

The Alpha-Gamma Fellowship for Lambda Chi Alpha Alpha-Gamma Zeta Alumni Association

Volume 9 | Issue 1

Summer 2026

Nelson Family: USD Legacy Family of the Year

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Editor: Logan Lamphere
(AF 1596)

The University of South Dakota has named the Nelson Family as their Legacy Family of the year for 2026, to be honored at the annual Unleash Your Legacy Alumni Awards over Dakota Days. The event will be Friday, October

According to the announcement, the Nelson family's connection to the University of South Dakota spans four generations. That legacy began in the early 1950s when Wes Nelson earned his accounting



To be honored at the Unleash Your Legacy Alumni Awards 2026 will be Jillian Nelson, Chuck Nelson (AF 1199), and Wes Nelson. Not pictured: Dr. David Nelson (AF 1318)

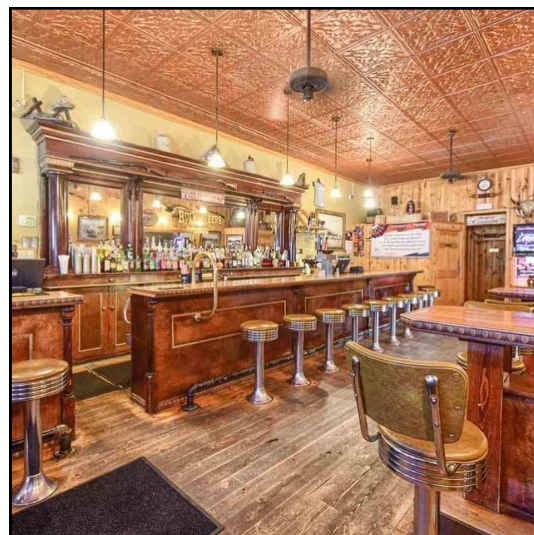
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Black Hills Mixer June 30, 5-7pm, in Whitewood

Our annual summer Black Hills Mixer and reunion will be Tuesday, June 30, from 5-7pm Mountain Time at Bullwacker's Saloon & Steakhouse at 1010 Meade St, Whitewood. Brothers from the Northern Hills—this is your big chance for a short drive! Spouses are welcome. Meet new and old brothers—all are welcome!

Attending or planning to attend so far:

Doyle Estes, Lou Hogrefe, Fred Romkema, Bob Karlen, Gary Pommer, Ross Lamphere, Logan Lamphere, Ben Shreves, Dave Landry, Richard Schneider, and Willie Aldrich.



Alumni Honors (cont'd)

degree from USD, where he also met his wife, Gail. After serving in the Korean War, he joined his father, Jim Nelson, at Nelson & Nelson in 1957. The firm was originally founded in 1923.

Chuck Nelson continued the family tradition, earning his bachelor's degree in accounting from USD in 1983 before joining Nelson & Nelson. During his time at USD, he was active in campus life as a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, while his wife, Kristi, was a member of Alpha Xi Delta. He remains active with the fraternity as a board member. Chuck's brother [David] also attended USD, earned his medical degree in the early 1990s and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha.

The next generation carried the tradition forward. Jillian Nelson graduated from USD in 2013 with a degree in accounting and joined Nelson & Nelson full time that fall after serving as treasurer of the Alpha Phi house corporation. Sarah Nelson graduated from USD in 2016 with a degree in marketing and was also a member of Alpha Phi, continuing the family's longstanding connection to the university.



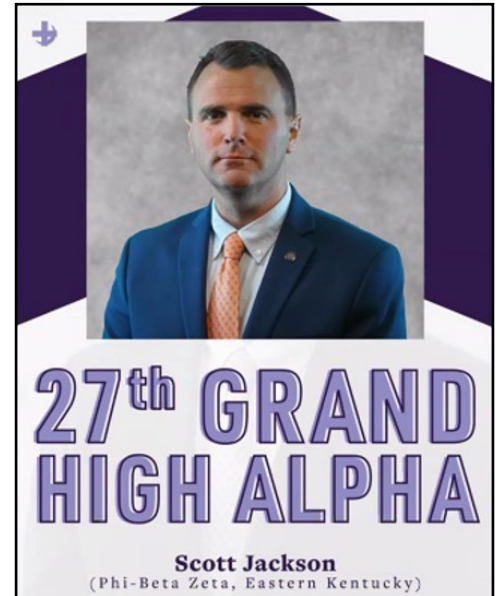
Update from Nationals

A stakeholder town hall meeting was held on June 17 by Lambda Chi Nationals. There were several interesting items covered during the meeting.

The **61st General Assembly** and **Stead Leadership Seminar** will be held July 17-21 in Kansas City, Missouri.

The 27th Grand High Alpha was introduced—**Scott Johnson** from Eastern Kentucky University. His two sons are also Lambda Chi's.

CEO Troy Medley gave a fraternity performance report. He said that Fraternities in general are doing well. After Covid, young men were seeking out group membership. No other fraternity is growing faster than Lambda Chi Alpha. We are currently the eighth largest, and will be in the top five soon, with a growth *continued on next page*



Tordsen Wins Sioux Falls Primary

Tyler Tordsen (AF 1863) won the Republican party primary on June 2 for the South Dakota House of Representatives from the 14th District.

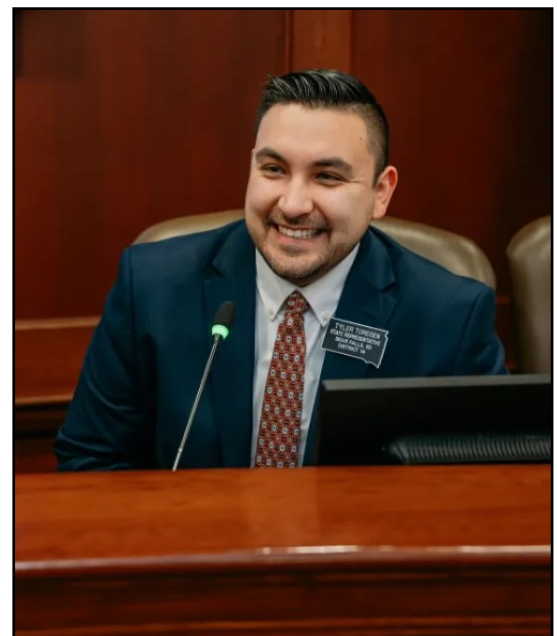
Tordsen defeated incumbent Tony Kayser (R) and will face the other incumbent Taylor Rehfeldt (R) and Erinn Williams (D).

He advances to the general election on November 3 where the top two vote-getters will

be seated in the South Dakota Legislature.

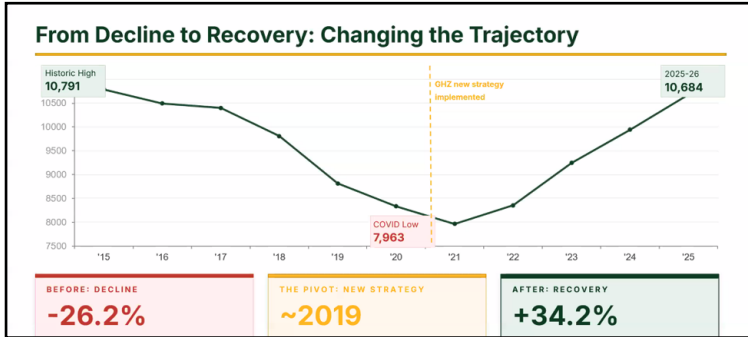
Tordsen is President & CEO at Sioux Metro Growth Alliance (and is our chapter's High Pi), and formerly represented District 14 in the House of Representatives from 2023-25.

The district includes East Sioux Falls which stretches from 18th Street south to 57th Street roughly between I-220 and SD Highway 11.



