



The Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, Gamma Iota Chapter.

Better Men. Better Lives.

THE GAMMA EYE



Published By: Riley Doyle -- Edited By: Eric Pickett

BEING THE GREAT CHANGE

With the new year came new challenges, opportunities, and prospects surrounding Gamma Iota's rush. Our primary challenge came in reaching out to potential new members in the new — and hopefully temporary — era of digital classrooms and community. Along with that, there were a couple of other bumps within the fraternity. That being said, our efforts were not fruitless this spring, and we are proud to welcome our newest pledge, Logan Reyne, into our group of men at the Castle. Logan works as a chef at Alpha Gamma Delta and is currently studying Physics in school. Originally, he was born in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and also resided for some time in Seattle, Washington.

As for his favorite part of joining the fraternity, his words say it better than ours, "My favorite part of Greek life thus far is having a consistent friend group that

supports and pushes me to do better in all aspects of my life." As for those aforementioned opportunities and prospects, we have been working in conjunction with our President, Devan Naes, as well as the Alumni Rush Committee (Aaron Williamson, Matty Wiliamson, and Tyler Morley) on reviving summer rush in a big way. Two full time rush chairmen. Our plan for this summer is to traverse our state two times over, reaching out to college-bound men, talking with them, and sharing our Delta Sig experience. Our goal: meet with at least 100 men both on the IFC rush list as well as men who are not on it in hopes of filling the house to its max capacity. We would love help from the alumni in identifying new prospects. If anyone knows of young men that are going to be coming up to University of Idaho, we would love it if you send them our way or reach out to our emails/phones about them! Along with that, we will need places to stay and possibly host rush events as we trav-

el around Idaho in the summer. Anything like that would help, and it would be appreciated greatly.

YITBOS

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New member Logan Reyne

Youth Update, Intel from the ACB, The Delta Sigs Give, Being the Great Change, Bond Eternal, and Sailor's Spotlight.

INTEL FROM THE ACB

Brothers,

Earlier this year ACB and a group of Alumni who have been active in the support and rebuild of the chapter held a conference call to discuss the future of Gamma Iota and whether or not we would keep the facility open for the 2021/2022 year. This call came about due to 3 main issues.

1. The health of the Greek system and lack of support from the University. As enrollment has dropped so have the number of men who would like to live in a Fraternity. At Idaho the Greek system favors the top 3 or 4 houses. The rest are left to fight over the remaining candidates from Rush making sustainable growth challenging at best. The University is allowing at least 3 more Fraternities on campus this fall which will dilute the pool even further.

2. Inconsistent support from Nationals at the chapter level. In the past 4 years the chapter has had 1 undergrad advisor who was able to put work in support of Gamma Iota. The rest have either lacked the resources or time to assist. Nationals plan for growth centers around colonizing Universities with larger enrollments than Idaho.

3. Declining Alumni involvement. The response to our suspension in 2016 was tremendous by the alumni. The current members of ACB and CCAB have been active for 4 years. Along with a core group of Alumni we have worked together to bring back the facility from a disastrous state, assisted with the rebuilding of membership, and repaired a fractured relationship with the

University. This has been a time and resource consuming process. We have repeatedly asked for additional volunteers but have not had much of a response. Brother McLean recently asked for local Alumni to assist and our only volunteers were Brother's Curet and McGregor. Two men who have put in countless years in support of the chapter. Cheers to them for answering the call. But we need more.

