

# Cross & Crescent

a Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity publication



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Brighton and Morris, Indiana State alumni brothers

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May 2008 . XCIV . Issue 5

# Cross & Crescent

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### TEAM HULMAN



Indiana State Brothers Curt Brighton and Gary Morris serve as two top executives of the Hulman & Company, which owns Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indy Racing League, Wabash Valley Broadcasting, and Clabber Girl. Brighton is the executive vice president and general council for all Hulman-owned companies, while Morris serves as COO and president of Clabber Girl, a top-selling baking powder.

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### HOLLYWOOD MOVIE/TV PRODUCER



John Baldecchi has worked with Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, James Gandolfini, and most recently with Al Pacino in the newly-released movie "88 Minutes." A UCLA graduate, he has leveraged his economics degree into building a successful production company.

**By Tad Lichtenauer**

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# The Roots of Purdue's Psi Zeta

Investigating the origins of our Fraternity's 24th chapter.

By Robert McLaughlin (Purdue 1963)

## The Search Begins



Various historical references say that two Purdue University groups, Alpha Epsilon and the Aeolian Club, were founded around 1908 and both became the nucleus of Psi Zeta. Founder **Warren A. Cole (Boston 1912)** and National Chancellor **Ernst J.C. Fischer (Cornell 1910)** conducted the installation ceremonies in West Lafayette, Indiana on December 11, 1915; making ours the 24th chapter of The Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and the last one to be designated with only a single Greek letter.

My curiosity about these ancestor organizations was sharpened several years ago when I visited our Headquarters in Indianapolis and examined two badges from Alpha Epsilon; a jeweled badge donated by "J. Kirk Spangler" and a plain badge donated by "I. M. Cole." Both these names would become familiar to me as my research continued but I wondered why there were no similar examples of Aeolian badges.



Soon afterward I contacted the Purdue library to request copies of entries from our yearbook, *Debris*, for this early period. Eventually my file grew to include all the years from 1911 to 1944, but several pieces of information remained missing. First, no entries for Alpha Epsilon were found although the librarians had checked all the way back through 1907. Second, the entries for the Aeolians don't begin until 1911. Nevertheless these do show the progression of individual names, year to year, as they become Psi Zeta in the 1916 edition.

The 1911 Aeolian Club portrait shows 13 men and lists them by their scheduled graduation years, 1911 to 1914. It says the club was founded December 7, 1907, that its colors are "Deep Blue and Old

## Editor's Note

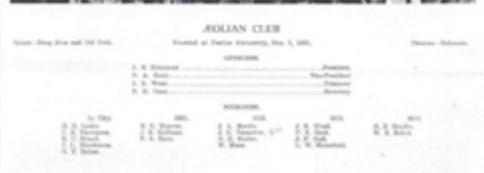
The *Cross & Crescent* would like to thank Brother **Robert McLaughlin (Purdue 1963)** for his exhaustive research and efforts involved with compiling and writing this article.

If you know of any similar unique chapter histories at other schools, we would like you to share your story by either posting a comment on this web page or by authoring your own article for a future issue of the *Cross & Crescent*.

Gold," and its flower is the "Tuberose."



Yearbooks of this era often listed alumni who had joined the faculty. They might also list names under the heading "In City" or "Fraters in Urbe" for those still living near the university and, presumably, supporting the club as active alumni. These notations were very helpful in filling in many of the names of members who had graduated before Aeolian's yearbook entries began in 1911.



I began to speculate about the relationship between Alpha Epsilon and the Aeolian Club. Were they two different organizations or the same one? Was the fact that the name Aeolian begins with the letters "A" and "E" a coincidence? So far I seemed to have found one organization, Alpha Epsilon, that had badges but no record in *Debris*, and another, Aeolian, which appeared in *Debris* but had no known badge.

Fortunately, I was in contact with **Jono Hren (Florida Tech 1975)**, an experienced Lambda Chi historian and collector, and new information began coming my way.

First, I received a copy of a page from a 1930 history, entitled *Lambda Chi Alpha, 1909-29*, which was published by our magazine, *The Purple, Green and Gold*. It is a collective history with a section for each school. For Purdue, it refers back to a November 1916 issue that had devoted a large section to Psi Zeta and says, "the Aeolian Athletic Club...organized at Purdue on December 7, 1907...(was) composed almost entirely of athletes..." It explains that Alpha Epsilon was

founded at Valparaiso University and, in 1908, installed a second chapter at Purdue. A sketch of a badge is included and is identical to the jeweled badge donated by Spangler.

Then the narrative becomes less clear but it appears that the faculty at Valparaiso ruled against this expansion and placed constraints on its own local club. How that affected the second chapter at Purdue is unknown but there is evidence that it merged with the Aeolian Athletic Club in some way. The magazine is quoted as stating, “the local chapter was then called the Aeolian Club.” Even more important it lists the names of the 31 charter members of Psi Zeta; 21 undergraduates and 10 alumni including both **J. Kirk Spangler (Purdue 1915)** and Isidore M. Cole (Purdue).

Next, I received copies of the Psi Zeta entries from the 1930 *Official Directory of Lambda Chi Alpha* listing the first 245 members. By comparing the names of the 31 charter members to the names in Debris and in the directory I could confirm all but one or two as former members of the Aeolians.

So where are the members who joined from Alpha Epsilon? They seem to be missing. A possibility is that Alpha Epsilon had ceased to exist as a separate entity; probably before 1911. However, that presents another problem since the two badges in the display were both donated by charter members. Assuming these were their own badges, we know from their school dates that they would not have been part of a much earlier group. That leaves a possibility that the Alpha Epsilon badges were from men who had long since graduated and had been passed down as historical pieces to Spangler and Cole who eventually donated them.

The next steps were to seek a copy of the earlier (1916) article from Headquarters and to see what the archives at Valparaiso University might hold. Both efforts were very successful.

Since the earliest chronology starts at Valparaiso, reconstruction of our history will now begin 65 miles north of Purdue.

