

# The Alpha Gamma Fellowship

## for Lambda Chi Alpha Alpha Gamma Zeta Alumni Association

Volume 8 | Issue 1

Summer 2025

### Founders Day Held at New Chapter House

Actives, Alumni, Associates and parents gathered in the new chapter house on April 26, 2025, to celebrate Founders Day. A Housing Corp board meeting was held in addition to a strategic planning session to set goals for the next five years.



Scholarships were announced

and chapter awards were given out. Nearly \$30,000 was awarded from the seven Lambda Chi Alpha scholarship funds held with the USD Foundation. Scholarship Committee Chair Rob Anderson reported that eight alumni judges reviewed the applications, which are now all online. Nick Bratvold reported some statistics about the average Scholarship Applicant: 3.56 GPA, 48 hours community service hours, 63% are working with an average of 18 hours per week, student loan average is \$6799. The average award was over \$1000.

New this year was the Lambda Chi Alpha Graduating

*continued on  
next page*

#### Stories Inside

*Founders Day Held, pp1-2*

*[Home Away From Home Campaign Completed](#), p3*

*[James W. Abbott Scholarship Fund Created](#), p4*

*[Dick Brown Public Service Fund Established](#), pp5-6*

*[Halter Inducted into SD Sports Hall of Fame](#), p7*

*[Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic](#), pp8-9*

*[Basketball Court](#), p11*

*[Lamphere Donates South Dakota Political Memorabilia](#), p12*

*[Active Chapter News](#), pp15-18*

*[Helping Kids Round First Visits Africa](#), pp19-20*

Editor: Logan Lamphere  
(AG 1596)

### Black Hills Mixer June 26

Our annual Black Hills Active/Alumni Mixer will be Thursday, June 26, 5-8pm at Murphy's Pub in downtown Rapid City at 510 9th Street.





## Founders Day (cont'd)

Senior Ceremony, an open ceremony with many familiar elements performed by the active chapter for their eleven graduating seniors.



*There was a good turnout of alumni and parents at the 2025 Founders Day, held at the new chapter house in Vermillion.*

*Awards were announced, scholarships were given, and the Graduating Senior Ceremony was performed.*



## Get Your Commemorative Brick

Brandon Wilsey was able to save some of the bricks from the old house.



*Commemorative bricks from the old brown house can be purchased for \$150.*

These commemorative bricks will be available for you! For \$150, they will be engraved with your name and Alpha-Gamma number (see above). Donors over \$50,000 will automatically receive one.

Bricks can be picked up from Brandon Wilsey in Sioux Falls, at Dakota Days 2025, or shipped directly to you for an additional fee.

To order, send a message to Logan at [llampher@hotmail.com](mailto:llampher@hotmail.com) or 605-490-0732.



## Home Away From Home Campaign Completed, \$3,670,058.91 Raised!

Many thanks to the Brothers and their families for supporting the [Home Away From Home](#) campaign to build the new Chapter House! Thanks to the Housing Corp Board, the Building and Finance Committees and YOU, we rebuilt our home in record-breaking time while maintaining a zero-debt forecast.

Here are some statistics from the fundraising campaign:

- We raised \$3,670,058.91, exceeding our goal of \$3.5 million by \$170,058.91!
- 413 Brothers, Crescents, Family and Friends gave or have pledged to give.
- Of the \$3.67 million raised, about \$776,000 is scheduled to still be received (as of the April 26 Housing Corp meeting).
- Our bridge loan mortgage balance (as of 4/26/25) was about \$486,000.
- If all pledges are received as planned, we should have a positive balance of about \$290,000, which fulfills our original goal of raising a maintenance/contingency fund.
- Because so many donors have paid off their pledges early, we have saved tens of thousands of dollars in interest payments!

### Alumni Meet at USD Night at the Black Hills Playhouse



*USD Night at the Black Hills Playhouse was well-attended by Lambda Chi's. Pictured are Gary Pommer (AΓ 865), Ross Lamphere (AΓ 888), Bob Karlen (AΓ 748), Dave Landry (AΓ 867), Logan Lamphere (AΓ 1596) and Doyle Estes (AΓ 805).*

## James W. Abbott Scholarship Fund Established at USD

*Editor's note: this article is reprinted from a January 13, 2025, post on the [USD Foundation & Alumni website](#).*

