



Ridenour to speak at banquet

BY ROY OCKERT

Iota Theta No. 203

Alumni, active brothers and associates will gather Friday, April 21, to celebrate the 63rd anniversary of the founding of Lambda Chi Alpha at then-Arkansas State College.

Among those taking part will be alumni with zeta numbers in the low hundreds and actives whose numbers are above 1,600.

The weekend's activities will start Friday with a banquet in the Cooper Alumni Center on the ASU campus. The lobby will be open for brotherhood starting at 5:30 p.m., and the dinner buffet will open at 6:30.

Danny Ridenour, Iota Theta Zeta No. 591, will be the keynote speaker. He is a longtime radio executive and personality.

Chapter and alumni awards will be presented during the banquet, which will honor the members of the Veterans Club who formed first a colony and then Iota Theta Zeta in 1959. Of the 76 original members, 40 are known to be deceased.

Of the 36 men initiated as part of the first two pledge classes, 21 are believed to be still alive. Many of them, unlike the Veterans Club members who had returned to college after the Korean War, were traditional college students.

The cost for banquet tickets is \$25 for active members and their guests; \$40 for alumni and their guests.

The annual meeting of the zeta's alumni association, LXA at ASU Alumni Inc., will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 22, in the Alumni Room at the fraternity house. It will be followed by an informal luncheon at the house.



Danny Ridenour

A financial report for the alumni association and also the house corporation will be given. Three members of the association board will be elected to 3-year terms. Incumbent members Pete Murphy, Barry Forrest and Roy Ockert have expressed a willingness to stand for re-election.

The Founders Circle Golf Scramble will start at 12:30 p.m. Saturday at the Sage Meadows Country Club. Competition will be in 2-man actives teams and 2-man alumni teams. Where possible, one active team and one alumni team will be paired in a foursome, and trophies will also be given for the low combined foursome score.

Entry fee is \$45 for actives and \$60 for alumni.

Deadline for banquet reservations and golf registrations is Monday, April 17, at 5 p.m. You can use

Schedule of events

Friday, April 21

5:30-6:30 — Reception, Cooper Alumni Center lobby.

6:30 p.m. — Founders Day Banquet, Cooper Alumni Center Ballroom.

Saturday, April 22

10 a.m. — LXA at ASU Alumni Inc. annual meeting, House, Alumni Room.

11-12:30 p.m. — Informal lunch, LXA Fraternity House.

12:30 p.m. — Alumni/Actives Golf Scramble, Sage Meadows Country Club.

the form on page 7 for both purposes, but a mailed version must be received by the deadline.

A quicker way to sign up for both is to click on the raklet.com link in our email messages, and then go to the Events page. You will need to register if you have not previously done so. Because the fees are different, there are separate forms for alumni and actives to sign up.

If you don't want to sign up online, you can download the fillable form from the link above a relevant message, and then send it by email or regular mail.

Ridenour, who was initiated into Iota Theta Zeta in 1979, studied radio-television at A-State. He is now operations director at KSBV-FM in Salida, Colo. The station, also known as "The River Rat," plays a classic rock music format.

Brother Danny's first professional work after college was for

From the High Pi of Iota Theta Zeta

BY CURTIS BASTER

Iota Theta No. 483

So here I am with about a year-and-a-half of serving as High Pi, behind me. I would like to believe I am a year wiser ... but being honest, I have to say I have still been fooled a few times.

The fact that the active chapter has struggled to meet the expectations of alumni is not news to anyone who has paid attention. However, in my journey to become wiser, I have indeed learned a few things that are worth talking about.

The chapter continues to struggle to drop all reference to "pledge" and similarly, to drop all manner of hazing. I dealt with some reports of hazing, having been alerted by the national office, but they had no teeth in the end. I can say that our current High Alpha and our High Kappa are demonstrating they want an end to hazing. For this, among other things, I am very proud of them both because it is certainly not the popular stance.

