

Gamma Chi Alumni Association of Pi Kappa Alpha



Upcoming Events

- July 7, 2012
Luau Party/Annual Meeting
Location: Tulsa, OK
- July 26-29, 2012
International Convention
Location: Denver, CO
- August 16, 2012
Move-in/Workday/BBQ
Location: Stillwater, OK
- September 15, 2012
Pike Alumni Reunion
Location: Stillwater, OK
- Alumni Tailgate at ALL OSU Home Football Games
Location: Just North of Old Central
 - 9/1 vs. Savannah State
 - 9/15 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (Reunion)
 - 9/29 vs. Texas
 - 10/20 vs. Iowa State (Homecoming)
 - 10/27 vs. TCU
 - 11/10 vs. West Virginia
 - 11/17 vs. Texas Tech
- TBD Spring 2012
Alumni Banquet
Location: Stillwater, OK

Message from the President

S. Shane Pate II

Greetings once again Brethren! In our last newsletter, our energies were focused on organizing as an association and increasing alumni participation. In this issue, we get to move onward, recognizing the wonderful fruits of our association's labors, give attention to our needs to enhance our social programming, and also disseminate information with respect to our calendar of events and the status of the chapter at OSU.

We are also pleased to unveil a new element of the newsletter: a regular feature article about Gamma Chi alumni. In this issue, we will learn about Millard "Bucky" Harp, a Gamma Chi initiate of 1974 who has held dear to his heart the lofty ideals of phi phi kappa alpha ever since. We want to learn more about other men like Bucky, so I encourage our alumni to submit recommendations for alumni to have an article written about them in subsequent issues of our newsletter.

With respect to social programming needs, our association is in need of two volunteers, one in the Oklahoma City metro area, and one in the Tulsa metro area, to serve as social chairs. Ideally, alumni serving in these roles would

organize local alumni events in the respective communities. The events will not need to be anything at the level of a banquet or golf tournament (although they could be), rather, the events would be more along the lines of a night at the bowling alley, a poker tournament, a group community service project, a float trip, or a BBQ. If our association is going to continue to grow in participation, it is essential that we hold regular events in these parts of the state where so many of our alumni are now located. Please contact any of the association officers if you would like to volunteer or nominate someone for the job.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone that has been so eager to help get the association off the ground and running. Now let's capitalize on this momentum by continuing to spread the word about our organization and bringing other alumni to our events. The Gamma Chi Alumni Association has gotten off to a great start, but there is still much work to do, fun to be had, and fellowship to be shared. I look forward to the challenges and adventures we will face in the future and hope you do as well!

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

Psalm 133:1



2011-2012 Association Activities

Gamma Chi Alumni Association Inaugural Meeting/BBQ

The Oklahoma State Pi Kappa Alpha Alumni Association met for the first time August 21, 2011. 23 alumni were on hand to sign the petition to charter. New business included officer elections, approving by-laws, and event discussions. BBQ lunch was also served at no cost to those who attended. We will be having our next annual meeting/BBQ July 4th in Tulsa for the 2012-2013.

Gamma Chi Chapter Pi Kappa Alpha Reunion

The Pike Reunion takes place on a football Saturday each year as well, with over 200 guests at last year's event. The location was the big orange bus behind George's Stables before and after the Kansas State at Oklahoma State Football Game. This is one of our major events for the year, so be on the lookout for which weekend and further details at our Facebook page "Old School Gamma Chi Pikes."



OSU Football Tailgates

Every Saturday in the Oklahoma State Football Fiesta Bowl Championship season, over 60 people 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 year and have some great food and hang out with other alumni before the game. Speaking of football, Pikes had one of their own on the championship team shown in the picture below.



