



# Cross & Crescent

a LAMBDA CHI ALPHA FRATERNITY publication



SPECIAL EDITION

# Gold!

Olympic Champion  
Phil Dalhausser

In 2x  
Phil



October 2008 · XC VII · Issue 10



# Cross & Crescent

a Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity publication

## Features

### History

9 **The Olympics & Lambda Chi**

### Centennial News

10 **Regional Receptions Begin**

### True Brother

12 **Byrne Lived Our Core Values**

### Fraternity News

14 **Big Chill's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### Chapter News

16 **Chapter news, alumni news, and reports of death**

3

### BEIJING MEMORIES



Phil Dalhausser won the Olympic gold medal last month in beach volleyball with partner Todd Rogers. He credits his days at the Central Florida chapter for helping hone his skills and teamwork.

**By Chris Barrick**

6

### OUR CHAPTER BROTHER WON GOLD!



George Steinbarger and the Central Florida chapter alumni cheered "USA, USA" as they gathered at a restaurant near campus to watch their brother win gold. Ironically, Steinbarger jokes that when he teamed with Dalhausser for the intramural volleyball championship in college, they lost.

**By George Steinbarger**

8

### 1956 OLYMPIC SILVER MEDALIST

John McKinlay's happiest days came from rowing and joining Lambda Chi Alpha at Boston University. His coach at Boston, James Nesworthy, was a brother and also served as the chapter's faculty adviser.

**By Jon Williamson**

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# Beijing Memories

Phil Dalhausser won the Olympic gold medal last month in beach volleyball with partner Todd Rogers.

By Chris Barrick (Butler 2004)

ONE WEEK AFTER WINNING THE gold medal in beach volleyball, Phil Dalhausser (Central Florida 2002) and teammate Todd Rogers finish their first rounds of the AVP Tour in Cincinnati.

Numerous reporters ask for interviews. Then he begins signing autographs for fans and tells the AVP press liaison that he won't do any media interviews until he finishes with the fans. He continues signing on the court for 20 minutes when his next match begins.

After the next game, a security guard is sent to escort the team to a signing area. The idea of being escorted made him chuckle.

Following an hour of signing autographs and TV and radio interviews, I got my chance to talk with the gold medalist. I told him how impressed I was that he put the fans first.

"I know these people are here and paid their money to hang out with the players. I want to do the autographs and take pictures with fans before I do the

questions and answers," he says. "That's what our sport is about, that accessibility to the players."

## Finding Volleyball

The 6'9" Dalhausser is known in the volleyball world as the "Thin Beast." With his height many wonder why he didn't play the mainstream sport of basketball.

"I was a tall skinny kid so everybody wanted to push me around and I wasn't into that, so I never played basketball," says Dalhausser. "I grew up playing soccer and baseball."

His first response when approached about playing volleyball was, "Volleyball is for girls." He came around quickly, playing one year in high school and then on the indoor club team at the University of Central Florida, where he was named Most Valuable Player.

After graduating from Central Florida with a degree in business, Dalhausser worked for a friend's father at a construction company — working on roads.





Rodgers has helped Dalhausser complete his game to where it is now, the best in the world. He was awarded AVP Most Valuable Player in 2007; FIVB Best Blocker in 2006 and 2007; FIVB Best Hitter in 2007; AVP Most Improved Player in 2006; and FIVB Most Improved Player in 2006.

The teams of the Professor and the Thin Beast have become a force to be reckoned with, winning the 2007 AVP championship. During that year, the team won the first FIVB World Championship for a U.S. men's beach team.

In 2008, the team competed in six FIVB World Tour events as they worked to secure Olympic qualification, winning the Grand Slam events in Paris, France; Stavanger, Norway; Moscow, Russia.

**Bejing Memories**

Dalhausser didn't have much free time when he arrived in China for the Olympics. He remembers one of the few days he made it out, he visited a silk market.

"If I looked into a shop, people would start following you down aisles trying to sell stuff. Yelling, 'I will give you a good deal,'" laughs Dalhausser. "They would not leave you alone until you were actually mean to them."

He had worked for the company during the summers through college and knew the strings.

"I worked there to keep afloat and make a little cash," says Dalhausser. "I did that for about six months, and then I moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to pursue the whole volleyball thing."

**Professional Volleyball**

Dalhausser began his professional volleyball career in 2003. He competed in six AVP tournaments that first year, with little success, earning \$780 that season.

2005 became the break out year for Dalhausser. He won his first AVP tournament with partner Nick Lucena. Soon thereafter, veteran beach volleyball player Todd Rogers, nicknamed "The Professor," was looking for a new partner and tapped the up-and-coming beast of sand. Dalhausser quickly gained a reputation for powerful spikes and blocks. He was named AVP Best Offensive Player and has held that title since.



Dalhausser's trip wasn't for the silk markets though. He was hoping to make a better memory, a dream come true.

Dalhausser and Rogers went into the 2008 Olympics as heavy favorites. In their first round of group play the team was defeated by the 23rd-ranked Latvian team.

"I've been saying the whole time it was a blessing in disguise," says Dalhausser. "It lit a fire under us and got us going."

The teamed won out from there.

"The early loss put us in an easier bracket actually," says Dalhausser, "If we had won that match we would have been in the bracket with all the Brazilians; we would have played the team we played in the finals in the quarter finals; and would have played the defending gold medalist in the semis. So we had a much easier road to the finals."

The gold medal match with was a match Dalhausser will never forget. "Brazil is very, very good at beach volleyball," Dalhausser says. "You can't be overconfident against a Brazilian team."

The Americans started slowly but rebounded in the opening set to win 23-21. They lost the second set 17-21. In the third and deciding set Dalhausser came alive. He had three consecutive massive blocks to open up a lead in the final set. His ninth block came on match point. The Rogers/Dalhausser celebration began. ([Click to watch highlights on NBC](#))



"When he gets on a roll, I just pull out my pompoms and give a little cheer and keep smiling and clapping," Rogers said after the match. "That's what good blockers do: When they get on a roll, good luck to you."

"It is good to bring it (the gold medal) home," says Dalhausser. "Winning an Olympic gold medal was the best experience ever...times 100. That's the only way I can describe it."

Dalhausser was named the Olympic Tournament MVP.

### Instant Fame

Since returning to the states, Dalhausser has become an instant celebrity. He appeared on Oprah with other Olympians and has been swarmed with reporters.