### Valparaiso University and Alpha Epsilon

Archivists at the Valparaiso library found a local newspaper clipping dated May 5, 1953, describing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Gamma Chi chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon. TKE had installed Alpha Epsilon as their Gamma Chi in 1951. It mentions that Alpha Epsilon was founded December 31, 1902, and also has this comment, “At the time of its founding, secret societies were outlawed on the local

campus.” Recognition by the university came in 1904, and a charter by the state of Indiana was granted a year later; however, a reference is made to “hard times” somewhere between 1905 and 1917.

There is also a typewritten sheet, entitled “History of Alpha Epsilon,” which mentions the first official meeting on May 21, 1903, and the selection of colors as “gold and dark blue,” essentially the same as those shown later in Debris for the Aeolians.



I am especially appreciative of the archivists' efforts in reviewing early yearbooks and looking for artwork that is often used to decorate appropriate pages. They found sketches of the badge and the only known depiction of the coat of arms and bearing the motto of Alpha Epsilon.



### Purdue University and the Aeolian Club

Teresa Carlson, Executive Assistant at our Indianapolis Headquarters, found the November 1916 issue of *The Purple, Green and Gold*. Of even greater value, she retrieved our chapter's entire history file and went through it in search of related material. To our benefit, **Steve Sothmann (Purdue 2006)** had spent the summers of 2003 and 2004 there as an intern and had already organized the material that included some very informative items including correspondence between **Lealdas W. Haig (Purdue 1915)**, a senior in the Aeolian Club, and Ernst J. C. Fischer.

The first letter, from Haig, is dated February 4, 1915, and discusses a visit Fischer had just made to the Aeolians in West Lafayette. Haig expresses enthusiasm for joining “Lam Kai,” says several alumni had also given approval, and asks for Fischer’s “candid opinion of our bunch,” plus advice on drafting an application.

Fischer’s typewritten, three-page, single-spaced reply, dated only two days later, is remarkable for its wealth of information about the application process. He says Haig must deal directly with Warren Cole and that 27 copies of the application will be needed for review by the 18 existing chapters and the nine national officers. He also

suggests having a photographer take pictures of the house and a group picture of the membership with a key “to tell us who is who.” Statements about each undergraduate and alumni member are to be included and are to be quite detailed. Initiation fee is \$10.00 that includes a “plain badge having eight half pearls close set in the crescent, a years [sic] subscription to... *Purple Green and Gold*” and a signed membership “shingle.” He also discusses the policy of bringing the ritual to interested alumni as well as the need to get the approval of the university. As for giving his candid opinion of the Aeolian’s chances Fischer is a bit coy. He only visited for a few hours but admits that “you have all the requirements for a national name and...you are robbing some national of the opportunity to enroll some good men... by staying local.”

Apparently that process went well because Fischer writes to Purdue’s dean in August asking for his evaluation of “the Aeolian boys.”

In October, Fischer writes to Purdue President W. E. Stone thanking him for granting permission to install a chapter and to Haig congratulating him on their success. “I take it for granted that your local at West Lafayette will be put through the ropes before Christmas. You can soon say, ‘Aeolian is dead, long live Aeolian.’”

#### Answers to the Puzzle

The questions about the relationship between Aeolian and Alpha Epsilon are finally answered two decades after installation in a handwritten letter from Spangler to ‘Bruce’ and dated March 27, 1936. He seems to be responding to an inquiry about the early history of the Aeolians.

Without doubt he is writing to **Bruce McIntosh (DePauw 1916)**, our administrative secretary, and tells him that “Roy C. Street went to Valparaiso University and was initiated into Alpha Epsilon. He came to Lafayette in 1908 and installed the second chapter at Purdue. Local fraternities at that time at Purdue did not have Greek names, so when the mother chapter became inactive we went back to the old name of Aeolian Club, why that name I do not know. We used the initiation of Alpha Epsilon all the time we were known outside as Aeolian Club.” He also urges Bruce to contact **Roy C. Street (Purdue)** and **Harry G. Leslie (Purdue)** for “more information, they are the ones you should get in touch with....”

The last item in the file is a typewritten sheet dated November 30, 1938, but it identifies neither the author nor the recipient. It may be a result of McIntosh taking Spangler’s advice and contacting Street or

#### Are There Other Instances?

The types of names local fraternities chose is an interesting study in itself. References can be found of locals avoiding a Greek-letter name for fear one might hinder future applications to large, established national fraternities.

Other histories show universities banning all secret organizations; another incentive to adopt a non-Greek name.

How widespread the practice was of having a private name as well as a public name is not known but another example could lie a short 80 miles west of Purdue at the University of Illinois where two clubs, Beaver Lodge and Beta-Lambda, were both founded in 1920, and both joined Theta Kappa Nu in 1926. Perhaps they too represented two names for one organization.

Leslie. By itself, it would raise some questions, but in combination with all that has been uncovered earlier it provides an excellent summation of the beginning of our history.

“Aeolian was founded in 1907; then some transfers from Valparaiso University who belonged to Alpha Epsilon came to Purdue in 1908 and affiliated with Aeolian. Aeolian then became the second chapter to Alpha Epsilon. The mother chapter became dormant soon afterwards and expansion stopped. Aeolian continued to use the ritual of Alpha Epsilon which consisted of one degree which was very beautiful and very similar in part to Lambda Chi Alpha. Aeolian also used the badge of Alpha Epsilon for the eight years of its existence or until it became Lambda Chi Alpha. Alpha Epsilon was known on the Purdue campus as Aeolian on account of local traditions; locals did not use Greek names.”

**Author’s Note:** Special thanks go to **Sean Ward (Purdue 2009)**, High Rho of the chapter for taking time from his studies to check references and obtain photocopies at the Purdue Library. He also located the lone reference in Debris for I. M. Cole, who was only at Purdue for one year and was not listed on the Aeolian entry.

**Footnote:** The name Aeolian is recorded in various ways. The 1909–1929 history refers to the Aeolian Athletic Club. The 1911–1915 Debris issues, the Paedagogus, and Dr. Charles Peyser’s history record it as The Aeolian Club. Letters in 1915 from L. W. Haig to E. J. C. Fischer are on Aeolian House letterhead.