2011-2012 Association Activities (continued)

Founder's Day Alumni Banquet March 3, 2012

We asked for it and you really delivered! On March 3rd, over 150 Pike alumni, undergraduates, and our guests gathered at the ConocoPhillips OSU Alumni Center to celebrate Founder's Day. The evening began with a reception where drinks were served and attendees were able to catch up with old friends. After eating a four course meal from Freddie Paul's Steakhouse, the guest speakers for the evening, Former International President John Williams and International Supreme Council Member Shad Williams, engaged the audience with topics ranging from brotherhood, the national fraternity, personal stories, and risk awareness.

Two exceptional men of PiKA were inducted into the Gamma Chi Hall of Fame that evening, Gary Morris and James Holland. Devon Lansford was awarded Undergraduate Pike of the Year. The evening concluded with a post-reception, where attendees were able to mingle and were served drinks. The event was a huge success, but none of it would have been possible without your participation as alumni, and the officers of the association would like to send a heartfelt thanks to those who could attend. A special thank you is in order for Brandon Lux and his wife Nikki, who arranged for the catering and cash bar. Plans are already in the works to make next year's banquet even bigger and better. See you there!

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



Supreme Council Member Shad Williams speaking to the Audience



Former International President John Williams speaking to the audience



Alumni Association President Shane Pate presenting Gary Morris (right) with his Gamma Chi Hall of Fame plaque



Undergraduate President Alex Woolard (right) presenting Devon Lansford with Undergraduate Pike of the Year award

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"Don't go to the grave
with life unused."

-Bobby Bowden



Featured Alumnus

Millard "Bucky" Harp

Bucky Harp was born in and graduated high school from McAlester, OK. He was initiated into the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity in February 1974. While in the house he served as President, treasurer, house manager, and pledge trainer. He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1977 with a Bachelors of University Studies with an emphasis in Accounting. He obtained his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) licenses.

Professionally, he worked for Ernst & Whiney (now Ernst & Young), an oil company. He worked in business for self with a CPA practice, and later the Oklahoma State University/A&M Board of Regents Internal Audit Department. He currently works as a Controller for DCT, Incorporated, a government services contractor in McAlester, OK.

Personally, Brother Harp is married to Lisa Loy Harp and they have four children together. His hobbies include shooting sports and fishing. He volunteers on the Board of the Local Rural water district and Chairman of McAlester High School Class of 1973 Reunion Committee.

Brother Harp is currently a charter member of the Gamma Chi Alumni Association, serves on the alumni advisory board, and worked all day at this past International Work Day laying sod, landscaping, and making structural repairs to the house.



Question and Answer with Bucky Harp:

1) What made you join PiKA? Was there a specific person that got you to sign?

Paul Choate, a Pike from McAlester rushed me and convinced me to sign. I knew nothing about fraternity life. I was sure I didn't want to be a robot that did whatever "they" wanted me to do. Paul told me "The most independent men are fraternity men. He convinced me that I would be a better rounded person, learn leadership skills, and be a better student with the help and guidance of older fraternity brothers. He was certainly right on all accounts. The first time I stepped in the house, the members made me feel wanted and special. What I now recognize as "brotherhood" permeated the air in the Pike House.

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

There are so many important and memorable stories and a lot of funny ones. One of my favorite memories is singing in the living room after initiations. The love and brotherhood was palpable. Great times!

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

Learning to balance school, work, campus activities, social life, and fraternity activities and responsibilities. Great men like Arlen Omtvedt, Randy McGee, Bob Williams and Dick Beshear (and of course Lewie Sanderson) taught me a lot and provided encouragement.

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

In college I always had someone around to hang out with or goof off with. Now it takes a lot of planning to arrange a get together.

5) How did you acquire the name "Bucky"?

I was named Millard after our family physician of 30 plus years Dr. Millard Henry. Millard was a little stuffy for a boy and my dad nicknamed everyone. He called his brother Jim "Buck" and called me Bucky.

6) Is there any other story from the Pike house days or your experiences after college that you would like to share?

