

GAMMA RHO GAZETTE

► GREEK LIFE AND KAPPA SIGMA TODAY

My guess is that many alumni and parent perceptions are that Kappa Sigma and Greek Life in general is struggling and nowhere as strong as it was in previous decades. However, I am going to point to many signs that suggest that both our chapter and Greek Life overall are headed in a very positive direction. But first, I think it is important that I "paint a picture" of the campus environment that our young men operate in today.

The campus and national Greek Life system is significantly different than any of us in school prior to the 1990's experienced. First, the U of A's "Focused Excellence" theme as an institution has helped boost our schools academic and research reputation to highest point ever. With this has come the highest standards to be accepted and graduate from the U of A. Our undergraduate members today on average had a 3.5 GPA and 1210 SAT just to be accepted. Once our members arrived on campus they have found the academic rigors to be significantly more intense than any previous generation experienced, especially as it relates to time commitment. Most majors require more group projects, academic research, and a higher GPA just to be accepted into upper division courses. Second, the litigious society we now live in has forced the National Fraternity and University to hold members to a much higher behavioral standard than any of us alumni had experienced. The chapter and our members are being fined, suspended, and expelled for alcohol and hazing violations that would not have even received much notice in previous decades.



I am sure that many of you have read the recent Arizona Alumnus magazine article on Greek Life or some other article and walked away with the impression that today's undergraduates are out of control (drinking and hazing more than ever). While there are some serious issues to deal with, I would say that the use of alcohol is more responsible then it has been since the early 1960's and that hazing is at an all-time low. Here are some facts that a U of A Greek Life Task Force I am serving on has found:

- 68% of students drank alcohol even before attending U of A and the average student drinks 1-3 alcoholic drinks per social event (unfortunately some members are still drinking way too much though);
- whereas those of us in school in the 1970's through mid-1990's drank alcohol with little to no enforcement, the chapter today is much more responsible (registering all parties with the University, police & security at all parties, the number of parties allowed is limited to a handful each semester and is based on the chapters grades and community service);
- many national offices are requiring their chapters to "go dry" in their chapter houses or like with Kappa Sigma

Continued on page 6

The Gamma-Rho Gazette

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Grand Procurator:

Matt Harper '02

Grand Master of Ceremonies:

Vinny Lichuar '02

Grand Treasurer:

Dan Bistany '02

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Nick Madrid '02

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Pat Moran '92

Asst. Alumnus Advisors:

Craig Lowden '96

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Vice President:

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Treasurer:

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Frank Barreca '46, Donald Harris '59, John Turner '70, Matt Noble '84, Steve Dean '84, Ron Couturier '85, Randy Christensen '89, Jeff Klinger '94, Scott Gossett '94, and Steven Napoles '94

▶ STATE OF THE CHAPTER

After successfully completing its first 60-day pledge program the chapter recently initiated 32 men from the fall 2003 pledge class and has just pledged 12 more men for its spring 2004 pledge class.

The chapter has established itself as the prominent fraternity at the University of Arizona. We are the largest chapter on campus (115 men and growing), and maintain a GPA of 2.8, identical to that of the All-Men's Average.

In athletics Gamma-Rho took the fall 2003 intramural crowns in both speed soccer and soccer. The chapter was also champions of the Tri-Delt softball tournament, Frats at Bat.

Many Gamma-Rho's are involved on campus in such organizations as ASUA, SAA, Arizona Ambassadors, Chain Gang, Blue Key as well as the Lacrosse, Hockey and Rugby club teams.

In April we will be participating in the University of Arizona's Spring Fling with the ladies of Delta Gamma, and hope to close out the year with our annual charity softball event, Chicks with Sticks, a fund raiser involving all the sororities on campus that raises money for The March of Dimes Foundation. This spring we have also been involved with Habitat for Humanity and have helped build many homes in the Tucson area for those less fortunate.

Next fall, we plan to celebrate Homecoming with Pi Beta Phi and are looking forward to the many events planned for the alumni and undergraduates.

For more information regarding Gamma-Rho please feel free to visit our website at www.gamma-rho.org.

AEKDB,

Rob Hogan '01
Grand Master



▶ ALUMNI UPDATES

James H. Cherry, Jr. '53 retired in 1997 after working for American National Insurance Company for 40 years. After graduating in 1955, he joined the Navy for two years. He currently resides in Surprise, Arizona.

R. Dennis Orrock '61 is an attorney in Ventura, California, and has been a partner in Orrock, Hickson and Kurta for 32 years. Dennis graduated in 1965 from what he calls "one of the biggest and best rush classes we ever had" and has been married to his wife Judy for 17 years. They have five children: Lisa, Greg, Kim, Chris and Sherri.

Jeff M. Klinger '94 is a Private Client Service manager for Lehman Brothers broker/dealer firm in San Francisco. He currently lives in nearby San Rafael and is getting married to his fiancée Kris this October. Jeff couldn't pinpoint his favorite memory of his time at Kappa Sigma because there were "too many," but he is thankful for the friends he made while he was there.

