

Third try surely will charm

BY ROY OCKERT JR.

Alumni Corp. Treasurer

After two attempts in the pandemic-plagued past year, members and alumni of Iota Theta Zeta will celebrate the founding of Lambda Chi Alpha on the Arkansas State University campus with a banquet on Friday, April 23, at the Red Wolf Convention Center.

The 61st annual Founders Day Banquet had been set for about this time last year but had to be delayed when Arkansas shut down restaurants and meeting venues. The event was rescheduled for the fall, but coronavirus concerns again interfered.

With COVID-19 cases on the decline and vaccinations increasing rapidly in Arkansas, state Health Department regulations aimed at stopping the spread of the disease have been changed from mandatory to advisory. However, many of the ADH recommendations will be in effect for this event. Among them, all participants will be asked to wear a mask except while eating.

Buster Griggs, Iota Theta Zeta No. 259, a retired U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent, will be the keynote speaker. Having grown up in Corning, Brother Griggs, then known by his middle name Boyd, was initiated into Lambda Chi Alpha with the Spring Pledge Class of 1967. He graduated from ASU with a degree in political science and history in 1970.

Banquet tickets for alumni and guests will be \$40 each. Use the Alumni Commitment form on page 7 of this newsletter to make reservations. While you're at it, please consider paying the voluntary alumni dues or joining the Founders Circle. Dues pay expenses for alumni activi-



A much younger Buster Griggs poses with the caricature he drew of A-State Dean of Students Robert Moore (right). Brother Griggs graduated anyway.

ties such as Homecoming and this newsletter. All three levels of the Circle include contributions to the Reserve Fund, which supports long-term improvements to the fraternity house.

You can do the same thing online. Go to <https://www.raklet.com/lxaasu>. That will take you to the front page of our alumni service site. If you have not previously registered, you will be required to do so at this point. Your email address is your user name; you will be asked to set a password.

Click on the Events tab at the left. There you should see a listing for the 2021 Founders Day Banquet. Click

on that line, and it will take you to a form. At some point you will be asked to fill in credit card information for charging the tickets.

Either way, you'll be asked to choose one of three plated dinners for the banquet. The deadline for buying tickets is 5 p.m. Monday, April 19.

To pay dues or join the Founders Circle, use the Campaigns tab on the site.

The Convention Center is in the Embassy Suites complex on the ASU campus and faces Red Wolf Boulevard. The banquet is slated for the Arvest Ballroom, sections III and IV.

From the High Pi of Iota Theta Zeta

BY KEVIN MOLDER
High Pi

I think most of you would agree that 2020 was a challenging year for us. We are all experiencing our own unique trials and tribulations during this pandemic. Our active brothers are no different. They have faced rules and regulations that none of us had to endure during college. The cancellation of social events, brotherhood events, and in-person chapter meetings are just a few examples of what this pandemic has taken away from them. Most of our fondest memories during our active years were at these events.

This may sound as if fraternity life is over and we need to shut the doors. Actually, it is the opposite. Our active brothers are resilient and creative. Chapter meetings are now conducted in the Student Union building on the ASU campus so they can meet in person. Two events were approved by ASU, and they have raised thousands of dollars. All of this has been done by following the

CDC guidelines and ASU's COVID-19 "Return to Learn" initiative.

The average number of members in a fraternity on the Arkansas State University campus is 43. Iota Theta Zeta currently has 104 active members. We are by far the largest fraternity on campus. The overall grade point average has risen for the fourth consecutive semester. We are now ranked second out of nine fraternities. I am confident we will move to first. For the last three years our chapter has recruited more men during fall rush than any other fraternity. Our active brothers remain involved on campus by serving in various leadership capacities. Three brothers are serving on the Interfraternity Council (IFC), and seven were chosen to serve as Pack Leaders this year. Again, all of this success is during a pandemic.

Alumni support is needed now more than ever so our chapter will continue its current path. I truly believe alumni support is very important to remain strong. Support

can be done in many ways. You can pay your yearly alumni dues, contribute to the 2021 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 offer encouraging words to the chapter. I would also like to thank the High Zeta officers, House Corp. and the Alumni Association board members for their hard work and commitment to Lambda Chi Alpha. I am very proud of our young brothers for their accomplishments and their commitment to our core values.

Kevin Molder, Iota Theta Zeta No. 855, is sheriff of Poinsett County. He recently accepted a second 2-year term as principal adviser of the chapter. He may be reached at kjmolder@yahoo.com.

