

The Grip

January 2010 Edition

The Newsletter of $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$
Fraternity International

The Value and Importance of Fraternity in my Life

One Brother's Retrospective Reflections

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!

That ultimately prescient event occurred during football season on the first of what became ritualistic father-son Saturday trips to downtown Hopewell, Virginia...my hometown. For years, and in rain, sleet or snow, we'd make that manly journey to one, or both, of our Rexall Drugstores...to pick up a "Blue Devil Touchdown Sundae." A BDTD Sundae was a hideous-looking but otherwise tantalizing and scrumptious concoction of blue and yellow colored vanilla ice cream -- adorned with one's personal preference of sundae toppings...all stuffed and smashed into a paper drink cup. The ice cream was colored blue and yellow in homage to the Hopewell High School Blue Devils whose team colors were Blue and Gold. They were called "touchdown" sundaes because their normal price would be reduced each Saturday by an amount related to the number of touchdowns and extra points scored by the Blue Devils during the preceding Friday night's football game. My father always got the max...complete with banana pieces, chocolate, caramel and pineapple syrups, wet walnuts, whipped cream, and a cherry or two on top. I was quick to say, "Make that two please!"

In those days, Hopewell's Blue Devils were consistently vying for the State Championship in their School Division, so they were scoring lots of touchdowns and extra points! As a consequence, it was not at all uncommon for Touchdown Sundaes to sell for a nickel or a dime. And when they did, darned near the whole town would make that Saturday morning trip to the Rexall Drug Stores! No doubt about it, during football season, downtown Saturdays were always fun and exciting and "the place to be -- and be seen."

Among the customary sights on those football season Saturdays were some rather strange and crazy goings on performed by several groups of teenage boys and girls. Within the boys, a sub-set of each group all wore funny little hats that looked like "beanies" -- and several of them also sported bowties.

To me, these boys resembled the Little Rascals. Hey, there wasn't a lot of difference! I learned later that these "little rascals" were strangely called "goats" – a term whose origin and use I never learned...if anyone actually knew...and the girl versions 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 activities



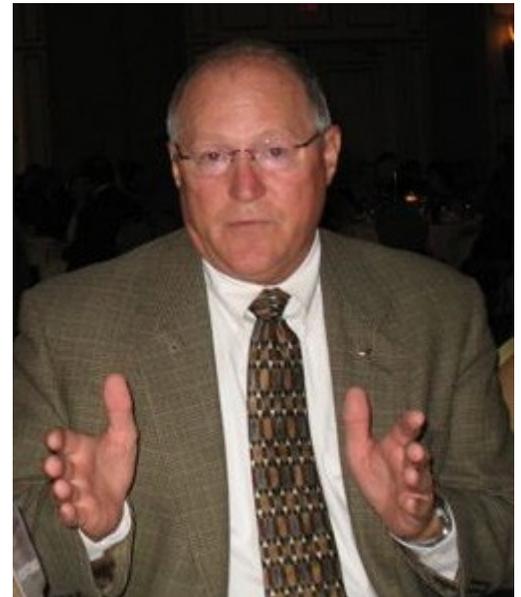
seemed to involve boys and girls who were ordering goats and pledges to do mostly really silly things...like trying to walk across Main Street with a cup of limeade perched on one's head...without spilling any of course...or seeing how many pieces of chewing gum one could chew...and still recite the "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 Rascals" 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.

"Fraternities make possible a unique experience in living."

(Todd Shelton, National Pan-Hellenic Council)

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 for 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...or about Gamma Delta Psi for that matter. 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. So, they all seemed to be "jocks"...and 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



Rick Davis, Beta Alpha #80

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 slight positive impression! OK...so 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 scared – 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 scared...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 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 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

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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 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, 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 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! As I now take stock of those years, it is abundantly clear that much of what I became and who I grew to become as a person has roots extending as much from my Gamma Delta Psi experiences as any other part of my life’s 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 characterize the goals, objectives and 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 adult 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 harmony. Those of course are the traits associated with Self-actualization and if we’re 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 share.