# Chapter News

Chapter news, alumni news, and reports of death

## Alfred (Kappa-Sigma)

A former chapter vice president, Mark O'Meara (1974) received Alfred University's Athletics Award of Distinction, which recognizes long-term exceptional service to, and involvement in, the university's athletic programs. He is the first recipient of this award.

## Angelo State (Beta-Alpha)

Dillon Koen (2008) won the Greek Man of the Year Award.

A.J. Lopez (2010) was elected as a member of the Student Government.

Paden Johnson (2011) was elected IFC academic chair.

## Ball State (Iota-Alpha)

Grand High Rho Tom Cochrun (Ball State 1968), a broadcast veteran and former general manager of WISH-TV in Indianapolis, was inducted into the Indiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame during the annual awards banquet held on April 5, 2008.

## Butler (Alpha-Alpha)

The chapter brothers held their annual teeter-totter-a-thon from March 16-22, raising about \$10,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The seven-day, 24-hour a day marathon has been an annual tradition for more than 20 years.

Along with Kappa Alpha Theta, the chapter placed second at the annual Spring Sing competition, which took place on April 5 at Clowes Memorial Hall.

## Cal State-Northridge (Beta-Rho)

The chapter hosted a pancake breakfast on April 6 to raise money for the Relay For Life charity. More than 30 Fraternity brothers, associate members, and guests attended, including alumni Samir Bijlani (1999), Terry Lucero (1981), and Rick Childs (1978). In addition, the chapter participated in the 24-hour Relay For Life team event, raising a total of more than \$1,200 for the American Cancer Society.

## Case Western Reserve (Alpha-Nu)

At the request of John Vacha (1960), several chapter brothers donated part of their spring break to help with his project, District 3's History Day, on March 15, 2008. The brothers spent a combined 30 hours guiding students and visitors, running errands, delivering lunches to the judges, and setting the stage for the awards program. The chapter

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now has completed more than 500 hours of community service for the school year.

## Chicago Area Alumni Association

More than 30 alumni brothers gathered on April 17, 2008, at the University Club of Chicago in downtown Chicago. Educational Foundation Board Chairman Gregg Behrens (Iowa State 1974) hosted the reception for this alumni group. Executive Vice President Emeritus George Spasyk (Michigan 1949) served as keynote speaker and also enjoyed connecting with former Fraternity staff member Bob Curran (Tulsa 1980) and Order of Merit recipient John Schmitt (Eastern Illinois 1976).

## Cincinnati (Gamma-Gamma)

Chapter brothers conducted the Initiation Ritual for two new colonies: Wilmington College and Hampden-Sidney College.

## Coe (Zeta-Alpha)

The chapter organized a Walk a Mile in Her Shoes fundraiser, benefiting a local family services shelter and helping raise awareness for preventing sexual violence against women.

The chapter received five awards at the college's annual Leadership Convocation, including Most Philanthropic Organization on Campus, Most Positive Organization Growth Award, Most Money Raised for Charity, Most Service Hours Completed, and also Largest GPA Improvement.

The chapter won first place in this year's intramural water polo competition.

## Eastern Michigan (Sigma-Kappa)

The chapter placed second in Greek Week 2008 with Jeff Kliman scrambling to the top of the first place pyramid. The team of Zach Ohs, Craig Bently, Adam Blanchford, Josh Barnett, Matt Williams and Chris Russell finished third in the obstacle course. The biggest highlight occurred when Lambda Chi Alpha beat Sigma Nu (Greek Week champions) in the tug of war competition.

## Georgetown (Kappa-Omega)

The chapter brothers conducted an Initiation Ritual for 12 associate members in March 2008.

Andrew Jones (2010) was elected secretary to the Student Government Association.

The chapter raised \$2,500 to benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children at its annual Run Like a Fool 5K Marathon,

Matt Stull (1996) was a contestant on the TV game show Jeopardy! on March 28, 2008.

### Gettysburg (Theta-Pi)

A Texas Congressman and 2008 U.S. presidential candidate, Dr. Ron Paul visited the Lambda Chi Alpha chapter house at Gettysburg College while he was in town campaigning before the April 22 Pennsylvania primary. The undergraduate brothers gave him an enthusiastic reception and a tour of the chapter house. Paul was featured in the November 2007 *Cross & Crescent*.

### Incarnate Word (Pi-Epsilon)

The chapter launched its new website, which was created by Sergio Suarez (2007).

### James Madison (Phi-Eta)

The colony is scheduled to regain its charter this semester after losing it due to alcohol violations in 1997. To regain the charter, the colony had to meet 14 standards established by Headquarters. These include having 80 percent of men active in extracurricular events, having a GPA higher than the all-men's average for the campus, and having membership equal to the average for the campus. Chapter President **Ian Hallada** (2010) submitted the chartering application earlier this semester.

### Louisville (Zeta-Sigma)

Jeremy Watts (2008), pictured with the Louisville mascot, and chapter Alumni Secretary Mike Oghia (2008) were featured on the University of Louisville's website (<http://louisville.edu/cardinalcam/>).

### Marietta (Kappa-Alpha)

Chandler Wittel (2011) was elected as a member of the Student Government Association.

For the fourth consecutive year, the chapter had the highest GPA on campus among all fraternities.

Chapter Vice President Patrick Hahe organized a brother auction, which raised more than \$700 for the Micheal J. Conte Scholarship Fund, created in memoriam of a fallen brother. On April 19, the chapter held an event called Music for the Masses, a battle-of-the-bands style concert, benefiting the same fund.

### Millersville (Delta-Tau)

The chapter held Buzz-A-Chi, a charity event to raise money for 9-year-old Ian Swarr of Washington Boro, who has epidermolysis bullosa, a genetic disorder characterized by extremely fragile skin and recurrent blistering. Participants included Chris Torres (2008) and Pat Egan (2008), the event organizer.

### Millsaps (Theta-Eta)

Brian Mitchell (2009) was elected IFC vice president of programming. Ben Cain (2009) is IFC president.

