

LEADERSHIP TEAM

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BRATVOLD

HIGH BETA

CODY REED

HIGH THETA

ANDREW KOST

HIGH GAMMA

MARCUS BECKS

HIGH TAU

BERNARD
AUCAMP

HIGH IOTA

JOHN MORRIS

HIGH KAPPA

HARRISON SMITH

HIGH DELTA

ALEC ADAMSKI

HIGH PHI

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Alpha-Gamma News

Fall/Winter 2015



A Century of Brotherhood

As Alpha-Gamma Zeta nears its 100th anniversary it is worth reflecting on this unique accomplishment. Sustained organizational success is not a given. Businesses and organizations of all types routinely fail. Economist Paul Omerod examined the top 100 companies as of 1912. Surprisingly, he found that by 1995 48 of what were the "best of the best" companies no longer existed. While the many organizations appear to fail or falter over time, Alpha-Gamma is thriving as it approaches its centennial.

The chapter's success can be traced back to the initial seeds sown at its founding. A Volante article from the time beautifully described the event: "*As the last blazing orb of light and day cast its last lingering shafts of gold across the prairies of South Dakota on the evening of March 31, a number of more prominent men of the University, representing perhaps the moral fiber of the students, assembled premeditatedly to officially usher into life and being, a new fraternity at the University of South Dakota...*" A little over a week later on April 8, 1916 Alpha-Gamma Zeta was chartered.

In an account of our early history, Brother Clarence Davis stated "*we owe them [our founders] all a debt of gratitude for their work for our fraternity and they will always remain with us in memory if not in physical*

the world that we are a brotherhood of extraordinary gentlemen and great accomplishments. As we turn 100, it is time to celebrate this century of excellence!

The chapter's centennial celebration will occur from April 6, 2016 to April 9, 2016 in Vermillion. All brothers are invited to join together to remember the past and look forward to the future.

In order to make this celebration a success we are calling on you to do three things:

1. Mark your calendar
2. Register online
3. Invite your brothers

To register and view the schedule of events visit:

www.usdalumni.com/2016-lambda-chi-centennial

Feel free to contact Brother Tyler Tordsen with any questions regarding this event at 605-381-8105 or at Tyler.Tordsen@gmail.com.

being."

While the initial brothers that brought the chapter into being deserve significant credit, subsequent generations must be acknowledged too. Each generation has been charged with guiding the chapter and building upon the founders' legacy. Year after year seemingly irreplaceable brothers graduate, yet new brothers have continually emerged as leaders of our great brotherhood.

For 100 years we have sent our brothers out into the world and we have shown

Visit Us Online at www.lambdachiusd.com

In Memoriam "Bubba" Jacobsen



It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Brother Darren "Bubba" Jacobsen.

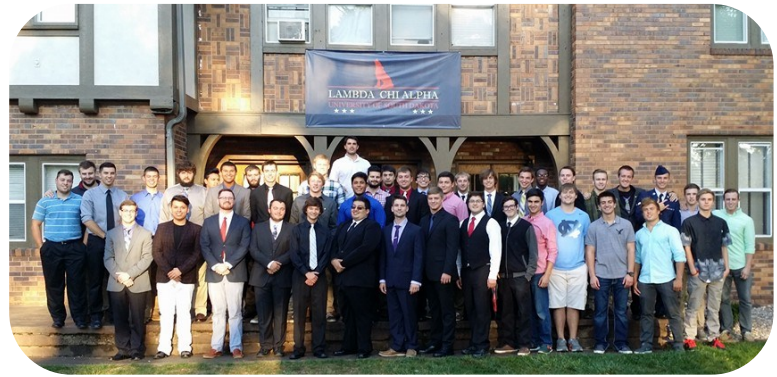
Bubba passed away on October 15, 2015 at Rapid City Regional surrounded by family and friends.

During his time at USD he studied Graphic Arts. He was a very active and proud member of Strollers and Lambda Chi Alpha. He also held several offices in the chapter including High Beta and High Phi.

What distinguished Bubba was his big heart. Bubba was a joy to be around and brought smiles and laughter to many. Bubba will be missed.

Fall Recruitment a Success

Through a combination of hard work and dedication the active chapter planned and executed a successful formal recruitment week. The results were impressive as Lambda Chi had the highest percentage of bids accepted with 23 men inking their desire to be an associate member of Alpha-Gamma Zeta.



The Active Chapter

The four days of events included house tours, football and wings, an alumni meet and greet, and a bean bag competition.

A great deal of this success

can be attributed to the chapter's recruitment chair Alec Adamski as well as the recruitment committee. These men worked long days and nights and held numerous meetings to

achieve the end results.

With the addition of the new associate members the active chapter's membership now stand at 56.

