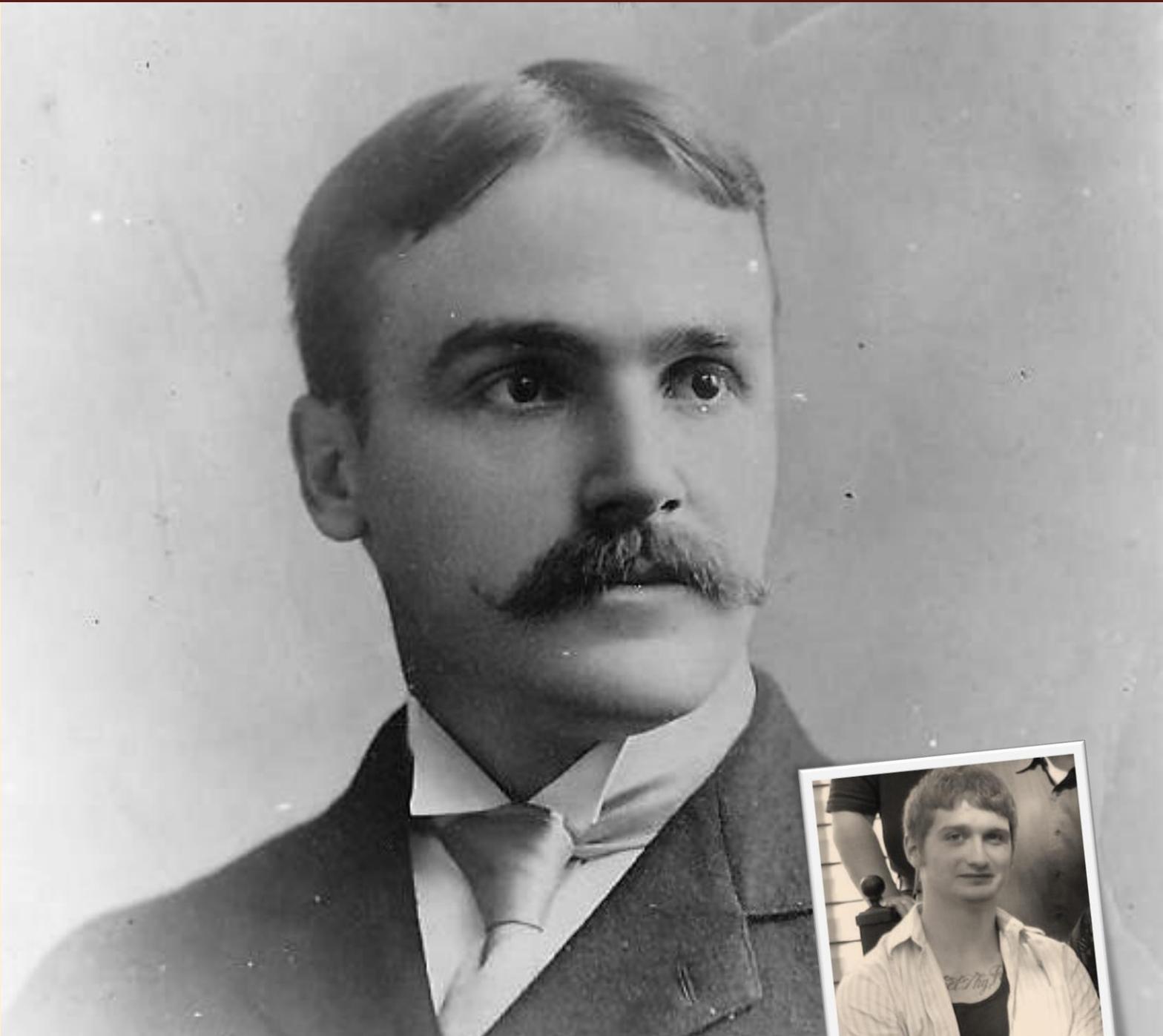


THE GRIP

QUARTERLY MAGAZINE · WINTER 2011



JOHN JAY LEGACY

FOUNDING MEMBER ALEXANDER JAY WURTS (ALPHA #4) & JOSH JONES (BETA ALPHA #309)

IN THIS ISSUE: GET YOUR GAMMA FIX ON EVERYTHING GOING ON IN THE CRESCENT:
ORDER OF THE GRAND CRESCENT, ARCHIVES, CHAPTER REPORTS, OLD SCHOOL
BROTHERHOOD, ALUMNI REUNIONS, FUTURE EVENTS, AND MORE.

THE GRIP

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EDITOR

"... Just when I thought I was out, they keep pulling me back in ..."

- Al Pacino as 'Michael Corleone', *Godfather III*

The often quoted (and equally misquoted) line above is exactly how I am feeling these days, and with good reason.

Those of you that actually read my former quarterly diatribes on these pages may recall from the Spring 2011 Edition of the Crescent Magazine that I had promised – *pledged* – to retire and hang it up for good, this time. Yeah, just like the other half dozen times before.

Well, I did just that for about as long as I could muster before frustration conquered sanity, reason and common sense. I remain an insufferable glutton for punishment, however, on occasion need reminding and nevertheless, tend to dip back in precarious waters even when the outcome is known.

In my brief absence, I waited patiently, clinging to a thread of false optimism, hoping that a kindly sort, perhaps a rejuvenated Alumnus or promising young Active Brother with something to prove, would grab the reins and lead the way.

I sat idle on the peripheral, slowly depleted of faith that a Good Soul would possibly answer with assuredness and conviction my invitation to fill the vacancy as Editor.

To no avail, there was no cavalry to the rescue, no Phoenix rising up from the ashes, no late fourth quarter charge ...

Silence. Nothing. Crickets.

It neither surprises nor disappoints me that the call went unanswered, but only serves as a candid reminder that the Fraternity we all espouse, admire, revere and wax poetic over, in its current incarnation is inarguably and woefully incapable of self-sustenance, and languishes in dire need of support in every way imaginable.

So, I am back for better or worse, for the moment, armed with benign and altruistic intentions, at the invitation of the Board of Trustees, as interim *gatekeeper* to fill the pages of a journal that is almost a third way into its second century, until a bona fide replacement (successor) steps forward.

For those interested: It's the worst possibly paying job, the hours are horribly long, ideally suited for an insomniac workaholic, and the benefits – well, you'll just have to decide for yourself if keeping afloat a 132 year-old legacy is worth the investment of time, energy, thought and prayers. Blood, sweat and tears are non-negotiable accompaniments to the burden of Torch bearer. Welcome to Martyrdom, Brothers.

Now, skip ahead two Seasons, a pair of Grand Brother Inductions this past June and October, and a litany of emails, gatherings, Skype meetings, and we find ourselves at the epicentre of indecision, again; asking aloud, "Where do we

go from here?"

"What's Next?" has been a popular topic lately amongst members of Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors. I'll defer the big question to the very capable hands of Grand Brother Randy Picardat (BOT) and Brother John Cobb (BOA), to tackle in their respective Chairman's Messages.

Most pleasing is the enthusiasm of the current generation of Active Brothers in Beta Alpha Chapter and their College compatriots of Eta Chapter and Iota Chapter.

Collectively, they're a great bunch, with fresh ideas and creative initiatives on how to grow Gamma. Get to know to them, you'll be impressed with our future leaders and builders, not just of the Fraternity, but Society.

Where would we be without the selfless contributions of Alumni Brother Dorsey Howard?

Lost, incomplete and wanting, is the best that I can answer.

Don't miss a word of Dorsey's latest offerings as he checks in with four articles: *'The Holy Grail' of Gamma Delta Psi Pins*, *The Historical Society of Gamma Delta Psi*, *Chester Crescent Club*, and the cover story of *Gamma Cousins*, guaranteed to make you glad you hung around this long and start a subscription to www.ancestry.com.

Every word that follows is equally well-scripted and poignant. Ditto, the eclectic collage of photographs posted in three pages of "Old School Brotherhood".

My appreciation to all of the "Usual Suspects" of Alumni that have collaborated to make this issue one of the fattest and most complete issues in recent memory.

A special thanks to Kay Rowe, International Sweetheart of 1972, for her heartfelt recollections, and to Brother Kirk McClure, whose prodigious efforts are not fully evident through the following pages, but admired and acknowledged.

I also apologize for what appears to be a frightening proliferation of my chubby mug in just about every photo; evidently, I seem to be a favorite subject of Brother Dave Bartlett, *click, click, clicking away* ... Rest assured, my vanity left the same day I retired my slim fitting Levi's (LOL).

Lastly, in case you didn't notice, I have gone back to the beloved moniker, "The Grip", for good this time. I am a slow, stubborn student, learning its never wise to mess with History or Tradition.

Read on, Good Brothers.

Michael Kuch

Chairman's Message

GAMMA DELTA PSI BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RANDY PICARDAT
GAMMA DELTA PSI – GAMMA EPSILON
GAMMA PSI – BETA

As 2011 draws to an end, sadly Gamma Delta Psi remains with only one active Chapter. The Brothers of Beta Alpha are proudly representing the Fraternity but are the lone Chapter in what once was a multi-chapter international organization that stretched across North America.

While we have had leads and promises of Crescent Clubs in Toronto, New Haven, Chester and Port Allegany, none have come to be as of this time.

A number of factors have combined to make the formation of a Crescent Club a slow process; however, the biggest seems to be a way to motivate the young men interested in Gamma Delta Psi into taking action to start the process.

The youth of today face many distractions that were not present during the heyday of Gamma Delta Psi. The world is at their finger tips through electronics and this sometimes competes with the face-to-face social interactions that are needed to operate a chapter successfully.

We must work and find a means to tie this electronic world to the traditional values and teachings of the Fraternity. Once we can find the formula to capture and retain the interest of these young men, it will become easier to proceed with expansion.

Gamma Delta Psi has seen some wonderful gatherings of the Brotherhood during 2011 starting with the Conclave held jointly with Gamma Psi Fraternity in May, the induction of Grand Brother Bill Fermoile in July, and finally, the induction of Gamma Psi's Grand Brother Larry Belcher in October.