"Its been pretty crazy," says Dalhausser. "I was in Costco the other day, and when I got my shopping done I signed autographs and took pictures for 20-30 minutes."

He says traveling is been met with fanfare.

"Going through the airport has been pretty crazy, people recognize tall guy, bald head," says Dalhausser. "It's going to take a little getting used to; hopefully it dies off first."

### Fraternal Memories

Upon entering the University of Central Florida, Dalhausser joined Lambda Chi Alpha. He thought fraternity was an easy way to make friends.

"I figured it an easy way to make friends. I did, and we had a lot of fun," says Dalhausser.

"I just remember...my fondest memory was playing sports," he continued. "I felt the closest to everyone when we were on a team representing the Fraternity."

He played intramural indoor volleyball and basketball representing the Fraternity. It was just a great time. He also honed his beach volleyball skills with Fraternity brother **George Steinbarger (Central Florida 2001)**.

"I got my start on sand volleyball before the Fraternity but it was right around the time I started" says Dalhausser. "We played out on the courts a lot and intramurals once a week. It was fun."

"I am not that media savvy and don't have some great line," says Dalhausser. "I had a great time with all guys from college. I just want to thank the brotherhood for all the support."

# Our Chapter Brother Won Gold!

George Steinbarger and the Central Florida chapter alumni cheered as they gathered to watch Phil Dalhausser win gold.

By George Steinbarger (Central Florida 2001)

I REALLY DON'T HAVE SOME GREAT STORY about Phil Dalhausser. He had his moments. He was always the unassuming...never the one grabbing the attention. He was never the one leading the pack or getting up at chapter meetings.

He was a quite leader, one who led by example.

Phil was always there, doing the right thing. If you needed something he would always be there for you. There are all types of brothers, and he was a good brother in a different way than someone who is president of the chapter. That's just Phil.



It was how our friendship started when we showed up to intramural practice together. I was a setter at the time and he was obviously a middle hitter. We ended up getting to the intramural championship and losing. Volleyball was the beginning of our friendship; obviously it has gone beyond volleyball since.

We played intramural beach volleyball together one year. It's one of the worst stories I can tell. I played volleyball with Phil Dalhausser and we lost. I guess you have to blame me. Him winning the gold in Beijing makes it bittersweet.

We had fun though. We were both pretty competitive people, though Phil doesn't always show it. When he gets fired up on the court it's pretty fun to see. The thing with Phil, he didn't play organized volleyball his whole career. We didn't have a coach or anything when we played indoors club. You notice the pure talent he had and he would raise his level to the competition — he just knew instinctively how to play. From watching him there was nothing that made me think he would be the top-rated player in world on the beach but there was no doubt he had the pure talent.

The first night I met Phil, he left an impression: you don't meet many people that tall. I met him during recruitment our freshman year. We were both at the Lambda Chi tent, and the volleyball captain, Mark Moore, was recruiting both of us. Knowing I played volleyball, Mark introduced me to Phil. The first impression was that he was a nice, modest guy who was excited about playing volleyball and that was cool with me.





Phil was always around, always participating with the fraternity. He won athlete of the year after I won it. He didn't just play volleyball; he played all kinds of sports. I can remember him dunking over someone in a basketball game and the whole crowd just going crazy. He always attended chapter meetings and was never the guy getting in trouble. He is the type of person you were looking for with little brothers. He was always good with them and got them involved.



Phil began taking volleyball seriously after we graduated, playing competitively in tournaments up the coast. It was the first time that I was "wow, he can do this." We followed him as he progressed further and further into tournaments. This is real. The next thing we knew he is in California with a top-rated partner.

We were all excited about him qualifying for the Olympics. Through my involvement with the Central Florida Alumni Association, I was

able to get some people together through the chapter alumni website (<http://cflxa.com/>) to watch the gold medal match.

A small group of us picked a restaurant in the UCF area, thinking it would be fun to be close to campus. They reserved us a section in front of the big screen TV. Fifteen to 20 guys showed up. There were all recent graduates, anywhere between a couple undergraduates and five years out. It was a group of friends and brothers.

We were screaming at every point and people were looking at us. "Why do they care so much about volleyball." Little by little we spread the word that he was a UCF graduate and our Fraternity

brother. Through our enthusiasm, we got the rest of the bar excited and into the game as well. Right around game point we had the whole bar shouting "USA, USA!"

At match point the whole place erupted.

The feeling of seeing a brother attain that level of success is unreal. We were confident that he would win because we knew how good the team is and dominant he is. Watching him on TV though was just surreal.

I just sat remembering I played beach volleyball with him...I played beach volleyball with a gold medalist. I was real proud I had the opportunity to play with him. He deserves everything. He worked real hard. He took what God gave him and that's awesome.

Phil keeps in regular contact with a number of Fraternity brothers. During the Olympics Phil was text messaging a brother we played volleyball with, John Cotch, about a fantasy football league. That just tells you how Phil is: real relaxed, down to earth and a true friend. You would never know the difference — it's just Phil.

# 1956 Olympic Silver Medalist

John McKinlay's happiest days came from rowing and joining Lambda Chi Alpha at Boston University.

By Jon Williamson (Maryland-College Park 1965)

**IT IS A GREAT TESTAMENT TO A FRATERNITY** when a person says, "The happiest days of my life were living in the Lambda Chi house on the Boston University campus and being on the rowing team."

This was the statement of **John D. McKinlay (Boston 1953)** when I interviewed him for this article.

It gets your attention immediately and renews your faith in our great Fraternity. McKinlay was born in Detroit and journeyed to Boston University for his college education.

He wasn't alone. His twin brother Arthur F. McKinlay joined him as he had in grade school, high school, and throughout his time spent in the U.S. Marine Corps. They were in boot camp together and both became sergeants.

They also shared another important event, being members of the Fours Without team (a rowing event) in the 1956 Olympics. But this story of the Lambda Chi and Olympic medal winner begins when John McKinlay first entered Boston University.

## Rowing Coach, Brother, and Faculty Adviser

He joined the rowing team and met the coach, **James E. Nesworthy (Boston 1934)**, who was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and who was also Lambda Chi's faculty adviser. McKinlay remembers that, "Jim was a wonderful person who inspired others. He stressed individual development and commitment to a team."

