

The Grip Newsletter

G A M M A D E L T A P S I F R A T E R N I T Y I N T E R N A T I O N A L

www.gammadeltapsi.com

alpha phi on a high

michael kuch | gamma alpha 114 | international president 1982-1986

If you are reading our monthly newsletter 'The Grip' for the first time in, well, perhaps decades, you are forgiven if you think you have lapsed into a time warp.

You are not alone, joined by more than 600 Alumni Brothers Gamma Delta Psi has awakened after a prolonged drought to reclaim ownership of the finest brand of Brotherhood ever known.

In the nearly two years since this grandiose reclamation project by various Alumni to reconstruct Our Fraternity, The Grip has published with regular frequency and continues as a conduit of information and a rallying vehicle.

Typically, I use the front mast to post a summary of the articles appearing in the newsletter; however, this month I thought I would do something different by extending homage to a specific group of Alumnus – Alpha Phi Chapter.

Now, I realize there is an almost imperceptible line between garden variety butt-kissing and paying respects of the highest order. I have been doing it for years, so let's consider this an exercise of the latter and we'll all get along superbly going forward.

Ramping up to the 130th Anniversary celebration this past April in Virginia, we witnessed a full on assault of emails from the ranks of predominately Beta Alpha and Gamma Alpha Alumni, whose numbers had grown in hordes seemingly overnight.

Then, I thought we may never see another 'awakening' en masse of spirits and interest displayed by a single Chapter, or for that matter, one Brother Kirk McClure (Beta Alpha), who almost single-handedly re-created his Chapter's Roll and Contact List.

Suffice to say that if I had an appetite for wooden pulp, I would be eating my not so slight weight in mashed bark presently.

Fast forward several months and history virtually repeats itself as more than thirty Alpha Phi Alumni 'appear' in matter of a few short weeks.

My Inbox is filled nearly daily with messages from the likes of non other than Frank Wilson (15C), Dale Stoodley (61), John Melnyk (85), Mac Stoodley (86), Paul Shirley (93), Dave Bartell (94), Dennis Cox (105), Gerry Cox (126), Keith Comeau (158), et al.

Lest I forget Grand Brother Doug Jamieson (62), a central figure to connecting us with so many of the aforementioned, and an impromptu phone conversation recently with Dan Schiralli (74) – both past International Presidents.

Al Smith (53) – another of the many celebrated Brothers of Alpha Phi – is long known as one of the contributing Archivists of our Fraternity's (written) History.

There's more to Alpha Phi than meets the eye. It's Canada's first Chapter – "The Mother Canuck" – which celebrated its 55th Anniversary this past March.

Alpha Phi boasts no fewer than 4 past IBC Presidents – Frank Wilson, Doug Jamieson, Dan Schiralli, and Mac Stoodley

So what's in the water at the Alma Maters of Alpha Phi – Mimico High School and Lakeshore Collegiate?

Not sure, but it may have contributed to the deep and revered spirit these Brothers all share in infinite reserves.

Alpha Phi Chapter – are not just the first – but the latest to embody the Brotherhood of Gamma Delta Psi as it celebrates its 130th.

in this issue

Legacy Day
Reunion Predictions
Michael Kuch

Summer Breakfast Tour
Vaughan 09.13.2009

130/40 Reunion Weekend
Agenda
Invitation Update

Quotations
Albert Einstein
Mohandas Ghandi
Henry David Thoreau



reunion predictions

michael kuch | editor

Predictions are just about as useless as the proverbial *mammary glands* on a Brahman Bull, or any type of male mammal for that matter. I despise them entirely (predictions, not bulls), almost as much as I do clichés; perilous, idiotic snippets of nothingness at best. If you are going to tangle (or *cha cha* or foxtrot), the resultant miss (or near miss) of an ill-placed prediction could prove infinitely damaging to one's assumed credibility.