***“May the friends of our youth
be our companions in old-age! “
Old Celtic Toast***

Beyond the skills and knowledge and confidence we gained as a result of our 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 have been rekindled in the past several months...resulting in two phenomenally successful reunions...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 renewed acquaintances and relationships is not the technologies that made these reconnections possible. Rather, it’s the purity, strength and durability of the fraternal spirit that has enabled countless numbers of us to enjoy renewed 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.

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 that new fraternal seedlings are being planted...we’ve got some new business to attend to! So let’s get to it, eh!?

Brother Rick Davis
Beta Alpha #80
Hopewell, Virginia
Active from 1962-66
December 26, 2009



Hotel Information

**Ramada Wilkes Barre
20 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
570-824-7100**

\$75.00 USD per night (+ tax)

The BOT & BOA have secured 25 rooms for FRI & SAT night (held until April 19th). Book directly with the hotel and quote the “Gamma Delta Psi / Gamma Psi” rate when booking.

Weekend Attendance Fee

\$80.00 USD

This includes a 4 hour open bar and hors d’oeuvres both FRI and SAT night, coffee service SAT morning, Deli Luncheon SAT afternoon and an attendance souvenir (ΓΔΨ or ΓΨ hat).

Those attending will be expected to contribute their opinion at the business meeting on Saturday. Possible agenda topics may include a sales / marketing plan, Constitutional Revisions, Alumni Association functions and ΓΔΨ / ΓΨ cooperation.

For more information or to confirm your attendance contact Bill Schmitt at 613-966-3585 or william.i.schmitt@gmail.com

Friday, April 30, 2010

**Registration 6 PM - 12 AM
(Washington Room)**

Open Bar from 7 PM - 11 PM
Hors D’Oeuvres served at 9 PM

Saturday, May 1, 2010

**Business Meeting 9 AM - 5 PM
(Tiffany Ballroom)**

AM Coffee Service, “New York Deli” Buffet
Luncheon and Attendance Souvenir

Saturday, May 1, 2010

**Awards Banquet 8 PM - 12 AM
(Tiffany Ballroom)**

Open Bar from 8 PM - 12 AM
Hors D’Oeuvres served at 10 PM

ΓΔΨ Crescent Club News

Beta Alpha CC & Jilts Sorority visit the residents of John Randolph Nursing Home (Hopewell, VA) December 15th



The 1st photo is Crescent Club President Bud Weyland and Vice President Jordan West visiting John Randolph Nursing Home.

All six boys went to the nursing home along with two sisters from Jilts and took

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies to share with the residents. The women loved seeing the younger people and asked them to sing Christmas carols, which they were more than happy to do for them. It was a very humbling experience for all involved.

The next picture includes Scott Burgess and President Bud Weyland just



having fun for a second.

Last but not least is my sister Tina Volk. When she arrived at the nursing home that night, she found out that her grandmother had been admitted so we spent an extra moment

wishing well to her family because I pledged under her cousin and Bud and I know most of her family. It was very sad for all of us. I believe this was really good for the boys. The nursing home thanked us greatly.

