

# The **AXA** Leader

March 2018

Iota-Theta Zeta, Arkansas State University

Vol. 59, No. 1

## Former FBI agent to speak

Chris J. Quick, a retired special agent for the FBI who now operates his own private investigation firm, will be the featured speaker for the 59th annual Founders Day Banquet for Iota Theta Zeta.

The banquet will be held at Sue's Kitchen in the Church Street Station, 524 South Church St., at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 7. Many alumni will remember that historic building as the location of the 50th annual celebration.

Brother Chris, who is Iota Theta Zeta No. 576, is a native of Chicago. After his family moved in Arkansas in 1976, he graduated from Mountain Home High School and then enrolled at Arkansas State University in 1979. The following spring he was initiated into Lambda Chi Alpha and later served the chapter as

High Gamma and High Tau.

He graduated from ASU in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and went to work for an accounting firm in St. Louis. In 1985 he became a certified public accountant, and later that year he was hired as a special agent in the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service in Miami.

In 1989 he was hired as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and was assigned to its Charleston, S.C., office, beginning a 26-year career with the FBI. He also served as an FBI adjunct professor on white collar crime, money laundering and terrorism financing matters.

One of several major cases on which he worked was the Emmanuel AME

See **BANQUET**, page 3



Chris Quick

## *Chapter still developing leaders*

**BY LANDEN CRANCER**  
Iota Theta 1465  
High Tau

Iota Theta Zeta has a rich history of cultivating leaders on campus, and it is safe to say that legacy lives on through the chapter's service to the community and university. Iota Theta has had quite an impressive semester, with activities ranging from a barbecue cook-off for a wounded veteran to the largest single food drive in Northeast Arkansas. With its various efforts the chapter did not disappoint.

In August Iota Theta hosted the second annual Red White and Blue Barbecue, and the chapter raised \$6,000 for Retrieving Freedom Inc. to help offset the cost for the purchase of a service dog for a wounded veteran. This total was \$500 more than the inaugural event, and local

personalities such as new A-State Chancellor Kelly Damphousse and Region 8 news anchor Diana Davis took part in the event.

In October the chapter hosted its 10th annual Miss Greek Goddess Pageant and Cream of the Crop Competition. Traditionally, we ask each of the National Panhellenic Council sororities on campus to collect non-perishable food items to donate to Feeding America. This year the sororities, contestants and attendees raised the equivalent of 64,073 pounds of food, doubling the combined total of the past two years. Because of this Iota Theta won the Fill the Food Bank Award, sponsored by the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas.

In November the chapter hosted the third Annual Color Run for the Kids. Collectively, our efforts raised \$5,500 for

Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, bringing our 3-year total to a donation of \$30,000.

Later that month the chapter's associate class competed in the annual Mister Greek Adonis event, sponsored by the NPC Executive Council. Brother Caleb Freeman was named Mister Greek Adonis, and the fall 2017 class was named Best Men on Campus, raising the most donations for the A-State Food Pantry, completing a community service project, participating in more than one student organization per member, having the highest combined grade average and performing a brotherhood chant.

One hundred percent of chapter members are involved with another student organization, other than the fraternity,

See **CHAPTER**, page 6

# High Alpha's report

**BY CALEB STRAIN  
IOTA THETA 1455  
HIGH ALPHA**

Adversity is defined as a state or instance of serious continued difficulty or misfortune, and the men of Iota Theta know this better than anyone.

Over the course of the past year our chapter has been faced with many new challenges after hazing allegations that occurred in December of 2016 led to multiple probationary terms by both the school and Lambda Chi Alpha International Headquarters. After numerous hours of dedication and time commitment, our chapter revamped our fraternity education program to change some of the treacherous traditions that had been developed in previous years.

We have established an 8-week program that has been reviewed by our national organization, which has ensured us that we are on the right track to improving our chapter education process.

The new mission of our Fraternity Education Program is "to enlighten associate members and remind active brothers of our seven core values so that we strive to the best that we can be. Our mission with Fraternity Education is to bring our chapter closer together to continuously form bonds and strengthen our brotherhood. Through experience-based learning, we hope to achieve our goals and create a stronger chapter after each session." The current New Member Educator has worked with the entire chapter to in-

stall this new process, which has been incredible and life-changing for our 26 associate members as well as the entire active chapter. Out of the 26 associate members that we had all semester, 25 of them were initiated as we have had outstanding retention rates.