Nesworthy was all that and more. His lifelong love of being a teacher and coach in rowing began in 1930 as the coach of high schools in Springfield, Massachusetts. After that he coached at the American International College in Springfield and then served as the Boston University freshman coach just prior to World War II.

During the war Nesworthy was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, earning a Purple Heart and a Navy Commendation Medal for Valor. In 1948, he became the head coach for men's crew at Boston University, a position he would retain until his retirement in 1964. Brother Nesworthy served as president of the Association of Rowing Coaches of America, had his name entered into the National Rowing Foundation Book of Honor in 1995, and in 1998 Boston University named a boat for him.

The Lambda Chi chapter at Boston had many varsity men as members during the middle 1950s. "We had a great time. The house

was made up of wonderful men and we established great camaraderie and had great fun. We didn't have a housemother, but Jim, as the faculty adviser, was an excellent role model. The chapter house was close to the boathouse so it was very convenient. I wasn't the only Lambda Chi on the rowing team; in fact Ron Cardwell, who made a career in the United States Marine Corps, was a teammate and also on the '56 Olympic team."

"Winning the Silver Medal in the Fours Without was a very special moment. We had been competing successfully and just lost to a very fine Canadian team. When our team took their place on the podium it was an adrenalin rush and receiving the Silver Medal was hard to describe, but a moment filled with pride. I know that some Olympic medal winners keep their medals in a safe deposit box, but not me. All of these years, I have kept it hanging on the wall, where it is today in my condominium, so that I can enjoy it each day."

McKinlay returned to Boston University after the Olympics and in 1958 was the captain of the rowing team. His association with Lambda Chi Alpha also continued. "I vividly remember the Ritual. It was an exciting experience, one that I shall always remember."

## Halls of Fame and Real Estate

In 1981, McKinlay was inducted into the National Rowing Hall of Fame. In appreciation of his representation of Boston University, he also was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1985.

Brother McKinlay has been engaged in the real estate business for many years. Presently, he is the owner of T & C Appraisals in Birmingham, Michigan, where he conducts residential and commercial property appraisals.

# The Olympics & Lambda Chi Alpha

Our remarkable impact on international competitive sports

By Jon Williamson (Maryland-College Park 1965)

**EACH PERSON HAS HIS FAVORITE EVENT** and athlete during the Olympics. Others enjoy the celebration, complete with music and fireworks that make it the multi-billion dollar spectacle that it is today.

This year, when I heard **John Tesh's (North Carolina State 1975)** "Roundball Rock" used by NBC on the Olympic basketball games, it reminded me of Lambda Chi's connections to the Olympic Games in general and to basketball in particular.

The cover story of this issue introduces us to **Phil Dalhouser (Central Florida 2002)**, who was part of the Gold Medal winning beach volleyball team. A feature article on **John D. McKinlay (Boston 1953)**, who won the Silver Medal in the "fours without" rowing event in 1956, is also a part of this issue.

## Earliest Contributors

Lambda Chi's first significant contribution to the Olympic effort was in 1924 when the games were held in Paris, France. **George Hill (Pennsylvania)**, ran the 200 meters and finished fourth behind two other Americans and **Eric Liddell**. This race was later portrayed in the movie, "Chariots of Fire." Others competing that year were **Wayne Johnson (Wabash 1948)**, who competed in the 10,000 meter run, and **George Mulholland (Butler 1926)**, who finished fifth in boxing at the 175 pound level.

Theta Kappa Nu's **Glenn 'Slatts' Hardin (Louisiana State)** was a pledge beginning in 1932, but a League and Covenant paper could never be found proving that he was initiated.

The Theta Kappa Nu chapter at Louisiana State was filled with outstanding athletes and student leaders during the 1930s. **Hardin** competed in the 1932 and 1936 Olympics, winning a Silver Medal in 1932, and a Gold Medal in 1936 in the 400 meter hurdles. He set a world record that stood until 1953. **Robert "Bobby" Packard (Georgia 1938)** participated in the 200 meter dash in Berlin in 1936.

## 1950s and 1960s

In 1956, it was another strong year for Lambda Chi Alpha in competition. **Charles T. Butler (Brown 1944)** and **Arthur W. Tyler (Michigan 1936)** were members of the four-man bobsled team that won the Bronze Medal. They won the world championship in 1959 in St. Moritz. Tyler earned a doctorate in physics and perfected many changes in his sleds using wind tunnels. Also in 1956, **Alvin Pfeffer (Union 1954)** competed in a six inning exhibition baseball game against Australia.

Lambda Chi has also contributed to the success of the Canadian teams in the 1950s with **Laird Sloan (Michigan 1956)**, placing fifth in the 1956 games on the 4x400 meter relay team and **Edson Warner** who competed on the Canadian rifle teams in 1952 and 1960.

## Basketball

Basketball has seen Lambda Chi's most concentrated efforts. They began with **Adrian Smith (Kentucky 1957)** being part of the U.S.' Gold Medal team in 1960. Adrian went on to play 11 seasons in the NBA and was selected as the MVP of the 1966 NBA All-Star Game. Today, he is in the banking industry.

In 1964, **Henry Iba (Westminister 1927)** became the coach of the American team and one of his players was **Larry Brown (Los Angeles-California)** who would later become a Lambda Chi while the head basketball coach at University of California-Los Angeles. Iba has been featured on several occasions in the *Cross & Crescent* and his success as a coach and teacher has been well chronicled. He was also the coach of the 1968 Gold Medal team and one of his players was **John Clawson (Michigan 1965)** who is now president of a custom home building company in California. It is interesting that Brown and Clawson would cross paths in 1968-69 as both were members of the Oakland Oaks of the American Basketball Association that won the league championship. Brown continued on to great successes in coaching, becoming the only coach of teams that won the NCAA and the NBA championship.

## 1980s and 1990s

In 1984, **James Wooding (Indiana-Pennsylvania 1975)**, competed in the decathlon against a very strong field and finished seventh with his strongest events. He finished second in the 400 meters and fourth in the discus throw.

In 1988, **Doug Gjertsen (Texas-Austin 1989)** won a Gold Medal in the 4x200 meter freestyle in swimming and another as a member of the 4x100 meter freestyle team and, in 1992, he was part of the 4x200 meter freestyle team that won the Bronze Medal. Today, Gjertsen is the coach of swimming at the Atlanta DeKalb International Training Center.

Lambda Chi Alpha has been an influence in so many arenas, including the world of international competitive sports.

