

# Gamma Chi Alumni Association of Pi Kappa Alpha



## Upcoming Events

- March 9, 2013  
Alumni Banquet & Golf Tournament  
Location: Stillwater, OK
- April 2013 (TBD)  
Alumni Golf Tournament  
Location: Edmond, OK
- Spring 2013 (TBD)  
International Work Day  
Location: Stillwater, OK
- Summer 2013 (TBD)  
Alumni Association Meeting/BBQ  
Location: Oklahoma City, OK
- August 24, 2013  
Undergrad Meet & Greet/BBQ  
Location: Stillwater, OK
- Fall 2013: Alumni Tailgate at ALL OSU Home Football Games  
Location: Just North of Old Central
  - \*\*9/14 vs Lamar
  - \*\*10/5 vs Kansas State - **Pledge Reunions (1963, 1973, and 2003)**
  - \*\*10/19 vs TCU - **Homecoming**
  - \*\*11/9 vs Kansas - **Large Pike Reunion**
  - \*\*11/23 vs Baylor - **Pledge Reunions (1983 and 1993)**
  - \*\*12/7 vs Oklahoma
- Many Other Social Events (TBD)  
Location: OKC, Tulsa, and Stillwater

## Message from the President

S. Shane Pate II

As 2012 draws to a close, it fills my heart with great joy and pride for the many strides that all of you have made this year in establishing Gamma Chi as a band of men others are looking to for guidance as to how they can become an outstanding network of undergraduates and alumni working together for the better of PiKA. In the past month alone, I have received emails or phone calls from Pike alumni and chapters in Tennessee, Illinois, and Oklahoma, asking for the secret that has made our alumni association, advisory board, and chapter so successful. The secret is each of you, my brothers!

The undergrads remain as focused and resolved as ever to bring the coveted Robert Adger Smythe Award home to Oklahoma State University. Alumni are engaged in active dialogue with the chapter about ways to enhance the activities each group organizes, such as our annual alumni golf tournaments and banquets; and both are working together to develop new programs that will draw even greater interest and participation in the future. Details on some of the improvements and activities in the works can be found in the body of this newsletter.

I will mention one area of improvement we hope to accomplish, which is our Alumni Association Football Tailgating system. In addition to our existing reunions, next year, the alumni association will dedicate two home game tailgates to a total of five generations of Pikes. The Kansas State

game will be on October 5, 2013. At that game, our tailgate will facilitate a pledge class reunion for Gamma Chi Pikes initiated in 1963, 1973, and 2003. For the Baylor home game on November 23, 2013, our tailgate will facilitate a pledge class reunion for Gamma Chi Pikes initiated in 1983 and 1993. Of course, all alumni will still be invited and encouraged to attend these tailgates, but each tailgate would focus on contacting the particular era of Pikes and having them come relive some of their glory days of PiKA. This will be a big undertaking, but it can and will be very successful with your participation. Please do your part to help spread the word about this new concept. You can also contact me to learn about how you can help reach out to alumni for these tailgates. We will need volunteers from all generations to do this right.

I will close my remarks with a heartfelt thanks to those working behind the scenes to bring the glory to Gamma Chi that she rightfully deserves. It is because of men like Lee Wilson, Dennis Packard, David Bagwell, Brandon Lux, Nick Johnson, Mike Price, Brian Lundin, Brian Eakin, David Sargent, Bucky Harp, and so many others that alumni are coming out of the woodwork, reconnecting with their brothers, and helping to organize remarkable events that are putting us on a path of high success. What an exciting time it is to be a Gamma Chi Pike!

## Mailing Address:

**Gamma Chi Alumni Association**  
**P.O. Box 4216**  
**Tulsa, OK 74159**

## Web Site:

[www.osupikealumni.weebly.com](http://www.osupikealumni.weebly.com)

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**Nick Johnson, VP**

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**Brandon Lux, Secretary**

brandonlux10@gmail.com

**Michael Price, Treasurer**

mprice2@farmersagent.com

*"Behold, how good  
and how pleasant it is  
for brothers to dwell  
together in unity!"*

*Psalm 133:1*



## Recent Association News/Activities

### Gamma Chi Wins International Awards!

At the July 26-29th, 2012 Pi Kappa Alpha International Convention in Denver, the Gamma Chi Chapter at OSU cleaned up at the awards banquet. The Gamma Chi Alumni Association won the awards for "Outstanding New Alumni Association" and "William R. Nester Alumni Association of the Year." The Nester Award is the highest honor an Alumni Association can receive at the International Convention.

Meanwhile, the undergraduates went home with the "Chapter Excellence Award" along with several other exemplary performance awards. The "Chapter Excellence Award" is given to the top 10% of chapters in ALL of Pi Kappa Alpha. A contingent of Gamma Chi Alumni Association members was in attendance to accept the awards.

In addition, the International Consultant visited the chapter and ranked Gamma Chi high among all chapters. He noted the Gamma Chi chapter is a strong contender for a Smythe Award soon.