Aaron Young '96 relocated back to Fort Worth, Texas, after graduating from the UA Eller College with an MBA in December 2003. He is currently a Senior Market Research Analyst with Alcon Laboratories and will be getting married this September in Davenport, Iowa. Aaron is expecting several brothers to be in attendance, including three of his groomsmen.

Robert Salmon '97 is currently in North Scottsdale and a Regional Sales Representative for American Express. He lives down the street from **Adam Ross '97**, who has the same position at American Express. His brother **John Salmon '00** graduated in December and is working in real estate in California.

Maxx Wolfson '99 is the Sports Editor for GettyImages in Santa Monica, California, a photography company that has an exclusive contract with the four major sports leagues, in addition to the Olympics and various leagues. The West Hills native is debating a return to grad school, but probably not until Fall of 2005.

Ty Lein's '97 bachelor party in Vegas:
(front row) Chris Gladney '98, Ty Lein;
(left to right) Ed Finger '97, Cory
Brown '97, Josh Bowie '97, Adam
Ross '97, Morgan Willis '98, Nick
Haney '97, Rob Salmon '97 and Ty's
new brother-in-law Ben.

▶ WE WANT YOU!

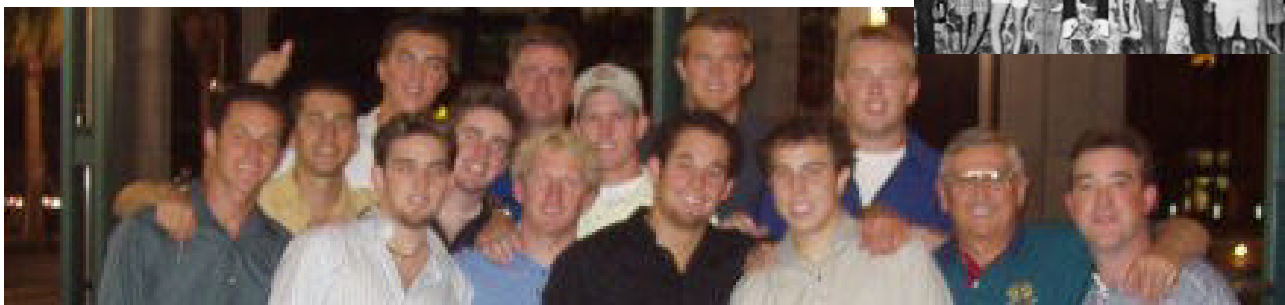
We'd love to hear from you and find out what you're up to these days. If you'd like to be included in our next alumni update, email Craig Lowden at CraigL@FMGtucson.com and you'll be in our next issue!



▶ THE HERITAGE SOCIETY

Please keep Gamma-Rho and the Kappa Sigma Foundation in your thoughts as you develop your estate plans. Our foundation is 501 (c)(3) entity that would be a great choice for your gifts via charitable trust, life insurance, wills, etc. Contact Matt Noble at (520) 622-0125 or matt@fmgtucson.com for more information.

► GLIMPSES OF KAPPA SIGMA PAST & PRESENT





increasing the standard to the point that if underage members are caught drinking, the chapter could be fined \$2,500 to \$10,000 and then forced to “go dry” for a semester or two;

- While it appears that more hazing is occurring, actually there is less and in most cases the level of hazing is minor to what many alumni experienced...the difference is both the University and National Office is enforcing even the more minor hazing like cleaning the house and servitude activities like “do my laundry” or “here is \$5, go get me some food,” something that I think is a good thing because minor hazing will usually lead to more serious hazing eventually. We have actually found that high school hazing is worse than fraternity hazing in many cases because we have a tougher standard on it.

Now, in light of all the bad publicity that Greek Life is receiving, why do I think we are headed in such a positive direction? Because I feel that local chapters, the U of A Greek Life Office and National Headquarters like ours are partnering much more to address some of the things that need fixed. Here are just a few examples:

- Many chapters are understanding the importance of having a House Dad or Mom and are returning to this in strong numbers for the first time since the 1960's;
- Our Task Force at U of A is in the process of developing a better volunteer identification, recruitment, education and recognition program; establishing standards for academics, leadership, service & social; and fine-tuning the risk management policies to ensure that are members live in a safe environment that reduces their risk of lawsuit;
- Our HQ's within Kappa Sigma is returning to a mission of Fellowship, Leadership, Scholarship & Service...it is providing more resources for chapters that are willing to do the right things and holding the chapters that do the wrong things more accountable;
- Finally, in my 20 years as an undergraduate and volunteer, Gamma-Rho undergraduates of today have higher grades, more community service hours, hold more campus leadership positions, win more intramural sports titles, and keep the house cleaner than we ever did, all of this in a campus environment with many more rigors than we experienced.



