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# The Alpha Gamma Fellowship

## for Lambda Chi Alpha Alpha Gamma Zeta Alumni Association

Volume 4 | Issue 1

Summer 2021

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*Editorial  
Alumni Association  
Director*

*Logan Lamphere  
AG 1596*

Brothers,

Our “regional mixers” are up and running! Thanks to those of you who have volunteered to coordinate periodic meet-ups (happy hours?) in Sioux Falls, the Twin Cities, Denver, Rapid City, Omaha, Scottsdale and Orlando. We hope to hold these routinely as informal events. Drop by after work at your locally-chosen watering hole, say hi, have a drink, and meet some new (or old!) brothers. We have an incredible alumni base spread around the country who can offer help with job prospects, staffing, giving advice, mentoring, and plenty of stories!

Dakota Days 2021 is October 1-3, and brothers from the late SIXTIES (they always write it in ALL-CAPS—must be a Boomer thing!) ;) are having a 50th class reunion. Plans were dashed last year for the class of 1970, but brothers from ‘68, ‘69, ‘70, ‘71, and ‘72 have all been planning a big line-up of activities for this newly (mostly) retired era of brothers! The details are further in the newsletter.

Planning continues for starting a campaign to build a new house in Vermillion. Your Alumni Council has been working hard to ascertain the interest of building a new house, and will be sharing the results at Dakota Days of several surveys we have conducted.

This is an exciting time as we approach our 2000th initiate! Perhaps he will be a son, nephew, or friend of yours! Refer prospective brothers to Tyler Tordsen at [tyler.tordsen@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.tordsen@gmail.com). We will hear again from the Active Chapter this fall semester in the next edition of their *Alpha Gamma News*.

Yours in ZAX,  
Logan



*I'm not sure which house this guy belongs to, but I think we've all sat on this ledge before!*



*Nick Bratvold,  
ΑΓ 1881, Alumni  
Council Chair*

## Alumni Council votes to move forward with capital campaign

The results are in! The feasibility study—designed to test the popular and financial support for a housing campaign—revealed 100% alumni favorability for a capital project and 92% for a fundraising campaign.

In lieu of these results, the Alumni Council voted to move forward with a capital campaign to rebuild our home at 327 North Pine Street. This vote comes on the back of five years of conversation, research, and deliberation towards answering the question: what is the future of Lambda Chi Alpha at the University of South Dakota?

Brothers Mark Mickelson, Dennis Daugaard, and Jim Abbott have agreed to serve as Campaign Co-Chairs for the campaign to rebuild our home.

Additional volunteer leadership includes:

### **Building Committee**

Mike Runge, ΑΓ 1379  
Gary Welter, ΑΓ 966  
Tyler Tordsen, ΑΓ 1863  
Dave Cullen, ΑΓ 961  
Brandon Wilsey, ΑΓ 1653  
Doyle Estes, ΑΓ 805

### **Steering Committee**

Terry Schmidt, ΑΓ 984  
Randy Sorensen, ΑΓ 989  
Doyle Estes, ΑΓ 805  
Mike Runge, ΑΓ 1379  
Nick Bratvold, ΑΓ 1881  
Tayte Gleason, ΑΓ 1967

### **Development Com.**

Nick Bratvold, ΑΓ 1881  
Jeff Esbenshade, ΑΓ 757  
Logan Lamphere ΑΓ 1596  
Dave Landry, ΑΓ 867  
Kevin Horner, ΑΓ 1026  
Nick Magera, ΑΓ 1269

A presentation of the feasibility study, structural analysis, active chapter survey, environmental scan, and financial projections will be given at Dakota Days (see page 5 for schedule). The active chapter will also present their recruitment strategy to elevate and retain chapter membership.

We welcome questions and feedback for the campaign, understanding that our home is near and dear to many of our Brothers. Should you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on my personal cell (605-553-4497) or email ([nicholasrbratvold@gmail.com](mailto:nicholasrbratvold@gmail.com)).

See you at Dakota Days! Go Yotes!

In ZAX,  
Nick Bratvold, ΑΓ 1881  
Alumni Council Chair



## Oyler named Fulbright Scholar

*(One of our newest alumni, Ross Oyler (AF 1947 and December 2020 USD graduate), was recently awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to further his studies in Tajikistan. Below is the USD press release from May 11, 2021, that tells his story.)*

VERMILLION, S.D. – Ross Oyler, a recent graduate of the University of South Dakota, has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program award for an English Teaching Assistantship for the 2021-2022 academic year from the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Oyler is one of over 2,100 U.S. citizens who will study, conduct research and teach abroad for the 2021-2022 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected in an open, merit-based competition that considers leadership potential, academic and professional achievement, and record of service.

Oyler, an international studies and political science double major, will spend the 2021-2022 academic year teaching English in Tajikistan. The Fulbright English Teaching Award grants provide participants with the opportunity to assist in the teaching of English and American culture in Tajikistan's American Spaces, as well as immerse in the local culture. He will live in one of Tajikistan's eight American Spaces that serve as dedicated information centers that help introduce visitors to America's story. The American Spaces also serve as a platform for public diplomacy and English language programs and help to build cultural bridges, according to the Fulbright organization.



