

Gamma-Alpha Update

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

June 2015

Important Update From the Building Corporation Board

As mentioned in the July 2014 newsletter, your alumni Building Corporation Board held two update meetings in May 2014 to discuss the success of the Gamma-Alpha Chapter and associated developments. The meetings were held at the Eugene Hilton and the Portland Multnomah Athletic Club. Two invitations for each were mailed, as well as e-mail notices where possible.

At the May 2014 meetings, it was proposed that a portion of the house sale proceeds be used to fund undergraduate scholarship and leadership awards. Alumni present at the meetings generally favored the concept. As a result, significant steps have been taken toward conversion of the Building Corporation to a scholarship-focused 501(c)(3).

First, contact was made with our National Headquarters to explain our intent. They encouraged us to pursue the concept. The board then approved hiring a Portland attorney specializing in the field of “not for profit public entities.” His work has guided us in moving to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt format. Given the attorney’s detailed input, the board has voted unanimously to move forward with the change as soon as possible. The change will open the door for undergrad scholarships for Gamma-Alpha members, and will additionally allow “Tax-Deductible Gifts” from alumni! This represents a major improvement over our current structure. The scholarship program would be administered by our National Headquarters. Our new Gamma-Alpha 501(c)(3) will continue to locally control and hold all funds. Initially, only a small portion of our funds will be committed to the scholarship program, with intent to expand the format in the future.

The new 501(c)(3) structure will allow consideration of future property acquisition, when appropriate and when future conditions warrant that step. For multiple reasons, property acquisition has been put aside for the indefinite future.

Despite challenges faced by fraternities today, both locally and nationally, our chapter remains strong with approximately 70 members. Two extraordinary and dedicated alumni advisors continue to provide guidance: Kevin Sasaki and David Giles, both of Portland, have made many, many trips to Eugene over the past six years. Amazing!! Our young men are an outstanding

group, focused on the Four Pillars of Kappa Sigma: Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service. Ritual proficiency remains at nearly 100 percent for the undergraduate members, a true sign of commitment!

It is worth noting that Greek life has seen a strong resurgence nationally, and the U of O is no exception. More than 16% of undergraduate students at the U of O now belong to Greek organizations, nearly double the percentage from 10 years ago. Our Gamma-Alpha Chapter is now one of the largest Kappa Sigma chapters on the west coast.

Nationally and locally, Greek fraternity and sorority organizations are going through significant changes brought on by social issues such as substance abuse and sexual conduct. Universities and colleges are mandating change, as are our alumni and our national organizations. The steps now being implemented toward a focus on scholarship are timely for Gamma-Alpha. Time has truly brought about change!

We welcome your questions and concerns. Please contact us, and we will get back to you:

— John Runyan

flyingjar@aol.com / 503-936-4570

— Jeff Chase

jeff@pattisfi.com / 503-807-2485

Founders Day 2015



We held our Founders Day dinner at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland. Brothers present included: Spencer Kupish, Michael Swift, Riley Anderson, Theodore Lack, Cameron Gless, Nick Melanson, Sebastian Larsen, Michael Fisher, Matthew Pelos, Kevin Sasaki, and Andrew Caraballo.

Send us your e-mail address!

To keep alumni informed of events and activities, periodic announcements will be sent out via e-mail. To make sure you are on the list, return the enclosed alumni news form or write to addresses@comcoa.com. Be sure to state that you are an Oregon Kappa Sig.

Community Involvement

Since the beginning of the year, Kappa Sigma has been reaching out to other Greek organizations and the campus community in general. Our new Sorority Crush Sunday program has us bringing bouquets of flowers to different sororities each Sunday, and we handed out roses and chocolates on Valentine's day to all of them! We have attended or participated in every philanthropic event put on by other Greek chapters this year. We plan to continue our active involvement in Greek and campus community life.

— *Matthew Pelos,*
Public Relations Chairman

Philanthropy: Community Gardens and Greek Activities

This year, Kappa Sigma worked closely with Food for Lane County, putting together several events in which our brothers prepared community gardens for planting. We had a great turnout, with 21 brothers participating in one event! After the event, the director of Food for Lane County thanked us for coming out in such force to help the community. We plan to continue working with Food for Lane County, and seek to expand the list of organizations that we help.

