

Alpha-Gamma News

Fall 2013

LEADERSHIP TEAM

HIGH ZETA
HIGH ALPHA
TYLER TORDSEN

HIGH BETA
JOE ERICKSON

HIGH THETA
LUCAS VAN
ERMAN

HIGH GAMMA
JP DEMPSEY

HIGH TAU
TRE GILLASPIE

HIGH IOTA
ERIC RUPE

HIGH KAPPA
NICK BRATVOLD

HIGH DELTA
LUCAS VAN
ERMAN

HIGH PHI
JIM GULBRANSON

HIGH SIGMA
NICK BRATVOLD

HIGH EPSILON
ERIC ROACH

HIGH RHO
TYLER TORDSEN

HIGH PI
CODY SIEWERT

**HOUSE
MANAGER**
DEREK MCBRIDE

**HOUSE CORP
PRESIDENT**
DAVE LANDRY

VICE PRESIDENT
JEFF ESBENSHADE

TREASURER
SCOTT STERN

AT-LARGE
DOYLE ESTES
JACK NICHOLS
MATT BALLARD
CHRIS KIRKEBY

AG Receives National Recognition

In Greek mythology a phoenix is a bird that dies and is reborn, rising from its own ashes. In Lambda Chi Alpha the Phoenix Award is given to the chapter that has metaphorically risen from the ashes. To receive the award, a chapter must demonstrate outstanding improvements in chapter operations over the course of three years.

This past July at the Stead Leadership Conference in Memphis, Tennessee, Alpha-Gamma Zeta's ascent to one of the nation's premier chapters was officially recognized.

The men from Alpha-Gamma Zeta received the aforementioned Phoenix Award, North American Food Drive Award, and Duke Flad Award.

"We were honored to be recognized for our efforts at making our chapter the best it could be," said High Alpha Tyler Tordsen.

The prestigious Phoenix Award was due primarily to the chapter's improvements with regards to

recruitment, academics, and community service.

The chapter's passion for helping those in need is also illustrated by the receipt of the North American Food Drive Award. The award was given to Alpha-Gamma Zeta due to their outstanding efforts in Lambda Chi Alpha's annual food drive. Out of the 194 active chapters and colonies of Lambda Chi, Alpha-Gamma Zeta was one of only two recipients recognized with the award. The chapter raised a total of 22,950 pounds of non-perishable food.

Brother Tordsen also received an individual award, the Duke Flad Award. This award is the most prestigious award a Lambda Chi undergraduate can receive and it is

awarded annually to the most outstanding Lambda Chi Alpha undergraduate in the nation.

Brother Tordsen's remarkable accomplishment comes after serving as the chapter's High Alpha, High Beta, High Kappa, High Phi, and High Rho. In addition to his contributions to the chapter, he has also been involved with numerous organizations at the University of South Dakota. In addition, he served as an intern for the South Dakota Senate and the Governor of South Dakota.

Prior to Brother Tordsen's acceptance of the Duke Flad Award, Lambda Chi Alpha CEO Bill Farkas stated, "The achievements we have witnessed from the

Lambda Chi chapter at the University of South Dakota are tremendous. The leadership at Alpha-Gamma has really shown the value of courageously leading a group of men to bring forth positive change."



**Stead Leadership Attendees with
Awards in Hand**

Visit Our Webpage and Donate Online at
www.lamdachiatUSD.com

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays

Greetings Brothers:

We hope this newsletter finds you doing well. As you will read in this publication, 2013 has been a phenomenal year for Alpha-Gamma Zeta. From awards won to alumni giving, 2013 will be remembered as a historic year for our great fraternity. Although this newsletter primarily looks back, let us keep our eyes on the future. I am confident that Alpha-Gamma did not peak in 2013. The summit is within reach. Even better days are ahead. Greater things are on the horizon for us in 2014.

On behalf of the Housing Corporation and Active Chapter, I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

In ZAX,

Matthew Ballard
Housing Corporation
AG 1804

Chapter Emerges as Greek Week Champion

Greek Week is that special time of year where the fraternities and sororities come together in the spirit of friendly competition to determine the best chapter on campus. The alumni brothers of Alpha-Gamma will be glad to know that friendly competition or not, Lambda Chi Alpha crushed the competition and emerged as the Greek Week Champion.

Events during Greek Week included iron man volleyball, powder puff football, a sculpture contest, a letter construction contest, a lip sync contest and, of course, the Greek God and Goddess competition.