Article & Photos courtesy Amanda Weyland, BA CC Parental Advisor



Beta Alpha CC Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2009

Meeting knocked in at 7:18
 Attendance taken
 Missing Joshua Bagshaw - Excused
 Preamble recited
 Minutes read and passed
 Report of the Corresponding Secretary
 Passed as stated
 Old Business
 We will be bringing cookies to the elderly at John Randolph Nursing Home tomorrow
 Christmas party not passed
 Valentines day party
 Jordan fined 1 dollar due on Monday
 New Business
 Motion made to go to quick lunch and do a 50-50 raffle
 Not Passed
 Second Saturday of every month we should do a 50-50 raffle at Golden Corral
 Motion was made for chapter to participate in the second Saturday brunch in Jan. and Feb. to do a 50-50 raffle
 Passed
 Motion was made that all the money made from 50-50 raffle goes to sweet heart Party
 Motion not passed
 Tito was fined 1.00 dollar due on Monday
 Bud fined 2.00 dollars due on Monday
 Scott left early
 Suggestions for money making
 Raking leaves, Car washes, Raffles, Parties, etc
 Review of Saturday brunch
 Bud and Jordan attended, They report that it was fun and they met many Brothers and introduced them selves and explained what was happening in Hopewell with our Crescent Club.
 Motion was made to adjourn the meeting
 Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Submitted by Tito Reyes
 Beta Alpha CC Member

Gamma Delta Psi - The Legacy Continues

Highlighting an era of Hopewell history, Quick Lunch owner Mary Sue Krout invited alumni from eight local fraternities and sororities for designated Saturday "luncheons" over the last two months. On October 31st, alumni of the Beta Alpha chapter of Gamma Delta Psi fraternity sponsored their second such luncheon of the year, the first being this past April, during the fraternity's 130th anniversary weekend celebration. While fond memories were shared of where Gamma Delta Psi has been, the alumni also had the opportunity to see where it is headed.

The fraternity, founded in New Haven, Connecticut in 1879, at one time boasted 85 active chapters, stretching from Toronto to New Orleans. Hopewell's Beta Alpha chapter, known as the fraternity's cornerstone of the South, was the first Virginia chapter and was founded in 1956. Soon to

follow were chapters at Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Matoaca, Meadowbrook, Petersburg, Prince George and Thomas Dale high schools, along with Tidewater Academy and later expanding into Alexandria. A reactivation process for several area chapters, as well as in Canada is in full swing.

In all, 22 brothers attended the luncheon, as well as several of the group of young men and their parental sponsors who are part of the fraternity's revitalization. For the next few months, these young men will go through a period of education and instruction as a "Crescent Club", the name taken from the shape of the fraternity's pin. After a similar period as a Crescent Club, in 1956, twenty seven young men were inducted into the fraternity and became the charter members of Hopewell's Beta Alpha chapter of Gamma Delta Psi. Just as it was back then, the members of the Crescent Club of today will soon be inducted into the brotherhood of Gamma Delta Psi and carry on the proud tradition of Beta Alpha chapter.

Brothers in attendance, (but not all pictured) were; charter member J. Bunn Armstrong, Klaus Aultman, Curtis Butterworth, Butch Carraway, Bill Collins, city councilman Ken Emerson, Wilson Enochs, Will Harlan, Dr. Bill Henry, Chris Hipps, Raley Ingram, Jr., Franck Judkins, Kirk McClure, Larry Minter, Darrell Sears, Parker Simmons, Johnnie Smith, John Stallings, Kevin Stockdale, Richard Taylor, and Chris Webb. Crescent Club members attending were; Josh Bagshaw, Scott Burgess, Cody Lynch and Bud Weyland, along with parental sponsors, Brother Tony and Amanda Weyland. Also pictured is Mary Sue Krout, Quick Lunch owner and 2009 Sweetheart of Beta Alpha chapter.

Gamma Delta Psi Alumni gather for lunch at Quick Lunch



8 The Hopewell (Va.) News, Tues., March 31, 1970



Staff Photo by Ruth Shary

Helping Their City--And Getting Paid for It

Members of Hopewell's Beta Alpha chapter of Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity exhibit the truckload of aluminum cans--mostly beer cans--they picked up from city streets in a 3 1/2-hour period yesterday. The youth said they started the project for a twofold purpose: to help beautify their community and to make money--by selling the cans to Reynolds Metals in Richmond as scrap aluminum. They estimated their haul at about a half ton.