Our chapter has always excelled in philanthropy, and we have continued that success. In 2017 we raised more than \$6,000 for Retrieving Freedom to provide a service dog for a wounded veteran in need; we raised about \$5,500 for Arkansas Children's Hospital in our annual Color Run for the Kids; we collected more than 64,000 pounds of food for Feeding America; and this year Lambda Chi Alpha had the larg-

See **HIGH ALPHA**, page 3



The officers for Iota Theta Zeta for 2017-18 are (from left): front row — Lee Sullivan, High Gamma; Bryce Denker, High Phi; Tyler Stone, High Beta; Caleb Strain, High Alpha; Robert Morris, High Theta; Hayden Starrett, High Delta; Matt Vangilder, High Kappa; back row — Tanner Ezell, High Rho; Noah Ford, High Sigma; Lucas Moye, High Epsilon; Landen Crancer, High Tau; Lawson Wherry, High Iota; and Jeff Simmons, High Pi.

## BANQUET ... continued from page 1

Church shooting at Charleston in 2015, which resulted in the murder of nine church members by white supremacist Dylann Roof.

After retiring from the FBI, he continues to live in Charleston and operates the Quick Group, a private investigative firm that specializes in general investigations, forensic accounting and security consulting.

Tickets to the banquet are \$35 per person for alumni.

The Founders Day banquet will highlight a weekend of activities for alumni and actives of the zeta. The form of page 7 can be used to pay alumni dues, make contributions to the House Corp. and/or make reservations. Invitations have also gone out through our Web site listserve, which now has a Paypal option.

Activities will start with a reception and crawfish boil at the Lambda Chi house at 6 p.m. Friday, hosted by the active brothers. No fee will be charged, but reservations are requested. Either use the attached form or contact High Rho Tanner Ezell — by phone or text at 501-554-1402 or by email at [tannerezell@gmail.com](mailto:tannerezell@gmail.com).

The annual Founders Circle Golf Scramble will have a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at the RidgePointe Country Club. Alumni and actives are invited to enter individually or as pairs. Pairs will compete in a 2-person best ball format, but where possible an alumni team will join with an active team to make a foursome. LXA prizes will be given for the low-scoring alumni team, active team and foursome (with the 2-man team scores' combined).

Entry fee for alumni and guests is \$75 per person, which covers the greens fee and shared use of a cart. Use the attached form to enter or the listserve invitation.

The deadline for all reservations is Monday, April 2.

The corporation, Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc., will hold its annual meeting at 3 p.m. on April 7 in the George Spasyk Alumni Room. Reports will be given on the status of the chapter and the financial condition of the corporation. An election for six Board of Directors positions, each carrying a 2-year term, will be held.

## *The complete schedule*

### **Friday, April 6**

6 p.m. — Drop-in and crawfish boil at the fraternity house for alumni and guests. No charge but reservations requested. Call or text Tanner Ezell, High Rho, at 501-554-1402, or email at [tannerezell@gmail.com](mailto:tannerezell@gmail.com).

### **Saturday, April 7**

8:30 a.m. — Founders Circle Golf Tournament, RidgePointe Country Club. Greens fee and cart: \$75 for alumni, \$50 for actives; lunch provided.

3 p.m. — LXA at ASU Inc. annual meeting, House, Alumni Room. Election of six board members. Board meeting afterward to elect officers.

6:30 p.m. — 59th annual Founders Day Banquet, Sue's Kitchen, Church Street Station, 524 South Church St.

- \$35 for alumni & guests, \$25 for actives & guests — reservations required.

- Speaker — Chris J. Quick, Iota Theta 576.

- Founders Circle — Barry Forrest, Iota Theta 551

- Alumni Awards — Kevin Molder, Iota Theta 855

- Chapter awards, officer installation — Caleb Strain, Iota Theta 1455

### **Sunday, April 8**

11 a.m. — Chapter church — First Baptist Church, 701 South Main.

---

Incumbents are Roy Ockert, Wayne Wiggins, Delane Hogan, Jeff Clayton, David Webb and Mike Mallory.

The banquet will also include alumni and chapter awards and installation of the new chapter officers.

Alumni and guests are invited to the chapter church Sunday at 11 a.m. A Lambda Chi section will be reserved at First Baptist Church, 701 South Main.

---

## HIGH ALPHA ... continued from page

est donation that the NEA food bank received.

