

The Gamma-Rho Gazette

SUMMER 2009

Gamma-Rho Chapter Closed & How You Can Help It Return To Campus

It is with heavy heart that we inform you that late this Spring the Dean of Students Office at the University of Arizona withdrew recognition of the Gamma-Rho Chapter of Kappa Sigma. We will be eligible to re-colonize on campus in January of 2013. We are renting our Chapter House to Sigma Chi while they raise money to build their new house. While it is difficult for us to watch another fraternity occupy our house, it is because of them that we will have the house when we return to campus (without their rent we would have had to sell the house).



For those volunteers who have spent the last 20+ years dedicating their time to Gamma-Rho, this is disheartening and embarrassing. Gamma-Rho had come a long way during the last two decades but unfortunately it has “hit a bump in the road.” As a Board, we wanted to let you know the history behind the closing of the chapter.

The chapter had been experiencing some discipline issues for the last several years, mostly due to alcohol (and most of these issues were individual infractions and not those of the chapter as a whole). Due to these issues, the chapter had been on and off suspension during these last few years. These issues with alcohol are not any different than what most of you experienced

(at least those of you who were in school from the 1980's forward). However, the safety risk to members & guests in a litigious society had become an issue both with the National Fraternity & University.

The International Fraternity, via the Supreme Executive Committee, and our District Grand Master got involved in March '08 at which time it put the chapter on full suspension pending a membership review which was conducted in May '08. The chapter was found mostly innocent of the incident that led to the membership review but the review identified some individual issues with alcohol, drugs, hazing, being financially delinquent, and fighting. A number of members were expelled following this review. The International Fraternity placed the chapter under Trusteeship in October '08 and later expelled or removed some 40 more members (some just quit as well). Of those removed, 10-15 members were expelled for serious alcohol or drug infractions, fighting or hazing. Most of the remaining members were removed for not paying their bills or not attending the interview to prove that they would be willing to be the type of member we wanted representing our chapter. The chapter had been scaled back from around 175 members to around 100 members via graduation and removal of members as of November '08.

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Gamma-Rho Chapter Clo

However this past Fall semester some alleged hazing, alcohol and drug violations apparently committed in September '08 came to the University's attention and it conducted an investigation. Most of what the University found was individual behavior that the Fraternity had already addressed by the removal of the offending members during the past 6-12 months. Although we have not yet seen all the charges from the University because of individual privacy laws, we do know that they involved a lineup conducted by a few intoxicated actives in which pledges were yelled at; three actives allegedly ordered pledges to run personal errands for them including buying drugs (which leadership was unaware of); four actives allegedly assaulted another student, and that Big Brothers & Little Brothers were drinking together when most of these involved were underage (a long-time tradition). All of these allegedly offending brothers as well as others who stood by and watched had been removed from the chapter. Most of these incidents appear to have occurred during the Fall '08 semester at a time when all of the undergraduate leaders had been suspended by the International Fraternity pending their investigation.

The Trustee and the International Fraternity are very upset with the University's decision since they believed that they had resolved the membership problems and had a core of outstanding young men capable to operate the chapter in a responsible manner. However, in the end, the Fraternity withdrew the chapters Charter because we had suspended & expelled members on campus that were making it too difficult for our remaining members to succeed in the long-run. Know that we had many great undergraduates that are now "paying the price."

What we have learned through this process is that the members have a very difficult time holding each other accountable. It is much easier for the "good majority members" to continue to do the right thing individually but avoid confrontation with the "bad minority of members." We must as a committed group of alumni, find a way to help the chapter do better at supervising its members and screen its new members.

The University recognizes they have an issue that is greater than Kappa Sigma as during the last 5-10 years almost all larger chapters have lost recognition for 1-5 years (Alpha Tau Omega, Pi Kappa Alpha, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Sigma Chi, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Zeta Beta Tau & now us) and most other chapters have had other sanctions. We have opened up conversation with the senior leadership at the University to address this not just from a Kappa Sigma perspective, but from a Greek Life as a whole (there is a committee of volunteers from many fraternities & sororities meeting this summer). We need to find a way to enforce individual accountability vs. it always being the group as a whole "paying the price" for the minority of the membership and in teaching our chapter J-Board to do the "right thing." We must also find away to effectively manage alcohol & drugs as this is where 99% of the issues are stemming from (and this is not just a Kappa Sigma issue but campus-wide). The university recognizes that much work needs to be done as a community.

