

The Grip

Winter 2024

Gaining ever, failing never

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Happy New Year!

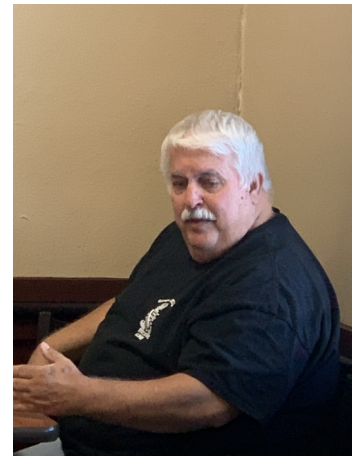
Welcome to 2024, I hope that everyone had a great New Year and are ready to face the year ahead with hope and optimism.

A hundred and forty-five years ago Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity was formed and thus began a great journey of many young men who have passed through our ranks. Recently, a group of Brothers made a trek to New Haven, Connecticut to visit the birth place of the Fraternity. It was well received by all that attended and the only complaint was that they wished they had more time in the area to explore more and learn more of the history.

As I said, this year marks the 145 anniversary of Gamma Delta Psi and there are celebrations being planned in Virginia and in the greater Toronto area. The Virginia celebration is planned to be held in April on the 12th – 14th, details of which can be seen in Brother Jerry Gill's article. The October event can be seen in the article written by Brother Troy

Adams. Both celebrations should be a great time for rekindling of Brotherhood and memories. I hope that each and everyone of you can attend one or both of the events.

There also is a light in the tunnel for expansion, as Brothers work to bring awareness of Gamma Delta Psi to young men in hopes of new Chapters being formed and growth of the Fraternity being viable. You can also help this effort by spreading the word about the Fraternity to the young men in your families, youth that you associate with and groups of young men you come in contact with in your community. Your efforts are needed to spread the word about the Fraternity, since we have had at least one generation that has gone without any knowledge of the Fraternity or the great things that it provided to your life. You grew up with camaraderie that you developed because of the Fraternity and probably developed a number of skills that has helped you in your adult



Brother Randy Picardat
Board of Trustees
Chairman

life. We had the luxury of knowing what a fraternity was all about and made the choice to join Gamma Delta Psi, while the youth of today have no models of fraternal life to guide them in making a decision to join a fraternity such as Gamma Delta Psi. It is up to us to spread the word to them, use our experiences and wisdom to explain what Fraternity means and how it has helped you navigate the life you have had. Hopefully, together we can help Gamma Delta Psi grow into the great Fraternity it once enjoyed.

Save the Date

**Northern
145th
Anniversary
Celebration**

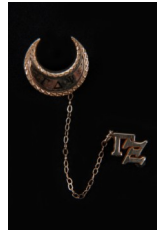
**Saturday,
October 5**
at a to be
determined location
in the GTA

Contact
Troy Adams
416-768-3200
troy.adams@sympatico.ca

Fraternity Jewelry Order

The Board of Trustees will be ordering jewelry in the near future. Are you looking to replace that pin that you lost years ago or want to get a sister pin for the new sweetheart in your life?

All prices are in USD. Engraving is \$4.50 per item. Sales tax applicable on all orders. Minimum \$8.50 shipping and handling charge (weight dependent). \$0.75 insurance charge per \$100 value of order. GEP stands for Gold Electro-plate (Balclad).



Official Pin
10k \$140.75
GEP \$85.55

Chapter Guard
10k \$74.50
GEP \$28.75



Travel Pin
GEP \$12.25



Pledge Pin
Silver Plate \$14.75



Sister Pin
10k \$102.50
GEP \$80.25

Chapter President Key
10k \$182.75
GEP \$103.75

Orders can be placed with Randy Picardat at 804-931-8245 or rpicardat@comcast.net

Fraternity Merchandise Order

The Board of Trustees announced in the last edition of the Grip a potential merchandise order.

If we have enough interest by February 29, 2024 we will proceed with a small order to have it in time for the 145th Anniversary weekend April 12-14, 2024. A very limited number of extra items will be ordered so to ensure we get your size and colour I would suggest committing to a pre-order.



Pricing will be \$20 USD or \$28 CDN for hats, \$30 USD or \$42 CDN for hoodies and \$15 USD or \$21 CDN for t-shirts. Items will be available in Grey or Burgundy.

Hoodie sizes above XXL will be subject to an extra charge of \$5 USD or \$7 CDN and t-shirt sizes above XXL will be subject to an extra charge of \$3 USD or \$5 CDN. Delivery charges are yet to be determined.

If you would like to order something please contact Bill Schmitt at 705-306-4267 or william.j.schmitt@gmail.com

Gamma Delta Psi's 145th Anniversary

To celebrate the 145th anniversary of Gamma Delta Psi's creation, we will be hosting events the weekend of April 12, 2024. These events require advance registration and prepayment so that we may give our vendors an accurate headcount. We hope all brothers of the various chapters in the United States and Canada plan to attend. Spouses and significant others are welcome to attend as well. These events will be held in the Chester/Colonial Heights, Virginia area.

Friday, April 12, 2024 - 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Meet & Greet

American Legion

505 Springdale Avenue

Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Cost: \$20 per person

This is a drop in event for the brothers and their guests to catch up in a relaxed atmosphere. Numerous appetizers, soft drinks and water will be provided. For those that want to partake, beer will be on tap for a small additional donation to cover the cost of the kegs. This is a nice venue that has been host to numerous parties and reunions in the past. We hope many of you will be able to attend during the evening as your schedule allows.