In April we will be hosting our annual Sandblast volleyball tournament that also benefits Feeding America. As a chapter we strive to be the most philanthropic fraternity on campus, and there is no doubt in my mind that we do just that.

As president it was and is my goal to ensure we have the strongest brotherhood on campus. This begins with having a motivated active chapter that is willing to withstand adversity and put it in the past. Each brother has played a huge role in getting us to where we are,

and with the upmost confidence I can say that in my four years of being an active member of Lambda Chi Alpha, this is the best state of the chapter in years. From being financially stable, having a secured education program, constant support from alumni and an extremely involved active chapter, we are excelling in every aspect of Greek Life and will continue to do so.

To every alumnus that is out there, I personally ask you to get involved in any way you see fit as we will continue to see changes due to the evolving structure of Greek life all over the country. Lambda Chi Alpha is still the place it once was

and will always be, not only for four years but for life.

I could not be prouder of our active chapter, and while it saddens me that my tenure here is coming to an end, I have great faith in the future of our fraternity. Lambda Chi Alpha is going to continue to excel and be an award-winning fraternity. On behalf of the active chapter, I want to thank all of you who have laid the foundation of this fraternity, all of you who have poured your heart and soul into this fraternity, and to all of you who are worried about the future of Lambda Chi Alpha, you have nothing to worry about.



# 25-man associate class initiated

**BY TANNER EZELL**  
Iota Theta 1492  
High Rho

In December Iota Theta initiated 25 new members into our brotherhood. We are beyond proud of these men and the work that they have already put into making this chapter better than before.

What has set these initiates apart thus far has been their motivation to serve the chapter and their school in any way asked. Each new member took it upon himself during associateship to join at least two organizations, and all 25 members joined the Up 'til Dawn campaign to help raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital's great cause.

Whether it be forming a tight bond within their associate class, assisting in philanthropic efforts of the chapter or winning the title of Best Men on Campus, the fall class of 2017 never shied away from difficult tasks. Since initiation in December, several of these men have already taken on leadership and non-zeta officer roles in our chapter.

Here is basic information about each, starting with his zeta number:

- 1519 — Jacob Bailey, Cabot High School, sophomore finance major; member of the Honors College Association

and an infantryman in the U.S. Army.

- 1520 — Ronnie Beard, Bryant High School, sophomore pre-law major; member of the Arkansas State College of Republicans.

- 1521 — Seth Carter, Cabot High School, freshman electrical engineering major; member of the Special Olympics Committee.

- 1522 — Joseph DaVault, Paragould High School, freshman biological sciences major; member of the Student Government Association, Swim Club and Sign Language Club.

- 1523 — Ki Dearen, Carlisle High School, freshman biology major; member of the Pre-Professional Club.

- 1524 — Bryce Dickerson, Jackson, Mo., Jackson High School, freshman nursing major; member of the Honors College Association.

- 1525 — Zachary Ellenburg, Jonesboro, Home Schooled, junior mathematics major; member of the Arkansas State College of Republicans.

- 1526 — Caleb Freeman, Searcy High School, freshman biological sciences major; member of the Pre-Professional Club.

- 1527 — Noah Guill, Rogers Heritage High School, freshman mechanical en-

gineering major; member of United We Dance.

- 1528 — Gus Williams, Jackson, Mo., Jackson High School, freshman mechanical engineering major; member of the Honors College Association.

- 1529 — Jeffery Hastings, Bryant High School, freshman civil engineering major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

- 1530 — Austin Holley, Maumelle, Central Arkansas Christian High School, freshman marketing major; member of the Arkansas State College of Republicans.

- 1531 — Cade Huckaby, Maumelle, Central Arkansas Christian High School, freshman clinical lab science major; member of the Arkansas State College of Republicans.

- 1532 — Alex Ibarra, Bryant High School, freshman business management major; member of the Special Olympics Committee.

- 1533 — Tristan Jasso, Searcy High School, freshman business management major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

- 1534 — Ricky Lewis, North Little Rock, Catholic High School, sophomore civil engineering major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

See **ASSOCIATES**, page 5



# High Pi's report

**BY KEVIN MOLDER**  
Iota Theta Zeta No. 855  
High Pi

After many trials and tribulations in 2017, Iota Theta Zeta ended the year with a strong brotherhood dedicated to the success of the chapter. This year the chapter is on track to be even stronger. The chapter is scheduled to be taken off probation from LXA National and ASU in May. We also anticipate the Alumni Control Board (ACB) will transition to an Alumni Advisory Board (AAB) at the end of the semester.