### Building South Dakota's Future

By Kyle Determan '16

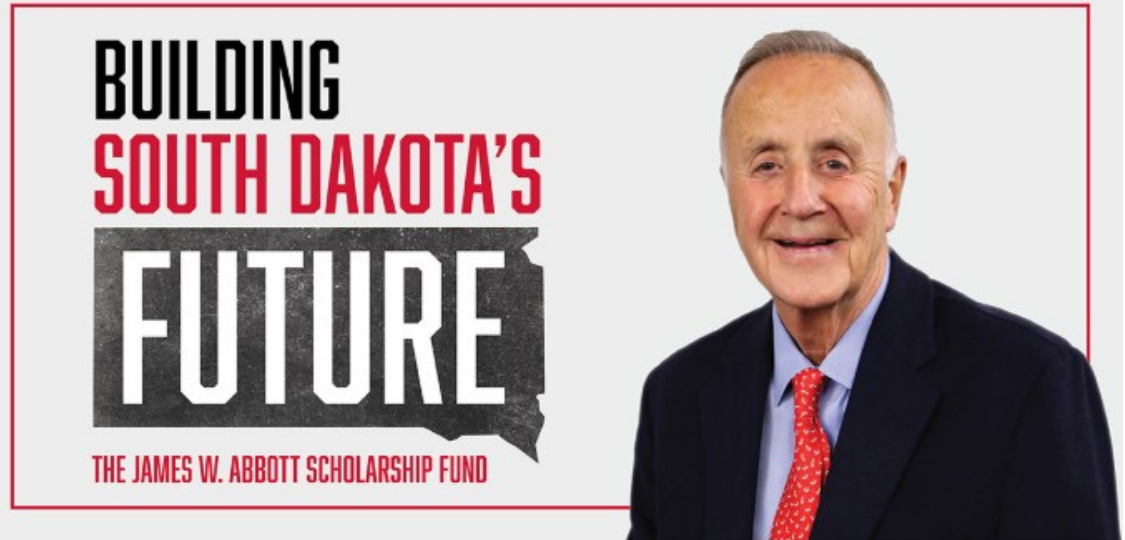
South Dakota is at a turning point. Workforce shortages in critical areas like health care, education and business are creating challenges that demand bold solutions. Yet for many students - especially adult learners, first-generation college students and new Americans - the cost of higher education keeps their dreams out of reach.

The University of South Dakota is stepping up to meet these challenges. By expanding high-demand programs and collaborating with local employers, USD is driving innovation to address the state's needs. The establishment of the USD -Sioux Falls campus highlights this commitment, offering convenient access to education tailored to the region's workforce demands. While these strategic efforts open up new doors, financial barriers remain a significant obstacle for students.

*The impact of quality education can't be overstated. It is a life-changing investment that everyone deserves to experience.*

**James W. Abbott**

That's where the James W. Abbott Scholarship Fund makes a difference. Created in recognition of Abbott's decades-long commitment to



education and the betterment of the state of South Dakota, this fund provides crucial support to students in Vermillion and Sioux Falls. It's more than a scholarship - it's an investment in the next generation and ultimately, our state's future.

When you support this fund, you're helping to build a South Dakota that thrives. You're empowering the next generation of leaders who will shape our communities for years to come.

Together, we can make a lasting impact.

Visit [usdalumni.com/give-back/james-w-abbott-scholarship-fund-2](https://usdalumni.com/give-back/james-w-abbott-scholarship-fund-2) to learn more and join us in empowering South Dakota's students today!



## Dick Brown Public Service Fund Established at USD

*Editor's note: this article is reprinted from a May 14, 2025, post on the [USD Foundation & Alumni website](#).*

### Honoring Legacy, Inspiring Service

When Terra Reynolds of Wilmette, Illinois, began thinking about how to celebrate her father's 80th birthday, she knew it was time to honor the depth of his legacy. Her father, Richard E. "Dick" Brown, a 1966 graduate of the University of South Dakota, has dedicated his life to public service, mentorship and civic leadership.

To mark the occasion, Reynolds and her husband, David, established the Richard E. "Dick" Brown Fellowship Program Endowment—a planned gift that will support USD political science students who are committed to careers in public service.

"What I want to do is honor the legacy that my dad and mom established through public service," Reynolds said.

The fellowship also honors the memory of Dr. William O. "Doc" Farber, the legendary USD professor who profoundly influenced the Brown family's values and path.

#### A Legacy of Leadership and Mentorship

Farber's influence extended well beyond the classroom. He introduced Dick Brown to his future wife, Sue, and later became the godfather to one of their children. His home was a gathering place for civic dialogue and political thought—a space where students and leaders alike debated the issues of the day.

