

# The Grip Newsletter

MARCH 2009

*Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity International*

www.gammadeltapsi.com

## Get Your Groove Back, Brother

Michael Kuch | Gamma Alpha 114 | Chairman | Board of Trustees

VAUGHAN – Consider the following a sequel to last month’s opening diatribe, “Why I’ll See You at The Reunion” (The Grip – February 2009).

I’ll skip the requisite nostalgia – waxing poetic, as it is – and get to the bones of why the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Gamma Delta Psi matters. For most you whom have maintained even a modicum of communication during the past year – or the last 15 or 30 years – within The Fraternity, there is little reason to implore the idea what truly remains of Gamma Delta Psi amounts to precious more than hope and faith. That, and a meticulously orchestrated plan of action to rejuvenate the long-dormant Alumni Rolls, and a more purposeful mandate to re-build with the often quoted but habitually neglected, “New Blood”.

Fate is what I have long subsisted on, it’s what gets me through the day and propels Hope for better times to come. Fate alone, however, does virtually nothing without action as the fuel of choice.

Today – March 15, 2009 – is the final day to answer the call. To participate in what essentially comes down to 18 months of planning, a significant investment from the Gamma Delta Psi Trust Fund, and the aspirations of many dozens of Alumni Brothers who have contributed in untold ways to the 130<sup>th</sup> Celebrations in Virginia, no more so than Brother Randy Picardat (Gamma Epsilon 33).

As the penultimate social event, the fruition of the 130th marks a resolute change in the mindset of Alumni; segueing from “Remember When” to “What If” to “Hey, Can You Believe Gamma Is Back”.

The worst misnomer ever (dis) credited to Gamma Delta Psi, was that she was given up for dead some years ago. Fine, blame me for writing the epitaph – but certainly not hammering the nail in the coffin on this one – as her supposed demise only stirred up emotions requisite to initiate and encourage optimism as others join in the rejuvenation of Brotherhood Spirit in The Crescent.

Now, close to 400 Alumni Brothers are registered on our Contact List (email addresses) and are receiving this message. A good portion of them and many others will attend the Reunion in April.

I will be amongst them, as will a dozen or two Canadian Brothers, who will join possibly two-hundred or more Brothers from Virginia and beyond.

Will your participation make or break the event? Honestly, no. No single person – Brother – is above any other. This is about all of us: the Forefathers of Gamma Delta Psi, our Beloved Brothers in Nirvana. It’s about you, me and any one who pledged and succeeded. It’s about the Brothers who cannot join us. About the one’s we have remembered, the ones we cannot forget. About those who never had the chance. About the women and families who have sacrificed much for our selfish and sometimes juvenile indulgences.

It’s about being counted when it matters, never forgetting where you came from, and just maybe, plotting a course to where you may be going.

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Gamma Weblog

# Travelling in North America

## CANADIANS VISITING THE USA

### BY LAND OR WATER

Canadian citizens **will require a valid passport** to enter the USA at land and marine ports of entry as of **June 1, 2009**.

However, as of January 31, 2008, if you travel to the USA by land or water, a United States law requires you to present: a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license **AND** a birth certificate or a citizenship card; **OR** for persons aged 18 and under, a birth certificate or a citizenship card only; **OR** a valid passport.

### BY AIR

Since **January 23, 2007**, the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) came into effect for air travel to the United States. The following documents are acceptable: a valid Canadian passport; **or** a NEXUS card when used at a NEXUS kiosk at designated airports.

The NEXUS program offers a simplified and expedited clearance process to pre-approved, low-risk travelers.

WHTI is an American endeavor that establishes new requirements for documentation to enter the USA. It is being implemented in stages.

[www.pptgc.ca](http://www.pptgc.ca)

## AMERICANS VISITING CANADA

### DO I NEED A PASSPORT TO ENTER CANADA?

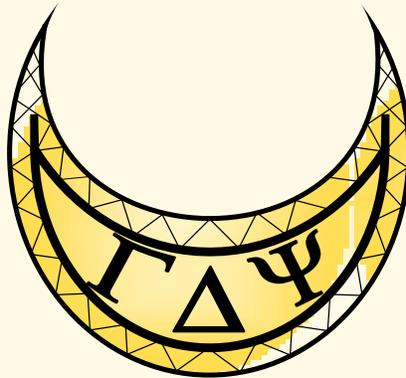
On June 1, 2009, a new American law known as the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) will require U.S. citizens 16 years of age or over who re-enter the United States by **land and sea** to have a passport or other appropriate secure document like a NEXUS card.