Bjorn Carlsson (2008), Woods Curry (2008) and Kyle Doherty (2008) will graduate with honors from Millsaps College after successfully defending their independently researched theses in mathematics, chemistry and history respectively. The honor program is a multi-semester commitment that requires independent and original research while working closely with department faculty. Carlsson's project title is Outwitting the Half-Lying Oracle, Curry's is Synthesis of Novel Organic Molecules with Specific DNA Binding and Cleaving Properties, and Doherty's is José Martí: The Spiritual Battle for Modernity.

Mitchell and Thomas Richardson (2008) both claimed first place awards at the 10th annual O.C. McDavid Journalism Conference in March 2008 for their work on the university's newspaper, The Purple & White. Mitchell won best sports feature and Richardson won for his sports column. Mitchell currently serves as the paper's sports section editor and Richardson served previously as graphics editor and then sports editor.

At the Greek Life Awards, the chapter won Excellence in Greek Spirit; Unsung Greek Leader -- Joshua Downer (2008); and the overall Chapter of Excellence Award.

### Nashville Area Alumni Association

More than 50 alumni brothers joined Grand High Pi Lynn Chipperfield (Drury 1973) for an alumni reception on April 10, 2008, in Nashville, Tennessee. The event was held at the Belle Meade Country Club and hosted by Educational Foundation Board member Jack Bovender (Duke 1967).

### Nebraska-Omaha (Iota-Delta)

The chapter won the Theta Chi Olympics and placed second overall in Greek Week. Chapter Adviser Bo Gebbie (2002) won the IFC Adviser of the year award. The chapter was recognized for excelling at several Greek Ideals, including Academic Performance, New Member Orientation Program, Chapter Management, Chapter Adviser, Active Participation in IFC, Internal Judicial System, Community Service Program and Outreach Program. During the week, the chapter also collected more than 20,000 pounds of food for the North American Food Drive by partnering with the Boy Scouts. The chapter capped off the week by hosting its annual Jail House Rock party for the entire Greek community.

### New Hampshire (Alpha-Xi)

The chapter received the Phoenix Award and the Community Service Project of the Year Award from the Student Organization Services.

At the Spring 2008 Greek Awards banquet, chapter President Chris Keeley (2008) received the Unsung Hero Award.

### North Carolina-Charlotte (Beta-Upsilon)

At the annual Greek Awards, the chapter won the Excellence in Community Service Award and Interfraternal Spirit Award. The chapter leads the university with the most hours of community service in the entire Greek Community. Former chapter Vice President Jonathan T. Hoyle (2008) won the Service Leader Award for his efforts to help collect donations for the 2nd Harvest Food Bank.

Chapter brothers participated in Relay for Life, a cancer awareness and fundraising event held on April 11, 2008.

### Northwestern (Alpha-Iota)

Andrew F. Zimmerman (1951) died March 22, 2008. A World War II veteran, he served in the U.S. Navy and was awarded the Victory Medal, American Theater Medal, Asiatic Pacific Medal with Two Stars and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Two Stars. Zimmerman later worked as a sales engineer and salesman, selling instrumentation products for Morse Chain and Pall Trinity Micro. In 1967, he moved to Kent, Ohio, where he worked as a salesman for Taylor Instruments.

### Oklahoma City (Theta-Delta)

On April 3, Nick Drago (2002) appeared on Bravo's new TV series "Step It Up & Dance," a reality competition series where contestants learn what it takes to succeed in the dance industry. As an undergraduate he served as both fraternity educator and vice president and he remains active with the chapter as an alumnus. Drago currently resides in Los Angeles where he has appeared in several music videos including Jessica Simpson's "Boots," My Chemical Romance's "Helena," Finger Eleven's "Paralyzer," and Duran Duran's "Falling Down." He also appeared as Theodore's dance double in the movie "Alvin & The Chipmunks."

William T. Kern (1953) died March 18, 2008.

### Oklahoma State (Alpha-Eta)

Christopher M. Anderson (2009) died April 11, 2008. A business management junior from Colleyville, Texas, he was killed following a car crash when he swerved into oncoming traffic in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

### Oregon (Zeta-Omicron)

Earl D. Fowler (1950) died March 21, 2008. A former chapter president, he was a U.S. Army veteran and a retired high school teacher and vice principal in Oregon.

### Penn State (Zeta)

Milton Morgan (1954) and his wife, Lois, have added a \$1 million commitment to endow the Morgan Center's position of Director. Annual income from the endowment will support a variety of program and equipment improvements. The Morgans have already given a leadership gift to support what is now the Morgan Academic Support Center for Student-Athletes which helps Penn State student-athletes achieve their academic goals while participating in intercollegiate athletic programs.

### Rhode Island (Eta)

Jonathan Kaufman (xxxx) was recognized by the school newspaper, The Good Five Cent Cigar, for his outstanding philanthropy to the community. He was also elected to the board of directors of The Welcome House, a local shelter, where he becomes the youngest person and first student to be elected to the board. The Welcome House of South County provides meals, emergency shelter, and supports transitional and permanent housing for the homeless in the Washington County area.

### Sacramento Area Alumni Association

Fifteen alumni joined Educational Foundation Board member Mark Hoag (Michigan State 1972) for an alumni reception on March 27, 2008, at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento.

### Sam Houston State (Sigma-Mu)

Chapter brothers participated in Relay For Life, walking for 12 hours around the track at the campus stadium to raise awareness and money for cancer research. The chapter also donated \$200 to cancer research.

### Samford (Theta-Alpha)

William H. Edgar (1946) died March 29, 2008.

### San Francisco Area Alumni Association

More than 30 alumni brothers and guests gathered on March 25, 2008, at Moe Cevallos' (Rensselaer Polytechnic 1967) golf club in Daly City, California. At the event, Executive Vice President Bill Farkas (Butler 1988) announced the scheduled return of our chapter at California-Berkeley. Order of Merit recipients John Gezelius (California-Berkeley 1978) and Bob Koch (California-Berkeley 1971) were in attendance as well.

