



## Hudson to keynote banquet

**BY ROY OCKERT**

Iota Theta No. 203

Gary Hudson, a highly successful bank executive, will be the keynote speaker for the 63rd annual Founders Day Banquet of Iota Theta Zeta. The event will be held on April 22 at the Cooper Alumni Center on the Arkansas State University campus.

A 1975 graduate of ASU, he was initiated as zeta number 377 in the spring of 1972. He was president of his pledge class and later served the chapter as High Beta (vice president).

After receiving his political science degree here, Brother Gary earned a law degree from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville School of Law. He then returned to his hometown DeWitt and practiced law for 18 months.

However, he entered the banking field in December 1980 as vice president and trust officer of Farmers and Merchants Bank of Stuttgart. He returned to DeWitt in January 1988 as president and chief executive officer of DeWitt Bank and Trust Company and later became chairman of the board until he resigned at the end of 2001.

He started a branch of Farmers and Merchants Bank in DeWitt in 2002 and stayed there through 2009 as the branch grew quickly, then returned to Stuttgart in January 2010 as president and CEO. The bank grew from about \$600 million in assets in 2010 to more than \$1.6 billion in assets by the time he retired at the end of 2020.

Farmers & Merchants now has branches in 17 Arkansas towns, including Jonesboro. He continues to serve as vice chairman of the bank's Board of Directors.

He has served as president of the



**Gary Hudson**

DeWitt and Stuttgart Rotary Clubs, president of the DeWitt Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the board (for 10 years) of the First United Methodist Church of DeWitt, a member and chairman of the Board of Visitors of Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas, and a member and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas State Bank Department.

For four years he was one of two Arkansas members of a community banking board with The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and is the dean of bankers for the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking Foundation Board of Trustees at SMU in Dallas.

His wife is the former Connie Mayall of Stuttgart, a retired teacher and math coach from the DeWitt public schools. She was a Phi Mu while at ASU in the mid 1970s. They have two children — Cara Coleman, lead counselor for Mountain Home High School, and Patrick Hudson,

### *Schedule of events*

#### **Friday, April 22**

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

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

#### **Saturday, April 23**

8 a.m. — Alumni/Actives Golf Scramble, Sage Meadows Country Club

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

2 p.m. — LXA at ASU Alumni Inc. annual meeting, House, Alumni Room.

a lawyer who works for corporate Wal-Mart in Bentonville — and two grandchildren.

The Friday banquet will start at 6:30 p.m. after alumni, actives, associates and their guests start gathering in the Alumni Center lobby at 5:30.

Reservations are required and may be made with the Commitment Form on page 7 or through the Alumni database site, [www.raklet.com/lxaasu](http://www.raklet.com/lxaasu). If you have not previously done so, you'll need to register, entering your email address as a user name, and set a password. Follow the directions on the front page and also complete the information on your page.

Then click on the line that says "Events." Tickets will be \$40 for alumni and guests, \$25 for actives, associates and guests.

While you're at it, consider paying alumni dues and/or joining the Founders Circle. Credit card information will be required for all online

# From the High Pi of Iota Theta Zeta

**BY CURTIS BASTER**

Iota Theta No. 483

The spring semester and a new High Zeta are well established as I write. This being the first semester with me officially serving as High Pi, I am still just a bit shocked at how fast things developed. I am really glad I had been spending time at the house for a few months before my appointment as High Pi.

Kevin Molder guided the chapter through some turbulent years. I took over in time to see the men emerge from probation, and that is what I will address.

Since roughly August 2021, I heard many references to getting off probation and having social events and parties. I was not the only alumnus to cringe and worry that they would soon be right back on probation, or worse. We will see how well the men have learned their lesson.

At the time I am writing, the chapter just held their first sanctioned date night at an off-campus location. It was a well-managed success. Last evening, as I sat in on a chapter officers meeting, I observed our High Alpha filling the High Zeta in on the university's guidelines for registered events. I was impressed and proud of the guys as they discussed how to execute a safe, risk-free event which can include alcohol.

As an experienced business manager, I can tell you that these men do a great job considering options and planning to avoid trouble with the university. Had the atmosphere been this skewed against Greeks being Greeks when most of we alumni were undergrads, we might not have fared as well as the

current chapter members.