So there has been a number of events where the Actives and the Alumni have had the chance to meet and exchange ideas and outlooks for the future.

What Gamma Delta Psi needs is each of you reading this to promote the Fraternity to the teenage young men that you know.

We must get the youth of today interested in the Fraternity and then we must steer them along a successful path for transitioning from a Crescent Club into a Chapter. We must also then support each new chapter in every aspect possible as it operates.

Expansion continues to be the top priority of the Board of Trustees as we work to move Gamma Delta Psi into the spotlight we once had as a fraternal power house.

Through the help and dedication of each of you, we will once again expand across this broad land.



GAMMA DELTA PSI COUSINS

An Incredible Discovery of Living History

DORSEY HOWARD

BETA ALPHA 58

I don't know if you've ever had what I call a "Eureka" experience.

I can best describe such an experience by defining the Greek word "Eureka", which means ... "I Have Found It!" Brother Josh Jones and I shared such an experience on the afternoon of Saturday, October 1, 2011.

It was a perfectly beautiful early Autumn day. We were lost. Well, not quite lost. You can't actually get lost in rural southern Chesterfield County, Virginia. If you drive too far south you run into the Appomattox River. We were slightly north of the river wandering around a network of two-lane country roads looking for a particular road on which Brother Don Graves resides.

Brother Don was hosting the annual Beta Gamma Chapter Reunion cookout and we were invited. Josh had a GPS component on his cell phone but we were so far out in the *boonies* that there was no GPS signal. We seized the opportunity presented by our leisurely but somewhat meandering drive to engage in an enjoyable conversation.

We exchanged interesting observations and opinions about our individual lives and experiences. I get much satisfaction in learning about the aspirations of someone in his age group. He's young enough to be my grandson. Josh is one of the active brothers in the re-born Beta Alpha Chapter in Hopewell, Virginia, of which I am an alumnus. I'm Beta Alpha Brother # 58. Josh is # 309. My induction year was 1959 and Josh's is 2010.

It goes without saying that my world and Josh's world are light years apart. The common denominator that binds Josh and me together is our cherished Brotherhood of Gamma Delta Psi. Josh is my Brother. And, as we read in our Induction Rituals and in the wording of our chapter charters, "Once A Brother, Always A Brother".

Even though our induction years are more than half a century apart, we have an unbreakable bond initially forged by four young men in New Haven, Connecticut on April 13, 1879, when, more than 132 years ago, they founded Gamma Delta Psi.

Eventually I asked Brother Josh the nitty-gritty question that I always ask someone his age, "Josh, if you could have any one of your dreams for your future come true, what would it be?" Much to my surprise he only paused a couple of seconds before he replied, "I would like to be enrolled in the John Jay School of Criminal Justice and Law in New York City".

It was apparent to me that his response was not something that he had to think long and hard about. It was on the tip of his tongue because it was right up front in his mind. I was quite honestly stunned by his reply. His dreams were not vague and blurred but were specific and entirely focused.

Josh's reply to my question immediately brought a curious smile to my face. I had only recently completed, aided by Canadian Brother David Bartlett, an extensive genealogical research project focused on the life of our Primary Founder, Alexander Jay Wurts.

I remembered reading Brother Wurts' obituary from the New York Times dated January, 1932 which stated, "He was an associate of George Westinghouse and Andrew Carnegie and was a descendant of John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States". Brother Dave and I completed a family tree chart for Founding Brother Wurts on ancestry.com which displayed his genealogy back to his 3rd Great Grandfather, John Jay.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

John Jay was a Founding Father of the United States. He was President of the Continental Congress, First Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Governor of New York, U.S. Ambassador to France and Spain, Author of the final peace treaty (Jay Treaty) which settled the disputes between Britain, the U.S. and France following the Revolutionary War and was co-author of the Federalist Papers along with Alexander Hamilton and James Madison. Only the fact that he was away from Philadelphia doing the business of the Continental Congress prevented him from signing the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Needless to say, Brother Josh's mention of John Jay immediately piqued my curiosity. I asked him, "May I ask why you want to attend that particular college?" Josh didn't hesitate for a second, and replied "Because I'm a descendant of John Jay".

Wanting to make certain Josh and I were talking about the same John Jay, I asked him, "Do you mean the famous John Jay who was a Founding Father of the U.S.?" to which he instantly finished my list of famous Jay accolades by reciting all of the other famous events, titles and accomplishments which I have just listed.

I sat there in silence for a few seconds before I asked him if he was aware that the Founder of Gamma Delta Psi was Alexander Jay Wurts who was a John Jay descendant. Then I added that the "J" in Wurts name was not an initial but the family name "Jay".

Josh had a shocked look on his face while he assimilated what I had just told him. Of course, like all of us, he had memorized the information about Founder Wurts during his pledge period but it had never sunk in that the "J" was a "Jay".

Then Josh filled in the missing pieces by telling me that his maternal grandfather was Eric Jay Wilkinson and was from New Haven, Connecticut. His grandfather had told him many times that the "Jay" in his middle name was in honor of his famous ancestor, John Jay. Josh had researched the life of John Jay without ever having made the connection between Founder Alexander Jay Wurts and his own illustrious ancestor.

Josh made a quick call on his cell phone to his mother who confirmed everything that he had been telling me. Josh was, indeed, a direct descendant of Founding Father John Jay through his mother's family tree. How distant the common ancestor might be with whom he and Founder Brother Wurts share the common link is in the process of being established as of this writing.

For the present, let it be known that Josh Jones and Alexander Jay Wurts are distant cousins without the shadow of a doubt. Josh is our living link with the Founder of Gamma Delta Psi.

As an interesting aside in this incredible story, several of the alumni brothers who share a passion for discovering the history of Gamma Delta Psi have wondered over the past years and months whether it might be possible to make contact with a descendant of any of our Founding Brothers. Brothers Michael Kuch, David Bartlett, Grand Brother Kevin Stockdale and I have conjectured about how we could find a living descendant.

I have emailed several people who have family tree data on ancestry.com indicating that they share common ancestry with our four Founding Brothers, Dann, Jackson, Jones and Wurts. None of them have a close enough family lineage with any of the Founders to be a source of ongoing contact.

And then, out of the blue, a "Eureka" experience of incredible significance is witnessed right in the midst of the Crescent. As several of us said this past weekend when discussing this amazing discovery, "It Was Meant To Be".

I wish each of you could have been with me during the weekend of October 15 when Josh and I announced this living history connection to an assembled group of brothers including Brother Michael Kuch and later that evening to Grand Brother Kevin Stockdale.

The look of stunned surprise and instant elation on their faces was worth more than gold. No one could ever have predicted that, after scouring internet records and musty old paper documents for years, we would find the ultimate connection with our Primary Founding Brother living right in our midst.



GAMMA PSI FRATERNITY BOARD OF ADVISORS

Chairman's Message

JOHN COBB
GAMMA PSI – BETA
GAMMA DELTA PSI – TAU PI

I feel a great sense of honor and accomplishment having just concluded over the last year, the two inductions into The Order of the Grand Crescent for Grand Brothers Randy Picardat #2 and Larry Belcher #3. I have always felt it was our duty to recognize those brothers that have given their all and have meant so much to our beloved fraternity.

As I stated at the last recent induction, in the State of the Fraternity Report:

We are alive with new growth and potential, our oldest active chapter, Eta at Longwood University was founded nearly 20 years ago; when most thought there were no more active brothers, Eta Brothers found us four years ago with our torch in their hands still burning. Remarkably, even on their own for much of these two decades, they never let our fraternity go dormant. Their fraternal heart sparked others, which in a relatively short time period, with the help of many outstanding alumni, resulted in new life on both the high school and college levels.

In the course of a year, there was a rebirth of Gamma Delta Psi in Hopewell High School at Beta Alpha Chapter and within Gamma Psi a New Crescent Club was formed at Bridgewater College that became Iota Chapter. In both of these expansion efforts it was alumni brothers who had inspired their sons and encouraged them to experience fraternal life.

Obviously, every attempt to rebirth chapters or form crescent clubs has not been successful in the last couple of years; there have been repeated expansion attempts at both of our levels, for ΓΨ the most recent was at Rappahannock Community College. Never-the-less, our Brotherhood continues to grow, we are as our motto states, "Gaining Ever, Failing Never", our ranks are continually expanding; in the last six months within our three active chapters, we have inducted 16 New Active Brothers.

Today, these three chapters have 30 Active Brothers and nearly 20 potentials (pledges). Less us not forget that just two years ago we had a total of 4 active brothers altogether. It is my hope that our active and much younger alumni brothers will work together to begin hosting yearly conventions; they will fill positions within our governing body and with their vision and leadership, we will continue to expand into the distant future.

As for our next upcoming event in 2012, please see the attached article and our Board of Advisor Proposal to hold a Brotherhood Education Weekend in the spring of next year.

The Board of Advisors (BOA), which I currently set on with Grand Brother Danny Wyatt, Grand Brother Randy Picardat, Grand Brother Larry Belcher, Brother Shane Grissom and Brother Michael Kuch, welcome any and all help from alumni, to include those who will attend an active chapter weekly meeting once in a while to those who want to join our board. Please contact anyone of us to offer your assistance.



Γ Δ Ψ

Order of The Grand Crescent

IN HONOR OF GRAND BROTHER BILL FERMOILE

MICHAEL KUCH
EDITOR

The gathering was intimate, the occasion revered, the award decades past due.

Those congregating in the pristine setting of Grand Island, New York this past June to honor Bill Fermoile (Alpha Eta, Alpha Tau, Rho Alpha) as the 9th Member inducted in the "Order of the Grand Crescent" of Gamma Delta Psi, enjoyed a memorable day of celebration and spirited Brotherhood.

Grand Brother Fermoile traveled from California with his grandson, spoke briefly, but eloquently thanking those in attendance, and later recounted his days as National President and his immeasurable admiration, love and respect for Fraternity and the friends he has made, the Brotherhood he has enjoyed.

