

GAMMA + Rhover

A LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ALUMNI PUBLICATION

♦ UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ♦

MEET JAKE PASDACH, GP 2473 — PG. 2

SPOTLIGHT ON
RENNIE COOK, GP 1547 — PG. 2

CHAPTER OFFICERS — PG. 3

UNDERGRADUATES STRIVE
FOR EXCELLENCE — PG.3

SPRING 2015

Gamma-Rho Zeta Consistently Best Fraternity at OU

For years our Chapter has maintained a standard of excellence at OU unrivaled by other fraternities. Our excellence, demonstrated by individual and Chapter awards and campus involvement, is due to our eternal Chapter of quality young men. Our consistent recruitment, association, and initiation successes are driven by our undergraduate members. A brief summary of our recent successes follows.

HOMECOMING KINGS

Our Homecoming king legacy began in 1985 with **Tim Rassic, GP 1183**, the first year OU had a king.

1987: **Bobby Clark, GP 1246**
1995: **Mark Robinson, GP 1534**
1996: **Joe Loy, GP 1609**
1998: **Craig Buchan, GP 1658**
1999: **Bryan Magstadt, GP 1699**
2007: **Eddie Coates, GP 2093**
2008: **Benjamin Bigbie, GP 2148**
2010: **Michael Nash, GP 2253**
2013: **Ray Wolber, GP 2467**
2014: **Jake Pasdach, GP 2473**

GPA RANKINGS

We have had continually strong IFC grade rankings, placing in the top three each of the last seven years. We most recently placed fourth in spring 2014 with a 3.129, third in spring 2013 with a 3.17, and first in spring 2012 with a 3.14. Our highest GPA, 3.205, was in fall 2009.

INTRAMURAL CHAMPIONS

Gamma-Rho Zeta has placed first in intramurals 22 of the last 30 years, most recently in 2013.

IFC AND STUDENT BODY PRESIDENTS

We are responsible for having the first and only two-time IFC president at OU since WWII when **Daniel Jones, GP 2300**, won back to back in 2010 and 2011. **Drew Knox, GP 2437**, was elected in 2013 and **Jake Pasdach, GP 2473**, was elected in 2014.

LETZEISER AWARD

From 2009 to 2012 Gamma-Rho Zeta had seven



Homecoming King 2013 and High Alpha 2013 Ray Wolber, GP 2467, and 2014 IFC President and Homecoming King 2014 Jake Pasdach, GP 2473.

seniors awarded the OU Letzeiser Award, which goes to 12 men and 12 women each year for their excellence in scholarship and leadership.

2009: **Ben Bigbie, GP 2148**
2010: **Tyler Coker, GP 2210**
2011: **Brandon Coates, GP 2250, Michael Nash, GP 2253, Courtlyn Shoate, GP 2260, and Darwin Roman, GP 2311**
2012: **Matthew Nash, GP 2306**

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING FRESHMEN

Four brothers were one of 12 chosen for the President's Award for Outstanding Freshmen.

2009: **Darwin Roman, GP 2311**
2010: **Chris Ray, GP 2349, Jack Renfro, GP 2362, and Ezra Gentle, GP 2403**

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

The Big Man on Campus award has gone to Gamma-Rho Zeta brothers six times.

2009: **Tyler Coker, GP 2210, Ben Bigbie, GP 2148**
2010: **Courtlyn Shoate, GP 2260, Michael Nash, GP 2253**
2011: **Matt Nash, GP 2306**
2012: **Patrick Ryan, GP 2310**

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY

Since 1996, an annual award naming the best all-around fraternity and sorority has been presented each spring, based on four categories: scholarship, campus activities, community service, and

multiculturalism. Lambda Chi Alpha won first place five of the past 18 years, the most of any fraternity on campus. We placed first in 2009 and 2012 and second place in 2008, 2010, and 2011.

CYRIL F. "DUKE" FLAD AWARD

The Cyril F. "Duke" Flad Award for most outstanding undergraduate member for Lambda Chi Alpha National has gone to a Gamma-Rho Zeta undergraduate four times, more than any other chapter.

1986: **Matt Hamilton, GP 1168**
1997: **David Magstadt, GP 1612**
1999: **Daniel Leung, GP 1704**
2004: **Trevor Tullius, GP 1905**

This list shows only a handful of the many awards Gamma-Rho Zeta has won over the years. We should all be proud of the strong and enduring legacy Lambda Chi Alpha is leaving at OU.

