP 376 is retired. He was an award-winning musician with the Woody Herman Orchestra and a music teacher.

Dr. Ron Elkins, GP 393, class of 1958, retired as chief of cardiac surgery at OU Medical School.

Jerome Henry, GP 422, class of 1959, has finally cut back on his office hours as an attorney and now serves as counsel at his son's law firm in OKC.

Ron Sheffield, GP 515, class of 1962, has been retired now for a while. In his work at Lockheed-Martin, he was EVA manager tasked with designing components of the Hubble Space Telescope so they could be changed out by astronauts while in Orbit.

Stephen Snider, GP 716, class of 1969, retired from SW Home Health, a company he has owned since 1994 with his wife, Ivy. E-mail: stephen.snider@hotmail.com

Joe Holliday, GP 731, class of 1969, is still the assistant basketball coach at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Rick Romano, GP 947 and his wife are spending more time at Lake Eufaula, on the Godfather II. He has four daughters, all OU graduates. One doctor, one lawyer, one thunder girl, and a recent B-school grad. E-mail: rickromano@cox.net

Jody White, GP 1395, class of 1993, lives in the Chataqua Historic District in Norman, just blocks from the Lambda Chi Chapter House. He and his wife enjoy performing locally with the Sooner Theater for fun. E-mail: randaljody@gmail.com

Chad Higbee, GP 1265, class of 1989, writes that after 12 years of urging by longtime friend **Kevin Corrigan, GP 1301** (class of 1985), he has begun his own business of supplying hospice care in the DFW area. After 24 years in hospice care, he is excited about having positive effects and changing lives. These ideas were fostered while at 904 College. E-mail: chadhigbee@hotmail.com