Bill was joined by more than two dozen Alumni from several Chapters, including representatives from Virginia, New York and Ontario and a small, but enthusiastic contingency of Active Brothers of Beta Alpha Chapter.

Gamma Delta Psi Grand Brothers Doug Jamieson, Kevin Stockdale, Barry Yeates and Gamma Psi Grand Brothers Randy Picardat and Larry Belcher attended, and individually addressed the congregation during both the Ceremony and Reception segments of the event.

Joe Williams – a long-time fellow Alpha Eta Brother – served as gracious and congenial host of the Induction Ritual at his lovely home on the rural shores of the Niagara River.

Several wives also attended the evening dinner held later at Fortuna's Restaurant in Niagara Falls, NY.



*Grand Brother
William Fermoile*

*National President
1950*



**GRAND BROTHERS
JAMIESON, FERMOILE, STOCKDALE, YEATES & PICARDAT**



**BETA ALPHA CHAPTER
ALUMNI BROTHERS (B): HOWARD, STOCKDALE, JONES
ACTIVE BROTHERS (F): JONES, RIGNEY, REYES**



**AT THE HORSESHOE FALLS
BROTHERS BARTLETT, BELCHER, ITALIA, COBB & KUCH**

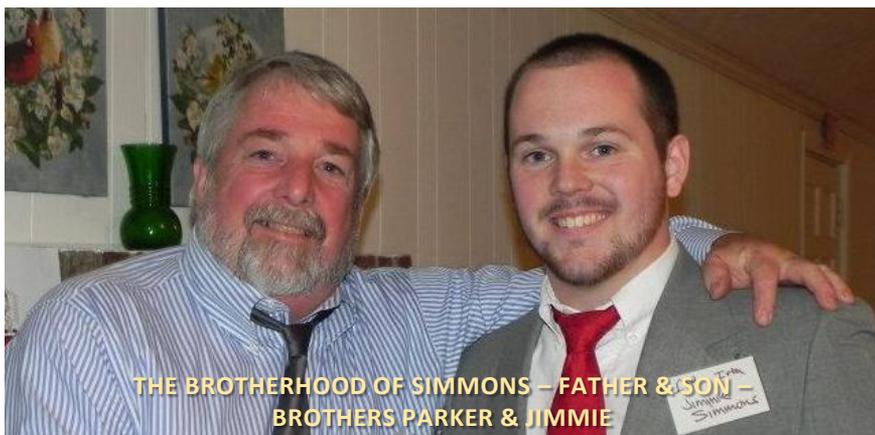


GRAND BROTHER BILL FERMOILE & GRANDSON

ΓΨ

Order of The Grand Crescent

IN HONOR OF GRAND BROTHER LARRY BELCHER



THE BROTHERHOOD OF SIMMONS – FATHER & SON –
BROTHERS PARKER & JIMMIE



JIM GOGAN & SHANE GRISSOM



"THE GRAND CRESCENT OF VIRGINIA"
SOUTHERN GRAND BROTHERS STOCKDALE, WYATT, PICARDAT, BELCHER



THE BELCHER FAMILY



LLOYD DUNNAVANT
- "KING OF ROASTS" -



YOUNG BROTHERS ENJOYING THE EVENING'S "ROAST & TOAST"

Brother Education Day

BRIDGEWATER, VA – SPRING 2012

JOHN COBB

CHAIRMAN - GAMMA PSI FRATERNITY

On the 21st Anniversary of our first "Brother Education Day", the Chairmen of the Board of Trustees and Board of Advisors propose that we, the alumni of Gamma Delta Psi and Gamma Psi Fraternities, conduct our 4th such event during that time span.

The purpose of this Brotherhood Education Weekend is to inform and teach the active Brothers about various topics important to our Fraternity. It is our belief that this weekend of enlightenment will demonstrate our purpose, history, and traditions in a more meaningful way for our younger active Brothers to build upon.

Secondly, the increased knowledge of topics such as chapter operations and civic projects will provide them with a business model to empower our actives in running our fraternity in the most efficient manner possible.

The last time we held such an event was at Eta Chapter at Longwood University four years ago for a handful of our last remaining active brothers; since that time we have experienced chapter rebirth at Beta Alpha (Hopewell High School) on the Gamma Delta Psi side, and a new chapter at Bridgewater College (Iota) on the Gamma Psi side.

Many Alumni Brothers have said that this event was the spark that relit our torch. Without an active presence in high schools and colleges, Fraternity becomes fond memories and good lifelong friends. New, younger brothers, not only add to our Brotherhood, but give us a sense of purpose and the growth we need as a family to carry on our traditions. Today, with three active chapters and multiple opportunities to re-birth chapters and form new crescent clubs and with 33 active Brothers and many perspectives (pledges), the potential that will exist after this "Enlightenment" in raising both Gamma Delta Psi and Gamma Psi Fraternities to new heights is nearly unlimited.

This time the fire is already lit in our torch, it is just a matter of adding more fuel!

Proposed List of Educational Topics, include: Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity History, Gamma Psi Fraternity History, Prospective Members (Pledging) / Hazing Prohibition, Chapter Operations, including Fundraising and Civic Projects.

In addition, Workshops are being suggested in "Leadership Dynamics" and "Selling the Fraternity".

We propose this Brotherhood Education Weekend be held sometime in the spring of 2012 at a time and place when it is most convenient for the actives. Currently, we suggest the weekend of March 31st and April 1st at Iota Chapter located at Bridgewater College.

We have discussed these plans with various distinguished Alumni and already have commitments from many of them to assist in teaching some of these proposed topics (including Grand Brother Kevin Stockdale, Grand Brother Danny Wyatt, Grand Brother Randy Picardat, Grand Brother Larry Belcher, Brother Mike Kuch, Brother Parker Simmons, Brother Lloyd Dunnavant, Brother Joe Italia, Brother Rick Tutwiler, Brother Dorsey Howard and Brother John Cobb).

If you are interested in teaching or assisting in other ways to this effort, please let anyone on either of our Boards know of your desire. If you think of another topic that we should be teaching, please let us know that as well. More details will be provided in future editions of this newsletter.

We believe this is one of the best ways for the alumni to assist their younger active brothers.



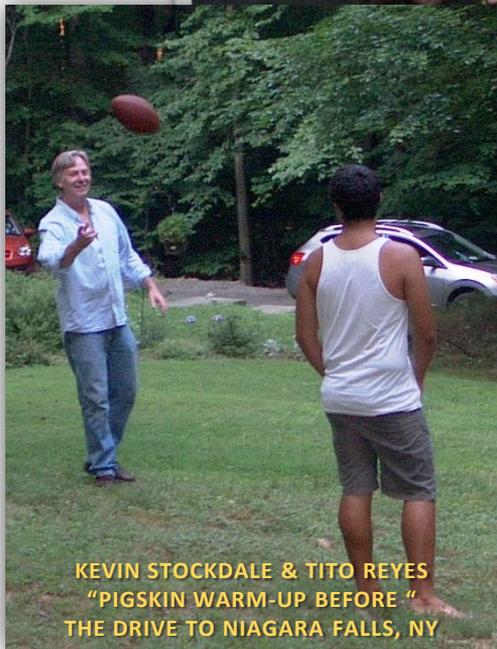
BETA ALPHA

HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL



*Hanging Out:
Actives & Alumni Brothers*

- (L-R) Josh Jones*
- Jonathon Rigney*
- Wayne Markland*
- Tito Reyes*
- James Hawthorne*
- Randy Picardat*



KEVIN STOCKDALE & TITO REYES
"PIGSKIN WARM-UP BEFORE "
THE DRIVE TO NIAGARA FALLS, NY



"TRACK DAY"
WESLEY WILSON VS. BUD WEYLEND

BA of ΓΔΨ

IOTA

BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE



CONNOR McCOLLOUGH GAMMA PSI · IOTA

The Iota Chapter Brothers here at Bridgewater College are currently involved in a few efforts to further the growth of the Chapter.

First, we are working to get the name of Gamma Psi spread around the campus and to those in the administration, as a group of people that is worth having around campus.

We are getting involved with groups on campus who do community service and other campus development not as individuals but as Gamma Psi. Hopefully, if this works we will end up being able to be the first non-academic, non-strictly religious fraternity on campus. This would obviously help lead to the growth of Gamma Psi.

Secondly, and most importantly, as of Tuesday, October 25th, we have begun our pledge process for new Brothers. Initiation date is still to be determined, though we are shooting for end of November.

Of the 18 or so people interested in joining Iota Chapter, we currently have seven pledges. Hopefully, they will all make it and our numbers here will be 25 Brothers not all of them active.

Finally I, Connor McCullough, will be the correspondence connection to Iota Chapter.



"Recruitment Day" at Rappahannock Community College on August 18, 2011

Sisters of Alpha Beta Psi Sorority of Longwood University join Brothers of Iota Chapter and Alumni of Gamma Psi Fraternity

I of ΓΨ

Historical Society of Gamma Delta Psi

INAUGURAL MEETING

DORSEY HOWARD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY COORDINATOR

It was indeed a pleasure to welcome fourteen Gamma Delta Psi and Gamma Psi brothers to my home in Chester, VA on Saturday morning, October 15, 2011, for the first ever History Round Table Meeting for the two fraternities. We were honored to have as a participant Grand Brother Larry Belcher and his young son. Grand Brother Larry was to be officially inducted as Grand Brother later that same evening at a separate event.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a discussion about the formation of an informal group of brothers who share a passion for collecting and preserving the documents and artefacts from our glorious past. The need to enlist the help of a group of interested brothers to develop a plan for inventorying and preserving the archives has long been recognized.

Our modern-era historians, Grand Brother Kevin Stockdale, and current Historian and Archivist Brother Michael Kuch, have both shared the burden of maintaining and protecting our archived materials which are housed in dozens of storage boxes and a filing cabinet. The archives are currently located in the basement of Brother Michael's home in Ontario, having been previously maintained in similar fashion by Grand Brother Kevin for many years.

