

# The Gamma Eye

Alumni Newsletter for the Gamma Iota Chapter of The Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity

ΔΣΦ / DELTA SIGMA PHI  
BETTER MEN. BETTER LIVES.

I University of Idaho

DELTA SIGMA PHI • MOSCOW, ID • SPRING 2023 • FIFTEENTH EDITION



## YOUNG SAILORS LEADING

**I**t has been an undeniably interesting year for Gamma Iota. At the beginning of this year, our campus and community were struck by a tragedy that took the lives of four Vandals, Xana Kernodle, Ethan Chapin, Madison Mogen, and Kaylee Goncalves. During this dark time, our community came together to mourn and heal. This time drove our brotherhood together and we were reminded of how blessed we are to have the support of each other. Through this tragedy, our bond became closer than ever.



**Undergraduate brothers descending Lewiston Hill.**

The brotherhood has continued to show excellence in its actions. This year marks the seventh year in a row that we have won our neighboring sorority Kappa Delta's Shamrock Philanthropy. We also extended our philanthropic effort by participating and making ourselves known in every other philanthropy event hosted by the Greek community this year.

I am happy to announce that the 60th anniversary of our Bike to Boise philanthropy was a raging success. After a three-hundred-mile and two-day trek on a tandem bicycle, the chapter arrived in the Idaho State capital and were greeted by friends, alumni, and media. I am proud to say that this year **we were able to raise over six thousand three hundred dollars for The Hope House** in Marsing, Idaho. After we arrived on the capitol steps, we were treated to a dinner at the Idaho State Museum, allowing undergraduates and alumni to connect. This was the first year that we were able to have our alumni dinner since pre-COVID times.

This year we were able to initiate seven new brothers into our bond. After Formal recruitment in the fall, we continued our recruitment efforts throughout the year to obtain men of quality that truly exemplify and live by the values of our great organization.



**Chapter President Ryan Malone, left, and B2B Chairman Bernardo Bautista, right, arrive at the Capitol steps.**

It has certainly been an exciting year and I am excited and hopeful for the future to come.

Y.I.T.B.O.S.  
Ryan Malone PC '20  
Chapter President

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# SAILOR SPOTLIGHT

ROB FAISANT

FOUNDING MEMBER - 1950

## A BOND FOR ETERNITY

**"The jacket that began a 50+ year friendship. Also to the right: The patch with greater meaning than words can express. If tempted, one could only define its meaning to the special feeling which overwhelms the soul when blasting through fresh powder, that's what seeing this patch meant/means."**

I walked up to this guy at the bar who was sporting a vintage Vandal Ski Club windbreaker and introduced myself. I learned that he was more than just a Vandal, he was a Delta Sig! And he had the correct response when I confirmed if he had really been a sailor! As we reminisced, he turned out to be much more than just a Sailor! Rob had been a prime mover (likely THE prime mover) in founding Gamma Iota in 1950! This scene was at the end of a hard day on the Alpine Meadows Volunteer Ski Patrol in 1972 shortly after I transferred in from Killington, Vt.

### FAST REWIND A COUPLE OF DECADES: THE LAUNCH OF GAMMA IOTA

Rob started at the U of I in 1948; he was President of the Independent Caucus political party (for dorm dwellers) in 1949 when Frank Lloyd, a Delta Sig National field rep knocked on his door and talked with him about fraternity life. Rob and his roommate, Bob Vlack, were soon sold and recruited many of their friends, forming the Gamma Iota chapter. The early members were a mixed bag of young students and some older WWII vets, all of whom were short on cash and long on energy!

Frank also recruited the first Alumni Control Board (ACB) including Ted Pritchard (dean of Art and Architecture), Elmer Nelson (president of the Idaho First National Bank in Moscow), Eugene Slade (a Finance manager at the U of I) and Frank Young (coach of the boxing team). They were a very committed team who helped the young enthusiasts find, fund, and renovate a former photo studio into their fraternity house. Ted, Elmer, and Eugene were still dedicated to guiding the chapter 15 years later during my era.

A formative event for the new chapter was hiring Jenny (Ma) Morris as cook. She had been working in logging camps and at the U of I Forestry camp in McCall. Ma literally ruled the Gamma Iota kitchen with an iron hand, bantishing dented pots and pans when necessary to remind us how she controlled rowdy loggers. She cared deeply about the members and the success of the chapter, even hounding members who had not paid their fees on time! (I wish I had known that when I was treasurer in 1964). Ma helped us learn discipline and the rewards of hard work peeling potatoes and washing everything. She was a great cook and was loved and respected.

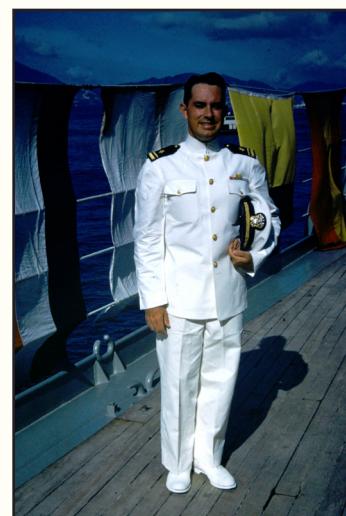
Several of the members back in the day were hunters who kept the meat locker rented downtown stocked with venison and elk, and they wisely pledged an apprentice butcher (Bob Fisher) from New Jersey. One season they bagged 17 deer and several elk!