On tail gate: Steve Lambert. (L/R), Rocky Glass, Joe Holt, Eddie Fisher, Victor Pemberton, Danny Hipps, (Nirvana), Steve Edmonson, Eddie Clarke, Donnie Almorode, (Nirvana). Standing. (L/R), Wayne Markland, Tommy Lee, (Nirvana), Kirk McClure, Donnie Carr.

Gamma Delta Psi Alumni Association

ΓΔΨ Alumni Association Secretary's Introduction

Brothers,

As a part of the Alumni of the Fraternity, you are one of the key factors in the re-birth and growth of the Fraternity. The knowledge and the resources that are contained within any organization's alumni are relied upon by the newer members of the organization.

I would first like to introduce myself, I am Randy Picardat, member of the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Secretary to the BOT. I was inducted into Gamma Epsilon Chapter in 1969.

I have been tasked by the BOT to establish and maintain a comprehensive mailing/contact database of the Alumni. If you are reading this then it means we have at least your e-mail address on file and can contact you. However, we would like to gather a little more information to ensure that you can be contacted and supplied with the most up-to-date information about YOUR Fraternity



possible. I would like to ask that each of you contact me by e-mail, once you have I will forward a

form to you that you can fill out and return to me. In doing this I can check your information against what I have on file and make sure that all of your information is correct.

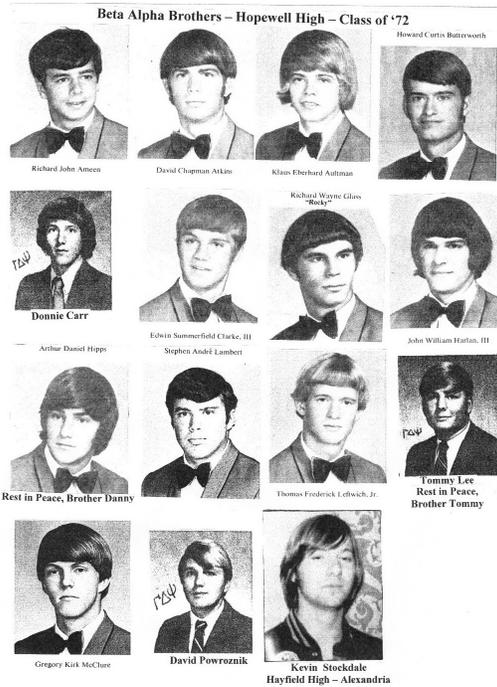
The other thing that I would ask is that you supply me with any information that you have on Brothers you have stayed in contact with during the years. This will allow me to make sure I have their information and if not allow me a starting point to gather that information.

Please send me an e-mail requesting the contact information sheet to rpicardat@comcast.net. As I get your e-mail I will send you the form to be completed.

Thank you for your assistance and should you have any needs or questions please contact me.

Yours in Bonds,
Randy Picardat

BA Blast from the past!



Of the fifteen brothers pictured, seven were from the same Goat class. Brothers Atkins, Butterworth, Clarke, Lee, Leftwich, McClure and Stockdale were "taken in" and inducted in August, 1968.

Gamma Psi Fraternity Update

Gamma Psi Fraternity has been busy over the past few months. Here's is what the Active Chapter Brothers, Crescent Club Members, Board of Advisors and Interested Alumni have been up to.

Active Chapter

Eta Chapter at Longwood University (Farmville, VA) currently has 5 active Brothers and are actively recruiting more Prospective Brothers. The charity that they actively work with is FACES (Farmville food bank). Due to School opposition to Non-National Greeks, they operate off-campus.

Crescent Clubs & Expansion Opportunities

Beta Chapter Crescent Club at Richard Bland College (Petersburg, VA) has 6 CC Members. They are learning what is required to become a Chapter and should be ready for rituals by late February or March.

Legacy Jim Simmons (Parker's son) attends Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA) and has expressed an interest in starting a CC. He is off campus until February so we will pursue that opportunity when he returns.

The BOA has received permission from Randolph

College (Lynchburg, VA) to start a CC on campus. The BOA is working on a marketing plan.