A perfect opportunity to hold such a meeting presented itself when brothers assembled from Canada and Virginia to celebrate the Grand Brother Induction of Larry Belcher in the Chester area of Chesterfield County on the weekend of October 14th through 16th. Ground work for convening such a meeting was laid out in email and Facebook chat communications between Brothers Dave Bartlett, Michael Kuch, others and I during the several weeks preceding the Induction Weekend. My wife, Debby, and I decided that the most practical location for a group meeting was our house in the Town of Chester, just five minutes away from the Comfort Inn Hotel where the out-of-town brothers were staying.

Following an early morning Southern-Style breakfast at the Golden Corral Restaurant in Colonial Heights honoring our visiting Canadian brothers, we met on Dewberry Lane in Chester for our history round table discussion. A most gratifying attendance of fourteen brothers from both active and alumni chapters was noted. Brother Michael Kuch displayed a priceless assortment of historical publications, documents and artefacts pertaining to the history of our two fraternities which were enthusiastically examined by the assembled brothers.



(1) Josh Jones, Bud Weyland, Dave Bartlett, (2) Luke Soldat, (3) Michael Kuch, (4) Jim Hinds, Johnnie Smith, Don Graves (5) Dorsey Howard, Parker Simmons, Joe Italia, Craig Williams. Not shown in photo and also attending were Grand Brothers Danny Wyatt and Larry Belcher.

Two events transpired during the discussion that will be recorded permanently in our collective history. The first was the donation and presentation by alumni Brother Marshall Craig Williams (Beta Tau #47) of the earliest known version of a Gamma Delta Psi fraternity pin. The over-sized flat surfaced pin had originally been the property of Alpha Chapter Brother #224, Arthur Clinton Treat Beers, of New Haven, Connecticut. It is believed to date from around 1898 and is the only known surviving example of the earliest pin design. The second event was the introduction of Beta Alpha Chapter Brother Josh Jones (Beta Alpha #309) who we have recently discovered shares common ancestry with our Primary Founder, Brother Alexander Jay Wurts, Alpha #4. Both Brother Josh and Founding Brother Wurts descend from U.S. Founding Father John Jay of New York. It goes without saying that those two events absolutely thrilled and inspired everyone who witnessed them.

Thanks to a most comprehensive and easy-to-follow agenda composed in advance by Brother David Bartlett, the group was able to formulate a broad plan for cataloging, indexing and eventually digitalizing those publications, documents and artefacts that are significant in the histories of our fraternities. Realistically agreeing that such a massive project might take years to complete, the assembled brothers concluded that now is the time to begin.

Brother Michael Kuch left a large plastic storage box filled with historical publications, documents and photographs in Virginia as the source of material for a pilot project. Over the next several months a system will be developed for creating an inventory along with individual and master indexes that will make these materials much more useful when searching for names, dates and places pertaining to our history. Brother Joe Italia explained that he will assist us in developing online access to these materials once they are photographed or scanned.



A broad plan emerged which will involve sorting through portions of the previously unsearched materials in a methodical manner over an extended period of time until all of the historical paperwork and artefacts have been permanently cataloged, indexed, scanned and photographed. One suggested method for achieving this goal is to invite all interested brothers to attend a history workshop weekend at a location about halfway between Ontario and Virginia sometime in mid-2012. Canadian Brothers will bring several boxes of unsorted documents with them and the assembled brothers will spend the entire weekend working on the cataloging and indexing. This is envisioned as being a time of fellowship among the brothers as well as a focused and intensive archives management project.

Everyone who attended the meeting seemed to be in complete agreement that it was a most rewarding and productive discussion. Minutes were taken by Brother Dave Bartlett and the discussion was directed by Brother Dorsey Howard. Thanks to the informal nature of the event, the only titles designated were those of Recording Secretary and History Society Coordinator. There is no membership list and anyone who's interested in our history and is willing to donate their time and energy are considered to be members.

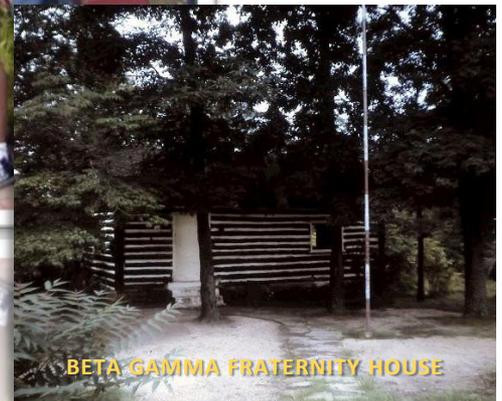
Thanks to everyone who attended and participated in this ground breaking history event. We look forward to many more such events in the future.

BETA GAMMA REUNION

CHESTER, VIRGINIA



Brother Don Graves (Front Center) and over three dozen of his Beta Gamma Brothers and invited Alumni and Actives from Virginia Chapters gather for the Annual Reunion Cookout at his home in Chester, VA.



BETA GAMMA FRATERNITY HOUSE

EARLY 1970S ERA PLEDGE CLASS

DON GRAVES

BETA GAMMA – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We had 38 Beta Gamma Brothers in attendance (at this year's Reunion) along with several alumni and active members of Beta Alpha, and of course, Grand Brother Randy Picardat.

This was our 5th annual reunion with next year's event in the works. In the past, we have had Brothers attending from such distant places as the state of Washington, Florida, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

The picture of the log cabin fraternity house is where I and about 100 plus Brothers were inducted into the crescent. We had the house from about 1960 until the early Seventies. As near as I can figure about 700 Fraternity meetings were held there along with things better not put in writing. The Fraternity was not only the focal point of our Brothers but much of our school.

1957 **BΓ** 2011

DISCOVERED AT LAST ...

The Holy Grail of Gamma Delta Psi Pins

DORSEY HOWARD
BETA ALPHA #58

In a letter dated September 2, 1941 to Brother William F. Buchanan (Alpha Eta #249, National Secretary of Gamma Delta Psi for the years 1941-1942, Co-Founder Brother Arthur H. Jackson (Alpha Charter #2), wrote in part, "Wurts should also be credited with the principal part of designing the pin. The idea that connected the Fraternity with the Crescent (moon) was that it was new and bound to grow.

I always thought that was pretty clever!" In referring to the original pin, Brother Buchanan later wrote, "It should be noted that the pin issued today is much smaller than the original pin designed and worn back in the early days of our organization."

With those tantalizing hints as to the appearance and size of the earliest Gamma Delta Psi pins, those of us who are fascinated with such historical details have been eagerly searching for evidence as to the details of the earliest pins. No written evidence has been found, neither photographs nor written descriptions, other than the few words quoted above. Although several different early pin designs are known, none of them seemed to fit the criteria of being noticeably larger than the modern pin versions which came along in the early 1900's.

A couple of months ago while attending the Gamma Delta Psi – Gamma Psi Alumni Breakfast (held every second Saturday of the month) in Colonial Heights, Virginia I noticed that Brother Marshall Craig Williams (Beta Tau #47 – Dinwiddie County High School), was wearing a recently acquired vintage pin. The size of the pin and its early design flat surface immediately caught my attention. It was obviously considerably larger than the modern pins. I instantly knew that this was one of the much-sought-after and never previously seen earliest pins.

The engraving on the pin indicated that it had been issued to Arthur C. T. Beers, Alpha Chapter #224. Brother Craig had won the pin in an eBay auction with a substantial winning bid.



I immediately began to research the background of the original owner of the pin, Brother Beers. The following is a biography that I wrote based on my research:

Arthur Clinton Treat Beers, also known as Arthur H. Beers, Gamma Delta Psi – Alpha Chapter # 224.

Arthur C. T. Beers, sometimes found in records as Arthur H. Beers, was born December 17, 1879 in New York City. He was the son of Henry Clay Beers and Emma J. Treat Beers. His father was alternately listed as having been born in Massachusetts and Connecticut. His mother was born in Connecticut. Known siblings were brother Harry T. Beers and sisters Grace and Jeannie. His father's occupation in the 1880 U.S. Census was listed as being "clerk in a store" with the family living at 345 4th. Avenue, New York City. That same census lists Brother Beers as being 5 months old and lists his name as being "Arthur H."

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Brother Arthur C. T. Beers graduated from Hillhouse High School in New Haven, Connecticut in 1900. He was inducted into Gamma Delta Psi fraternity, Alpha Chapter in 1898 as brother # 224. It should be noted that Brother Beers' birthday has been positively established from U. S. Government records which would lead us to calculate that he was 21 years old when he graduated from high school.

Arthur married Ruby Jeannie (or Jennie) Stevens in 1903. He worked as a "bank accountant" at the City Bank of New Haven. The couple lived at 251 Ellsworth Ave., New Haven in 1910. The 1910 Census listed no children for the Beers couple.

On June 20, 1912, Arthur Clinton Treat Beers made application to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. His application made in his own handwriting lists his birthday as being 17 Dec. 1879 and that he was 32 years old. His occupation was "banker" and his address was 251 Ellsworth Ave., New Haven, Connecticut.

He listed the following genealogy going back to his Revolutionary War ancestors:

Father: Henry Clay Beers- B. 1848 D.1891.

Mother: Emma Jane Treat- B. 1851.

Parents were married: 1871

Grandfather: Charles Clinton Beers- B. 1819 D. 1891.

Grandmother: Henrietta Gilbert – B. 1817 D. 1910.

Great Grandfather Father: John Beers- B. 1758 D. 1848

Great Grandmother: Betsy Clinton- B. 1770.

Brother Beers lists his Revolutionary War ancestor through his father's line as being his great-grandfather John Beers who was a Sergeant in Capt. Elisha Hopkins Company of Col. Samuel B. Webb's Regiment.

Brother Beers was accepted into S. A. R. Connecticut State Membership under National # 23500 and Connecticut State # 2016.

The 1920 Census lists two daughters, Betsy T. Beers and Janet Beers, both born in 1911. It's possible that they were twins but this has not been established. The family lived in an apartment house in Brooklyn, New York at the time. Arthur Beers' occupation was listed as "banking secretary".

The 1930 U.S. Census shows the Arthur Beers family living in Brooklyn, New York with his wife, Ruby S. Beers, age 50, and his two daughters, Janet C. and Betsy T., both age 18. Also living in the house was a servant. Brother Arthur was listed as being a "banker" and was 50 years of age.