"Doc's house was like a salon of leaders,"



*Dick Brown (AF 688) and daughter Terra Reynolds on the establishment of the Richard E. "Dick" Brown Fellowship Program Endowment (University of South Dakota Foundation & Alumni)*

Reynolds said. "It was full of conversation about current events, history and what history tells us about where we're going."

Farber's belief in the power of public service—regardless of political affiliation—became a cornerstone of the Brown family's lives.

A fifth-generation South Dakotan from Dell Rapids, Dick Brown built a distinguished career in public service. He served in the U.S. army, worked for senators in Washington, D.C., led regional planning initiatives and spent four terms in the South Dakota House of Representatives.

Sue Brown, who passed away in 2020, was a respected civic leader in her own right, serving on the Sioux Falls School board and later as

*continued on next page*



## Dick Brown Public Service Fund (cont'd)

CEO of the Sioux Falls Area Community Foundation.

Their children followed in their footsteps. Reynolds served as a federal prosecutor and now practices law privately. Her siblings work in mental health and the judiciary.

"It's service above self," Dick Brown said. "Doing things because they reflect our personal values."

### Why Planned Giving, Why Now?

Reynolds said the idea for the fellowship came after asking her father which experiences shaped his life the most. "The answer was clear," she said. "Meeting Doc Farber and attending USD."

The gift reflects not just a birthday milestone, but a larger purpose: to invest in the next generation of public servants.

"We're just thrilled to have made this commitment," Reynolds said. "To watch these students grow and succeed as leaders."

"The impact we can have through education and public service goes far beyond what we see," Dick Brown added. "It shapes lives we may never meet."

Reynolds is quick to remind others that phi-

lanthropy doesn't require substantial financial resources. "There is no gift that is too small," she said. "Philanthropy at any level allows you to stay connected."

As the Brown family's story illustrates, legacy is not only what we leave behind, it's what we create while we're here. "Think of the possibilities and don't restrict yourself," Reynolds said. "It may be your time. It may be your experience.

It may be your donation."

"We each have an obligation to see what role we can play," Brown said. "It doesn't have to be a scholarship. It can be how we're involved in our communities and in the school."

*Editor's note, Dick wrote, "A humbling and most gratifying experience that will help to promote the encouragement of civic leadership and pas-*

*sion for empowering future generations. Our USD Lambda Chi Alpha home played a significant influencing role in my life and a commitment to "think of the possibilities".*



*The Brown Family with Dr. William O. Farber  
(University of South Dakota Foundation & Alumni)*



## Halter Among 23 to be Inducted into South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame This Fall

*Editor's note: this article is reprinted from the April 15, 2025, edition of the [Moody County Enterprise](#).*

The South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame will be inducting 23 sports legends on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at the Sioux Falls Convention Center and Flandreau's Vern Halter, South Dakota's most well-known sled dog racer, will be one of them.

The 2025 class also includes perhaps the greatest kicker in NFL history, world record holders, champion coaches, women athlete pioneers and a pro cowboy. Tickets will go on sale later this year.

Along with Halter, the new inductees are: Jo (Haase) Auch, Tom Casey, Jessi Combs (deceased), Cathy Coyle, Donovan Gibbs (deceased), Ryan Jansa, brothers Edgar and Hobart Lone Hill (both deceased), Guy Mackner, Bill Marquardt, Kim Nelson, Candi Nielsen, Tom Reeves, John "Deac" Sanders, John "Stig" Stiegelmeier, "Jumping Jim" Tays, Mark Tetzlaff, Dennis Tiefenthaler, Buck Timmins (deceased), Lemoine Trout (deceased), Jim Uttecht and Adam Vinatieri.

With the 23 new inductees, the hall will have enshrined 395 women and men from every part of the state representing more than 30 sports. The South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame was established in 1968 by the South Dakota Sports-writers Association. A group of unpaid volunteers from across the state now manages it. Inductees are voted into the hall in four categories: as athletes, coaches, contributors (such as



*[Vern Halter](#) (AF 823) will be inducted into the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame on September 14, 2025, in Sioux Falls.*

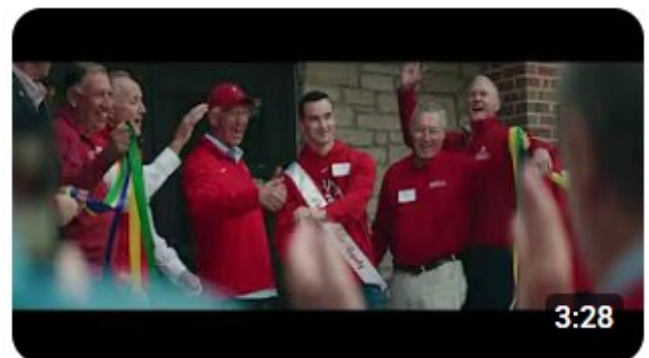
media, administrators and/or officials) and/or legends (deceased).

