

GAMMA + Rho

A LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ALUMNI PUBLICATION

♦ UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ♦

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TO GAMMA-RHO — PG. 2

LAMBDA CHI ALPHA SETS THE STANDARD FOR
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WELCOME, 2016 NEW INITIATES — PG. 4

SAVE THE DATE FOR ALUMNI FOOTBALL
TAILGATES — PG. 4

SPRING 2016

GAMMA-RHO HONORS TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE CAMPAIGN DONORS

Your Gamma-Rho Alumni Association hosted a tailgate party at the Oklahoma vs. Iowa State football game last fall. It was Dad's Day and a perfect fall football afternoon for the Sooners. The actives, parents, and alumni enjoyed an outdoor buffet and cash bar and, of course, the Sooners won on the way to the conference championship.

The Sigma Phi Housing Corporation, in concert with the alumni association, took this opportunity to host an awards ceremony honoring the room naming donors from the *Building on Our Tradition of Excellence* capital campaign. These dedicated alumni and parents qualified for room naming rights thanks to their generous donations, which allowed us to completely refurbish our historic Chapter House at 904 College.

Please join us in recognizing these dedicated and generous individuals:

Don Sherman, GP 374
David Magstadt, GP 1612
Raj Patel, GP 1120
Matt Porter, GP 1615
Ron Elkins, GP 393
Conrad Masterson, GP 581
Truman Edminster, GP 855
Carrie Lou and Jim Draper

In memory of **Garrett Draper, GP 1310**
Dr. Kevin Hook, GP 1427, Scott Mabrey, GP 1498, Tim Clay, GP 1466, Travis Carter, GP 1422, Darren Loftis, GP 1486, John Weaver, GP 1435, and David Willis, GP 1431

In honor of **Mike Dicus, GP 1430**
Chris Miton, GP 1406 and
Dr. Rennie Barnes, GP 1535 and
Craig Parrish, GP 1541
Dennis Cameron, GP 1043,
Truman Edminster, GP 855, and
James McCarthy, GP 794
In memory of **Davis Cameron, GP 874 and**
Max Cameron, GP 2239



ABOVE: Last fall we honored several alumni who made generous donations to the Building on Our Tradition of Excellence campaign. BELOW: Alumni, undergraduates, family, and friends gathered on November 7 for our room dedication ceremony, honoring our generous donors.



Sigma Phi Announces Tax-Deductible Donation Agreement

Your Sigma Phi Housing Corporation is happy to announce an agreement with the AXA Educational Foundation that will allow new donations toward the *Building on Our Tradition of Excellence* capital campaign to qualify for tax deductions to the donors. Since the completion of the Chapter House refurbishment, we have been negotiating with the Educational Foundation to offer tax-qualified educational donations to allow us to reduce the debt load and better manage the expenses incurred during the refurbishment.

Change orders and unforeseen costs always arise during a refurbishment project of this magnitude, especially considering the age of our Chapter House. In the past, on the OU campus, other fraternities and sororities had inadequate capital planning after similar projects, causing their chapter's ultimate closing. This campaign will ensure that Gamma-Rho Chapter will remain cost-

competitive with other fraternities and remain the top Chapter on campus.

Solicitation mailings will go out soon to allow our alumni to take advantage of this great tax break. The solicitations will have details of giving levels that qualify for this preferred tax status. Two principal levels are:

- An individual donation of \$5,000 or greater qualifies for tax deduction, and can be paid out over a five-year period.
- A \$25,000 donation not only qualifies for the tax deduction, but allows the donor(s) naming rights for one of our residence rooms in the Chapter House, to be denoted by a plaque in the room. This donation can also be paid out over a five-year period, and can be from an individual alumnus or can be shared by a group of alumni.

Thank you to the AXA Educational Foundation

for working with us to be able to offer this to our alumni donors. We hope you all will consider this opportunity to further support our Chapter and continue our tradition of excellence.