If we can control a few of our more disruptive brothers, I think these men will take Iota Theta to even higher levels.

This is a group of men who are extremely active on campus. This is a group that produces impressive results in their philanthropic endeavors. In many ways they are similar to us more seasoned brothers. The perpetual poker game that used to be held in the suite at Danner Hall would fit in at the house. Drop by the house on some Friday night, and you are likely to see a game ... or maybe sit in for several hands.

Everything I observe takes me back to my days as an undergrad brother. I am reliving the heart-swell-ing emotion of being surrounded by my brothers. It is an amazing thing to see the displays of brotherly love. I cannot imagine any of us not feeling nostalgic as we watch from the sidelines.

Our chapter is already the best on campus by just about every measure. The High Alpha's article will demonstrate some of the ways that

is true. What we do not have is the best alumni involvement. As I learn more, I understand how the alumni of other campus fraternities are involved in their chapters. We should be kicking their butts in that measure as well, but we aren't.

We have now initiated well over 1,600 men. Many of us do not live close enough to be active on a regular basis. However, in this age of Zoom meetings, it is sad we do not see more involvement. I see the same six to 10 alumni providing all the support with their time and/or periodic attendance.

Get involved. See for yourself that you can have the same emotional experience you once had, just by dropping in on a chapter meeting now and then. Surely, with so many of us living within an hour of campus, we can have one alumni at every meeting to share their experiences. If you want to know how you can be involved, feel free to contact me. You will not be sorry.

*Curtis Baster has been High Pi of Iota Theta Zeta since last November. He can be contacted at [cbaster483@gmail.com](mailto:cbaster483@gmail.com).*



**Curtis Baster (right), the chapter's new High Pi (adviser), installs the High Zeta officers in a December ceremony.**



# From the High Alpha of Iota Theta Zeta

BY JOEL GAFFNEY

Iota Theta No. 1583

This year has, as all years do, had many ups and downs for Iota Theta. Despite the battles that have been fought, the chapter has arguably been the most successful on campus in every function of a fraternity. National officers emphasized during our time on social probation the need for balance between philanthropy, brotherhood, social events, education and campus involvement. That balance has defined our chapter.

We started off with our Red White and Blue Barbecue at the end of the summer, hosting a volleyball tournament with other Greek organizations as well as a barbecue competition. We raised \$4,000 for Retrieving Freedom, an organization that provides service animals to veterans and kids with disabilities. The cherry on top was our A-team winning the men's bracket of the tournament.

The next thing the chapter tackled was fall rush, and as always, we showed out. This year only 90 guys went through Interfraternity Council recruitment. Despite the general numbers being significantly lower than they have been in recent years, we still pulled a class of 25 young men, five more than the next largest class.

While numbers do not immediately speak to the character of these new members, it does speak to the appeal of our brotherhood and how many guys want to be a part of it. Nineteen of these 25 were initiated in January, and two are going back through the process this spring along with five new spring associates. The brotherhood is going strong and continuing to build up new men to carry on its legacy.

In October the Fall 2021 Associate Class competed in the Best Men on Campus contest, the most sought-after title by fraternities at Arkan-



**Outgoing High Alpha Will Scobey (left) installs Joel Gaffney as the chapter's chief officer.**

sas State. The competition pits new member classes up against each other in seven different categories. Fall '21 showed out and won five of those seven categories: academics (highest GPA), service hours, involvement and leadership, the halftime show performance, and the basketball tournament (in which the whole chapter could participate). They were so far ahead of the competition that they had secured the Overall Best Men on Campus Award before the basketball tournament or halftime show even started.

As it is every year, our biggest philanthropy event in the fall was Cream of the Crop. With COVID regulations lightened since last year, we were able to raise more than 30,000 meals for Feeding America. We were Feeding America's top organization for the fifth time in the last six years, and it was arguably the largest and most successful single-day philanthropy event on campus this year.

We also held a rally at the house with Red Wolves for St. Jude, during which our members raised \$2,000 for

the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Between the barbecue, Cream of the Crop and the rally, Iota Theta raised more than \$8,000 and 35,000 pounds of food in the fall, and we still have upcoming philanthropy events this spring.