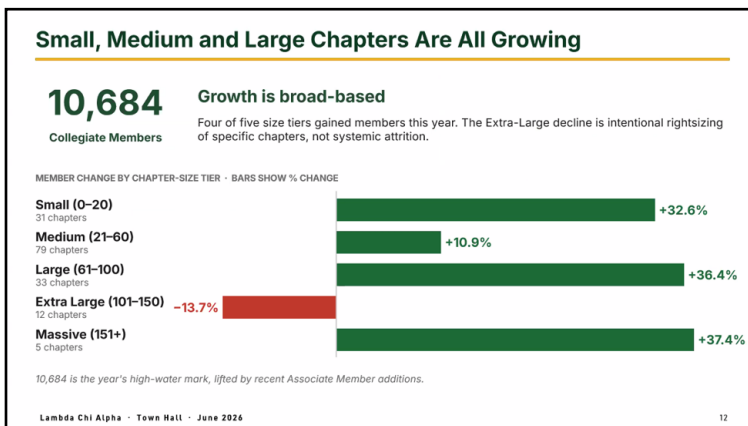
Update from Nationals (cont'd)

rate of 28%. Gen Z was very different than the Millennials, and it took the general fraternity a while to figure them out.



We have kept memberships fees flat, while the fraternity average saw fees increase by 18%. We've accomplished this by organic growth and alumni donations.

Our retention is also much better. We are opening about four new chapters per year, while only closing about one per year due to disciplinary actions (down from 3-4), but Nationals is more focused on growing existing chapters. The average chapter size is nearly 60, which makes them stronger and more sustainable. The sweet spot is between 60-90. About 15 small chapters closed during Covid. Nationals finds that chapters need 2 to 1 help from alumni for a successful chapter.



Medley also noted nationwide concerns, including a 30-40% male decline in university enrollment. Since 2020, 1 in 3 of our brothers came to us without a father in the home. They are desperate for mentors and role models.

Helping Kids Round First Delivers Aid to Sudanese and Chadian Refugees

The Helping Kids Round First organization founded by brother Craig Severtson (AF 904) recently delivered four containers of food supplies and medicinal supplies to Sudanese and Chadian refugees.



Craig Severtson (AF 904) is pictured second from right helping coordinate aid to refugees from Sudan and Chad.

The generous donation was from Samuel Tobin and Tobinco Pharmaceuticals Limited.

Two containers carried essential food supplies, while two were filled with medications including treatments for malaria and chronic diseases along with an additional \$10,000 in financial support to strengthen nutrition and medical care.

Members of the Helping Kids Round First team were present in Ghana to assist in coordinating the shipment. The people living in refugee camps were affected by armed conflict in their home countries.



Dakota Days 2026: October 1-4

Save the date for the next Dakota Days, which will be the first weekend in October 2026.

We plan to have many of the usual festivities, such as Friday golf, Saturday luncheon at the House, tailgating before the football game, a reserved section for the game, and our Annual

Meeting Saturday evening at Valiant Vineyards.

Class reunions: 1976: 50th, 1986: 40th, 1996: 30th, 2006: 20th, 2016: 10th (ouch!). If you would like to be on the Committee, please email Logan at llampher@hotmail.com.

Thursday, October 1

Proposed: 5:00pm – 8:00pm: AXA Sioux Falls “Bored” Meeting - Tailgate Party

Friday, October 2

8:00AM – 5:00PM: USD Alumni Association Events: usdalumni.com/events

11:00 – 3:00PM: 6th Annual Weapons of Grass Destruction Best Ball Scramble (back 9 only)

- Bluffs Golf Course, four-person team event, wives and significant others included
- 11:45AM group photo, 12:00PM noon shotgun-start

3:00PM – 5:30PM: Welcome Back Happy Hour (Cash Bar), The Bluffs Golf Course

5:30PM – 8:00PM: USD Unleash Your Legacy Alumni Awards (complimentary hors d'oeuvres):

- Nelsons to be honored

Saturday, October 3

8:30AM – 10:30AM: Dakota Days Parade, meet on front lawn of USD President's House

10:30AM – 12:00PM: Brunch at 327 N. Pine Street

12:00PM – 2:00PM: Coyote Nation Tailgate Party, east side of Dakota Dome — visit the AXA Tent!

2:00PM – 5:00PM: Football Game – Indiana State vs USD

- We plan to reserve a block of seats; a link will be sent when tickets go on sale in Sept.
- 3:00pm – 3:30pm: Halftime Social @ CorTrust Club Suite (cash bar)

5:00PM – 6:15PM: Sunset Wine Tasting – Valiant Vineyards (cash bar)

6:15PM – 6:39PM: AXA Group Photo for Brothers

6:30PM – 8:30PM: AXA Buffet Dinner/AGZ Housing Corp Meeting – Valiant Vineyards Winery

Sunday, October 4

10:30AM – 12:00PM: Hail & Farewell Breakfast at 327 N. Pine

- Continental Breakfast: coffee, orange juice, pastries
- Several alumni go to church at the Newman Center first

Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic

By Kelly Higgins

Dear Brothers!

Update #1! Thanks again to all of you that participated last year. You are all amazing and now it's that time of year again!

The 5th Annual Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic is Monday, July 20, 2026, at Dakota Dunes Country Club.

Those of you who made it last year know the 4th event was another great day of giving and fun—and we know the 5th will be even better.

Net proceeds supported a \$15,000+ football scholarship in Doug's name for 2025–26 at the University of South Dakota (USD), and we will continue to build and enhance the endowment principal and scholarship level over time to help a Siouxland student-athlete attend USD each year.

After successfully raising over \$200,000 at USD to establish an endowed scholarship fund, we were thrilled to expand last year by also offering a scholarship at Morningside University (MU), awarding \$5,000.

We will continue the annual scholarship at USD, and this year all registrants/donors can designate up front which school receives their donations, purchases, and event proceeds through the Perfect Golf registration web-

DOUG SMITH MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC JULY 20, 2026



Proceeds fund a \$5,000 football scholarship at Morningside and continue to add to this year's USD proceeds and current \$5k base!

Special Thanks To
Stan & Amber
Sherman



Registration and range opens: 10:30 a.m.

Shotgun Start: 12 p.m.

Dakota Dunes Country Club

First Come, First Served
36 Teams Max

Sponsorships Available
\$300 - \$5,000+

Four Person Scramble
\$660/Team \$165 Golfer

Raffle Prizes
Course Contests

Three Flights Paid
\$600 | \$400 | \$200

Live & Silent Auction
Post-Golf Awards Dinner

Benefitting Doug Smith
Endowed Scholarships

Register Today
Scan Code Or Click Link

More Information

Kelly Higgins
(603) 851-5979
Chuck Burnett
(712) 251-0829
Pam Miller-Smith
(712) 898-9682



DSMGC.com

<https://doug-smith-memorial-golf-classic.perfectgolfevent.com/>

site (USD Doug Smith Football Scholarship Fund; MU Doug Smith Football Scholarship Fund). Please note: the golf registration fee covers the basic costs (golf, carts, range, and putting greens); scholarship proceeds come from the broader event activities and additional donations.

Why the change? We listened to your feedback last year. This updated model clarifies where and how your

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Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic (cont'd)

funds are credited up front, based on your designation. You will receive a notice from USD or MU for any tax-deductible proceeds associated with your designated contributions.

Doug and Pam were long-time supporters of both USD and MU; Pam is a MU alum, and while Doug loved USD, he also enjoyed attending Mustang events with Pam. This is the next step in honoring Doug by supporting both schools going forward. We look forward to honoring his life, celebrating his connections, and sharing stories together.