To help preserve the Hall and continue its mission, tax-free donations of any amount are always welcomed and appreciated.



## Check out the Dedication Video

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



**Lambda Chi Alpha New Chapter  
House Dedication 2024**

377 views • 6 months ago

## Annual Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic by Kelly Higgins

Brothers!!

It's that time of year again! The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic is July 21, 2025 @ Dakota Dunes CC. Those of you that made it last year know #3 was another great event where we raised the bar of giving and fun again & we know #4 will be even better. The net proceeds go towards a \$5,000+ football scholarship in Doug's name for 2024-25 and we will continue to build the endowment fund principle over time to help a footballer from Siouxland attend USD every year. I hope you can attend and participate. After successfully raising over \$150,000 establishing an endowed scholarship currently paying out \$5,000 annually to a football player at University of South Dakota, we are thrilled to spread the love and offer a similar scholarship at Morningside University starting this year.

We will continue the annual scholarship at USD and revenues from any non-golf fee purchase or donation can be designated to the Doug Smith Memorial Scholarship @ USD, i.e. the Dead Rabbit Lodge hunting trip donated by USD alum Dr. John House. Reminder, the fee for the golf only covers the basic cost of the golf, carts, range and putting greens. The net proceeds that funds the scholarships are made on the rest of the show and your donations!

Why the change? Doug and Pam were and still are regular supporters of Morningside Athletics as Pam is an alum, and Doug loved going to Morningside events with her. This is just the next step in honoring Doug by supporting both schools moving forward. We look forward to honoring his life and celebrating all of his connections. We hope you will come back, remember

the good times with us, and keep telling the stories! So, please join us at the award winning [Dakota Dunes Country Club](#) Arnold Palmer designed golf course for golf and the newly renovated clubhouse for dinner. Shotgun start with bagpipes, guitar classics, silent and live auction, and lots of raffle prizes! Hope to see you there!

You will have numerous chances to win prizes, meet new and old friends, hang with the USD and Morningside coaches/staff, and just maybe win a \$15k hole-in-one prize (We've had a winner 2 of the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 years!); buy a Dead Rabbit Lodge hunting trip; or win a \$500 Jerry Ryan's Menswear gift certificate and much more! Details on the raffle and auctions will be forthcoming soon. Check out the attached flier - sign up for golf, a sponsorship, dinner or donation directly through the link or QR code at the MU Foundation and show up Monday morning, July 21. If needed, we have a block of rooms at the Dunes HI Express next to the HIE Events Center at the Dakota Dunes exit off I29! A booking link will be coming soon.

Remember one thing, it's 1st come, 1st served, so sign up your 4-some or yourself early. My foursome is already in, and I might be convinced to sponsor a 2nd group of "Brothers", if asked!! We sold out our allotment of teams last year and expect the same in 2025. So, sign up early! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me on my cell at your convenience.

Go Coyotes, Mustangs & Greyhounds!

Kelly J Higgins, Ed.D Senior Associate AD  
Alpha Gamma **#1006 - "Last in class!"**  
Eastern New Mexico University  
Football, Baseball, Softball, Facilities & Event Ops  
CEO, KJH Sport Services, 603-851-5979



## Doug Smith Memorial Golf Classic (cont'd)



# DOUG SMITH MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC JULY 21, 2025

Proceeds fund a \$5,000 football scholarship at Morningside  
and continue to do the same at USD!

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

Four Person Scramble  
\$600/Team \$150 Golfer

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

Benefitting Doug Smith  
Endowed Scholarships

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

Raffle Prizes  
Course Contests

Live & Silent Auction  
Post-Golf Awards Dinner

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



CLICK HERE





## Basketball Court Installed

After additional fundraising led by Roger Mjoen, a half basketball court was installed on the south side of the new chapter house in late May/early June 2025. Other sports such as volleyball or pickleball could be played by buying backyard nets. (Photos by Brandon Wilsey).



## 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](mailto: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/](http://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.”





## Lamphere Donates South Dakota Political Memorabilia

During Founders Day 2025, Logan Lamphere (AF 1596) donated a collection of campaign buttons of Lambda Chis who have run for elected office. Hung in the new board room, it will serve as a reminder for undergraduates of the legacy of public service that generations of Lambda Chis have contributed to South Dakota and the nation.