Of the 3 challenges, we can overcome the first 2. As was stated on the stakeholder call we have never needed to rely heavily on Nationals to be successful. As far as the school we have been successful in the past and have the ability to be a top chapter on campus once again. But the one challenge we most certainly can't overcome is not enough Alumni support. The days of Bartell and Hudson and a small group of alumni serving indefinitely on the ACB are gone. Relying on the work of just a handful of men will result in at best stagnation and at worst, the demise of the chapter. In order to have a successful fraternity these days you need to have an active and involved Alumni base. During the stakeholders call the question was raised of whether or not the undergraduate members wanted the Fraternity to be successful. I think the sacrifices they made this past year to live in the chapter have demonstrated their commitment. While it has not been perfect, they have demonstrated tremendous resolve and determination toward bettering the chapter. It is now time for the Alumni to do the same. In the next year it will be the Alumni who decide the future of the chapter. We are in desperate need of volunteers willing to take leadership and mentorship positions on the ACB and CCAB. We must create a plan that will address capital both short and long term facility needs as well as creating scholarship programs for undergraduate members. I challenge each Brother to determine their vision of the future

of Gamma Iota and act accordingly. Please reach out to me if you have interest or questions about getting involved at bboyle19@comcast.net.

YITBOS

Brendan Boyle
Pledge Class '86
President Gamma Iota ACB

University of Idaho Fraternity & Sorority Life Grade Report Spring 2021			
Panhellenic Council	Chapter GPA Spring 2021	Chapter Cumulative GPA	Membership Size
Kappa Kappa Gamma	3.54	3.58	72
Alpha Phi	3.48	3.31	80
Gamma Phi Beta	3.46	3.52	84
Delta Gamma	3.40	3.39	68
Delta Delta Delta	3.38	3.38	88
Kappa Alpha Theta	3.38	3.39	74
All Pahnellenic Association Semester Average: 3.30			
Delta Zeta	3.28	3.30	61
University All Undergraduate Women's Semester Average: 3.26			
University All Undergraduate Semester Average: 3.19			
Alpha Gamma Delta	3.13	3.07	72
Pi Beta Phi	3.11	3.22	72
Kappa Delta	2.85	3.02	64
Panhellenic Totals:	3.30	3.32	746
Interfraternity Council	Chapter GPA Spring 2021	Chapter Cumulative GPA	Membership Size
Theta Chi	3.44	3.48	57
Pi Kappa Alpha	3.32	3.35	42
Sigma Nu	3.30	3.22	50
Tau Kappa Epsilon	3.28	3.29	31
Phi Gamma Delta	3.28	3.35	42
Delta Tau Delta	3.24	3.31	40
Sigma Chi	3.23	3.24	64
University All Undergraduate Semester Average: 3.19			
All Interfraternity Council Semester Average: 3.18			
Lambda Chi Alpha	3.13	3.03	28
Pi Kappa Phi	3.11	3.03	23
University All Undergraduate Men's Semester Average: 3.11			
Phi Kappa Tau	3.09	3.19	38
Alpha Kappa Lambda	3.06	3.07	42
Delta Sigma Phi	3.05	2.87	29
Phi Delta Theta	2.99	3.13	46
Alpha Gamma Phi	2.95	2.86	33
Interfraternity Council Totals:	3.18	3.17	583
Multicultural Greek Council	Chapter GPA Spring 2021	Chapter Cumulative GPA	Membership Size
University All Undergraduate Women's Semester Average: 3.26			
University All Undergraduate Semester Average: 3.19			
University All Undergraduate Men's Semester Average: 3.11			
All Multicultural Greek Council Semester Average: 3.08			

Us and the rest of greek row are very focused on grades especially with last semester's COVID restrictions. Cracked the 3.0 mark and will be looking to improve on that for next fall.

SAILOR'S SPOTLIGHT

MATTHEW ESPE PC '76



Matthew and Lori Espe in front of the Admin Bldg

September 14, 2019 was a difficult day for the alumni who lived in the Castle during the last half of the 70's. After almost two years of battling brain cancer, Robert "Ernie" Vassar PC 76 had entered the Bond Eternal. Many Delta Sigs were in Lewiston that day for his funeral. As I sat in the church and listened to Matt Espe eulogize his pledge brother, best man at his wedding, and life long friend, I was reminded of what makes Gamma Iota so special. These two unlikely friends formed this connection which probably would not have been possible without Gamma Iota. Here was not only one of our most successful alumni in the business world, but our entire National fraternity, fondly remembering how Ernie and his family took him in during Thanksgiving break in college and the outpouring of support from his pledge class when he was diagnosed, which Espe was intimately involved with. Matt said of the eulogy, "It was both the easiest and hardest thing I have ever done."