### Luau Party/Annual Meeting

The Alumni Association annual meeting was held on July 7, 2012 in Broken Arrow, OK just outside Tulsa at the residence of Brandon and Nikki Lux. In addition to the meeting we also had a Luau Party. Those in attendance were served the award winning Kansas City based Oklahoma Joe's BBQ from the new Broken Arrow location. Also served were margaritas, potato salad, chips and homemade dips, apple pie, roasted marshmallows and s'mores. The guests also enjoyed games of bean bag toss and horseshoes.

Items discussed were the past year, the budget, and events for the next year. The meeting minutes are posted under resources on the association website. The next meeting will be held in the summer of 2013.

### Undergraduate Meet and Greet BBQ

On August 18, 2012, the Alumni Association hosted a Meet and Greet BBQ in Stillwater, OK for the undergraduates. 25+ alumni showed up to meet and greet the undergraduates at the Pike House shortly after they moved in for the semester. Afterwards, the alumni went to Eskimo Joe's for drinks. The next meet and greet will be held on August 24, 2013.



### Alumni Advisory Board/Undergrad Retreats

The Alumni Advisory Board met with the undergrad executive council and rush team for retreats on December 15, 2012. The Board worked closely with undergraduates to help transition the new executive council in goal setting and other issues. The retreat put the chapter in good posture for a successful spring semester.

### OSU Football Tailgates

Every Saturday in the 2012 Oklahoma State Football season, many alumni, family, and friends from all generations attended the Gamma Chi Alumni Association Tailgates. There is no better time to be an Oklahoma State Football fan, with great facilities and a great team. Stop by the tailgate (just north of Old Central) next fall and have some great food and hang out with other alumni before the game. Beginning next year, we will be hosting major 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50-year Pledge Reunions in addition to the usual special events. Check the calendar on the front page for details.

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*"Live out of your  
imagination, not  
your history"  
- Stephen Covey*



## Alumnus News/Announcements



**Sgt. Steven R. Elsass** (*Gamma Chi '91*) passed away on December 5, 2012. Ryan was born December 17, 1972 in Tulsa, Oklahoma to Steven John Elsass and Patty Sue Elsass. He is a 1991 graduate of John Marshall High School. Ryan attended Oklahoma State University and received a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. Ryan was a 12 year veteran of the Oklahoma City Police Department achieving the rank of Sergeant and was assigned to the Santa Fe Division. In addition to his duties as a law enforcement officer, he was a driving instructor and field training officer for the Oklahoma City Police Department. Ryan is survived by his mother Patty S. Elsass, his son Aden Ryan Elsass, grandmother Bonnie I. Adams and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. An

account is being set up for the benefit of his son. Contact Dennis Packard for details at [dennis@alignmywealth.com](mailto:dennis@alignmywealth.com).

**Captain Dustin D. McClure** (*Lamda Iota '02*) broke the Guinness World Record for the fastest 5,000-meter run with a 40-pound rucksack by almost 2 minutes, coming in at 20:06 Minutes. He was recently awarded a Bronze Star for his exceptional training of the ANP forces, conducting over 150 patrols, executing over 20 Commanders Emergency Relief programs, and conducting Key Leader Engagements over the Kunduz Province of Afghanistan. He is currently training to be a Psychological Operations officer.



**Ralph Turner** (*Gamma Chi '66*) and his wife, Linda, celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in October. They also celebrated the first birthday of their granddaughter Avery with their son, **Brett Turner** (*Gamma Chi '98*) and his wife Emily (*Pi Phi*) in October. Ralph is in his 11<sup>th</sup> year as Alumni Advisor for Alpha Nu Chapter at the University of Missouri.

**Joshua Wichers** (*Gamma Chi '06*) graduated with an Electrical Engineering Technology degree and recently began working as a Transmission Planning Engineer for American Electric Power in Tulsa, OK.

**Matthew Ryan Lewis** (*Gamma Chi '96*) married Zenay Ben Yochanon on April 14, 2012 in Las Vegas, NV. They currently reside in Los Angeles, CA. He has been performing standup comedy on the west coast across 11 different states. He recently played a speaking role on "The Doctors" television show.

## How to join the Association

Your membership in the Gamma Chi Alumni Association of Pi Kappa Alpha is the single most powerful way to make Pi Kappa Alpha stronger at Oklahoma State University, as well to expand and enrich your own experiences with the fraternity that helped mold you into the person you are today.

There are several ways to join the association. You can write us via our mailing address listed to the right, email one of our officers listed on the back page, visit our website, or join in person at any Alumni Association event! Association dues are set at \$50 per year. Send payments to the mailing address or pay at our website via a secure PayPal transaction.

### Ways to Get Involved with the Local Chapter

#### Alumni Advisory Board

One of the foremost indicators for the success of a Pi Kappa Alpha chapter is the presence of an alumni advisory board. This team of advisors can provide the mature advice and perspective that will take a chapter from the middle of the pack, to the top of their campus. The presence of an active Alumni Advisory Board is one of the requirements for a Pike chapter to receive the coveted Smythe Award. If you'd like to learn more about becoming a part the Alumni Advisory Board, please contact Shane Pate at [pike\\_boy\\_1868@yahoo.com](mailto:pike_boy_1868@yahoo.com) or Nick Johnson at [osupike21@yahoo.com](mailto:osupike21@yahoo.com).