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A reception in the lobby of the hotel will begin at 5:30 p.m., and the banquet will start at 6:30. A cash bar is available in the lobby.

The annual meeting of the alumni organization, LXA at ASU Alumni Inc., will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 24. An informal luncheon will follow.

During the annual meeting three members of the Board will be elected to 3-year terms. Three current directors — Brent Davis, Delane Hogan and Jeff Simmons — who drew 1-year terms when the board was formed in 2021 have indicated a willingness to serve again. Other candidates are welcome.

The meeting will also include re-

ports on finances and the house.

An informal lunch for alumni will follow.

Brother Griggs joined the U.S. Treasury Department as a sky marshal shortly after graduating from ASU, traveling around the world as 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 as special agent in New Orleans and then Memphis.

While stationed in Memphis, he earned a law degree from Memphis State University.

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, where 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.

Roy Ockert, Iota Theta No. 203, is a retired editor of The Jonesboro Sun. He may be reached at royo@suddenlink.

From the High Alpha of Iota Theta Zeta

BY WILL SCOBEY

High Alpha

The past year has been one of uncertainty and new experiences for Lambda Chi Alpha. With the unexpected arrival of COVID-19, the chapter's events and activities were put on hold for months. We found ourselves faced with entirely new challenges and obstacles thanks to this pandemic. All of our chapter's usual events and activities were left up in the air, with everyone unsure how to proceed amidst a global pandemic.

Despite all of this, Iota Theta has been able to survive and thrive in this new ever-changing landscape. In the fall we were the first and only fraternity at Arkansas State University to host a major philanthropy event. Our annual fall philanthropy, Cream of the Crop, was one of the many events whose future was uncertain at the beginning of the fall semester.

An event such as this would have required an exceptionally large venue simply to host all of the participants. What did Iota Theta do to work around this? We held Cream of the Crop at the football stadium. This was something that no other fraternity had thought to attempt. Not only did we attempt it, but we successfully conducted our biggest philanthropy event of the year amidst a pandemic. We raised more than 10,000 pounds of food for Feeding America and saw an excellent turnout of sorority participation.

One of the biggest challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic lies in education. The surge of online classes and Zoom meetings has left many students struggling to maintain their grades and continue furthering their academic careers. While this has been difficult for all of us, I am happy to report that Iota Theta's overall grade average has increased over the past year to a 3.2. This GPA puts us second behind Sigma Pi (a chapter with less than 25 percent of our total member-



The chapter hosted its first philanthropy event of the spring in February — a Freedom Run 5K. The event benefited Mission 22, a nonprofit organization that helps combat veterans with PTSD treatment programs, traumatic brain injury treatment, memorials and social community impact.

ship) and far ahead of the other “major” chapters at our campus.

Iota Theta's involvement on campus also deserves recognition. We currently have three members of Iota Theta on the Interfraternity Council, seven members of Iota Theta serving as Pack Leaders, and our very own Owen Leible working with SGA President Rashad Kirksey. Iota Theta has been making dramatic strides toward increased campus involvement and improved academic efficiency over the last year.

One of the biggest challenges of operating a fraternity during this pandemic was trying to determine how we would recruit. We could no longer host rush events at the house, meet in person with rushees or even have a typical rush week. The school determined that the typical rush process would be entirely online, meaning that we would not be able to meet rushees in person. This obviously presented a major challenge

for the chapter.

Despite this, we attacked rush week with the same enthusiasm that we display every year, pandemic or not. Thanks to the diligent efforts and enthusiasm of Iota Theta, we were able to rush the largest fall class of the fraternities at Arkansas State. Quantity may not equal quality, but our selectiveness and diligent rush process ensured that we selected quality guys.

The past year has been filled with many winding roads, but we have remained steadfast on the path toward improvement. In the current spring semester we have hosted a major 5k event, initiated a new class and begun holding chapter meetings back at the house. There is still much work left to be done, but I have no doubt that Iota Theta will continue to grow as a chapter and as men.

Will Scobey, who is from Corning, was a member of the fall 2018 associate class and is Iota Theta No. 1568.

19-man associate class initiated

BY KADEN MEJIA

High Rho

On Feb. 20 Iota Theta Zeta initiated a 19-member associate class. The class consisted of one junior, two sophomores, one military veteran and 15 freshmen.

