

Gamma-Alpha Update

A Publication of the Gamma-Alpha Chapter and Alumni of the
Kappa Sigma Fraternity at the University of Oregon

February 2020

Gamma Alpha Education Foundation (GAEF) Scholarship Awards Update



The 2019 recipients of \$2,500 GAEF scholarships were, L-R: Duncan Boone, Jake Gibson, and Albert Ludwin.

Our Gamma Alpha Educational Fund, a 501(c)(3), continues to provide meaningful financial support to our undergraduate scholars. Our chapter's scholarship fund is one of only a few such programs across the entire national Greek community. Our chapter members can also apply to our National's scholarship program — a double barreled resource for our scholars. Our awards criteria are the same as National's.

Each January, the application process is opened. Applicants must submit their applications by mid-February. The GAEF committee reviews all applications, and announces awards at the first of March. Scholarship funds are deposited to each recipient's university tuition account prior to the beginning of spring term.

Over the past four years, your GAEF has awarded more than 15 individual scholarships, and has also provided financial

support for delegates attending leadership conferences and the national Grand Conclave. In 2019, three scholarships of \$2,500 were awarded. The 2019 recipients were Duncan Boone, Jake Gibson, and Albert Ludwin, pictured above. Congratulations to all!

The cost of a college education continues to climb at a frightening pace. GAEF's objective is to increase the awards each year, both in size and in numbers. Please think about how helpful your contribution might be to a deserving Gamma Alpha scholar. Consider making an immediate contribution, or one through your estate planning: cash, appreciated securities, or property.

Contributions to our 501(c)(3) are tax-deductible. Your contribution is a meaningful investment in the future of our chapter members.

Seeking Applications/ Nominations for GAEF Board of Trustees

Your Board of Trustees invites you to consider volunteering to serve as a Trustee.

The GAEF, established in 2015, has operated successfully over the last four years, distributing a significant number of scholarships — totaling more than \$50,000 — to deserving chapter scholars. The committee has recently approved the distribution of \$100,000 to outstanding undergraduates over the next four years. The funds to facilitate these grants are comfortably in hand.

The individual time commitment of a Trustee is minimal, requiring attendance at three to four meetings per year. There is no compensation beyond the honor of awarding scholarship support to deserving Gamma Alpha undergraduates — a rewarding experience.

Please e-mail any one of the following Trustees for further information:

- Jeff Chase,
jeff@pattisfj.com
- Damon Bull,
damonbull@yahoo.com
- Michael Orlando,
mjorlando@yahoo.com
- Keith Skille,
keith@gbdarchitects.com

Gamma Alpha 2019 Wrap-up

As the new Grand Master of Gamma Alpha Chapter, I am proud to report that we had another great year. We sent four initiates to attend the 2019 Grand Conclave in Charlottesville, Virginia. During the week of celebrations, brothers from many chapters learned and shared ideas about organizing philanthropies and community service events and motivating brothers to improve academically.

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— *Wrap-up, continued*

A major highlight of the past year was our success in recruitment, fueled by our participation in the National Fraternity's Champion Quest recruitment initiative. We currently have 73 initiated members and 25 pledges. We signed 48 pledges in the last year, and are excited for the year ahead.

Another highlight was the philanthropy we put on to support our nation's veterans and firefighters. Members of the University of Oregon community have been really supportive, and aware of the great service that firefighters carry out every summer, and this philanthropy was a unique opportunity to show our support for their families. A great culture is being built here, with positive momentum to be carried into the new year.

Thank you for the continued support. I look forward to keeping our alumni in the loop about the chapter.

AEKDB,

— *Alden Felstiner, GM*

Obituaries

Joseph L. Castanos, '51-710, of Fresno, California, passed away December 10, 2018. He was born in 1928 in Fresno. After high school, Joe enlisted in the Marine Corps. Upon completion of his military service, he returned home and enrolled at Fresno State. It was during this time that Joe met Theresa Wathen; they were engaged and married in less than a year. They raised six children. Joe and Theresa celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in 2016. Joe began his business career working as an underwriting agent. He went on to form a general agency insurance partnership with Preston Diamond. He retired after 40 years. Joe volunteered his time with several community organizations. He was preceded in death by Theresa. He is survived by sons Michael, Kevin, Craig, and Peter; daughter Karen Lowart; 16 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

Franklin R. Haar, '52-726, of Fayetteville, North Carolina, passed away on November 24, 2018. "Bob" was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1933. He retired from the Army as a Major in 1975, after 20 years. Bob was a helicopter pilot, and had served in the Vietnam War. Bob is survived by sons John, Robert, Thomas, and Dan; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

James J. England, '54-749, of Creswell, Oregon, died March 17, 2018, at age 82. He was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts, in 1935; the family moved to Oregon shortly after he was born. He attended the University of Oregon as a business major for two years, and was a varsity letterman on the swim team. Jim married Alice R. Kihn in 1955. After college, he went into banking as a finance manager for 30 years. His interests included golfing, fishing,

sailing, gardening, mountain climbing, church activities, and traveling. He was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church for over 50 years. He belonged to the Lions Club, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Emerald Exec Association. He is survived by sons Mark and Eric; daughter Stacey Lyman; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by Alice.