The chapter continues to struggle with finances. I am pleased to report that the current High Tau is

exercising the power of his office and is collecting some long past-due funds. I for one was really fed up with constant indebtedness, but became much less critical of our younger brothers, when I learned, from the national office, that brothers initiated prior to 2017 owe the chapter in excess of \$60,000. Correction, these are not brothers as we intend them to be; these are parasites that just happened to drop off the LXA host before being called to pay. You know who you are, as do those of us with the records. If you owe the chapter, pay what you owe.

The university seems to be more Greek-friendly this year. I do believe they see the value of our organization and the good we do for those less fortunate.

The Fall 2022 initiates are, mostly, a promising group. A few were elected to High Zeta positions and are serving with a passion. I am still getting to know the Spring 2023 associates so cannot comment on what they may contribute.

In closing, we have the continuing need for alumni involvement. I am enjoying my tenure as High Pi, so

my appeal is not to find a replacement. My young brothers want to know more about what it was like when we older guys were initiated and running the chapter. I can only tell so many Dave Brown/Gross Gang stories before they tire of me. You can speak to the chapter via Zoom or in person. Recently they decorated a table with a large Jumpin' Joe image, to show respect to those bridge builders that made all this possible. They are proud of the heritage we describe, but it can be better if you visit in some way.

I have made the comment that while uncertain in the beginning, I now find myself feeling as though I get to relive my active chapter days. I talked to Butch Ellis recently just to catch up. We discussed several of you, and I hung up feeling just the way I did when we were out at the pavilion, standing around the keg. I love my brothers, young and old, and I am proud to be a Lambda Chi.

Curtis Baster has been High Pi of Iota Theta Zeta since November 2021. He can be contacted at cbaster483@gmail.com.



From the High Alpha of Iota Theta Zeta

BY NATHAN VELEK

Iota Theta No. 1624

Unlike in the recent years, Iota Theta has experienced a prosperous year with only a few minor hiccups along the way. Despite these obstacles our chapter has excelled in every aspect that exists within a fraternity.

Due to the success we have experienced in academics, philanthropy, campus involvement and even social events, we have been able to reinforce the bond that holds us all together — brotherhood. These victories, of course, are unachievable without the hard work and dedication from the active chapter throughout this year. That being said, I attribute this year's attainments to the resounding commitment of our brothers, active or alumni.

To start off the fall 2022 semester, we hosted our annual Red White and Blue Barbecue. The event consisted of a volleyball tournament with participating teams from other fraternities and sororities. Along with that, several members volunteered to cook and serve barbecue to those in attendance. In total, we raised \$3,000 for Retrieving Freedom, an organization that provides service animals to veterans and children with disabilities. To top it all off, our A-team placed first in the men's bracket of the volleyball tournament.

Soon after that, fall rush kicked into full gear. Per usual, our chapter blew others out of the water. Come bid day, 26 new members were welcomed into the fraternity as associates. This 26-man associate class was seven more than the next largest pledge class.

Later that month A-State's campus recreation began its intramural flag-football leagues. A league was open to all students, and of course, a league for Greek organizations.



Outgoing High Alpha Joel Gaffney (left) installs Nathan Velek as the chapter's chief officer.

We put together two teams for this league — our A-team and the "B-team Bombers." Throughout the season both teams were successful enough to eventually face off in the Greek League championship. Although it was a great game, the A-team prevailed. Because both teams made it to the championship, both A- and B-teams qualified for the playoffs against the qualifying teams from the Non-Greek League. In the championship round our A-team came out on top as the campuswide champion after defeating the opponent 22-13.

Even though the bragging rights and championship rings are notable, there are several other things to celebrate from this past year — one of those being our academic success. As a chapter we finished second among Inter-Fraternity Council chapters with a 3.07 grade average for the fall 2022 semester. The average GPA for all of IFC was a 2.82.

The fall semester brought Iota Theta's cumulative average to 3.26.