Until this date arrives, U.S. citizens 19 years and older who enter the U.S. at land and sea ports of entry from within the Western Hemisphere will need to present government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license as proof of identity, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate, or a passport. Children age 18 and under will be able to enter with proof of citizenship. Verbal claims of citizenship and identity alone will not be sufficient to establish identity and citizenship for entry into the United States.

International visitors to Canada that are not U.S. citizens must carry a valid passport and visa (if required). Citizens from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Mexico, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia and others do not require a visa to enter Canada.

Visit Citizenship and Immigration Canada online for a complete listing at [www.canadainternational.gc.ca](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca).

*Alumni Association of Gamma Delta Psi*  
**NORTHERN ALUMNI RALLY**



**Saturday, March 28, 2009**  
**(1:00 PM ~ 4:00 PM)**

**Imperial Veterans Association Hall**  
**(Lower Level)**

*~ Refreshments available on Main Floor ~*

**15 George Street**  
**(St. Catharines, Ontario)**



**RSVP by March 15, 2009**  
**alumni@gammadeltapsi.com**

# Northern Alumni Rally | March 28, 2009

Michael Kuch | Gamma Alpha

It has been quite the ride over the past year; this irrefutable, if not outright phenomena of Alumni interest, excitement and support of Gamma Delta Psi's historic rejuvenation. To further build upon this incredible movement, the Board of Trustees is sponsoring its first 'Northern Alumni Rally' on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

This inaugural event is being held at the Imperial Veterans Association Hall (Lower Level) located at 15 George Street in St. Catharines, Ontario, where past IBC President Brother Don Sowchuck (Beta Xi) is a member. The Rally is open to all Alumni; however, due to the modest capacity of the Hall, [we are limited to only 30 attendees, so it is important to RSVP by March 15, 2009](#). Please see accompanying flyer for details.

As Gamma Delta Psi enters its 130<sup>th</sup> year, Alumni from its first Chapter – Alpha – to our last chartered – Gamma Rho – are gathering to share memories, celebrating the Spirit of Brotherhood, all with hopes of rebuilding our long-dormant Rolls.

The Rally is a special event, not unlike the many Chapter Reunions that have transpired over the last thirteen months, along with other notable Fraternity functions such as the Williamsport Conclave last September and the greatly anticipated 130<sup>th</sup> Reunions scheduled for April (Virginia) and October (Ontario), that have further attracted Alumni back in to the fold of Gamma Delta Psi.

Several key topics are slated for discussion on the Rally Agenda, including: formation and structure of an active Alumni Association, Planning & Organizing Committee for the 130<sup>th</sup> Northern Reunion, and How Alumni Can Support Expansion.

We are extending invitations to all Alumni from the immediate Niagara Region and throughout the Golden Horseshoe into New York State, and of course, to our Southern Brothers of which a couple will attend.

I have received confirmed participation in the Rally by Grand Brother Stockdale (Beta Alpha, Gamma Nu) and past IBC President / current Board of Trustee member Kenny Martin (Gamma Theta). Several other notable Alumni from the 1960s – 1990s are expected to attend, as well.

Also scheduled for Saturday is an informal post-Rally gathering at a local restaurant, and an "After Party" Hospitality Suite hosted by Gamma Alpha Alumni expected to continue well into the evening.

For Brothers traveling from out-of-town and wishing to reserve overnight accommodations, a group discount rate has been negotiated by Brother Gary Condon (Beta Xi), and is available by reserving directly at the Days Inn at 89 Meadowvale Drive (St. Catharines) – (905) 934-5400 - [www.daysinnstcatharinesniagara.com](http://www.daysinnstcatharinesniagara.com).

Please reserve your room by referencing 'Jets Soccer Group' (Brother Condon's soccer team), using your own name and credit card to secure a special rate of \$99 (2 Double Beds; normally \$139).

Call a Brother or two, fill a car, and come out to what promises to be an unforgettable warm-up to a year long festival of Gamma socials, gatherings and renewed Brotherhood Spirit.