Please join us at the award-winning Dakota Dunes Country Club, an Arnold Palmer–designed course, for golf and a dinner in the recently renovated clubhouse. We'll have a shotgun start with bagpipes, guitar classics, silent and live auctions, and plenty of raffle prizes. Hope to see you there!

You'll have numerous chances to win prizes, reconnect with friends, spend time with USD and MU coaches/staff, and maybe even win the \$20,000 hole-in-one prize (we've had a winner 2 of the first 4 years) or purchase a hunting trip. Details on raffle items and auctions will be shared soon.

Please review the 2026 DSMGC flyer and register for golf, a sponsorship, dinner, or a donation through this link [doug-smith-memorial-golf-](https://doug-smith-memorial-golf-classic.perfectgolfevent.com/)

[classic.perfectgolfevent.com/](https://doug-smith-memorial-golf-classic.perfectgolfevent.com/) or the QR code on the flyer—then join us Monday morning, July 20. If you do not have an Apple phone, we strongly suggest you use the QR code on the flyer, or click on the link in this paragraph. You should also try the new link on the flyer under the QR code. We think we got it.

You can also get there from the USD Alumni Events site: usdalumni.com/events/doug-smith-memorial-golf-classic or the Morningside U Events Site: morningside.edu/events/doug-smith-memorial-golf-classic.

In addition, we again plan to arrange a hotel room block at the Dunes Holiday Inn Express next to the HIE Events Center at the Dakota Dunes exit off I-29; a booking link will be coming soon.

Please remember: it's first come, first served—so sign up your foursome (or yourself) early. We sold out our allotment of teams last year and expect the same in 2026.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me on my cell at your convenience; I'd be happy to talk.

Kelly J Higgins, Ed.D

KJH Sportservices

Oldnumber83, AG# 1006

603-851-5979 (cell)

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. David A. (Tony) Blair

Dr. Tony Blair, M.D., (AG 1599) recently started a new position as Chief Medical Officer at Montrose Regional Health in Montrose, Colorado.

Prior to Montrose, Blair had been Vice President of Medical Affairs at Marshfield Clinic Health System, North Region, in Minocqua, Wisconsin.

He also spent over six years in Oregon as a Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director of a Adult Hospitalist program. From 2009 to 2016, Blair worked at Monument Health in Rapid City.

He attended medical school at the University of Minnesota.



Alumni Career Talks Launched

Alumni Career Talks is a newer initiative aimed at strengthening connections between alumni and the active chapter.

It also gives members a great opportunity to build relationships that could lead to future career opportunities and job placement.

So far, we've had Dr. Rob Anderson and Lee Holman come in to speak, and both events have been very successful. Many members of the Active Chapter have shared that these talks have helped shape their current plans.

There's also been a lot of interest in continuing the program, with members excited to meet more alumni and learn more about what their future could look like.

This program aims to bring alumni back to the Active Chapter (in person or virtually) to discuss their careers, give advice, network, and perhaps build mentorships.



(Above) Dr. Rob Anderson, MD (AG 1019) spoke to pre-med majors in February, kicking off a series of "Alumni Career Talks".

(Below) Lee Holman (AG 1076) spoke via Zoom later in February to business majors about his accounting career and gave a helpful list of advice.

Common undergraduate majors currently include Business, Pre-Med, Pre-Law, Education and Psychology.

Eventually, we'd also like this program to lead to internship and job placement opportunities.

Alumni who would like to talk to the Actives about their career and offer advice (in person or via Zoom) can contact Logan at alphagammatetaaa@gmail.com.

Business Alum Advice for LXA Actives

February 2026

- Recognize the power dynamics in your workplace. Attain and apply "Expert Power."
- Take 100% control over your career development. Heads up, your employer won't help you.
- Get technical. Earn certifications post-college to set you above the pack.
 - Examples: CPA, CMA, CFA, APICS CSCP, FRM
- Earn your MBA through a professional working college that uses primarily adjunct professors. USD - Sioux Falls might fit if you stay local.
- Consider the MIS triad in your training and approach - people, processes, and technology.
- Become an involved and recognized business owner of your employer's systems. Train yourself via online courses so you can train others. Alert - companies have a poor track record on training.
- Learn and utilize advanced data analysis tools and techniques.
 - Examples: SQL, normalizing data, tagging metadata labels on to data downloads for trend analysis, pivot tables, statistical tools like correlation coefficients.

Reach out to me anytime to chat - (916)759-4830 mobile and leeaholman91@gmail.com. I have LXA connections to share with you in banking, insurance, law, manufacturing, etc.

USD Alumni Events

The University of South Dakota is hosting the following alumni events. These are good opportunities to catch up with fellow Yotes and represent Lambda Chi!



125th Anniversary Grand Gala

*June 26
5:00pm - 9:00pm Central
Denny Sanford Premier Center
1201 N W Ave, Sioux Falls, SD*

Join us to celebrate 125 years of the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law! This is a great opportunity to reconnect with alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff of the law school and reminisce on the last 125 years. The Grand Gala will follow the South Dakota State Bar Annual Convention on Friday, June 26. A hosted social hour will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner and programming to follow. Semi-formal attire is suggested!



125th Anniversary Brunch, Tours and Q&A with Dean Fulton

*June 27
9:30am - 12:00pm Central, Knudson School of Law 414 E Clark Street, Vermillion, SD*

Join us to celebrate 125 years of the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law! This event will be held on Saturday, June 27 following the Grand Gala in Sioux Falls on Friday, June 26. Brunch and tours will begin at 9:30 a.m. This is not a sit down meal. We welcome you to come mingle, see the law school and reconnect with old and new friends! A conversation and Q&A with Dean Fulton about the next 125 years of the Knudson School of Law will start at 11 a.m. in the Courtroom. The event is free to attend, attire is

casual and guests are welcome!



USD Day at the Black Hills Playhouse

*June 28
12:00pm - 5:30pm
Mountain
Black Hills Playhouse
24834 S Playhouse Rd, Custer, SD*

The witty musical "1776" will be performed.



Sanford Coyote Golf Tour - Rapid City

*July 13
9:30am - 5:00pm MST
Golf Club at Red Rock
6520 Birkdale Dr, Rapid City, SD*

Tee it up for the 2026 Sanford Coyote Golf Tour! This five-stop series travels across South Dakota, uniting Coyote fans, alumni, and friends in support of Coyote Athletics.



USD Night at the Birdcage

*July 17
6:00pm - 9:00pm CDT
The Birdcage
1001 NW Avenue Service Rd., Sioux Falls, SD*



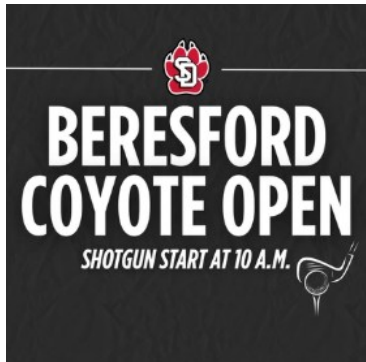
Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic

*July 20
10:30am - 5:00pm CDT
Dakota Dunes Country Club, 960 Dakota Dunes Blvd, Dakota Dunes, SD*

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USD Alumni Events (cont'd)

The Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic honors the life and legacy of former USD Coyote athlete Doug Smith while raising support for USD Football scholarships for local and regional student-athletes. Participants are invited to register to play, celebrate Doug's lasting impact, and support a meaningful cause. Registration opens at 10:30 a.m. with a 12 p.m. shotgun start. Team and sponsorship opportunities are available.