Yours in Z.A.X.,
Bob Canfield, GP 876
President, Sigma Phi Housing Corporation

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Website: www.oulambda.com



Facebook: OU Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni



Twitter: @OU_LXA



GENEROUS ALUMNI MAKE SCHOLARSHIPS POSSIBLE *More than \$17,000 Raised*

In fall 2015, many of you responded to our call for supporting Gamma-Rho Zeta and gave \$17,160 to Lambda Chi at the University of Oklahoma. The tax-deductible funds will be used to provide scholarships and leadership opportunities to our undergraduate members, while the non-tax-deductible gifts will allow us to maintain our alumni relations and events. The accomplishments and success enjoyed by our undergraduates are directly attributed to the ongoing and loyal support from our alumni.

Pearl Level

(\$5,000 and above)

Truman C. Edminster III, GP 855

Gold Level

(\$1,500 to \$4,999)

Dr. Adam B. Smith, GP 1013

Brian P. Kimzey, GP 2063

Purple Level

(Up to \$499)

Jack B. Austerman, GP 212

Jim L. Litton, GP 290

George E. Orr, GP 295

Dr. Joseph A. Cook, GP 356

Charles O. Lescher, GP 386

John L. Wooley, GP 407

Larry E. Kerr, GP 417

Owen W. Lafferty, GP 437

Larry L. Bledsoe, GP 465

E.T. Laird, GP 468

Thomas J. Goodall, GP 485

Peter K. Wert, GP 487

Jack P. Gatewood, GP 560

James R. Robinson, GP 626

Dr. Stephen D. Confer, GP 665

Dr. John A. Wright, GP 666

Robert L. Gamble, GP 698

Douglas C. Hellerson, GP 718

William G. Sell, GP 819

Steven E. Gaede, GP 820

Andrew R. Turner, GP 877

Greg A. Vlahos, GP 972

Todd R. Schlosser, GP 1186

Jimmie L. Draper, GP 1421

Todd N. Huettner, GP 1594

Trevor J. Tullius, GP 1905

Donate Online at
www.oulambda.com

2016 Scholarship Award Winners

Winton Scholarship

Austin Casillas, GP 2656

Corbin King, GP 2659

Colt Standefer, GP 2688

Jacob Carmen, GP 2690

Malone Scholarship

Patrick Bass, GP 2536

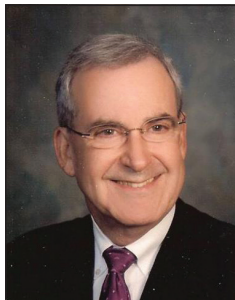
Kyle Metzger, GP 2600

Bond Olivo, GP 2643

Parker Randels, GP 2646

Zach Schuermann, GP 2649

Vir Quisque Vir: A Man's Life Devoted to Gamma-Rho



he has served as the CEO for several decades and for more than 55 years of service total. He served as president from 1988 to 2001 and has served as a chairman of the board since 1998.

Gamma-Rho has been richly blessed with alumni who are dedicated to the brothers' successes, like Don Sherman.

"I joined the Chapter as a pledge in my freshman year, one of 20 in the pledge class. The house held 40 men at the time and I moved into the house in 1954, which was the year that the new addition was built. I was fortunate to live in the new addition as a junior and senior. Afterwards, I had the privilege of serving as the Chapter adviser for

eight years, and during one of those the brothers received the Grand High Alpha Award. I became the Chapter adviser because I loved Lambda Chi Alpha and have always found it to be rewarding to work with young people. Our Chapter members have always evolved around values with quality attracting quality."

Brother Sherman received Lambda Chi Alpha's highest alumni award, the Order of Merit, in 1990. He has also served on the Lambda Chi Alpha Educational Foundation Board. In honor of Brother Sherman's dedication to Gamma-Rho Zeta, the Chapter honored him in February at the Ozark Conclave closing banquet, which was hosted at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, Oklahoma. Current High Pi and 2008 Order of Merit recipient, **Rodger Lalli, GP 1894**, spoke highly of Don's dedication to a "lifetime of brotherhood" to more than 100 Lambda Chi Alpha undergraduates from Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

Thank you, Don, for your devotion and dedicated service to the preservation of our Lambda Chi values and growth of our Chapter.