Brother Jeff Simmons resigned as High Pi in November due to a business opportunity that would consume more time. Many of the accomplishments we have seen over the past year are due to his strong leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service during our difficult times.

I had the honor to get to know many of the actives and alumni throughout the last few months. The commitment each of them has shown for our chapter is prodigious. Their commitment has removed any doubt that our chapter will continue to grow and prosper in the future.

I believe most of us can say that we are better men today because of our experiences during our active years. As you reflect back, many of those experiences were shaped by alumni influences like Brother Warren Dupwe. I can vividly remember Brother Dupwe taking the po-

dium and addressing the chapter. When he spoke, we all listened. Many alumni have the same effect on our actives today.

Alumni support is needed now more than ever. I know time and distance is an issue for many of you. However, if you are able, we need your support so our chapter will continue on its current path. Once we make the transition to an AAB, the primary function of the board will be to mentor the officers and actives. If you

are interested in volunteering, please contact Roy Ockert, Pete Murphy or me.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the ACB, Housing Corporation, and the High Zeta officers for their hard work and commitment to our chapter. I would also like to thank Roy Ockert and Pete Murphy for absorbing some of the High Pi duties. Brother Harry S. Truman said it best: "We who know the true meaning of brotherhood must practice it."



Kevin Molder, who is sheriff of Poinsett County, addressed the chapter on the dangers of driving under the influence.

## ASSOCIATES ... continued from page 4

- 1535 — Zach Maier, Jacksonville, North Pulaski High School, junior criminology major; member of ROTC.

- 1536 — Kendall Mosby, White Hall High School, sophomore marketing major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

- 1537 — Jake Roedel, Bryant High School, freshman creative media production major; member of the Honors College Association.

- 1538 — Collin Thames, Cabot High School, freshman criminology major;

member of the Arkansas State College of Republicans.

- 1539 — Cooper Thomas, Maumelle High School, freshman business administration major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

- 1540 — Ryan Thomas, Rossville, Tenn., Christian Brothers High School, freshman Agribusiness major; member of the Arkansas State College of Republicans and the Agribusiness Club.

- 1541 — Diego Vargas, Bryant High

School, freshman business management major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

- 1542 — Will Wilkins, Searcy High School, freshman biological sciences major; member of the Honors College Association.

- 1543 — Javier Zamora, Bryant High School, freshman business management major; member of Phi Beta Lambda.

Unfortunately, Kendall Mosby dropped out of school in the spring term, and Jacob Bailey resigned from the fraternity.

# Support from alumni is critical

**BY PETE MURPHY**

Iota Theta 710

President, LXA at ASU Inc.

First of all, let me say what a privilege it is to serve as the president of your house corporation. We strive to be good stewards of the financial resources we've been entrusted with as we manage the physical property of our chapter house.

In the past year we have been able to install new carpet in the TV room, paint the majority of the common areas, purchase much needed new chairs for the chapter room and continue to "baby" our HVAC units. The board tries to maintain a reserve fund of approximately \$10K for emergency repairs and maintenance that sometimes have a tendency to sneak up on you, while at the same time reducing the principal on our mortgage.

Because the active chapter stays current on its rent obligation and through the support of many of our alumni, our mortgage balance is now flirting with \$100K. When I joined this board eight years ago, it was over \$255K. Because of a balloon note due in March, we are in the process of refinancing our loan (hopefully for the last time ever). Based on our current payment, we should be paid in full in approximately 44 months.

With support from alumni through annual dues payments of only \$50 or by joining our Founders Circle for any amount of \$125 and up, you can help us reduce the mortgage principal or build our Reserve Fund for repairs and maintenance that we know are on the horizon. Some current projects that are under way include boosting wi-fi capabilities throughout the house and purchasing permanent window coverings so we can get away from stapling plastic over them.

I was fortunate to have been among the first to live in the LXA house more than 30 years ago. We were able to shake the dust from our feet and whatever was on those couches in Danner Hall and move into the finest fraternity house on campus. I can assure you that it is still the finest house on campus, something to be proud of, and still in need of your support. I want to personally thank all of you that have made financial gifts to LXA at ASU Inc. and appeal to those who haven't. Please consider becoming a member of Founders Circle if you haven't already done so.