Sanford Coyote Golf Tour - Beresford

August 3
9:00am - 5:00pm CDT
The Bridges at Beresford Golf Course and Event Center, 601 S 7th St, Beresford, SD



Minneapolis Alumni Social

August 15
3:00pm - 6:00pm CDT
Graze Food Hall by Travail, 520 N 4th St, Minneapolis, MN

Let's catch up, Coyotes! Followed by:



USD Night at Target Field

August 15
6:00pm - 9:00pm CDT
Target Field, 1 Twins Way, Minneapolis, MN



USD Update - Pierre

August 18
5:00pm - 7:00pm CDT
Drifters Bar & Grille
325 Hustan Street, Fort Pierre, SD

Join President Sheila K. Gestring and fellow Coyotes for an evening of connection, conversation and updates from USD. Enjoy complimentary appetizers and refreshments while learning more about what's happening on campus and across the USD community.

USD Update - Rapid City

August 19
5:00pm - 7:00pm Mountain
Hyatt Place Rapid City Downtown
525 Saint Joseph Street, Rapid City, SD

USD Update - Vermillion

August 26
5:00pm - 7:00pm CDT
Sanford Coyote Sports Center - Dome Club
953 N Dakota Street, Vermillion, SD

USD Update - Sioux Falls

September 1
5:00pm - 7:00pm CDT
Minnehaha Country Club
3101 W 22nd Street, Sioux Falls, SD

USD Update - Sioux City

September 2
5:00pm - 7:00pm CDT
Dakota Dunes Country Club
960 Dakota Dunes Blvd, Dakota Dunes, SD



Denver Alumni Social

September 22
5:30pm - 7:30pm MDT
Denver Country Club
1700 E 1st Ave, Denver



College of Fine Arts Celebration of Excellence

September 25
4:00pm - 7:00pm CDT
Warren M. Lee Center

for the Fine Arts, Vermillion, SD

Refer Prospective Members

Do you have a son, nephew, brother or neighbor that is going to USD? Would they be a good Lambda Chi? Let us know at alphagammazetaaa@gmail.com.

What are we looking for in a prospective member? According to our national fraternity, we look for men with:

- scholastic aptitude
- leadership potential
- strength of character
- dedication to service

At USD, we have always added in friendliness and sociability; is this someone we would want to live with in the house? Are they a "good guy"?

There is also a way to refer prospective members online, even at other colleges and universities: www.lambdachi.org/refer-a-brother/.

Furthermore, according to the National Fraternity, "Letters of recommendation submitted to the Chapter by an alumnus on behalf of a prospective member should be courteously acknowledged by the recruitment chairman. It is then the responsibility of the recruitment chairman to notify the alumnus of the outcome of the recruitment period."

Landry's Support Frog

Brother Tom "Frog" Froning had a stroke on April 13, and required a right carotid stent placement. Brother Dave Landry graciously went to be there with Frog during the surgery. All went well, and Frog is on the road to recovery!



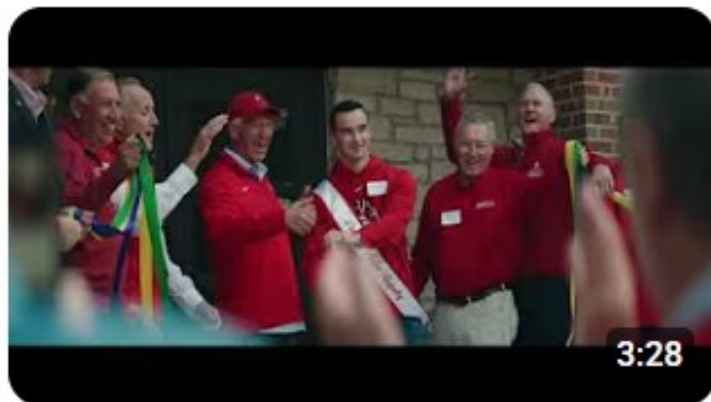
Dave Landry, Tom "Frog" Froning, and Connie Landry visit Frog in Minneapolis during a successful surgery.

Check out our Videos on YouTube

Click [here](#) or visit youtube.com/@loganlamphere

There are four videos:

- [Lambda Chi Alpha New Chapter House Dedication 2024](#)
- [Home Away From Home Campaign](#) (2023)
- [327 North Pine Commemoration Video](#) (2023)
- [University of South Dakota Lambda Chi Alpha SIXTIES Reunion, 2021. In Memoriam.](#)



Lambda Chi Alpha New Chapter House Dedication 2024

377 views • 6 months ago



Scholarship Fund Update

The Alpha-Gamma Zeta Chapter has seven charitable **501(c)(3) endowment/scholarship funds** administered by the University of South Dakota Foundation, listed in order of creation.

We receive monthly updates from the Foundation. Below was the market value as of April 30, 2026:

USD Foundation Lambda Chi Alpha Scholarship Funds	
Mickelson Brotherhood Scholarship	\$606,109.26
Jerry H. Lammers Memorial Scholarship	\$40,804.51
Randy Reinking Scholarship	\$26,851.12
Jacob Z. Esbenshade-Lambda Chi Endowment	\$112,342.42
Scott & Staci Kesling Stern Lambda Chi Alpha Scholarship	\$21,428.87
Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Endowment	\$113,692.54
Brad "Digger" Gullickson Humanitarian Scholarship	\$65,770.07
<i>(As of April 30, 2026) Total:</i>	
	\$986,998.79

As you can see, we're very close to reaching the \$1 million mark!

Donations to Alpha-Gamma Zeta's charitable 501(c)(3) endowment/scholarship funds administered by the USD Foundation can be mailed to the following address:

University of South Dakota Foundation
1110 N. Dakota Street
Vermillion, SD 57069
Phone: 1-800-521-3575

*(On the check's Memo Line, please include the fund name of your choosing.)

According to Jeff Esbenshade, the Mickelson Brotherhood Scholarship received a check for \$36,000 this February (dated December 31,

2025), which he believes was the largest single donation we have received.

Alpha-Gamma Zeta also has a **Lambda Chi Foundation fund, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) (EIN 13-6266432)**, administered at Lambda Chi Nationals for 327 North Pine capital improvements and cash flow needs.

AGZ Chapter can request capital improve-

ment funds from the Lambda Chi Foundation in support of the AGZ Chapter House located at 327 North Pine and can also request cashflow as needed to support the expense for maintaining 327 North Pine.

Donations to the Lambda Chi Foundation can be mailed to Nick Bratvold at the following address:

Nick Bratvold, CFRE
Vice President, Lambda Chi
Alpha Educational Foundation
Address: 10 W Carmel Drive, Suite
220, Carmel, IN 46032
Phone: (605) 553-4497
Email: nbratvold@lambdachifoundation.org

Join our LinkedIn Group

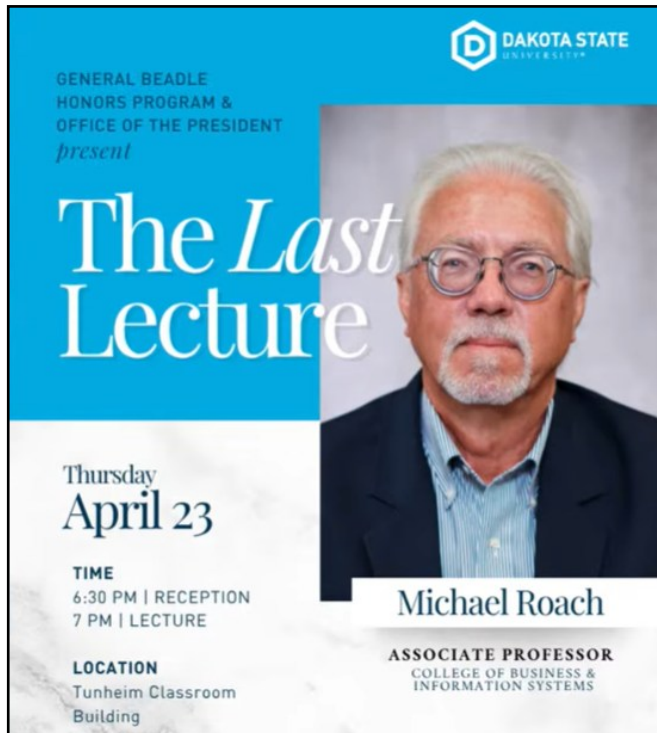
Are you looking for a new job? Perhaps your company is facing the infamous labor shortage affecting the country. Connect with Lambda Chi's from USD on LinkedIn!