The final public record originating during his lifetime located thus far was Brother Beers' World War II Military Draft Registration. The undated registration card was undoubtedly completed around 1940-1941. It is filled out in his own handwriting. He lists his full name as being Arthur Clinton Treat Beers, born 17 Dec. 1879 in New York City. His wife was listed as being Ruby S. Beers. The family lived at 333 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, Connecticut. Brother Beers' age was listed as being 62 years.

Records of the U. S. Social Security Death Index revealed that Arthur C. T. Beers died on 10 Nov. 1961 in New Haven, Connecticut, at the age of 82 shortly before what would have been his 83rd birthday.



On Saturday, October 15, 2011, the first Gamma Delta Psi – Gamma Psi History Round-Table meeting was held in Chester, Virginia.

Certainly the highlight of that meeting was the occasion of Brother Craig Williams (R) donating this highly historically significant Gamma Delta Psi (Arthur C. T. Beers) pin to Brother Michael Kuch (L), Gamma Delta Psi Archivist and Curator of the Fraternity Archives located in Toronto.

To Brother Craig Williams we extend our most profound gratitude for his generosity in donating this "Holy Grail" of pins to our archives.

OLD SCHOOL BROTHERHOOD



BETA ALPHA CHAPTER – HOPEWELL, VA – 1958

(1st Row - Seated) Pledges Larry Minter (BA 47), Franklin Emerson (BA 46), Danny Leggett (Never Inducted), Don "Dee" Wyatt (BA 45, Deceased - Nirvana Chapter).

(2nd Row - Seated) Bill Elliott (BA 37), David Borum (BA 38), Johnny Wellington (BA 21), J. Bunn "Bunny" Armstrong (BA 12 - Charter), Bill Zevgolis (BA 19 - Charter)

(3rd Row - Standing) Richard Taylor (BA 39), Ronnie Hall (BA 42, Deceased - Nirvana), Jimmy Cuddihy (BA 41), Byron Connelly (BA 34), Ronnie Wellington (BA 26, Deceased - Nirvana), Tony Taylor (BA 2 Charter, Deceased - Nirvana), Link Shannon (BA 9 Charter), Gerald Taylor (BA 5 Charter, Deceased - Nirvana), Robin Burge (BA 3 Charter).

(4th Row - Standing) Joe Webb (BA 44), Clem Rawlings (BA 36), Ray Curtis (BA 13 Charter), Lee Rickman (BA 23 Charter, Deceased - Nirvana), Wayne Harper (BA 43), Shirley Setchel (BA 15 Charter), Bobby Johnson (BA 35).

(L-R) Bob Fermoile (Alpha Eta 334), Grand Brother Bill Fermoile (Alpha Eta 305) - 1950 President Pro Temp ; Walter Mimnaugh (Alpha Eta) - National President; Jay McGouldrick (Alpha 698) -National Vice- President; Seated is Bill Widdowson (Alpha Eta 343).



NATIONAL BOARD OF GAMMA DELTA PSI
Bay Beach, Ontario
 June 1950

Photograph courtesy of Bill Fermoile

OLD SCHOOL BROTHERHOOD



BETA PHI CHAPTER
Earl Haig Secondary School
Toronto, Ontario
1968-69

*Image courtesy of Gregory Faraday
(Gamma Mu)*



GAMMA MU CHAPTER
Ridgeway High School
circa 1970

Image courtesy of Gregory Faraday



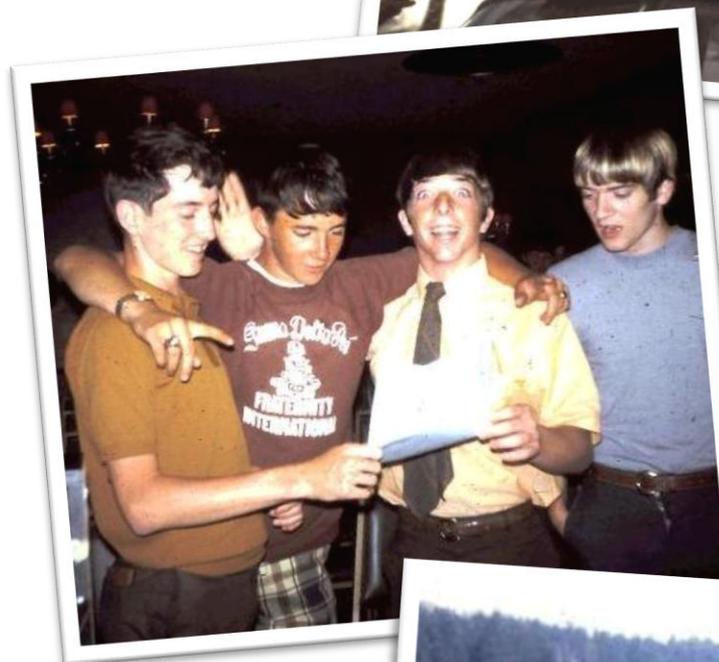
BETA SIGMA CHAPTER
Wasaga Beach, Ontario
1965

Photo courtesy of John Bell (Beta Sigma)

OLD SCHOOL BROTHERHOOD

CONVENTION 1969
The Chamberlain Hotel
Hampton, Virginia

(L-R) Eddie Cogle (Beta Pi), Parker Simmons (Beta Tau, Gamma Zeta) and Darrell Sears (Beta Psi)



(Far Left) Jack Parsons (Gamma Zeta) and (2nd from Right) Parker Simmons (Beta Tau, Gamma Zeta) sing Fraternity songs with fellow Convention Delegates



GAMMA DELTA CHAPTER
Northern Ontario
Circa 1970

Pete Maruk, Peter Bowen, Glenn Manderson, Andy Harding, Glenn Wakabayashi, Neil Fukumoto, Doug Sparks, Greg Barrett, Jim MacKenzie

1954 AΦ 2011

FIRST CANADIAN CHAPTER CELEBRATES 57TH YEAR

MICHAEL KUCH

INTERIM EDITOR

Over two dozen Alumni of Alpha Phi Chapter gathered for a three-day retreat at Blue Mountain Resort in Collingwood, Ontario in mid-September to celebrate its 57th Anniversary.

The Mother Chapter of Gamma Delta Psi in Canada, Alpha Phi was founded in 1954 at New Toronto High School and also drew membership from the student body enrolled at neighboring Mimico High School.

The Chapter boasts a record five Presidents of the former International Board of Control – Frank Wilson, Geoff Smith, Doug Jamieson, Mac Stoodley, Dan Schiralli. Doug Jamieson is Alpha Phi's lone Grand Brother.

The event was organized by John Melnyk and Paul Shirley.

Alpha Phi Honorary Membership was bestowed on three recipients: Bob Chaconas (Zeta Chapter) a long-time friend of the Chapter visiting from Maryland for the Reunion, Kurt Pleschke (Beta Sigma) and Michael Kuch (Gamma Alpha).



**JOHN MELNYK (L) AND PAUL SHIRLEY (R) PRESENT PLAQUES TO ALPHA PHI "HONORARY" BROTHERS
– MICHAEL KUCH, KURT PLESCHKE AND BOB CHACONAS –**

International Sweetheart

KAY ROWE

GAMMA THETA CHAPTER SWEETHEART

A few days ago, Kirk McClure called and said that he and Mike Kuch would like me to write an article for the newsletter. I was honored to be asked, and the following is a short excerpt of some of my experiences with Gamma Delta Psi.

I have been a Gamma Theta Sweetheart since 1971. I knew many Gamma Theta members at the time, as I had lived in Petersburg all my life. My dad owned the Blue Star Drive-In Theater for 34 years, so I would see lots of the brothers while I was working there. I also knew a lot of the members because I was good friends with Wild Sound Unlimited, the most popular local band during the past and present years. Several of their members are Gamma brothers.

Eventually, I was invited to be sweetheart and was voted as Gamma Theta's Sweetheart for 1971. I remember going to all the meetings and becoming friends with more and more members from different chapters. The members always treated me so kindly and were so welcoming to me. I would attend most, if not all of the meetings during my active time as sweetheart. The meetings always seemed to turn into a social event after formal matters were finished. I fondly recall Gamma Theta having a birthday cake for me, and I was so surprised. It was such a nice gesture. I was lucky to keep the members as friends throughout all these years. I would not date brothers, just for that reason- I wanted to remain friends with them and be able to serve as a sweetheart to all of them. I remember all the Matoaca dances, and dancing with lots of the brothers. What good times we had back in the day.

In 1972, I was invited to attend the Gamma Delta Psi International Convention which was held in Canada. There were hundreds of members there from all over the U.S. and Canada. The Canadian brothers loved my southern accent. At one point they wanted to record my voice. Anyway, near the end of the convention, there was a vote for International Sweetheart. I was totally and pleasantly surprised to be announced as International Sweetheart. I was presented by Board of Trustees' brother Bob Guthrie, with a beautiful pin encrusted with twenty silver pearls, the Gamma Delta Psi Crest, and a chain with "IBC" at the end, which stood for International Board of Control. I wear that pin and my Gamma Theta pin with pride to this day.

I have seen lots of the brothers over the years, however, the past five or so years, I have been out commission, ill with Lyme Disease. After recovering somewhat, I purchased a laptop, and became familiar with Facebook in September of last year. Shortly thereafter, I was invited by Danny Wyatt and Franck Judkins to attend the breakfasts that Gamma Delta Psi holds once monthly, at the Golden Corral in Colonial Heights. I have enjoyed each gathering for over a year now, and because so many brothers participate, I have still not learned all of their names. Again, the brothers are always so nice and welcoming to me. I am honored that they include me and tell me "Once a sweetheart, always a sweetheart".

Recently, a Grand Brother Induction was held for brother Larry Belcher. The fraternity, wives and past sweethearts met for breakfast that morning, and there must have been 50 people in attendance. There were numerous members from Canada in town for the Induction, and they were also at the breakfast. It was so nice to meet brothers that I had spoken with over Facebook, however had not met in person. I was also glad to meet some brothers I had heard about, but had never met before that day.