Credit also goes to our alumni who supported the Chapter financially during the capital campaign. The Chapter House is now a reflection of the excellent brothers inside. Sigma Phi Holding will continue taking the necessary steps to properly manage the facility and ensure your investment so Gamma-Rho Zeta remains the best fraternity on campus.

In Z.A.X.,
Bob Canfield, GP 876



Meet Jake Pasdach, GP 2473

Hometown: Claremore, Oklahoma
Major: Public relations
Minor: Public affairs and administration

Jake associated with Lambda Chi Alpha in fall 2011. Throughout his time at the University of Oklahoma, he has been extremely fortunate to experience countless opportunities.



Jake was a member of the 2011-12 President's Leadership Class, an officer for Crimson Club, which is OU's official ambassadorial group under the office of OU President David L. Boren, and has served as a four-year executive committee member of the Campus Activities Council event, High School Leadership Conference, in which a programmed weekend prepares the up-and-coming generation on how to be leaders. He recently completed his term as the OU Interfraternity Council president in which he set the strategic vision for the thriving fraternity community of 2,600 men and 19 chapters.

Lambda Chi Alpha has impacted Jake in many ways during his time at OU.

"Despite the titles and leadership opportunities, the most impactful aspect of college was the time I spent with my friends and brothers. Upon entering the University of Oklahoma, I was extremely hesitant to participate in recruitment, but I believe that making the decision to join Lambda Chi was the stepping-stone to becoming who I am today. Upon graduation, I plan on attending graduate school to pursue a master of business or a master of public affairs and administration degree."

"As I complete my undergraduate degree in May 2015, I will leave 904 College Avenue with lifelong friends, great memories, and confidence in my ability to impact and influence the world because of my time as a Lambda Chi."



Brothers prepared over 6,000 pounds of food to be sent to families statewide at the OKC Food Bank on MLK day.

Rennie Cook, GP 1547, Proud of His ΛΧΑ Experience

Gamma-Rho Zeta has not only seen **Rennie Cook, GP 1547**, transform from a small-town kid to the owner of a personal development firm, but played a vital role in his transformation. "Even as awkward as I was, the men at Gamma-Rho Zeta made me feel like I not only belonged, but added value." Rennie still remembers bid day and feeling like a deer in headlights. "I was in way over my head but remember **Jim Benson, GP 1464**, and **Sean Bauman, GP 1465**, taking me under their wings early on, then **Jeff Morton, GP 1508**, **Nathan Young, GP 1517**, and others helping me sort my way through those initial overwhelming first few months."

The relationships Rennie has made from Lambda Chi Alpha supported him as an undergraduate and continue into his adult life. "Being around such talented and gifted men is very humbling and also a great opportunity to learn from some amazing people. Through my volunteer work as an alumnus, I have had the opportunity to develop relationships with several generations of Lambda Chi brothers. These men are my friends, mentors, and life advisors. **Don Sherman, GP 374**, the late **Bill Stone, GP 593**, **Matt Hamilton, GP 1168**, **Tim**

Rasnic, GP 1183, **Brad Lomenick, GP 1461**, **Sean Bauman, GP 1465**, **Mark Robinson, GP 1534**, **David Ridgeway, GP 1544**, and **Rodger Lalli, GP 1894**, are just examples of the men I have learned from."

Living in Norman has allowed Rennie to stay active with Gamma-Rho Zeta. He served as co-Chapter adviser with Rodger Lalli for three years, spent 13 years on the housing corporation and alumni scholarship committee, and served as president of the alumni association for four years. Rennie knows firsthand that the strength of Gamma-Rho Zeta comes from members caring about its success. "The Chapter House has undergone major renovations that now provide a healthy and safe environment with a sense of style that represents our Chapter in a much better way. The quality of the men and their desire to excel has stayed the same since I was a freshman."

After 12 years of working as an administrator at OU, Rennie left to spend two years in the ministry as the executive senior pastor of Journey Church in Norman. In May 2013 he launched his own personal and professional

training and development firm called The Triumph Team.

"ΛΧΑ represents the best of the University and I had a great sense of pride being associated with such a high-caliber group of men."



Rennie and his wife, Stacy, have two daughters, Ainsley (6) and Evelyn (7). He stays busy completing his Ph.D., building his business, being a father, and serving his church and community. Connect with him via e-mail at rennie@triumph-team.com.