The BOA has a meeting with the Director of Student Activities at Virginia State University (Petersburg, VA) on January 8th. The Director has said in the past he is open to Gamma Psi starting a Crescent Club at VSU.

Publications

The Constitution has been updated. The Brotherhood Education Handbook has also been completed. Both publications are the work of John Cobb with input from Eta Chapter.

Alumni Association

Our Alumni database grows every day as we find Alumni. We hope that ΓΔΨ Alumni will be out in full force at Conclave 2010 in Wilkes-Barre to chart our future. We are also planning a few summer Alumni events.

Alumni Oversight

Brothers Picardat, Wyatt, Belcher, Dunnavant, Cobb and Moreno have been active but need more help!

Upcoming 2010 Chapter Reunions

Beta Mu Chapter Reunion

Beta Mu (Royal York CI, Etobicoke, ON) is having a reunion dinner on Saturday, May 15th at The Academy of Spherical Arts, 1 Snooker St., Toronto, ON (in the Liberty Village). For more details, BM Brothers can contact Paul Gibson at gdpbetamu@gmail.com about this event.

Alpha Chi Chapter Reunion

Alpha Chi (Oakville Trafalgar HS, Oakville, ON) is having a reunion the weekend of September 17-19 in Niagara Falls, ON. Events include a pub night on Friday; Breakfast, Golf Tournament & Dinner Dance on Saturday; and Sunday Brunch. For details go to their website at <http://alphachi.ca> or contact Mike Smallwood at 905-334-3205

Other 2010 Chapter Reunions

Beta Gamma (Thomas Dale HS, Chester, VA) - September 2010. Contact Don Graves or Don Flippin for event details.

To get your Chapter Alumni Event listed in the GRIP, send an e-mail to thegrip@gammadeltapsi.com

Gamma Delta Psi Alumni Association

Second Saturday Breakfast Group Christmas Reunion

Saturday, December 12, 2009, Golden Corral Restaurant, Colonial Heights, VA



Below, L to R: Jack Parsons, Bob Cordova, Frank Judkins, Parker Simmons, Jimmy Simmons and Johnnie Smith.



L to R: Larry Belcher, Danny Wyatt, Marvin Faison, Jack Parsons and John Slate.



Beta Alpha CC Members Bud Weyland and Josh Bagshaw are introduced to Rob Baird and his son.



L to R: Johnnie Smith, Golden Corral Server Stephanie and Randy Picardat.



L to R: Frank Judkins, Larry Belcher, Amanda Weyland (Beta Alpha CC Parental Advisor) and Tony Weyland (Beta Alpha CC Parental Advisor).



L to R: Bud Weyland, John Slate, Kevan Key, Stephanie, Marvin Faison and Tommy Cummins.



L to R: Larry Belcher, John Slate (behind Larry), Dale Nichols and Randy Picardat.



Brother Darrell Sears

Photos courtesy of Rob Baird

Below: The whole "Gamma Gang"



Brothers Kevan Key and Marvin Faison.



More 2009 Christmas photos are available at http://www.rob.btgi.net/2009_breakfast/index.html

Gamma Delta Psi History

From the rib of Psi Upsilon Fraternity was born Gamma Delta Psi

By Michael Kuch, ΓΔΨ Archivist

Legend has long served a delicious platter of curiosity about the early days of Gamma Delta Psi.

While facts are sparse and largely subjective of the circumstances of its exact Genesis; aside from the requisite background fodder of its four founding members: Wurts, Dann, Jackson and Jones – repeated like mantra during pledge days of yesteryear – recent discoveries reveal the very essence of Gamma's true identity.

The DNA of Gamma Delta Psi is linked spiritually – in a fraternal sense – and also, with genuine bloodlines to Psi Upsilon Fraternity.

The early history is one of reverence between one male sibling and another, and conviction that secret societies in their original form provided a community of mutual goodwill and shared passion.