### South Carolina (Epsilon-Psi)

Dr. William T. Ward (1945) died April 7, 2008. In 1945, he was one of the chapter's founding brothers and the first initiate. From 1951 to 1982, he served as a civilian contractor with the U.S. Air Force, stationed in the Philippine Islands. In 1982, until his retirement, he was the military historian with the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. An active brother in his later years, he attended several events, including the groundbreaking for the Edward F. Nolan Chapter House in 2004, the anniversary of the chapter's 60th anniversary in 2005, and last fall's homecoming event at age 89. For the memorial service, the undergraduate brothers sent a bouquet of white roses that were placed on the casket.

### South Dakota (Alpha-Gamma)

For the first time in school history, Chad Lavin (1978) of The University of South Dakota has been named the Russell Athletic/WBCA NCAA Division II Women's Basketball Coach of the Year. Lavin was named the national coach of the year at the Elite Eight Championship Banquet held in Kearney, Nebraska, on Tuesday night. Lavin, who is in his 14th and final season at the helm of the Coyote program, has directed the Coyotes to a school record 31-1 record this season.

### Southeast Missouri State (Delta-Phi)

During Greek Week, the chapter won third place overall, first place in Greek Games, second place in canned food collection, Outstanding Chapter Community Service Award for the 9th consecutive year, Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol Award for the 3rd consecutive year, and the President's Award for Fraternal Excellence for the first time in over 10 years. In individual honors Nolan Ryan (2011) won the Outstanding Greek New Member Award, Matt Knickman (2008) was named the Greek Man of the Year, Ben Hooe (2011) was named the Order of Omega Greek of the Month, and Billy Garrett (2010) was initiated into the Order of Omega.

## Southern Methodist (Gamma-Sigma)

The chapter hosted a charity concert event benefiting the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, which is a world leader in the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions.

Chapter brothers participated in the sixth annual Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build.

## Texas-Austin (Alpha-Mu)

The chapter has 22 brothers as well as six associate members who are about to be initiated. We are committed to making a big recruitment push during the summer and fall rush and have set a very attainable goal of 10 new associates for the fall semester.

Chapter brothers are trying to reestablish relationships with alumni who may have lost contact with us. Toward this objective plans are being made for a Parents and Alumni Barbecue this coming November.

Vice President Scott Maddox (2009) and President Travis Carlson (2010) are leading a chapter team for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event sponsored by the UT's student organization Colleges Against Cancer. We are currently the fundraising leaders, having raised nearly \$3,000 for the ACS in under two weeks. This event is particularly important to Carlson because he is a cancer survivor.

Heading into the playoffs the chapter is currently undefeated in the intramural co-ed softball league.

Recruitment is under way for a faculty adviser willing to work with the brothers on chapter issues, as well as university relations. Charles Maddox (2011), an associate member, is running for office in the UT IFC next school year and hopes to become the IFC's Greek relations officer. In any event he will remain closely involved with the IFC. Already a Freemason and involved with Masonic community activities he brings valuable experience to the chapter.

## Texas-San Antonio (Phi-Upsilon)

René Alonzo (1991) died April 6, 2008. In 2005, he was elected to a two-year term on the Windcrest City Council, a suburban community just outside San Antonio. With a passion for real estate, Alonzo also spent time converting an historic 1887 saloon into a dance hall.

## Western Carolina (Beta-Zeta)

Justin Conley (2009) was elected IFC vice president-judicial.

Stephen Johnson was elected IFC vice president-recruitment.

The chapter placed first in the Downhill Derby. Vehicle construction was led by Jacob McMinn and Berl Childers with help from the rest of the chapter.

## William & Mary (Epsilon-Alpha)

More than 400 guests attended our annual Crabfeast charity event on April 20, 2008.

Ben Brown (2011) served as a 2011 class senator this year and has been reelected for a second term.

The chapter won the intramural championship in softball and floor hockey; performed very well in flag football, basketball, and volleyball; and are currently competing in the soccer playoffs. An additional goal is the Fraternity Cup, awarded to the chapter that has the best overall year in intramural sports.

With a renewed commitment to academics, the chapter currently has the sixth highest cumulative GPA out of 16 fraternities and is just below the all-male average.

## William Jewell (Epsilon-Nu)

Grand High Alpha Dr. Edward F. Leonard III (William Jewell 1979) was inaugurated as president of Bethany College on April 12, 2008, in a campus ceremony attended by approximately 200 guests, including Executive Vice President Bill Farkas (Butler 1988) and Educational Foundation President and CEO Mark Bauer (Cal State-Fullerton 1979).

## Wisconsin-Whitewater (Lambda-Iota)

Jeff Reisdorfer (2000) traveled to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to present his talk, Adopting New Technology 101, to a group of more than 50 agriculture educators from across the United States. During his stay he also visited the Oklahoma City Memorial and the Lambda Chi Alpha chapter house at Oklahoma City University.

Nick Schreck (2001) was presented with the 2008 Assistant Division Manager Award from Physicians Mutual during a ceremony that featured a video documentary of his accomplishments. Dave Baumgartner (2000), also a member of the Physicians Mutual family, was on hand for the presentation of Schreck's award during the company's 2008 convention held on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

## Wittenberg (Nu-Zeta)

Lt. Col. Gary J. Milgate (1963) died March 26, 2008. A Vietnam veteran, he remained active with the PA National Guard 28th Division and the Army Reserve until his retirement. He was also retired from the PA Department of Welfare in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Most recently, he was an on-call driver for Caron Foundation in Wernersville, Pennsylvania.

# Update on Expansion Plans

Alumni support key to colony's short- and long-term success.

IN THE APRIL 2007 CROSS & CRESCENT, we reported that one of Lambda Chi Alpha's fundamental precepts is growth.

The article stated that the Grand High Zeta and the General Fraternity staff had worked cooperatively in the spring 2006 to establish criteria to ensure sound decision making with respect to expansion and colonization.

Based on the expansion criteria currently in place, the General Fraternity Staff refers to the following topics when evaluating a campus for colonization:

- Institution's Receptiveness
- Alumni Support
- Legacies on Campus
- State of Greek Community
- Institution's Reputation
- Established Interest Groups

Given the pivotal importance of alumni support for day-to-day colony operations, and ultimately to a colony's long-term success, we wanted to focus more attention on this topic.