Saturday, April 13, 2024 - 8:00 - 10:00am

2nd Saturday Breakfast

Golden Corral

2501 Conduit Road

Colonial Heights, VA 23834

This is the normal monthly fraternity breakfast. Advance registration is not required. Attendees pay at the restaurant the morning of the event. Attendance isn't mandatory but provides another opportunity to meet with the brothers.

Saturday, April 13, 2024 - 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Buffet Dinner

Antonio's Restaurant & Wine Bar

11966 Iron Bridge Plaza

Chester, VA 23831

Cost: \$40 per person

In addition to enjoying a delicious meal, we will discuss future events, expansion/creation of new chapters in high schools. The event wouldn't be complete without singing our fraternity song, Like A River's Flowing Waters. The buffet will consist of the following: Lasagna, Chicken Parmigiana, Shrimp Scampi, Green Salad, Asparagus, Rolls, Dessert, and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will be available for those that wish to partake. We are looking forward to a splendid gathering.

If you plan to attend the events on Friday or Saturday nights, **please respond no later than March 15, 2024**. You can send a check to Jerry Gill at 375 Hunters Path, Christiansburg, VA 24073. You can also send money via PayPal to jgillhokie@yahoo.com. Please indicate your name, as well as the name of your guest, and which events you will be attending. We hope to have a minimum of 50 people at each event. Friday's venue holds a large crowd of 100+. Saturday's venue is limited to 65 people, so be sure to respond early. The planning team for these events is Butch Berberich, Alice Jabbour, Randy Picardat and Jerry and Elaine Gill. Feel free to contact Jerry at 540-449-8915 or jgillhokie@yahoo.com with any questions.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the SpringHill Suites in Chester for \$159 per night before taxes. Use the link below or call the hotel and request the Gamma Delta Psi rate. **Reservations must be made by March 14, 2024 for the group rate.** Here's your link to make reservations: (Right click on the link and select "open link in new tab" in clicking the link doesn't take you to the reservation page.)

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1705607469720&key=GRP>

Board of Trustees

Board of Trustee Meetings



A screenshot from the January 8, 2024 BOT meeting. In attendance: Judkins, Kuch, Picardat, Smith, Adams and Schmitt. Regrets: Gill and Slate. The Board of Trustees meet on a quarterly basis

Crescent Club and Chapter Reactivation leads



The Board of Trustees is looking at the following leads to try to get Gamma Delta Psi back in High Schools:

- Prince George HS #1 but the parents are asking that we wait until the boy turns 14 this spring
- Prince George HS #2 with a Brother's grandson
- Benedictine Military HS through an interested student
- Beta Xi / St Catharines Collegiate through a Beta Xi Alumni Brother
- Chesterfield youth group through Spirit of Baseball

If you know of any High School aged boys that might be interested in forming a Crescent Club, please contact Johnnie Smith at 804-691-4213 or johnnie.smith51@gmail.com

The Taft Mansion Memorial Project

Brothers,

I have followed up with Dr Ben Qian at Ivy Labs to see if their offer still stands for Gamma Delta Psi to place a memorial of some sorts recognizing the founding of the Fraternity at the Wurts home (Taft Mansion). Dr. Qian quickly responded with a yes and he would get back to me on what would be acceptable. That response has not been as quick. I have sent a subsequent email seeking that information.

Meanwhile, the BOT met and agreed to continue pursuing the memorial. At the second Saturday breakfast some ideas were shared on what the memorial should have on it. Everyone agreed to use the Gamma Delta Psi Crescent pin since it would be more recognizable than the Fraternity Crest. It was also suggested have the four founding Brothers names placed on the memorial.

At the breakfast Wilber Payton mentioned he had a contact in the stone engraving business, but that lead did not work out.

Mike Kuch has agreed to help out with the project. We are now waiting to hear back from Ivy Labs to see what the next steps will be.

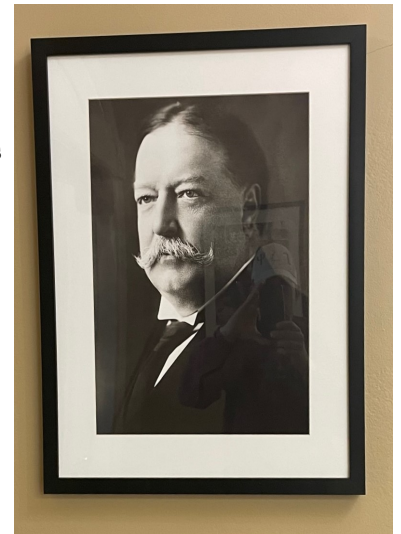
If you would like to help out with ideas or suggestions, please let me know at 703-389-5341 or gogangang@verizon.net

Thanks.

Jim Gogan
Gamma Nu #8



Brother Jim Gogan, Grand Brother Kevin Stockdale and
Grand Brother Danny Wyatt



Coming Events

Kim Mitchell Concert at Casino Rama - February 17



A number of Gamma Alpha Brothers will be at Casino Rama on Saturday, February 17 for a Kim Mitchell concert with special guests Doug & the Slugs. Troy Adams asks that if you already have tickets to contact him at 416-768-3200 so you can "Go for a soda" with the Brothers.

