



PIKE PRESS

Gamma Chi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha
at Oklahoma State University



FALL 2014

You Get What You Give Why Dick J. Beshear '73 Keeps in Touch

Dick J. Beshear '73

strongly believes that if you don't put effort into things, you don't get much in return. "It's the same with the fraternity and anything else in life. I have put a lot of time and energy into Gamma Chi Chapter, but I have been blessed beyond measure by the men and their families I have gotten to know in the process."



Since Dick graduated he has been volunteering with Gamma Chi. He has served as a chapter advisor and as both president and treasurer of the house corporation. He values the experience he received as an undergraduate and wants to not only see other men afforded those same opportunities, but continue to develop his membership as well.

"I was from a small town in rural Oklahoma, and **Dr. B. Paul Choate III '72** invited me to meet some of the Gamma Chi brothers. While I was an undergraduate I met people from all over the state and country. It broadened my outlook and allowed me to see other possibilities in life. I was able to take the traits of people I admired and make them my own."

Dick's favorite undergraduate memories come from pledgship. "It was a tough time, but it formed a bond between my pledge brothers that remains to this day. I haven't seen many of them for years, but I still know what good men they are and that when we meet again it will be like we were never apart."

As an alumnus, Dick is still inspired by his fraternity brothers every day. One brother in particular is the late **J. Lewie Sanderson '39**, whom the current chapter house is named after. "Working with Lewie was one of the greatest pleasures of my life. I remember Lewie's timeless

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HOUSE CORPORATION PLANS FOR GAMMA CHI'S FUTURE

Campus Housing More Competitive Than Ever

As students continue to evolve with the technology and material-based 21st century, it's easy to see who can keep up with today's demands and who is being left in the dust. In recent years, Stillwater has seen an upswing in the amenities offered by student housing, both on campus and off. These new buildings are a far cry from the bare-bones brick walls and metal bunk beds many of us were accustomed to.

Before the Internet, smart phones, satellite TV, and video games, students would spend very little time in their rooms, as there wasn't much to do. Socializing took place outside of the dorm and they were forced to interact in public. But times have changed. Socializing can take place anywhere, and students want to be comfortable doing so.

If you were to do a Google search of "Stillwater student housing," the most popular results feature indoor recreation facilities, pools, individual bathrooms, wireless Internet, and much more. These luxury housing amenities coupled with the many new and renovated fraternity and sorority houses on campus make it easy to see why competition for the student dollar is at an all-time high.

Within the last 15 years, the campus climate has changed in regard to freshman housing. It was once mandatory for freshmen to live on campus, but now more students are looking at their off-campus options, and they recognize the benefits of both. Students now also weigh their privacy against the ease of getting to campus. Despite the extra driving time, apartments are viewed as the more enticing option, because of the extra privacy and nicer amenities. Off-campus housing also allows for less-stringent rules than living in a dorm and offers students more social freedom.

As I see these changes made around campus and in Stillwater, I find myself stepping back to evaluate how Gamma Chi will continue to compete and thrive at OSU. In the meantime, our undergraduates strive toward excellence regardless of where they live, ensuring the student population knows the men of Pike are all scholars, leaders, athletes, and gentlemen.

As we begin to plan for Gamma Chi's future, alumni support is more important than ever. I encourage you to reconnect with the chapter and your pledge brothers today and do what you can to help Pike stay strong.

Fraternally,
Larry Ricker '65
House Corporation President
(405) 372-7617
larry.ricker@gmail.com



Gamma Chi Alumni Honored at Convention

The 69th convention in Baltimore, Maryland, paid tribute to some of Gamma Chi's most notable alumni. Congratulations to our newest Order of West Range inductees: **Rodger Riney '64** and **Gordon Eubanks '65!**

At the 2014 International Convention, **Shad D. Williams '90** was re-elected as international vice president of Pi Kappa Alpha. More than 800 people were in attendance. Shad has served as president of the Pike University board of directors, as a member of the fraternity's finance committee, and as a member of the fraternity's staff from 1994 to 1998. He is global director of the Outcomes Executives Program with Allscripts, a healthcare technology and services provider.

Congratulations, brothers. We are proud to have you in our brotherhood.



John Michael Williams '68, S. Shane Pate II '00, Rodger Riney '64, and Gordon Eubanks '65 moments before Brothers Riney and Eubanks were inducted into the Order of West Range.

