

# The **AXA** Leader

October 2011

Iota Theta Zeta, Arkansas State University

Vol. 52, No. 2

## 'High Five' campaign hits first goal

By Roy Ockert Jr.  
Treasurer

The "High Five for Lambda Chi" capital campaign is a success.

As of Oct. 20, LXA at ASU Inc., your alumni organization and house corporation, has received \$186,109 in contributions and pledges. The actual amount of cash received to date is \$54,099, as many of the 91 brothers participating are making their contributions over a 5-year period.

The pledges and contributions have ranged from \$20 to \$50,000.

The Board of Directors set a minimum goal of raising \$150,000 to fund a project of repairs and renovations to the fraternity house, which was opened in 1986. Estimates indicated that would be necessary to make the house worthy of our chapter again, or as some of us have said, "to make it livable."

Over the years the house has deteriorated due to a combination of normal wear-and-tear, some neglect and financial difficulties that prevented routine maintenance. A storm in 1998



From left, Wayne Wiggins, Pete Murphy and Phil Pickle enjoy some brotherhood during a reception for Jonesboro area alumni held Oct. 13 at the Cooper Alumni Center. About 25 alumni attended. Other receptions in the campaign were held in Little Rock and Memphis.

PLEASE SEE **HIGH FIVE**, page 2

## LXA alumni, actives to gather at Homecoming tailgate

Arkansas State University's Homecoming 2011 is Saturday, Oct. 29, and the brothers of Iota Theta Zeta will gather for food, drink and fun at the Lambda Chi Alpha tent in Tailgate City.

LXA at ASU Inc., the alumni organization, will have a Board of Directors meeting at 2 p.m. at the fraternity house. Featured will be a report on the progress of the house corporation's capital campaign, "High Five for Lambda Chi."

The active members, alumni and their guests will move about 3 p.m. to Tailgate City, where Brother Nick Vrettos, Iota Theta 363, will be serving as head chef for an outstanding pre-game meal. Plans are for a meal of barbecued ribs and chicken so

get there early because the food will go fast. BYOB.

There is no charge for alumni who have paid 2011 dues and-or contributed to the capital campaign. For others a donation of \$10 per person will be asked.

The Homecoming game itself, against the University of North Texas, will begin at 6 p.m.

As part of the tailgate package, LXA at ASU has 25 general admission tickets to the game that will be given away, first-come, first-served, two per zeta number. Reserved seats may be purchased at the box office. See Brother David Merrell, Iota Theta 719, at the house or tailgate or contact him early by e-mail, dmerrell67@gmail.com.

Many other activities have been scheduled for the weekend by the university, the ASU Alumni Association and other organizations.

One of them will feature an alumnus of Iota Theta. The College of Communications will host the official opening of its RTV-HD studio at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, to be followed at 10 a.m. by the annual Communications Seminar. The speaker will be Mike Meroney, Iota Theta 814. Brother Mike graduated in 1996 and is owner of Meroney Public Affairs in Austin, Texas.

The ASU Alumni Association will sponsor a pre-game tailgate party at the Cooper Alumni Center, 2600

PLEASE SEE **HOMECOMING**, page 2

## HIGH FIVE ... continued from page 1

caused major damage to the house, but our insurance coverage paid for repairs.

Since the chapter emerged from probation in late 2005 and squared itself financially with the national organization, Iota Theta and the house corporation have steadily improved their financial situation. This was done largely by stressing financial responsibility of the actives as individuals and as a group. The chapter has not missed a payment to the house corporation in the last five years and has not been late in the last two.

Along with setting a minimum goal of \$150,000, the Board of Directors planned the renovation project in two phases. The first, to cost about \$100,000, will begin any day and will be done by Construction Network Inc. of Jonesboro. This phase will include securing the house by installing new doors and a security system and replacing residential bathroom facilities.

To pay for the first phase without draining the Reserve Fund, the board is taking a short-term loan of \$70,000.

Last year we put in a completely new heating and air conditioning system, paying for it with the Re-

serve Fund and a short-term loan. The latter was paid off this summer.

The second phase of our renovation project will be done next summer, and the board will take a new look at what needs to be done and what we can afford to do prior to proceeding. During the planning of the first phase, we discovered that it would cost \$12,000 to \$15,000 to get fiber optic cable run to the house so we can take full advantage of ASU's network capabilities.