For ticket info go to Casino Rama's page at: <https://www.casinorama.com/kim-mitchell/>

Canadian rocker Kim Mitchell performs his hits along with the always entertaining and distinctive band Doug & the Slugs.

Kim Mitchell: "Go For A Soda," "Rock N' Roll Duty," "Patio Lanterns"

Doug & the Slugs: "Who Knows How To Make Love

Stay," "Making It Work," "Too Bad"

Band Members – Ted Okos, John Burton, Simon Kendall, Steve Bosley, Wally Watson and Richard Baker



Toronto Tontos

"Bonjour aux amis de malheur, nous sommes fous..."

...No cigarettes, no matches

2nd Annual Northern Brothers Luncheon - April 20

Brother David Tachauer (Gamma Alpha) is once again hosting a Northern Brothers Luncheon on Saturday, April 20 at 1pm. Same location as last year at the Waterdown Sunset Grill location.

Contact David directly if you will be attending 519-427-4259 or davidtachauer@yahoo.ca



The brothers that attended the Luncheon on April 23, 2023



Coming Events

Beta Xi Chapter Reunion - May 2024

Brother Gordon Vollmer wants to ask his fellow Beta Xi Chapter Brothers if you want to hold a chapter reunion? He thinks it should happen this May.

Contact Brother Gordon at gordon-vollmer@icloud.com or 416-268-4643 if you are interested.



November 30th mini Beta Xi reunion
Don Sowchuck, Malcolm Allen, Gordon Vollmer and Jim Dover

Upcoming 2nd Saturday Breakfast Dates

**2nd Saturday Breakfast
Golden Corral
2501 Conduit Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834**

8:00 - 10:00 am

Saturday, February 10

Saturday, March 9

Saturday, April 13 (145th Weekend)

Saturday, May 11

Saturday, June 8



A full house for the Christmas Breakfast held Saturday,
December 9, 2023

Letters to The Grip

The Value and Importance of Fraternity in my Life

One Brother's Retrospective Reflections

Brother Rick Davis, Beta Alpha #80, 1962-1966

I'll never forget my initial exposure to a "*fraternity*." I can't now pin down the exact weekend...but I can tell you this: it was a Saturday; I was only eight years old; and it sure made an impression on me!

In those days, my hometown's Hopewell High School Blue Devil Football Team was consistently vying for the State Championship in their School Division, so they were scoring lots of touchdowns and extra points! Better than that, our local Rexall Drug stores reduced the price of their *Touchdown Sundaes* by a penny a point and a nickel a touchdown. As a consequence, it was not uncommon for half the town to show up downtown on Saturdays to enjoy those *Touchdown Sundaes* and celebrate yet another Blue Devil victory. Well, as a part of those seasonal Saturday excursions, it was quite customary to witness some rather strange and crazy goings-on performed by several groups of teenage boys and girls. Within the boys, they all wore funny little hats that looked like "beanies" -- and several of them also sported bowties. To me, these boys resembled the Little Rascals. And hey, let's face it...there wasn't a lot of difference!



I learned later that the boy version of these "*little rascals*" were strangely called "*goats*" -- a term whose origin and use I never learned...if anyone ever actually knew...and the girl rascals were called "*pledges*." Anyway, for the most part, these groups of boys and girls were characterized by a lot of laughing and running back and forth and all around...for hours on end! Typical weekend shenanigans seemed to involve older boys and girls who were ordering *goats and pledges* to do silly things...very silly things...like trying to walk across Main Street with a cup of limeade perched on one's head...without spilling any of course...or seeing how many pieces of chewing gum one could chew...and still recite the "Greek Alphabet" of all things! The *goats and pledges* would also spend a lot of their time standing rigid with arms extended tightly by their side...and were heard to say *Yes Sir* and *No Sir* and *Yes Mam* and *No Mam* -- a lot! But along with the myriad silly tasks they performed, these "*Little Rascal Goats and Pledges*" would also be directed to carry out some rather altruistic chores...like stopping traffic to help women and elderly pedestrians cross the street or helping ladies carry shopping bags to their cars.

As I would eventually learn, these groups of teenage boys and girls were called fraternities and sororities respectively. As the years went by, I gained a lot more exposure to these fun-loving and free-spirited fraternity boys and sorority girls...especially since my older sister pledged for and became a member of a sorority known as the *Jilts*, which was one of four sororities in our high school. There were also four fraternities, all of which sported Greek Letter names: *Gamma Delta Psi*; *Pi Phi*; *Sigma Tau*; and *Tau Delta Tau*. By the time I was 12 or 13, I was hooked! I could hardly wait to become of age and to hopefully earn the degree of acceptance it took to be invited to pledge for a fraternity...but not just any fraternity! No indeed! Since my sister's sorority, *Jilts*, was the Sister Sorority of *Gamma Delta Psi*, and since a lot of those boys treated me like their kid brother, I had my heart set on becoming a real *Gamma Delta Psi Brother* for a very long time before that would ever become a reality!