Psi Upsilon Fraternity was founded in 1833 at Union College in Schenectady, New York. As a non-sectarian institute of higher learning classical literature, history, science, mathematics and modern language were taught. Between 1825 and 1850, it rivaled Yale – often surpassed it – in terms of enrollment.

Union College's student population of 232 made it the largest of its kind in America at the time. In its infancy it was impractical for students to socialize outside of class, as Schenectady in the early 1800s was a place of rural serenity.

Six Fraternities were eventually founded at Union most morphing from literary societies. Faculty encouraged such groups, knowing the benefit of extracurricular activities such as debates, theatre productions and libraries would form the nucleus of a student's time outside of official studies.

Seven students – 5 sophomores and 2 freshmen – had become close friends and began to meet regularly to exchange essays and read poetry they had written. This became a tradition over the course of several weeks, and by November of the first semester, the seven realized they had something special – sharing common interests and enjoying their fellowship. Initially, they kept their involvement secret, not sure what form they wanted it to take, eventually pledging to one another to found a new society in the following semester.

Psi Upsilon prospered at Union, expanding membership to NYU (1836), Yale (1839), and throughout the Ivy League and beyond.

By 1878, a year before the founding of Gamma Delta Psi in New Haven, Psi Upsilon had grown to 17 Chapters, all but one (Harvard) remained active. That same year, amongst the 50 deep Beta Chapter Roll, counted a future US President – William Howard Taft – the one and same 'Honorary Brother' of Gamma Delta Psi, along with Ru-

dolph Wurts, older sibling to Alexander Wurts, and cousin, William L R Wurts (Patterson, NJ).

The Chapter read like a "Who's Who?" of American Bluebloods: Van Burren, Schwab, Morgan, Calhoun, Quincy Adams, Flagg, Taft, et al – members of some of America's wealthiest, most powerful and prominent families.

William Wurts and family friend Howard Taft were tapped the following year by Skull and Bones at Yale, the infamous Secret Society co-founded by William Huntington Russell and Alphonso Taft, father to Howard. In 1908, Charles Seymour, an Alpha member of Gamma Delta Psi and future president of Yale (1937-1951) would be tapped by Skull and Bones.

Rudolf Wurts was succeeded in Psi Upsilon by a second Wurts brother – Charles Pemberton Wurts, Jr – two years later. The youngest Wurts brother, Pierre, followed Alexander in 1892 into Yale's Sheffield School of Science, and was also a member of Alpha Chapter of Gamma Delta Psi.

The Wurts family connection with Psi Upsilon and influence on a teen-aged Alexander is found in several items of identity in the neophyte Fraternity of Gamma Delta Psi. Indeed, Psi Upsilon's colors, the regal 'Garnet and Gold', were paid homage with Gamma's own 'Garnet and Silver'.

The heraldry of Psi Upsilon's coat-of-arms is not directly traceable to Gamma Delta Psi's, as it was adopted at their Convention of 1894. On further investigation, however, Beta Chapter at Yale, as with all Chapters of Psi Upsilon, created their own crest of which Wurts borrowed conspicuously.

Heraldry of the Beta Chapter is distinguished by several key features common to Gamma Delta Psi's Coat-of-Arms, especially so in its original crest. Most obvious are the basic shield, its shape seemingly cast from the original of 1839, and wreath (rope-like feature) is an absolute duplicate. Argent (silver) is the prominent color.

The Grip - as with most Fraternities that have their own unique version – it's emblem on Psi Upsilon's crest is unmistakable, and had for a brief time been used in early graphics on letterhead of Gamma Delta Psi.

So, do a few token but irrefutable items of shared identity connect Psi Upsilon with Gamma Delta Psi?

Well, associate the confirmation of not one but two older Wurts siblings as Psi Upsilon members and a smidgen of legend, and one starts to comprehend that Gamma, a bastion of High School Fraternities in the late 1800s of New England, was and will ever hold an irrevocable bond to its distant older cousin Psi Upsilon.