John Michael Williams '68 Recognized with International Award



At the 2014 International Convention, **John Michael Williams '68** was recognized with the Loyalty Award. Established in 1969, the award was created to annually recognize an alumnus who has displayed significant support to the fraternity at either the local or international level. The award was presented by his son, **Shad Williams '90.**

John has served the fraternity as foundation trustee, international president, international vice president, legal counsel to the Supreme Council, and as Arkoma regional president. He currently serves as the president of the fraternity's real estate entity board of directors and is a member of the fraternity's finance committee. John is president of an Oklahoma City law firm, Williams, Box, Forshee & Bullard P.C.

In April, John was inducted into the Oklahoma State Greek Hall of Fame. The Centennial Committee, which is composed of alumni, students, and university staff, selected Williams for induction because of his contributions to the university, his fraternity, his profession, and to the betterment of humankind. He was the only Pike to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and was one of three inductees.

Pi Kappa Alpha is proud to honor John Michael Williams with the 2014 Loyalty Award.

Justin D. True, Old Dominion '08
Director of Communications and Marketing
The Pi Kappa Alpha International Fraternity

Alumni Develop New Housing Plans for Pike Reunion Tailgate a Success

Neal Patterson '68, John Michael Williams '68, Rich Young '80, Blain Claypool '85, and Shane Pate '00 have worked tirelessly in recent months to develop a housing plan that will set Pike apart from every fraternity and living option in Stillwater. The initial renderings were shared at a press conference at the chapter house and the response from alumni was incredibly positive. This group of alumni will continue working to refine the plan in the coming months, and updates will be shared with alumni as the details become clear.



Architect Robert Riccardi presents the rendering of the potential future chapter house.

Following the meeting was the alumni tailgate on the northwest corner of the ROTC building, before the Cowboys took on the Iowa State Cyclones. We were happy to see so many familiar faces that weekend, but hope to see even more next year.



John Williams '68 addressing a question during the meeting.



Gino Demarco '80, David Sargent '80, and Doug Aldridge '78 enjoy the tailgate.

ONCE A PIKE, ALWAYS A PIKE

Blain Claypool '85 Encourages Alumni to Reconnect

Gamma Chi gave **Blain Claypool '85** lifelong friends and he credits the chapter with helping him through school. He never ceases to be amazed at how he can run into a brother separated by decades and they instantly fall right back into step and all time evaporates.

I was a senior in high school and all of my close friends were going to different colleges. My sister knew some men in Pike, **Kevin Rigsby '82** and **Clark Huff '83**, and gave them my name so that I could attend recruitment events. Clark came to visit my parents and assured us of the virtues of fraternal involvement and convinced me of the strength of Pike.

At my first recruitment party I met **Chris Mountford '85**, who wound up being one of my roommates and lifelong friends. After that evening I went home and told my parents I was going to pledge if extended a bid. The southern recruitment dinner was the final selling point as I looked around the room and saw the caliber of the pledge class from the south part of the state. Once signing day arrived I was ready to go. I was impressed with the support network for new freshmen and the commitment to excellence. **Hoby Ferrell '82** and Clark set the vision for what we were going to be as Pikes, and we never looked back.

My brothers were my mentors, my closest allies, and my role models. They were always there through thick and thin. My son, **Christian Claypool '12**, experienced this firsthand when he attended the Fiesta Bowl and met all the Pikes that were there and saw how we instantly picked back up. My son's observation of these relationships is the key reason he pledged Pike. His statement to me was, 'Look at the quality of friends you made and how great those friendships still are today. Why would I look anywhere else? I am a Pike.' I am now getting to watch him go through some of the same experiences I did.



Blain Claypool '85 and Jamie Aveni '85 at the Shipwreck party in 1989.

Gamma Chi taught me how to be the leader I am today. Those of you who knew me in college will chuckle over that, but I saw how an organization could be moved forward. Watching Hoby set the vision and motivate **Doug Lankford '82**, **Todd Hittle '84**, and the other presidents lead us through the years. The fraternity brought me out of my shell and I gained confidence in public speaking and public settings. I took those mentoring sessions from **Bob Dotson '84** and others and moved forward. I look back at what Pi Kappa Alpha has given me, and I have to give back. I look at how my own son is emerging as a leader and going through the transitions I did in college, and exceeding anything I accomplished at 19, and just marvel.