At the time, I didn't know all that much about fraternities...but what little I did know was immensely appealing to me as a teenager. My hometown fraternities were always involved in doing publicly recognized good deeds and they were always doing something together...as a group. I particularly enjoyed the frequent "themed dances" and sock hops! Fraternity brothers also dressed well and most everyone was on one or more of the high school sports teams. That so many seemed to be "jocks"...that too was a particularly appealing trait to this bruising fullback wannabe. Also, as likely as not, there always seemed to be a picture of one fraternity brother or another in our hometown newspaper being recognized for doing something positive or achieving excellence in some school or community endeavor. And, though I hardly noticed at all...most of the fraternity boys always appeared to be hanging out with or dating cheerleaders, majorettes and otherwise great-looking sorority sisters...and this too made a very slightly positive impression! OK...truth be told, I noticed it a lot...and the influence was major! But what do you expect? I was 15 for cryin' out loud!

As fate would have it...I was ultimately invited to pledge for the Beta Alpha Chapter of *Gamma Delta Psi*...and to this day, I can remember how excited -- and then nervous -- I was. I was excited because it signified that others liked me and wanted me to become a part of a very special group. I was also a bit nervous...because I knew that being a *Goat* was going to be harder than anything I'd ever taken on...and also because there was this "rumor" that if *Goats* didn't do as they were told etc., they would be beaten with a wooden paddle! To this day, given the fear we all had of our fathers whipping us, I can't

Letters to The Grip

Brother Rick Davis, Beta Alpha #80

imagine why the possibility of being beaten by fraternity “brothers” didn’t bother us more than it did. But, whatever fears and trepidation we had, they were overshadowed by the potential to become one with others whose company and whose friendship and fraternal bonds had such a compelling appeal. After we became *Goats* -- and were privileged to learn about Gamma Delta Psi’s incredibly rich and honorable heritage, we were doubly proud of our status as Brothers. And who wouldn’t be! That our high school fraternities were modeled after the college Pan-Hellenic Greek system lent further credibility to both the legitimacy of Gamma Delta Psi per se and the rigorous ordeals associated with the pursuit of Brotherhood.

To be sure, the gist of why many, if not most of us wanted to be in Gamma Delta Psi as young teenage boys had more to do with the social aspects and implications. But as I’m sure everyone would agree, once we were inducted, it wasn’t all fun and games! There was a ton of hard work and sweat equity involved...and countless young brothers worked their buns off! I know I don’t have to remind any of us of the significance and importance our high school fraternity experiences might have played in our respective lives...but for me, I can honestly say that my Gamma Delta Psi experience had a hugely important impact on me -- and particularly on my ability and confidence to not only accept, but to seek, leadership opportunities later in life. Think about it, while most teenagers were raking leaves, cutting grass or delivering papers, those otherwise important learning experiences paled in comparison to us Gamma Delta Psi Brothers! All of us participated in an absolute wealth of character-building endeavors...and we gained knuckle-down exposure to a very broad array of useful skill sets. Brothers were routinely challenged to accomplish tasks related to: organizational structure, leadership and management; civility of group behavior under the discipline of Robert’s Rules of Order; financial accounting and bookkeeping; banking; paying taxes; fundraising; budgeting; office administration; real estate contracting and leasing; event planning and logistics; project management; operational planning, analysis, execution, and evaluation; advertising marketing and public relations; historical record-keeping and reporting; photography; spoken and written interpersonal and organizational communication; international travel; and the list goes on and on! Some of us even learned to dance! Indeed, we learned what personal responsibility and accountability were all about, we mastered the art of teamwork and we acquired a palette of skills and knowledge that was both rare, and by my measure, quite extraordinary for a bunch of teenagers. Beyond that, and perhaps more importantly, we cultivated and developed a kind of respect for and admiration of one another -- and a degree of kinship and affection between us and amongst us that has proven to be amazingly strong and durable.

In so many ways and on so many levels, my high school Gamma Delta Psi fraternity life was nothing short of an absolute dress rehearsal for the rest of my life as a career Army Officer and National Staff member of the American Red Cross! As I now take stock of those years, it is abundantly clear that much of what I became and whom I grew to become as a person and as a professional has roots extending as much from my Gamma Delta Psi experiences as any other part of my formal education and life journeys. As I write those words, I am reminded of my Psychology 101 Classes in which I learned about Abraham Maslow’s *Hierarchy of Needs*...especially his top two tiers of need -- Esteem and Self-actualization. *Esteem*, Maslow wrote, included the need for and pursuit of “*respect by others, respect for others, achievement, confidence, and self-esteem.*” Do those attributes ever characterize the results of our fraternity experience...or what?!

Indeed, to a large degree, fulfillment of those most fundamental human needs via our Gamma Delta Psi experience was undoubtedly instrumental in maturing us and preparing us to become constructive and contributing members of society: where decisions are based on facts more than emotions; where there is no room for prejudice amongst responsible and caring persons; where problems are solved and used as stepping stones to progress -- not obstacles or reasons to quit; where spontaneity, surprise and the unexpected are welcomed and not feared; and where creativity and morality co-exist in symbiotic

“May the friends of our youth be our companions in old-age!”

(Old Celtic Toast)

harmony. Those of course are the traits associated with *Self-actualization* and if we are honest with ourselves...the extent to which any of us might exhibit some or all of those important traits of character and maturity, I’m confident there’s a definite linkage to the fraternal heritage that we all embraced and shared.