We emphasize that this project will not make the house "like new again." There are many more things we'd like to do to make the house more comfortable and attractive, that we should do to keep Iota Theta competitive among the fraternities on campus. Therefore, we are continuing the capital campaign through at least the end of the year, and we urge all brothers who haven't already participated to add their names to the honor roll of supporting alumni.

You can do that simply by completing the form on page 7 and mailing it back with your check.

We still owe about \$250,000 on the house mortgage. The original loan was later combined with a second-

ary loan to pave the parking lot, and for a time we didn't make much progress on paying off the principal. But during the past five years we've been able to pay it down by almost \$100,000, and we embarked on this capital campaign in hopes of avoiding an addition to our long-term debt.

Anything raised in excess of our renovation needs will be held in the Reserve Fund for major maintenance or applied to mortgage reduction. For an operation our size, we should have a Reserve Fund of at least \$20,000. Twice during the past five years we've run into breakdowns that cost more than \$10,000 to fix.

Alumni making contributions can also specify mortgage reduction.

All contributions to the High Five for Lambda Chi campaign will be recognized on a plaque in the foyer of the house. We will have to set a cutoff date early next year to get plaque ready for Founders Day 2012 so get your name on the list now.

We should surely have more than 150 brothers contributing to this cause.

rpockert@suddenlink.net

## HOMEcoming

... continued from page 1

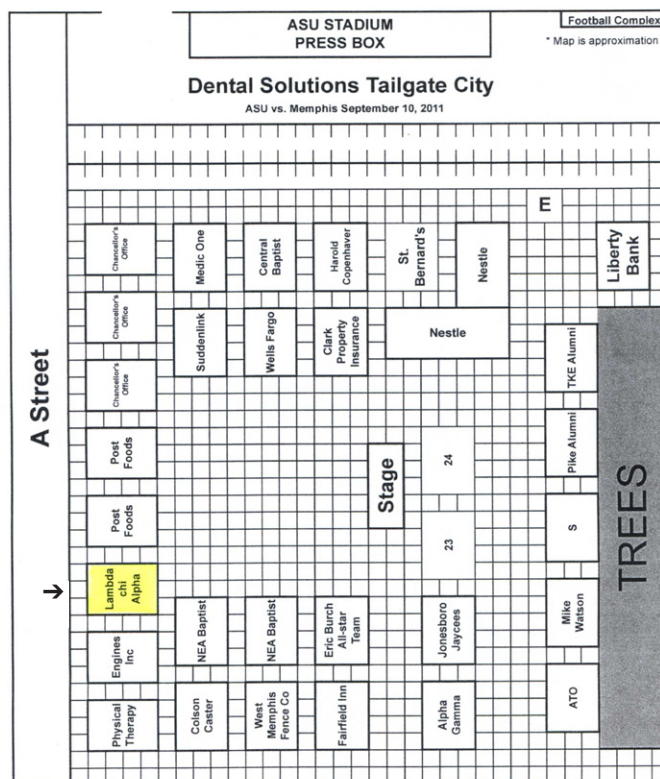
Alumni Boulevard, from 4-5:30 p.m. All alumni, friends of the university and their families are invited for complimentary refreshments and fun. Wings-to-Go will serve tailgate food, and a popular local band, The Brewers, will be performing live. There will be family entertainment and an auto rally of classic Volkswagens.

The Cooper Alumni Center is located just north of the Convocation Center and west of the stadium on the ASU campus.

You can also get a preview of the ASU men's basketball team. The Red Wolves will play their first exhibition game at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Convocation Center. The opponent is Central Baptist College of Conway.

This year's 5th Quarter party will be held at a number of venues in downtown Jonesboro following the football game.

For more details about Homecoming 2011 and the latest schedule as events are added, see the Alumni Association Web site at <http://www.astatealumni.org>, contact the Alumni Office at (870) 972-2586 or e-mail [alumni@astate.edu](mailto:alumni@astate.edu).





# News about our actives

## Fall Rush brings in 34 men

By Tyler Roach  
High Rho

After the fall 2011 rush this year Lambda Chi Alpha emerged with the largest rush class of the fall, taking 22 men through formal rush that picked up bids from us and 12 more men who did not attend formal rush, but instead picked up an open bid the week after formal rush was completed. Below are the 34 associate members for fall 2011, their hometowns and their majors.