After a year of Zoom classes and online exams, returning to in-person classes affected a lot of grade point averages on campus. Online classes were much easier to pass, and the return to the classroom caused GPAs to decline across the board. The average GPA for Greek men in the fall was a 2.45, which is 0.25 below the requirement to be a member fraternity in the IFC. Despite this trend, Lambda Chi Alpha stood out. Even with the largest roster on campus, our fall GPA stood at a 3.05, and our overall GPA stands at a 3.27, making us one of two chapters to actually increase our GPA since fall '20. Academically, this puts us right at the top of the IFC fraternities by a large margin.

Our involvement on campus continues to grow as well. Our members hold a diverse set of leadership positions across campus. Tyler Hickman is currently the IFC president and the chairman of the Arkansas State Leadership Council. He has also been a Chancellor's Ambassador, SGA senator, and Pack Leader this year.

A few other campus organizations we hold positions in include the Red Wolves for St. Jude Executive Board, the IFC Executive Board, the Student Philanthropy Council, the Chancellor's Leadership Class, the Sales Club and several other smaller organizations. There is not a single fraternity that even comes close to the level of influence we have on campus.

Iota Theta continues to set the standard across the board, even in areas where most fraternities are declining or becoming stagnant. In a national

# 19-man associate class initiated

**BY AUSTIN SCHROEDER**  
Iota Theta No. 1644

Nineteen men from the Fall Associate Class were initiated into Iota Theta Zeta in January, bringing the chapter's zeta numbers to almost 1,650.

The class started with 25 men.

Following is a summary of the new initiates, with their zeta numbers in parentheses.

- Brock Alexander Ballard (1630) is from Little Rock and is majoring in creative media production. Brock wants to become a special education teacher after college.

- Ethan Edward Cain (1631) is from Little Rock and is majoring in mechanical engineering. Ethan wants to work in the mechanical en-

gineering field of either weapons or planes after college.

- James Aidan Canard (1632) is from Tuckerman and is majoring in economics with an emphasis in law. Aidan wants to become a commercial attorney after college.

- Cade Craig Carlock (1633) is from Blytheville and is majoring in business economics. After college Cade wishes to pursue a career in sales.

- Timothy Wayne Dulin Jr. (1634) is from Cabot and is majoring in finance. After college TJ wants to become a project accountant in the construction industry.

- Zachary Kobe Fry (1635) is from Maumelle and is majoring in information systems. Zac plans to pursue a career in analytics for corporations

after college.

- Jackson Lee Galloway (1636) is from Little Rock and is majoring in electrical engineering. Jackson wants to enter the battery development and research field after college.

- Chase Michael Gibson (1637) is from Cabot and is majoring in finance with an emphasis on business. Chase plans on becoming a financial adviser after college. Chase is also the chapter's alternate on the executive board.

- Nicholas Grant Goodwin (1638) is from Crossett and majoring in finance. Nick plans on becoming an insurance agent after college.

- Tyler Scott Kelly (1639) is from

See **INITIATES**, page 5



New initiates are (from left): back row — Josh Olegario, Brock Ballard, Phillip Stanley, Zac Fry, TJ Dulin, Logan Summers, KW Rial, Cade Carlock, Jayden Shannon, Jackson Richmond, Aidan Canard, Nick Goodwin and Ty Morris; front row — Chase Gibson, Ethan Cain, Jackson Galloway, Mikeah Silver, TK Kelly and Austin Schroeder.



# From the Alumni Corp. Board president

**BY BARRY FORREST**

Iota Theta No. 551

It is now time to come together for Founders Day. I hope all is well with our alumni. The chapter seems to be doing well and is starting to have a few activities again. As Alumni Corp. president, I would like to hear from all alumni about any activities that will bring more alumni back to the campus and the LXA House.

We made a major goal in getting the house paid off. This has created a little cash flow to help with expenses that are created by wear and tear on the house. The house corporation is doing all it can to keep our house one of the best on campus.

I would like to have another fund-

raiser that would go to remodeling the bedrooms in the living quarters. This plan we have developed is about \$5,000 per room. Under this new plan I would like to see if the alumni would reunite with their pledge or associate class and sponsor a room. This would give everyone a chance to make contact with the brothers they were initiated with. After we collect the money and assign the rooms to your class and complete the work, the Alumni Association will plan a cookout on a Saturday so each class can come together to see the new rooms.

