The ANA Leader

March 2020

Iota-Theta Zeta, Arkansas State University

Vol. 61, No. 1

Former DEA agent to speak

BY ROY OCKERT JR. lota Theta Zeta No. 203

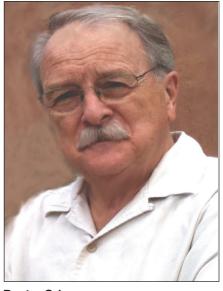
Buster Griggs, Iota Theta Zeta No. 259, will be the featured speaker for the 61st annual Founders Day Banquet, scheduled for Saturday, April 25, in the new Red Wolf Convention Center.

The banquet was originally scheduled a week earlier but had to be moved due to a scheduling conflict. That left open the opportunity to try a new venue.

The Convention Center is part of the Embassy Suites complex on the Arkansas State University campus. Portions of the complex opened in December, and the grand opening is set for this week. Brother Griggs grew up in Corning and graduated from Corning High School in 1966. The same year he entered then-Arkansas State College and was initiated into Lambda Chi Alpha with the Spring Pledge Class of 1967. Then known by his middle name Boyd, he worked his way through college as a sign painter and graphic artist. He graduated from ASU with a degree in political science and history in 1970.

After a brief stint in advertising at Little Rock, he joined the U.S. Treasury Department as a sky marshal, traveling around the world as

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Buster Griggs

Mortgage burning is within our grasp

BY BARRY FORREST lota Theta Zeta No. 551

In 1986 the Fraternity started a dream-come-true adventure that we all thought might never happen. That year started the ground-breaking for the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity House. I was there at the start of this campaign to be one of the first to build on the ASU campus. We built our dream, and today it stands tall as one of the best houses on campus.

The Fraternity has had its ups and downs through the years, but today we are the best men on campus. The men in the chapter have worked hard for the last five years to fulfill their obligation to the House Corp. by making their monthly payments on time.

I have been serving on the board off and on for more than 30 years. I have seen the house note rise up to near \$400,000 — many times, with only one or two board members carrying the load to keep the chapter on campus. Lambda Chi Alpha may be one of the oldest houses on the row, but we are one of the only ones that still owe for their house.

Last fall I asked for 100 alumni to step up and give \$1,000 each to help us secure the house and pay off the mortgage. With the help of many alumni, we have completed the security project, including a new camera system, a card key access system and repairs to our fire alarm system.

We have also reduced the loan to just under \$30,000. While we had hoped to pay off the mortgage sooner, we are now on track for that by next March, just by making our monthly payment.

What would be better, though, would be for our alumni to con-

tinue making contributions of any amount for principal reduction. Or you can join the Founders Circle at the Gold or Green levels, both of which include mortgage reduction features. Homecoming this year is Saturday, Sept. 26. Let's have that mortgage burning at the Lambda Chi house, after the Alumni meeting.

Be among the alumni stepping up, and let's pay this house off, so the payments that the chapter is making can go to house repairs and improvements. Use the form on page 7 to make your commitment to the brotherhood.

Barry Forrest is president of Forrest Office Machines. He is vice president of LXA at ASU Alumni Inc., the new alumni organization, and a director of the house corporation, Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc.

High Alpha's report

BY CALEB FREEMAN lota Theta Zeta No. 1526

There is no doubt in my mind that joining this incredible brother-hood has been the best decision of my life. Not only have I grown as a leader during my time as a Lambda Chi, but I have also grown as a man more than I ever thought possible.

Although the chapter has gone through some valleys in recent years, I believe that we are in an

excellent spot right now with the men we have serving on our officer board and all the members in general. We are all working day in and day out with one common goal: to bring the chapter to an all-time high in all aspects. I truly cannot thank all of you enough for the contributions each of you have made in order

to further Iota Theta, but I can assure you that we are doing everything possible to bring nothing but success to our brotherhood.