*Lambda Chi Ross Oyler won a Fulbright Scholarship, and will teach outdoor education in Tajikistan through his Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship. Here he is climbing in the Ala-Too mountain range during his fellowship in neighboring Kyrgyzstan in 2020.*

"My application centered around leading outdoor education programs and clubs, so I am really looking forward to the opportunity to teach and share my passion for climbing and the outdoors," Oyler said.

In 2019 and 2020, Oyler, a Rapid City, South Dakota, native, spent his junior year in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, as a recipient of the David L. Boren Scholarship, which funds study abroad by U.S. undergraduate students in world regions critical to U.S. interests. "Tajikistan is directly south of Kyrgyzstan so there will be a fair deal of cultural carryover and I will still be able to use Russian to some extent, though Tajik-Farsi is the primary language," he said. "Tajikistan has a strong and strict central government in contrast to Kyrgyz-

## Oyler named Fulbright Scholar, continued

stan so one of the most visible differences will be the absence of western commodities and personal freedoms—even more so than Kyrgyzstan.”

Another difference is the likelihood that Oyler will live in a small village—where most of the American Spaces are located—rather than city of 1 million where he resided when he was in Kyrgyzstan. “Living in a rural Central Asian community will be a drastic change, but one that I’m excited for.”

Oyler credits his professors in political science (Julia Hellwege and Eric Jepsen), international studies (Tim Schorn), Russian (Ilmira Dulyanova) and Honors (Melissa Berninger) for their mentorship, work and support. “I couldn’t have done it without them,” he said.

David Earnest, chair of the Department of Political Science, praises Oyler’s commitment to service.

“Ross represents the best traditions of USD,” Earnest said. “As an ambassador for the university—and South Dakota as a whole—Ross uses his academic excellence in the service of others. In the College of Arts & Sciences, our mission is to educate the leaders who will solve tomorrow’s most pressing challenges. Ross is precisely the kind of citizen-student who will provide the vision and leadership we need during these unsettled times.”

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is administered at USD through Melissa Berninger, director of the University Honors Program and coordinator of Nationally Competitive Scholarships. More information about the Fulbright process at the University of South Dakota can be found

at [usd.edu/honors/awards](https://usd.edu/honors/awards).

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to forge lasting connections between the people of the United States and the people of other countries,

counter misunderstandings, and help people and nations work together toward common goals.

Since its establishment in 1946, the Fulbright Program has enabled more than 390,000

dedicated and accomplished students, scholars, artists, teachers, and professionals of all backgrounds to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas, and find solutions to shared international concerns. The Fulbright Program is funded through an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State. Participating governments and host institutions, corporations, and foundations around the world also provide direct and indirect support to the Program, which operates in more than 160 countries worldwide.



*Ross Oyler in Red Square, Moscow, in 2018*

## Dakota Days 2021, October 1-3

Dakota Days 2021 will be October 1-3 in Vermillion, and a big group of hippies, I mean brothers from the late 60s, will be holding their 50th class reunion! A large organizing committee covering 1968, '69, '70, '71, and '72 have put together a full slate of ways to reconnect with your brothers from all eras:

### **ΛXA Alpha Gamma Zeta "SIXTIES" 50 Year Reunion D-Days Agenda**

**September 30 - October 3, 2021 (all eras are welcome!)**

#### **Thursday, September 30**

3:00PM – 6:00PM: ΛXA Sioux Falls BBQ Sponsored by Jim McGrann 605-940-4041 [jrmcgrann@gmail.com](mailto:jrmcgrann@gmail.com), and Dave Landry 605-366-0123 [dland11@sio.midco.net](mailto:dland11@sio.midco.net), 48024 Lazy Oaks Circle, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

#### **Friday, October 1**

8:00AM – 5:00PM: USD Alumni Association - Tours & Events: [www.usdalumni.com/events](http://www.usdalumni.com/events)  
12:00PM – 3:00PM: The Bluffs Golf Course, ΛXA Nine Holes Best Ball, Captain's Choice Scramble  
3:00PM – 6:00PM: Old Lumber Company Grill and Bar – Meet & Greet Social  
6:00PM – 6:15PM: Old Lumber Company "Dolly the Trolley" takes Brothers to 327 North Pine  
5:30PM – 8:00PM: USD Unleash Your Legacy Alumni Achievement Awards  
6:15PM – 10:00PM: ΛXA Tailgate Party @ 327 N Pine

#### **Saturday, October 2**

8:30AM – 9:00AM: USD Parade Reception in front lawn of USD President's Home  
9:00AM – 10:00AM: USD 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Dakota Days Parade  
10:00AM – 12:00PM: Brunch & Annual ΛXA Dakota Days @ 327 North Pine  
10:30AM – 10:45AM: Alpha Gamma Zeta 2021 Annual House Corporation Meeting  
10:45AM – 11:00AM: High Pi Alumni Advisor 2021 Update Report  
11:00AM – 12:00PM: Nick Bratvold presentation of ΛXA New House Feasibility Study  
12:00PM – 2:00PM: Coyote Nation Tailgate Party Outside Dakota Dome  
2:00PM – 5:30PM: D-Day Football Game – Indiana State vs USD  
3:00PM – 3:30PM Football halftime social, Dome common area (site TBD)  
4:00PM – 6:00PM: Valiant Vineyards Sunset Wine Tasting – 1500 West Main Street  
6:00PM – 10:00PM: ΛXA Buffet Dinner and New House Feasibility Study (Nick Bratvold), Valiant Vineyards Winery (all eras welcome!)