Also let me remind everyone that alumni dues and Founders Circle contributions are now payable for

2022. If you have not joined the Circle, please consider pledging to make an annual donation.

Please come to Founders Day and see all that is happening with the fraternity and the ASU campus.

Again, thank you for your support and get those Pledge or Associate Classes together and help rebuild the living quarters of the house.

If you have any suggestions about anything, I would love to hear from everyone.

*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.*

## INITIATES ... continued from page 4

Maumelle and is deciding between exercise science and sports management as his major. TK wants to become a physical therapist.

- Ty Parker Morris (1640) is from Little Rock and is majoring in finance. Ty wishes to become a financial adviser after college.

- Josh Michael Olegario (1641) is from Cabot and is majoring in mechanical engineering. He wants to work as a car designer after college.

- Kenneth Wiley Rial (1642) is from Crossett, Arkansas and is majoring in finance. KW wants to become an actuary after college.

- Jackson Emery Richmond (1643) is from Maumelle and is majoring in accounting. Jackson wants to become an accountant after college.

- Austin James Schroeder (1644) is an accounting major from Bryant. Austin plans to attend law school and become a corporate lawyer in the future. Austin is the newly elected High

Rho (alumni correspondent).

- Jayden James Shannon (1645) is from Tuckerman and is majoring in exercise science. Jayden wishes to become a sports chiropractor after college.

- Mikeah Nathaniel Silver (1646) is from Cabot and is majoring in business administration. Mikeah plans to start his own business after college.

- Phillip Douglas Stanley (1647) is from North Little Rock and is majoring in finance. Phillip wishes to pursue a career in commercial real estate after college. Phillip is also the newly elected High Sigma (scholarship chairman).

- Logan Christian Summers (1648) is a nursing major from Little Rock. Logan wants to become a travel nurse after finishing college. He is also the newly elected High Gamma (secretary) for the chapter.

*Austin Schroeder is High Rho for Iota Theta Zeta. He can be reached at austinjschroeder5@icloud.com.*

## Spring associate class includes seven men

Seven men are in the chapter's Spring 2022 Associate Class. They are as follows.

- Michael Craig "Mikey" Hathaway is a nursing major from Sherwood. He plans to pursue a career in nursing.

- Justin Heath Carnes is from Cabot and is majoring in business administration. He wants to own his own business after college.

- Andrew Joseph "Drew" Donaghy is from North Little Rock and is majoring in criminal justice. He wishes to join the FBI after college.

- Bernard Lewis "PJ" Hollingsworth is from Bryant and is majoring in business administration. He is planning a career as a marketing manager.

- Zachary Tyler McMellon is from Cooter, Mo., and is majoring in business economics. He would like to become a manager of a business but is not yet certain in what field.

- Jordan Dakota Vines is a finance major from El Dorado. He wants to become a financial adviser after college.

- Jared Michael Whitman is from Cabot and is majoring in finance. He also plans to pursue a career as a financial adviser.

# From the House Corp. Board president

## PETE MURPHY

Iota Theta No. 710

It has been a busy year for the LXA at ASU Inc. House Board. Since the retirement of our mortgage at the end of 2020, several maintenance projects/updates have been completed.

These include:

- Rebuilding of the deck off the game room that overlooks the volleyball court, thanks to a donation of materials by board member Justin Miles.

- A new food disposal installed in kitchen as well as cabinets repaired with new knobs/handles on all drawers and doors

- All residential rooms equipped with new doorknobs and deadbolt locks along with some needed repairs for door frames.

- Multiple interior doors in residences repaired/replaced.

- Rotten floor joists under the game room floor replaced as well as game room carpet which was replaced with laminate flooring that has the look of wood.

- Walls of the small deck off the Alumni Room replaced after termite damage was detected.

- Three motorized shades were installed to cover the windows in the big meeting room and corded shades

were added to both the Alumni Room and portico to block sunlight as needed.

One of our priorities was renovating all 12 residential rooms, which have deteriorated with use and without much attention over the years.

Rooms 1 and 2 were renovated, along with the bathroom in between them. This included painting of all walls in room 1, ceilings in all rooms; filling various holes in the walls, including one large hole that required new sheetrock; replacing the floor in room 1 (mold was found under the old one); installing new ceiling fans/lights and doing some other minor electrical work; repairing sink drains; and repainting interior doors.