Caleb Freeman

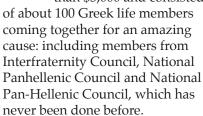
It is with great pleasure that I get to say that Iota Theta-Zeta is now the biggest fraternity chapter on Arkansas State University's campus with 102 members. Even with having this many members, we have managed to maintain an average cumulative grade average of 3.21. This past year has been full of extreme success for the men of Lambda Chi in areas such as philanthropy, campus involvement, recruitment, academics, and athletics.

Our High Theta, Owen Leible, has done an incredible job this past semester. The first philanthropy of the year was our fourth annual Red, White, and Blue BBQ. This event doubles as a recruitment event as well since it showcases one of our core values of service and stewardship to all the potential new

members. As always, the BBQ ended up being a huge victory as we raised just over \$6,000 for Retrieving Freedom, an organization that provides service dogs to veterans and autistic children in need.

We also put on three philanthropic events for Up 'til Dawn at ASU, an organization that raises money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. The first event was our annual Glow Run, which

brought in \$3,200. In addition, we hosted a Lambda Chi Alpha No More Cancer rally directly inside of our ZAX castle and tacked on another \$2,500 for the kids of St. Jude. Lastly, we recently hosted an Arkansas State Greekwide No More Cancer rally, which raised more than \$3,000 and consisted



Without a doubt, our biggest event of the semester was our annual Cream of the Crop/Greek Goddess competition. Not only does this event allow us to raise an enormous amount of food for our national philanthropy, Feeding America, but it also helps us increase our sorority relations with each chapter here on campus. It is a weeklong event for which each sorority brings in canned food eventually compete at the finale event via chants and a pageant consisting of a contestant from each of the five NPC sororities. We were able to bring in a historic 31,341 meals throughout this philanthropy.

The men of Lambda Chi are continuing the tradition of being

incredibly active on campus as we have members in almost every organization A-State has to offer. It would take up about three pages if I listed every member serving the campus, so I will list a few of the highlights. Will Wilkins, our High Beta, is just about Mr. Arkansas State as he is the current president of the Interfraternity Council, serves on the Student Activities Board, the St. Jude Up 'til Dawn board and countless other organizations.

In addition to this, he has served as a Pack Leader along with our former High Alpha Aaron Orender, Owen Leible and me. Like Will, I have also served on the IFC executive board and the Up 'til Dawn board as the Greek Life chair. Our High Kappa, Will Artie Scobey, now serves the IFC board as the vice president of scholarship. We also have three brothers currently serving on the Student Government Association: Owen Leible, High Tau Gus Guilliams, and High Rho Tyler Hickman.

The chapter might be on a slight pause in most people's eyes as we are currently on social probation, but I seriously could not be more excited for the future of this place. I firmly believe that we will be able to focus all of our attention on the most important aspects of the fraternity this semester, and there is not a doubt in my mind that Iota Theta Zeta will be catapulted to new heights with the changes that we are implementing this semester.

It is with great honor that I get to serve as the president of this chapter along with all the officers serving with me, especially our High Pi, Kevin Molder.

High Alpha Caleb Freeman is a junior from Searcy, majoring in biological sciences.

BANQUET ... continued from page 1

a member of the original anti-air piracy team. That led to a promotion to U.S. Customs special agent and later a transition to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration a special agent in New Orleans and then Memphis.

While stationed in Memphis, he earned a law degree from Memphis State University and became a member of the bar associations in Tennessee and Arkansas.

In 1992 Brother Griggs transferred to the DEA border office in Blaine, Wash., where he was assigned as liaison with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Drug Unit in British Columbia. In 1996 he transferred to the DEA office in Anchorage, Alaska, were he was stationed until his retirement from federal service in 1998.

In 2008 he and his wife Karen moved from Alaska to Pagosa Springs, Colo.

After retirement he renewed his love of fine art and became a professional artist. He is currently represented by Two Old Crows Gallery in Pagosa Springs and Masterpiece Gallery in Sante Fe, N.M. His artwork can be seen at www. bustergriggs.com.

For the banquet reservations will be required. Three plated dinners will be available, and each person attending must make a choice at the time of the reservation. Use the Commitment Form on page 7 for that purpose.