Something else worth recognizing is our biggest philanthropy event in the fall — Cream of the Crop. The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas was at risk of shutting down due to a decline in the total amount of food being donated. However, we were able to raise 22,000 pounds of food and nearly \$1,500 for the cause. This substantial influx was enough to keep the Food Bank's doors open, and thousands of families fed.

Our campus involvement is another aspect we continue to prioritize. For example, two of our members are executive officers for IFC. Landon Valdez is the IFC president, and Clay Aureli oversees IFC recruitment.

The last aspect of our chapter that has made positive strides this year is our social events. In mid-September we hosted "Lambdopalooza," which was the first registered event for the majority of our membership. After the event we received positive feedback from the school as well as the sororities regarding how well run and fun the event was. It was great to see how successful an event we could host, especially after a long hiatus due to COVID-19 and previous probationary terms.

With all the momentum in favor of us, the chapter is looking forward to finishing out the year strong. Our upcoming events include a semi-formal in Memphis, our biggest philanthropy in the Spring, Sandblast, as well as "Lambda Luau," a registered event to compliment Sandblast. So long as the chapter's mindset remains focused on positive growth, there is no doubt in my mind that we can continue to do bigger and better things.

High Alpha Nathan Velek, a junior from Austin, Ark., majoring in finance and wealth management. He can be reached at nvelek2@

17-man associate class initiated

BY LANDON WALLACE

Iota Theta No. 1670

Seventeen men from the fall 2022 associate class were initiated into Iota Theta Zeta in January, bringing the chapter's zeta numbers to 1671. This class started out with 26 members. Following is a summary of the new initiates, with their zeta numbers in parentheses.

- Mason Cade Bell (1655) is from Cabot and is a freshman business administration major. Mason plans on entering medical sales after college.

- Chandler James Carter (1656) is also from Cabot and is a freshman business marketing major. Chandler plans to become an industrial rubber

and gasket salesman after college.

- Alex Jay Covington (1657) is from Searcy and is a junior land surveying and geomatics major. Alex plans to become a licensed land surveyor after college. He is the newly elected High Gamma (secretary) for the chapter.

- Ryan Edward Dugan (1658) is from Bryant and is a freshman agricultural business major. Ryan plans on entering plant and seed sales after college.

- Ethan Thurston Elsberry (1659) is from Searcy and is a freshman physical education major. Ethan plans on becoming a basketball coach after college. He serves as the intramural

chair for the chapter.

- Matthew Charles Garret (1660) is a sophomore finance major from Little Rock. Matthew plans on entering commercial real estate development after college.

- Juan Guillermo Gonzalez (1661) is a freshman health studies major from Batesville. Juan plans on becoming a physical therapist after college.

- Corbin Michael Green (1662) is from Searcy and is a freshman physical education major. Corbin plans on becoming a physical therapist after college.

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New initiates — Front row (from left): Ethan Elsberry, Corbin Green, Mason Roland, Mason Bell and Andrew Stringfellow; back row: Chandler Carter, Jackson Wolf, Ty Moran, Matthew Garrett, Landon Wallace, Ryan Dugan, Juan Gonzalez, Cameron Hicks, Kekoa Villaluna, Korwin Johnson, Ashton Shurley and Alex Covington.

From the House Corp. Board president

BY PETE MURPHY

Iota Theta No. 710

When you own a fraternity house, something always needs to be repaired or replaced. Over the past two summers we have remodeled all 12 residential rooms. Having remodeled four in 2021, the house board set out to finish the remaining eight over this past summer. This was the first renovation of the residence area of the house since 2011-12.

Our summer 2022 work on the eight residential rooms involved correcting flaws and holes in the walls, then repainting them, repainting the ceilings, putting new floors in all but one of the rooms, replacing or repainting doors as needed, replacing outlet covers, installing new lights as needed, repairing cabinets and bathroom fixtures, painting and re-installing baseboards.

Our assistant house manager, Cameron Tefteller, stayed through the summer and did much of the wall repair and painting, which saved the House Corp. a great deal of money.