As we have mentioned before, the Fraternity needs interested alumni who are willing to offer their time, talent, and treasure. As the colony grows, it needs older, more experienced brothers to show the new brothers and associate members the Lambda Chi Alpha way.

## Time

When the Fraternity considers an expansion, and especially for those recolonizations where we are reactivating and revitalizing a closed chapter, we must look for alumni who have the time to attend some or all of;

- Weekly meetings
- Recruitment functions
- Executive committee meetings
- Philanthropy events

In addition, we need alumni who have the time and interest to mentor new brothers and associate members. An alumnus who can invest his time and energy will add a stronger Lambda Chi Alpha presence and create an atmosphere of shared passion for the colony.

## Talent

In addition to their willingness to contribute their time, the Fraternity is particularly looking for alumni with talent. These will be alumni brothers who had notable experiences as undergraduates at this location or at other chapters and perhaps served as chapter officers or as advisers in other institutions.

Bringing these types of talents to the associates at a colony will be of considerable assistance.

Often times we are recruiting new associates at universities where we must compete with other well established fraternities. Those may already have active alumni organizations with their own social structure and networks to facilitate support of chapter operations and housing.

Therefore any Lambda Chi colonization or re-colonization faces significant challenges because prospective associates may see their peers joining a fraternal structure where the alumni are already a strong, well established component.

In addition, the General Fraternity staff members will only be on campus for a finite amount of time. We need alumni who will

By John Holloway (High Point 1993)

## Current Expansion Schedule

On the current schedule, the Lambda Chi Alpha International Headquarters has the following chapters listed as Campuses in Consideration.

### Campuses in Consideration

#### Calgary (Delta-Zeta)

- Chartered in 1988
- Dormant since 1993
- 45 total brothers initiated

#### Cal State-Fresno (Iota-Gamma)

- Chartered in 1952
- Dormant since 2003
- 1,270 total brothers initiated

#### Dayton (Sigma-Eta)

- Chartered in 1975
- Dormant since 2003
- 749 total brothers initiated

#### DePauw (Xi)

- Chartered in 1915
- Dormant since 1995
- 1,319 total brothers initiated
- Located in Greencastle, Indiana

#### Florida Atlantic (Beta-Phi)

- Chartered in 1971
- Dormant since 1976
- 88 total brothers initiated
- Located in Boca Raton, Florida

#### Massachusetts-Amherst (Gamma)

- Chartered in 1912
- Dormant since 2003
- 1502 total brothers initiated

#### Richmond (Alpha-Chi)

- Chartered in 1918
- Dormant since 1999
- 1,272 total brothers initiated

### Current Expansion Schedule

On the current schedule, the Lambda Chi Alpha International Headquarters has the following chapters listed as Campuses in Queue.

#### Campuses in Queue

##### Lake Forest College (Colony)

- New colonization
- Located in Lake Forest, Illinois
- Target: Fall 2008

##### Wisconsin-Whitewater (Lambda-Iota)

- Chartered in 1965
- Dormant since 2005
- 932 total brothers initiated
- Target: Fall 2008

##### California-Los Angeles (Epsilon-Sigma)

- Chartered in 1930
- Dormant since 2000
- 1396 total brothers initiated
- Target: Spring 2009

##### California-Santa Barbara (Zeta-Eta)

- Chartered in 1949
- Dormant since 2004
- 1,304 total brothers initiated
- Target: Spring 2009

##### North Carolina State (Gamma-Upsilon)

- Chartered in 1924
- Dormant since 1998
- 1,186 total brothers initiated
- Located in Raleigh, North Carolina
- Target: Spring 2009

##### California-Berkeley (Mu)

- Chartered in 1913
- Dormant since 2006
- 1329 total brothers initiated
- Target: Fall 2009

##### Drexel (Epsilon-Kappa)

- Chartered in 1941
- Dormant since 2006
- 1,470 total brothers initiated
- Located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- Target: Fall 2009

##### Ball State (Iota-Alpha)

- Chartered in 1951
- Dormant since 2004
- 1,700 total brothers initiated
- Located in Muncie, Indiana
- Target: Fall 2010

##### Idaho (Epsilon-Gamma)

- Chartered in 1927
- Dormant since 1998
- 859 total brothers initiated
- Located in Moscow, Idaho
- Target: Fall 2010

provide a continuing presence to nurture and support the growth and development of these new brothers as they define their Lambda Chi Alpha identity, begin to create their own traditions as a chapter, and develop a deep spirit of brotherhood.

#### Treasure

As for treasure, we seek alumni who may not have the time, nor have had the experiences, but do feel they can offer some financial assistance so the new brothers and associate members could attend General Fraternity functions or other university leadership programs.

Often times a colony is struggling just to understand the concept of dues and insurance, so taking on the responsibility for items like training or Ritual equipment is something alumni can support with their treasure.

Interested alumni can allocate specific funding for any of these items: Ritual equipment, recruitment efforts, setting up scholarships, or contributing to a dedicated fund to enable brothers and associate members to attend events like General Assemblies and Leadership Seminars.

These donations can be some of the strongest ways to help the colonies develop, providing them opportunities to attend General Fraternity events where they can visit with their peers operating within Lambda Chi Alpha. The more exposure the new brothers and associate members can have to the other chapters, the better.

#### Increased Staff Support

The campuses in the queue list have passed the Fraternity's criteria as approved by the Grand High Zeta. Collectively, the Board, Fraternity staff, and alumni have created a criteria matrix to evaluate a campus. Campuses are then ranked with top targets identified, which establishes a queue that the Fraternity then follows.

In today's expansion mode, the Fraternity staff provides increased on-site support for a new colony. A staff member(s) arrives on campus before recruitment begins, spends two weeks establishing the Lambda Chi

Alpha identity, and then recruits men who exemplify our Core Values.

The staff member(s) then orients the new associates on colony operations and returns later in the semester for a week of pre-initiation followed by the actual Initiation Ritual. In addition a colony will also receive a separate consultant visit.