We participate as often as possible in philanthropic events hosted by other Greek chapters. We fielded teams for Sigma Nu's Kickball Cancer Philanthropy and Kappa Kappa Gamma's Dodgeball Philanthropy, pictured at right. Several sororities participated in our own Kappa Sigma Boot Camp on April 18, with Alpha Phi's team winning this year's competition. We are striving to make our Boot Camp the premier philanthropic event on campus.

— *Emerson Miao,*
Community Service Chairman

— *Clayton Coyne,*
Philanthropy Chairman

Improving Grades

I am a relatively new member of Gamma-Alpha, and the scholarship chair is my first executive position. My primary goal is to raise our chapter GPA to 3.0 or better. The scholarship committee and I have instituted a new system, rewarding brothers who earn a 3.3 GPA or higher with a nice dinner. This system not only provides an incentive for the brothers to achieve higher grades, but it adds an extra element of brotherhood development. Although brothers who don't make grades are still punished with restricted attendance to social gatherings, I'm hopeful that providing positive incentives will yield better grades. I myself take school very seriously, so helping my fraternity brothers stay focused on their studies is important to me.

— *Ciarin Smythe,*
Scholarship Chairman



Intramural Teams

This winter term, seven brothers formed an intramural basketball team. The team got off to a rough start, but finished out the regular season with a 3-2 record. With this strong finish, we ended up tying for first in our respective division. The team is playoff-bound for the first time in two years! For spring term, we are forming Co-ed soccer and Ultimate Frisbee teams with different sororities. We want to revive the championship winning days of our past brothers, and will continue to strive to do so!

— *Colin Meisner,*
Intramural Chairman



Kappa Sigma's team took first place in Sigma Nu's Kickball Cancer philanthropy. Pictured are Ian Johnson, Colin Meisner, Jonothan Kruger, Michael Wright, Sebastian Larsen, Jackson Luby, Michael Swift, Jonothan Cervantes, Daniel Langon, and Brezdan Dunnigan.



Kappa Sigma's team participated in Kappa Kappa Gamma's Kappa Dodgeball Philanthropy. The brothers from left to right are: Dylan Wright, Cameron Gless, Taylor Flores, Erik Carlson, Daniel Langon, and Adam Regos.

Recruitment Brings New Pledges

Throughout the 2014/2015 school year, recruitment for the Gamma-Alpha chapter has been in full swing. During our fall rush in 2014, we hosted two-and-a-half weeks of exciting events, allowing prospective members to experience Kappa Sigma brotherhood first hand. Some of the events included hiking Spencer Butte, playing Ultimate Frisbee, and backyard barbecues. At the conclusion of fall recruitment in 2014, 24 potential new brothers had accepted their bids.

This spring, starting on March 30, we began our spring rush! As in the fall, lots of potential new members enjoyed eating tacos, playing Ultimate Frisbee, and engaging in lots of other fun activities.

— Sean Thomson,
Rush Chairman
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262-443-1976

Building Brotherhood

As Brotherhood Development Chairman, I am taking a whole new approach to bringing brothers closer. Starting this term, I conducted the first-ever ‘brother draft,’ forming six competing teams of 12 brothers per team. Prizes will be awarded to the winning teams, and penalties assessed to the losers. Eight competitive events over the course of the term will decide the winner. Other ideas for brotherhood activities are under consideration by our Executive Board, with the goal of increasing member involvement.

— Patrick Stewart,
Brotherhood Development
Chairman

Help Us Find These “Lost” Brothers

The following members have had mail returned by the Post Office as “undeliverable,” and the alumni office would like to get them back on the mailing list for the *Gamma-Alpha Update* and other fraternity communications. If you are in touch with any of them, or know of their whereabouts, please let us know! Use the enclosed alumni news form, or send e-mail to addresses@comcoa.com.