Alumni included in the display include George T. Mickelson, George S. Mickelson, E.Y. Berry, Harold Lovre, Joseph H. Bottum, Dick Brown, Fred Romkema, Jim Abbott, Dennis Daugaard, Scott Heidepriem and Tyler Tordsen.

For a full list of alumni who have served in elected office, visit our website at [lambdachialphaatusd.org/public-service](http://lambdachialphaatusd.org/public-service).



*Pictured (L to R) are undergrads*

*Logan Lamphere has worked with while on the Housing Corp Board: Seth Knoer (AF 1991), Max*

*Mickelson (AF 1986), Lamphere (AF 1596), Griffin Petersen (AF 1998), Taylor Van Emmerik (AF 2010) and Colby Harrell (AM).*





## Tom Conway Celebrates 80th Birthday

Doyle Estes shared that Tom Conway (AF 725) celebrated his 80th birthday on April 27, and sent the following clipping from a USD year-book.

### WHO'S WHO

National recognition has been afforded to thirty-six seniors who were recently selected to represent the University of South Dakota in the publication Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities for 1967. Their selection is made by a special committee and a national reviewing board and is based on each student's scholarship, his service to the University, his leadership and cooperation in campus curricular and extracurricular activities, and his potential usefulness to society.



**TOM CONWAY:** Government major from Watertown, South Dakota



*Save the Date*

# DAKOTA DAYS

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 2025





## Required Minimum Distributions: What's New in 2025

*(by Roger Mjoen with info from Charles Schwab)*

For many investors entering their 70s, diligently contributing to and saving in tax-deferred retirement accounts must soon turn to making mandatory annual withdrawals. The government requires retirees to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) from such accounts after a certain age. Typically, once you reach age 73 (or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later), you must begin taking annual RMDs from all tax-deferred retirement accounts, including:

- 401(k) & 403(b)
- SEP IRAs
- SIMPLE IRAs
- Traditional IRAs

### Qualified Charitable Distribution

A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows individuals age 70½ and older to donate up to **\$108,000 for tax year 2025** (indexed for inflation) from an IRA account directly to charity—and use some or all of those funds to satisfy RMDs for the year.

For example, if your RMD for the year is \$100,000 but you only need \$50,000 for living expenses, you could donate the remaining \$50,000 via a QCD to satisfy the rest of your RMD. For those charitably inclined, QCDs can be a great tool for managing taxable income in retirement while also helping a worthy cause. Just be aware **QCDs are not permitted from 401(k)s** or other qualified plans.

### Cash vs QCD

If you are interested in making charitable donations, taking your full RMD and then donating cash could result in a higher tax bill than if you were to give through a QCD.

Prior to the IRA Charitable Rollover, some individuals would take the RMD withdrawal from their IRAs, report the distribution as taxable income, make a cash gift to charity, obtain the re-

quired receipts for charitable gifts over \$250, and take an itemized deduction on their tax return as shown in **Scenario 1**:

- Take RMD of \$100,000 and donate **\$50,000 in cash**
- Other nonportfolio income: \$50,000
- Annual RMD: + \$100,000
- QCD: + \$0
- Pretax income: = \$150,000
- Itemized deduction: – \$50,000
- Taxable income: = \$100,000
- Estimated taxes due: **\$16,909**

Not only was this process rather cumbersome, but it also resulted in increased adjusted gross income. With higher income, you may have paid more income tax on Social Security or paid a higher Medicare Part B premium.

### QCD

In 2025 an IRA owner who has reached the age of 70½ may transfer up to \$108,000 per year. The transfer is made directly from the IRA to a qualified public charity. The QCD is not taxable on your income tax return, so there is no need for a tax deduction. It is a simple and effective way to make a charitable gift as shown in **Scenario 2**:

- Take RMD of \$50,000 and **donate \$50,000 using a QCD**
- Other nonportfolio income: \$50,000
- Annual RMD: + \$100,000
- QCD: – \$50,000
- Pretax income: = \$100,000
- Standard deduction: – \$17,000
- Taxable income: = \$83,000
- Estimated taxes due: **\$13,180**

### LXA QCD Options

1. 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 market value as of April 30, 2025:

*continued on next page*

## RMDs/QCDs (cont'd)

|                                                          |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Mickelson Brotherhood Scholarship                        | \$528,129.17 |
| Jerry H. Lammers Memorial Scholarship                    | \$37,931.09  |
| Randy Reinking Scholarship                               | \$23,768.45  |
| Jacob Z. Esbenshade-Lambda Chi Endowment                 | \$104,614.17 |
| Scott & Staci Kesling Stern Lambda Chi Alpha Scholarship | \$19,927.13  |
| Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Endowment                        | \$103,173.08 |
| Brad "Digger" Gullickson Humanitarian Scholarship        | \$56,622.65  |
| <i>(As of April 30, 2025) Total:</i>                     |              |
|                                                          | \$874,165.74 |

Donations to AGZ Chapter's charitable 501(c)(3) endowment/scholarship funds administered by 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.)