#### How to Inquire

If you are interested in providing your time, talent, or treasure to one of our colony expansions, please contact — Director of Chapter Services **John Holloway (Highpoint 1994)** at [jholloway@lambda.chi.org](mailto:jholloway@lambda.chi.org) —and tell him how you would be willing to help.

# Team Hulman

Indiana State Brothers Curt Brighton and Gary Morris serve as two top executives for Hulman & Company.

By Chris Barrick (Butler 2004)

**GARY MORRIS AND CURT BRIGHTON ARE MEMBERS** of a tight-knit group that attended Indiana State University, located in Terre Haute, Indiana, in the 1970s. Morris went to Indiana State from a small Indiana town, and Brighton was a Terre Haute native.

Both say they initially looked into joining a fraternity to become more active on campus. They also both felt comfortable with the brothers in the Lambda Chi Alpha chapter house. The group of men quickly built a strong bond.

“We had a strong bond and camaraderie amongst this group. You looked forward to breaks between classes to come together,” says **Morris (Indiana State 1975)**. “It was a great adventure.”

“At the start of school each fall it wasn’t about me coming back to town, it was about everyone coming back to town because I hadn’t gone anywhere,” says **Brighton (Indiana State 1976)**.

Many of the brothers were first generation college students and many worked throughout school. To the group, it was a big deal to graduate and achieve career success.

## Curt Brighton

Following college, Brighton attended law school at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. While in school he was asked, “what are you going to do when you get out?” His candid response was that he knew was he wasn’t taking more than one bar exam.

“Low and behold....I am in my final semester and am not sure what I want to do and I end up taking two bar exams,” jokes Brighton.

He went to work for the firm he clerked with in Des Moines and he and his wife decided they were going to stay there.

“I found out I passed the Indiana Bar by someone calling me saying, ‘congratulations you passed the bar,’” says Brighton. “I was like how do you know that? “It was in the Indianapolis Star.”



Being licensed in Indiana became beneficial as he was offered a job offer at a firm in Terre Haute. The firm had several senior partners and was business practice, which interested Brighton.

A substantial part of the practice was working with Hulman & Company, and in 1994, Brighton was asked to become executive vice president and general counsel of the company.

In his position, Brighton holds the same executive vice president and general counsel title for all Hulman-George owned companies: Clabber Girl, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indy Racing League, and Wabash Valley Broadcasting.

When Brighton joined the company he had the expectation of working from his Terre Haute office but soon after came the start of the Brickyard 400, and the inception of the IRL. Since then, IMS has also added a seven-year stint with Formula One racing and will host its first Moto-GT race this fall. He says it is unusual to spend more than one day a week in Terre Haute.

“I get up in the morning thinking I am going to deal with one issue and not even get close to the neighborhood of the issue,” jokes Brighton. “I serve as a sounding board sometimes for people who don’t know how ideas will be taken at the upper levels of management, a mentor, and a hand holder; I am a jack of all trades.”

Brighton also worked at great length on the IRL-Champ Car merger. For many years he has dealt with the negotiation meetings and strategy with the involved other parties.

“We have had a lot of good things happen to us in the last couple of months, and contrary to popular belief, the Indy 500 has been a stronger event than the Brickyard 400,” says Brighton. “I think time will ultimately tell that open wheel racing was never going to be successful unless it had a tight control structure. The sport is now positioned for tremendous growth.”

## Gary Morris

Morris graduated from Indiana State and went Ball State University to earn a master’s degree in urban planning. He soon realized he didn’t have the temperament for governmental work and decided to go into sales, and eventually food sales.

“I worked for TNT Corp. managing operations and then moved back to Terre Haute about the same time Curt took the job in Terre

Haute,” says Morris. “So we got to spend time together and with our families.”

Morris’ career then took him to Michigan, where he sold one business and started another one. He spent 12 years working outside of Indiana.



“Curt used to tell me that I would come to Indiana,” says Morris. “I came home one day and Curt had left a message saying that the individual that was running Clabber Girl was retiring and would I be interested in talking to them about the position.”

After meeting Tony George, the CEO of Hulman & Company, he was hired as vice president and general manager of Clabber Girl in November 1999. Following a restructuring, Morris was named chief operating officer and president.

Clabber Girl produces chemical leavener — the component that makes baked goods rise. Not only does the company manufacture retail brands but it also produces industrial brands for every major food processor in the country.

“We are fortunate to start off with a great brand that has been around since the 1870s, and the Hulman & Company was started in the 1850s,” says Morris. “Both Curt and I are part of a company that has been around for 158 years and is still privately held by the same family.”

Morris manages more than 200 employees. He has a national sales force, a growing amount of export business, and a manufacturing facility. Morris manages sales meetings, negotiates contracts with suppliers and with brands the company is interested in acquiring, and deals with the direction and structure of the company. He is also the member of a number of boards, including the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce.



“My day to day operation goes between community activity and Clabber Girl,” says Morris. “The best part of my job is I get to dabble in all departments.”

Morris is able to compare his duties to those he had as an officer in the Fraternity.

“The responsibilities change, the expectations on the day-to-day basis are a little different, but the interactions and the politics in the Fraternity are similar,” says Morris. “It was a good social structure to learn in.”

**Continuing Brotherhood**

The two brothers feel that it’s been great being able to keep a close work and personal relationship.

“We have completely different roles but we understand you have to be part of a team to be successful in a business. Every person has a position to play that they need to attend to so everyone else can do their part.” says Brighton. “Hopefully, when the final buzzer has sounded you have won more games than you have lost.”

“Much like with Clabber Girl, I felt like I was part of something bigger than ourselves (in the Fraternity),” says Morris.

Morris says the Fraternity was like any other group where there is a certain population that does all the work. It was that group from the Fraternity that still stays in close contact today. The chapter alumni association has a big golf outing coming up in August. Every year at the ISU homecoming, Clabber Girl hosts a hospitality tent, and Lambda Chi hosts one next to it.

The two also find it interesting how the Indy 500 pulls the group together. When in college, the group got tickets to the race. Following graduation, they continued attending.