- Joe Paul Glidewell is from Newport and is majoring in dietician.
- Tyler Goad is from Batesville and is majoring in civil engineering.
- Tyler Hoover is also from Batesville and has an undecided major.
- Keith Linder is from Heber Springs and is majoring in sports management.
- Drake Bullard is from Hoxie and is a biological sciences major.
- Justin Hopper is from Armorel and is getting a double major in biology and chemistry.
- Chris Ashmore is from Armorel and is majoring in exercise science.
- Logan Hawley is from Maraduke and is a marketing management major.
- Taylor Iglehart is from Jonesboro and is undecided about a major.
- Cameron Cooper is from Paragould and is getting a business degree with emphasis in human resource.
- Jack R. England from Rison is majoring in physics.
- Adam Sisson is from Bradford and is majoring in athletic training.
- Luke Hansen is from Jonesboro and is an exercise science major.
- Reece Totty from Beebe is getting a degree in pre-med.
- Cory Porter from Paragould is majoring in radio-TV with emphases in sports broadcasting and journalism.
- John Phillip Broadway is from Marion and is majoring in sports management.
- Gabriel Freeman is from Batesville and is getting a degree in occupational therapy.

- Zach Draper from Malvern is majoring in civil engineering.
- Conner Branch is from Paragould and is majoring in business management.
- Kevin Liddell is from Paragould and is majoring in business management.
- Peter Hasik from Paragould is a biology major.
- Aaron Bell is from Paragould and is majoring in business.
- Nathan Tripod is also from Paragould and is getting a degree in nursing.
- Dylan Bateman from Paragould is majoring in biology.
- Dean Adams from Fordyce is an exercise science major.

Jonesboro and is a nutrition major.

- Garrett Shepard is from Paragould and is majoring in biology.
- Kyle Haynes is from West Helena and is getting a degree in social work.
- Logan Shipman from Brookland has an undecided major.
- Logan Kennedy is from Poplar Bluff, Mo., and is a radio-television major.

## National Leadership Seminar

This summer active brothers Zeke Tanner, Jeff Cone and Mikey Casey attended the annual National Leadership Seminar for all chapters in the nation in Des Moines, Iowa.

They went there to learn new recruitment techniques, ways to bring the chapter closer together, and how they could improve certain areas of the chapter.

Brother Zeke said, "It was an eye opening experience that really showed the big picture of the fraternity, its meanings and the bond of brotherhood that it has created. I also brought back a lot of useful information and applicable material that I believe the chapter can find very useful".

## Raising the GPA standard

The current actives are in the process of raising the grade point average standard for all associates and initiated members from a 2.25 to a 2.5. We are currently doing this because we believe that we should hold ourselves to a higher standard if we want to be the best that we can possibly be and one way that we can start doing this is by raising the minimum gpa for people to achieve.

This new addition to the bylaws has been approved by the chapter and is now being sent to the national headquarters for approval before it can go into effect.

## Horton for programming retreat

Active brother Allen Horton was selected as one of 40 brothers out of more than 800 from around the country to attend a Lambda Chi Alpha Programming and Researching Retreat at the national headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., on Oct. 7-9.



Justin Miller from Jonesboro is majoring in biology.

- John Robinson is from Newport and is getting a degree in athletic training and physical therapy.
- Coty Martin from Osceola is majoring in pre-professional biology.
- Will Craft from Jonesboro is undecided about a major.
- John Fortenberry is also from

# News about our alumni

Luke Allen McGrew, son of Mr. and Mrs. **Tim McGrew** (Iota Theta 895) was born on April 10, 2011, and is reported growing like a weed.

Brother McGrew is currently the operations officer for Task Force Saber, 1-17 CAV, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC. His unit recently left for a year-long deployment in Afghanistan. I leave next week.

timmcgrew@hotmail.com

**Russell Goad**, Iota Theta 341, marked his 15th year with ManTech Telecommunications and Information's Systems Corp. in April. He has served as the communications manager for the ASAS/DCGS-A Army Program Manager for the past 22 years. Its office is on Fort Hood, Texas, and he resided in Copperas Cove, Texas.

russell.goad@us.army.mil

**Dana Ryan**, Iota Theta 224, is president and chief executive officer of RyMed Technologies Inc. (www.rymedtech.com) in Franklin, Tenn. RyMed is the second company he has founded. The first, Ryan Medical Inc., was awarded Small Business of Year in 1992. He sold that company in 1992.