► U of A GREEK LIFE

- There are 46 fraternities and sororities on campus.
- 15% of U of A undergrads are Greeks.
- The U of A Greek community boasts a higher ethnic diversity than the general campus population.
- Greeks on average donate 32,000 community service hours and \$63,000 in philanthropic money annually.
- 48% of pledges had a high school GPA of 3.5 or higher.
- 10% of the Greek community has a GPA of 3.5 or higher vs. general campus population.
- 51% of Greeks work their way through school; 62% of Greeks hold campus leadership positions.
- 76% of the membership in campus honoraries is Greek.
- Top three reasons why members joined a Greek organization: 98.9% friendships, 82% social and 78.5% for leadership opportunities.
- Top three organizations members participated in during high school: 87% athletics, 71.1% community service and 28.8% in a religious/church group.

When I found that letter in 1987 from A.L. Slonaker (Past Dean of Men and Kappa Sigma alumnus) to Linc Wilson (long-time volunteer) that said: “I look forward to the day that Kappa Sigma is once again the leader academically, athletically, and socially,” I made it my goal to see that this happened. I think we have arrived! However, I also, set a few other goals, some of which we have reached and some of which we have not:

- Build a new Chapter House and payoff the debt to a point that the undergraduates rent alone can manage the mortgage...we still need to raise another \$300,000+ to reach this goal;
- Build our Advisory Board, Educational Foundation Board, Housing Corporation Board, and Parent Association so that our undergraduates receive all

the volunteer resources needed (the chapter did not have this in the late 60's through the mid-80's)...we are much improved here but could still use some volunteers with each of these groups (the chapter is only as strong as the commitment of us alumni and parents);

- Build an educational endowment of \$1,000,000 or more that will enable us to provide scholarships and leadership development programs that help us "build better men"...we currently have a \$50,000 Whaley Scholarship Endowment and \$25,000 Fannin-Stofft Scholarship Endowment, plus another \$50,000 in deferred gifts that we know of, please think of us in your annual giving and estate plans.

If you have further questions, would like to volunteer your time, and/or make a contribution, please fill out the enclosed form, or contact me at matt@fmgtucson.com or by calling me at (520) 622-0125. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you at Family Weekend (October 22-24) and Homecoming Weekend (October 29-31).

► GREEK LIFE NATIONALLY

- 23 American Presidents and 16 Vice-Presidents are Greeks.
- 76% of U.S. Senators and Representatives are Greeks.
- 43 of the 50 largest corporations are headed by a fraternity or sorority alumnus.
- 89% of U.S. Supreme Court Justices are Greeks.
- 55% of Greek members graduate from college vs. 45% of non-Greek members.
- 51% of Greeks work their way through school; 62% of Greeks hold campus leadership positions.
- 76% of the membership in campus honoraries is Greek.
- Top three reasons why members joined a Greek organization: 98.9% friendships, 82% social and 78.5% for leadership opportunities.
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► KAPPA SIGMA LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

- Kappa Sigma's recruitment numbers are up nearly 80% from last year and approaching the largest numbers in our recorded history.
- Kappa Sigma's liability insurance costs of \$115 per member is the lowest of all fraternities, though still significant when you consider that, through 1986, we did not have this fee.
- Gamma Rho's membership of 115 is the No. 1 on campus.
- Gamma Rho is one of five fraternities to have a chapter GPA at or above the All-Men's Average GPA of 2.884 the last few years.
- Gamma Rho placed first in the intramural sports of soccer, softball and volleyball this past year.
- Gamma Rho's members have served as ASUA Senators, IFC Presidents and Bobcat Presidents, amongst other leadership positions these past few years.



▶ ALUMNI/PARENT EVENT CALENDAR

Alumni Luncheons

Friday, April 23rd (all luncheons at
Friday, May 28th Kingfisher Bar and Grill,
Friday, June 25th 2564 East Grant Road)

Summer Golf Tournament

June 19 @ Rancho Vistoso (time TBA)
July 17 @ Arizona National (time TBA)
August 15 @ Arthur Park (time TBA)

Family Weekend

October 22-24, 2004 (Football, UA vs. California)

Homecoming Weekend

October 29-31, 2004 (Football, UA vs. Oregon St.)

Contact Craig Lowden at (520) 622-0125 or
CraigL@FMGtucson.com to RSVP.

GET C O N N E C T E D

Haven't been to www.gamma-rho.org lately?
It's been updated with photos, events,
member listings and other good stuff.

Still not listed? Contact Craig Lowden at
(520) 622-0125 or CraigL@FMGtucson.com
and take the first steps towards getting
back in touch with your brothers. For you
parents, this will keep you informed of your
son's activities.

Have any photos you'd like to add to the
site? Send them to CraigL@FMGtucson.com
or mail to **Gamma-Rho, c/o FMG, 744 North
Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85704** with a return
address. We'll scan it, throw it on the site
and send it back to you. It's that easy.

"Kappa Sigma: Not just for an hour, a day or college term.....but for life"



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