Beyond the skills and knowledge and confidence we gained during our youthful years of fraternity life, I believe we acquired something far more important...an abundance of life-long friendships and fond memories that each of us will take to our graves. I don’t know about you, but I wouldn’t trade my years of active high school fraternity life for all the tea in China.

That many of our fraternal friendships are rekindled year in and year out, virtually and in-person, is first and foremost a testament to this amazing digital age in which we live. But to me, the more significant and meaningful aspect of those re-

Letters to The Grip

Brother Rick Davis, Beta Alpha #80

newed acquaintances and relationships is not the technology that makes these reconnections possible. Rather, it's the purity, strength and durability of the fraternal spirit and bond that has enabled countless numbers of us to renew and enjoy the brotherly companionship, camaraderie and support from so many of those who played such important roles in our young lives. It is indeed the realization of an old Celtic Toast and Blessing which raised the plea and hope that those who were bonded in youth would be blessed to share that kinship throughout their lives...and beyond, as I think of our Nirvana Chapter.

My Hope for the Future

I hope and pray that there will yet again be large groups of young high school boys who discover anew the value of fraternity and the specific appeal of Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity International. It would be such a shame if we're left to look back at a future that could have been. The Gamma future is in our hands dear brothers...and it's up to each of us and all of us to be beacons that help light the way to a bright and lasting Gamma Delta Psi. We've been through tougher times...and now we've got some new business to attend to! So let's get to it, "eh!?" (he said for the benefit of his Canadian Brothers)

Brother Rick Davis
Beta Alpha #80
Active from 1962-66
Chapter President, 1964
Chair, 1964 Cavalier Hotel Convention
Southern Vice President, 1964-1965



The Historic Cavalier Hotel,
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Home of the 1964 Gamma Delta Psi
Convention



Above: Beta Alpha Chapter, 1964.
That would be me holding the
plaque as Chapter President.

At right: Attendees of the 1964 Convention.

I'm in front row, last chap on right
with sunglasses...Cool eh!?



Letters to The Grip

Brother Keith Ratcliffe, Gamma Mu #17

Dear Grip,

My family emigrated from the UK to Canada when I was 4. Today I'm fully retired and proud Canadian. Since then my entire life has been spent mostly in the same small community of Fort Erie, Ontario. Public education, a career and marriage were all eventually accomplished in the same town.

One of my most memorable experiences during my Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School years was when several friends approached me about joining a fraternity they were in contact with. They were communicating with a respected international fraternal organization with a long and established history. Before we could become one of their official chapters we had to form a 'crescent club' for a time. Only after completing this requirement could we call ourselves a chapter of Gamma Delta Psi fraternity. Then we would all be considered brothers for life. Once a Brother always a Brother. We managed to pass the Crescent Club stage and became Gamma Mu chapter of Gamma Delta Psi International Fraternity.

Up until this time fraternities in our area were generally considered glorified jacket gangs. This promised to be different. It actually amazed me how different it turned out to be. This fraternity had international and national leaders, conventions and rules to be followed. And they encouraged volunteerism from the very start. We were expected to set an example within the community. I can't say we didn't get into some partying and chasing girls. We managed very well in that respect of course. We even had a sister sorority with whom we had a few parties. But more importantly we volunteered within our community. We raised money for various causes. We sold light bulbs for a local charity, held car washes to raise money, helped out with food drives and even sponsored dances with live entertainment. One of the most unforgettable efforts we had was when our town's Special Olympics committee asked for our help. They needed volunteers for their track & field meet to escort their competitors to their events. Gamma Mu stepped up without question. Participating in such a worthy event was very moving to say the least.

Throughout my adult life I dabbled in volunteerism from time to time. I've coached minor baseball and tutored immigrants (with my wife) with the local Literacy Council. But being a fulltime husband and father with a full time job took up most of my time. Once I retired I was able to think of doing more for the Town of Fort Erie where I grew up. I noticed our town had an opening for a community volunteer position with their Museum and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee. It caught my interest. I did briefly handle the Historian office for Gamma Mu all those years ago. My application was accepted and I've been involved for the last six years now. Currently I chair their Municipal Heritage Standing Committee. The mandate of this standing committee is to bring the town's worthy built heritage and heritage trees to the attention of our town council. We must work within the criteria of the Heritage Act of Ontario to achieve official heritage designation. One of the first and most proud as well as somewhat ironic successes of this committee was my involvement to designate my old high school's original façade as a Designated Heritage property. Yes the very same high school where the Gamma Mu chapter of Gamma Delta Psi started. And this would be the first designation I was involved in as a community volunteer. I learned more about my old high school than I ever did when I was a student. This made me even more proud of my old school. Of course there have been other designations since but this one held special significance for me. It continues to be a great learning experience for me. We also advise the town's Museum Services when asked regarding various issues and events. Advocating for the Museum and Heritage at a local level is all part of our mandate.

Volunteerism has its rewards. For me, I've learned the history of my community. Recognizing and helping the town to acknowledging the past is a reward enough for me. After all you can't move forward if you don't know where you have been. I credit Gamma Delta Psi in showing me what volunteering involves. It was the beginning where I learned the simple feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment you get by extending a helping hand. It helps to keep so many things in perspective and can help you realize what's important. I am by no means the most active volunteer. My contribution is minor in comparison to others.

It makes me sad knowing our fraternity is virtually nonexistent in today's high schools. Having a group of young men declare they are a dedicated brotherhood willing to set a good example when there is a need is priceless. Fraternity should be pursued and never denied.