The first time I visited the House, David (Boo Boo) Oldham was lying on the roof of Mom's apartment painting under the eaves. Someone snuck up on him and blew him off the roof with an M80 firecracker. Paul Choate turned to me and said "Oh. Great! That's Bob Williams, whom I most wanted you to meet. I think you should room with him!" I thought "What have I gotten myself into." Of course, I did room with Bob who is one of my favorite people in the world and the Best Big Brother anyone could ask for.

2011-2012 Undergraduate News

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*"Fraternity is the fuel
that allows common
people to produce
uncommon results"*



Alex Woolard, Undergraduate President

The Gamma Chi Chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha had quite a successful semester. In the spring alone, Gamma Chi made a significant impact on the Greek community through our performances in athletics, recruitment, philanthropy, improvement projects, and many others. We were able to incorporate new events and ideas into our chapter while holding true to our most sacred rituals, beliefs, and traditions. With the Alumni Advisory Board's guidance and an unrelenting undergraduate effort, Gamma Chi has made significant advances within the Greek Community.

Our athletic presence did not go unnoticed at Oklahoma State University as Gamma Chi won championships in wheelchair basketball, co-rec handball, walleyball, wrestling, and golf. Additionally, Gamma Chi made it to the championships in football, soccer, co-rec soccer, and quickball while also placing second in the Scott Carter Memorial Basketball Tournament.



We also won many sorority philanthropy events which helped dramatically with our sorority relations and rewarded additional funds to our own philanthropy. Although the undergraduates are disappointed with our 4th place finish, we are very confident that intramurals will soon be a place of constant dominance.

Gamma Chi was amongst the leaders in recruitment as well. Through the 2011-2012 academic year, we initiated 43 new members into the Gamma Chi chapter increasing our chapter size by nearly 40%. Within the 43 new members, we were able to initiate the newly found president of Student Government (SGA). Gamma Chi also participated in Greek Discovery Day where over 2000 incoming freshmen were introduced to the Greek Community and toured the Chapter Houses. This year, Gamma Chi has recruitment teams set up in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Stillwater, and Dallas to aid in our search for S.L.A.G.



One of the most significant additions of our chapter included both our performance in all Greek philanthropic events and the creation of our own philanthropy event known as PIKE Firehouse Fever. In this past spring semester, Gamma Chi paired with the Fire Protection Society and the Student Associations of Fire Investigators to raise money toward the Firefighters Quest for

Burn Survivors. This 3-day event included an educational mock dorm room burning, pizza eating contest, a benefit concert, and many other events. Despite inclement weather that caused the cancellation of the concert, Pi Kappa Alpha was still able to raise over \$3k for charity while contributing over \$4k in chapter funds to support this philanthropy event. While many other philanthropy events are held each year and the Gamma Chi Chapter actively participated in all of them, we were able to donate an additional \$7k toward other philanthropic events. We look forward to making PIKE Firehouse Fever an annual event while increasing our philanthropic contributions each year.



2011-2012 Undergraduate News (Continued)

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As many of you may already know, Gamma Chi participated in International Work Day which is designed to increase the aesthetic appearance of all PIKE Chapter houses around the country. Due to alumni support and donations, Gamma Chi was able to spend over \$2300 on renovations which included leveling and laying sod on the yard, laying gravel in the back alley, replacing gates on fences, and replacing/adding flower beds. With the help of the AAB's own Bucky Harp and over 80 undergraduates, International Work day was a huge success followed by a remarkable Alumni Awards Banquet.

Additionally, Gamma Chi was able to reintroduce the Pi Kappa Alpha Dream Girl Formal as 100+ eager students traveled to Dallas, TX for a banquet dinner. As president, I was very proud of how my fellow brothers conducted themselves, respectful and chivalrous.



This past year at Gamma Chi has been quite the experience and I have never been more proud to call myself a member of the Gamma Chi Chapter.

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 or Nick Johnson at 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, or Dick Beshear at dbeshear@swbell.net.

*"You should never look
down on a brother,
except to pick him up."*