# Regional Receptions Begin

Sharing of the bond during events in Portland, Seattle, and Toronto.

By Dan Hartmann (Truman State 2007)

**SEPTEMBER 2008 MARKED THE KICK-OFF** of approximately 30 mini-celebrations in major cities across North America. These receptions present an opportunity for alumni to meet key volunteers and staff members, celebrate 100 years of rich history, and learn about plans for the second century.

Serving as hosts of the event from the Lambda Chi Alpha International Headquarters staff are Educational Foundation CEO **Mark Bauer** (Cal State-Fullerton 1979), Executive Vice President **Bill Farkas** (Butler 1988), Associate Director of Development **Josh Lodolo** (Cal State-Northridge 2004), and Associate Director of Alumni Relations **Dan Hartmann** (Truman State 2007).

The first Centennial Celebration stops were Seattle, Portland, and Toronto, and included the unveiling of specially selected historical artifacts, most of which date back to the beginning of Lambda Chi Alpha, for viewing by the attendees.

## September 17 — Seattle

Dozens of alumni and their wives gathered on September 17, 2008, at the Washington Athletic Club in downtown Seattle with a view overlooking Puget Sound. Fraternity Board Member **Lynn Chipperfield** (Drury 1973) attended, as did former Board Member **Jeff Steele** (Washington-WA 1964).

Besides Steele, University of Washington was well represented by brothers **Tom Krilich** (1963), **John Sandstrom** (1980), and **Bob Swain** (1987). Of course the dean of Washington alumni attending was **Don Hart** (Washington-WA 1945), a member of our Order of Merit for his long service to the chapter.

But UW didn't have a corner on the market of brothers celebrating that evening. **Bill Fitch** (Washington State 1950) from Washington State was a genuine highlight.

Too many alumni brothers of note were there to name them all but they included **Roy Hughes** (Wake Forest 1960), **Erik Jansen** (Rose-Hulman 1978), and **Jim Stubner** (Illinois 1942).

This was the first centennial gathering where a traveling display of historical items from the international headquarters was exhibited. Those gathered enjoyed seeing the old (1910s) photographs, and looking through documents from 70-80 years ago.

## September 18 — Portland

McMenamin's Grand Lodge, west of Portland, Oregon, a superb, historic facility that includes hotel rooms and restaurants, was the site for a gathering of brothers on September 18, 2008. The neat part is that brother **Brian McMenamin** (Oregon State 1980) from Oregon State was with us — yep, you guessed it, his company owns the place.

Fraternity Board Member **Lynn Chipperfield** (Drury 1973), traveling at his own expense to attend all of events in the Pacific Northwest, was the featured speaker.

Order of Merit recipients and Oregon State brothers **Bill Deeks** (Oregon State 1970) and **Gerry Reese** (Oregon State 1974) attended — two key men in the backbone and longevity of the strength of our chapter in Corvallis, Oregon.

**Dave Leathers** (Cal State-Fresno 1982) was there, too. A Fresno State alumnus who once served on the staff team of the International Headquarters, he is the chapter adviser at Oregon State and a Master Steward in our True Brother Initiative. Leathers has only begun his involvement with Oregon State compared to Deeks and Reese above, but he has brought renewed focus and vigor to that chapter.

Bauer also was excited to FINALLY meet **Martin Nygaard** (Oregon State 1951) at this reception. Nygaard has been a superb, long-time donor to Lambda Chi Alpha with whom Bauer has corresponded frequently — admittedly mostly asking him for gifts and then generously thanking him for doing so. Nygaard lives in Astoria, Oregon, and if you find the map of your choice you will see that he went far out of his way to join us.

**Bruce Petersen** (Oregon State 1980) also made a four hour trip to the Portland reception just to spend a couple of hours with brothers from the state, and begin establishing the Oregon Area Alumni Association.

However the true highlight of this reception was probably the fantastic turnout of undergraduate brothers from both Oregon State in Corvallis, and the University of Oregon in Eugene. Neither of those spots is exactly in Portland — the brothers who attended sacrificed their afternoons and evenings.

## September 25 — Toronto

On September 25, 2008, about 50 brothers and guests celebrated our Fraternity in Canada and our 100 years at a special reception in downtown Toronto.

Clearly, this event was characterized by the tremendous attendance of the student members of our up-and-coming Toronto chapter. They brought energy, the technical ability to show our centennial video, and the appetites only younger men can possess.

The food for the reception was set up just outside the room where everyone was socializing and, in less time than it takes one brother to send a text message to another, we said “food is available” and they ate! The rest of us alumnus brothers didn’t have to worry about overeating!

Beyond our youngest brothers from the local chapter, we had a nice turnout of alumni who have made our Fraternity successful over the last 50 years and more. **Bob Coffey (McGill 1956)**, **Bill Fearn (McGill 1965)**, and **Don Pounsett (Toronto 1956)** were there. However, when we surveyed the room for whom to honor as the man who has been a brother the longest, that recognition went to **Barrie Blanshard (Toronto 1953)** initiated at Toronto in 1949.

Bauer enjoyed visiting with **Ben Hamburger (Toronto 1983)** at the reception and meeting his wife. She was patient with our band of brothers and we enjoyed hearing Hamburger reminisce a bit about attending General Assemblies in New Orleans and Memphis years back. The New Orleans gathering was when Lambda Chi Alpha celebrated 75 years, and he recalled that we did so in style.

Bauer also reconnected with **Mike Demeter (Western Ontario 1994)**. He was the 37th initiate of our Western Ontario chapter, and he was the chapter president when Bauer attended their chartering in November 1993.

Farkas was the Very Important Brother at this event, and he would agree that the blending of generations, which is Lambda Chi Alpha, was never more evident than at the event in Toronto, nor was the international spirit of our great Fraternity.

**More Events to Come**

These groups of brothers in Seattle, Portland, and Toronto may never gather as the same group again. But if you think about it, that was always true in the Fratern Year to year, generation to generation, we h come together and shared a part of our lives, but no two meetings are the same. For more information about any of the receptions, please contact Dan Hartmann at [dhartmann@lambdachi.org](mailto:dhartmann@lambdachi.org).

**What Does 100 Years Mean to Me?**

One Hundred Years is a benchmark for longevity. It is a yardstick for progress along a path that sometimes may be the path “less traveled” and requires the personal courage to consistently do the right things with support from family and friends.