A native of the Bay Area in California, Matt made a visit to campus in the summer of 1976 with his father after signing a track scholarship at Idaho as a pole vaulter. He met Kerry Carney (aka Jed) during that visit and got a tour of the house. When he came through rush that was his home base. "When I met the other guys and experienced their sense of humor, I knew I was home," said Brother Espe of his reason for pledging. Not knowing a single person on campus, he now had a houseful of brothers. Pledge brother Dan McIntosh remembers him as, "One of the funniest and quick witted people I know." He vividly remembers Matt standing next to him at dinner most nights with his own version of the singing prayer which was "hysterical and blasphemous." Gary Freiburger of the same pledge class recalls, "Matt came across as the consummate businessman even as a freshman. He worked at the clothing store, Creighton's For Men, in downtown Moscow and convinced many of his classmates that we needed a proper suit." Matt admits, "I've been a bit of a clothes horse ever since."

Two broken wrists cut short Matt's college athletic career but that never slowed him down. He was always on the go and worked several jobs while in college. He also met his future wife Lori Limbaugh, a Kappa, while at Idaho. He graduated in 1980 with a degree in Marketing. Lori and Matt were married the following summer in her hometown of Payette, ID. Matt says of Lori, "Best decision I ever made." He also will never forget what his father told him prior to the wedding, "Son, marriage is hard,

it takes work, there will be bumps, we want you to know if this doesn't work out, we're behind Lori 100%! True story." He fondly remembers Ernie standing next to him at the altar, "I couldn't have asked for a better Best Man."

Matt went on to graduate school at Whittier College where he received an MBA. He began his career at an entry level training program with General Electric. Went through progressively larger leadership roles until he caught the eye of then GE's CEO and business legend Jack Welch. He said of Matt, "Espe's not afraid of the sight of blood, even when it is his own." Things moved fast after that, Officer of GE at 38, Senior Vice-President and CEO of GE Lighting at 40. Two years after Mr. Welch transitioned out of GE, Matt was recruited away to his first CEO role at Ikon Office Solutions. During his tenure the stock price almost tripled and sold the company to Ricoh of Japan for \$1.6B. Following that he was recruited to become the CEO of Armstrong World Industries where earnings grew 33%, the stock price doubled, and sold off the flooring division. Both Armstrong and Ricoh are listed on the NYSE. His plans to retire after that were interrupted when Radial Inc. tapped him for another CEO position of the internet services business. Number two provider behind only Amazon. After leading the successful sale of Radial to Belgium Post in 2017, Matt now works mainly in Board of Directors positions, advising private equity firms, and partnering in three PE firms himself. Pre COVID, his travels took him out of the country at least once a month. Lori and Matt have moved 15 times during his career. They have lived all over the US, plus The Netherlands, Singapore, Belgium, and now outside of Philadelphia, PA.

With all of the success and demands on his time, he has not forgotten to give back in both time and treasure. Brother Espe has served on the College of Business and Economics Dean's Advisory Board as well as the President's Advisory Board. Matt and Lori pledged \$2M to the CB&E back in 2013. Matt has also financially supported the Gamma Iota building fund and Hope House, our annual Bike to Boise philanthropy. Closer to home, both he and Lori serve on several non profit boards in the Philadelphia area. Two of the principal ones are United Way of Southeastern PA. and the Episcopal Community Services of Philadelphia. He was inducted into the Idaho Alumni Hall of Fame in 2013 and was given an honorary PhD in Business Administration in 2019 by the University. Brother Espe returns to campus on a regular basis. Serving on two boards gave him a fascinating perspective of the University. He admits that his favorite part of coming back to Moscow are the



Brother Espe in training. Check out the Vandal logo on the pole bag.