New Treasurer Elected to Housing Corporation

In 1939 the chapter moved into its current house at 327 North Pine Street. Amazingly, since that time Alpha-Gamma Zeta has had only two Housing Corporation treasurers. A third has now been added to that list.

Lester Lloyd became Housing Corporation treasurer in 1939 and served until 1984. Brother Lloyd was a long time Vermillion resident. He worked for the National Bank of South Dakota prior to serving as the treasurer for the City of Vermillion for many years.

In 1984, Scott Stern took over the role of Housing

Corporation treasurer. Brother Stern is a native of Freeman, South Dakota and helped run Stern Oil Company in Freeman for many years. Scott and his wife Staci moved to Chandler, Arizona two years ago where he works for Suncor Oil Company.

For the past 31 year, Scott has diligently kept our fraternity's financials in good standing and we thank him for his service to the chapter.

In addition to lengthy terms as treasurers, Brother Stern and Brother Lloyd also both share the honor of being recipients of the Order of Merit, which is awarded by

Lambda Chi Alpha General Fraternity to recognize unusual, lengthy, and dedicated service—particularly at the local level.

Brother Stern recently decided to retire from the Housing Corporation and Brother Scott Bell of Canton, was elected the new Housing Corporation treasurer at the annual Dakota Days meeting.

We are thankful to have Brother Bell take on this role and are confident he will live up to the rich legacy of those who proceeded him.

Projects Completed to Attract New Members

In the spring of 2015, the active chapter and alumni brothers met to plan summer renovations projects. The guiding principle when prioritizing these projects was to make the chapter house more appealing to potential new members. Through this cooperative effort and generous alumni donations three significant renovations were completed prior to fall recruitment

A major priority was to increase the chapter house's curb appeal. Old and outdated items such as the flag pole and railroad ties that ran along the perimeter of the lawn were removed. New flag poles were affixed to the front of the house to display the United States and Lambda Chi Alpha flags.

Rock beds and plants were also removed and new rock beds were laid in their place. Five new trees and two small bushes were planted to replace the removed shrubbery. Additionally, in the damaged areas of the lawn sod was laid. Finally, the porch was stained and the sidewalk was power washed.

Simultaneously, a group of brothers worked on a significant renovation of the basement lounge with the goal of making it a more usable space. The renovation began with a complete demolition of the ceiling, walls, flooring, windows, and electrical wiring. Working with a bare canvas the brothers stripped, stained, and sealed the floor. The walls were textured and painted and new windows and lighting were installed. Finally, the stairs leading to the basement were rubberized. To put the finishing touches on the room, furniture was purchased at a local auction, a TV was donated, and a sound system was installed.

Finally, High Pi Brad Fowler set to work renovating his old bedroom. Before Brother Fowler's handiwork, the southeast second floor bedroom was being utilized as a storage room. In turning the room into a functioning bedroom again, Fowler cleared the room of its previous contents, laid new flooring, framed a new door, and placed new paneling on the west wall. After completing this, Fowler fully furnished the room with closet shelving, a fold-a-way

bed, desk, television, refrigerator, and soundbar. This semester Brother Saul Chavez lives in the bedroom. He is extremely impressed by the finished product and is thankful for the work our High Pi put into the room.

A special thanks is owed to the following alumni and undergraduate brothers for their support of the aforementioned projects:

- ◆ Dave Landry
- ◆ Brad Fowler
- ◆ Michael Roach
- ◆ Nick Magera
- ◆ Brad Peterson
- ◆ Lucas Van Ermen
- ◆ Nick Bratvold
- ◆ Eric Rupe
- ◆ Derek McBride
- ◆ Zach Williams
- ◆ Mark Becks
- ◆ Ian Peterson

Record Turn out for Haunted House

The active chapter's annual Haunted House fundraiser, which is co-sponsored by Pi Beta Phi sorority took place October 28th and 29th.

The theme this year was "Fairy Tales." For the set-up and design of the rooms, the chapter encouraged its members to tap into their creativity. Pi Phi and Lambda Chi held a social where members were assigned a room in the chapter house. The members were expected to decorate and organize their room as they saw fit. The members drew inspiration from Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Hansel and Gretel, and Alice in Wonderland.

As those of you who have participated in the charity event know, a significant amount of work went into setting up and running the haunted house. Almost all members of both chapters volunteered multiple hours of their time. The hard work and creativity paid off as a record 500 people dared to enter the haunted house and over \$3,000 was collected.

Through all our philanthropic efforts the chapter raised a record \$4,700, which was donated to the local food pantry. Per the North American Food Drive dollars to pounds conversion

guide, this equates to 30,500 pounds of food!