## Dakota Days 2021, October 1-3, continued

### Sunday, October 3

9:00AM – 12:00PM: Hail & Farewell Breakfast @ 327 North Pine

### "SIXTIES" Reunion Committee:

AG 688 Dick Brown; Custer; '66; [sdcoyote@goldenwest.net](mailto:sdcoyote@goldenwest.net)  
AG 726 Vic Raphael; Fulton, MD; '68; [vic\\_raphael@hotmail.com](mailto:vic_raphael@hotmail.com)  
AG 757 Jeff Esbenshade; Littleton, CO; '69; [esbenshad@aol.com](mailto:esbenshad@aol.com)  
AG 773 Bob Murphy; Fargo, ND; '70; [frozeninfargo@gmail.com](mailto:frozeninfargo@gmail.com)  
AG 790 Roger Mjoen; Naples, FL; '70; [rmjoen@tmico.com](mailto:rmjoen@tmico.com)  
AG 805 Doyle Estes; Hill City; '71; [doyle@esteslawfirm.com](mailto:doyle@esteslawfirm.com)  
AG 806 Louis Hogrefe; Spearfish; '71; [lhogrefe@gmail.com](mailto:lhogrefe@gmail.com)  
AG 819 Gary Davis; Oceanside, CA; '71; [oceansidegarydavis@gmail.com](mailto:oceansidegarydavis@gmail.com)  
AG 826 Bill Bowen; Aberdeen; '71; [bill@bowenlaw.net](mailto:bill@bowenlaw.net)  
AG 840 Chuck Parkinson; Rapid City; '71 [crpsdsr@gmail.com](mailto:crpsdsr@gmail.com)  
AG 849 John Brown; Yankton; '72; [john\\_m\\_brown@comcast.net](mailto:john_m_brown@comcast.net)  
AG 881 Tom Froning; Fargo, ND; '73; [froning9@aol.com](mailto:froning9@aol.com)  
AG 889 Harry Christianson; Rapid City; '71; [hwaltc@rapidnet.com](mailto:hwaltc@rapidnet.com)  
AG 989 Randy Sorenson; Indianapolis, IN; '77; [rsorensen4@mac.com](mailto:rsorensen4@mac.com)  
AG 1596 Logan Lamphere; Orlando, FL; '99; [llampher@hotmail.com](mailto:llampher@hotmail.com)  
AG 1863 Tyler Tordsen; Sioux Falls; 2015; [tyler.tordsen@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.tordsen@gmail.com)

## Coyote Football Game Day: USD vs Indiana State

We have reserved a block of 50 seats (more if needed!) to the Dakota Days football game on Saturday, October 2 at 2pm! We are also working with USD Athletic Department to reserve a Dakota Dome common area for AXA Brothers to socialize at halftime.

To purchase your ticket, please call the Coyote Ticket Office at 605-677-5959 beginning August 30. Don't forget to mention you're with the Lambda Chi Alpha Reunion Group (all eras are welcome to join us!).



Purchased tickets will be available for pick-up at **Will Call** on game day or during business hours the week-of.

## Dakota Days 2021, October 1-3, continued

### Brothers planning to attend or thinking about attending D-Days 2021:

Abbott, Jim	Egger, Joe	Kleibacker, Bill	Raphael, Vic
Avery, Ralph	Esbenshade, Jeff	Kober, Kris	Rasmussen, Dean
Bell, Scott	Estes, Doug	Krueger, Rod	Richardson, Ted
Bennett, Bryan	Estes, Doyle	Landry, Dave	Romkema, Fred
Binder, Pete	Estes, Jim	Liedtke, Curt	Roskens, Roger
Boocock, Gerry	Fowler, Brad	Lund, Lucas	Schmidt, Terry
Bowen, Bill	Froning, Tom	Mahowald, Dave	Seager, Pat
Bratvold, Nick	Fuller, Doug	McGrann, Jim	Siverts, Gary
Bridenstine, Wayne	Gienapp, Dave	Mickelson, Mark	Sorensen, Randy
Brown, John	Giessinger, Larry	Mjoen, Roger	Strandell, George
Brownell, Dick	Gulbranson, John	Moisan, John	Sutka, Uldis
Buell, Ken	Gulbranson, Pat	Murphy, Bob	Tordsen, Tyler
Christianson, Harry	Gullickson, Marc	Murphy, Dennis	Vogel, Denny
Christensen, Doug	Hart, Jim	Oleson, Fred	Winters, Elton
Daugaard, Dennis	Hines, Van	Parkinson, Chuck	
Davis, Gary	Hoekstra, Lee	Pluimer, Ed	
Dvorak, Ron	Jones, Doug	Quinn, Dave	

## Weapons of Grass Destruction Nine Hole Golf Scramble

If you and your spouse would like to golf, there will be an AXA Nine Holes Best Ball - Captain's Choice Scramble from 12:00 to 3:00pm, Friday, October 1, at The Bluffs Golf Course. We can have four golfers per team, spouses included (all eras welcome, not just SIXTIES!)