Although these men did not have

the same background or skills, they shared two things: their determination and leadership. Most members of the class ran for High Zeta and Low Zeta offices in December, with two being elected to the High Zeta and a three to Low Zeta positions. The High Zeta offices now be-

ing held by junior initiates are High Rho (Kaden Mejia), and High Sigma (Clay Aureli). Elected to Low Zeta offices were Stone Stanley, Executive Board alternate; Weston Adams, sergeant-at-arms; and Landon Valdez,

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Nineteen members of the fall associate class were recently initiated into Iota Theta Zeta. Shown with their High Kappa, Will Scobey (center, with paddle), are the initiates with their zeta numbers in parentheses:

- Front row, from left: Max Bell of Jonesboro (1610), Gage Rolwing of Minor, Mo. (1619), Landon Valdez of McRae (1623), Beau Ferguson of Austin (1614) and Seth Copeland of Sikeston, Mo. (1613);
- Middle row: Weston Adams of Jonesboro (1608), Kaden Mejia of Benton (1618), Evan Weiner of North Little Rock (1626), Scobey (who is now High Alpha of the chapter), Austin Cook of Maumelle (1612), Stone Stanley of Sherwood (1621), Nathan Velek of Austin (1624) and Cameron Tefteller of Conway (1622);
- Back row: Sam McLaughlin of Cabot (1617), Clay Aureli of Marion (1609), Trace South of Fayetteville (1620), Eddie Mata of Jonesboro (1615), Garrett Walker of Maumelle (1625), Carson McDonald of Crossett (1616) and Logan Catton of Benton (1611).

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standards chairman.

Following are the initiates of the fall 2020 class in order in order of Zeta numbers (in parentheses).

- **Weston Brent Adams (1608):** Weston is a physical education major from Brookland. Upon graduation from high school, he attended Army Infantry One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga. He then served three years with 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, earning the rank of sergeant. After college Weston plans on commissioning into the Army as an officer. He said that his time in associateship reminded him of the brotherhood he left in the Army.

- **Clay Rodrick Aureli (1609):** Clay is a pre-professional major from Marion. He plans on going to medical school after college and becoming an emergency medicine physician. He is involved in Pre-Professional Club, St. Jude's Up Til Dawn and the Honors College. Clay said the one thing in his life that opened his eyes the most was associateship. "It reminded me constantly to be the best version of myself and to become the man that people need me to be," he said. Clay wants to live in the house and wants to run for High Iota next year. Then he wants to be a part of the Executive Board all four years of his college term.

- **Max Robert Bell (1610):** Max is a biology major from Benton. He is involved in Student Philanthropy Council, Student Emergency Fund and Chancellor's Leadership Class. Max states, "Associateship was amazing. Learning and being involved with the fraternity is more than I could ever ask for. Having the brothers help me through the beginning of college was a life saver. I can't begin to explain how thankful I am to have been give this opportunity."

- **Logan Dean Catton (1611):** Logan is a sophomore from Bryant and is involved in Up Til Dawn, Volleyball and Honors. Associateship for

Logan was mainly a learning experience. He learned that he was a leader, a diligent but quiet leader.

- **Austin Kyle Cook (1612):** From Maumelle, Austin is involved in Ag Business Club, Sales Club and Phi Beta Lambda. Austin's favorite part of being an associate was the time he got to spend with brothers and his associate class.

- **Seth Daniel Copeland (1613):** Seth is from Sikeston, Mo. His activities include Up Til Dawn and Sales Club. Associateship was a great experience for Seth. He said it brought him some of the best brothers and helped him grow into a man. He would like to hold a High Zeta office next year.

- **Beau Michael Ferguson (1614):** Beau is a sports management major from Cabot and is involved in activities related to his major, including Sales Club and football manager. Associateship was one of the hardest challenges for Beau. It was eye opening, and he is proud to be a brother of Lambda Chi Alpha. He wants to be the instrumental chair and hopefully hold High Beta.

- **Eddie Miguel Mata (1615):** Eddie is a junior mechanical engineering major from Jonesboro. He is involved in Up Til Dawn, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Human Powered Vehicle. Eddie states, "My time as an associate of Lambda Chi Alpha was incredible. I enjoyed every minute of learning about Iota Theta and forming relationships with the brothers."

- **Carson Cade McDonald (1616):** From Crossett, Carson is majoring in exercise science. This journey was nothing like Carson has ever experienced before. Everything Carson went through with the brothers and Fall 20 will be something he will never forget, he said. He is in clubs such as Howlerz Student Section, Up Til Dawn and Korean Club.

- **Sam Gage McLaughlin (1617):**

Sam is from Cabot and is involved in pre-med studies. During his associateship he was involved in Pre-Professional Club, Sales Club and Up Til Dawn. The next goal for Sam is to run for High Zeta offices but at the same time preparing to start his career as a strength coach.