Graduation 1980 Matt Espe, far right

5 AM workouts in the Varsity Center with his big brother, Tim Mooney PC 75. One of his cherished memories as an undergrad was that first day of class, strolling up Hello Walk with just a hint of fall in the air. When asked what advice he had for the undergrads, "Don't overthink your career plan, there are too many variables. Instead always look for the tough jobs and assignments, often the ones no one else wants. It's the best opportunity to make a difference. With only one exception, all my predecessors in every job I had since college had been fired. Find and develop mentors, it's important to have someone you trust to discuss things with, someone who can give you honest, unvarnished feedback. None of us have done it alone. Bring your best everyday, make a difference, have an impact. Do more than what's expected, move fast, be bold. You won't 'break it.'"

For those of us who lived with him in the chapter, we remember his work ethic, but he had fun as well. He has taken that into his post college life. Couple of impressive items checked off his bucket list are climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro, running with the bulls in Pamplona, Spain, and surfing in Costa Rica. Main item left is cage diving with the great white sharks off the coast of South Africa. Matt has also gotten back into pole vaulting, skiing, and cycling and trains for these on a regular basis. That balance I am sure is part of his success. PC brother McIntosh summed it up perfectly, "I am not surprised in the least that he had such success in life. He is all class. A truly great guy who I am proud to have been in the same pledge class with."

Matt Espe was part of one of the most successful pledge classes in Gamma Iota's 72 year history. Despite all of their accomplishments, they have stayed connected over the years. The loss of Ernie has only made that stronger. "He was the emotional glue that held our pledge class together. I was devastated to hear of his illness. Even at the end he was holding us together," Matt said. A story told by Espe demonstrates why Brother Vassar was so special. After his own diagnosis, Matt received word he had prostate cancer, (in remission now). When he told Bob, "He offered to come stay with me when I recovered, can you imagine, with everything he was going through. I still break down thinking about it." Now with the recent loss of another pledge brother, Greg "Gordo" Smith those memories and friendships have become even more treasured. Matt and I both know if Brother Vassar was still with us, he would be the one writing this article. I only hope I have done both of them justice.

Matt and Lori have 4 successful children and a "beautiful" first grandchild born last June.

YITBOS
Eric Pickett
Pledge Class '78

YOUTH UPDATE

THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



COVID-19 has proved to be one of the country's largest struggles this past year, however the Gamma Iota Chapter took this opportunity by storm. Returning in the Fall semester, the chapter took the necessary steps to ensure our membership would be staying healthy. These sacrifices proved to be fruitful as we maintained a COVID-Free environment for 3/4 of the academic year with only 1 positive case in that time. This made us among the last chapters of the Greek System to have an outbreak of COVID.

Even when an outbreak did occur in the house, our brotherhood remained unbreakable as we overcame the virus together. While the chapter was indoors there was no lack of drive to continue in an upwards trajectory. The entire executive board attended a virtual LEAD weekend with our National Organization. In particular, I attended the virtual President's Academy, where along with representation from all across the US, we engaged in conversations of how to better unify our chapters in these socially distanced times. Having attended LEAD in-person in the past, there was much greater value shared through these personal conversations, showing that no matter where you are, a Delta Sig brother will always be willing to help his fellow brother in need. A commonality of all chapters was that in these unprecedented times the importance of academic accountability. Upon reflection, the previous academic plan was particularly weak in the identification of grade risks. Myself along with my Eboard saw this as a problem and began constructing a reformed version of the plan to alleviate these underlying problems. This process began with us taking our initial ideas to all of our University and National resources, ensuring the perspectives of the experts were