If you take the time to reflect on what Gamma Chi gave you in college, whether it was friendship, leadership, social skills, or just great memories, you realize that you have no idea what could unfold when you reactivate Pi Kappa Alpha in your life. The world of the fraternity opens up as you become an active alumnus and it is incredibly rewarding. One of the best ways to start getting back in touch is by visiting the chapter house.

The actives are moving the chapter in the right direction but need an alumni presence. They are 18-22-year-old men handling the activity of a large organization with multiple priorities. We are the ties to the history of the house and tradition. Our tall tales of life in Gamma Chi become the legends we were raised on for this generation. **David Sargent '80** is still there as an alumnus teaching the men all the legends, songs, and history. Taking the time to sit down with the actives, hearing their issues, and sharing stories is just fun!

We stand on the verge on making a move for Gamma Chi that will both bring back the glory of our days and establish us as the dominant fraternity on the OSU campus for generations. If you have a son soon to attend OSU, now is the time to continue your legacy. Let the chapter know he is coming, but also be involved in his recruitment and bring him around. Lead by example and let him see what Pi Kappa Alpha meant to you.

The world of the fraternity opens up as you become an active alumnus and it is incredibly rewarding. One of the best ways to start getting back in touch is by visiting the chapter house.

I can tell you that you will be absolutely blown away the night you pin his badge on him at initiation. To say I had goosebumps last November when I pinned my son would be the understatement of the decade. It is your job to make sure we bring the sharpest leaders to Gamma Chi whether it is your son, or the son of a friend."

Blain lives in Fleming Island, Florida, with his wife, Shannon, and their three daughters: Olivia, Luna, and Mia. E-mail: dbclaypool@gmail.com

Gamma Chis Are Making Moves

Over the past few months Gamma Chi has been hard at work enhancing our academic program, participating in campus philanthropies and intramurals, recruiting another strong pledge class, and planning many events for the fall.

Philanthropy and Campus Relations

The chapter started the semester off strong in philanthropy. We placed second in Alpha Delta Pi's Piathlon, which supports Ronald McDonald House, and had 40 members come out in support. We were paired with the women of Alpha Omicron Pi for Homecoming this year and had a date party with Zeta Tau Alpha and Alpha Chi Omega.

Recruitment Efforts Lead to Success

The officers involved in recruitment worked very hard this summer, signing 36 men for the semester. Our pledge program turns our freshmen into the leaders of tomorrow. We are pleased with the quality of men who chose to join Gamma Chi Chapter and are eager to ingrate them into the fraternity.

Enhancing Academic Programming

To improve our academics we have looked at the program at the University of Florida, one of Pi Kappa Alpha's top academic chapters. Study hours are required for members who earned a GPA below a 2.5. The members who earned a GPA in the top 10% of the chapter are excused from cleaning the house for the fall semester.

Alumni, Come Visit Gamma Chi

We want to share our successes with Gamma Chis everywhere because these are yours as much as they are ours. A phone call, e-mail, or visit would be truly wonderful. Your time, talent, and leadership are always appreciated in hopes of continuing the excellence we have worked so hard to create. I ask that you take the time to reconnect with your brothers in hopes of making this house a home for Gamma Chis of all generations.

Fraternally,
Geoff Kibble '11
 Chapter President
 geoffkibble@gmail.com



Cheering on the Cowboys.



Gamma Chi brothers at Dance Marathon, an event that benefits Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

2014 CHAPTER OFFICERS

President

Geoff Kibble '11
 Tulsa, Okla.

(918) 814-5352 | geoffkibble@gmail.com

Internal Vice President

Colin Amick '13
 Kansas City, Kan.

External Vice President

Christian Claypool '13
 Fleming Island, Fla.

Treasurer

Jackson Stubblefield '12
 Red Oak, Texas

Sergeant-at-Arms

Matt Falcon '12
 Kansa City, Kan.

Secretary

Andrew Nelson '13
 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Recruitment Chairman

Anthony Garza '12
 Richardson, Texas

Pledge Trainer

Jesse Vensor '12
 Midwest City, Okla.