ΨΥ Fraternity's
Coat of Arms

Nirvana Chapter

Charles B Krumel, Beta Alpha #91

CHARLES 'CHUCK' B. KRUMEL

July 7, 1947-Nov. 27, 2009

The lord loaned us Chuck

for 62 exciting years. There was never a dull moment in his years here on earth. He was born in Akron, Ohio, and moved to Hopewell, Va., as a young child.



Krumel

He was predeceased by his father, Charles Cerrito; adopted father, Richard Krumel; sister Susan Krumel; and his wife, Linda Valenstein Krumel. He is survived by his mother, Ruby Krumel; daughter, Courtney, and her fiancé, Alex Mirabal; his significant other, LuAnn Docteur; brother, Richard Krumel; sister Kristi Krumel; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Chuck was a Navy Vietnam veteran who graduated Virginia

Commonwealth University with a bachelor's degree in 1975. He moved to Key West in the mid-1970s, where he practiced his song writing and playwriting. He met and married Linda Valenstein in 1979. They built a successful guesthouse business at "Courtney's Place" on Whitmarsh Lane, Key West. (Named after their daughter, Courtney.)

He was fortunate to have spent five years in Nashville,

allowing him to use his creative ability writing music. He returned to Key West to continue his life as an entertainer and songwriter. He played at the Full Moon Saloon, Captain Tony's, Turtle Kraals open-mike night, Tennessee Williams Theatre and Red Barn Theater.

He proceeded to get his captain's license so he could enjoy his love of boats and navigation of the ocean and the Great Lakes. He spent many winters

helping to bale Christmas trees with his brother in law, John Provo, and nephews Mike and Mark Pierce.

He spent his summers at their boathouse camp in Cape Vincent, N.Y., where he met LuAnn Docteur, who was his partner for the last three years of his very active life. Chuck loved being on the water in his Contender, taking anyone who would go out for a ride or to dinner or to watch sunset or

fireworks on the lakes!

Family will receive friends from 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009, at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church, with a memorial Mass at 5 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials maybe directed to the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys, P.O. Box 5816, Key West, FL 33045.

The Dean-Lopez Funeral Home is entrusted with all arrangements.

Obituary courtesy of Key West Citizen

To report a Brother's passing, send the Obituary to Randy Picardat at rpicardat@comcast.net

The Board of Trustees of $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ Fraternity International

Web Publishing Help Required

The Board of Trustees is looking for help taking the $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ website to the next level. We need your help!

$\Gamma\Delta\Psi$'s website has evolved over the past 21 months. Many of you probably rediscovered $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ by Googleing "Gamma Delta Psi" and finding the link to the site. The website has served us well but it is in need of a major update and overhaul. If you haven't visited the website in a while here's the URL <http://www.gammadeltapsi.com>. Constructive criticism welcomed!

The current website committee is composed of Kenny Martin (Gamma Theta) and Bill Schmitt (Gamma Xi). Kenny is our Adobe Photoshop graphics Guru. Bill has some basic web publishing skills (HTML, CSS, CGI Scripts and Adobe Flash) and has a basic knowledge of Adobe Photoshop.

We are looking for other potential committee members willing to commit their time, knowledge and skills so that we can turn the website into a professional marketing tool for $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ and a portal for alumni.

We are looking for people (not necessarily Brothers) with advanced HTML skills, PHP, MySQL, SSL secure web forms and knowledge of how to set up password protected web directories.

If you have these skills or know of someone that has them and is willing to help us, contact me at william.j.schmitt@gmail.com. Unfortunately, the BOT can't afford to pay someone but if you are looking for a project that could be a resume builder, contact us.

Bill Schmitt
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Happy New Year from the Board of Trustees!

Happy New year to all! I hope everyone's holiday season was a good one.