While the undergraduates are gone from campus, we still will continue our

communication & events with alumni. The expectation is that we will return to campus in 3-4 years. However, both the Fraternity & University must see a dedicated group of alumni willing to serve as volunteers on our Advisory & Housing Corporation Boards before we can colonize on campus. The future of Gamma-Rho Chapter at the University of Arizona resides in the hands of alumni willing to “step-up and make a difference.”

We had come a long ways since the mid to late 80's as we tried to develop a chapter that you were all proud of. We have hit a rough spot but if we all work together we can build our chapter back into an even better and stronger chapter. Please provide your support when the time comes. Know that your commitment of time & dollars is a key to our future success. In the meantime, please fill out the enclosed survey or go to: <https://fmgtucson.wufoo.com/forms/gammarho-of-kappa-sigma-alumni-survey/> and fill it out online. Thank you.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Loren Jackson '37

Loren and his wife, Alice, have three children: Nancy (63), Loren Jr. (61), and Barry (54). Loren has this to say, “I have had a full and happy life, 26 years as an Air Force pilot, 13 years as a teacher, and 65 years of married bliss to the greatest little wife anyone could ever have. I am very proud to be a Kappa Sigma!”

- 67 Stanford Circle, Lompoc, CA 93436
- 805.733.2957
- loraljxn@impulse.net

Peter Drake '59

Peter retired from managing a publicly owned bus system in 2001. He now collects books, primarily non-fiction, and enjoys no longer working at what he was doing to make a living. Peter enjoyed his time at the U of A when it was, as it was, in the late 1950's.

- 1382 Bluebird Ave., Ventura, CA 93003
- 805.654.1799
- drakep@sbcglobal.net

Jim Gardner '59

Jim and his wife, Diane, have three children: Natalie (45), James (25), and David (21). Jim quit smoking (50 camels a day) 39 years ago and drinking 22 years ago, but he didn't become a Mormon even though he's from Utah. Brother Gardner retired 11 years ago from a 36 year career in the insurance business (with Cigna, The Pru, & Marsh Mac). He worked in Philadelphia, Hartford, but mostly in Los Angeles while living in Hermosa Beach, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades, Malibu, and Oak Park. His daughter Natalie is married and is a real estate agent with RE/MAX in Visalia, CA. James is a 1st Lt.

in the US Marine Corp and has had one tour in Iraq. David is a junior at Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah where he snowboards and mountain climbs. Diane TRIES to keep Jim out of trouble. Retirement life is good.

- 5465 Bromley Dr., Oak Park, CA 91377
- 818.991.5103
- jim@jbgardner.com

Donald Harris '59

Donald has two children: Courtenay Black (37) and David Harris (36). Donald works as a lawyer. Brother Harris has this to say, “I am leaving for one month with the Israeli Defense Forces in July. I will meet up with Mike '91 and Melissa Honigstein in Tel Aviv. I performed their wedding ceremony. This is my 50th anniversary with Kappa Sigma and will not have the joy of being able to celebrate it in our house. This generation of brothers has been a disappointment to me. Sorry but it had to be said. AEKDB Uncle Don.”

- 5050 N 8th Pl Ste 12, Phoenix, AZ 85014
- 602.952.8188
- captdonusmc@att.net

Tom Houghton '59

Tom retired February 2008. He has four children: Lisa (40), Katie (38), Emily (36), and Erin (36). Brother Houghton has these words of advice, “Retire before you die. Enjoy the grandchildren before they grow up. Go on a cruise even if you think you might get seasick cause you won't. Try to make Homecoming this year (2009).” Tom would like to hear from guys that he hasn't see since college days.

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EVENT CALENDAR

September 18-19 – Board Meeting & Golf Weekend In Pinetop (Open To All Alumni).
RSVP to matt.noble@fmgtucson.com.

November 6-8 – Homecoming/Hall of Fame Weekend (Open To All Alumni).
RSVP to craig.lowden@fmgtucson.com.



If you would like to attend an Alumni Luncheon or Dinner in Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco or Tucson with other Gamma-Rho alumni, please email Craig Lowden at craig.lowden@FMGTucson.com.

To Keep Up To Date On Chapter News Go To www.Gamma-Rho.com and/or the Gamma-Rho Chapter of Kappa Sigma Facebook Page.