In achieving its victory Lambda Chi won the the souper sculpture competition, which involved creating a sculpture out of canned goods that were later do-



Derek McBride (right), future Greek God

nated to the food pantry.

The final contest of the week was Greek God and Goddess. The candidates performed in front of three different judges. One of the judges was Brad Fowler, the very first Greek God and an alumnus of our chapter.

Derek McBride, an Associate Member, was the representative from Lambda Chi Alpha this year and placed 4th amongst all of the houses. The chapter is confident that with a steady diet of protein shakes Associate Member McBride will be a Greek God before he graduates.

AG Boasts Grand High-Zeta Member

Just when you thought Brother Tyler Torden was the most decorated undergraduate in Alpha-Gamma Zeta history, he goes and outdoes himself.

As you are aware, Lambda Chi Alpha's Grand High Zeta serves as the General Fraternity's Board of Directors. Every even numbered year the General Assembly elects all members of the Board of Directors except for the Grand High Sigma, Grand High Theta, Grand High Nu,

and Grand High Psi. These four Grand High Zeta positions are selected by undergraduate brothers across the United States and Canada, and represent 4 of the 15 voting positions on the General Fraternity's Board.

Brother Tordsen was elected Grand High Psi, which is Vice Chairman of the Council of Presidents at the Stead Leadership Conference, where he also served on the International Ritual Team and was the recipient of

the Cyril F. Duke Flad award.



First Grand High-Zeta, next president of the universe?

“Park Ranger” Joe Erickson

This summer Joe Erickson, Alpha-Gamma 1871, had the opportunity to intern at the beautiful Custer State Park. In Joe’s internship he worked for South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department as a Park Ranger. He learned of the internship through the Criminal Justice program at the University of South Dakota.

“It was a truly mind blowing experience. I got to go out and start doing exactly what I want to do after school and I got to do it on my own,



Park Ranger Erickson had delinquents quaking in their boots

not with someone constantly looking over my shoulders.”

Another plus to the internship for Joe was that he was able to live in a secluded cabin in the Black Hills. Seeing bison, deer, turkey, bighorn sheep, or mountain lions in his back yard was a daily occurrence. “It wasn’t uncommon for me to have to walk out my back door and have to crack my bull whip a few times just so I could get to my work truck.”

Over the course of the summer Joe gave out many warnings as well as a few arrests. “My first arrest was definitely exciting. It was definitely an experience that solidified my career choice.” Joe ended up making his first arrest after discovering two individuals in possession of illegal drugs.

“I have always known that I wanted to work in law enforcement but I didn’t know why. Now I do.”

The highlight of the summer for Joe was the ability to continually help people. He commented numerous times about being able to be the first one to an accident and help out those who were hurt.

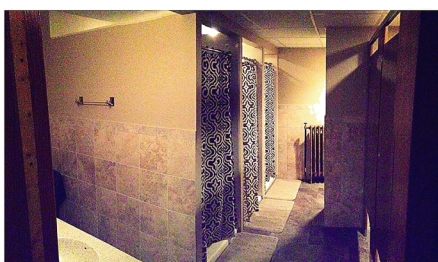
Giving directions was a daily occurrence for Joe and he enjoyed being able to lend a helping hand to those in need. While working in Custer State Park Joe also worked as a horse wrangler guiding trail rides at the Blue Bell Lodge. “I had a blast working in the morning and on my days off with the horses. It is something I have always loved and being in that atmosphere, out in God’s country, made it even better.”

Joe was invited back by his superiors and plans on working in the same internship this coming summer. We wish Joe the best this upcoming summer.

Bathroom Remodel Completed

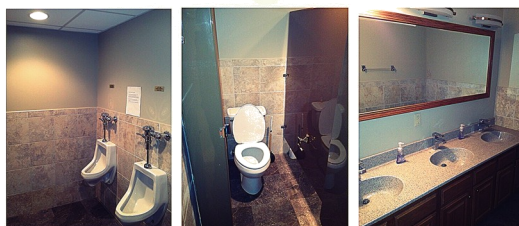
This past summer the Housing Corporation completed the remodel of the second floor bathroom. This was not just a cosmetic project. The entire bathroom was redone. This included the removal of the group showers which were replaced by three individual shower stalls.