That evening about 6:30 p.m., 20 wives, past sweethearts and members from Gamma's sister sorority, Alpha Beta Psi, met at O'Charley's in Chester for a good meal and social. A good time was had by all, then we caravanned out to the Woodpecker Lodge and met up with the fraternity brothers, after their ceremonies were complete. As soon as I walked in the door, there was Marvin Faison and Kevan Key, two of the members I have known the longest, so I felt right at home.

There were so many guys there, and once the "girls" showed up, it was a little overwhelming. But being the gentlemen that they are, Marvin and Kevan introduced me to some other brothers, and eventually I had the honor of meeting Kevin Stockdale, who told me that my International Sweetheart Pin may be one-of-a-kind. Everyone, including myself had a really good time. As I left, I thought I would get lost on my way home, thinking about so many new faces, etc., but I found my way back to Petersburg.

Now, I look forward to the next breakfasts, meetings and socials that are to come. Meanwhile, I am honored to be your "Sweetheart", and anything I can do for the Gamma Delta Psi, let me know. If I missed meeting you at the Grand Induction social, I hope to meet you in the future.

Wishing everyone a happy Thanksgiving and wonderful Christmas.



Kay getting off the plane for the International Convention in 1972

You and Your Fraternity

RANDY PICARDAT
GAMMA DELTA PSI – CHAIRMAN – BOARD OF TRUSTEES

As you know Gamma Delta Psi has only one active Chapter and is being administered in its day-to-day operation by the Board of Trustees. The BOT is comprised of Alumni from many different once active Chapters.

I bring this point to light to stress the importance of the Alumni in the running and development of Gamma Delta Psi. At this time in our history the Alumni is very important in ensuring the future of the Fraternity that is near and dear to the heart of each and every one of us.

I say this because if Gamma Delta Psi had not and does not mean something to you and your life you would not be reading this article. Most of you reading this remember Gamma Delta Psi in the day when we had a very prosperous fraternity and guys were beating at the door to become a Brother and all the girls wanted to be with a Gamma man. These were the good times, if you will, the “Good Ole Days” of Gamma Delta Psi.

Well unfortunately the “Good Ole Days” are in the past now and we must deal with the present dark days of only having one active Chapter. I hope you are asking yourself, *what does this have to do with me?*

Many of us remember the days of when we had plenty of money in the bank and things were not an issue when it came to taking care of a project or putting on an event, those days are no longer.

As chapters started to go inactive, the number of chapters paying dues to the IBC started to decrease, but the things the IBC had to do for the remaining active chapters remained the same. As a result, when time for a Convention, the IBC was obligated to host one and that required money. This meant that as money was spent on these mandated events, publications, etc. the money reserved in the bank accounts began to dwindle.

As time went on, more and more chapters became inactive and the source of revenue also got less. In addition to the bank accounts not being kept at the levels of better times, the lack of Brothers and Chapters resulted in the maintenance of our many beautiful trophies to slide and their condition deteriorated over the years. The one thing that has grown even during the times of no chapters has been the number of articles being housed with our history and archives.

In recent history we have held a number of events the 130th/40th Anniversary events in Canada and Virginia, a Conclave each of the past 3 years, a Brother Education weekend, the Grand Brother Induction of GB Bill Fermoile and GB Larry Belcher. Again these events have cut into the funds available to carry the Fraternity into the future.

Your Fraternity Needs Your Help!

Many of you have said you want to help the Fraternity but don't want to get into the day-to-day activities, but might be available for a short term or special projects. There have also been some gracious Alumni that have made monetary donations from time to time. Some of these donations have been for a specific project and other have been to the general fund.

What is needed is your help in any way in which may have the ability.

The easy way is through a monetary donation which can be used to fund projects. Some Brothers have been making monthly or quarterly donations, but that is entirely up to you.

However, we are also looking for help through in kind services. As mentioned earlier we have many trophies that are in disrepair and need some tender loving care, we have lots of archives that need to be put to electronic media, printing services are needed for publications. There are many ways in which you can give your services to the Fraternity.

Please contact us if you are willing to help us with our endeavors. Those of you wishing to make a monetary contribution please send your check to:

Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity International
c/o Joe Italia
229 North Street
Fort Erie, Ontario L2A3R9

Gamma Psi Fraternity International
PO Box 134
Sutherland, Virginia 23885

If you choose to make a monetary donation and wish to designate the use of your money please include a note with your request and we will see that your request is honored.

Thanks to all that have made contributions to the Fraternity through service and donations; this is our Fraternity and together we will make it work.

CHESTER CRESCENT CLUB

THOMAS DALE HIGH SCHOOL

DORSEY HOWARD
BETA ALPHA 58

Plans for forming a Chester, VA Crescent Club among students attending Thomas Dale High School continue to progress satisfactorily.

The opportunity to form such a club arose when Brother Bryan Reason, an Active Brother in Beta Alpha Chapter, Hopewell High School, VA transferred to Thomas Dale High School in September. Brother Bryan's good friend, Troy Kelley, was already a T.D.H.S. student.

The two young men both have fathers who are active Free Masons and who supported their sons' interest in Gamma Delta Psi. A third interested student has emerged who is also the son of a Mason. Several potential future Crescent Club participants have been identified by these young men among their friends in the T. D. H.S. student body.

At a recent meeting with the Principal of Thomas Dale High School, the presence of young men within the student body who will be members of a Crescent Club was discussed. Although the Principal expressed much interest and support for the principles and ideals of Gamma Delta Psi, no formal relationship with the school is possible due to restrictive county-wide school board regulations.

Crescent Club members will not be able to actively recruit on campus but will be permitted to wear fraternity clothing and pins while at school once a chapter is chartered. The possibility that the C.C. members might be able to do volunteer service projects on campus is being explored by the Principal.

Thomas Dale High School students were active in Beta Gamma Chapter of Gamma Delta Psi beginning in 1957 and spanning three decades. A landmark old log cabin about a block from the school served as the fraternity house and a center of teenage social activity in the Chester community for many years. The ruins of the old log cabin can still be seen in the woods beside the rear parking lot of Sibley's Barbeque Restaurant in the heart of Chester.

It is truly hoped that a renewed presence of Gamma Delta Psi will emerge from these modest but encouraging beginnings.

A luncheon meeting with interested students and their parents for the purpose of explaining in detail the process of forming a Crescent Club is anticipated in the near future.

Although it is not possible to know the exact timetable for establishing the C.C. and chartering or re-chartering a chapter, it is optimistically hoped that the major portion of this process might be realized by early 2012.

SOMETHING ABOUT LARRY

MICHAEL KUCH
EDITOR

Brother John Cobb (Committee Chairman) had requested several weeks earlier that I say a few words about Grand Larry Belcher as part of the reading of his nomination and award, which I failed to include in my address.

I apologize (here) to John, Larry and those gathered at the October Reception for not to deliver on what was asked of me.

With regrets, the following is (in part) what I had intended to say then ...

Knowing the man himself has never been at a loss for words, where does one begin to speak about Grand Brother Larry Belcher?

As Brother Lloyd Dunnavant pointed out so brilliantly during his exceptionally humorous and candid "Roast & Toast" of Larry, our newest Grand Brother is an easy target. Always a good sport, amicable and forever accommodating, I decided to take a much less derisive approach to focus on Larry as I have known him – a True Friend and Great Brother.

Larry and I go back some thirty years, yet I suspect the kindred spirits we share today may have aligned somewhere long ago in a previous incarnation. We are on almost all occasions, of a shared philosophy and disposition when it comes to the precept of Fraternity, of a common vision for Gamma of today, tomorrow and beyond.

We met (if I recall correctly) in 1981, during one of those infamously heady trips South while part of a new, young and always adventurous International Board of Control. Larry was an insatiably energetic Brother of Beta Chapter of Gamma Psi Fraternity while attending Richard Bland College in Petersburg, VA.

I was then the freshly elected IBC President, a greenhorn with no shortage of attitude issues and ideas of my own on how to get things done, hell bent on making waves. Still in the last year of my teens, engaged full bore in gaining life experiences of Fraternity and College and all the frivolous, non-consequential matters of the day – those numerous social distractions, which male adolescents are well known to partake during their formative years.

Larry and I were introduced at a Gamma Psi party by Brother Drew Arthur, a former Southern Vice-President of IBC and fellow Beta, amongst a room full of Fraternity Brothers, most of whom I had never met.

But there was Larry, the first to greet us, infectious of personality and character, a firm grip, broad smile, chatty beyond belief, consumed with Brotherhood – giving it everything, every breath – tirelessly devoted. He had an appetite for Fraternity of incalculable proportions that ran deeper and with more passion than anyone I had ever met.

I think it was the first time Larry hugged me.

Where did they find this guy, and how can we get more of them, I thought.

When in the presence of Larry, as I had learned just then and was reminded infinite times over the years, you better be on your "A" game. Know your Gamma stuff, be prepared to conquer whatever obstacle or win over any opportunity that presented itself, when talk turned to Fraternity. And, talk always turned to Fraternity.

Frankly, Larry's demeanour even back then, suggested greatness. I guess I knew a Grand Brother in the making when I saw one.

High spirited, focused, and youthful exuberance underwritten by a depth of competence and confidence that I had never encountered; Larry couldn't be denied as an 18 year-old Brother, just as he is as a 48 year-old Grand Brother.

A simple fact that Larry never closed his mouth for more than a moment – and still hasn't (LOL) – never bothered me. Larry always had something worthwhile and relevant to say, relayed it with such honesty and conviction, I would have *agreed to pledge* again right then and there if asked.

SOMETHING ABOUT LARRY

I admired Larry for as much of what he was, and equally, for what he wasn't.

He despised *hypocrisy, apathy, irresponsibility, unaccountability* – and fought it with goodwill, due diligence and completeness of thought and actions. Fueled by desire and enthusiasm that knew no boundaries, and with an affinity to charm, persuade, cajole and massage virtually any young, prospective member into the possibilities of life as a Gamma, Larry's exemplary character served as a role model to his peers.