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

AGZ Chapter can request capital improvement funds from LCAEF 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 LCAEF 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](mailto:nbratvold@lambdachifoundation.org)



### Bottom Line on RMDs

You don't necessarily want to give away money just to get a tax break. But if philanthropy is

already part of your financial plan, a QCD can be a great way to optimize the tax benefits of giving. When implementing an RMD-reduction strategy, there is no substitute for personalized advice from a tax professional who knows the details of your individual situation. Your financial advisor and tax professional can help make sure your giving strategy aligns with your retirement goals as well as any changes to tax rules.

## Sioux Falls "Bored" Meetings First Wednesday of Each Month

Brother Nick Magera (AF 1269) and Paul Amundson (AF 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](mailto:nmageraj@gmail.com) (new address!) to get on his mailing list. The 2025 Sioux Falls "Bored" Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the following dates, with locations to be announced:

- July 2
- August 6
- September 3
- October 1
- November 5
- December 3

## 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/).



## Active Chapter News

### Seniors Graduate, Ceremony Performed

Eleven graduating seniors were present on Founders Day 2025 during the Graduating Senior Ceremony, the first time the Alpha-Gamma chapter has performed this open ceremony, to anyone's recollection.



*Left to right: Garrett Petersen (ΑΓ 2028), Taylor Van Emmerik (ΑΓ 2010), Triston Curry (ΑΓ 1989), Seth Knoer (ΑΓ 1991), Max Mickelson (ΑΓ 1986), Carston Miller (ΑΓ 1995), Carter Norris (ΑΓ 1987), Zach Ulmen (ΑΓ 1996), Karter Knaack (ΑΓ 2002), Zach Ciurej (ΑΓ 1990), Zach Burmood (ΑΓ 2009).*

### Lambdas Achieve 3.6 GPA, Even Beating the Thetas

The men of Lambda Chi Alpha are proud to announce that we have achieved **the top grade point average among all eleven USD Greek houses.**

This is also our third consecutive top GPA among all seven fraternities since the Spring 2024 semester! We could not be more proud of our continued commitment to academic excellence and success in the classroom!



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## Active Chapter News (cont'd)

### Five Greek Awards Won in 2025



*Left to right: Jordy Martinez (AG 2013), Parker Van't Hul (AG 2018), Max Mickelson (AG 1986), Griffin Petersen (AG 1998), Nick Diersen (AG 2009), Landon Bertram (AG 2017), and Haley Fabel (AG 2026).*

The 2025 Greek Awards was a huge success! Lambda Chi Alpha was recognized as a 5-Star Chapter as well as receiving the Scholarship Pillar Award.

Griffin Peterson was named a finalist for Greek Man of the Year, Landon Bertram received Sophomore Man of the Year, and Harry Roberts received the Alumnus of the Year!

### \$3000 raised for Feeding South Dakota



The brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha headed up to Sioux Falls the last weekend of April to volunteer at the Midwest Food Bank.

We raised a total of \$3,000 for Feeding South Dakota equaling 9,000 meals! Huge thanks to everyone who helped out!

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## Active Chapter News (cont'd)

### Interior Décor Added to New House

The Undergrads led by House Manager Tyler Marshall have been busy helping decorate the new chapter house.

Photos of all of our previous chapter houses were hung in the board room, the blueprints of our previous house are on the wall of the dining room, carpet has been laid in the basement “poker” room, and a TV was installed above the fireplace (which can also be used for meetings).

Plans include installing the copper fireplace hood from our previous house in some way in the living room.



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## Graduating Senior Ceremony Performed

The Active Chapter decided to try something new for Founders Day this year and performed the Graduating Senior Ceremony.

No one could recall that this open ceremony had ever been performed at Alpha-Gamma Zeta.

The ceremony included spoken parts from the High Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Tau, Epsilon, Kappa, Phi and an alumnus.