We have a group on LinkedIn, the business networking site, just for Lambda Chi's from USD. This could be a good way to find that new job or fill that open position!

To join, go to: [linkedin.com/groups/6629299/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6629299/).

Roach Selected for Last Lecture at Dakota State University

(Editor's note: this story was suggested by Nick Magera, and reprinted from [Dakota State News](#). You can watch Dr. Mike Roach's (ΑΓ 1159) lecture here: youtube.com/watch?v=Z2rf5o8xzEU.)



Dr. Michael Roach, associate professor in the College of Business & Information Systems, has been selected by students in the General Beadle Honors Program to deliver the 2026 Last Lecture. The honor is awarded annually to a retiring faculty member, chosen by Honors Program students, to present a final lecture on a topic of their choice.

Roach present[ed] his lecture on Thursday, April 23, in the Tunheim Classroom Building, beginning with a reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"Retiring faculty welcome the opportunity to offer valedictory to their career in academia," said Dr. Kurt Kemper, professor and director of the General Beadle Honors Program. "To be offered the chance to look back on their career and offer lessons or insights, either personally or professionally, is something honored faculty

genuinely appreciate."

Roach earned his doctorate from Capella University and spent the first half of his career in financial services—managing people, products, and budgets—before joining Dakota State University to teach economics and management, where he credits his students as central to his own learning and growth.

"Students don't always get the credit they deserve," said Roach. "When you take the time to get to know them and listen, you'd be amazed at what you can learn. And that's been my favorite part of the whole experience; just working with the students."

His lecture builds on those experiences, reflecting on lessons learned over more than 40 years of professional experience, where he focused on building and sustaining high-performing organizations. Among his key messages is the importance of asking questions like "why" and engaging with differing perspectives.

Sioux Falls "Bored" Meetings First Wednesday of Each Month

Brother Nick Magera (ΑΓ 1269) and Paul Amundson (ΑΓ 1213) host monthly "Bored Meetings" (happy hours) for Sioux Falls area alumni. If you happen to be in town, join them! They get a nice mix of Brothers from different eras.

The informal event rotates around to different Sioux Falls establishments on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Central Time.

You can email Nick at nmageraj@gmail.com (new address!) to get on his mailing list. The 2026 Sioux Falls "Bored" Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the following dates, with locations to be announced:

- July 1
- August 5
- September 2
- October 1 (Thursday—Dakota Days)?
- November 4
- December 2

Active Chapter News *by High Rho Kaden Larson*

Lambda Chi GPA Highest of Fraternities, 5th Semester in a Row

Academic excellence continues to be a point of pride for our chapter.

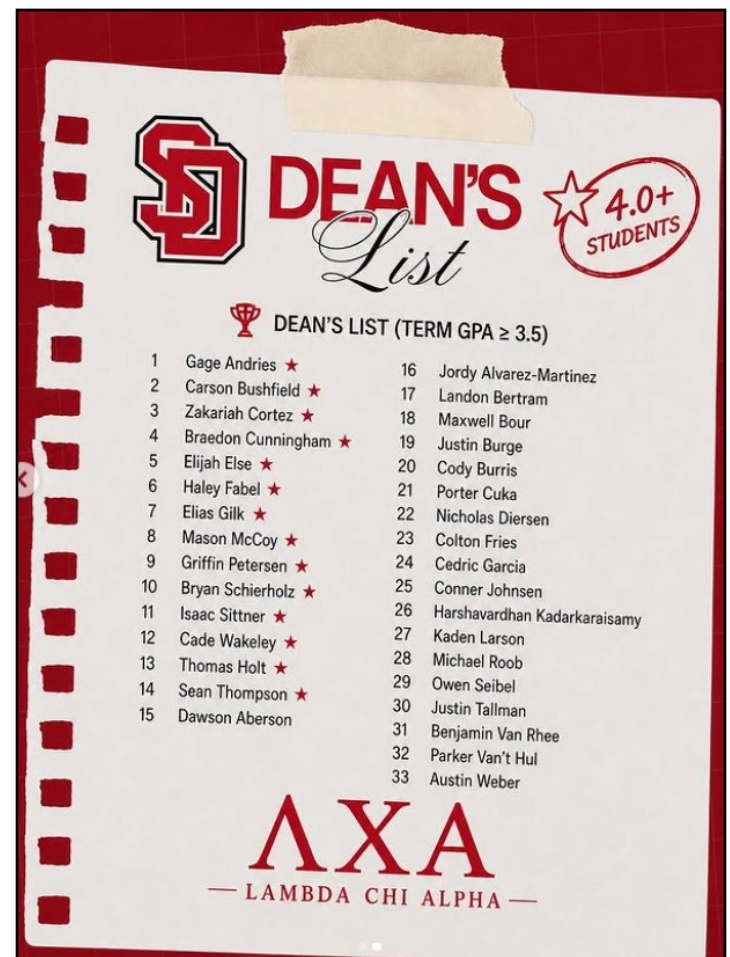
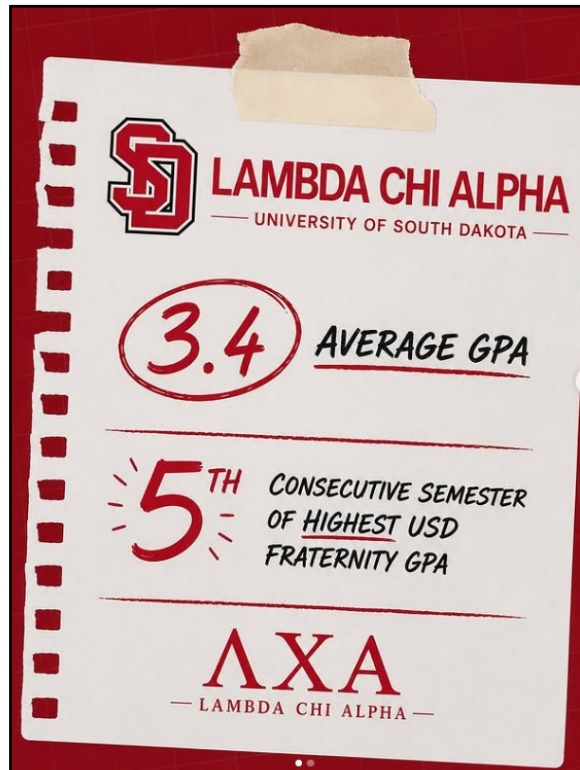
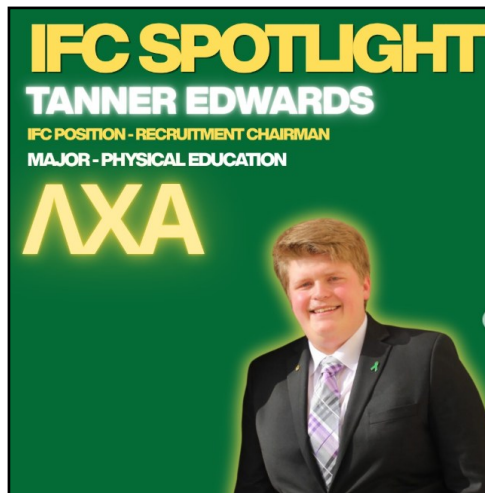
Last semester, we achieved an average GPA of 3.4, marking the fifth consecutive semester that our chapter earned the highest fraternity GPA at USD.