To survive 100 Years, a foundation of solid core values and principles must be in place. Well managed enterprises with people who respect their clients are those organizations that are comprised of people with diverse backgrounds unselfishly working together to demonstrate stewardship for strengthening the communities in which they live and work.

One Hundred Years is a symbol for an entity that has endured a multiplicity of changes and demonstrated the ability to withstand and grow from periodic setbacks. Key elements for lasting 100 Years are the propensity to adapt to changes at an increasingly rapid pace, attracting the right people to deliver the product or service and rewarding the people who contribute to the ongoing existence of the organization.

Putting the ‘fun’ and the ‘mental’ into the “fundamental” core values helps one to enjoy the journey yet be cautious for the uncertainty along the road toward the objective.

For a person or entity to endure 100 Years, a clear vision for success, the requisite stewardship to perpetuate adherence to core values and the ability to celebrate successes and/or fruits of labor as one navigates the journey’s path must be incorporated in the strategy. It also requires some good fortune along the way.

— Tom Larson  
(California-Los Angeles 1974)



Lambda Chi Alpha - Portland Area Alumni Reception  
September 18, 2008 - McMenamin’s Grand Lodge, Forest Grove, OR

# Byrne Lived Our Core Values

A father, husband and DEA agent, he was abducted, killed in New Orleans.

By Tim Reuter (Simpson 2003)

Core Values form the foundation of Lambda Chi Alpha's approach to brotherhood. As a part of the True Brother Initiative, our Seven Core Values — **Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Service and Stewardship, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage** — once learned and internalized, equip each Lambda Chi Alpha undergraduate brother member with a clear moral compass, always orienting him, no matter the environment or consequences, toward making ethical decisions.

For Lambda Chi Alpha, it is not enough simply to know how to do things the right way; more importantly, it is to do the right things, for brotherhood and leadership are ultimately about action, about doing.

## Core Values in Action: Duty & Integrity

**Thomas J. Byrne (James Madison 1991)**, a husband, father, and supervisory special agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, died tragically on August 30, 2008, after he was attacked and beaten while walking to his hotel in New Orleans, where he was attending an organized crime drug enforcement conference. Brother Byrne was attacked the night of August 27, 2008. He was found by a passerby and rushed to Tulane University Medical Center. After multiple surgeries, he succumbed to his injuries on August 30.

The New Orleans Police Department has apprehended two suspects and the investigation is ongoing. DEA officials said the NOPD is leading the investigation into Brother Byrne's murder, assisted by the DEA, the U.S. Marshals Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In a message to DEA offices nationwide, acting administrator Michele M. Leonhart celebrated Brother Byrne as "an agent's agent — a tremendous case-maker, talented investigator and tireless soldier in the war against drugs. No doubt, he was a shining star in our DEA family, and those who knew him best were proud to serve by his side and call him friend.

"We are shocked and outraged by this senseless loss," Leonhart wrote. "Tom served our agency and his country with great honor, passion and courage.

Survivors include his wife of 12 years, Maureen Elizabeth Feeney Byrne of The Woodlands, TX; four sons, Tommy (age 8), Joseph (age 6), Matthew (age 4) and Michael (age 2), all of The Woodlands, TX.

Memorial contributions for the benefit of Brother Byrne's wife and children may be made to The Thomas J. Byrne Memorial, P.O. Box 16105, Alexandria, VA 22302.



## True Brother Remembered

*Tom and I became the fastest of friends at the age of 14. While I don't believe I realized it immediately, I later recognized that what drew me to Tom was his unique authenticity and kindheartedness. Tom and I were pretty much inseparable for the next 14 years. We went to high school together, then to college where we were roommates and Fraternity brothers, and even roommates after graduating college. While I have too many fond memories with Tom to pick just one, one memory that I will never forget was easily the happiest day of his life — marrying his wife Maureen. I witnessed immeasurable joy and happiness in Tom that day and it was the greatest gift anyone could wish for a friend. Tom was a dear friend and I am a better person for having had him in my life.*

— Tim Trainum (James Madison 1991)

*As a father, a husband, and a friend, Tom Byrne was a marvel. He was a uniquely loyal friend; he was distinctively respectful of the feelings and needs of others; he possessed an inimitable personal courage that enabled him to take responsibility for his decisions and actions; and he willingly engaged a life of service to the exclusion of other opportunities. The list, in actuality, is endless and leads to a singular conclusion — Tom was a leader, a teacher, and a friend. In the process he taught us many things — love of family and friends, love of country, and love of justice. But he also taught us to never take ourselves too seriously and to always make time for sports (preferably the New York Yankees or the Dallas Cowboys) and laughter. As a result, Tom was beloved by many. My favorite memory of Tom from our days in Lambda Chi are the times we spent with a handful of friends*

hosting Musicfest. While I still cringe at some of his choices (Meatloaf?), I will always remember the gleam in his eyes as he sang along at the top of his lungs to "The Spirit of '76." At his funeral, family, friends, colleagues, and dignitaries — including the U.S. Attorney General — came from Paris, Rome, Canada, and California among other distant locations to celebrate his life. Renowned for his gentle nature, his friends will never forget the joy and adventure his friendship brought.

— Troy Cahill (James Madison 1991)

I have been blessed to know Tom Byrne for over 26 years. His legacy of friendship and kindness is something to which we should all aspire. My friendship with Tom began when we were teammates in little league baseball, continued through our years in Lambda Chi, and remained vital as we embarked on our professional careers and family lives. My most constant memory of Tom is that he was always the first guy to lend a hand in a time of need or the first guy to congratulate you in time of triumph. Another memory I have of Tom was his ever present desire to enjoy every moment he spent with you. No matter if you knew him 10 years or 10 minutes, you always enjoyed your time with Tom. His unique ability to make everyone feel comfortable and protected was, and still is, one of Tom's greatest gifts to all of us. For that I thank him with my whole heart, and am always proud to call him my brother.

— Byron Deaner (James Madison 1990)

Tom Byrne was, simply put, a good and decent man. One of my most vivid memories of Tom from our Lambda Chi days was when we played in the annual Inter-Fraternity Council flag football tournament. The games were often heated and confrontations were not uncommon. Whenever an opponent tried to goad Tom into losing his cool, Tom would just shake his head and chuckle to himself. Never willing to take the bait and never embarrassing himself or his teammates. Tom's steadiness in the heat of those now long ago games reflected who he was and how he lived his life. Tom was steady and consistent. Tom was calm. These qualities served him well as a Special Agent and they served him well as a loving father, husband, and friend. We will all miss him.