If you are interested in the golf scramble, contact Bob Murphy at (612) 508-5957 or [frozeninfargo@gmail.com](mailto:frozeninfargo@gmail.com). Please sign up early as the scramble will max out at 64 golfers.



## Dakota Days 2021, October 1-3, continued

### Book lodging soon!

This Dakota Days looks to be a big one! Brother Tom "Frog" Froning (701-261-7879) has a block of rooms reserved at the **Prairie Inn**. All other Vermillion hotels are SOLD OUT!

The SIXTIES committee has also reserved blocks of rooms in Sioux Falls and Yankton for brothers of any era!

The **Hotel on Phillips** in downtown Sioux Falls:



- Upscale, chic boutique hotel Located at 100 N Phillips Ave in downtown Sioux Falls
- Block of 10 King rooms @ \$159
- Call Hotel On Phillips at 605-274-7445 and ask for the Lambda Chi Fraternity block
- They offer complimentary shuttle for guests to/from the airport and downtown
- We are arranging a shuttle to Vermillion for D-Days events



A block of rooms has been reserved at the **Best Western Kelly Inn Yankton**:



- Located on Hwy 50 east of Yankton, 20 minutes from the Dakota Dome
  - All rooms on first floor: 15 Kings @ \$115; and 15 Double Queens @ \$120
  - Call Best Western Kelly Inn directly @ (605) 665-2906 to make room reservations
  - Ask for the AXA D-Days Group Reservation
- Make your reservations soon!

### Is your class having a reunion?

If your class is also having a reunion at Dakota Days 2021, Alpha Gamma Alumni Association Director Logan Lamphere ([llampher@hotmail.com](mailto:llampher@hotmail.com)) can help you round up brothers from your era! He can provide a contact list and send mass emails or physical mailings to your brothers. Are you organizing a reunion for the:

- Class of '81
- Class of '91
- Class of 2001
- Class of 2011??







## Denver alumni group meets

Greg Herrig (AF 1655) has volunteered to schedule alumni happy hours for Denver-area alumni. The group had their first meet-up this summer at the Pioneer Bar. They are already planning their next one for late August. Contact Greg at [ggherrig2001@yahoo.com](mailto:ggherrig2001@yahoo.com) to join!

Denver area alumni pictured are Clark Absher (AF 633), Elton Winters (AF 778), Jeff Esbenshade (AF 757), Greg Herrig (AF 1655), and Steve Herbert (AF 941); photo courtesy Greg Herrig

## Lost Brothers: 60s-70s

AF #	First Name	Last Name	Initiation Date
669	Patrick	Haley	3/18/1961
672	Mark	McDowall	
700	Dennis	Murray	3/9/1963
707	Thomas	Henry	1/1/1964
756	Harold	Trager	3/19/1966
814	Jay	Morrison	2/17/1968
901	John	Loken	3/8/1971
942	Gary	Tisthammer	11/17/1972
949	Dave	Steinacher	1/1/1972
956	Gordon	Marsden	1/1/1972
983	Richard	Nash	1/1/1973
1,061	Dennis	Greve	1/1/1975
1,068	Lance	Petersen	1/1/1975
1,077	Robert	Russell	1/1/1976
1,094	Joseph	Murphy	
1,124	Bradley	Weins	1/1/1977
1,142	Mark	Galvin	1/1/1978
1,152	Mark	Overbaugh	1/1/1978
1,157	Craig	Busskohl	1/1/1978
1,168	Robert	Herbold	
1,172	Kevin	Williams	1/1/1979
1,187	Brad	Combs	11/16/1979
1,196	Clay	Pederson	1/1/1979
1,205	Mark	Kotas	1/1/1979

If you know the whereabouts of these brothers, please let Logan Lamphere know at [llampher@hotmail.com](mailto:llampher@hotmail.com) or 605-490-0732.

We currently do not have email or a physical addresses for them.

## Scottsdale, winter 2022

Brothers Lee Hoekstra and Rich Henseth have volunteered to coordinate future events in the Phoenix area, and are currently planning on hosting a reunion in February 2022. Stay tuned for further details!

If you spend winters in Arizona or Florida, but your permanent address is still "up North", please let Logan Lamphere know at [llampher@hotmail.com](mailto:llampher@hotmail.com).

## Martens leads Twin Cities alumni

James Martens (AF 1625) has agreed to be our alumni point of contact for the Twin Cities area. The group had their first gathering in May and hope to meet again this fall. To join, email James at [james\\_martens@hotmail.com](mailto:james_martens@hotmail.com).

## Sioux Falls “Bored” meetings

Brother Nick Magera (AF 1269) continues to organize monthly “Bored Meetings” (happy hours) for Sioux Falls area alumni. Since the end of Covid, attendance has been great with a mix of brothers from different eras.

The informal event rotates around to different Sioux Falls establishments on the first Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

You can email Nick at [magera@sio.midco.net](mailto:magera@sio.midco.net) to get on his mailing list.