Rooms 5 and 6 were also renovated, along with the bathroom in between them. This included filling in various holes in the walls, including one large one that required new sheetrock; tearing out the existing flooring in both rooms and replacing it with waterproof laminate; painting all the walls; replacing both overhead light fixtures and other minor electrical work; repairing a leak in the bathroom ceiling, caused by a faulty toilet seal in the bathroom above, then repairing and painting the ceiling; repairing door

frames; replacing missing or rusty wall and ceiling vents; repairing sink drains.

We had hoped to get six rooms completed last summer, but time and money ran short. We will try to get an earlier start this coming summer and renovate the remaining eight.

Cost of labor and materials for renovating these four rooms was approximately \$5,000 per room. In total, the projects listed above cost us approximately \$42,000.

To keep the cost of room rentals competitive with other fraternities on campus, we use alumni contributions to help pay for long-term improvements while trying to maintain a Reserve Fund for emergencies. With support from alumni through annual dues payments of \$50 or by joining our Founders Circle for any amount of \$125 and up, you can help us maintain a Reserve Fund for repairs and maintenance.

If you have been a regular contributor, we thank you. If you haven't had the opportunity to donate, it's never too late!

*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.*

## Iota Theta Zeta officer corps for 2022

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

- High Alpha — Joel Gaffney Iota Theta 1583, of Mayflower;
- High Beta — Hugh Miller Iota Theta 1594, of Sherwood;
- High Theta — Philip Ball Iota Theta 1576, of Little Rock;
- High Gamma — Logan Summers, Iota Theta 1648, of North Little Rock;
- High Tau — Logan Catton Iota Theta 1611, of Bryant;
- High Iota — Tyler Hickman Iota Theta 1584, of Hamburg;

- High Kappa — Isaiah Ogilvie Iota Theta 1595, of Cabot;
- High Delta — Nathan Velek Iota Theta 1624, of Little Rock;
- High Phi — Preston Shockley Iota Theta 1599, of Maumelle;
- High Epsilon — Blake Smith Iota Theta 1600, of Maumelle;
- High Sigma — Philip Stanley, Iota Theta 1647, of North Little Rock;
- High Rho: Austin Schroeder, Iota Theta 1644, of Bryant; and
- High Pi: Curtis Baster, Iota Theta 483, of Manila

**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, join the Founders Circle and/or register for Founders Day.

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Enclosed is my check for:

Alumni dues for 2022 (payable on Jan. 1, 2022): \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

If a graduate in 2016 or later: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for the Founders Circle at the following level for 2022:

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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Founders Day, April 22-23**

Number of banquet tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ times \$40 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 Saturday luncheon (no charge).

**Note: The deadline for all reservations and payment is Friday, April 15.**

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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](mailto:royo@suddenlink.net)

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

Return postage guaranteed

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## BANQUET ... continued from page 1

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transactions.

An Alumni/Actives Scramble will start at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Sage Meadows Country Club. Alumni are encouraged to enter as a 2-man team, and each alumni team will be paired with an active team for tee times.

Prizes will be given to the lowest scoring team among alumni and the lowest scoring team among actives. The foursome with the lowest combined score will also receive a prize.

Greens fees will be \$50 for actives and \$75 for alumni.

Afterward, the chapter will host an informal lunch at the fraternity house, starting about 12:30.

The annual meeting of the alumni corporation, LXA at ASU Alumni Inc., will follow at 2 p.m.

Three positions on the 9-member alumni board are open for election to 3-year terms. Those seats are now held by Rob Roedel, Iota Theta 723, of Bryant; David Webb, Iota Theta 629, of Little Rock; and Mike Mallory, Iota Theta 305, also of Little Rock.

*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 or (870) 930-5504.*

### *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](http://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](mailto:royo@suddenlink.net).

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## ALPHA ... continued from page 3

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environment where fraternities are under more scrutiny and a closer watch than ever before, we continue to succeed where others are starting to fail. With many philanthropies, brotherhoods, date nights and a formal planned for this spring, Iota Theta is going strong and poised to have the most successful year yet in 2022.

*Joel Gaffney is High Alpha of Iota Theta Zeta. He is a junior from Mayflower, majoring in finance and business economics. He can be contacted at [joelgaffney19@gmail.com](mailto:joelgaffney19@gmail.com).*