*The Fraternal Brotherhood Of*  
**GAMMA DELTA PSI + GAMMA PSI**

*Cordially Invites You To Celebrate Our*  
**130<sup>TH</sup> + 40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION**

*Alumni Banquet*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009**

**Olde Towne Catering Company** (Petersburg, VA)

Catered Buffet Dinner

All-You-Can-Eat (Menu TBA)

Keg compliments of The Fraternity

Cash Bar for Mixed Drinks

\$25.00 per Person

*Semi-Formal Dance*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**

**Olde Towne Civic Center** (Petersburg, VA)

8 pm until Midnight

Live Music by "**The Unnatural's**"

BYOB (Set-ups Available)

**- Advanced Ticket Sales Only -**

(No Tickets Sold At Door)

\$15.00 per Person

*Gamma Family Picnic*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2009**

**White Bank Park** (Colonial Heights, VA)

Noon until Dark

Food + Beverage (non-alcoholic),

DJ Music by "**Southwind Sound Productions**"

Playground for the kids (Young and Old)

\$5.00 per Person / \$10.00 per Family

**Last Chance to RSVP by March 15, 2009 (for tickets)**

**Request via e-mail to [rpicardat@comcast.net](mailto:rpicardat@comcast.net)**

**Randy Picardat @ (804) 931-8245**

# Invest in Brotherhood, It Pays Dividends

Michael Kuch | Gamma Alpha

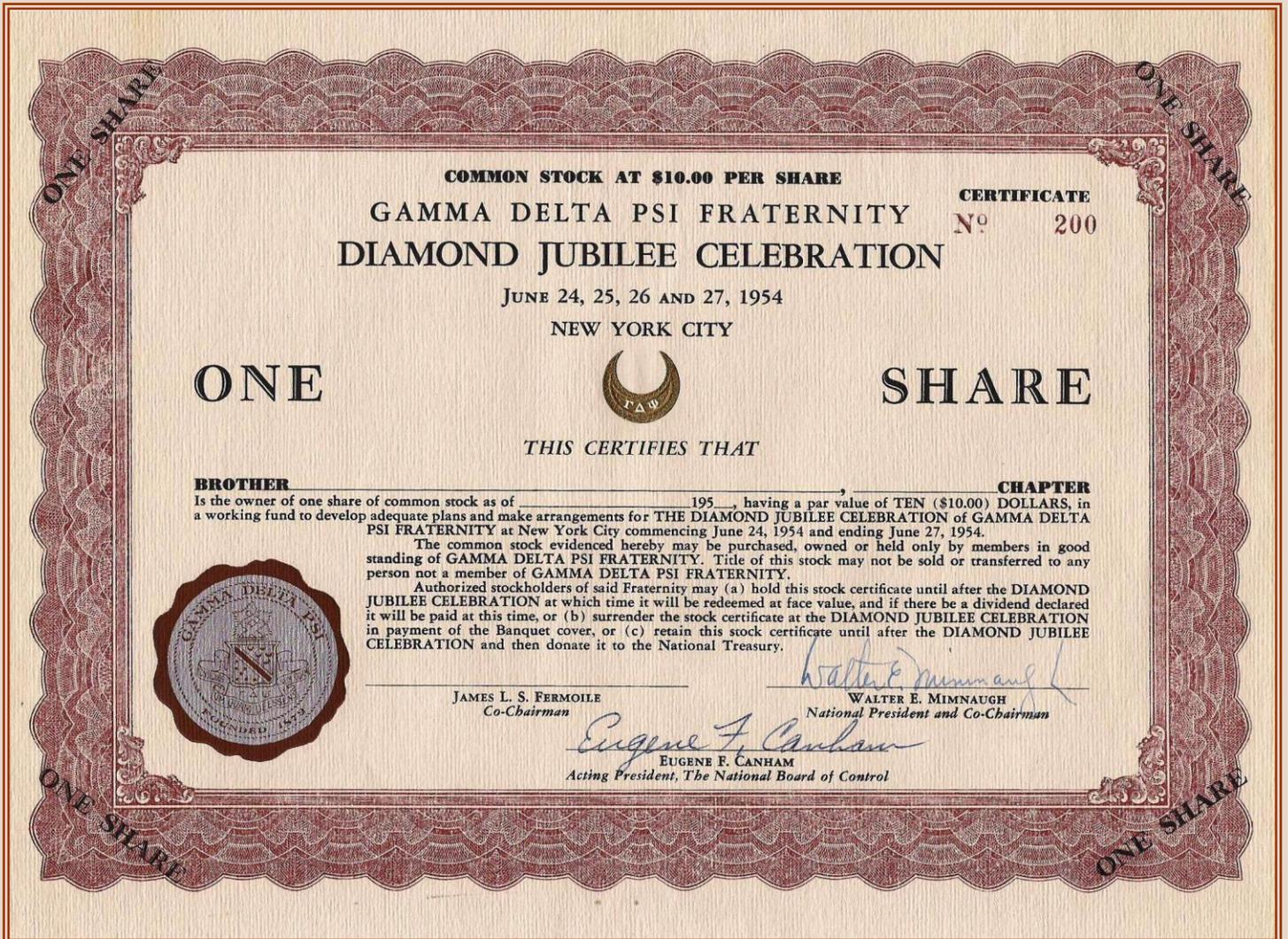
The power of numbers, in terms of compounding interest for monetary gain, has long intrigued me; not in regard for avaricious means, but rather to marvel at how accumulated growth can be realized sometimes from even the most nominal of efforts. Credit 'interest' – (yes, the pun is intentional) – not solely in financial terms, but rather literally as it contributes to growth. A vested 'interest', if you will, over what is in your domain to control.