The High Alpha reads the following conclusion, *"The symbol of the Graduation and Alumni Ceremony is the Cross and Crescent. May it, and John Mason's challenge to 'turn ideals into actions,' always inspire you to ever greater accomplishments and serve as a constant reminder that Lambda Chi Alpha is a life-long commitment.*

*From all of your brothers, undergraduates and alumni, we extend to you the right hand of ever-lasting brotherhood and our sincere best wishes for the future. To those alumni present, we express our heartfelt thanks for your continuing involvement and support of Lambda Chi Alpha."*

If you'd like to learn more, [visit this guide from LambdaChi.org](https://www.LambdaChi.org).





## Helping Kids Round First Visits Africa

Helping Kids Round First, the non-profit founded by Craig Severtson (AF 904), is a non-profit based in Flandreau, South Dakota, committed to improving the lives of people in Nicaragua through sustainable projects in Sports, Farming, Education and Healthcare.

In May, Severtson visited the African country of Chad to conduct an intensive field mission.

According to a recent newsletter, "Over several weeks, we visited refugee camps, medical clinics, and humanitarian operations across some regions of the country. The experience was both humbling and eye-opening, revealing the scale and urgency of the crisis faced by over half a million Sudanese refugees who have fled unimaginable violence and are now struggling to survive and rebuild their lives far from home."

They visited the refugee camps of Adré and Metché where they sat with mothers, children, aid workers and doctors. They all said they were doing everything they could, but cannot do it alone.

While there, they also visited the World Food



*Craig Severtson (AF 904) recently visited Sudanese refugee camps in Chad as part of the Helping Kids Round First non-profit he founded.*

*continued on next page*





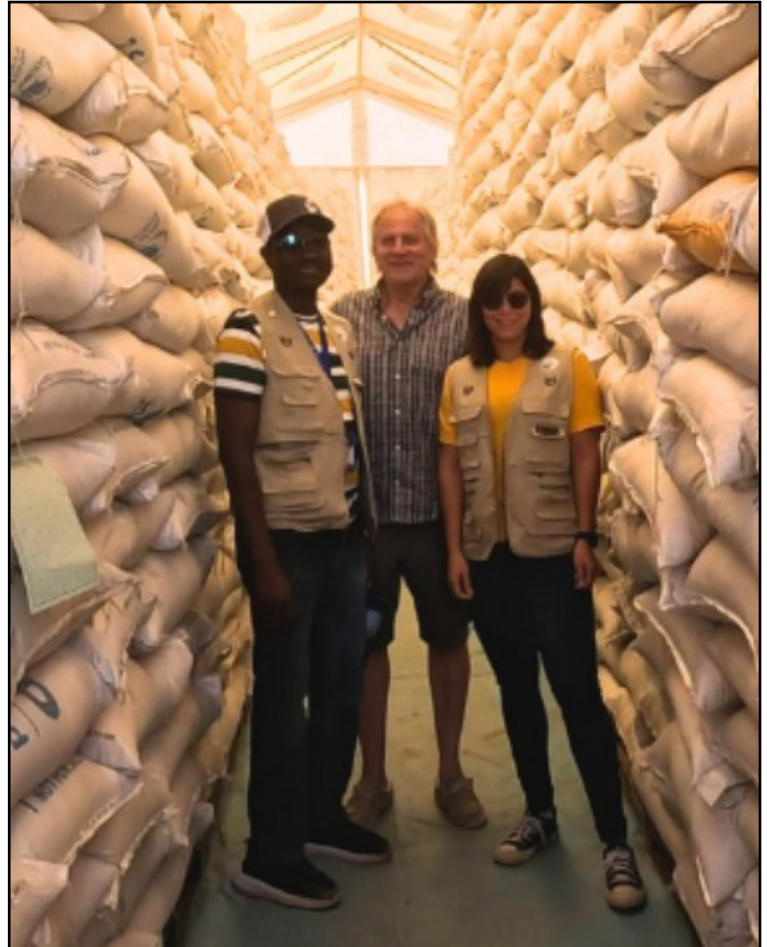
## Helping Kids Round First (cont'd)

Programme (WFP) warehouse and learned about the logistics of feeding hundreds of thousands each week. “We watched as trucks were loaded, families queued patiently, and humanitarian staff moved with precision and urgency. It was clear: the WFP is doing a monumental job of preventing famine.

The South Dakota team saw where they could help—access to clean water, basic and emergency healthcare, and protection and support for children, women and the elderly.

“In Adré, near the Sudanese border, we witnessed one of the most inspiring and heart-breaking scenes of the mission: the work of the For You Initiative, a small but powerful medical organization operating a clinic inside the refugee camp.”