*Sioux Falls-area brothers of all ages meet during a March “Bored Meeting”; photo courtesy Tyler Tordsen*

## Black Hills bros meet up

Brothers from the Black Hills along with visitors met on July 16 at the Valley Sports Bar in Rapid City for an impromptu drink and evening of catching up.

*Pictured are Lucas Lund, Nick Bratvold, Ross Lamphere, Dave Jacobsen, Bob Karlen, Carolynn Karlen, Dick Schneider; not pictured: Doyle Estes, Chuck Parkinson, Logan Lamphere*



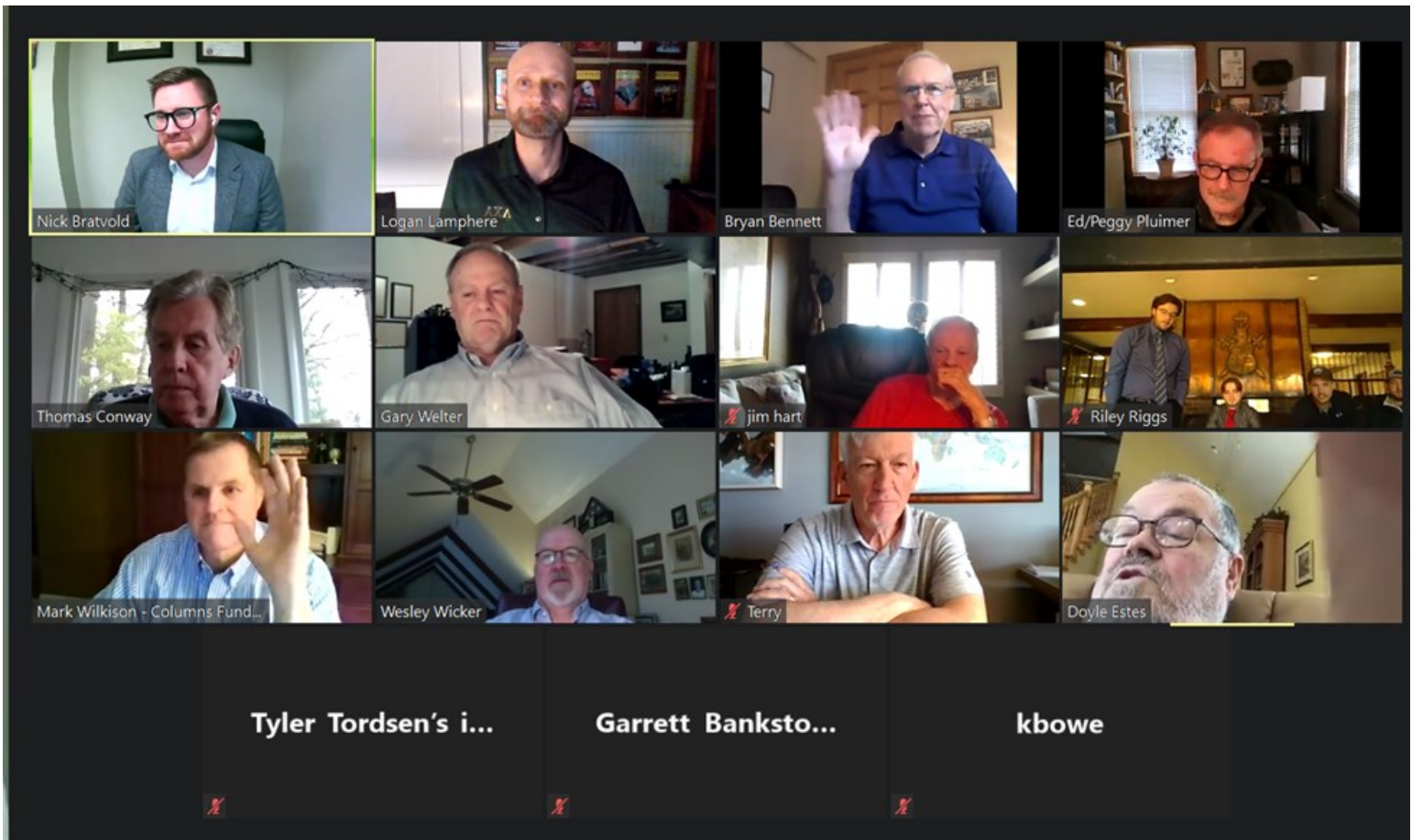
## First-ever virtual Founders Day held

On April 24, we joined the rest of the world by holding our Founders Day virtually via Zoom. Attendance was pretty good, and active brothers invited their parents later in the day to join them at the house for the annual awards and scholarship ceremony.

A welcome was given by High Rho Caden Hair and High Alpha Tatye Gleason gave an Active Chapter update. Gleason reported that about 90 percent of the membership was involved on campus, including half of the Interfraternity Council. High Delta Riley Riggs outlined some of the recruitment ideas for summer and fall, and discussed some of the Covid-related challenges

of 2020. Virtual updates were also given by High Pi Tyler Tordsen, Alumni Council Chair Nick Bratvold, Housing Corp President, VP, and Treasure Gary Welter, Doyle Estes, and Randy Sorensen respectively, along with Alumni Association Director Logan Lamphere.