— Stuart Lowry (James Madison 1990)

Tom Byrne was a man that many men want to model themselves after. Tom was a selfless, caring, and devoted family man and friend. Those who knew Tom will never forget him. His size caught their eye, but his warm personality captured their hearts. I had the honor of being Tom's friend and Fraternity brother. I have long admired his values and I will always appreciate the changes that I have made in myself due to the example he set. Tom, in my mind, was and will always be a True Brother.

— Scott Sunday (James Madison 1991)



I never had any brothers growing up, but from the day I met Tom when we were 14, he was like a brother to me. He was trustworthy, reliable, and honest. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word to share with others. Soon after we met, he told me that after high school he wanted to go to college and then become a DEA Agent just like his father. Most of us didn't know what we wanted to do next week, let alone for the rest of our lives. Tom wanted to make our country a safer place and he wanted to serve in the DEA. Fortunately for all of us, he accomplished both with honor and diligence.

— Ted Koch, Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force

# Big Chill's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Annual event includes 1963–1973 Ball State alumni brothers during weekend before Labor Day.

By Tom Cochrun (Ball State)

SET AGAINST A PRISTINE CLEAR water lake surrounded by native Indiana woodland, brothers of Iota-Alpha Zeta at Ball State University have, for the past 20 years, annually renewed the bonds of lifelong brotherhood.

The brainchild of Indianapolis advertising executive **Ron Pearson (Ball State 1970)**, Big Chill Weekend has, since the late 80's, drawn 1963–1973 era brothers from as far as both coasts on the weekend before Labor Day.



Hair has grayed or thinned, faces and waistlines reflect years of gravity, but the sparkle in the eye and the grip of brotherhood open memory portals and provide a script that embraces a lifetime of friendship. The Big Chill weekend has become a milestone in the lives of men who began their association in the chapter house at 710 Riverside on what, in those days, was called “pledge night.”

## Golden Age

This year's 20<sup>th</sup> annual event has additional significance as Iota-Alpha Zeta is in the midst of re-colonizing. As do most brothers, the Big Chill attendees regard their era as the “golden age” of Lambda Chi life at Ball State.



To be sure, there was strong academic performance, several intramural and state day athletic championships, a reputation of being “gentlemen” and an active list of sponsored events: Operation Suitcase, Freshmen Women's Tea, Operation Kidnap, Bike-a-Thon and the hosting of conclaves.

Those “glory days” are relived and cemented with the new mortar of friendship, updates on jobs, children, tough passages, poignant moments, and joys of a life.



## Ball State Re-Colonization Update

As the General Fraternity of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity has stated, we are currently in an expansion mode. Critical to the success of our expansion's success are the time, talent, and treasures donated by alumni members.

During the fall 2008 new member recruitment, alumni and Fraternity staff members helped recruit 13 new associate members as a part of the Ball State University re-colonization efforts.

Conducted by members from the Butler University chapter, an Associate Member Ceremony was held on September 7, 2008, and following the ceremony, **John Schmitz (Vincennes 1982)**, who is heavily involved with the Ball State Alumni Association, presented the men with the bronze coat-of-arms plaque to commemorate this important event.

Chartered in 1951, and dormant since 2004, the chapter has initiated 1,300 total members.

## Shelf of Cups

Several years ago Pearson, who has practically converted a weekend lake home into a chapter house, instituted the tradition of “the shelf of cups.” Each brother who has attended a Big Chill weekend is given a commemorative cup and a space, labeled with his I-A number, on a row of shelves.



This year, as has happened twice before, in a solemn moment of remembrance and reflection a deceased brother was remembered and his cup was inverted. Eyes moistened and a deep sadness gripped the convivial evening as a regular attendee and former football standout **Jim Pickett (Ball State 1969)** was remembered. This was the first year in the history of Big Chill that Jim's enthusiastic participation was absent.



For 20 years new artifacts of those earlier days are found and shared. Old "pledge book" copies of *The Paedagogus*, clothing, composites, and newspaper clips. Entrepreneur **John West (Ball State 1968)**, known for almost 40 years as High Camera, has continued to document the gathering and produce more visual evidence that these aging men were once truly young.

**Sharing the Bond**

Much of the conversation centered on the efforts to re-launch Iota-Alpha after a four year hiatus. One of the regular attendees, John Schleeter (Ball State 1968) will serve as an advisory board member and acting chapter adviser. We shared discussion of the redefining value of the True Brother Initiative and the positive influence it will have on reestablishing the bond at Ball State.



As my little brother, attorney **Ed Dunsmore (Ball State 1969)**, and I drove away, I reflected on the moving comments made by Judge **Terry Means (Southern Methodist 1971)** at this year's General Assembly. Here is just one more outpost of a special bond, where men share their lives. We were there for each other in our youth, we shared in each other's weddings, we console each other on the passing of our parents, and now we begin to carry each other to our final rest.



Until that final sunset though, we still gather for our yearly moment of joy and celebration of a bond. And in that moment, we all remember hope, youth, and the goal of a life well lived as men.



# Chapter News

Chapter news, alumni news, and reports of death

## Angelo State (Beta-Alpha)

The chapter received the 2008 YMCA Most Philanthropic Organization Award.

## Arkansas (Gamma-Chi)

The chapter raised more than 43,000 pounds of food at its annual Watermelon Bust. The goal of the event was to collect as many nonperishable canned food items as possible for various Northwest Arkansas food banks and shelters, including The Benton County Women's Shelter, Life Source International and the Seven Hills Homeless Shelter. **David Koehler (2011)** was in charge of this year's fundraising event.

## Butler (Alpha-Alpha)

The chapter held its annual Watermelon Bust benefiting the North American Food drive.

## California-Los Angeles (Epsilon-Sigma)

**Michael E. Soderberg (1968)**, a 32-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, was promoted to the rank of chief by Sheriff Lee Baca and oversees the Detective Division.

Edward Paramore III died 2008.

## Drury (Theta-Sigma)

Chapter members helped host high school seniors from Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma and Tennessee at Bright Night, an annual campus tradition. The event gives high school seniors a chance to get an understanding about what life is like at Drury University.