You can also make reservations and meals choices online. Go to our alumni database site, www. raklet.com/lxaasu. If you have not previously done so, you'll need to register and set a password. Follow the directions on the front page and also complete the information on your page.

While you're at it, consider paying alumni dues, joining the Founders Circle and/or making a director donation to retire the mortgage (these have to be done separately). Credit card information will be required for all online transactions.

Founders Day weekend will start with a crawfish boil and dropin, sponsored by the active chapter,

The schedule

Friday, April 24

6:30 p.m. — Crawfish boil, sponsored by Iota Theta Zeta, LXA House.

Saturday, April 25

11 a.m. — LXA at ASU Inc. annual meeting, House, Alumni Room.
11:30 a.m. — LXA at ASU Alumni annual meeting, Alumni Room
6-6:30 — Reception, Embassy
Suites lobby; cash bar available.
6:30 p.m. — 61st annual Founders
Day Banquet, Red Wolf Convention Center.

starting at 6:30 p.m. Friday at the fraternity house.

The annual meeting of the house corporation, Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc., will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, and the new alumni corporation, LXA at ASU Alumni Inc., will have its annual meeting immediately afterward.

A reception in honor of visiting alumni will start at 6 p.m. Saturday in the lobby of the Embassy Suites. A cash bar will be available.

Chapter's spring associate class includes eight men

BY TYLER HICKMAN

Iota Theta Zeta No. 1584

During the spring rush of 2020, Iota Theta brought in an 8-man associate class. Four of these young men are "retreads" from the Fall 2019 class, having fallen short of reaching the mandated grade average requirement.

Here are the new associates:

- Decatur Austin is a sophomore photography major from Bryant. He is in the Phi Beta Lambda business association, Governor's Office of Student Achievement, and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Jack Davis is a freshman business administration major from Memphis. His campus activities

include the Volleyball Club, Turning Point U.S.A, and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.

- Jamison King is a freshman physical education major from Jonesboro. He is in the Volleyball Club and participates in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Justin Porterfield is a freshman business major from Vilonia. His campus involvement includes being in Phi Beta Lambda, Turning Point U.S.A, and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Drake Roberson is a sophomore marketing major from Cabot. He is in Phi Beta Lambda, the Volleyball club and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.

- Jared Vance is a sophomore finance major from Cabot. His activities on campus include Phi Beta Lambda, National Society of Collegiate Scholars and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Braden Vaugier is a freshman education major from Jackson, Mo. He is in Turning Point U.S.A. Students for Trump and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.

Zayne Vergason is a sophomore finance major from Benton. His campus activities include the Volleyball Club and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.

Tyler Hickman is High Rho for Iota Theta Zeta.

27-man associate class initiated

BY TYLER HICKMAN

lota Theta Zeta No. 1584 On Jan. 18 Iota Theta Zeta initiated a 27-member associate class.

Over the past fall semester these young men have pushed each other to excel in all aspects of their college and fraternal lives. Members of the Fall 2019 class have maintained good grade averages, spent countless hours volunteering on and off campus, and raised thousands of dollars for philanthropy.

This class has shown great characteristics of leadership, with several of them running for office, four earning High Zeta and four Low Zeta offices.

Here are the new initiates:

• Philip Ball, Iota Theta 1576, is a freshman health studies major from Little Rock. He is active in Campus Outreach and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. Philip also holds a low zeta office as an Executive Board alternate. Philip comes from a family of Lambda Chi's, all at the University of Memphis: Brian Ball, his father; Jimmy Garrison and Joe Flannigan, uncles.