Case in point, for a heady \$10 investment in 1954 with compound interest @ 5% over 55 years your gross return (exclusive of inflation) amounts to \$146 in 2009. So, for a 'half-sawbuck' back in the day, when most reading this were either not born or still plodding around in cotton-clad diapers, you could have had what amounts to a decent night on the town, give or take your social extravagances today.

Comparatively speaking – please forego anything you may have learned of economics, know to be reasonable, and suspend the notion that it actually makes sense – but, if Gamma Delta Psi had taken its base of Chapters in 1954 (for arguments sake, let's say we had 10 Chapters), and advanced at a consistent growth rate of 5% (no Chapters going dormant or losing their charters), we would have grown by about 146 Chapters. Welcome, Eta Psi Chapter!

In truth, we actually had a gain of some 44 Chapters between Alpha Phi (first Canadian Chapter) and 1986 with the last Chartered Chapter in Gamma Rho.

So, for what it's worth, give a little, give a lot, and watch your Fraternity grow with interest.



# Email-of-the-Month

"I think we should set aside some quality beer-drinking time in the time you have available. Then drink some beer in the time you don't have available."

~ **Johnnie H. Smith**

*Editor's Note: Brother Johnnie H. Smith in a poignant response to a recent email from Michael Kuch, commenting on how good it would be to sit, share a drink or two, and converse like the old days.*

## Alumni Notes

Bill Schmitt | Gamma Xi

**Larry Hooper** | **Beta Mu** | Etobicoke, ON

*After graduating from Royal York Collegiate Institute in 1975, Brother Larry went to work for CN Rail. He has held many positions, in many locations in Eastern Canada in his 32 year railroad career. After leaving Moncton, NB in 2003, Larry decided to relocate back to his old neighborhood of Stonegate in Southern Etobicoke.*

**Doug Jamieson** | **Alpha Phi** | Mimico, ON

*Grand Brother Jamieson is recovering from knee replacement surgery he had in late January. Doug and his wife Jeannette own and operate the Village Bakery ([www.village-bakery.ca](http://www.village-bakery.ca)) in Mount Forest, ON.*

**Trey Lotz** | **Beta Kappa** | Amherst, NY

*After graduating from Hamilton College with a degree in Philosophy, Brother Trey left the Buffalo area in 1969 for sunny Los Angeles, California. Since 1970 he has had his own private counseling practice.*

**Al Smith** | **Alpha Phi** | Mimico, ON

*Brother Al and his wife Bernice reside in Brampton, ON. Al retired in 1995 after working for 34 years as a teacher and school administrator for the Lakeshore and Peel Boards of Education.*

*For the past 9 years Al has been a DJ for [rockitradio.net](http://rockitradio.net) (50s and 60s internet radio station) contributing over 260 shows. Al "Cool Daddy" Smith would like to invite his Fraternity brothers to listen to him spin some great 50s tunes. His most recent shows can be found by clicking on "Archived Shows" on the [rockitradio.net](http://rockitradio.net) page.*

## Quotes

"Seek peace, and pursue it."