This achievement included 14 members earning a perfect 4.0 GPA and an additional 19 members being recognized on the Dean's List.

IFC Elections

Congratulations to Tanner Edwards (AF 2019) on earning a position within the Interfraternity Council (IFC) as Recruitment Chairman.

In this role, Tanner will play an important part in strengthening the Greek community, supporting recruitment initiatives, and representing our chapter within the broader IFC community. We are excited to see the positive impact he will make in this leadership position.



continued on next page

Active Chapter News (cont'd)

Philanthropy Events Held

Watermelon Bash

This year, we once again hosted our annual Watermelon Bash at Prentis Park.

The event was a great success, bringing together members of the community for an afternoon of fun, food, and fellowship. Guests enjoyed a variety of carnival games and activities while supporting a meaningful cause.

Feeding South Dakota Donation

(Right) Thank you to everyone who supported our chapter's philanthropic efforts this year.

Through the generosity of our members,



alumni, and community supporters, we donated \$6,600 to Feeding

South Dakota. This accomplishment would not have been possible without our President, Colby Harrell (left), and our Philanthropy Chair, Conner Johnsen (right).

Dakotathon

(Left) The brothers had an incredible experience participating in Dakotathon and supporting the Children's Miracle Network.

Throughout the event, members worked alongside other students to raise awareness and funds for local children and families in need.



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Active Chapter News (cont'd)

Lambda Chi Wins Big at USD Greek Awards

We had an outstanding evening at the annual Greek Awards and are proud to share that our chapter received five major awards.

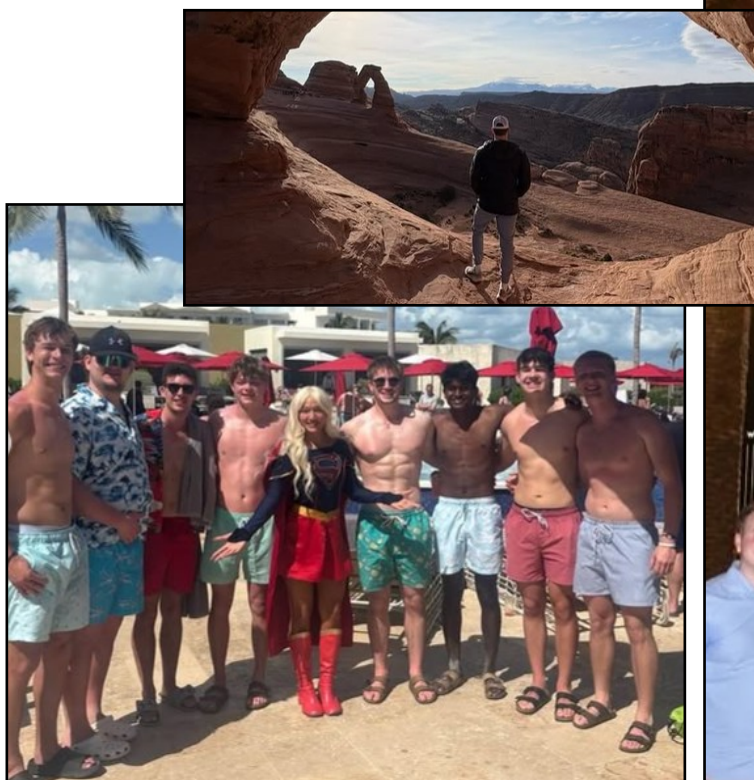
These honors included Greek Fraternity of the Year, Excellence in the Scholarship Pillar, and the Five-Star Chapter Award.

In addition, Hari Kardaraisamy (ΑΓ 2000) was recognized



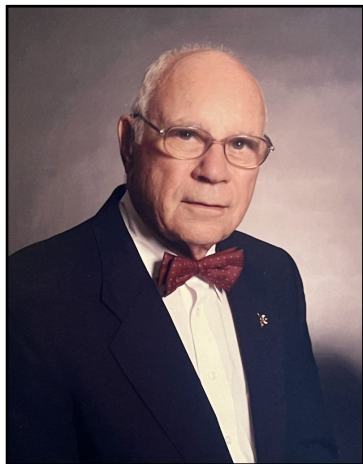
as Greek Senior of the Year, and Nick Bradvoldt (ΑΓ 1881) was honored as Greek Alumnus of the Year. These achievements reflect the hard work, dedication, and values demonstrated by our members throughout the year.

Spring Break 2026 Pics



Omega

*Charles Wetzeler,
AG 393*



Editor's Note: We believe that Charles Wetzeler may have been our oldest alumni when he passed last year. Jeff Esbenshade said he learned of the death from a fellow snowbird that sold bank software to Mr. Wetzeler and lives in his Arizona neighborhood.

"All the years I was on the AG Housing Corp, Mr. Wetzeler was so faithful paying his alumni dues. My friend tells me Chuck worked every day until the last week of his death!"

— Jeff Esbenshade

Charles Wetzeler, Jul 9, 1927 — Mar 1, 2025

Charles passed away Saturday, March 1, 2025 at his home in Spirit Lake, surrounded by family.

Charles (Chuck) William Wetzeler was born on July 9, 1927, in Sioux City, Iowa, the son of Herbert and Yetta (Cheely) Wetzeler. He had one younger sister, Mary Ellen. He grew up in Akron, Iowa and graduated from Akron High School in 1945. Soon after graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve which began on June 5, 1945. He served as Yeoman Third Class until discharge on August 6, 1946. On November 8, 1950, he received a commission as Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. On August 1, 1946, he enrolled at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion and graduated with a degree in Business on June 1, 1950. In college, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and participated for three years on the USD baseball team.

On July 9, 1949, Charles and Elsie Mae (Larsen) were married at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Akron, Iowa. His first employment right after graduation was at The First Trust and Savings Bank in Remsen, Iowa. During his 5 years at this bank, he advanced to Assistant Cashier and their first daughter Carol Lyn was born, followed by a son, James Herbert, both in Le Mars, Iowa. Employment changed in 1955 to The Commercial Trust and Savings Bank in Storm Lake, Iowa as Cashier. It was in Storm Lake that daughter Judith Kay was born. In 1963, the family moved to Frankfort, Illinois for a position as Executive Vice President of the Frankfort State Bank. While in Frankfort, a son William Christian was born in Joliet, Illinois. A final move in 1964 was made to Spirit Lake, Iowa where Charles was employed at The State Bank in Spirit Lake and Terril as Executive Vice President, then in 1984 became President, Chairman of the Board, and Owner.

Charles has been a Methodist Church member for over 80 years. He was a member of The United Methodist Church board and Chairman for two years. He has over 55 years membership in Spirit Lake Kiwanis, American Legion, Masonic Lodge Spirit Lake Consistory, Abu Bekr Temple Sioux City, and Iowa Great Lakes Shrine Club. Charles was also an avid Spirit Lake High School Track Timer, Little League baseball coach, served on the Spirit Lake Park Board, and Spirit Lake Centennial Treasurer. In 2021, Charles and Elsie were presented with the Spirit Lake Kiwanis Citizen of the Years award.

He was very proud of the fact that his father,

continued on next page

H.H. Wetzeler, has National Currency with his signature as Cashier of The First National Bank in Akron, Iowa, several of which are on display at the Higgins Museum of National Bank Notes in Okoboji and at The State Bank.

Charles loved Volkswagens, riding his bike, watching his grandsons play baseball, gardening, yard work, coin collecting, and studying the bond and stock markets. He was a beautiful piano player and played until very recently.