#### Housing Corporation

The undergrads at Gamma Chi are still in need of additional board members on the Housing Corporation! House Corporations are 501c(7) not-for-profit corporations, formed with the purpose of planning for, and working towards providing competitive housing on campus for their respective chapters. The manner in which the Housing Corporation seeks to accomplish this is by buying, selling, receiving, exchanging, leasing, renting, granting, improving, developing, repairing, and at times maintaining a mortgage on the real and personal property of the Gamma Chi Chapter.

House corporations are governed by a board of alumni volunteers, elected by their peers. While some house corporation board members have a background in real estate, the most important qualification is having a passion for the chapter's housing. At OSU, the Gamma Chi Chapter house competes with some of the best fraternity housing structures in the nation, competition which becomes increasingly fiercer as the surrounding fraternities are currently engaged in capital campaigns to renovate or completely rebuild their living spaces. A strong Housing Corporation is critical to the longevity of Pi Kappa Alpha as it faces these challenges.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a part of Housing Corporation, please contact Lee Wilson at [cowbovol@att.net](mailto:cowbovol@att.net), or Larry Ricker at [larry.ricker@gmail.com](mailto:larry.ricker@gmail.com).

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*"Don't go to the grave  
with life unused."  
-Bobby Bowden*



## Featured Alumnus

### Question and Answer with David Bagwell (Gamma Chi '62):

**1) What made you join PiKA? Was there a specific person that convinced you to pledge Pike?**



*I was unable to attend any rush activities the summer before my freshman year as I was pretty sick that entire three months, just getting out of the hospital prior to school. Upon enrollment I lived in the dorm, which worked out pretty well, as I was able to connect with high school friends once on campus and they invited me to their fraternity houses for dinners, so I had a wonderful, relaxed way of being exposed to the different fraternities as well as learning about their reputation and prominence in campus activities. I visited the Pike house after seeing several others. Not only was it far and away the best living quarters but the members and pledges were warm and friendly. I remember Rod Roper who was the president asking me to sit at his table. After dinner and a tour, I sat in one of the rooms where Don Hager, Johnny Rose and Sinclair Short talked to me. They were impressive and gave me honest and straightforward answers to my questions and concerns. All in all, I just felt "at home" in the house. It only got better after that and I pledged shortly after the first semester as I was confident I could perform academically by that time. Certainly, I enjoyed my time at old Cordell Hall and as I left I participated in one of their traditions. When a dorm resident pledged a fraternity, he got tossed into Theta Pond. I can tell you the water is cold in February!*

**2) What is your most memorable story from living in the Pike house?**

*As a member of Pi Kappa Alpha, I was so proud to wear my pin every day so always wore a good shirt with the pin on just right! The chapter flourished during this time, and during my junior year we had the largest pledge class on campus with 48.*

**3) What was the biggest challenge you faced in college and how did PiKA help you overcome it?**

*Academically, I exceeded my expectations and with a 3.7 in my freshman year, I felt confident I could succeed in college. But I was not confident socially with dating as well as joining campus activities and getting involved. My big brother Johnny Rose and others like Carmi Humes, Stu Bumgardner and John Klopp, all campus leaders and impressive individuals were so encouraging. Academics pushed me into some organizations and I tentatively began to seek offices and gain some confidence. The fraternity was invaluable to me, serving as a foundation from which I could build. I served the chapter in various roles and became vice president. Senior year I was elected to serve as president of the Student Council in the college of Arts and Sciences.*

**4) What do you miss most about your college days?**

*It would be hard to say what I miss the most about college, as OSU was a wonderful choice for me in so many ways. It afforded me the opportunity to excel, to understand I could assume leadership, and to enjoy the experience with classmates. Pi Kappa Alpha was truly the catalyst that allowed that to happen. It opened the doors and I will forever thank the brothers there for creating that environment.*

**5) What did you do after college?**

*Following a degree in Math and an MBA all at OSU, I went to work. My career was spent, almost in its entirety with Western Electric Company, the wholly owned manufacturing and supply arm of AT&T. There, I moved through assignments in manufacturing, engineering, installation, service, marketing, sales and staff positions. In those days transfers to new jobs were common and I moved an average of every two to three years, which made for an interesting experience, but also a tough one. It certainly made me lose my apprehension of taking on a new challenge!*

**6) What do you do today?**

*I took early retirement to allow me to return to Oklahoma and take an assignment with Memorex Telex. After about four years there I started a small consulting company that afforded me a chance to run a small software company as well as develop and deliver training for telecommunication companies.*

*I retired in 1996 and today live in the Texas Hill Country where my wife Cindy and I enjoy golf and our church. I enjoy my passion of exercise and fitness and follow with great interest the progress of Oklahoma State as well as my beloved fraternity.*