It's a fine thing that I care little about such follies, since my own suspect reputation has waned unfavorably for eons (I am an insufferably accepting realist, if nothing else), I risk little in waging the following rants about October's 130th Anniversary Reunion:

1. The Good: **"The 130th Reunion Will Sell Out"** - and here's why (Is that 'hat' I smell on the menu?):
For one, although Ticket Sales do not commence officially until September 8th, requests from Alumni have gone off the chart. Secondly, we have practically exhausted all the hotel rooms placed on hold by the Hilton Garden Inn for the weekend. And three, unless I am the most gullible doofus (it's been suggested on occasion) ever to pin on a Gold Crescent in the hollow of my left shoulder, I trust and honor what I am told by another Brother. And Brothers, you have come out in force – in words and in actions – to say you are in this. *It's OK, you can be this guy.*
2. The Bad: **"Someone will get insatiably hammered drunk"** – most likely a Canadian Brother – inebriated to the point of Oblivion and will attempt to disrobe himself in public with the help of a conspiratorial 3rd party, no doubt. He will make outlandish claims like he invented the color 'Garnet' and the 'Crescent' (and should be paid back royalties from the GDP Trust Fund). He will mumble incoherently through the every Chorus of *'Like a River's Flowing Waters'* displacing lyrics with ill-rhyming juvenile limericks. Worse, someone will actually follow and join in. Together, they will search in vain for a piano (or other large immovable object) not owned by them; ultimately, succumbing in mock harmony to address the congregation amidst repeated tapping's at the microphone with slurred chants of, "Check, Check 1-2, Check 1-2-3". Some things in life never change, an inevitability that cannot be skirted no matter how true one's intentions. *Don't be this guy (or his buddy); you'll meet him again at #4 (below).*
3. The Good II: Somewhere in the midst of an overly zealous conversation amongst a group of Brothers – who may or may not have seen one another in a decade or two – **"A fib of monumental proportions will be told"**, expounded upon, elaborated with the most minute detail to no end, only to create such a belly-aching ruckus that tears of laughter, of joy, of longing for yesteryear, will segue into another round of 'Remember When'... *It's OK, you can be this guy.*
4. The Ugly: **"Someone will say something impossibly inappropriate"** about a former Chapter Sweetheart, hinting at carnal knowledge only to reveal that she had a great body but was a little short in the looks department. An 'ugly stick' will be mentioned unkindly. He will learn imminently thereafter with uncomfortable stares that the Brothers he is (falsely) re-counting the story to are the aforementioned lady's husband, brother and father. *Don't be this guy.*
5. The Bad II: **"Someone will call or email (days later) that he heard just how incredible the Reunion was"**, and that he missed it because he thought 'no one would show'. After finding out he was the only one not to show, he becomes the guy scrambling to make connections, track down Brothers he would have dearly loved to see again but missed the opportunity to do so, and wonders aloud when the next event will be. *Don't be this guy.*
6. The Not-So-Bad: **"Someone will spill a drink on me"** – unintentionally or otherwise – pinch my butt, call me 'Gus' or 'Roy' or 'Phil' or 'Cracker' or any number of names I do not answer to, and remind me that I owe him \$20 (from 1979). Of course, it will be someone I have never met. *It's OK, you can be this guy.*
7. The Plain Dumb: **"Someone will say we should have a '130th' Reunion every year"**... *If you're this guy, remedial Math is down the hall at the Gamma Sig wake.*

legacy day – the tao of jack

michael kuch | editor

Take a pass on Labor Day this year, and scratch on your calendar or punch into your BlackBerry or scribble in the sand, or by whatever means necessary remember the date of Monday, September 7th. It's reserved – in part – for Gamma Delta Psi. We have plans together, if only for a few minutes.

It's been reclaimed as '**Legacy Day**', and yes, I made it up, but it's real and just may save Our Fraternity from a plight worse than dormancy. And, here's how it plays out:

Take Brother Jack (an alias) for instance. He's insufferable, agitated, feeling lost and forlorn, but relief is just around the corner. Soon old Jack will be glowing with spirit on the weeks-long ramp up to October's Big Reunion. Sure, Jack's work suffers from neglectful daydreams of sipping crisp lager and rubbing elbows at the bar.

So, while the 'Honey Do List' has retired (mercifully) until next spring, and Jack's mutt cannot get his Master's attention no matter what he does on the carpet or to his neighbor's leg, Jack cares less because he signed up for the long haul way back when.

Jack is old school, feels good in his own skin, and does not mind showing his pride; a *bona fide* lifer – 'CONSEQUENS NUMQUAM UMQUAM DEESSENS' tattooed across his chest – without chance for parole.

Brotherhood, Jack decrees, does not have an expiry date. Not the Gamma brand anyhow.

Now what, Jack? Well, it's Day One of the Rebirth of Gamma Delta Psi, and Jack, accompanied by a *not-so-small* army of his Fraternity Brothers, are all bent on re-building its foundation; getting down to business and back to how it was and should be. Jack's been keeping the fire stoking on the home front and looking 'in-house' for prospective new members; the next generation of young men entrusted to perpetuate the glory and goodness of Gamma.