During the remainder of the online meeting, alumni learned about the Campaign Feasibility Study conducted by the Columns Fundraising Company with Q&A. The information will be reviewed again at D-Days. You can watch a recording of the presentation at <https://www.facebook.com/540902258/videos/10159580085572259/>.



*Alumni from across the country joined the 2021 Founders Day Zoom meeting in April.*

## A beginning—the founding of Alpha Gamma Zeta at the University of South Dakota

*Submitted by Nick Bratvold,  
AF 1881, Alumni Council  
Chair*

It was February 1914 and, presumably, quite cold in Vermillion, South Dakota. Fifteen hundred miles away, Charlie Chaplin made his debut in the comedic, silent film *Making a Living*. Meanwhile, on America's opposite shore, the first bricks of the newly minted Lincoln Memorial were laid into place.

Robert Slagle had entered his first year at the helm of the University of South Dakota and would remain in that role for fourteen years. Later, in 1927, the year before Slagle left, the building that now contains Aalfs Auditorium and the President's Office would be built in his name.

Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, colleges and universities had not yet realized how profitable student housing could be. In fact, there were scarcely enough students to warrant these facilities in the first place. Classes were so intimate then that, at the end of every academic year, collegians were sent home with a yearbook (pictures and all).

No, there were no dormitories—no walking down the hall to discover a friend. College

was a serious thing then, and mischief had to be planned. Indeed, in 1914, student gatherings were purposeful engagements.

So, on February 18, it was no small event when two sophomores, Harry Robinson and Clarence Davis, met in the southeast room of the university library, not yet remembered as ID Weeks. The purpose of their meeting? To create something that didn't exist—at least, not as they thought it ought to.

At that time, five other fraternities existed on campus. Their names weren't important. What was important, in the eyes of Robinson and Davis, was that they lacked shared ideals and “a sense of what was right.” Agreed on the notion, they began to furtively write down the names of ten such men. The object, as it were, was less fostering greatness than it was goodness.

Robinson and Davis met at the same time and place the following evening. There, they whittled the list of ten down to five, deciding that if they were able to successfully recruit four, they would proceed with establishing their organization. The names of the prospects were Jesse Runestad, Ralph Willey, Lee Gillis, Lloyd Brown and R. E. Bragstad—and none of them ever joined the movement. We

can be thankful, in hindsight, that Robinson and Davis did not keep their promise to disband after failing to achieve eighty percent acquisition.

Undeterred and with some humility, professors Dr. Dale Elliott and Dr. R.G. Wellington were asked to sponsor the organization and advise for traction. Using the university catalogue (there were such things in those days), the men began crossing out names of men who had pledged other fraternities or were otherwise considered misaligned with the ideals of the cause. The party of four was left with a list of twenty-five and some work to do.

The annals of history don't recall the difficulties of recruiting in a South Dakota February, though the reader might draw their own conclusions with assumable accuracy. Still, early failure gave Robinson and Davis an appetite for success. In the weeks that followed, eleven men pledged their support, possessing either belief in the cause or simply nothing better to do. By early March, a meeting was set to discuss the most pressing question: what, precisely, was this thing?

Of those gathered, some thought the organization ought to assume a character similar to that of other local fraternities. Naturally, this was bullocks to

## A beginning, continued

the other half, who insisted they avoid resemblance to other fraternities as much as possible. Over a century later, the winner of this argument is neither clear nor certain.

Unanimously, the men agreed that a Greek-letter name was in order and to, at once, petition a national organization, Delta Upsilon, for chartership. Delta Upsilon never did reply to the call. The name of Vermillion's newest club was to be Sigma Delta Upsilon, after its host institution: the South Dakota University. Of course, this caused other students to refer to the new group, almost childishly, as the South Dakota Upstarts.

Later that month—March 27 at 7:30 p.m. to put a point on it—the group met at the Waldorf Hotel to define the finer elements of their new order. Clarence Davis, president pro-tempore, presided as chair over a number of men that had grown past twenty. Almost immediately, a faction of the more “original” members insisted the fraternity be redrawn as a boarding club. An uproar ensued. Though he had become a skilled recruiter, the sophomore Davis was not yet a parliamentarian.

Chapter meetings, it seems, remain as vibrant now as they were then. After the smoke had cleared, half of the men had seceded, including co-founder

Harry Robinson. Fatigued but undeterred, Davis sat on the steps of the law school that evening, joined by Herbert Hopperlee and Paul Puckett. Together they vowed to see Sigma Delta Upsilon succeed and set plans for the next day to rally support from those who remained.

The fat had been trimmed and matters moved quickly from that point onward. Twelve men became the founders of Sigma Delta Upsilon, officially organized on April 15, 1914. Their names were: O. B. Evenson, Warren Fisher, Paul Puckett, Floyd Bond, R.E. Sill, R.E. Williams, H.T. Boyd, Arthur Highland, George Johnson, Miller Steele, Homer Smith.