House Manager

Ian Meyer '13
 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Welcome, New Members

Jose A. Alvarez Jr.
 Nicholas B. Bowen*
 Jonathon R. Bowen
 Derrick L. Brown
 Marshal R. Carver
 Cooper W. Davis
 Robert J. Delumetter
 Robert S. Dennis
 Aaron M. Elliot.
 Mark E. Ewing Jr.
 Shelby R. Garvey
 Benjamin Goodwin
 Chase W. Gooch

Nick O. Hamilton
 Austin D. Helt
 Joseph B. Huffman
 Tyler M. Jackson
 Joshua R. James
 Spencer Keller
 Alberto Dominguez Jr.
 Mitchell B. Longaore
 John E. Morgan IV
 Kyle N. Nethers
 Lane A. Nichols
 Kyle S. Persons
 Benjamin G. Porter

Sawyer W. Rachel
 Dillon L. Sartin
 Cameron Sherbon
 Owen E. Standish
 Dale W. Straight
 Conner A. Stravinoha
 William H. Towler
 Thaddaeus B. Tucker*
 John T. Wilburn
 Alec L. Wright

*Legacy

ALUMNI NEWS

We would like to hear from you! Please let us know what is happening in your life by sending updates to our alumni relations coordinator at astoots@penningtonco.com, and look for news items about you and your Gamma Chi brothers in the "Alumni News" section of the next issue of the *Pike Press*.

Ralph W. Stuart '43 transferred from Gamma Upsilon to Gamma Chi in 1947 to finish his pre-med requirements. He worked in practical family medicine and radiology throughout his career in Oklahoma hospitals and retired in 1995. Ralph enjoys traveling throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico in his motorhome. E-mail: rstu26@aol.com

John H. Burrows '47 is president of the Chamber of Commerce, Claremore Inc., and Claremore Rotary Club.

Thomas M. Campbell '52 recently completed his fourth novel, *Coaching My Way*. All of his books are available for purchase. Thomas lives in Tulsa, Okla. E-mail: tmcedd@mindpspring.com

Robert E. Stuemky '56 is developing a ranch on 360 acres in Southeast Pueblo, Colo., with his wife, Maria. E-mail: bob@manyjourneys.com

Warren A. Trinka '56 travels, plays tennis, hunts, and fishes. He was a soccer dad for his sons and is now a soccer and hockey grandpa. Warren and his wife, Betty Ann, live in Tulsa Okla.

Gale W. Cook '58 shares that life is good after 30 years in human resources at Ford Motor Co. and 34 years of retirement. "It's great to hear about all the great things from Gamma Chi at OSU. Keep it up!" Gale lives in Somerset Center, Mich., with his wife, Rubye.

Russell H. Manning '60 retired in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., after a successful and rewarding career as a high school AP English teacher, followed by a career in educational publishing as a national language arts consultant and as a dealer in fine art. E-mail: randyruss72@hotmail.com

Lynn H. Royston '62 retired and lives in West Linn, Ore. His daughter lives in Tacoma, Wash., and his son lives in Juneau, Ala. Lynn and his wife spend a lot of time visiting their 10 grandchildren. They are also active in their local and national church and the local, free medical clinic.

Dwight A. Dickinson '63 works full-time as the president of his architecture firm. He has five grandchildren. Dwight has many fine memories of his time in the old Pike house. E-mail: ddickinson@dharch.com

Ronald L. Whitaker '63 lives in Broken Arrow, Okla., and is involved in Optimist International. He has nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. E-mail: ronwhitaker66@yahoo.com

Russell E. Roach '66 is going to France for the eighth time and Italy for the third time. "Get out of your recliner and experience the world." Russell lives in Tulsa, Okla., with his wife, Cheryl. E-mail: rroach@ionet.net

William E. Kelsey '67 lives in Sebring, Fla., and plays senior men's softball year-round. He volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and supports his grandkids in youth athletics, enjoys church activities, travel, fishing and boating, and is a silver life master bridge player. Bill shares that he was a retired duck hunter before *Duck Dynasty* was popular. E-mail: spokie66@yahoo.com

Richard L. Holcomb '68 retired from education after 39 years of teaching English, coaching cross country, track and field, and performing duties as an IT assistant. He is married to Gerrie and they live in Albuquerque, N.M. They have four children who are college graduates and are looking forward to future weddings and grandchildren. Richard loves reconnecting with alumni brothers. "We survived as a chapter after our house burned my freshman year, and now the Gamma Chi Chapter is flourishing!" E-mail: r-holcomb001@comcast.net

