

# Gamma-Alpha Update



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

November 2020

## Gamma-Alpha Education Foundation (GAEF) Scholarship Awards, Spring 2020



The February 17, 2020, recipients of \$2,500 GAEF scholarships were, L-R: Kevin Yee, Alden Felstiner (GM), Kenneth Gibson, Matteo Fernandez, Charles Nelson, and Leonardo Amatulla.

Our Gamma-Alpha Educational Fund (GAEF), 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 \$75,000 toward 21 individual scholarships, and financial support for delegates attending leadership conferences and the national Grand Conclave.

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.

## Gamma-Alpha 2020 Wrap-up

Dear Gamma-Alpha alumni:

The Kappa Sigma chapter at the University of Oregon has faced many challenges in 2020 related to the ongoing pandemic. These challenges have forced our chapter to take a less social and more virtual approach to brotherhood. While we still enjoy the company of our friends

and brothers, we are under more scrutiny from the University than ever before. The pandemic's effect on all our social lives has spared no one, but has most dramatically changed the expectations for college students, a demographic thought to be at its peak of social activity.

The Gamma-Alpha Chapter has taken precautions to socially distance, holding chapter meetings virtually over Zoom, making sure guys get tested regularly, and quarantining specific satellite houses in case of exposure to COVID.

While remaining out of the University's spotlight has been challenging, the question of how to operate safely and effectively as a chapter was most concerning to our members. One specific challenge was rush. This year we held rush entirely over Zoom. Many brothers felt up to the task of a virtual rush, and we recruited yet another successful pledge class. We came up with virtual events like poker and a game night to get to know potential new members. We enjoyed meeting the new guys over Zoom, and even though it was not ideal, we were able to have a good time and get to know each other. We wrapped up rush by adding 26 new members, who will be initiated late in November to bring the chapter total to roughly 95 members.

The fall '20 pledge class will look different from any other rush class, but we know that these men will hold to the true values of Kappa Sigma and eventually become initiated members.

Overall, the chapter is in great shape, and we are now working on our Military Heroes Month campaign. We look forward to sharing our military heroes fundraising campaign with you, our alumni, and I hope that together we can provide more resources for our fantastic beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

— Adam Felstiner  
Grand Master  
Gamma-Alpha Chapter

KΣ

## Ehrman Vincent Giustina, '39-484, of Eugene, Oregon



Ehrman passed away on June 21, 2020, at age 99.

Born in Portland's St. Vincent Hospital on July 19, 1920, he was the son of northern Italian immigrants. The family settled in Eugene in 1923, establishing a small lumber milling business. The business grew over the years with the purchase of additional mills to become two large companies, Giustina Resources and Giustina Land & Timber.

Ehrman was a decorated WWII Navy bomber pilot, earning both the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal in 1944. The war interrupted his studies at the University of Oregon Business School, so he returned to graduate after the war.

Ehrman was a devoted, active Gamma-Alpha alumnus. He was co-honorary chair, with Thomas E. Autzen, of the successful Gamma-Alpha Capital Campaign of 1999.

Ehrman was a devoted U of O alumnus. He served as UO Foundation President from 1981 to 1983, and a UO Foundation Trustee from 1966 to 1994. He received numerous UO honors, including the UO Distinguished Service Award in 1989. He held leadership positions in many local and state organizations over many decades.

Ehrman was predeceased by his wife, Lee, in July 2009. They were married in May of 1943. He is survived by his daughter; three sons; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## Obituaries

**Don R. Griffin, '51-698**, of Buena Park, California, passed on January 31, 2018, at age 87. He had served 22 years on the Buena Park City Council, six years as Mayor, and two years as Mayor Pro Tem before retiring in 1966. He is survived by his wife Gladys ("Corky"), four children, and seven grandchildren.

**James R. Ramsey, '52-718**, of Portland, Oregon, died February 26, 2020, at age 88. At the U of O, Jim was president of Kappa Sigma, earned a Bachelor's degree in history, and fell in love with Diane Stout. They celebrated their 64th anniversary in September 2019. After college and a stint in the Navy, Jim moved back to the family ranch in Madras. He was an avid fisherman and rock climber. He is survived by Diane; three children; and two grandchildren.