- **Kaden Gage Mejia (1618):** Kaden is from Benton and is involved in Up Til Dawn, Sales Club and Student Section Club. Lambda Chi Alpha to Kaden was everything during associateship. "Coming to A-State, I had no idea what was next for me. Then Lambda Chi gave me a bid with open arms." Kaden plans to grow year after year as a brother and to run for other offices.

- **Gage Noah Rowling (1619):** Gage is from Sikeston, Mo., and is involved in Philosophy Club, Up Til Dawn and Sales Club. Associateship for Gage was great, he said, an experience like no other.

- **Trace Barron South (1620):** From Fayetteville, Trace's major is supply chain management. He is involved in track, Sales Club and Children's Hospital Club. Trace said at the beginning that associateship was stressful and hard for him. He ended up loving everything about it. He loved how the brothers were always there for him and to teach him.

- **Stone Phillip Stanley (1621):** From Sherwood, Stone is involved in the Phi Beta Lambda Club. During his time as an associate, Stone said he noticed the numbers of connections and friends he gained. Even though the time had its ups and downs, he said he would 100 percent do it all over again. Stone hope to help better this fraternity.

- **Cameron Shane Tefteller (1622):** Cameron is a finance major from Conway. Outside of the chapter, he is active in organizations such as Phi Beta Lambda, Sales Club and St. Jude Up Til Dawn. Cameron said his

From the House Corp. Board president

BY PETE MURPHY

House Corp. President

Patience is a virtue. It only took 35 years, but this past October we made the final mortgage payment on our chapter house. We held a mortgage burning ceremony on Halloween day to commemorate the event. What a great feeling that was!

In the aftermath of separating our original board into two separate entities (House Corp. and Alumni Corp.), I have remained on the house board. Although these two corporations will work together, this change in structure will allow this board to focus solely on house maintenance and other improvement projects.

It is our goal to make the LXA house the best fraternity house on campus.

To that end, we have completed projects in the past year that include: professional cleaning and sealing ceramic tile floor in the large meeting room; rebuilding the large deck off of the TV room; rekeying all of the residential room doors; replacing interior doors in the residential rooms; and repairing kitchen cabinet doors.

We also spent one day last summer as a group of actives and alumni came together to do some much needed cleaning, shrub trimming, power washing, painting and fluorescent light bulb changing. Aesthetically, it made a huge difference.

Looking out over the next few months our list of to-dos includes: installing window shades in the alumni room, front entry, and large

meeting room; reinforcing/replacing flooring in the TV room; and repairing the small deck off of the alumni room. I'm certain we will organize another active/alumni workday this summer to knock out some smaller projects once again so be on the lookout for the date. We would love for you to join us if possible.

We wouldn't be in this position without the active chapter taking their financial commitment seriously as well as the sacrifice of hundreds of alumni who continue to support our efforts. We are very grateful for you.

Pete Murphy, Iota Theta No. 710, is financial adviser and vice president for investments of Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. in Jonesboro. He may be reached at petemurphy66@gmail.com.

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associateship was "an experience that really taught me a lot about myself and others." It showing me how to treat everyone with the utmost respect," he added.

- Landon Cole Valdez (1623): Landon is from Searcy and is on a career plan to become a chiropractor. Clubs he is involved in are Up Til Dawn, Honors and Sales Club. Associateship to Landon was amazing. Not only did he learn about Lambda Chi Alpha, but he made lifelong friends. Landon wants to be active in the fraternity and make an impact.

- Nathan Alexander Velek (1624): From Little Rock, Nathan is a business economics major who plans on becoming a financial adviser after college. His activities include Honors College, Phi Beta Lambda and Alpha Lambda Delta. Associateship for Nathan was an experience like no other, he said. Nathan talks about how he built memories and friendships that will last forever.

- Garrett Mason Walker (1625): From Maumelle, Garrett is a freshman chemistry major. He is involved in Up Til Dawn and the Cooking Club. Associateship gave him a chance to prove himself, he said, as well as to prove that Lambda Chi Alpha was the place for him. These many months taught him many lessons on how to uphold himself with certain ideals and values, trying to be the best man he could be. His next step is to be an active leader in the class.

- Evan Kyle Weiner (1626): A sophomore from North Little Rock, Evan is a physical education major. He is involved in Volleyball Club and the Barbell Club. Associateship for Evan was one of the greatest times of his life, he said. He loved meeting all his associate brothers and all his new brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Spring associates

Iota Theta's spring associate class is comprised of seven "retreads" — guys who were a part of the fall associate class but were not initiated because of grades or other issues.