Prior to the 2022 project, the board decided to limit the six upper rooms

to one resident per room. Our theory was that the rooms are too small for two men per room, especially with full-sized bunk beds, and four guys sharing one bathroom was also too much. The result was that the rooms were taking excessive wear and tear, and because of the crowding, we had difficulty making repairs when needed.

The downstairs rooms would remain occupied by two men per room, four per bathroom.

In addition to the work on the rooms, we replaced all hallway light fixtures in the second-floor residential hallway. In the fall we did the same with the first-floor residential hallway and the kitchen.

We also had new landscape lighting installed in front of the house to illuminate the rock LXA sign. We had a dusk-till-dawn timer installed to turn those lights, as well as others in front of the house, on and off. We replaced some damaged guttering in front of the house and added downspouts to direct rainwater away from the house.

Altogether the House Corp. spent more than \$75,000 on maintenance

in 2021 and 2022. Most of the work was desperately needed, and some had been postponed for years due to the lack of available funding.

As a board, we take very seriously the duty to spend wisely. As all of you are aware, the cost of operating a residence has increased dramatically in the last year. Our gas and electric bills have gone from \$1,000 per month to more than \$1,650 per month. And more notably, our insurance premium was to increase 50 percent from \$12,000 per year to more than \$19,000. Through some negotiation Roy did get it down to about \$15,000 for this year, but it will continue to increase annually.

We continue to need alumni support. Please consider helping us by becoming a member of Founders Circle or at the very least, paying \$50 annual alumni dues. We are grateful for you.

Pete Murphy is president of Lambda Chi Alpha at Arkansas State University Inc., which owns and operates the fraternity house. He can be reached at petemurphy66@gmail.com.

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- Cameron Jackson Hicks (1663) is from Searcy and is a freshman marketing major. Cameron plans to become a global marketing manager after college.

- Korwin Chase Johnson (1664), from Walnut Ridge, is a freshman marketing major. Korwin plans on becoming a product marketing major after college. He is the newly elected High Sigma (scholarship chairman) for the chapter.

- Tyler Owen Moran (1665) is from Jackson, Mo., and is a sophomore global supply chain management major. Tyler plans to become a chief supply chain officer after college.

- Mason Stephen Roland (1666) is from Perryville and is a freshman pre-med biology major. Mason plans to become an orthopedic surgeon after college. He serves as the executive board alternate and the chapter's Inter-Fraternity Council delegate.

- Ashton Charles Allen Shurley (1667) is from Cabot and is a computer science major. Ashton plans on entering cyber security after college.

- Andrew Wayne Stringfellow (1668) is from Cooter, Mo., and is a junior business administration major. Andrew plans on entering sales after college.

- Kekoa Romeo Villaluna (1669) is

from Corning and is a freshman nursing major. Kekoa plans on becoming a travel nurse after college. He serves as the sorority relations chair.

- Landon Shane Wallace (1670), from Bryant, is a freshman finance major. Landon plans on entering banking or sales after college. He is the newly elected High Rho (alumni correspondent) for the chapter.

- Jackson Garren Wolf (1671), a freshman from Jonesboro, is undecided on a major. He is unsure of his profession after college.

Landon Wallace is High Rho for Iota Theta Zeta. He can be reached at lsw121803@gmail.com.

From the Alumni Corp. Board president

BY BARRY FORREST

Iota Theta No. 551

Brothers, another year has passed and many exciting projects have occurred at Lambda Chi Alpha. This summer we began a project to remodel the remaining eight rooms in the house. In 2021 we remodeled four rooms, so the eight would get all the rooms remodeled and in good living order.

The Brothers have been working hard to continue to be No. 1 on campus. Once again Iota Theta was voted "Best Men on Campus," making it over six years now.

As you know, the house has been paid off for more than two years now. This with the brothers paying rent has helped us with the upkeep until now. Several years ago we started the Alumni Association Founders Circle, that allows you, as brothers,

to join under four different levels.

Level 1: Annual dues of \$50.

Level 2 (Purple): \$125 to \$249.

Level 3 (Green): \$250 to \$499.