Howard G. Little	1927	266	Edmund T. Banning	1975	1106
Edward H. King	1929	298	James P. Rothwell	1976	1131
Thomas M. Waltman	1938	457	Peter J. Demas	1977	1140
Neil J. Stackhouse	1938	462	Russell L. Hughes	1977	1144
Walter P. Dickey	1941	514	Esley N. Davis	1978	1191
James B. La Fon	1941	526	Michael A. Aimone	1978	1199
James F. Lloyd	1942	545	Bruce M. Bauer	1978	1200
Bob S. Cox	1942	547	Brian K. Burreight	1978	1201
William L. Bishop	1947	599	Benjamin J. Brown	1980	1233
James S. Snyder	1947	612	Scott R. Adams	1981	1260
Lyle R. Morrison	1949	664	Timothy P. Hand	1981	1264
Charles M. Laury	1952	715	James F. Allsup	1982	1265
Thomas A. O’Connell	1954	746	Anthony S. Frost	1982	1271
Philip W. Richter	1954	750	Michael J. Hansen	1982	1274
Charles J. Harrell	1955	753	Andrew E. Peterson	1982	1278
Michael S. Johnson	1956	773	Stuart A. Miller	1983	1296
Murphy L. Clark	1957	778	Earl J. Fletcher	1984	1311
Michael E. Kurtz	1959	803	William M. Ryan III	1984	1317
Michael C. Clark	1959	813	Ross W. Parkel	1985	1343
Thomas H. Taylor	1959	818	Carl S. Humphrey	1985	1346
Douglas E. Collinson	1960	830	Richard C. Abel	1986	1347
William R. West	1960	833	Scott J. Glass	1987	1377
James D. McCoy	1962	874	Douglas A. James	1988	1413
James S. Johnson	1963	881	Robert T. Wasson	1988	1423
David C. Williams	1963	900	Aaron S. Brown	1989	1434
David B. Kincaid	1964	905	Michael D. Boyer	1990	1435B
Michael P. Felts	1965	916	Andrew J. Roessler	1990	1435H
Douglas B. Morrison	1965	921	Brett M. Lawrence	1992	1469
Randy R. Akers	1965	928	Timothy P. Nash	1992	1475
John C. Kelly, Jr.	1966	937	John A. Nava	1995	1532
James E. York	1966	950	Nathan J. Hawthorn	1996	1546
John O. Schulz	1966	956	Joe L. Hernandez	1996	1548
John F. Knutson	1967	972	Mason A. Welp	1996	1561
William E. May	1968	986	Brian D. Hy Nguyen	1997	1585
Robert A. Harley	1968	1004	Jay Snyder	2003	1673
Robert H. Morgan	1969	1009	Alexander D. Robinson	2011	1719
John A. Clarke	1970	1019	Kyle R. Smith	2011	1726
Richard C. Johnson	1973	1060	Davis W. Wolfe	2011	1733
Laurence A. Jensen	1975	1091			



Taco Tuesday at Taylor’s rush event.



Mom’s Weekend on Spencer Butte.

Obituaries

John Y. "Jack" Lansing, '39- 486, of Wilsonville, Oregon, died October 28, 2014. Born in Portland in 1920, Jack earned his journalism degree at the U of O, where he was involved in athletics and politics, and served as president of Kappa Sigma. After graduating, he attended graduate school at Stanford University and Norfolk College in England. In World War II, Jack was the squadron commander of a B-17 bomber group, and was a pioneer in drone warfare. John commanded the top secret mission Operation Aphrodite in 1944. Also in that year he roomed with President Kennedy's older brother, Joe, and was flying in the same formation with him when Joe's plane exploded over the English Channel. Jack was awarded two Distinguished Flying Crosses, four Air Medals, several battle stars, Theater Ribbons, and numerous citations for his exploits in air combat. He retired as a major. Jack was a director and officer of civic associations and four corporate boards of directors, including service as president of Pacific Power & Light Company and as chairman of Bohemia Corporation. He was a board member of the Eisenhower Library Association of Abilene, Kansas. Among his civic activities he served as chairman of the State Board of Aeronautics. He was one of the three founders of the Portland Duck Club (Oregon Club of Portland), and for over 70 years a passionate supporter of the U of O. Jack was the driving force in funding the Portland Trailblazers with Oregon sports scene leader and friend Harry Glickman at his side. He is survived by his son, John Jr.; two grandsons; and three great-grandchildren.