Together, these men drew up an initiation ritual and constitution, outlining three primary criteria for membership: morality, scholarship, and positive standing in activities. As an official mark of their progress, member badges were secured in plain gold—a monogram of the Greek letters Sigma, Delta, and Upsilon. In early May, the Volante filed their progress:

*Several of the more prominent men of the university...had realized for a long time that the fraternities now existing at the university are corrupt and not liv-*

*ing up to the standards which fraternities should live up to in any sense. They found their members to be too snobbish and exclusive, and disposed to look askance at the religious and moral life in the university. So bad were these conditions supposed to be that these men refused positively to join any of these chapters, feeling that they would be powerless to reform as necessary, and that as leaders in the university it was incumbent upon them to undertake such a reform, these men conceived the idea of organizing another fraternity as a protest against conditions existing in the existing fraternities. These good men intended to organize a fraternity which would in every sense measure up to the high standards which a fraternity should rightfully measure up to. With this end in view they began*

## A beginning, continued

*at once to perfect their plans of organization.*

The first president, R.E. Williams, and first treasurer, H.M. Steele, were elected on May 6 and, eleven days later on a spring, Sunday afternoon, the men gathered for a group picture. On May 20—just over one month before Gavrillo Princip assassinated Archduke Franz Ferdinand, beginning World War 1—a lease was approved by the local chapter, to rent the furnished second floor of C.M. Ruyan’s house located two blocks south of campus. Of note to those in attendance at the signing of the lease was this special provision: “there shall not be any playing or practicing upon musical instruments except during the hours of four to six p.m. of each day.”

The monthly rent for the Mr. Runyan’s home? Fifty-four dollars per month.

It wasn’t until six months later, on November 23, that a certain letter was read to the group during their weekly chapter meeting. Addressed to the men of Sigma Delta Upsilon, it was written by Warren Cole, the founder of Lambda Chi Alpha.



Alumni Dr. David Swanson (ΑΓ 1553) of Sioux Falls and Derik Kleibacker (ΑΓ 1545) of Houston and their families ran into each other this summer at Arnolds Park, Iowa, on Lake Okoboji. *Pictured are Katie and Dave Swanson and their children Caroline and Michael, and Derik Kleibacker and Annie Gillis; photo courtesy Annie Gillis*



Brothers Lance Elshere (ΑΓ 1581) of Palm Harbor, FL, Rob Barron (ΑΓ 1537) of Trinity, FL, and Logan Lamphere (ΑΓ 1596) of Orlando met up in Tampa this May for a post-Covid reunion. *Pictured are Lance and Jennifer Elshere, Kevin Edwards, Rob Barron and Logan Lamphere*



## Post-Covid: The continuing case for higher education

By Logan Lamphere

USD students went back to campus for the Fall 2020 semester, albeit with limitations and extra precautions to follow. The University offered free, rapid Covid-19 testing to students, faculty and staff.

On May 10, 2021, USD transitioned to mask-optional protocol as the spring semester ended, and with vaccines widely available. According to a press release, "USD has maintained consistently low infection rates the entire spring semester, with cases reduced by 85% for students and 63% for staff compared to fall. Thanks to the university's "Know Before You Go" campaigns, generously funded by the South Dakota Department of Health, over 4,000 students, faculty and staff were tested for COVID-19, and voluntarily went into isolation if they were positive.

As of July, USD plans to return to normal for the Fall 2021 semester. USD President Sheila K. Gestring said, "At a time when many other universities pivoted to online-only instruction, USD was able to offer face-to-face learning opportunities and on-campus living throughout the year, giving our students a robust learning experience despite the challenges of the pandemic. A mask-optional environment is a step in the right direction as we plan to return to normal campus operations this fall."

Brandon Busted, education writer for Forbes magazine, says that higher education enrollment can actually increase during difficult economic times, since people use the downtime of a soft job market to invest in their own futures. Busted says the same is true about fraternity enrollment, which may seem counterintuitive.

"Many in the field point to the valuable alumni

network and connections made through fraternity involvement that help members get internships and jobs."

According to a 2016 Harvard study, "taking a course online, instead of in-person, reduces student success and progress in college. Grades are lower both for the course taken online and in future courses. Students are less likely to remain enrolled at the university." (<https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/online-inperson-bflt.pdf>)

A Public Viewpoint study published in *Inside Higher Ed* in August of 2020 found that most students were still in favor of holding classes in-person. "More than half of college students surveyed said they believe universities should bring some students back to campus and run hybrid classes, while 22 percent said universities should allow all students to return for in-person classes.

"If you're a young person of traditional college age who's had this expectation of what your college experience is going to look like, if you're attending a residential four-year school, it is often difficult to think about setting aside that vision for yourself and the kind of experience you're going to have," said Kyle Southern, director of higher education and workforce policy at Young Invincibles, an organization that seeks to amplify the voices of young adults. (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/12/college-students-want-person-classes-despite-pandemic-poll-finds>)

Lambda Chi Alpha at USD will be ready for the return to normal attendance this fall and are optimistic about the future of in-person higher education in South Dakota and an in-person fraternity experience.