He holds about 35 patents on medical devices in the United States and internationally. The technology he created started RyMed Technologies. It is the first needleless I.V. connector technology in the world that is significantly reducing or eliminating catheter-related bloodstream infections and intraluminal thrombotic catheter occlusions (blood clots in catheters). He has been recognized as one of the pioneers in "safety-oriented medical devices" in the United States.

He and Marcia were married during his senior year at ASU and will celebrate their 44th anniversary on Dec. 29. for 43 years. The have three children and four grandchildren.

The Ryans recently purchased a 90-foot houseboat on Lake Cumberland, Ky.

dryan@rymedtech.com



**Barry Forrest**, Iota Theta 551, was honored recently by the Jonesboro Area Chamber of Commerce with its Roy H. Jolly Volunteer Award. It is presented annually to an individual who has dedicated many years to economic and community development. Brother Forrest is also known in the community as Santa Claus because he visits hospital-confined children every Christmas Eve. Forrest took over the responsibility from his father.

**Bill Walker**, Iota Theta 183, reported that he and Sam Spencer, Iota Theta 141, got together for brunch one Sunday in September. They had not seen each other in 45 years. I Put some photos on FB this morning.

bill\_walker2000@hotmail.com

**Markham Howe**, Iota Theta 97, and his wife Gayle (Smith) recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary (June 18, 1961) by going on a



# News about our alumni

12-day Mediterranean cruise. Ports of call included Nice, France; Pisa, Naples and the Tuscany area of Italy; Athens and Santorini, Greece; and Ephesus, Turkey.

mhowe@astate.edu

**Dustin Collier**, Iota Theta 1127, earlier this year opened his own law practice — the Law Offices of Dustin Collier in San Francisco ([www.collierlawsf.com](http://www.collierlawsf.com)) — and reports that his business is growing rapidly.

He graduated from Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall) in May 2009 and worked for a year as an associate with a small labor law firm in Oakland.

He and wife Ashleigh recently celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary. She will begin paralegal school in January and hopes to join Dusty later to help grow his business. He reports they sometimes talk about moving back to Arkansas.

collierd1127@gmail.com

**Bob Yates**, Iota Theta 3, continues to volunteer a couple of days a week at Memphis Baptist Hospital for Women at the information desk in the main lobby.

He also continues to be involved with the University of Memphis Association of Retirees and is a former member of the Executive Committee. He is also a member of the University of Memphis Society of the Shield, Legacy Society and the Columns Society.

Last year he received the “Traces Award” (to honor continuing service to the university and the community).

yatesrw@gmail.com

**Willis Forrester**, Iota Theta 57, spent most of September in Costa Rica. “I first started visiting this fascinating and beautiful Central American country in 1996, and just keep coming back,” he said.

Costa Rica celebrates Independence Day on Sept. 15, and he attended ceremonies at a nearby park which featured talks by the president, Laura Chinchilla, and other officials.

Costa Rica and other Central

American countries became independent from Spain in 1821. Brother Forrester reported the day was filled with parades, music, food, and crowds of people celebrating their country.

willisforrester@bellsouth.net

**Davis Bell**, Iota Theta 509, has been farming for 32 years and has 4,000 acres of corn and soybeans near Des Arc. Both of his sons, Gregory and Ryan, are back at the farm with him, and they formed Cornerstone Partnership six years ago.

Ryan and his wife Sara have a daughter, Lola, who is 2 years old. Gregory and his wife Rebecca have a son, Logan, who is 14 months old. Daughter Katelyn is a junior at Ouachita Baptist and is studying to be a physical therapist.

The family is active in First Baptist Church in Des Arc, and the men are actively involved in the local volunteer fire departments.

Wife Jan, who also graduated from ASU, and Davis enjoy spending time with the grandchildren and doing things with our family.

davis@arcornerstone.com

**Tal Taggart**, Iota Theta 737, and wife Lynn celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on Sept. 21.

Reported by Rosemary Taggart  
([rtaggart@centurytel.net](mailto:rtaggart@centurytel.net))

**Mike Meroney**, Iota Theta 814, has his own lobbying-public relations company, Meroney Public Affairs, in Austin, Texas ([Mike@MeroneyPublicAffairs.com](mailto:Mike@MeroneyPublicAffairs.com))

Earlier this year he was named one of the “Top 50 Hired Gun Lobbyists in Texas” by an online political magazine, Capitol Inside.