Level 4 (Gold): \$500 and up.

Each level includes alumni dues, which are \$50 a year (\$25 for alumni who have graduated in the last five years). Dues fund alumni activities including this newsletter.

Last year we had had only 56 Alumni Brothers join the Founders Circle, meaning they paid voluntary alumni dues and contributed to the Reserve Fund, which is the primary source for long-term house improvements. With our alumni numbers now over 1,600, I would like to challenge all alumni to join the Founders Circle. This will help with the projects the House Corp. board approves.

In closing, I would like to invite all Alumni to this year's Founders Day

on Friday, April 21, at the Alumni Center. For all of us old alumni, this year's speaker will be Dan Rid-enour, (Dan R). Dan was very active in the fraternity in the 1980s and also worked as a radio DJ for KFIN in Jonesboro. This will be a great time and a very interesting speaker. Many of us know Dan R, and I would love to see all his brothers come hear him speak.

Again, thank you for your time and Please join the Founders Circle. This allows us to keep in touch with all the brothers and helps keep you active.

Barry Forrest is president of LXA at ASU Alumni Inc., which plans alumni activities and raises fund for the house corporation, alumni events and the chapter. He can be reached at bwforrest@sbcglobal.net or (870) 897-1078.

Spring associate class includes seven men, 3 from out of state

Seven men are in the chapter's Spring 2023 associate class. Following is a summary of the class.

- Christian James Ennis is a freshman graphic design major from Cabot. Christian plans on becoming a design artist after college.
- Carsen Kirk Guenzel is also from Cabot and is a freshman environmental science major. Carsen plans on working in water facilities after college.
- James Lamar "Jay" Hudgins, from Rogers, is a freshman financial management major. He plans on becoming a financial analyst after college.
- Sebastian Ramallo Jordan is from Cochabamba, Bolivia, and is a junior civil engineering major. Sebastian plans on entering structural engineering after college.
- Brooks Alexander Langston, a

freshman computer science major, is from Nashville, Tenn. He wants to become a computer systems analyst after college.

- JT Alan Stringfellow is from Cooter, Mo., and is a junior business administration major. He is unsure what he will do after college.

- Crete Jackson Tippen is from Perryville and is a freshman exercise science major. He wants to become a physical therapist after college.

BANQUET ...

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KFIN-FM radio, then known as "Super Country 108." He worked there for eight years, then moved to KAIT-TV as a weatherman. He left there after two years, working in Nashville, Memphis, Oklahoma and for the past 15 years in the mountains of Colorado.

Roy Ockert is treasurer of both the house corporation (Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc.) and alumni association (LXA at ASU Alumni Inc.). He can be reached at royo@suddenlink.net.

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. If not, contact Roy Ockert at royo@suddenlink.net.

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 long-term expenses related to the fraternity house, join the Founders Circle and/or register for Founders Day.

Alumni Commitment Form — 2023

Name _____ Zeta number _____

Address _____

City, state, ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____

E-mail _____

Enclosed is my check for:

Alumni dues for 2023 (payable on Jan. 1, 2023): \$50 _____

If a graduate in 2017 or later: \$25 _____

Sign me up for the Founders Circle at the following level for 2023:

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 21-22

Number of banquet tickets: _____ times \$40 per person \$ _____

Name of spouse or other guest attending: _____

Golf tournament entry (\$60, includes cart & greens fee): \$ _____

Handicap or average score: _____ Partner (if any): _____

I ___ and my guest ___ will attend the Saturday luncheon (no charge).

Note: The deadline for all reservations and payment is Monday, April 17.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

Signed by _____ Date _____

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

LXA at ASU Alumni Inc.
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Return postage guaranteed

Iota Theta Zeta officer corps for 2023

Here is the chapter's complete officer corps for 2022:

High Alpha: Nathan Velek
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High Beta: Austin Cook
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High Gamma: Alex Covington
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High Delta: Ty Morris
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High Epsilon: Carson McDonald
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High Theta: Jackson Richmond
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