~ *Psalms 34:14*

"Only a life lived for others is worth living."

~ *Albert Einstein*

# Make History by Giving a Little of It Back

Michael Kuch | Gamma Alpha

I was born a hopeless dreamer, growing pragmatic about life through the reality of adolescence; finally coming honestly to the cold, hard conclusion that despite whatever I do in life, my destiny comes at the unbiased hands of Fate. And, I am 'All Good' with this impossibly simple, if not naïve, synopsis. Don't care to be wealthy; it was never in the cards. Care nothing about fame or notoriety or the cult of celebrity. Working toward salvation has eased the transition from life once preoccupied with self-indulgence and the misdirected wants for avaricious gains, to the humble acceptance that I am what I am.

A simpler life agrees with me, and I trust most of the readers of this newsletter. Contentment doesn't come at the crossroads of self-realization of one's competence and the acceptance that life is about as good as it gets. For contentment is really about doing just enough to fulfill the minimal desires. I am seeking more.

So, I search for a greater understanding of what is necessary to fulfill life. Broken down, Faith, Family and Fraternity – I realize the obvious simplicity of the trilogy of "F's" – generally fills the voids in my heart and soul. Faith and Family are obvious covenants, but Fraternity's inclusion sometimes gets a bit tricky. Am I too serious about it? Perhaps, in the way I like many others dedicate themselves to its preservation, but that's OK. What's a guy to do? Turn his back, when it needs him most? I know what I am into and so do you.

As for History, how does one become part of it? Really nothing much to do but participate, show up, be counted, and count your blessings there are those out there that are doing something – anything – to give your Fraternity a chance for a tomorrow. I loved my active, testosterone-fueled days of Fraternity Life in High School, but that was as they say, "Oh, so 30 years ago." I am not interested in hormones, acne, riding the bus, and not getting laid on a regular basis to go back to 1978, thank you.

But History interests me, not in repeating it or vicariously re-living alleged glory days of old, but rather indulging myself with reverence for traditions and to pay homage to those men whose footsteps we travel in.

Here's what you can do: Our Fraternity Archives, which comprises a litany of documents – Convention Minutes, Chapter Reports, Newsletters, Correspondence, etc., sufficient to fill three 4-door filing cabinets, is no more than a shell of our actual physical records. By this I mean, there is perilously anything in the way of artifacts: photographs, memorabilia, paraphernalia, and the like. Where is it, I have my theories that some – most – has likely been held by Brothers themselves. And who could possibly fault one for holding on to such precious mementos of a wonderful time in life? Certainly, much has been lost to normal attrition, relegated to yard sales, and less stellar circumstances.

But, when we're gone, as so many of Our Beloved Brothers are to Nirvana, where then will our effects remain? With family, rightfully so, but perhaps future donations and the bequeathing of such relics can find a permanent home for all to enjoy in our Official Archives.

This is the time for Brothers to put forth whatever physical History they have in their possession with a donation to the Archives. I encourage Brothers holding Chapter Chests, Charters, Blocks and Gavel, Robes, Photos, Memorabilia, etc. to donate to the newly established [Gamma Delta Psi Archives Trust Foundation](#).

This Foundation is being created to build, maintain and care for the 130 years of Archival Records. For the immediate and known future, it will be held and preserved in my home. My goal is achieve a comprehensive catalogue of the Archives property, to make it available to any member of our Fraternity, and to build its donations and contents through the generous support and participation of its members.

To officially launch the Foundation, I have recently received what is believed to be the entire contents of the physical history, which is in varying states of assembly. Much of it needs to be properly restored and re-organized. I am actively soliciting help from any interested Alumni. There is no shortage of projects to complete.

Please refer to the notice on the following page to read how you can contribute and be a supporter.

# Archives Trust Foundation

Established 2009

## ARCHIVES TRUST FOUNDATION

The Gamma Delta Psi Archives Trust Foundation was formed with a joint purpose and commitment, to fortify its collection of the physical Records and Information related to the Founding and History of its organization.

Any one can be a member, contributor or supporter of the Foundation, by helping to collect and solicit relevant material and property currently being held or owned amongst the Brotherhood. Specifically, property (chattels), from every Chapter ever chartered, including articles such as Charters, Chapter Rolls, Chapter Minutes, Photographs, Paraphernalia/Memorabilia (items of old clothing with Fraternity insignia or design, Greek Letters, etc.), Paddles, Flags, Pennants, History Books, Newsletters, etc.