## News from Nationals:

### Lambda Chi launches new *Leadership Skills Credential Program* through Kaplan

By Logan Lamphere

A recent article in *Forbes* by Brandon Busted entitled “From Beers To Careers: The New Value Proposition Of Fraternity” discusses the value proposition of a fraternity experience in higher education. Most colleges and universities are creating work-readiness initiatives, but the fraternity experience can often exceed that of the university.

The article points to Lambda Chi Alpha’s new *Leadership Skills Credential Program* being offered through the Kaplan Performance Academy. The program provides “intensive training for their officers that yields certificates aligned with their roles in leadership, finance, recruitment and development”. In addition to the training and experience, the well-known Kaplan organization will issue a resumé-building credential. You can read the entire article here: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brandonbusted/2021/01/16/from-beers-to-careers-the-new-value-proposition-of-fraternity/>.

According to a Lambda Chi Alpha press release, “Gen Z” students need and want greater ROI from their college experience, said Troy Medley, CEO of Lambda Chi Alpha. “We believe this program will bridge the gap between the high-level theory of college classroom learning and real-world practical training. The certifications earned will offer proof of work readiness that our members can offer employers,” said Medley.

This training will teach a blend of technical and soft skills, such as, teamwork, problem

solving, critical thinking, work ethic, flexibility, adaptability and other interpersonal skills needed to successfully obtain and maintain employment. Prior to the 2021 fall semester, members can enroll and start earning credentials. Learn more at <https://www.labdachi.org/leadership-skills-credential-program-announcement/>.



## 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 High Pi Tyler Tordsen know at [tyler.tordsen@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.tordsen@gmail.com) and High Delta Riley Riggs at [riley.riggs@coyotes.usd.edu](mailto:riley.riggs@coyotes.usd.edu).

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.labdachi.org/refer-a-brother/](http://www.labdachi.org/refer-a-brother/).

## Join our LinkedIn group

Nick Bratvold has put together a group on LinkedIn, the business networking site, 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: [inkedin.com/groups/6629299/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/6629299/).

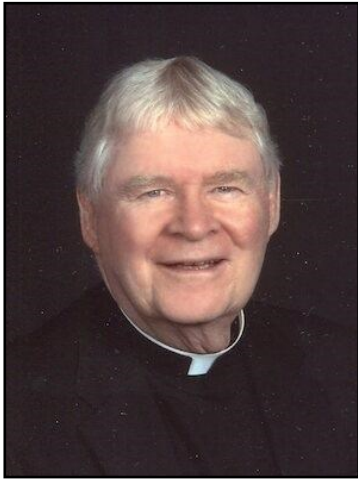


*Omega*

*Monsignor*

*James Doyle,*

*AF 1078*



*(Editor's Note:  
thanks to brother  
Dave Landry for  
looking after Msgr.  
Doyle for so many  
years!)*

Sioux Falls - Msgr. James Michael Doyle, 89, longtime priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, died on Monday May 24, 2021 at the Avera Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls. Mass of the Resurrection will be 10:00 AM Thursday, June, 3, 2021 at St. Michael Catholic Church, Sioux Falls. A Liturgical Wake Service will begin at 7:00 PM Wednesday, June 2, 2021, also at the church. Friends may come to pay their respects at the church beginning at 5:00 PM prior to the wake service. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Bishop O'Gorman Catholic Schools Teacher Endowment Fund or to the Parish of St. Michael. Please go to [www.georgeboom.com](http://www.georgeboom.com) for a link to view his services online.

He was born June 14th (Flag Day) in 1931 in Lake Benton, MN and only later learned that his father was joking when he told him all the flags were waving on the main street because it was HIS birthday. His father, John Edward Doyle, was postmaster at Lake Benton and his mother, Irene O'Connor Doyle was a teacher. In 1941, the family including his parents and sister Kathleen (Sr. Margretta) moved to Lennox, South Dakota where they owned and operated the State Theatre.

Msgr. Doyle spent the rest of his life in South Dakota except for his education of high school, college and seminary in St. Paul, MN and graduate work at the University of San Francisco. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Lambert A. Hoch at St. Joseph Cathedral in Sioux Falls on June 2, 1957. His priesthood assignments included parishes in Mitchell, Centerville, Brookings and the parishes of St. Michael and St. Mary in Sioux Falls. For 12 years he served as Director of the Newman Center at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, while also occupying the USD chair of Religious Studies. In retrospect, he felt his most exciting years were being a priest on campus during the challenging 1960's and 1970's. His most fulfilling times were the founding St. Michael Parish in Sioux Falls as well as co-founding the Banquet and St. Francis House. He was known to have a strong bend towards the poor. He loved people and many loved him back. He believed in collaborative ministry and was charmed by the way the lay leaders and volunteers learned how to own their own power while sacrificing time, talent and treasure to make the Gospel alive in the community.

Throughout his years, Msgr. Doyle received many recognitions from the church, state, university and city and while being profoundly grateful for them, he insisted he never sought any of them, and that there were many others more worthy than he for recognition. He always cherished and tried to remember the wisdom of the Irish saying to "wear yourself lightly." He never hesitated however to proudly proclaim his Catholic priesthood, his full Irish heritage and his citizenry of South Dakota.

Msgr. Doyle is preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Sr. Margretta Doyle, OSB. *(Published in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader)*

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