He will be the guest speaker at ASU’s College of Communications during Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 29th at 10:00 a.m. in the RTV Studio. He will discuss the public’s mistrust of the news media and perception of bias the current state of political discourse leading up to the 2012 elections.

[Mike@MeroneyPublicAffairs.com](mailto:Mike@MeroneyPublicAffairs.com)

**Roy Ockert Jr.**, Iota Theta 203, was honored by the Arkansas Press Association during its annual convention in July for 50 years of service to journalism. His newspaper journalism experience started in the seventh grade at Hot Springs Junior High School, a few blocks away from where the 2011 convention was held. He has been editor of The Jonesboro Sun since 2001.

[rpockert@suddenlink.net](mailto:rpockert@suddenlink.net)

**Dr. William L. “Bill” Winter**, Iota Theta 162, earlier this year was named dean of the Donald W. Reynolds School of Journalism and Advanced Media Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Brother Winter had a long career as a reporter, editor and university-level educator. He served as executive director, then president of the American Press Institute in Reston, Va., from 1987 through 2003.

He began his Reynolds School responsibilities July 1 and will remain dean until a national search to hire a permanent dean has been completed.

He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in journalism from Arkansas State University and Ohio University, respectively. He received a doctoral degree in administration in higher education from Kent State University.

[williamlwinter@yahoo.com](mailto:williamlwinter@yahoo.com)

**State Representative Clark Hall**, Iota Theta 338, is running for the the 1st Congressional District seat in eastern Arkansas. He announced recently that he will seek the Democratic nomination in a bid to unseat freshman Republican Congressman Rick Crawford.

Brother Hall, who lives at Marvell, has served in the state Legislature since 2007 and is chairman of the House State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee. He is the former mayor of Marvell and has also served on the Phillips County Quorum Court.

Steve Rockwell, Iota Theta 403, a Jonesboro businessman, is also considering entering the race.

[clark.hall@arkansashouse.org](mailto:clark.hall@arkansashouse.org)

# High Five for Lambda Chi honor roll

As of Oct. 20, the following brothers have made pledges and-or contributions to the capital campaign for remodeling the house:

## Pre-campaign

8-16-10 — Mike Mallory #305  
9-12-10 — Charlie Crow #81

4-9-11 — Delane Hogan #633  
4-11-11 — Bob Gibson #176  
4-12-11 — Jim Callaway #214  
4-18-11 — Doug Wood #146  
5-4-11 — Jeff Clayton #610  
5-4-11 — Matt Carlisle #1060  
5-10-11 — Tom Akers #189  
5-18-11 — Roy Ockert #203  
5-19-11 — Jake Hampton #1132  
5-19-11 — Pete Murphy #710  
5-19-11 — Thomas Fowler #808  
5-19-11 — Barry Forrester #551  
5-19-11 — David Merrell #719  
5-19-11 — Brent Davis #424  
5-19-11 — Jim Stearns #669  
5-25-11 — Mike Mallory #305  
6-7-11 — Justin Martin #1677  
6-7-11 — Willis Forrester #57  
6-7-11 — Scott Roberson #727  
6-8-11 — Brandon Buhrmester #1083  
6-8-11 — Wendell P. Chitmon #153  
6-8-11 — Matt Malham #1120  
6-8-11 — Terry Murphy #465 in memory of  
    Marcus Murphy #1086  
6-8-11 — Frank Love #689  
6-8-11 — Robert Koch #199  
6-10-11 — Vaughn Jerome #198  
6-10-11 — Alan Crancer #530  
6-10-11 — W. Clark Daviss Jr. #215  
6-11-11 — Fred Huggins #434  
6-13-11 — Jim Stephens #5  
6-14-11 — Steve Orlicek #438  
6-15-11 — Mark A. Fowler #740  
6-15-11 — Troy Bartels #860  
6-15-11 — Randy Luten #370  
6-15-11 — Mike Stalnaker #1053  
6-15-11 — Ford Mundy #1095  
6-15-11 — Tim Goldman #267  
6-17-11 — Bill Moore #161  
6-17-11 — Randy Goacher #173  
6-21-11 — Bill "Sonny" Foster #140  
6-23-11 — Joe Boeckmann #213  
6-19-11 — Bob "Cotton" McBryde #98