Keith Ratcliffe
Gamma Mu #17



Brother Keith in front of the Fort Erie Historical Museum in Ridgeway, ON



At left: Gamma Mu Brothers Gary Bird #7C, Keith Ratcliffe #17 and Greg Faraday #14 holding the chapter plaque made in woodworking shop by Brother Keith.

At right: A current photo of the vacant Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School which was sadly the site of a fire in the north end of the building recently.



Letters to The Grip

Grand Brother Michael Kuch, Gamma Alpha #114

Dear Grip,

Sorry for the late submission. I originally wrote a 1,600-word non-sensical, semi-diatribic about Apathy in the Fraternity, but when I realized that I was only contributing to the issue and my mouth wasn't helping, I decided that's not what GDP needs to hear now or ever. Some old habits never die. I'm getting there ...

I'll start by suggesting the obvious:

"Bill is doing an exemplary job as Publisher/Editor of The Grip, and for that matter, all that he does, which is considerable and underappreciated, so selflessly for Gamma Delta Psi and its Brotherhood. Thank you, Brother Schmitt. Gratitude doesn't seem like enough ..."

While I've lost my voice in all "Things That Should Must Matter to Gamma Delta Psi," I'm happy to be of some minor use to Our Fraternity.

I'm assisting Brother Jim Gogan (Gamma Nu) on a Memorial Project related to the Founding Brothers. Hopefully, Jim will have something to share about it soon.

What else? Oh, I'm pretending to help Brother Troy Adams (Gamma Alpha) with organizing the upcoming 145th Anniversary Shindig in Ontario this fall. Confession: It's All Troy.

And this, a half-dozen or so Gamma Alphonians will be "Fraternizing" – can I say that ... it's not blasphemy, is it? – in mid-February by attending the Kim Mitchell (band) concert.

That's it for a bit.

Brother Johnnie Smith, Beta Psi

Dear Grip,

I first learned of GDP from my uncle Leon Setchel who was a charter member of Beta Alpha chapter in Hopewell Va. He, Bill Zevgolits and Richard Taylor would stop by our house on a Friday night or Sat. morning. They would pick a brown paper bag with a bottle of CHEER inside. They always left with a smile. Leon from time to time would take me to Coleys malt Shop where he would meet up with his Brothers and some of the most beautiful girls I had ever seen. The GDP men had on their half moon pins or burgundy sweat shirts. I made up my mind then that I would get one of those moons.

Over the years I would go downtown Hopewell like most teenagers and see all the GOATS and pledges running around reporting to their members. The last week of May 1966 was when the invites for summer Goats were to be sent out, I was hoping for that special invite, then the doorbell rang and someone left a letter on the front porch, opened it up quickly it was a invite to Pi Phi, about 10 minutes same thing another letter came it was a invite from Sigma Tau Phi, disappointment again. Went to bed sad and pissed.

Next morning met up with my two best friends neither got invites to GDP, and that was strange because Tommy Stallings brother was in GDP and Johnny Taylor's cousin was also active at time. All 3 of us were beside ourselves. We 3 sad sacks went into the cafeteria and sit down at our usual table. A few minutes later Dale Kitchen came over and gave us our invites. One week later we went to the interview and tried to make a case for becoming GOATS. Two days later Johnny Taylor got his bid and so did Tommy Stallings mine never came. I found out later that one Brother thought all I wanted was to impress girls and be a pin wearer.

Lucky for me on that night of the invite Brother Darrell Sears from Beta Psi chapter was there visiting. Around the 16th of June I got a invite to a tea party to interview for Beta Psi chapter. A week later I was a Goat and 13 weeks later it was over I was in.

Fast forward to the mid-80's at a convention in Petersburg Va. I was elected to The Board of Trustees for the first time. Just so happens that BA Brother that black balled me was there and said he was wrong about me and was proud of me. Gave him a big hug with tears in my eyes, gave him the hand shake and to tell you the truth I felt pretty damn good. Served on the BOT for several terms then stepped down.

Back in April of 2023 I accepted the challenge of serving on the BOT again and am very proud to do so. Trying hard to garner support for new chapters in the Tri-Cities area. Brothers lets make 2024 the year that GDP and GP makes a come back.

Gamma Delta Psi goes to Yale

Lawrence Johnson Carmalt, No. 29.

b. 1866. Init. 2 June, 1882.
Class Hillhouse 1884. Yale 1888.
Civil Engineer, 5 Hanson Place, Brooklyn,
N. Y.
87 Elm St., New Haven.

LAURANCE J. CARMALT

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., June 24—Laurance J. Carmalt, an engineer in city planning and industry, died today after an illness of several months at the age of 74. He was the son of Dr. William H. Carmalt, head of the New Haven Hospital for many years; was born in New York and was a graduate of Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Carmalt was associated with the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, developing later a specialty in zoning cities. In 1906 he married Helen Francis Clay of Philadelphia, who died in 1930. A daughter, Mrs. Henry C. Barbour of this city, survives.