incorporated into all sections of this plan. Along with a change of document, the re-institution of a mandatory study table has resurfaced and is widely accepted from all members. From these changes the GPA for the chapter is expected to be 3.0 or above! We took it upon ourselves to ensure that we maintained our reigning title of the winners of the Kappa Delta Shamrock Philanthropy for the fifth year in a row. We were proud to be able to participate in our Bike to Boise Philanthropy this year, where we raised over \$6000 for the Hope House in Marsing, ID. In the coming fall semester of my position, I am striving to ensure that the rush numbers for the house are representative of our efforts in the summer as well as working with the ACB to plan out the 70th +2, happening at the end April of 2022. I am ecstatic at the notion of having all alumni of all pledge classes in attendance. Until then, I wish you the best.

YITBOS
Devan Naes
Pledge Class '19

THE DELTA SIGS GIVE

A PHILANTHROPY REPORT

In spite of the challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, the undergraduates of our chapter have displayed great charity and fortitude for our Bike to Boise philanthropy. In total, we raised nearly six thousand two hundred dollars for the Hope House this year. An outstanding effort from the men, with donations from their own pockets, alumni, businesses, and the community of Moscow, Idaho. In addition to Bike to Boise, we participated in Kappa Alpha Theta's Color Run, Delta Gamma's Anchor Splash, and are currently participat-

As the spring semester draws to a close, we continue to involve ourselves in the philanthropies hosted by the other houses on Greek Row.

YITBOS
James Leeson
Pledge Class '19
Philanthropy Chair



Borthers of Gamma Iota posing in front of the State Capital at the end of this year's Bike to Boise

*8 Semesters In a Row
With \$0 Receivables.
Well Done Undergrads!*

BOND ETERNAL

OUR FALLEN BROTHERS



GREG SMITH PC '76

Gamma Iota and PC '76 lost another Brother on February 15th, 2021 when Brother Greg Smith entered the Bond Eternal. Greg, or Gordo as he was better known was a man of many talents. He was known for his dry wit - the music tapes he put together (dubbing - grubbing) and for his unique ability to change 23 cents into a quarter. When asked to share memories his brothers brought up his guitar playing, his accomplishments as an incredible statistician, and how much he enjoyed getting together with and commiserating with his fraternity brothers. Greg leaves behind his wife Nancy, daughter Janelle and son Paul. A group of Delta Sig brothers will join with Greg's family Saturday June 5th in Eagle, Idaho to celebrate his life. We wish you godspeed and miss you Brother Greg "Gordo" Smith.

YITBOS
Rick Sparks
Pledge Class '76



DANIEL E. "DANIMAL" GAITHER PC '67

Daniel E. Gaither (PC '67) passed unexpectedly July 13, 2020 at his home in Bullhead City, AZ. Dan was born and raised along with two brothers and one sister in Gaithersburg, MD where he excelled in sports and academics.

He came to the University of Idaho as a Navy ROTC Scholarship recipient majoring in Forestry but later changed his major to Psychology. He graduated in 1968 and went on to earn a Master's degree in guidance from Washington State University.

In 1967 he became the first African American to be pledged to a fraternity at the University of Idaho. Although he was actively recruited by several other houses, he chose Delta Sigma Phi because "The men I met there were far and away the best on campus. They made me feel welcome and at home." In addition to being an excellent student, Dan also served as Campus Senior Class President.

After leaving the Palouse, Dan took a job at the University of Oregon in Eugene where he administered a service program for minority students that included academ-

-ic and financial counseling among other duties. Later he spent time in the Three Sisters region of Oregon and in Albuquerque, NM - always in the business of helping others.

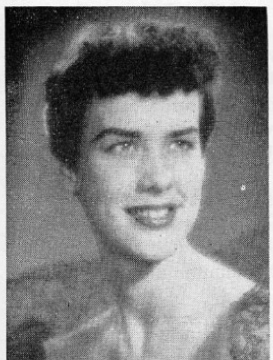
Over the years Dan became involved in working with brain injury clients and was ultimately credited as being one of the best on the East Coast. He testified regularly in court as an expert witness and contributed significantly to the betterment of his clients.