“I don’t sit in the bleachers anymore but that same group still comes back Memorial Day weekend,” says Morris, “I look back on the group and how it still keeps in touch, and the great relationships. What

we thought was right at the time turns out to be right in the long term.”

# Hollywood Movie/TV Producer

John Baldecchi worked most recently with Al Pacino in the newly-released movie "88 Minutes."

By Tad Lichtenauer (Denison 1987)

**JOHN BALDECCHI GREW UP IN LOS ANGELES.** His father had attended the University of California-Los Angeles, earning both undergraduate and master's degrees.

"So there was a legacy issue that I was interested in," Baldecchi (California-Los Angeles 1985) says about deciding to attend UCLA. "On top of which...I fit in there nicely. I was looking to go to a bigger school and I wanted to stay close to my family and friends.

For Baldecchi, the university provided a nice combination of quality of education, sports, and a great campus. He ended up becoming an econ major, and a biology major.

"There's actually no connection between what I studied in school and what I ended up doing," he says about becoming a producer.

During his senior year, Baldecchi decided to intern for a production company.

"And I wasn't necessarily looking to get into the entertainment industry," he says. "I was just looking to do something that sounded interesting to me at that time."

## Early Beginnings

The company where Baldecchi interned during college was in the middle of producing a couple of movies. He decided to stick with it to just "to see what it was like."

"And actually at the time I didn't have designs of going into the movie business...but after having spent some time there it felt like a natural fit for me," he says.

After graduation, Baldecchi was surprised when the production company owner jumped at the chance to hire him. The company happened to have movies under production with MGM Studios. And it just all came together.

"It was sort of that easy," Baldecchi says. "And that was the last time it was easy ever in my life....But it was a different time as well."

After benefiting from a little luck, he eventually took a second job with a producer at The Walt Disney Studios. He stayed there for several years and his boss eventually let him start producing his own movies.

"He began to let me produce movies after I had proven myself to be able to find the projects and get them teed up so that the studio would greenlight them," Baldecchi says. "It's an arduous task to be with a movie from beginning to end."

His boss had a multitude of movies going on that the time so it was the right time for him to start taking over movies that he had found and developed.

After that job, he worked for FOX 2000 with another producer. They made a couple of movies together there, but he then moved over to Columbia Pictures and spent a long time there, and made movies elsewhere, too.

## First Producer Credit

In 1993, a close friend of Baldecchi's, Stephen Sommers, wanted to write and direct *The Adventures of Huck Finn*, and asked Baldecchi for assistance.

"He went off and wrote the script," he says. "And he came back and brought it to me and said he wanted to direct it as his first studio feature."

Baldecchi knew that movie studios wouldn't just automatically agree to finance it so he helped Sommers refine the script to help sell it.

"So we worked on the script until we got it to a place where we could get interest from the studios," he says. "Disney scooped it up."

The only catch was they had to agree to a lower sales price to allow Sommers to also direct the movie.



“I can’t say it’s gotten easier since then,” he says. “That was actually one of the easier productions I’ve worked on. It in fact has only gotten more complicated since then. But with experience you sort of deal with it in different ways.”

### On His Own

Shortly thereafter, John Baldecchi Productions was born and he has gone on to produce a variety of other movies, including the 2001 hit “The Mexican,” starring Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, and James Gandolfini.



From left, director Gore Verbinski, actress Julia Roberts, producer John Baldecchi and actor Brad Pitt of the film “The Mexican,” mingle at a screening of the film in the Westwood section of Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 23, 2001. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

“It’s always a different challenge,” he says about his movies. “Every movie brings a different challenge to the party. If you’re shooting in a another country...each country has its own set of circumstances that you have to be careful and watch out for. And actors bring complications, and directors bring complications, and they are all different complications.”

The bottom line is he finds the work very interesting and never boring. Each of his projects elicits different memories.

“As they say, they’re a little bit like children...and sometimes they misbehave,” he says. “It doesn’t mean you don’t like them. There’s a reason I’ve been involved in every movie I’ve been involved in one way or another.”

One of his most recent projects was the newly-released movie, “88 Minutes,” in which Baldecchi had a secondary producer role as he was busy with several other projects. Al Pacino plays the leading role.

Nonetheless, he wanted to be involved with the movie as he was fascinated by the premise.

“On a studio, commercial level I had actually never seen anything done like that before,” he says. “I thought it was interesting to see if

we could pull off this idea of the second they say 88 minutes, you’ve got 88 minutes to live.

That notion tracks throughout the movie, which is the part that was most interesting to Baldecchi.

“It was sort of a technical and creative challenge to see if that could be accomplished,” he says.

### Adding Television

Baldecchi has more than a dozen projects in process, including the upcoming movies, Half to Death and Scared Guys.

He also is beginning to branch out and take on some projects for television.

“That’s been a new area of interest of mine,” he says. “I’ve generally been sticking to movies for no good reason other than it’s taken all of my energy. I have a little bit of help now and I’ve been able to expand into other areas.”

Two of the TV projects he’s working on are a miniseries and a drama, both based on books. One is a World War II mission movie the other one is historical fiction.

Television is a whole different world for Baldecchi but he says it’s a strategic move for him.

“It’s also a little more prudent to spread your bets out now because the business has tightened up a bit,” he says, “So spreading yourself in both television and movies is a good idea.”

]

### Discovering Lambda Chi

From the beginning at UCLA, Baldecchi had his sights set on joining a fraternity.

“When I was looking at choice for fraternities, what I was looking for the most was a place where I felt I fit in and was comfortable,” he says. “And that’s what I found at Lambda Chi. There was a comfort level.”

For Baldecchi, a big part of that had to do with Lambda Chi’s anti-hazing policy.

“I just thought that the group of guys that had been put together at Lambda Chi was just a good group of guys,” he says. “And guys that I still stay in touch with.”

One of his fondest Fraternity memories remains the day he moved into the chapter house.

“One is the day that I moved into the Fraternity, which was an exciting day,” Baldecchi says. “I just remember moving in there and just the sense of independence and relief I felt.”

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