Your Gift Counts Anytime!

If you would like to make a gift to our annual campaign, you can do so online at www.oulambda.com or by sending a check with the following gift form to our P.O. Box. Your support of the Gamma-Rho Zeta Alumni Association is greatly appreciated and will be used to support alumni communication and activities, and Chapter recruitment.

Mail your gift (using form) to:

Gamma-Rho Zeta Alumni Association • P.O. Box 721891 • Norman, OK 73070

Make checks payable to:

Gamma-Rho Zeta Alumni Association (non-tax deductible)

Name: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

() \$50 () \$100 () \$200 () \$500 () Other \$_____ (non-tax deductible)

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High Sigma
Sam Jett, GP 2652

High Epsilon
Connor Houston, GP 2655

Executive Committee
Brett Fene, GP 2604
Justin Savage, GP 2651
Austin Casillas, GP 2656

Standards Chairman
Prescott Cowley, GP 2590



Gamma-Rho Chapter hosted several brotherhood events, including a paintball outing.



Parker Randels, GP 2646, David Doshier, GP 2593, Zach Schuermann, GP 2649, Bond Olivo, GP 2643, and Brandon Turney, GP 2664 participated in a University of Oklahoma study abroad program to Rome, Italy.

Lambda Chi Alpha Sets the Standard for Fraternity Men

Members Maintain Leadership and Academic Success on Campus

As Lambda Chi Alpha approaches its 90-year anniversary as a chartered fraternity at the University of Oklahoma, our 215 active brothers are working hard to continue building on the rich history here at Gamma-Rho Zeta. From academic success to extracurricular involvement, the men of Gamma-Rho Chapter are continuing to set an example of leadership for our peers, prospective students, and surrounding community.

Academics Remain Top Priority

This past year, members of Lambda Chi continued to succeed in the classroom. We have implemented a major-specific study accountability program, focused on connecting associate members with older brothers who are studying the same major in an effort to stimulate academic success across our membership base. While final fall 2015 semester GPA rankings amongst chapters are still being tabulated, our associate class once again looks to rank amongst the highest in new member GPA, furthering the great tradition of academic success Gamma-Rho Zeta has established over the years.

Established Leaders on Campus

Our active members continue to set themselves up for success outside of the classroom, and have capitalized on the opportunities provided by the University to fulfill leadership roles across campus. Lambda Chi members hold some of the highest leadership positions on campus, including Relay for Life chairman, vice chairman for HSLC, the Oklahoma men's lacrosse president, and a voting member of the IFC Executive Board. Currently, 96% of our members are involved in an organization in some capacity, and 82% hold leadership positions in their respective organizations.

Members Complete 3,500 Hours of Community Service

As we head into 2016, our members continue to make an impact in the community. In this year's President's Trophy term, our members have already logged 3,500 volunteer hours, 2,600 hours more than last year's final count. We are also proud to share that the annual

White Rose Pageant raised more than \$6,000, with proceeds being donated to Big Brothers Big Sisters of OKC. The men of the Gamma-Rho Chapter are also large supporters of our national philanthropy, Feeding America, and are excited to host the inaugural Cops vs. Chops softball tournament. In possibly the most epic battle of the century, student teams from across campus will be given an opportunity to showcase their softball prowess as they battle to compete against the highly touted men and women of the Norman Police Department. We invite all to join as we raise awareness for Feeding America. We will provide more details of the event at a later date.

Gamma-Rho Chapter Seeking 23rd Intramural Championship

We currently sit in first place in the intramural league standings and are seeking our 23rd intramural championship. In football this past fall, both our junior and senior teams competed against each other in the championship game, with the juniors coming out on top. With basketball season still ahead of us, **Luke "The Golden Bullet" Phillips, GP 2630** is looking to lead the men of Lambda Chi to yet another basketball championship on his way to a third-straight intramural basketball MVP.