Many of us who serve on the house board also get double duty on the Advisory Control Board. Although the ACB was started for not-so-good reasons, the

final result of many of us strengthening our bond with active members has been a huge benefit of the process. I have become acquainted with some of the finest young men you could ever want to meet — bright, ambitious, good guys who want to make a difference. They are involved in every facet of leadership at ASU through student government and philanthropy.

As we transition away from this temporary control board to a more permanent advisory board, I would ask each of you to consider what you could offer. For those of you who can't help us financially but live close enough to Jonesboro, can you sacrifice an hour or two each month to serve as a mentor? I can promise you that you'll get much more out of it than you put in. Maybe you could share some wisdom by being a guest speaker at a chapter meeting. We can find a way for you to get plugged in, whether you have a lot of time or just a little.

And, nobody cares that you haven't been around in a long time. Life happens; it's OK. Please find a way to help us either by investing your time, talent or money. I can assure you it will impact this generation of young men much the same way it affected mine so many years ago.

## CHAPTER ... continued from page 1

and this is important in recruitment. Three brothers are involved in Student Government Association, with Landen Crancer as its chief of staff, and Noah Ford and Cameron Bajorek as senators.

Robert Morris and Will Metzger serve as spirit directors for the Student Activities Board, planning events for Red Wolves athletics teams such as Order of the Pack, Pack Pride Day, and Day at the Park.

For the Interfraternity Council Landen Crancer serves as president and Noah Ford as vice president of judicial affairs, helping to lead the Greek system.

Caleb Strain, Bryce Denker, Evan Cad- dy, Robert Morris and Landen Crancer serve on the Up'til Dawn Executive Board

to help raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, hoping to raise a total of \$90,000 for the organization.

Robert Morris was selected to represent A-State on this year's Homecoming Court at the Red Wolves football game against Coastal Carolina, and he was sponsored by the ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Drake Pipkin, Cameron Bajorek and Zach Maier are active in the A-State ROTC program, becoming a part of the next generation of young men to help protect our country.

Over the past year, five brothers, including Robert Morris, Landen Crancer, Will Metzger, Lawson Fincher and Caleb Freeman, have served as Pack Leaders to

help acclimate incoming freshmen to A-State's campus.

Robert Morris has been selected as a 2018 Distinguished Service Award winner. He is now in contention to receive the 2018 R.E. Lee Wilson Citizenship Award, awarded to the top graduating senior at Arkansas State University. If selected, he will be the 10th brother of Iota Theta to be so honored, after his biological brother, Earl Morris.

Finally, Landen Crancer is preparing for his campaign to be elected as the 2018-19 Student Government Association president, which will be from Feb. 28-March 6 before results are announced on March 7.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Alumni dues support various activities and projects, including publication of this newsletter. Printing and mailing each edition to more than 1,400 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.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed:

Alumni dues for 2018 (payable on Jan. 1, 2018): \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

If a graduate in 2012 or later: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Also, please sign me up for the Founders Circle at the following level for 2018:

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(We'll be in touch to help you pick out your reward as soon as your pledge is fulfilled.)

I can't join the Founders Circle but would like to help with the following:  
Contribution to the Reserve Fund (for major house maintenance issues): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Founders Day, April 6-8**

Number of banquet tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ times \$35 per person \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of spouse or other guest attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Golf tournament entry (\$75, includes cart & greens fee): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Handicap or average score: \_\_\_\_\_ Partner (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_ and my guest \_\_\_\_ will attend the reception and crayfish boil Friday night (no charge).

**Note: The deadline for all reservations and payment is Monday, April 2.**

---

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. 72401  
[royo@suddenlink.net](mailto:royo@suddenlink.net)



Lambda Chi Alpha at ASU Inc.  
c/o Roy Ockert  
3617 Alabama Road  
Jonesboro, Ark. 72401

Return postage guaranteed



**IOTA THETA ZETA** High Alpha Caleb Strain administers an oath to members of the chapter's spring associate class — (from left) Chandler Davis of Alexander, Jake East of Bryant and Grant Stutts of Sherwood. In the foreground at right is High Kappa Matt Vangilder, who will be responsible for the associates' training. The ceremony took place at the regular chapter meeting on Feb. 18.

## *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 e-mail address. At present we have about 750, some out of date.

Please go to the Web site ([www.asulxa.com](http://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](mailto:royo@suddenlink.net)