## Eastern Illinois (Phi-Alpha)

**Kevin Pickett** was hired as the new director of sales & marketing for J Rudny, an interactive web design and e-marketing consultancy. He was also appointed to the position of co-executive director for the 2009 Naperville Jaycees Last Fling festival, the Naperville Jaycees' major fundraising event of the year with more than 300,000 patrons visiting during the four-day event.

## Eastern Kentucky (Phi-Beta)

Chapter members helped raise more than \$23,000 during the Make-A-Wish Foundation's seventh-annual Walk For Wishes

sponsored by the Chi Omega sorority at Eastern Kentucky University.

## Eureka (Theta-Chi)

**William Buchanan (1986)** received a citation from James F. Martin, Regional Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, for outstanding implementation of the Social Security Disability Programs. Buchanan received his award during a ceremony held at the Harold Washington Social Security Administration Center in Chicago, Illinois, on July 31, 2008. He was also recently promoted to the position of Public Service Administrator.

## Florida (Epsilon-Mu)

The chapter held its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Watermelon Bust on September 28, 2008, at Flavel Field on the campus of the University of Florida. More than 150 people and nearly all 16 sororities participated in the philanthropy, according to **Lance Fuller (2009)**. The event benefited the North American Food Drive. The cans collected will be specifically donated to Gainesville Harvest, an organization that provides food for the hungry in Alachua County, Florida. Chapter Vice President **Javier Rodriguez (2010)** coordinated the event and was very pleased with the turnout.

## George Washington (Delta-Xi)

**Will Maden (2009)** and **Aron Yuster (2009)** are two of the partners in Capital Segway, a company that offers Segways for tours or purchase around Washington, D.C.

## Georgetown (Kappa-Omega)

**James Orr (1997)** died 2008.

## Georgia (Nu)

**Col. Warren A. Thrasher (1940)** died on June 8, 2008. A World War II and Korean War veteran, he was decorated with the Bronze Star Medal for Valor, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart, six campaign stars and the Legion of Merit — the nation's highest peacetime honor. He has been decorated by the Italian, Korean, and Iranian governments. Thrasher returned to the University of Georgia in 1963 and served as professor of Military Science. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

### Georgia Tech (Beta-Kappa)

Coordinated by Recruitment Chairman , the chapter added 31 associate members, more than in previous years, and this placed the chapter at the top of the Greek community for most new members.

The chapter members also made some minor improvements to the chapter house including painting the hallways, painting a Lambda Chi Alpha mural on the penthouse wall, and building new tables so members can enjoy meals together.

### Gettysburg (Theta-Pi)

Dr. Keith M. Finley (1995), an assistant director at the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University, will have his book *Delaying the Dream: Southern Senators and the Fight Against Civil Rights, 1938–1965* published in November 2008.

### Glenville State (Beta-Beta)

William E. Dilley (1981) died September 2, 2008.

### James Madison (Phi-Eta)

Thomas J. Bryne (1991) died August 30, 2008. A Supervisory Special Agent of the Drug Enforcement Administration, he was jumped, abducted, and beaten on a street in New Orleans on August 28, 2008, while attending an organized crime drug enforcement conference. He was found, badly beaten, 40 blocks away by a passerby and rushed to Tulane University Medical Center. Despite multiple surgeries he died, two days later, from his wounds.

He had joined the DEA in 1992 as an Intelligence Research Specialist assigned to the Financial and Special Intelligence Section. In 1996 he became a Special Agent for the DEA and was assigned to the Miami Field Division. Bryne's last assignment was as a Group Supervisor in Houston.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Thomas J. Byrne Memorial, P.O. Box 16105, Alexandria, VA 22302. Checks may be made payable to The Thomas J. Byrne Memorial. Please see this month's True Brother article for additional information and tributes.

### Maryland-College Park (Epsilon-Pi)

Thomas A. Virkus (1970) died August 31, 2008.

### Massachusetts Inst. of Tech (Lambda)

Oliver Smoot (1962) reflected on the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his measurement feat. A Smoot Celebration Day will be held on October 4, 2008, in Boston to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Smoot-aversary.

### Mercer (Zeta-Omega)

Drew Miller (1980) received the Joe Mengoni Independent Pharmacist of the Year award at the Georgia Pharmacy Association Meeting on June 23, 2008. This award, in honor of Joe Mengoni, is given each year to the one pharmacist in the state who exemplifies contributions to the profession. Miller is currently the vice chairman for the State of Georgia Academy of Independent Pharmacists Compounding Pharmacy division. He also was the past recipient of the Region President of the Year award in 2004, and is an instructor for the American Pharmacy Association for Pharmacist Immunizations. Drew is currently the owner of Wynn's Pharmacy in Griffin, Georgia, and a former chapter adviser for Mercer University.

### Miami-OH (Zeta-Upsilon)

Charles Lodge (1949) became a copywriter at a very successful advertising agency in New England and then spent 10 years as an editor of a trade magazine before retiring.

Carl Lindbloom (1954) worked with a large city planning consulting firm in New Jersey, and later in England, as an architect/planner for the Greater London Council. In 1971 he established a planning consulting firm in Princeton, New Jersey, which he has been operating for 37 years.

Jim Stratton (1958) worked as a city planning consultant for 17 years, following eight years in property management. He then taught for 15 years at Columbus State Community College and retired in 2000.

Tom Leidy (1957) spent 28 years in consumer marketing, research, and management. He ended his corporate career as vice president of business development for Sara Lee. He then taught psychology at Purdue University for seven years and now is semi-retired doing part-time consulting and teaching part-time university courses in marketing and psychology.

A former Fraternity staff member, Tom Fritz (1962) joined the U.S. Navy and had a 24-year career as a naval officer, retiring with the rank of Commander in 1987. He then taught at University of Wisconsin-Madison for three years. During his military career he participated three times in the Vietnam War and was awarded the Miami University "Bishop's Medal" for humanitarian service.

Len Phillips (1963) is retired from Owens-Illinois after being with them for 38 years.

John Fogle (1973) worked for a couple of years with a computer software company before entering the seminary. He has been a missionary with Word of Life in the Philippines for 30 years.

### Missouri-Columbia (Gamma-Kappa)

Ron Graves (1987) has accepted the position of Director of Development at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri. Westminster is a small liberal arts college that was home to one of the initial chapters of Theta Kappa Nu. Unfortunately it closed in 1933 before the merger with Lambda Chi Alpha. Graves also serves as the chapter adviser for the University of Missouri-Columbia.