House Corporation member, Chris Kirkeby, stated the following, “After the bathroom overhaul the second floor bathroom boosts the entire image of the chapter house and is a point of pride to show visiting friends, alumni, and parents. It’s the



nicest bathroom available in student housing.”

The Active Chapter would like to thank Brother Jeff Esbenshade who played a pivotal role in raising funds for the bathroom. Additionally, we would like to thank all of the alumni donors who made this project possible. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Alumni Giving Update

Greetings Brothers:

In total, the Housing Corporation received over \$20,000 in donations between D-Days 2012 and D-Days 2013.

Those donations played an important role in completing the remodel of the second floor bathroom and we thank you for your continued generosity and support. As you are aware, the chapter house is 81 years old. The next major remodeling project is stuccoing the house which was last done 49 years ago. The Housing Corporation is collecting bids and it appears the project will cost approximately \$35,000. Our goal is to raise at least \$20,000 of this through donations with the remainder paid for out of the reserve fund.

Please consider making a donation of \$500, \$250, \$100, or \$50.

In ZAX,
Jack Nichols
House Corporation
AG 1805

To donate, send a check to:

Scott Stern, Treasurer
2731 East Capricorn Place
Chandler, AZ 85249

Or donate online at:
www.lambdachiatusd.com

Expanding our Circle

Recruitment is the life-blood of every fraternity and arguably the most important chapter operation. A fraternity must always concern itself with recruiting quality young men but must always be mindful of quantity too. As the quality and quantity of a chapter's recruits goes, so goes the chapter.

Although the chapter has been successful in recruiting quality young men in recent years, the quantity has been lacking.

"We knew we had to change the way we did things but we just didn't know where to start," said High Delta Lucas Van Ermen.

This past fall the men of Alpha-Gamma started

utilizing new methods to help them successfully recruit quality and quantity. These methods included interactive skill training and the implementation of best practices. Armed with the knowledge and resources necessary to be effective in recruitment, the brothers went out and succeeded during fall recruitment week which occurred from August 26th to August 30th. For four hours potential new members were able to come over to the Lambda Chi house and visit with the active members, play yard games, and eat food. The brothers used the methods that they learned to recruit seventeen quality men.

Although this may not seem like a large class his-

torically, this is the largest recruitment class of the past five years.

"It is truly impressive what the brothers are able to accomplish when we are all on the same page and work together," said Van Ermen. In one week the chapter literally doubled in size.

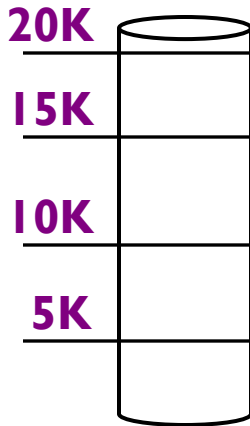
The chapter also changed its overall recruitment philosophy, as the chapter now practices year round recruitment. Alpha-Gamma will continue to pursue men who embrace the same ideals that we do and will not wait for a specific week to achieve this.



The Active Chapter Gathered on Main Floor after the Big Brother Ceremony

Inner Circle Giving Program

**2014
Fundraising Goal
\$20,000**



Benefits	Gold Donor \$500 and Above	Silver Donor \$250-\$499	Bronze Donor \$100-\$249	Alumni Dues \$50
Recognized on Chapter Website	X	X	X	X
Recognized in the Newsletter	X	X	X	X
Receive Hard Copy of Spring Newsletter	X	X	X	
Receive a Personal Thank You Note	X	X		
Recognized on Plaque in Chapter House	X			

Thank You for Donating!

Alumni Dues Contributor \$50

Richard Absher
William Adam
Darold Adamson
James Baird
Lance Bergeson
William Bowen
Mark Bradshaw
Greg Carlson
Craig Connell
Thomas Conway
Michael Crew
Blake Duerre
Ron S. Dvorak
Lawrence Giessinger
Joseph Fergen
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Jack Nichols
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Jeff Wilson
Dr. John Wollner
Thomas M. Vick

*Reflects donations made from D-Days 2012 to December 1, 2013

Thank You for Donating!

Silver Donors

\$250-\$499

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Jeff Esbenshade
Doyle Estes
Douglas Jones
G. Kevin Kane
Ben Mahowald
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Gold Donors

\$500 and Above

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Brian Landry

David Landry

James Morrison

Alan Pearson

Steve Pint

Harry Roberts

Mike Runge

Robert Sullivan

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