Albert A. Prestholdt, '40-499, of Sun City West, Arizona, passed away in 2012 at age 91.

Malcolm H. MacEwan, '43-562, of Bend, Oregon, died June 17, 2012, at age 88.

James W. Ryel, '43-567, died November 17, 2014, in Surprise, Arizona. Born in 1924 in Long Beach, California, he completed his undergradu-



ate studies at the UO and took his Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Southern California Medical School in 1950. Dr. Ryel and Dorothy Ann Seiler were married in Long Beach on August 19, 1947. Their daughter, Susan Lee, was born in 1949, and their son, James William, was born in 1952. Brother Ryel served in the Army for three years during World War II as an enlisted man, and for three years during the Korean War as a Medical Officer, attaining the rank of Captain. After specialty training in radiology at the USC Los Angeles County Medical Center, he worked as Chief Radiologist at St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton, California, from 1957 until his retirement in 1983. He was a member of many local, state, and national medical and radiological societies; he served as president of the Orange County Radiological Society and as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology. His hobbies included flying, motor racing (sports cars and desert motorcycles), and scuba diving, but golf and fly fishing were his true passions. Dorothy preceded him in death by just 45 days. He is survived by his children and by two grandchildren.

M. Arthur Stilwell, '43-576, of Honolulu, Hawaii, passed away on March 24, 2014. He was born in 1924 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and worked as an architect. He is survived by his wife, Norma Ann Stilwell.

Roy A. Hassman, '48-634, of Mesa, Arizona, passed away on July 25, 2014, at age 84, according to his family.

Irwin E. Joslyn, '56-767, of Blackfoot, Idaho, died August 13, 1995, at age 65. Thanks to **Edward H. Stark ['57-789]** for notifying the alumni office of Irwin's passing.

Gamma-Alpha Updates

Jack Meeke, '46-584, has opened a limousine and bus service in Portland, JMI Limousine. For details, see www.portlandlimos.com. Write to Jack at 15932 NW Claremont Dr., Portland, OR 97229.

James C. Cecil, Jr., '50-671, is "still alive — I almost hate to read the Kappa Sigma news, as my classmates are dying off. I still do some traveling, but not to Eugene anymore." James and Ramona receive mail at 525 E. Corte Castano, Camarillo, CA 93010.

Edward H. Stark, '57-789, has "retired from orthopedic practice at Kaiser NW Permanente after 37 years. I was chief of orthopedics for 13 years." Edward enjoys golf, travel, and bridge tournaments. He and Joan are parents of Steve (45) and Julia (44). Write to him at 10344 SE Bristol Ct., Happy Valley, OR 97086.



2014 Honor Roll of Contributors

During the 2014 program year, 32 brothers contributed a total of \$2,510 to the alumni communications program. 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.		
Jack Meeke	46 584	H. Lee Felling	63 896
William P. Andrews	47 613	Richard J. Gunderson	65 925
Edward M. Anderson	48 623	Thomas C. MacDonald	66 938
William W. Evans	<i>Pledge</i> 48	Fred F. Sprinz	67 981
Wallace B. Eakin	49 661	Kevin E. McDonald	68 997
Julian E. Hultgren	49 663	John A. Runyan	68 998
Waldon B. Byers	50 670	Samuel H. Kress	70 1026
James C. Cecil, Jr.	50 671	Jeffrey L. Chase	72 1041
Harold C. White	50 689	Patrick J. Kilkenny	72 1044
Richard H. Haake	52 725	Jules A. Marine	73 1054
James C. Nelson	52 728	Douglas E. Strand	75 1096
Edward H. Stark	57 789	Edward T. Bondurant	79 1226
August E. Parlier	58 792	Lawrence A. Seyer	82 1287
John J. Natt	61 842	Curtis E. Melcher	83 1295
James C. Jacobsen	63 880	Garth A. Engle	86 1349
George J. Tichy II	63 894	Scott G. Thurman	89 1432