Here are those seven individuals:

- Justin Bates: A finance major From Little Rock, he is involved in Up Til Dawn, Cooking, Korean Club and Phi Beta Lambda.

- Jacob Brown: Jacob is from Jonesboro and is apart of St. Jude's, Phil Beta Lambda and Wolf Pack.

- Cade Carter: He is a business major from Jonesboro and is involved in Up Til Dawn, Finance Club and Cooking Club.

- Aiden Hughes: Aiden is an exercise science major from Sherwood. He is Involved in Up Til Dawn, Cooking Club and the Korean Club.

- Brady Lofton: He is an electrical engineering major from Crossett. He is involved in Up Til Dawn, Howlerz Student Section and Korean Club.

- Zach Lutz: Zach is a business administration major from Jonesboro. He is involved in Phi Beta Lambda, Cooking Club and Up Til Dawn.

- Matthew Kim: From Maumelle, Matthew is a business major. He is involved in Up Til Dawn, Cooking Club and the Korean Club.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Alumni dues support various activities and projects, including the fraternity Web site and listserv, which brings you this newsletter. 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, or join the Founders Circle.

Name _____ Zeta number _____

Address _____

City, state, ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for:

Alumni dues for 2021 (payable on Jan. 1, 2021): \$50 _____

If a graduate in 2015 or later: \$25 _____

Sign me up for the Founders Circle at the following level for 2021:

Check one: Purple (\$125 or more) ____ Green \$250 or more) ____ Gold (\$500 or more) ____
(Payments can be spread out over the year, if you wish.)

This is a payment on the Founders Circle pledge: \$ _____

Founders Day, April 23

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, Mashed Potato, and Braised Greens)	
Bone-in pork chop	_____
(Seared Chop, Balsamic Bacon Onion Jam and Smashed Potatoes)	
Vegetarian	_____
(chef's choice)	

I will attend the luncheon Saturday: Yes ____ No ____ (no charge).

Note: The deadline for all reservations and payment is Monday, April 19.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Make check(s) payable to LXA at ASU Inc.)

Mail to:

Roy Ockert, Treasurer
LXA House Corp.
3617 Alabama Road
Jonesboro, Ark. 72405
royo@suddenlink.net

Signed by:

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

Return postage guaranteed

Stay in touch

LXA at ASU Alumni Inc. maintains a Web site to serve the chapter and alumni. It includes a means by which alumni can update their contact information and find other brothers.

Please go to the Web site (www.asulxa.com) and see if you're listed. If so, register and update your contact information.

From the Alumni Corp. Board president

BY BARRY FORREST
Alumni Corp. President

First, let me say THANK YOU to all the alumni who gave to retire the mortgage. It is great to report that with all the donations and the last \$5,000 provided by Brother Edwin Jaffe, we BURNED the mortgage at a ceremony outside the house with more than 50 brothers and alumni present. This was a great accomplishment by our alumni. Thank the good Lord that those payments are gone.

The chapter is very strong in brotherhood and campus activities. They are more than 100 strong, and Iota Theta is the largest chapter on the ASU campus. COVID has put a hold on a lot of activities, but the brothers have adapted to all the rules and regulations that the school has put on

them. I am very proud of how strong the chapter is.

Alumni, we still have an important role in keeping Lambda Chi Alpha on the campus of ASU. Even though the house is paid for, there is still a lot of repairs remodeling that needs to be done. As you know our purple, green and gold Founders Circle is the way we can continue to raise alumni money to help with the repairs.

Founders Day is April 23, and I would like to invite all of you to attend. Buster Griggs will be a great speaker, and the fellowship will be fun for all. As I mentioned earlier, the Founders Circle and alumni dues will also help us have more activities for the alumni. We would love to be able to have a tent for Homecoming this year. This would be at the discretion of ASU and its COVID policies.

I would love to have an alumni social in the Little Rock area again to meet both young and old alumni. I ask that if you are able, PLEASE join the Founders Circle at whatever level you can. Or if you are not able to do \$500, \$250 or \$125, please pay your alumni dues so we can get your updated email and other information. Brotherhood is for life, and it is important that we all stay in touch and keep our legacy going.

I look forward to visiting with you, and if you have any questions, please email me at bwforrest@sbcglobal.net

Thanks for all you do and for what you are going to do in the future.

Barry Forrest, Iota Theta No. 551, is owner-operator of Forrest Office Machines in Jonesboro.