### Montevallo (Sigma-Epsilon)

Timothy C. Biddle (1991) died September 13, 2008.

### New Hampshire (Alpha-Xi)

Andrew Choi (2010), Dan Farrenkopf, Chris Keeley (2009), Cy Lekyang, Shane Prisby (2009), and Aaron West (2010) competed in, and won, the Student Organization Services' 2008 Eco-Challenge.

The chapter added 14 associate members.

The chapter has relaunched its website.

### North Carolina-Charlotte (Beta-Upsilon)

After 29 years of service, Deputy Chief Jerry Sennett (1979) announced his retirement from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department effective on November 1, 2008. He has served in patrol, vice and narcotics, training, and support services during his tenure with the department. He has also been a strong proponent of community policing and has been instrumental in building partnerships between CMPD and a variety of community organizations.

Northeastern State (Delta-Beta)

Rocky Shade (2009) was named a Senator Herb Rozell Scholar. The scholarship honors former State Sen. Herb Rozell (D-Tahlequah) and recognizes students for campus and community leadership, academic achievement, and commitment to excellence for the future. It is funded by private donations to the NSU Foundation.

### Northern Michigan (Lambda-Upsilon)

The chapter held its annual Watermelon Bust fundraiser on September 20, 2008, to raise money as part of the North American Food Drive. The food collected is donated to the local Salvation Army food pantry.

### Northwestern (Alpha-Iota)

The chapter held its annual golf outing at the Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, Illinois on September 6, 2008.

### Pittsburg State (Lambda-Chi)

Sigma Sigma Sigma partnered with the chapter members for the Charity-Rockin for Robbie event.

Pete Cole (1982) and Doug Roberts (1977) were elected to the Alumni Board of Directors of the Pittsburg Alumni Association.

A J Stuteman was the founder of the Pittsburg State lacrosse team.

Richard Geier (1970) has retired as Commander of Cadets at the Indiana Military Academy.

Joe Cecere (1972) is head of two departments at Penn State University.

The chapter alumni have launched a new website (<http://lxz40th.myevent.com/>).

### San Diego State (Zeta-Pi)

Dave Franke (1963) died.

### Southeast Missouri State (Delta-Phi)

Neal E. Boyd (2001) was named champion of NBC's "America's Got Talent" during the October 1 season finale. As the winner, receives \$1 million and a Las Vegas show.

### St. Louis College of Pharmacy (Pi-Lambda)

On Friday, September 12, 2008, the chapter gathered 38 students and faculty members to participate in The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk in Forest Park. Among the walkers was the Chapter Adviser and leukemia survivor, Dr. Ken Schafermeyer, Professor of Pharmacy Administration. The chapter's efforts raised more than \$1,200, making a grand total of more than \$2,100 raised since 2006.

### St. Joseph's (Phi-Lambda)

A former Fraternity board member, Pat Swanick (1979) now leads Austin, Texas-based Gila Corp. as CEO and a member of the company's Board of Directors. He previously served in several executive roles with KeyCorp, a \$90+ billion banking company headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio. At Key, Swanick was President of the Retail Bank and CEO of Key Electronic Services where he had responsibility for over 900 branches nationwide and directed the company's consumer e-commerce, internet and payment initiatives.

### Stetson (Zeta-Tau)

F. Keidaish Jr. (1983) an attorney, died September 14, 2008.

### Tennessee-Chattanooga (Zeta-Phi)

Paul Burke (1958) is serving as the chapter house dad. In March 2008, he left Daytona Beach, Florida, where he had a home and a swimming pool, to move into a set of apartments in the chapter house. Burke has been working to separate himself from his business interests in Florida and said he will soon be able spend even more time at the house.

### Texas A&M-College Station (Delta-Mu)

Chapter members teamed with members of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority to take part in the annual Big Event community service project. More than 70 students contributed a total of 280 volunteer hours.

### Texas Christian (Iota-Pi)

Dr. Doug Nuenke (1980) was named President and Director of the U.S. Navigators on August 14, 2008.

### Texas-San Antonio (Phi-Upsilon)

The chapter held its Annual Alumni Gala. In attendance were Rob Mendiola (2000), Jeff Hawley, Rob Killen (1997), Wayne Terry (1983), and Rene Escobedo (1983). Killen received the 2008 Board Member of the Year Award for his countless efforts in continuing his dedication to the University of Texas-San Antonio and to the chapter. He also has been instrumental in helping the university start a varsity football program. The alumni also established a \$10,000 endowment that was funded in September by alumni donations.

Chapter undergraduate and alumni members participated in a brick ceremony in August 2008 in which members bought bricks for the walkway to the new University of Texas-San Antonio center expansion. University President Dr. Ricardo Romo (Texas-Austin 1964) took time to recognize the members. Bricks were purchased in honor of military chapter members who have died, including Lee Bellah, Michael Stala, John Forres, Rene Alonzo (1992), Brian Vaughan (2000), and Chris Mayer (2000).

### Tulsa (Epsilon-Upsilon)

Mark Rogers (1986) has joined Medical West Healthcare Center as the director of sales for Medical West Incontinence Resources. He has more than a dozen years of sales and service experience with incontinence and skin care products, including service to long-term care providers, and more than 20 years in sales and sales management with SCA/Molnlycke-Health Care Division, USA Merchandising LLC, McKesson Medical Surgical, Pepsi-Cola Co., and Procter and Gamble Co.

### Truman State (Phi-Psi)

The chapter associated 18 new members into its 70 man chapter on the evening of September 12, 2008.

One hundred and fifty women participated in the chapter's Watermelon Fest philanthropy on September 27, 2008, which raised funds for the North American Food Drive.

### Washington-WA (Alpha-Psi)

Prior to the start of classes, chapter members held a chapter retreat from September 20-22, 2008, at a Boy Scout Camp on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. They spent a day setting chapter policies, establishing goals, and teaching the True Brother Initiative. On the last day the entire chapter participated in a service project to the camp.

### Washington and Lee (Gamma-Phi)

Chapter members helped support Central Elementary School's playground fundraising project by volunteering at a carnival held on September 20, 2008. The project, led by the Central PTA, is attempting to raise \$35,000 for new playground equipment.

### Western Carolina (Beta-Zeta)

Chapter social chairman Justin Conley (2009) was elected IFC President. He is a varsity cheerleader and former chapter vice president.

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