Dave B. Starrett '72 shares that "life is good." He has two grown sons. Bryan is a Pike from Wake Forest University, practices law in Greensboro, N.C., and is married with two daughters, and Adam, a graduate from the University of South Carolina and Thunderbird School of Management, works as a senior logistics manager in Florence, N.C., with

Sonoco and is married with a son. Dave lives in Greer, S.C., with his wife, Carol. E-mail: dstarretts@aol.com

Russell A. Sims '85 retired after 25 years with Mars Inc. and started a new chapter in his life. He is now the vice president of sales for a German importer of specialty foods. His role is to sell pet care products in the USA, build a pet food plant, and head sales in North America. He has been married to his wife, Kyle, for 24 years and they have three children in Bedias, Texas. E-mail: russell42sims@gmail.com

Trey Griffin '88 married AJ Gay, former Dream Girl, and current state senator. They live in Guthrie, Okla. E-mail: treygriffin@kcg3.com

Jeremy Salazar '91 moved his insurance agency to Bixby, Okla. He and his wife, Jandyn, have four children. E-mail: jjsalazar73@yahoo.com

Matthew W. Lemon '01 began working for the Sand Springs Police Department in Tulsa, Okla., in March 2005. Since then he has been awarded with a lifesaving award, officer of the year, and a medal of honor for preventing a kidnapping and possible homicide. He was promoted to detective in 2013 and is pursuing a bachelor of arts in criminal justice. E-mail: officerlemon@yahoo.com

Austin T. Waugh '06 received his master's in accounting in August and is on track to finish his MBA next May from the University of Texas in Dallas. E-mail: austin.t.waugh@gmail.com

William D. W. Battles '07 is deployed in Afghanistan. He and his wife, Krisha, have two children, Natalie and Logan.



Dick J. Beshear '73

(Continued from page 1)

efforts on behalf of Pi Kappa Alpha and Gamma Chi. If Lewie were here with us right now he would be amazed by how many alumni remembered their time in the chapter and in Stillwater. He would have a big smile on his face and would be shaking his head at the big dreams brothers have for his beloved fraternity."

Today, Dick is the president and CEO of First Security Bank in Oklahoma City. In addition to his service with Gamma Chi, he has served as director for the Oklahoma Zoological Society as a trustee and chairman of the trust. He is also chairman of the Oklahoma County Finance Authority and next year will become the president of the Oklahoma City All Sports Association.

In his spare time, Dick enjoys following OSU sports. "I love football season, not only for the games and the competition, but also as a chance to see my brothers and their families." If you would like to catch up with Dick, send him an e-mail at dbeshear@cox.net.



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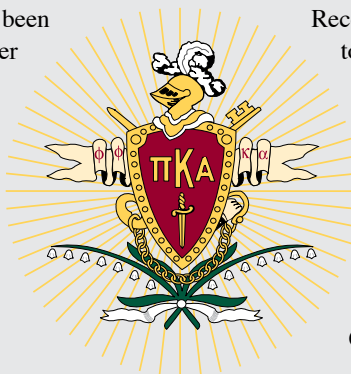
Gamma Chi Alumni Association
P.O. Box 30782
Edmond, OK 73003

Address Service Requested

Attention: This newsletter is intended for graduate brothers and parents. If your son is still attending Oklahoma State University, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

A BIG Thanks to Brother Tommy Shotwell '89

As many of you know, **Tommy Shotwell '89** has been the chapter advisor for the Gamma Chi Chapter since 2002. During his service for such an extended period, Brother Shotwell has been keenly aware of the ups and downs Gamma Chi has gone through over the years. Regardless of the chapter's status, he has never wavered in his duty to serve his young brothers as a mentor and guidepost. Alumni and active members should strive for such upstanding character.



Recently, Brother Shotwell stepped down from his post to focus on some health issues (which we're sure has nothing to do with mentoring more than sixty 20-year-olds). While this saddens both alumni and active brothers of Gamma Chi, we understand that Brother Shotwell's health and family must come first. Nonetheless, the men of Pi Kappa Alpha would like to express their most heartfelt thanks to him for his devoted patience, care, guidance and the steadfast faith he provided to his beloved Gamma Chi Chapter.

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Pi Kappa Alpha-
Oklahoma State University



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www.osupikes.org