In the last few months the Board of Trustees has been busy with a number of tasks and projects. Most exciting of these has been the Crescent Club formed to rejuvenate Beta Alpha in Hopewell, VA. Brothers Stockdale, Picardat and Johnnie Smith have been guiding and mentoring this group of young men and have an induction date in February in mind to induct new brothers for the first time in far too many years! All brothers are invited to join in the ceremonies and celebration.

In preparing for this, and future Crescent Clubs, a number of things of been addressed, reviewed, adjusted or added:

- A "Start-up Kit" has been put together to be used with young groups.
- As part of this, the pledge manual has been updated, and is now called the Education Manual
- Letters of invitation and letters of explanation to the parents have been written or revised.
- A Big Brother program has been initiated, where alumni are paired with pledges to act as a pen pal / big brother in the hopes of connecting the young with their history, and provide them with some sage guidance.
- A new set of ceremonial robes has been produced
- The website, which has been an amazing addition to the resources of $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$, continues to be revised and updated. Go visit and send

your comments and suggestions to Bill Schmitt

- The History has been updated and will be reflected in the Educational Manual.

Other things that have been happening.....:

- The southern Brothers continue to meet at 2nd Saturday breakfasts and Chapter lunches
- T-Shirts have been ordered to provide to anyone who gives their time and energy to help move GDP forward.

All these tasks lead toward one goal – To have $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ vibrant and a force in high schools! This goal involves 3 projects:

- Have all the tools in place! This includes updating all material and putting them into one package – a "Start Up Kit" that anyone could use as their resources
- A marketing plan, including a "How To" process, so that brothers that wish to start or rejuvenate a chapter, do not lack the resources.
- Enthuse and recruit alumni to provide some experience, wisdom and guidance to some young men in forming a Crescent Club.

The Board of Trustees and a few key brothers have worked to ensure the first two bases are covered. These will be presented and distributed at the Conclave at the end of April.

We need YOU for the third part. Get on the bandwagon and take on a project that will enrich your heart and brotherhood...See you in April in Pennsylvania!

Valentine's Day? Sister Pin!



Prices (in \$US)

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 10 k Gold Sister Pin | \$75.00 |
| Goldgloss Sister Pin | \$60.00 |
| Engraving (up to 12 letters & spaces) | \$5.00 |
| US Shipping | \$8.00 |
| CDN Shipping | \$15.00 |

Gamma Delta Psi sister pins and other Fraternity jewelry will be ordered on January 11, 2010...hopefully in time for Valentine's Day! If you would like to purchase pins, contact Bill Schmitt at william.j.schmitt@gmail.com.

Alexander J Wurts 2010 New Years Resolutions

1. A re-activated Beta Alpha Chapter at Hopewell High School.
2. New Crescent Clubs & Chapters in VA, ON and elsewhere.
3. A more concerned Alumni that supports and oversees these new Crescent Clubs and Chapters.
4. A productive and successful Conclave in Wilkes-Barre, PA.
5. A Fraternity that does a better job of honoring the past contributions of Brothers.
6. Good health to all my Brothers!

$\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ Board of Trustees

- Mark Laminman $\Gamma\Xi$ (Chairman)
- Joe Italia $\Gamma\Xi$ (Treasurer)
- Bill Schmitt $\Gamma\Xi$ (Secretary)
- Troy Adams $\Gamma\Lambda$ (Expansion - North)
- Kenneth Martin $\Gamma\Theta$ (Website & GRIP)
- Kirk McClure BA
- Randy Picardat $\Gamma\Xi$ (Expansion— South & $\Gamma\Delta\Psi$ Alumni Association)
- Johnnie Smith $B\Psi$

If you would like to serve on the Board of Trustees or help out with a specific project, contact Mark Laminman at laminman@amtelecom.net



The Board of Trustees will reconvene their weekly Wednesday Night Skype Conference Call on January 13th. To join the conversation contact Joe Italia at witalia@cogeco.ca