Chapter Officers

High Alpha
Patrick Bass, GP 2536
pmbass16@ou.edu

Executive
Alex Berney, GP 2658

High Gamma
Thorn Cowley, GP 2590

High Tau
Cullen Crombie, GP 2616

High Rho
Nick Creedon, GP 2598

High Beta
Brett Fene, GP 2604

Standards Chairman
Peter Ginsberg, GP 2584

High Pi
Rodger Lalli, GP 1894

High Phi
Joe Lovoi, GP 2599

High Epsilon
Connor Marsh, GP 2626

High Sigma
Austin Mayer, GP 2591

Executive At-Large
Reid McDonald, GP 2653

Executive
Kendon McGehee, GP 2610

High Theta
Kyle Metzger, GP 2600

High Iota
Austin Morris, GP 2615

High Kappa
Zach Schuermann, GP 2649

High Delta
Kyle Stephens, GP 2628

High Kappa
Chad Sullivan, GP 2623



Kyle Metzger, GP 2600, Nick Creedon, GP 2598, Kyle Murphy, GP 2634, and the ladies of Chi Omega hosted a multicultural event at Sooner Bowling for students from all around the world.

Undergraduates Strive for Excellence

Gamma-Rho Zeta at the University of Oklahoma strives for excellence. With 52 newly initiated members, we have 220 of the most diverse individuals you can find on campus; Lambda Chi Alpha surpasses expectations. We have set the bar high and will continue to do so.

EXCELLING ACADEMICALLY

This past fall our freshman class ranked third in new member GPA with a 3.13. As a Chapter we placed third out of 19 fraternities with a cumulative GPA of 3.075. We are thrilled to develop as a Chapter while we build on the academic success we have consistently shown in the past.

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PRESENCE CONTINUES

Like years past, we have a strong presence in campus involvement. We hold offices across campus, including President's Leadership Council resident, President's Community Scholars president, Homecoming executive committee, College Bowl vice chairman and emcee, Relay for Life chairman, Soonerthon vice chairman, and Big Event expansion chairman. Additionally, we won Homecoming chairman for the second year in a row. Our leadership is evidence that we uphold the values of Lambda Chi Alpha.

FULL YEAR OF SERVICE PLANNED

Seeking to better our community, we are once again planning a year full of service. Our main philanthropic events include Swishin' for a Mission and the White Rose Pageant. Swishin' for a Mission, our annual basketball tournament, benefits Feeding America. The White Rose Pageant, which benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of Norman, raised over \$11,000 last year and is anticipated to make even more this year. **Kyle Metzger, GP 2600**, our new high theta, has great potential and a high outlook for the year.

INTRAMURALS

We are standing third in intramurals coming into the spring semester. With events like racquetball, soccer, softball, and basketball, we plan to surpass our fellow fraternities and rise to the top once again.

Our members have upheld the true values of what it means to be a Lambda Chi. We strive for success and reach our full potential. Gamma-Rho Zeta has set the bar high for this year. We thank all the alumni and family members who have donated and encourage all alumni to tour the recent renovations. We look forward to reconnecting our alumni with Gamma-Rho Zeta.



In Z.A.X.,
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LAMBDA CHI ALPHA



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Save the Date

Loyd Harris Golf
Tournament

April 18, 2015

1:30 p.m. shotgun start

Jimmie Austin Golf Course

For registration information,

contact Colby Korsun, GP 2061

at ckorsun@gmail.com.

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 Mailbag

George A. Smith, GP 509, entered Chapter Eternal on Saturday, February 7, 2015. George was a resident of Ada, Oklahoma, at the time of his passing and is survived by his wife, Merlene. Memorial gifts may be made in memory of George A. Smith to the Mike Dicus Memorial of Lambda Chi Alpha, 904 College, Norman, Okla., 73072.

David B. Moody, GP 993, was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in London on July 27, 2012. His election was in recognition of his past and continuing contributions to the field of astronomy and astrophysics. David graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1982 and continued his graduate work at Texas A&M. He and his wife, Beth, live in Canyon Lake, Texas. E-mail: bicparker@mac.com



Representatives from the OKC Regional Food Bank put our members through a hunger simulation, raising awareness of the fight for hunger and sparking our fire to give back to our community.

Social Media



www.oulambda.com



OU Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni



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