The clinic treats over 300 patients per day. Even when supplies run out, the medical team



shows up. Their top needs include medical supplies such as gloves and antiseptics, equipment such as ultrasounds and beds, and sanitation and power.

“While humanitarian organizations are providing critical services such as food assistance, medical care and temporary shelter, the needs in the camp far exceed available resources. Among the most urgent is access to clean water.”

“By working alongside global organizations such as WFP, we can build a more comprehensive response that respects the dignity and potential of every person we serve.”

To learn more and donate, visit [app.aplos.com/aws/give/HelpingKidsRoundFirst/General](http://app.aplos.com/aws/give/HelpingKidsRoundFirst/General).





## 2025 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 22, 2025).*

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

### Platinum Donor (> \$1000)

Roger W. Mjoen AΓ 790  
Lyle Castle AΓ 912

Randy Sorensen AΓ 989  
Rob Anderson AΓ 1019

Michael Runge AΓ 1379

### Gold Donor (\$500 - \$999)

Tom Aman AΓ 551  
Thomas Conway AΓ 725  
Ralph "Van" Hines AΓ 844

### Silver Donor (\$250 - \$499)

Steven J. Holm AΓ 879  
Bradley D. Hammer AΓ 1053  
Logan Lamphere AΓ 1596

Garrett R. Cox AΓ 1771

### Bronze Donor (\$100 - \$249)

John H. Swennes AΓ 596  
Derek Eaton AΓ 617  
Thomas T. Johnson AΓ 618  
Jerome R. Andersen AΓ 629  
David Gienapp AΓ 667  
Uldis Sutka AΓ 708  
Victor G. Raphael AΓ 726

Kendall A. Schmidt AΓ 741  
Robert E. Karlen AΓ 748  
Gary Davis AΓ 819  
John Leuthold AΓ 821  
Roger C. Roskens AΓ 824  
Craig A. Connell AΓ 825  
Bill Bowen AΓ 826

Randall Kasch AΓ 922  
Michael A. Fox AΓ 1122  
Scott R. Schuknecht AΓ 1129  
Charles A. Nelson AΓ 1199  
David Hurrell AΓ 1244  
Thomas Loofe AΓ 1417  
Ryan Lenhoff AΓ 1770

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

Truman Schwartz AΓ 530  
Thomas M. Vick AΓ 580  
Daniel L. Jackson AΓ 714  
Patrick L. Gulbranson AΓ 750

Jeff Esbenshade AΓ 757  
George Strandell AΓ 758  
Ron S. Dvorak AΓ 789  
Bryan H. Bennett AΓ 792

Gary E. Davis AΓ 819  
Roger D. Sullivan AΓ 900  
Stephen Hebert AΓ 941  
Clark Hurrell AΓ 1191

***Thank you for your annual donations!***

## *The Alpha Gamma Fellowship Archives*

### Vol 1: Issue 1 (2017)

Alumni Newsletter Created

Lambda Chi Alpha  
Alpha Gamma Zeta  
Alumni Association

alphagammazeta@gmail.com

### Vol 3: Issue 1 (2020)

St. Paul Alumni Gathering



### Vol 5: Issue 1 (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 1 (2023)

Chapter Houses Over the Years



### Vol 2: Issue 1 (2019)

Dakota Days 2018



### Vol 4: Issue 1 (2021)

Oyler Named Fulbright Scholar



### Vol 6: Issue 2 (2023)

Construction of New House Begins



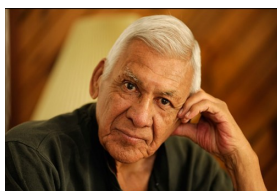
### Vol 2: Issue 2 (2019)

Jim Hart Shares Study-Break Photos



### Vol 4: Issue 2 (2021)

USD's First Native American  
Fraternity Man: John Artichoker



### Vol 7: Issue 1 (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



## Donor Card



## Lambda Chi Alpha @ USD 2025 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Click [HERE](#) to donate, or pay by [PayPal](#).

Please make checks payable to: **"Alpha Gamma Zeta House Corporation"**

Alpha Gamma Zeta House Corporation  
% Randy Sorensen, Treasurer  
1317 Helford Lane  
Carmel, IN 46032

*Thank you for your donation!*

## ***We want to hear from you!***

Email correspondence, promotions, new business ventures, awards, kudos, obituaries, reunions, or any other thoughts or news to: [alphagammazetaaa@gmail.com](mailto:alphagammazetaaa@gmail.com)

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Lambda Chi Alpha  
at  
The University of South Dakota