Brother Laurance Johnson Carmalt, #29

Born September 3, 1866, New York City

Died June 24, 1940, New Haven, Conn

Father, William Henry Carmalt (Mother, Laura Woolsey (Johnson) Carmalt. Hillhouse High School, New Haven Graduated Yale 1888. Attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1888-90, engaged in engineering work in southwestern Virginia 1890, then division engineer at Corning, New York Central, Long Island Railroad Company, 1901-08. Vice-president Baldwin Engineering Company, New York City, 1909-10, New Haven & Hartford Railroad Company 1911-21, New Haven 1921-33, Federal Emergency Relief Administration 1933 until retirement 1935. Christ Church (Episcopal), Stratford, Conn. Married February 14, 1906, in Philadelphia, Helen Frances Clay.

Death due to hypernephroma and generalized metastases. Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven. Survived by daughter, a grandson, and two sisters, Miss Geraldine W Carmalt (certificate of art Yale 1896), and Miss Ethel Carmalt of New Haven

Philip Pond, No. 34.

b. 1866. Init. 10 Nov., 1882.
Class Hillhouse 1884. Yale 1888. Law 1890.
Attorney, 39 Church St., New Haven.
Elizabeth B. Giler, 1897.
150 Norton St., New Haven.



Sterling Law School Yale



New Haven Courthouse

Brother Philip Pond, #34

Born August 8, 1866, New Haven, Conn.

Died December 11, 1946, New Haven, Conn.

Father, Jonathan Walter Pond, Mother, Charlotte Lydia (White) Pond, Hillhouse High School, New Haven. Attended Yale Law School 1888-90 LL.B. 1890 member Corbey Court. Admitted to the bar 1890, lawyer in New Haven 1890 until retirement spring 1946 (senior partner Pond, Morgan, and Morse 1931-46) on Class reunion committees since 1924, secretary Class of 1890 L. from 1938 to 1946. Member New Haven County Bar Association (vice-president 1923-24, president 1924-27), Connecticut State and American Bar associations, International Bar Association, New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and Sons of the American Revolution. Vestryman St. Thomas Church (Episcopal), New Haven, for many years.

Married (1) June 1, 1893, in Bolton, Harriet Hunt. No children. Mrs. Pond died July 14, 1894. Married (2) September 15, 1897, in New York City, Elisabeth Bishop, No children Death due to cerebral arteriosclerosis. Buried in Evergreen Cemetery, New Haven. Survived by wife.

Gamma Delta Psi goes to Yale

Frederick William Mar, No. 35.
b. 1864. Init. 17 Nov., 1882.
Class Hillhouse 1884. Yale 1888; Grad. 1891;
N. Y. Univ. Grad. 1893.
Principal, Boys' High School, Brooklyn.
Carlotta M. Lotsch, 1893.
483 Elm St., Richmond Hill, L. I.



Boy's High School Brooklyn



Yale Class of 1895

Brother Frederick William Mar, # 35

Birth Date: Oct 1864
Birthplace: Connecticut
Home in 1900: Queens Ward 4, Queens, NY
Relation to Head of House: Head
Marital Status: Married
Spouse's Name: Carlotta L Mar
Marriage Year: 1893
Father's Birthplace: Maine
Mother's Birthplace: New York
Occupation: School Principal
Frederick W Mar 35
Carlotta L Mar 36
Frank W Mar 5



William Adolph McQuaid, No. 36.
b. 1865. Init. 5 Jan., 1883.
Class Hillhouse 1885. Yale 1889. Yale
Law 1891.
Lawyer.
154 Nassau St., New York.

WILLIAM ADOLPHE MCQUAID spent the first year after graduation studying history and political science at Yale, and the next two years in the Yale Law School, receiving the degree of LL. B. in May, 1892. While in the Yale Law School, he joined the legal fraternity of *Phi Delta Phi*. During this period of three years spent in New Haven, he was a teacher in the Hopkins Grammar School and acted as substitute Instructor in Greek for the class of '95 during a part of their Freshman year. He came to New York City, July 10, 1892, and went into the office of Rochford & Stayton. Six months later he entered the office of Sackett & Bennett, 154 Nassau Street. April 1, 1894, Mr. Bennett withdrew from the firm and it became Sackett & McQuaid. Mr. Selden Bacon joined the firm October 1, 1897, the firm name being changed to Sackett, Bacon & McQuaid. He is a member of the *A. K. E. Club*, Yale Club, Democratic Club and Sons of American Revolution. He wrote the article upon "Agreed Case" in the American and English Encyclopædia of Law. He is unmarried.

Hotel Majestic, Central Park W., & 72d Street, N. Y. City.



Skull and Bones Tomb

Brother William Adolphe McQuaid, # 36

Born October 3, 1865, Webster, Mass.
Died June 15, 1951, New York City.
Father, Peter McQuaid, Mother, Ellen Sabnna (Carney) McQuaid. Schooled at Hillhouse High School, New Haven Second Berkeley Commencement speaker, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Skull and Bones, Phi Beta Kappa LLB. Teacher Hopkins Grammar School 1889- 92; lawyer in New York City 1892 until retirement 1927; first deputy attorney general 1911-14 (in charge New York City office 1911-13); assistant district attorney New York City 1918-27, Class secretary 1889-95. American Society of International Law, and Roman Catholic church
Married (1) June 29, 1910, Brooklyn, Emma J, Mrs. McQuaid died 1918 Married (2) November 25, 1919, New York City, Eleanora Regina.
Death due to a heart attack Buried Calvary Cemetery, Long Island City, N Y Survived by a brother, Samuel Arthur McQuaid.