- Brayden Berry, Iota Theta 1577, is a freshman exercise science major from Hamburg. His campus involvement includes being a member of Turning Point U.S.A, the Honors College and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Austin Carper, Iota Theta 1578, is a junior sports management major from Wynne. He is involved in the Sports Management Club and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Tom Cornwell, Iota Theta 1579, is a freshman international business major from Maumelle. He is a member of Turning Point U.S.A, the Phi Beta Lambda Association, Honors College and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. Tom was elected as the High Iota (risk manager) for Iota Theta.
 - Connor Croft, Iota Theta 1580,

- is a business administration major from Benton. His campus involvement includes being active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Eli Demarco, Iota Theta 1581, is a freshman mechanical engineering major from Maumelle. He is a member of the Volleyball Club, Honors College and is also active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. Eli took office in January as Iota Theta's High Gamma (secretary).
- Chris Fuller, Iota Theta 1582, is a freshman mechanical engineering major from Bryant. He is active in the Volleyball Club and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Joel Gaffney, Iota Theta 1583, is a finance major from Mayflower. On campus he is active in Volunteer A-State, the Honors College, Campus Outreach and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Tyler Hickman, Iota Theta 1584, is a freshman majoring in

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The newest members of lota Theta Zeta pose with High Kappa Tanner Ezell. With the initiation of this 27-man class, zeta numbers now go to 1602.

High Pi Kevin Molder's report

BY KEVIN MOLDER lota Theta Zeta No. 855

The average number of members in a fraternity on the Arkansas State University campus is 58. Iota Theta Zeta currently has 102 active members. We are by far the largest fraternity on campus. The overall grade average has risen for the third consecutive semester. Our active brothers remain involved on campus by serving in various

leadership capacities. They have raised thousands of dollars for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Retrieving Freedom Inc.

2019 was a great year for us. While we are witnessing the successes of our chapter, there is a national trend affecting all fraternities that should concern us.

Since 2017 all fraternities have seen a decrease in membership. Nationally, Lambda Chi Alpha had a 17 percent decrease over the past three years. Although we currently have a record number of brothers, A-State had the lowest number of men to sign up for rush in the fall of 2019. Our chapter's rush chairman, Noah Ford, and many other brothers worked hard rushing the largest associate class on campus. Thirty-four associates joined Lambda Chi Alpha in the fall. Pi

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exercise science from Hamburg. He is a senator at large on the Student Government Association (SGA) and is also involved in Campus Outreach and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. In December he was elected as Iota Theta's High Rho (alumni liaison) and was the recipient of the Fall 2019 Jim Lundberg Award.

- Noah Higginbotham, Iota Theta 1585, is a freshman biology major from Jonesboro. His campus involvement includes being active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Trevor Karther, Iota Theta 1586, is a freshman mechanical engineering major from Little Rock. He is a member of the Volleyball Club and is active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Cody Kelley, Iota Theta 1587, is a freshman nursing major from Crossett. He is active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Chance Lawson, Iota Theta 1588, is a freshman finance major from Searcy. He in involved in the Phi Beta Lambda Association, Honors College and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Conly Lockhart, Iota Theta 1589, is a freshman mechanical engineering major from Rector. He is active in the Volleyball Club, Turning Point U.S.A and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. He also holds a Low Zeta

office as Iota Theta's Interfraternity Council delegate.

- Jorge Lopez, Iota Theta 1590, is a freshman finance major from Mount Ida. He is involved in ASU TV and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. He also holds a Low Zeta office for Iota Theta as social media chairman.
- Clayton Maertens, Iota Theta 1591, is a freshman marketing major from Benton. His campus involvement includes being active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Corey Martin, Iota Theta 1592, is a freshman computer and info technology major from Hamburg. He is active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Cole McKinney, Iota Theta 1593, is a freshman exercise science major from Jonesboro. He is also active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Hugh Miller, Iota Theta 1594, is a freshman mechanical engineering major from Sherwood. He is in the Honors College and is in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. He also serves as Iota Theta's High Sigma (scholarship chairman).
- Isaiah Ogilvie, Iota Theta 1595, a freshman finance major from Cabot. He is active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Garrett Overstreet, Iota Theta 1596, is a freshman sports management major from Maumelle. He is

active in St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.