But, no matter what else he did, Dan was always an avid outdoorsman and for that reason moved back to the West upon the death of his mother in 2003. He spent time in Utah where he was a caseworker for the State of Utah Department of Employment before he retired to fish and hunt out of Bullhead City, AZ.

Those who knew Dan appreciated his calm and direct approach to people and knew that they could always depend on him for solid advice and unconditional support. He is missed.

YITBOS
Lyle Montgomery
Pledge Class '68

GAMMA IOTA HISTORY



DIXIE EMMA DODD

Congratulations to Geraldine Ann Emison of Delta Delta Delta Sorority on being selected as the 1953-54 National Sweetheart of Delta Sigma Phi. Miss Emison, a student at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, was the nominee of Gamma Iota Chapter. At the University her activities include Phi Theta Kappa, Sophomore Representative to AWS, Phi Chi Theta, University Singers, and walkies. Vital statistics include: age, 21; hair,



ROSEMARY WARING

DELTA SIGMA PHI
QUEENS:



GERALDINE ANN EMISON

National
Sweethearts



LEE POWER
for February, 1954

medium brown; eyes, blue; complexion, warm; height, 5'7"; and weight, 122 pounds. Finalists in the national contest who are designated as attendants to the National Sweetheart are: Dixie Emma Dodd, Zeta Tau Alpha, nominee of Kappa Chapter; Elmyra Thomas Perdue, Kappa Delta, nominee, of Omicron Chapter; Lee Power, Chi Omega, nominee of Beta Xi Chapter; and Rosemary Waring, Delta Sigma Epsilon, nominee of Gamma Theta Chapter.



ELMYRA THOMAS PERDUE

THANKS TO NATE MCCLEAN PC 94



A huge brotherly thanks to Nate Mclean who served as our Facilities Director on the ACB the last several years. He was the driving force to get the Castle reopened and up to code. Anyone interested in this position please contact Brendan Boyle at bboyle19@comcast.net.

70TH POSTPONED AGAIN, RESCHEDULED FOR MAY 2022

Dear Gamma Iota Brother,

As previously promised, the 70th Celebration Committee would make a decision on the rescheduled event no later than Feb. 1, 2021. The University was not allowing any large events for the 2021 Spring Semester essentially making the decision for us.

In looking at future dates to reschedule we felt it was important that the undergrads be in school and at a time that would least impact their studies and campus activities. Another factor was the hotel rates and how they vary during the year. During the fall football season they typically go up \$100 per night or even double according to the University Events Coordinator. Lowest rates are always at the end of spring semester. Final factor is weather and what time of year would least impact travel to Moscow. All of these lead us back to the same weekend in May. While the 2021 - 22 academic calendar is not out yet and we don't have exact dates, the 70th + 2 is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in May, 2022.

None of the alumni are more disappointed than the members on the 70th Committee with all the work put into this celebration. Just like last time we will recommit to making it even bigger and better in 2022.

We understand that another 11 months of waiting is a lot to ask with the interest that has been built in our alumni base. Some have mentioned having smaller events or mini reunions until the 70th. Anytime Gamma Iota brothers get together, that only strengthens our chapter. We only ask that those do not take away from attendance at the main celebration. It is critically important to our future that as many alumni as possible make the trek to Moscow, meet the undergrads in person, see what has been done in terms of culture change and the facility and what remains to be done.

Next fall we will begin the process of planning and informing the alumni of the event with more specifics. Should have firm dates by next fall and will shoot for registration and hotel info to be available by January of 2022. Any questions in the meantime please contact Eric Pickett PC 78 at eric.pickett78@gmail.com.

YITBOS
70th Anniversary Celebration Committee

*For questions or comments about
this edition of the Gamma Eye
please contact our Alumni Editor,
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