Old Reflections, New Realities

by Scott E. Bell, Alpha Gamma 943
House Corporation Secretary/Treasurer

"Lambda Chi Fraternity, I love with all my heart!" For those of us who were initiated in the spring of 1973 (Class of 1976), that was the opening line of an Activation Week ditty that we had to recite when we answered the house telephone. Those nine words in that silly ditty succinctly summarized most of our feelings about the fraternity for the four years we were undergraduates. We were excited to be members, made life-long friends, and developed a true bond of brotherhood in those four years.

"Eickmann is our president and he is very smart!" John Eickmann was president that semester and was a great example of what the fraternity could produce. My recollection of John was that he was a great guy and great leader. Leadership is something that our fraternity builds. Think about how many governors have come from our brotherhood, including our current governor, Governor Daugaard. Also, the most powerful committee in the U.S. Congress, the House Ways & Means Committee, is now chaired by Brother Kevin Brady.

"I am a lowly neophyte, a lowly neophyte am I, being taught my manners by the men of Lambda Chi!" The fraternity was based on principles of honor and brotherly love that were taught to all of us. Over the years, the national fraternity has solidified this in far better associate member training than I ever received, formalizing the seven Core Values of the brotherhood: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Service & Stewardship, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. Lofty ideals, indeed!

When I graduated from Law School in 1979, I promptly left the state – seeking "better opportunities" that were elsewhere. The last D-Days I

attended was in 1980. For years, I watched our chapter from afar, but did very little to help it. After 35 years, having raised my family in Colorado, and learning that none of my girls were returning to Colorado, my wife and I decided to move closer to our girls.

Now, living in Canton and only 45 minutes from Vermillion, I have had the opportunity to re-ignite my



fraternity flame and become involved again. I attended D-Days in 2014, my first in 34 years. Seeing brothers I hadn't seen in 35 years was great, but they sure were old! Also, the house that was probably 40-45 years old when I lived there, is now another 40 years older. Time has not been terribly kind to it either. Another 1,000 members have arrived since I was initiated.

Today's reality, brothers, is that we have an aging chapter house in a time of ever-rising costs. I have heard that we have spent more than \$200,000 on our chapter house in the past 5 years, but it seems that only the surface has been scratched. The work that has been completed is beautiful; worthy of our fine fraternity and will serve us well for many years to come. However, the list of other items needing repair, replacement, or modernization is long.

Keeping our chapter house viable and attractive is a chicken and egg proposition. In order to pay for the improvements, we need men to live in the house. In order to attract men to our fraternity, to live in the house, we need a chapter house that is

welcoming. Also, it is all about the numbers. The more active members living in the house, the more rent the House Corporation can collect, and the more improvements that can be made.

Likewise, the more alumni contributions we receive, the more improvements that can be made. Recently, the Active Chapter has made great strides to improve their numbers. It's time for the alumni to step it up, as well.

The alumni dues have been set at \$50 for as long as I can remember. This is not much money, brothers! Maybe, six or seven trips to Starbucks? A moderate dinner with your wife? I urge you to look at that old reflection in the mirror and remember the great times had while living at the fraternity. Also, remember the bonds of brotherhood and friendship that have been created. For many of us, those bonds have been some of the most important moments in our life. Then, face today's new reality and pass this opportunity on to the next group of brothers by reaching for your checkbook and sending your annual alumni dues to the House Corporation.

Please make your check payable to:

Alpha Gamma Zeta House Corporation

Thanks! Also, don't forget the 100th Anniversary Party next April! More to come on this and ways to enhance our house for that great event.

Rapid City Alumni Hope to Start Annual Gathering

For the first time in recent years, alumni gathered for a reunion in Rapid City. The event, which occurred from October 9 to 11, kicked off on Friday with a golf tournament, which saw Chuck Parkinson emerge as the victor.

That evening a social reception that included hors d'oeuvres and cocktails was held at Minerva's.

Approximately, 40 to 50 alumni brothers were in attendance. The alumni brothers were joined by active chapter members as well as guests.

On Saturday festivities were held at the Arrowhead Country Club where



Brothers at the Rapid City Reunion

Brother Rich Hinseth is the club president. The event included a formal dinner and live music by Brother Tom Schaefer.

The weekend was capped off on Sunday with an ice cream social hosted at Brother Mike Brummer's Armadillo Ice Cream shop. Following the ice cream Housing Corporation President Dave Landry led an afternoon song practice.

The weekend was a great success and the Rapid City Lambda Chi Alpha alumni group is hoping to make this an annual event. Brothers Rich Hinseth, Doyle Estes, Doug Lind, Doug Estes, and Chris Kirkeby deserve special thanks for organizing the event.

Thank You For Your Donation!

Gold Donors \$500 and Above

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Thank You For Your Donation!

Alumni Dues Contributors \$50

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*Reflects donations made from January 1, 2015 to December 1, 2015

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