Thank You, Loyal Alumni

Alumni, thank you for your continued support and guidance. We would not be the Chapter we are today if it weren't for the example you set. The men of Gamma-Rho Zeta are proud to continue adding to the rich history here at 904 College Avenue. By striking a balance between academic success, philanthropy, and social involvement, our active members are leaving a lasting impact on Greek life, on campus, and in the surrounding community for years to come.

In Z.A.X.,
Nick Creedon, GP 2598
 High Alpha
 nicholascreedon@ou.edu
 (214) 552-3616



SAVE THE DATE 2016 LOYD HARRIS GOLF TOURNAMENT JULY 16, 2016

*Winstar Casino and Golf Course
Thackerville, OK*

*For registration information,
contact Craig Parrish, ☐☐ 1541,
at rcparrish@mac.com.*

*The OU Jimmie Austin Course is
partially closed for renovation.
We will return to Norman in 2017.*

GAMMA + Rhover

Gamma-Rho Zeta

Alumni Association

P.O. Box 721891

Norman, OK 73070

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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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR ALUMNI FOOTBALL TAILGATES

The Gamma-Rho Alumni Association
is planning to host tailgates
before home football games,
depending on start times.
Save the dates for these games:

Sept. 10 vs. UL-Monroe

Sept. 17 vs. Ohio State

Oct. 15 vs. Kansas State

Oct 29 vs. Kansas

Nov. 12 vs. Baylor

Dec. 3 vs. OSU

Times for tailgates will be
communicated through e-mail blasts
and on our website, so make sure
you visit www.oulambda.com and
register your contact information.

Boomer Sooner!

Welcome, 2016 New Initiates

Alex Balla, GP 2740

Austin, Texas

Parker Biggs, GP 2723

Tulsa, Okla.

Ryan Billig, GP 2730

Houston, Texas

Pierce Brady, GP 2729

Tulsa, Okla.

Michael Buckley, GP 2711

Houston, Texas

Josh Cardosi, GP 2710

Austin, Texas

Tristian Cavalli, GP 2732

Bixby, Okla.

Damon Colonneta, GP 2734

Dallas, Texas

Andrew Cook, GP 2718

Norman, Okla.

John Dumas, GP 2728

Purcell, Okla.

Ethan Filippo, GP 2738

Norman, Okla.

John Grover, GP 2724

Dallas, Texas

Chris Henry, GP 2731

Coppell, Texas

Reece Lambert, GP 2707

Tulsa, Okla.

Thomas Lauer, GP 2717

Flower Mound, Texas

Joshua Loo, GP 2743

Houston, Texas

Trace Magee, GP 2736

Norman, Okla.

Clint Maxey, GP 2742

Tulsa, Okla.

Kaden McClellan, GP 2715

Norman, Okla.

Conner Mears, GP 2720

Sunnyvale, Calif.

Lucas Mendes, GP 2719

Coppell, Texas

Asher Nees, GP 2709

Norman, Okla.

Will O'Hara, GP 2741

Edmond, Okla.

Esteban Ortega, GP 2735

Trophy Club, Texas

Brooks Pannell, GP 2726

Southlake, Texas

Jonathon Pelton, GP 2737

Houston, Texas

Paxton Pennington, GP 2714

Norman, Okla.

John Pense, GP 2744

Tulsa, Okla.

Blake Polley, GP 2716

Edmond, Okla.

Sam Postma, GP 2708

Dallas, Texas

Marcelo Puiggari, GP 2727

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Conner Schuster, GP 2706

Norman, Okla.

Cory Shreffler, GP 2739

Houston, Texas

Ryan Snyder, GP 2725

Flower Mound, Texas

Wren Strickland, GP 2722

Houston, Texas

Jeffery Taber, GP 2748

Dallas, Texas

Cole Terlip, GP 2721

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Jackson Toney, GP 2733

Coppell, Texas

Joseph Wheeler, GP 2713

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Landry Williams, GP 2750

Southlake, Texas

Luke Williams, GP 2747

Dallas, Texas

Trey Willis, GP 2749

Dallas, Texas