6-24-11 — Rich Carvell BK#1320  
6-25-11 — Jim Allbright #236  
6-25-11 — Randy Lawrence #463  
6-27-11 — Bill Stringer #166  
6-27-11 — Jim Wimberly #1  
6-27-11 — Joel Sharp #641  
6-27-11 — Matt Terry #976  
6-28-11 — Bill Harris #13  
6-28-11 — Gene Williams #226  
7-2-11 — John Dickson #193  
7-4-11 — Mark Shannon #625  
7-6-11 — Jim Wagner #285  
7-9-11 — Thomas V. Dickson #216  
7-14-11 — Charles T. Crow #81  
7-15-11 — Sid Pickle #879  
7-15-11 — Derrick Anderson #1155  
7-20-11 — Jeff Yopp #829

8-1-11 — Horace Hinshaw #129  
8-9-11 — Robbie Wayne Bullock #864  
8-12-11 — Marvin J. (Jay) Moore #542  
8-12-11 — Charles R. Wiles #187  
8-12-11 — Zachary Walls #1261  
8-12-11 — Kevin Broadway #1214  
8-18-11 — Markham Howe #97  
8-18-11 — Doug Henson #433  
8-18-11 — Kraig Sanders #690  
8-18-11 — Russ Harrington #178  
8-18-11 — Don Chailland #79  
8-18-11 — Ken Anderson #580  
8-18-11 — Alfred C. Lindsey #4  
8-18-11 — Jonathan VanHorn #1113  
8-18-11 — Nick Wilson #144  
8-18-11 — Tim McGrew #895  
8-19-11 — John Robinette #778  
8-24-11 — John Williams #1152  
8-24-11 — Nick Vrettos #363  
8-26-11 — Doug Maglothin #1050  
8-31-11 — Stan McPike #371  
9-8-11 — Scott Cottingham #805  
9-10-11 — Keith Wineland #479  
9-17-11 — William Loyd #263  
10-6-11 — H.T. Moore #244

**Total pledged — \$186,109**

**Total collected — \$54,109**

**If you have made a pledge or contribution and your name is missing, please contact me.**

**Roy Ockert Jr., Treasurer**  
**rpockert@suddenlink.net**

Zeta number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, state, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Initiation year \_\_\_\_\_ Years at ASU \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed:

Alumni dues for 2011: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

If a graduate in 2006 or later: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Alumni dues for 2012: \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ (due and payable Jan. 1, 2012)

If a graduate in 2007 or later: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Annual dues are waived for anyone pledging \$200 a year for five years or making a one-time contribution of at least \$1,000.

Retire the Mortgage Fund (goes directly to principal): \$\_\_\_\_\_

High Five for Lambda Chi capital campaign:

I pledge the following amount (total); \_\_\_\_\_

This will be a one-time contribution: Enclosed \_\_\_\_ (or) To be paid on this date \_\_\_\_\_  
(or)

This will be paid: Monthly \_\_\_\_ Quarterly \_\_\_\_ Semi-annually \_\_\_\_ Annually \_\_\_\_  
over five years.

(Make checks payable to LXA at ASU Inc.)

Signed by \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Roy Ockert, Treasurer

LXA House Corp.

2815 Spring Valley Drive

Jonesboro, Ark. 72404

rpockert@suddenlink.net

## Stay in touch

Lambda Chi Alpha at Arkansas State University is building a new Web site, which will serve both the active chapter and alumni. We hope it will include a means by which alumni can update their contact information and find other brothers.

The site is still under construction, but check out what we have so far at:

[www.asulxa.com](http://www.asulxa.com).

Meanwhile, our old alumni Web site, created in connection with the 50th annual Founders Day celebration, remains active: <http://sites.google.com/site/iotatheta50>.

You can also find us on Facebook. Just look for Lambda Chi Alpha at Arkansas State University. We have more than 250 members there, and it's a good way to stay in touch or get news quickly about chapter and alumni activities. If you're already in Facebook, just send a request to join to one of the brothers listed as administrators.

Meanwhile, use the dues form to update us on address changes. Use the space before to give us news for the next Leader. A contribution isn't required (but welcome).

Roy Ockert #203 — [rpockert@suddenlink.net](mailto:rpockert@suddenlink.net)

---

**Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc.  
P.O. Box 926  
State University, Ark. 72467**

**Return postage guaranteed**