- Diego Perez, Iota Theta 1597, is a freshman criminology major from Bryant. He is active in the Volleyball Club, Turning Point U.S.A. and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Dalton Pool, Iota Theta 1598, is a freshman undecided major from Jonesboro. He is in the Volleyball Club and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. Dalton is the son of Billy Pool, Iota Theta 881.
- Preston Shockley, Iota Theta 1599, is a freshman economics major from Maumelle. He is in the Honors College, FBLA and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn. He also holds a Low Zeta office as Iota Theta's standards chairman.
- Blake Smith, Iota Theta 1600, is a freshman business administration major from Maumelle. He is in the Phi Beta Lambda association and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Jack Stapleton, Iota Theta 1601, is a freshman interdisciplinary studies major from Conway. His campus involvement includes St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.
- Jacob Stobaugh, Iota Theta 1602, is a freshman marketing major from Vilonia. He is active in Turning Point U.S.A and St. Jude Up 'til Dawn.

Tyler Hickman is High Rho for Iota Theta Zeta.

Support from alumni is critical

BY PETE MURPHY lota Theta Zeta No. 710

It continues to amaze me at how strong our active chapter is on the campus of Arkansas State University. We have a great group of young men, and my hope is that some of you would get the opportunity to meet them sometime soon.

One way you could accomplish that is by becoming involved with our house corporation board. We meet monthly for an hour or so to take care of the business of the physical property of the house. Another way to participate would be to get involved with our newly formed alumni corporation board.

This board will probably meet 4-6 times per year and focus on Founders Day, Homecoming and any special fund-raisers that would benefit the house.

We took the step of separating the duties of the two entities based on a recommendation from the legal counsel for the national fraternity. In limiting our liability by removing board members who are officers in the active chapter, it left us with some additional spots to fill. As you can imagine, most of us, at least for the time being, are pulling double duty serving on both boards. We could really use your presence.

Speaking of the house, in the past year our major projects have included installing laminate flooring in the vestibule, updating our camera/security system and most importantly, adding card swipe locks to our exterior doors. These projects came at a cost of more than \$20,000. These are long-term investments that are being made to the fraternity house and do not include the routine maintenance of replacing washers/dryers, plumbing, electrical, HVAC maintenance and the like.

Our Founders Circle campaign over the past few years has been

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Kappa Alpha had the next highest number of 25.

There is hope in reversing this trend for us. Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity Inc. hired a new chief executive officer, Troy Medley, in the summer of 2019. Troy hit the ground running and changed the daily operations of the international fraternity from top to bottom. Troy recognized that LXA must change the way it conducts business in the future so LXA will grow and prosper in the future. He implemented a new dynamic leadership program and a renewed strategic focus. He is committed to future growth. In the last seven months he has strengthened the relations between the local chapters and the fraternity headquarters.

Troy immediately implemented a bold new way for the Office of Administration to connect with our active brothers. In the past each chapter would receive a visit every semester from an Educational Leadership Consultant (ELC) for around three days. This visit would include time with all the High Zeta

officers and the chapter. We have had several great ELCs in the past. However, we would have little to no contact with our assigned ELC after these visits.

Now the ELCs are called chapter support coaches. A support coach meets weekly with the High Alpha and monthly with the High Pi to discuss ways we can improve our chapter. High Alpha Caleb Freeman meets every Monday morning via Zoom with our chapter support coach. I meet with him monthly. We are already seeing positive results from this.

Troy has expressed many times that this year may be the most important General Assembly and year since the fraternity's abolition of pledgeship 50 years ago. We may be at a pivotal point in our fraternity, but I am confident that we will grow and continue to be the model on how other fraternities operate.

Alumni support is needed now more than ever so our chapter will continue its current path. I truly believe alumni support is very important in maintaining a strong chapter. Support can be done in many ways. You can pay your yearly alumni dues, donate to the retire the mortgage campaign, contribute to the 2020 Founders Circle campaign or volunteer your time by serving on the Alumni Advisory Board. The primary function of the Alumni Advisory Board is to mentor the Zeta officers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Roy Ockert, Pete Murphy or me.