Charles was most known for walking to and from work at The State Bank. He spent even more time in his office working weekends, before, and after business hours. Three generations of family were employed at the same time because of Charles' dedication and hard work. He still came in to the Bank daily until he was 96.

Charles is survived by his daughters Carol (Wetzeler) Schultz, Judith (Wetzeler) Nece and husband James, son William (Bill) Wetzeler and wife Kristin all of Spirit Lake, and daughter-in-law Catherine (Cathy) of Boone, IA. Also, eight grandchildren: Angela (Wetzeler) Steuer and husband Matthew, Jennifer (Wetzeler) Schmidt and husband Michael, Robert Wetzeler and wife Allison, Brian Wetzeler, Stephanie (Schultz) Reicks and husband Graig, Andrew Schultz and wife Rebecca, Nicholas Wetzeler and wife Katelyn, Benjamin Wetzeler, and eleven great-grandchildren: William, Jacob and Elizabeth Steuer, Greyson, Violet and Samuel Schmidt, foster great grandson Ja'Voni Jackson, Camden and Cayler Reicks, and Cooper, Charles R., and Grace Wetzeler.

He is preceded in his death by his wife Elsie Mae Wetzeler, son James Wetzeler, son-in-law Lloyd Schultz, parents Herbert and Yetta Wetzeler Olson, stepfather Clifford Olson, sister and brother-in-law Mary Ellen and James Olson, in-laws, Otto and Ruth Larsen, June (Larsen) and Joseph Belshe, Cyril and Dottie Larsen, Elaine (Larsen) and John Dierup.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in honor of Charles may be given to American Legion Timpe Post 23, Iowa Great Lakes Shrine Club, or the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church.

—Turner Jenness Family Funeral Homes

Omega

*Glen N. Nelson,
AF 427*



Editor's Note:

Glen Nelson was just a few months younger than Charles Wetzeler!

Glen N. Nelson, 98, passed away peacefully in Sioux Falls, SD on April 12, 2026.

Glen Nels Nelson, the third of five children born to Peter and Anna Nelson, was born on December 2, 1927, on the family farm outside Vermillion, SD. He attended rural school, University High School, and graduated from Vermillion High School. After one semester at Augustana College, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II, serving for two years in the Pacific aboard the USS Antietam.

After his service, Glen returned to University of South Dakota, where he played football, joined Lambda Chi Alpha, and earned both his degree and later his master's degree. For 33 years, he taught mathematics and coached football, basketball, wrestling, and track and field in Carthage, Centerville, Sioux Falls, and Elk Point. Even in recent years, he cherished monthly visits with former students and athletes whose lives he had influenced so deeply.

On August 17, 1954, Glen married Chelaine Munger in Carthage, SD. Together they built a great life centered on their children, Craig, Mirza Ann, and Chad. They shared 72 years of marriage and opened their home and hearts as foster parents to 10 children.

Glen was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who never missed a game, concert, or milestone for his children and grandchildren. He lit up every room with his quick wit and unforgettable one-liners, and his joyful presence made everyone feel special.

A lifelong athlete, Glen was named to the All-Decade Football Team at the University of South Dakota and received the Dan Lennon Track and Field Award. He remained an avid runner and golfer into his 80s and 90s, proudly scoring a hole-in-one at 86 and competing in the South Dakota Senior Games for many years. He even celebrated his 90th birthday in Las Vegas, Nevada, where his playful side—and weakness for a slot machine—fit him perfectly.

Grateful for sharing his life are his wife of 72 years, Chelaine; his children, Craig of Sioux Falls, Mirza Ann of San Diego, CA, and Chad (Amy) of Minneapolis, MN; five grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and his sisters, Carrie Munger of Howard, South Dakota and Mary Prindle of Columbus, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother, Harold; his sister, Ruth Alne; and his grandson, Walker Nelson.

Glen and Chelaine were active members of First

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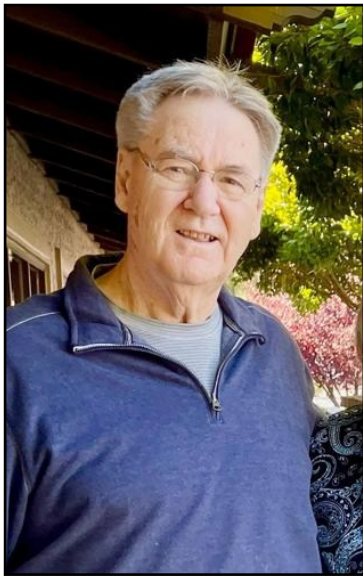
Congregational Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Glen especially valued the men's group and its fellowship.

Glen lived a life filled with joy, love, humor, and purpose. His legacy lives on in the family he adored, the students he mentored, and the countless lives he brightened with his kindness and laughter.

—Miller Funeral Home

Omega

*Jerry Novotny,
AF 702*



Jerry F. Novotny, 81, of Gresham, Oregon, passed away Sunday, February 1, 2026.

There will be a funeral at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Lake Andes, South Dakota, at 11 a.m. July 11, 2026.

Jerry Francis Novotny was born Dec. 12, 1944, in Long Beach, California to A.M. (Pete) and Ida Novotny. Jerry grew up in Lake Andes, SD, and graduated from Lake Andes High School in 1962. Jerry then graduated from the University of South Dakota in 1966, where he met his wife, Mary Lee. He was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity at USD. He dedicated 44 years to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a fisheries biologist. He worked to conserve and protect freshwater species and habitats in a career that would take his family from Yankton, South Dakota; to Bowling Green, Kentucky; Stevenson, Washington; and Gresham, Oregon, where he lived his remaining years.

Jerry was whimsical, witty, and deeply compassionate for those less fortunate. He left this planet more gentle than he found it.

Jerry is survived by his son, Cary Novotny, Portland, Oregon; granddaughters Tess Novotny, Brooklyn, New York; Makenna Carroll, Gresham, Oregon; Neve Novotny, Portland, Oregon; brothers Roger (Nila) Novotny, Fort Pierre, South Dakota, and Gene Novotny, Pierre, South Dakota; niece Jill (Tom) Hart, Fort Pierre, South Dakota; nephew Steven (Brittany) Novotny, Pierre, South Dakota; along with many Harrison and Novotny cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary in 2018 and parents A.M. (Pete) and Ida Novotny.

—Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

Omega

*John C. Norbeck,
AF 842*

John Charles Norbeck, M.D.

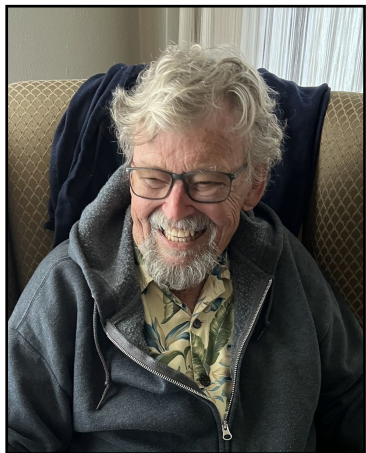
Dec 10, 1949 — Mar 25, 2026

Lakewood, Washington

Obituary pending.

Omega

*Brian Lynn Darnall,
AF 808*



Brian Lynn Darnall, age 76, was born to Lloyd & Maxine (Swanson) Darnall in Elmhurst, IL on September 9th, 1949. He passed away on March 30th, 2026, surrounded by his family at the Brookings, SD Hospital after a 12-year journey of perseverance with his health. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, with a Visitation starting at 9:30 am at First United Methodist Church in Brookings, SD. Interment will be held at a later date. Click [here](#) to view the livestream of Brian's Memorial Service.

At the age of 10, Brian moved to Brookings with his parents and two younger sisters, Sherry (Dave) and Wendy (Roger). They moved into the family home in their beloved neighborhood on Legeros Drive. He and the neighborhood kids hit it off and started causing trouble right away, including attending a horror movie from which they ran home in the dark.