In the shadow of his ever high standards, Larry has inspired us to become better Brothers, to become more accountable, mindful and cognizant of our roles and responsibilities as (future) leaders in the Fraternity.

Whatever DNA Larry had running through his body, clearly we needed to clone it. Larry has remained every bit the sincere, charismatic and complete Brother that I had ever met.

I knew then that his position would some day be exalted to the highest level, a future icon in our Fraternity was well in motion, of which he has never disappointed. Larry doesn't simply meet or exceed expectations, he charts new paths, forges through with such purpose and belief that one cannot help to follow his mark.

Larry stands in rare company as a visionary of the Fraternity, a selfless pioneer and leader in growing the Gamma Psi to International status during his tenure as President, and continues with the same zest and vigor of men less than half his age, and shows no signs of slowing.

He is a builder without equal. Admired by peers and elders alike, the young Brother of Gamma are only beginning to realize what we've known for three decades: Larry matters. His voice, his actions.

I believe it was Brother Dunnivant that recounted a conversation he had with Larry of wanting to become a Grand Brother, dialogue that evidently Larry had also shared with the Late Brother Kenny Martin and me on occasion.

I recall the time we spoke about it, back in February 2007 when on the campus of Longwood University at the conclusion of the Brother Education Weekend. We were crossing the street to get his car before heading back toward Richmond for my flight home. Those that didn't know Larry, may have misinterpreted his statement to be overly ambitious, or perhaps, immodest, which of course, was not true.

It wasn't that Larry thought *he* should be a Grand Brother, but that we all should aspire to becoming one.

My outward response was something akin to amicable agreement, although inside I thought what the hell are we waiting for? We should have nominated and inducted Larry a decade earlier. And, so began the lengthy journey of discussion and preparation in nominating Larry.

Of all his significant attributes and contributions, perhaps the most revealing is as a committed and unwavering practitioner of all that he preaches.

Larry's breadth of influence expands far beyond the range of Gamma. He has long been an advocate of the entire College Greek system wilfully championing the causes or plights not only of his own Brotherhood but that of all Fraternity Men and Sorority Sisters, a fact not gone unnoticed by Alpha Beta Psi Sorority where he helped to grow their organization at Richard Bland College and Longwood University.

Indeed, Larry would have made the consummate Inter-Fraternity Congress Spokesman had anyone outside of Gamma noticed what we had as our secret weapon, conceivably would have aided them in their own movement.

Larry's been an Ambassador for both Gamma's, a visionary mindset working toward obliterating the former divide of the High School (GDP) and College (GP) divisions that once existed, to forge a belief that the groups can not only join together in unity of common Brotherhood but work together now and into the future for the mutual betterment of a consolidated Fraternity.

As International President and in the years to follow as Chairman of the Board of Advisors of Gamma Psi, Larry ushered in an Era of new found unity and understanding that permeates today, recognized as one of the binding agents of Brotherhood and goodwill that keeps Alumni connected and young Actives involved and cognizant of the legacies and traditions of Fraternity.

We're a better place with Larry amongst us. He's given us a legacy that few will likely ever duplicate but all should follow and revere.

Spirit of Baseball

INSTRUCTIONAL CAMP 2012



LARRY BELCHER
GAMMA PSI – BETA / GAMMA
GAMMA DELTA PSI – TAU PI

The "Spirit of Baseball 2012" will be held on April 19 at John Marshall High School in Richmond, VA.

The Spirit of Baseball is a free instructional camp in which inner city children can learn the fundamentals of baseball and are introduced to the teachings of Christ.

Each child receives a shirt, hat, baseball and Bible. Lunch is served to all participants and volunteers.

The 2011 "Spirit of Baseball" experienced a mass mobilization of Gamma Brothers.

Gamma Psi and Gamma Delta Psi provided fundraising, in-kind contribution of custom hats, complete lunch prep, (Bob Mays brought in his snow cone operation), coaches and to top it off, Beta Alpha showed up to engage and work with the kids.

We hope that Gamma makes an even bigger showing this year!

Please contact Camp Director Larry Belcher at (804) 441-0351 or larrybelcher@yahoo.com if you can help in any way.



You're invited

Please join us for Breakfast on

Saturday, November 19th @ 9:00 am

As we "Throw Out The First Pitch" for Spirit of Baseball 2012

Hosted by

The Men's Ministry of Gayton Baptist Church
13501 North Gayton Road - Richmond, VA 23233
www.gaytonchurch.org/gbc-ministries/adults/mens-ministry/

During the breakfast we will welcome comments, suggestions and testimonials from our volunteers and partners. We will also be unveiling the Spirit of Baseball 2011 video.

LOCAL FRATERNITY HOLDS ANNUAL CONCLAVE

Editor: Copied below is the Media Press Release scripted by Brother Kirk McClure (Beta Alpha, Member – Board of Trustees) following the Spring 2011 Conclave

Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity International and their college division, Gamma Psi Fraternity, recently held their annual Conclave at the Residence Inn-Marriott in Chester.

The Beta Alpha chapter of Hopewell, whose members attend HHS, was the big winner at the Conclave, during the Awards Ceremony. The chapter's ten brothers received Chapter of the Year honors and also the Conclave Attendance Award for the most active and alumni members present.

Local chapter alumni attending were Klaus Aultman, Dorsey Howard, Ed Jones, Wayne Markland, and Allen Stanley. Also attending were Kirk McClure, of Mechanicsville, who served as Event Coordinator and "Grand Brother" Kevin Stockdale, of Woodbridge, who served as Awards Committee Chairman.

Also present were active chapter brothers attending Hopewell High, Scott Burgess, Chris Ellis, James Hawthorne, Josh Jones, Cody Lynch, Brian Reason, Jonathon Rigney and Bud Weyland. Reason was fully inducted into the fraternity at a ceremony after the business meeting.



Brother Howard, a 1961 HHS grad, received the Historian's Award for outstanding service in the pursuit of procuring memorabilia and fraternal jewelry that has recently surfaced on internet websites, such as E-bay.

Many of the recent items found date back to the early 1900's . Gamma Delta Psi was founded in 1879 in New Haven, Connecticut. Stretching from Ontario to New Orleans and from Virginia to Michigan, the fraternity once boasted 85 active chapters.

Hopewell's Beta Alpha chapter, founded in 1956 with the assistance of Zeta chapter in the District of Columbia, served as the keystone for other area chapters to form. Chapters soon formed and were chartered at Thomas Dale, Dinwiddie, Colonial Heights, Prince George, Matoaca, Petersburg and Meadowbrook high schools, as well as Surry Academy. Upon moving with his family to Alexandria, Stockdale was instrumental in chartering a chapter at Hayfield High there.

In the fraternity's college division, the Alpha chapter of Gamma Psi Fraternity was founded in 1969 at John Tyler Community College, with Beta chapter soon chartering at Richard Bland College. Currently, Iota chapter at Bridgewater College and Eta chapter at Longwood University are active.

At the Conclave, the fraternity's governing body, the Board of Trustees, was represented by Johnnie Smith of Prince George, Danny Wyatt of Chester, Franck Judkins of Surry, McClure and BOT Chairman Randy Picardat of Dinwiddie. Don Graves, also of Chester, was newly appointed to the BOT at the Conclave. Representing our Canadian brothers was BOT Treasurer, Joe Italia, from Fort Erie, Ontario.

Printing and binding materials for the Conclave were provided by Markland, owner/operator of Custom Book Bindery in Chester. Banners and graphics on display at the Conclave were provided by Judy Rayner Reidmiller of Hopewell, owner/operator of Art4 Me n You!

HERE WE GO, AGAIN ...

DAVE BARTLETT

GAMMA ALPHA #10 – INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 1972

I remember a year ago I made myself a promise to attend Brother Larry Belcher's Grand Brother Induction. I was at Brother Randy Picardat's Grand Brother Induction and had enjoyed myself so much I was determined to do it again.

Fast forward a year to the weekend of October 14, 15, 16, 2011 – the date set for the Induction. Decisions had to be made: do I go old school and make a beeline to Virginia in record time, early 70's all over, or does better judgement enter in the decision and I take my time and get there in one piece?

I guess you could say the senior in me took over and getting there in one piece won!

I had been contacted by an old friend and Brother Jamie (Jim) Hinds of Gamma Delta Chapter, about the possibility of joining me. I immediately said great, not only had I not seen Jamie in 40 years but we both had grandchildren to brag about (where did the time go?).

We started our adventure on a Friday morning. I had to feel sorry for Jamie I don't think he realized he was to hear about 40 years of growing old. He was a real trooper and smiled the whole trip to Virginia. After the mandatory senior citizen pit stops and the food challenges, by 9 pm we thought our destiny had been reached, little did we know that 20 miles from Chester there was a 2 hour backup (of course we heard later, "if you had let us know we could have given you the alternate route"). Older, wiser, and with more money we could now get our own rooms so we could do all the rude things we wanted and no one to complain.

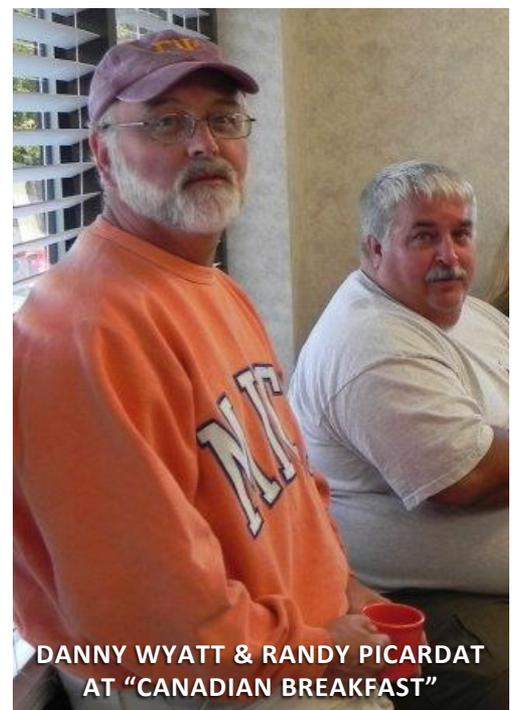
We were joined the next morning by Brothers Mike Kuch and Joe Italia, the spring chickens of the Canadian contingent – they did the overnight old school drive – and we were picked up by our host, tour guide, (all round in the best sense of the word) Brother Dorsey Howard.