In closing, I would like to thank all the alumni who have taken time from their busy schedules to come visit, mentor or simply offer encouraging words to the active brothers. I would also like to thank the Zeta officers and directors of the house corporation for their hard work and commitment. I am very proud of our young brothers for their accomplishments and their commitment to Lambda Chi Alpha's core values.

Kevin Molder is sheriff of Poinsett County and an adjunct instructor in criminology at Arkansas State University. **EDITOR'S NOTE:** Alumni dues support various activities and projects, including publication of this newsletter. Printing and mailing each edition to more than 1,500 alumni costs about \$900. Use this form to update us on your contact information, and use the back for news about yourself. It can also be used to make contributions to the Reserve Fund, which helps with longterm expenses related to the fraternity house; join the Founders Circle; and-or make reservations to Founders Day.

Name	Zeta number
Address	
City, state, ZIP	
Phone(s)	
E-mail	
Enclosed is my check for the Retire the Mortgage Fu	nd: \$
I can't do that but would like to help with the following	j:
Alumni dues for 2020 (payable on Jan. 1, 2020): \$50	
If a graduate in 2014 or later: \$25	
Sign me up for the Founders Circle at the following le	evel for 2020:
Check one: Purple (\$125 or more) Green \$250 or (Payments can be spread out over the year, if you wi	
This is a payment on the Founders Circle pledge: \$ _	
Founders Day, April 24-25	
Number of Saturday banquet tickets: times \$	40 per person \$
Name of spouse or other guest attending:	
Choose your plated dinner(s):	
Chicken Paillard (Corn Meal Crusted with Lemon Butter, Mask Bone-in pork chop (Seared Chop, Balsamic Bacon Onion Jam a Vegetarian (chef's choice)	ned Potato, and Braised Greens) and Smashed Potatoes)
I will attend the Friday night reception and crayfish bo	oil: Yes No (no charge).
Note: The deadline for all reservations and payment	is Monday, April 20.
	Total amount enclosed: \$
	(Make check(s) payable to LXA at ASU Inc.)
Mail to: Roy Ockert, Treasurer LXA House Corp. 3617 Alabama Road	Signed by:

royo@suddenlink.net

Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc. c/o Roy Ockert 3617 Alabama Road Jonesboro, Ark. 72405

Return postage guaranteed

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instrumental in raising the funds necessary to accomplish this work. In the coming year we would like to replace the floor in the Alumni Room as well as spruce up the curb appeal by working on landscaping and the grounds in the front yard.

Brother Barry Forrest put out the call last fall to raise money to pay off our mortgage. Once that is done, a larger portion of the rent we collect from the active chapter can go toward our Reserve Fund, which would allow us to tackle larger projects in the future. For example, at some point we will be looking at replacing the roof as well as buying new furnishings for the residents, both of which will require a large cash outlay.

If you haven't already done so, please consider making a donation to pay off the mortgage. It would be awesome if we could get more

alumni involved in either our house or alumni corporation boards. However, if you are geographically or physically unable to participate at the local level, consider supporting us financially. Can you imagine if we had just half of our alumni paying their \$50-per-year dues? We would have an additional \$40,000 a year to make improvements in your fraternity house!

To all of you that do help us financially, let me express our deep gratitude. We couldn't do this without your support. We appreciate the trust you place in us to make sure we have the finest fraternity house on campus.

Pete Murphy is first vice president and investment officer at Wells Fargo Advisors of Jonesboro. He serves as president of both the house corporation (Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc.) and alumni association (LXA at ASU Alumni Inc.).

Stay in touch

LXA at ASU maintains a Web site to serve both the active chapter and alumni. It includes a means by which alumni can update their contact information and find other brothers. We can only include brothers for whom we have a valid email address. At present we have about 800, some out of date.

Please go to the Web site (www.asulxa. com) and see if you're listed. If so, you should register and update your contact information. If not, contact me at the email address below, and you will be added. Once you're registered, please look for other missing brothers for whom you may have helpful information, and forward to me.

The Web site has the capability to form groups within the full data base, such as a certain pledge or associate class or just the alumni who live in a certain area.

Roy Ockert #203 royo@suddenlink.net