Brian graduated from Brookings High School in 1967 and made his way south to Vermillion to attend the University of South Dakota. This is where he first met his lifelong friends, Dr. Rick Holm and Dick Hakes, among many other special friends in his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha. He graduated from USD School of Business in 1971 and went directly into the business world at Medary Acres Greenhouse with his friend, Jean Mehegan. The greenhouse quickly became his legacy in the community, spanning numerous decades and cultivating more friendships than he could count.

He met the love of his life, Lynn (Lokkeberg), in January 1978 and were married at their home in 1984. They loved to travel all over the world with friends and family alike, belly laughing and making memories to last a lifetime.

The pride and joy in his life were his daughters, Samantha and Sarah. He was present throughout their lives at dance concerts, ice skating competitions, band concerts, graduations, starting new jobs, and weddings. Over the last decade, Brian gained two amazing sons-in-law, Tyler (Samantha) Werlinger and Micky (Sarah) Alfano, with whom he loved to spend his time and pass on his many facets of knowledge. He was delighted by the births of his granddaughter, Ariya, and his grandson, Sal, both in 2025.

His many hobbies included riding motorcycle all over the Midwest, collecting vintage cars, hunting, poker with his favorite gang of guys, and spending time sailing with his sailing club and second family, the Holms, particularly on their catamaran, Luffing Out Loud. No one loved to tinker or find a deal more than Brian. His family and friends will carry on these tricks of the trade until the end of our days.

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The family would like to sincerely thank Sanford Oncology for their years of loving care, gifting us 12 more years with this amazing man. At the end of his life, he received excellent care at the Avera ICU in Sioux Falls, the Neighborhoods, and the Avera Emergency Room here in Brookings, for which we will be forever grateful.

He leaves behind many great friends, some of which he met when he moved to Brookings in the 1950's, and many of whom he met through his work and hobbies. He also leaves behind many special nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, cousins, and in-laws, all of whom will remember Brian by his big smile and warm embrace.

—Eidsness Funeral and Cremation Services

Omega

*Dale Sieverding,
AG 1248*



With sadness we announce the passing of our brother Dale J. Sieverding, 61, of Los Angeles, CA, on December 4, 2024, as a result of an accidental drug overdose.

Dale was the 8th child of Harvey (Bud) & Helen Marie (Jarding) Sieverding of Humboldt, SD, born October 10, 1963. He was raised on the family farm and graduated from West Central High School in 1981. Dale completed further education at the University of South Dakota, IHM Seminary, Winona, MN., The American College in Louvain, Belgium and later completed his Doctor of Sacred Liturgy from Sant Anselmo College in Rome, Italy. Dale was ordained a Catholic priest in 1989 and served parishes in the Diocese of Eastern South Dakota.

In recent years Dale served in music ministry at St Monica Catholic Church, Santa Monica, CA., and most recently as Director of Development for Being Alive in Los Angeles, CA. Dale was a gifted musician, writer and enjoyed world travel.

Dale is survived by his siblings; Joe (Deb), Tucson, AZ, Marilyn (Gary) Fredinburg, Salem, OR, Dan (Connie) Sieverding, Tucson, AZ, Gary (Deb) Sieverding, Tucson, AZ, Jan (Bob) Laufmann, Tucson, AZ, Sister-in-law Rose Sieverding, Humboldt, SD and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in passing by his parents, brother Tom Sieverding, Humboldt, SD, infant sister Annette Sieverding, sister-in-law Joyce Sieverding, Tucson, AZ, nephews Kelly Fredinburg, Salem, OR, and Michael Sieverding, (his godson) Sioux Falls, SD.

—Kinzley Funeral Home

2026 Operating Fund Alumni Donor Wall

This donor wall reflects annual donations to the Operating Fund of the Alpha-Gamma Zeta Housing Corporation for annual operations (as of June 15, 2026).

Our fiscal giving year is January 1 through December 31, so this Donor Wall resets January 1.

Platinum Donor (> \$1000)

Douglas Estes AF 684
Roger W. Mjoen AF 790

Alan Pearson AF 972
Nick Magera AF 1269

Gold Donor (\$500 - \$999)

Victor G. Raphael AF 726
James W Abbott AF 782
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Rob Anderson AF 1019
William "Bill" Baker AF 1145
Paul Amundson AF 1213

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Silver Donor (\$250 - \$499)

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John E. Leuthold AF 821
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Gary E. Davis AF 819
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Ralph "Van" Hines AF 844
Tom Froning AF 881
Roger D. Sullivan AF 900
Fred Slunecka AF 1022
Scott R. Schuknecht AF 1128

Blake Duerre AF 1143
Clark Hurrell AF 1191
Charles A. Nelson AF 1199
David G. Hurrell AF 1244

Annual Alumni Donation (\$50 - \$99)

Stuart Van Meveren AF 637
David Gienapp AF 667
Daniel L. Jackson AF 714
Patrick L. Gulbranson AF 750

Jeff Esbenshade AF 757
Gregg W. Carlson AF 1020
Thomas J. Carpenter AF 1190
Joshua Chase AF 1958

Thank you for your annual donations!

The Alpha-Gamma Fellowship Archives

Vol 1: Issue 2 (2017)

Alumni Newsletter Created

Lambda Chi Alpha
Alpha Gamma Zeta
Alumni Association

alphagammazeta@gmail.com

Vol 3: Issue 2 (2020)

St. Paul Alumni Gathering



Vol 5: Issue 2 (2022)

Rep. Brady Retires



Vol 1: Issue 2 (2017)

Dr. Rick Holm encourages colonoscopy



Vol 3: Issue 2 (2020)

Covid Edition



Vol 5: Issue 2 (2022)

E.Y. Berry Library Expands



Vol 1: Issue 3 (2018)

Sue and Dick Brown on SDPB



Vol 3: Issue 3 (2020)

New House Capital Campaign Begins



Vol 6: Issue 2 (2023)

Chapter Houses Over the Years



Vol 2: Issue 2 (2019)

Dakota Days 2018



Vol 4: Issue 2 (2021)

Oyler Named Fulbright Scholar



Vol 6: Issue 2 (2023)

Construction of New House Begins



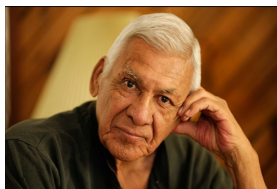
Vol 2: Issue 2 (2019)

Jim Hart Shares Study-Break Photos



Vol 4: Issue 2 (2021)

USD's First Native American
Fraternity Man: John Artichoker



Vol 7: Issue 2 (2024)

Construction Ahead of Schedule



The Alpha-Gamma Fellowship Archives (cont'd)

Vol 7: Issue 2 (2024)

New House Dedicated



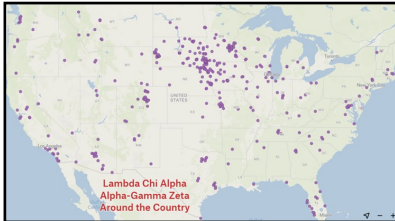
Vol 8: Issue 1 (2025)

First Founders Day at New House



Vol 8: Issue 2 (2025)

Alumni Mapped



Vol 9: Issue 1 (2026)

Alumni Career Talks Launched



Donor Card



Lambda Chi Alpha @ USD 2026 Alumni Donor Card (Jan 1-Dec 31)

- ☐ Platinum Donor - \$1000 and above
- ☐ Gold Donor - \$500 and above
- ☐ Silver Donor - \$250 - \$499
- ☐ Bronze Donor - \$100 - \$249
- ☐ Annual Alumni Dues - \$50

Name: _____

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Thank you for your donation!

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at
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