**Richard F. Wallsinger, '60-829**, of Waleska, Georgia, died December 10, 2019. He is survived by wife Marty; three children; and several grandchildren.

**Donald E. Collinson, '60-830**, of Elk Grove, California, died February 13, 2015, at age 74.

**Harry M. Hanson, '61-851**, of Portland, Oregon, died November 16, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and several children.

## Gamma-Alpha Updates

**James C. Cecil, '50-671**, is a retired banker and member of the Navy League. He and Ramona have five children. "I am still going strong at age 92. Right now I am sheltering at home, hoping to ride out this virus safely. Mona and I are still in our own home." Write to him at 525 Corte Castano, Camarillo, CA 93010.

## Help Us Find These "Lost" Brothers

The following individuals have had mail returned by the Post Office as "undeliverable," and the Alumni Office would like to get them back on the mailing list! If you are in touch with any of them, or know of their whereabouts, please notify us using the enclosed "Gamma-Alpha Updates" form, or send e-mail to [addresses@comcoa.com](mailto:addresses@comcoa.com). Be sure to note "Kappa Sigma, Gamma-Alpha" in your subject line.

Charles M. Laury	1952	715
Thomas A. O'Connell	1954	746
Charles J. Harrell	1955	753
Michael S. Johnson	1956	773
Murphy L. Clark	1957	778
Michael E. Kurtz	1959	803
Michael C. Clark	1959	813
Thomas H. Taylor	1959	818
William R. West	1960	833
James D. McCoy	1962	874

James S. Johnson	1963	881
David C. Williams	1963	900
David B. Kincaid	1964	905
Michael P. Felts	1965	916
Douglas B. Morrison	1965	921
Randy R. Akers	1965	928
John C. Kelly, Jr.	1966	937
James E. York	1966	950
John O. Schulz	1966	956
Jens C. Housley	1967	971
William E. May	1968	986
Robert A. Harley	1968	1004
Robert H. Morgan	1969	1009
John A. Clarke	1970	1019
Richard C. Johnson	1973	1060
Laurence A. Jensen	1975	1091
Russell L. Hughes	1977	1144
Bruce M. Bauer	1978	1200
Brian K. Burreight	1978	1201
Matthew L. Owen III	1979	1214
Benjamin J. Brown	1980	1233
Scott R. Adams	1981	1260
Ronald N. Pierce	1981	1263
Timothy P. Hand	1981	1264
Anthony S. Frost	1982	1271
Michael J. Hansen	1982	1274
Stuart A. Miller	1983	1296
Torben Hage	1983	1304
Earl J. Fletcher III	1984	1311
William M. Ryan III	1984	1317
Ross W. Parkel	1985	1343
Richard C. Abel	1986	1347
Scott J. Glass	1987	1377
Vaughan W. Reynolds	1989	1434
Andrew J. Roessler	1990	1435
Brett M. Lawrence	1992	1469
John A. Nava	1995	1532
Nathan J. Hawthorn	1996	1546
Joe L. Hernandez	1996	1548
Mason Andrew Welp	1996	1561
Brian D. Nguyen	1997	1585
Tyler Lewis Wintermute	2002	1665
Jay Snyder	2003	1673
Devon Guy Decembre	2011	1688
Benjamin Z. Thompson	2011	1729
Davis W. Wolfe	2011	1733
Christopher E. Larsen	2014	1801
Sean M. Thomson	2014	1802
Alan Josua Meza	2015	1842
Brenan M. Joy	2015	1876

## 2020 Honor Roll of Contributors

During the 2020 program year, 17 brothers contributed a total of \$1,450 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 S. Countryman	48	644
James C. Cecil, Jr.	50	671
Harold C. White	50	689
Edward H. Stark	57	789
August E. Parlier	58	792
Tom B. Mitchell	59	812
John J. Natt	61	842
George S. Lagusis	63	889
John A. Runyan	68	998
Samuel H. Kress	70	1026
Jeffrey L. Chase	72	1041
Jules A. Marine	73	1054
Douglas E. Strand	75	1096
Brent T. De La Paz	82	1270
Curtis E. Melcher	83	1295
Aaron K. Ensign	89	1434
John K. Raftery	94	1525