Gamma Delta Psi goes to Yale

Robert Clayton Augur, No. 37.
b. 1866. Init. 11 May, 1883.
Class Hillhouse High School, 1885. Yale
1887 S.
Engineer of Tests, American Brake Shoe and
Foundry Co.
Charlotte Blodgett, April 9, 1891.
Mahwah, N. J.

ROBERT C. AUGUR, 87.
* RAIL TRADE EDITOR.
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

SUFFERN, N. Y., July 17.—
Robert Clayton Augur, former
managing editor of Locomotive
Cyclopedia and Car Builders Cyclo-
pedia, died yesterday in his home
here at the age of 87.

Born in New Haven, Conn., the
son of William E. and Addie Phelps
Augur, Mr. Augur received a Ph.D.
degree from Sheffield Scientific
School, Yale University, in 1887.
He entered railway service as a
special apprentice in the test de-
partment of the Chicago, Burling-
ton and Quincy Railroad at Au-
rora, Ill. Later he was assistant
roundhouse foreman.

Mr. Augur was assistant me-
chanical engineer and chief en-
gineer of the New York Air Brake
Company, Watertown, N. Y., from
1890 to 1905, and resident engineer
of the Westinghouse Air Brake
Company at Wilmerding, Pa., from
1905 to 1910.

He served as engineer of tests
for the American Brake, Shoe and
Foundry Company from 1910 to
1916, was director of inspection,
Westinghouse Electric and Manu-
facturing Company, Philadelphia,
in 1917-18, and installation en-
gineer of propelling machinery for
the Federal Shipbuilding Company
in 1919-20.

In 1920 Mr. Augur joined the
Simmons-Boardman Publishing
Corporation, New York, where he
became managing editor of Loco-
motive Cyclopedia and Car Build-
ers Cyclopedia. In 1948 he was
named consulting editor of these
publications. He retired in 1951.
Surviving are his widow, Mrs.
Charlotte Blodgett Augur; three
daughters, Miss Marcia Wilder
Augur, Mrs. Clifford M. Markle of
Huntington, L. I., and Mrs. Noel
Bleeker Fox of Bronxville, N. Y.;
a sister, Miss Katherine L. Augur
of West Haven, Conn.; five grand-
children, and six great-grand-
children.

Brother Robert Clayton Augur # 37

Born June 24, 1866 in New Haven Conn.

Died July 16, 1953 at Suffern New York.

His parents were William Edwards and Addie Auger.

Bro Auger was married on Apr 9, 1891 to Charlotte Sophia Blodgett. He prepared at Hillhouse High School and took the Mechanical Engineering Course. From 1890 to 1905 he was engaged as assistant mechanical engineer and later engineer for the New York Air Brake Company. In 1905 he went to Pittsburgh as resident engineer for the Westinghouse Air Brake Company. He is an Independent Republican and a member trustee of Presbyterian Church of Suffern New York.



Class of 1887 Yale
Bro Augur second
from right, second
row from top...

Sherman W. Barker, No. 39.
b. 1862. Init. 11 May, 1883.
Class Hillhouse 1885. Yale 1889.
Sales Agent, 42 North Main St., Concord,
N. H.
Jeanette L. Peck, 1892.
4 Rumford St., Concord, N. H.

Brother Sherman Woodward Barker, #39

Birth Date: Sep 1863
Birthplace: Connecticut
Home in 1900: Concord Ward 5, Merrimack, NH
Gender: Male
Relation to Head of House: Head
Marital Status: Married
Spouse's Name: Jeannette L Barker
Marriage Year: 1893
Father's Birthplace: Ohio
Mother's Birthplace: Connecticut
Occupation: Agent Harvesting Machinery:
Name Age
Sherman W Barker 36
Jeannette L Barker 33
Byran W Barker 5
Helen J Barker 1



**Brother Sherman was the agent for Adriance
Agriculture Machinery**

**GAMMA DELTA PSI FRATERNITY
INTERNATIONAL INTERNATIONAL**

23121 River Rd
North Dinwiddie, VA
23803

Phone: 804-931-8245
E-mail: info@gammadeltapsi.org
Website: gammadeltapsi.org
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/gammadeltapsi



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Johnnie Smith (Beta Psi)

Nirvana Chapter Report

The only addition we have to Nirvana Chapter for this quarter is **Brother James Teague of Alpha Chi Chapter on June 22, 2023**. Once a Brother, always a Brother.

Please share the passing of any Brother by sending an email to nirvana@gammadeltapsi.org

**The deadline for submissions for
the Spring Edition of the Grip is
April 15, 2024.**

**Submit content to
Bill Schmitt at
william.j.schmitt@gmail.com**

ΓΔΨ 145th Anniversary 20 oz Travel Mug Order

The Board of Trustees will be placing an order for 20 oz stainless steel travel mugs that will be available for sale at the 145th Anniversary celebrations and other Fraternity events. A limited order will be placed. The price to purchase a mug is \$15 USD or \$21 CDN.

To guarantee your mug we suggest you pre-order through Randy Picardat at 804-931-8245 or rpicar-dat@comcast.net



This is the photo of the product from the distributor's website

This is similar to the artwork that will be applied to the travel mug



ΓΔΨ

Founded April 13, 1879

145th Anniversary Celebration