Contributions may be made at any time, but is best kept to Fraternity gatherings such as the upcoming Reunions and Rally.

All Brothers donating material will receive a written receipt documenting their effects, and have it published as part of a Quarterly Archives Trust Foundation Report (catalogue).

## TROPHIES + AWARDS

A significant part of Our Great Heritage is the Official Gamma Delta Psi Awards, which have been tradition for many decades in the physical presence of Fraternity Trophies and Plaques.

Sadly and regrettably, the trophies you once admired and perhaps even shared as a recipient so many years ago are for lack of a more comforting term, in a complete state of shambles. I am being kind and generous with my explanation out of respect for those who once supposedly cared for these articles.

Of the 10 Fraternity Trophies pictured in the now-antiquated Pledge Manual (circa 1970), only three are in my possession and the balance of items rumored to be 'somewhere in Virginia', from the previous IBC Administration.

Several current Board of Trustee members have come forward to 'adopt' a trophy to repair and restore. With so many of the items in disrepair – broken and missing pieces including name plates – it may be next to impossible to put together what neglect has delivered. A search through 55 years of Convention Minutes is necessary to recall the winners of every trophy starting with the Francis Ringleb 'Brother-of-the-Year- Award.

I am calling on any interested Alumni Brothers to support and participate in this endeavor to restore a cherished part of our History and also to help locate and retrieve the missing items.

Please respond by contacting me at [michael.kuch@gammadeltapsi.com](mailto:michael.kuch@gammadeltapsi.com) or [alumni@gammadeltapsi.com](mailto:alumni@gammadeltapsi.com).

Also, kindly advise a head of time any material you wish to bring to one of the aforementioned (upcoming) Fraternity events so that adequate transportation can be made available to forward the items.

In Bonds,

Michael Kuch  
Gamma Alpha 114  
Board of Trustees - Chairman

# GDP Jewelry Available June 15, 2009

Bill Schmitt | Gamma Xi 88 | Secretary | Board of Trustees

Brothers,

I am happy to announce that Gamma Delta Psi Jewelry will soon be available for orders. Our new official jeweler, Herff Jones ([www.hjgreek.com](http://www.hjgreek.com)) is in the process of remaking our jewelry dies. The dies should be ready in about 6 weeks and they say it takes another 4 - 6 weeks to make the pieces and ship them.

Our first order should be available by June 15, 2009! Unfortunately, jewelry will not be in place for the Northern Alumni Rally (March 28) and the Southern 130th / 40th Anniversary Weekend (April 17 -19).

The official pin, chapter guard, sister pin and chapter president's key will be available in 10k Gold and "Goldgloss" (the new tradename for what we knew as "Balclad"). Travel pins (coat of arms) will be available only in Goldgloss and pledge pins will be available in silver plate. More details on prices, ordering and delivery will be made available by e-mail before April 1, 2009.

Many of you remember LG Balfour Co. of Attleboro, Massachusetts was our official jeweler. Balfour sold its Greek division to Legacy Jewelry in the mid 1990s. Herff Jones has since taken over possession of Balfour's original customers. Unfortunately, in the move from Legacy to Herff Jones our dies were lost.

Special thanks goes out to **Tom Compton (Gamma Psi, Beta)** for sending his Gamma Delta Psi pin collection to Herff Jones for use in retooling our jewelry dies.

I will be placing our initial order before May 1, 2009. Anyone interested in ordering Fraternity jewelry may contact me at (613) 966-3585 or [bill.schmitt@gammadeltapsi.com](mailto:bill.schmitt@gammadeltapsi.com).

Bill Schmitt  
Gamma Xi #88 (Fort Erie SS)  
Secretary, Board of Trustees



At a nursing home, there are two very old men who sit on the porch all day and reminisce together about the old days. They don't realize it, but they have attracted the attention of two elderly women who walk by them. But the ladies go unnoticed due partially to the men's conversation and bad sight.

The women decide to really get the men's attention and walk by them naked the next day.

One man turns to the other and says, "Did you see that?"

The other replies, " Sure did."

"What was it?"

"I don't know, but it sure could have used some ironing."