

# GAMMA + Rho ver

A LAMBDA CHI ALPHA ALUMNI PUBLICATION  
♦UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA♦



LAMBDA CHI ALPHA SETS THE STANDARD FOR FRATERNITY MEN — PG. 3

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

Y our 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, IP 374**

**David Magstadt, IP 1612**

**Raj Patel, IP 1120**

**Matt Porter, IP 1615**

**Ron Elkins, IP 393**

**Conrad Masterson, IP 581**

**Truman Edminster, IP 855**

Carrie Lou and Jim Draper

In memory of **Garrett Draper, IP 1310**

**Dr. Kevin Hook, IP 1427, Scott Mabrey, IP 1498, Tim Clay, IP 1466, Travis Carter, IP 1422, Darren Loftis, IP 1486, John Weaver, IP 1435, and David Willis, IP 1431**

In honor of **Mike Dicus, IP 1430**

**Chris Miton, IP 1406 and**

**Dr. Rennie Barnes, IP 1535 and**

**Craig Parrish, IP 1541**

**Dennis Cameron, IP 1043,**

**Truman Edminster, IP 855, and**

**James McCarthy, IP 794**

In memory of **Davis Cameron, IP 874 and**

**Max Cameron, IP 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

Y our 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, IP 876**

President, Sigma Phi Housing Corporation

## FOLLOW US ONLINE



Website: [www.oulambda.com](http://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](http://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



Former Gamma-Rho High Pi and Order of Merit recipient, **Don Sherman, GP 364**, has announced his retirement from the Sigma Phi Housing Corporation, which he has served on for more than 40 years, and McClain Bank, where

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](http://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)

# CHAPTER OFFICERS

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## High Beta

Bond Olivo, GP 2643

## High Theta

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## High Gamma

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Joseph Lovoi, GP 2599

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.oulambda.com) and register your contact information.

Boomer Sooner!

## Welcome, 2016 New Initiates

Alex Balla, GP 2740 Austin, Texas	Thomas Lauer, GP 2717 Flower Mound, Texas	Blake Polley, GP 2716 Edmond, Okla.
Parker Biggs, GP 2723 Tulsa, Okla.	Joshua Loo, GP 2743 Houston, Texas	Sam Postma, GP 2708 Dallas, Texas
Ryan Billig, GP 2730 Houston, Texas	Trace Magee, GP 2736 Norman, Okla.	Marcelo Puiggari, GP 2727 Oklahoma City, Okla.
Pierce Brady, GP 2729 Tulsa, Okla.	Clint Maxey, GP 2742 Tulsa, Okla.	Conner Schuster, GP 2706 Norman, Okla.
Michael Buckley, GP 2711 Houston, Texas	Kaden McClellan, GP 2715 Norman, Okla.	Cory Shreffler, GP 2739 Houston, Texas
Josh Cardosi, GP 2710 Austin, Texas	Conner Mears, GP 2720 Sunnyvale, Calif.	Ryan Snyder, GP 2725 Flower Mound, Texas
Tristian Cavalli, GP 2732 Bixby, Okla.	Lucas Mendes, GP 2719 Coppell, Texas	Wren Strickland, GP 2722 Houston, Texas
Damon Colonna, GP 2734 Dallas, Texas	Asher Nees, GP 2709 Norman, Okla.	Jeffery Taber, GP 2748 Dallas, Texas
Andrew Cook, GP 2718 Norman, Okla.	Will O'Hara, GP 2741 Edmond, Okla.	Cole Terlip, GP 2721 Oklahoma City, Okla.
John Dumas, GP 2728 Purcell, Okla.	Esteban Ortega, GP 2735 Trophy Club, Texas	Jackson Toney, GP 2733 Coppell, Texas
Ethan Filippo, GP 2738 Norman, Okla.	Brooks Pannell, GP 2726 Southlake, Texas	Joseph Wheeler, GP 2713 Oklahoma City, Okla.
John Grover, GP 2724 Dallas, Texas	Jonathon Pelton, GP 2737 Houston, Texas	Landry Williams, GP 2750 Southlake, Texas
Chris Henry, GP 2731 Coppell, Texas	Paxton Pennington, GP 2714 Norman, Okla.	Luke Williams, GP 2747 Dallas, Texas
Reece Lambert, GP 2707 Tulsa, Okla.	John Pense, GP 2744 Tulsa, Okla.	Trey Willis, GP 2749 Dallas, Texas