Legacy Day is Jack's personal call to arms; imploring every single Brother to call upon a close (or distant) male relative, be it son, grandson, nephew. Jack will take on all comers: a neighbor's son or work associate's male offspring.

This is the day Jack has chosen to reveal what he may have previously shared only within his close circle of Fraternity Brothers. Jack's out to solicit new blood and to share the wisdom and wealth of his experiences, to inspire others to experience the wonderment of Fraternity, of Gamma Brotherhood, in a bold and enterprising future never seen before. Jack is proactive, giving of himself unselfishly – perhaps only a few minutes, here and there – to recount the infinite benefits and gratitude he had under the auspices of Gamma Delta Psi.

Jack's a wise nut; he knows the global village has shrunk. The world's a small place now. He has witnessed firsthand the return to the commodities of a wholesome and decent life. Faith, Family and Friends are more important now to Jack than ever. Paramount to Jack's existence is how he chooses to spend his time, what's left for him to achieve in life, what makes him happy, content. Fraternity played such a vital role in Jack's adolescence its impact is still felt decades later. Jack needs to pass on this legacy to others, those familiar to him and otherwise.

To Jack, it's a duty, a privilege. He might even suggest a calling. And to Jack taking the Ritual was a testament to his love and kindred belonging to bond, to give an opportunity and path to the untold young men who can follow him.

Be like Jack, stay connected. Impart onto future generations the simple message that Gamma makes a difference in a man's life, not merely in the few years of high school, but even beyond in the years ahead as one draws from earlier experiences to make decisions and choices one can live with; without doubt, or regret, or apprehension to do it all over again, if only you could.

quotes

The difference between genius and stupidity is that genius has its limits

~ *Albert Einstein*

Goodness is the only investment that never fails

~ *Henry David Thoreau*

An eye for an eye makes us all blind

~ *Mohandas Ghandi*

coming events



ALUMNI BREAKFAST

8401 WESTON ROAD (@LANGSTAFF RD)
VAUGHAN, ONTARIO
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2009
9:00 AM

LEGACY DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009
ALL DAY

*Get connected with a prospective Legacy member
in person, by phone, on-line!*

reunion weekend agenda

BROTHERHOOD 'MEET & GREET' STAG

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2009
8 pm – 1 am

ALUMNI ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009
1 pm – 4 pm

ALUMNI BANQUET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009
6 pm – 1 am

BREAKFAST / BRUNCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009
9 am – 1 pm

Join us to Celebrate the 130th & 40th Anniversary Reunions of

GAMMA DELTA PSI GAMMA PSI

FRATERNITY INTERNATIONAL

ALUMNI BANQUET

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2009

COCKTAILS 6 PM | DINNER 7 PM



3201 HIGHWAY 7 WEST | WOODBRIDGE, ON

ADVANCED TICKET SALES ONLY
(NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR)

RSVP: SEPTEMBER 8-30, 2009
PAYMENT by PAYPAL (www.gammadeltapsi.com) OR CHEQUE

MICHAEL KUCH
47 FOREST RUN BOULEVARD
CONCORD, ONTARIO L4K 5J7
(416) 910-2552
alumni@gammadeltapsi.com

ALUMNI BANQUET

French Service Menu

Italian Breads · Mixed Baby Greens Salad ·

· Manicotti alla Panna ·

· Grilled Chicken Breast & Veal Chop ·

· Medley of Vegetables ·

· Roasted Potatoes ·

· Ice Cream Crêpe with Fresh Berries & Chocolate Sauce ·

Wine: House Red · House White

· Soft Drinks · Juices · Coffee · Espresso · Tea

Standard Host Bar

Beer: Molson Canadian · Labatt Blue · Coors Light ·

Budweiser · Bud Light

Liquor: Johnnie Walker Red (Scotch) · Beefeaters (Gin) ·

Bacardi White (Rum)

· Canadian Club (Rye) · Smirnoff (Vodka)

\$75.00 / Person (All Inclusive)



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

The Fraternity has reserved a block of hotel rooms with preferred group rates @ \$129 (Double Occupancy)

Room Reservations may be confirmed directly at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Please reference 'Gamma Delta Psi' or 'Michael Kuch' for special rate by calling:

(905) 532-2244