Off to that Castle of all Breakfasts, the Golden Coral, where the Brothers greeted us with a cholesterol buffet (the only way to have a heart attack). We were honoured to be joined by our International Sweetheart Kay Rowe and the sister of our Late Brother Kenny Martin, Karen Martin Davison. The Brothers greeted and mingled and ate and told tales of old times gone by.

An historic occasion took form in the afternoon when the History Society met at Brother Dorsey Howard's home and discussed how our Fraternity History was to be regenerated and researched. The conclusion was that the need was immediate and Brother Dorsey was elected History Coordinator to lead us. Brother Craig Williams donated the oldest known pin to our Archives, another proud moment for the history buffs.



JIM HINDS & DAVE BARTLETT AT COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG, VA



DANNY WYATT & RANDY PICARDAT AT "CANADIAN BREAKFAST"

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HERE WE GO, AGAIN!

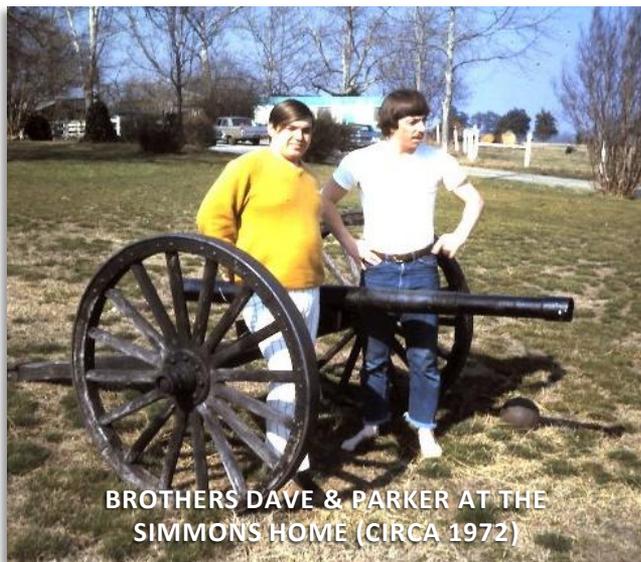
The evening saw the Canadian contingent joined by more youngsters as Brother Bruce Johnstone and Brother Bill Schmitt accompanied by his much younger, (compared to Brother Bill) also prettier wife Ann.

We all met at the Woodpecker Lodge to meet and greet and Induct Brother Larry Belcher as a Grand Brother. Brother John Cobb acted as Master of Ceremonies (he was the only one who could see us all at once), and start the dinner line. Brother Randy, or as he is also known as Chef Randy, fed us with BBQ, salad and beans (much to the complaints of the Brothers who had to ride with me later).

At this point I must confess, I was the Brother who had 4 plates of BBQ even though I told everyone it was only 3, sorry to those Bros who only got one plate. NOT!!!

The induction for Brother Larry Belcher was an honour to be part of and deserved by a true Brother of Gamma Psi and Gamma Delta Psi. The evening wouldn't have been the same without the hilarious roast by Brother Lloyd Dunnivant and the Brothers who joined him. As the evening ended we adjourned to the hotel to partake in the perpetual *GoganStock* event.

Sunday morning saw Canadian Brothers Bruce, Mike, Joe and Bill and wife Ann depart to the Great White North. I had determined to stay for one more day to complete a promise I had made over the years. The promise was to attend church with Grand Brother Danny Wyatt and I had the privilege to complete that promise.



The afternoon saw Brother Jamie and I visit Williamsburg, what a great visit we had. The evening was topped off with a visit to Brother Parker Simmons' abode where Brother Jamie and I witnessed our signatures on the wall of Brother Simmons' room, imagine put there in 1972 and now it will be left for eternity or at least till the walls get painted again.

Parker is to me the true meaning of a Brother. I have had the honour of knowing Parker since the mid 60's, we were young "Whipper Snappers" in the great sphere of life, in other words we knew everything ...

We now have watched our children grow up and have their own children - Grandpa's comparing Grandkids, *who woulda thunk?*

I knew the true meaning of Brotherhood when Brother Parker phoned to make sure I was coming to Virginia as he had to cancel a personal commitment to visit with me. I will always be proud to call Brother Parker, "Brother".

Well, Monday morning was homeward bound. The excitement had worn off, and the adrenalin had stopped pumping, luckily Brother Jamie was there to relieve me at the steering wheel. We discussed how successful the weekend had been and how it was great to see old friends and meet new friends.

Brother Dorsey was much more than a host; he made sure we sampled the culinary delights of Old Virginia. "Duke's Mayo Rules".

The trip ended around 10pm only with the promise of "here we go again" in the near future.

THE DEFINITION OF BROTHERHOOD?

TONY WEYLAND
GAMMA PSI - BETA #221

broth-er-hood/'brəTHər-hoöd/

Noun:

- 1) *The state or relationship of being brothers.*
- 2) *Fellowship.*
- 3) *An association of men, such as a fraternity or union, united for common purposes.*
- 4) *All the members of a profession or trade.*

What is Brotherhood?

Above is the definition, but what does it mean to the crescent of Gamma Delta Psi and Gamma Psi? I have spent a few hours thinking about that lately.

The first part of the definition reads, "The state or relationship of being brothers"; the second, "Fellowship", these two ideals are the hard part.

The third and fourth come fairly easily; it can be accomplished by union dues or rituals.

When we all decided to pledge Gamma we had some idea what Brotherhood was, we learned that we could depend on our Pledge Brothers to help us make it through our trials. This starts us on the road to the relationship and state of being brothers.

Fellowship seems to be easy: the parties, the girls, and the interaction with the older Brothers. What did these simple good times teach us? It taught us who we are and who our Brothers are.

It comes as no surprise to me that Grand Brother Belcher chooses to use baseball to make a difference in the world. That is how he taught Brotherhood when I was an active brother in Beta chapter.

With that said how do we teach the active Brothers of the Crescent the true meaning of Brotherhood?

I believe that the pledge period is only the blocks on which Brotherhood is built. I can only speak of what I know; Beta Alpha bonds are not as strong as they could be.

I have racked my brain trying to figure out how to get these guys to depend on each other. There are some very strong relationships in the group along with some very accomplished leaders, but something is missing.



What is missing is what I learned playing ball with my Brothers at RBC. Unfortunately, the days of sandlot baseball games are a thing of the past. So I guess I'm asking my younger active Brothers in 2012 within the guide lines of our Mission Statement, how do I accomplish building Brotherhood?

To the Alumni I ask you to tell personally what happened in your years that have raised you to the level of Brotherhood that you have obtained.

I have a few ideas I am going to plan a Brothers' Weekend in the spring, either at the beach or just a camping trip. I would also like to plan a social that will include the new sisters of Alpha Beta Psi here in Hopewell.

It needs to be planned by the actives as to peak their interests.

Any suggestions as to how to start are welcome.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TREASURER & WEBMASTER

JOE ITALIA
GAMMA XI
WEBMASTER + TREASURER

Greetings Brothers.

The Board of Trustees started 2011 with \$5,760.00 in operational funds. As of November 6, 2011 our operating accounts are at \$5,438.00.

We've had operational expenditures and held two events: the Annual Conclave and the Induction of Grand Brother #9, William Fermoile.

Through frugal management of Fraternity funds and the generosity of a number of Alumni Brothers, the Board has managed to operate for eleven months with a low financial loss of \$322.00. As we move forward in our attempts to re-grow our great fraternities, it is clear that the generosity of our Alumni is crucial in maintaining our operating funds at a sustainable level.

Since taking on the position of Webmaster for Gamma Delta Psi, I've undertaken the tasks of redeveloping our official web site, www.gammadeltapsi.com initiated a web-based advertising campaign to aid in recruiting new members, and created an online contact list of Active and Alumni Brothers.

In an attempt to give our website a more modern look, I've changed the website from a static 'html' template to a 'flash' software based site.

The site is divided into three main sections:

- 1) The "Home Group" is the main landing page. It provides an overview of GDP, and the links into the other sections.
- 2) The "Members" area provide and solicit information for our Active and Alumni Brothers. You will find links to the current and past newsletters, contact update forms and any event registration forms in this area. The [Alumni Member Info Form](#) is a means for our Alumni to provide us with their contact details, and to specify what mail they wish to receive from the fraternity. I encourage all of our Alumni Brothers to please take the time to fill out and submit this form.
- 3) The third group of pages is the "Recruitment" section of the web site. This area is where anyone who clicks on one of our ads will be directed. It contains the membership prospectus created by Brothers Mike Kuch and Troy Adams. The purpose of this area is to try and catch the interest of any young prospects, and to provide general information to them about GDP.



[Start a Chapter](#)
of Gamma Delta Psi Fraternity
in Your High School
www.gammadeltapsi.com

Some of you may have seen our ad while conducting a Google search. The ad is triggered by specific search terms being entered. If you were to enter "[How do I start a high school fraternity](#)", it is highly probable that our ad will appear on the right side of the search results.

Please **DO NOT** "click" on the Ad.

I am asking this for two reasons. We are charged per click; and clicks by our Alumni and actives skew the ad campaigns performance results.

To date, we have had 138 hits on our ad, resulting in five inquiries by individuals that expressed interest in starting Crescent clubs in their local high schools. The ad campaign is currently being funded by a \$100.00 voucher that we received from our current web site hosting company.

The campaign was started on February 19, 2011 and as of November 6, 2011; we are down to a \$3.05 credit on the account. The Board of Trustees will soon be evaluating the results of the advertising campaign, and deciding on the financial feasibility of continuing with this venture.

If you have any suggestions that you think would improve our website, or encounter problems while navigating the site; please contact me at admin@gammadeltapsi.com

I wish all of my Brothers a Joyous Holiday Season!