William C. J. Stonebraker, '55-759, of North Bend, Oregon, died November 26, 2018. "Jerry" was born in 1930 in Pendleton, Oregon. He served in the Navy from 1948 to 1952, and was a radioman in the Korean War. He received a degree in Journalism from the University of Oregon, and worked in Baker City as a journalist and photographer before joining the *Coos Bay World* newspaper as News Editor from 1968 to 1992. He was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in North Bend. He volunteered for the South Coast Food Share and Coos Food Bank. Jerry is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jeanette; daughter, Nancii; son, Bill; and two grandchildren.

George M. Krupicka, '56-769, of Eugene, died August 20, 2017, at age 81. George was born and raised in Oregon. As a teacher and athletic coach, he devoted his life to the development of leadership in young people. He was a three-sport letterman in high school (football, track, and wrestling), and attended the University of Oregon on a football scholarship, but it was wrestling that stayed with him after graduation. He coached wrestling for 32 years at North Eugene High and was assistant wrestling coach at the University of Oregon. He worked closely with the Cultural Exchange Program, and hosted the regional Junior Development Tournament many times. He was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1998. George is survived by his wife and family.

Donald D. Casteel, '57-788, formerly of Pueblo, Colorado, died May 5, 2008, in Panama City, Panama, at age 69. He was born in Wyoming, and graduated from the University of Oregon with a degree in International Relations. After graduation, he served as an infantry officer in the Army, with tours of duty in Vietnam and Germany. After discharge, he entered the Foreign Service of the United States. In addition to multiple overseas assignments, he served in Washington, DC. He retired to Pueblo in 1988, and moved to Panama City in 2004. He is survived by his wife, Nina; sons Charles and Donald; daughters Caroline, Diana, and Danielle; and eight grandchildren.

William M. "Mitch" Cramer, '67-969, of Knoxville, Tennessee, passed away February 20, 2017. He was a graduate of University of Oregon, where he had served as GM of Gamma-Alpha Chapter, and UT Law School. He was a member of Salem Baptist Church. He retired from the firm of Norton, Spangler and Cramer as attorney and partner. He was an avid baseball and soccer fan. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Aleda. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters, Terri Berry and Amanda Audritsh; son, James; and six grandchildren.

Gamma-Alpha Updates

Wallace B. Eakin, '49-661, is a retired news editor. He writes: "I was sorry to see the obit of my good friend, **Stretch Hultgren ['49-663]**, and that of **Bill Gibbons ['52-714]**, whom I hadn't seen for decades, but enjoyed catching up on **Alfie White's ['50-689]** info in the November newsletter. Stretch and I identified all those in an old newsletter photo at the old house, which I still keep. It included FB great **Norm Van Brockin ['46-595]** from the 1950s." Wallace receives mail at 1809 B St., Hood River, OR 97031.

2018-2019 Honor Roll of Contributors

During the 2018 program year, 29 brothers contributed a total of \$5,840 to the alumni communications program. For 2019, another 5 donated \$450. Your generous support made possible the publication of this issue of the *Gamma-Alpha Update*. Help us keep you informed: the alumni communications program is funded solely by your donations!

Name	Init. Yr. & No.		
William W. Evans	48 Pledge	Samuel H. Kress	70 1026
Wallace B. Eakin	49 661	Jeffrey L. Chase	72 1041
Waldon B. Byers	50 670	Patrick J. Kilkenny	72 1044
James C. Cecil, Jr.	50 671	Jules A. Marine	73 1054
Harold C. White	50 689	Peter K. Wong Ma	73 1061
John L. Shea	56 774	John W. Truax	74 1072
Edward H. Stark	57 789	Donald M. Ossey	76 1123
August E. Parlier	58 792	David R. Cunningham	77 1139
Tom B. Mitchell	59 812	William S. Whitehead	79 1225
John J. Natt	61 842	Keith A. Skille	82 1281
Thomas V. Boyles	62 872	Curtis E. Melcher	83 1295
James C. Jacobsen	63 880	Chad A. Turner	88 1431
George S. Lagusis	63 889	Michael J. Blakeley	89 1434
Richard J. Gunderson	65 925	Scott D. Curry	94 1505
Timothy A. McClain	66 953		
Kevin E. McDonald	68 997		
John A. Runyan	68 998		
Russell R. Kilkenny	69 1015		

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