### GAMMA IOTA SKI PATROL-IN ROB'S OWN WORDS:

*"Curt Mattson from Connecticut had had some contact there with the newly formed National Ski Patrol. Curt had the idea that we skiers in the house could benefit by forming our own ski patrol. Together we took the American Red Cross Advanced First Aid course. Bud Deerkop built a rescue toboggan (an old "Sun Valley" type with stand-up handles and a unique design hinged-plate harrow-tooth brake on the back) (ed. Note: running a heavy old "Sun Valley" was used as a kind of punishment for patrollers who screwed up at Killington when I was there in 1969-71). We designed our own parka insignia and declared ourselves available to ski areas. Ma Morris hand crafted parka patches, a large white circle containing a large red cross, and sewed them and Vandal Ski Club patches onto our parkas. We would call a ski area a week or two in advance, ask if they wanted a patrol (most did - there were few regular patrols) and we would drive there on a Friday night. The area would likely provide dinner. We would sleep on the floor of the Lodge, eat bacon and eggs provided by the area that were cooked in the fireplace, and patrol Saturday and Sunday. Fantastic way to ski for free! (A typical trip would be to Chewelah Peak Ski Area, 50 miles North of Spokane (now 49 degrees north and a major ski area). The patrollers in addition to me were Bud Deerkop, Dudley Homer, Curt Mattson, and several others I can't remember. While patrolling at Chewelah I asked questions about several avalanches, but got no answers, which triggered my life-long avocation of avalanche work."*

### NAVY YEARS



**"Brother Robin Faisant, in his Navy dress whites during active duty."**

### BACK TO THE RECENT PAST: ROB'S LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO SKI SAFELY

Rob was a very skilled ski patroller and an expert in Avalanche prevention and rescue. He was the US National Ski Patrol Avalanche Advisor for several years and knew many of the avalanche greats. In 1983, using his considerable "engineered leadership skills" Rob organized a European Avalanche Seminar leading 52 of us to Davos, Switzerland, and Val D'Isere, France where we learned from the European experts.

At Davos he arranged for us to be hosted by Professor C. Jaccard, Director of the Swiss Federal Institute for Avalanche Research, Dr. Hans



**Left to Right – Brother Faisant, Dr. Hans Gubler, Herr Nik Kindschi, taken in 1983 while in Davos Switzerland.**

Gubler a leader at the institute, and Herr Nik Kindschi, director of the Parsenndienst—the legendary Davos rescue service. Topics included Switzerland's Avalanche Warning systems and methods to analyze the cohesiveness of the snowpack and its propensity to slide.

At Val D'Isere Rob engaged M. Jean Lou Costerg, Director of Service des Pistes et de la Securite, and Col. Guy de Marliave, Director of the French National Association for the study of Snow and Avalanches to host us. At both Davos and Val D'Isere we were led through very challenging terrain with avalanche hazards, discussed hazard mitigation techniques, and learned from demonstrations of equipment, explosives, and avalanche rescue methods including dogs and helicopters.

### ROB'S DAY JOB, HIS LAW CAREER

Upon obtaining his JD from Stanford, Rob practiced on the San Francisco Peninsula until he retired in 2014. He handled mostly business and litigation, then estate planning. He had a very rich and fulfilling career.

Rob was an outstanding estate attorney and prepared bulletproof wills, trusts, and estate plans for my family. He graciously handled estate matters and college funding plans pro bono for the wife and daughter of Bernie Kingery, the Alpine Meadows beloved Mountain Manager who was killed in the enormous 1982 avalanche. Rob also provided legal support pro-bono in several church related matters.

### FAST FORWARD BACK TO THE PRESENT

Rob is now fully retired on the San Francisco Peninsula with his wonderful wife, Nancy. He has three married daughters, six married grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. WOW!

Rob's takeaways from Delta Sig days: he learned to work cooperatively toward shared goals which helped a lot in life after college. His favorite memories of college days were meals with Ma Morris! He says he remains grateful for Delta Sig and his brothers.

His advice to undergrads: Enjoy this time of life- it is like no other!

YITBOS  
Al Olston (PC 1961)

# LEADERSHIP UPDATES

## LETTER FROM THE ACB PRESIDENT

I am pleased to share with you some exciting updates about our recent activity as an organization. Over the past few months, we have been working tirelessly to advance our mission and bring about positive change in our beloved Fraternity.

First, I am proud to report that our chapter's undergraduate leadership and myself traveled to Chicago in January to participate in leadership development workshops and to work with other leaders and headquarters staff to better support the needs of our chapter. This opportunity provided us with valuable insights and resources to help us grow and improve as an organization. We are committed to leveraging the knowledge and skills gained during this trip to better serve our community and fulfill our mission.

Additionally, I am happy to report that our annual in-person planning meeting was held in Moscow and was extremely productive. During this meeting, our board members and undergraduate members had the opportunity to come together and discuss our priorities, goals, and strategies for the coming year. We had some great discussions, and the energy and enthusiasm from the chapter was truly inspiring. We are looking forward to continuing this momentum as we move into the next phase of our work.

I am also thrilled to announce that several important initiatives that we have previously discussed are now underway. These initiatives are focused on addressing critical issues in our chapter, including health and safety, personal and professional development, and value to alumni. We are confident that these efforts will have a positive impact on the lives of those we serve and will help us achieve our mission.

None of this progress would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our team members, volunteers, and partners. As always, we are committed to being transparent and accountable to our alumni and undergraduate members. We believe that it is essential to keep you informed of our activities, progress, and goals as we strive to move forward and ensure a healthy, and long-lasting Fraternity that remains relevant in the modern world.

YITBOS,

Michael Bivens PC'15  
ACB President

Fast forward back to the present



## RUSH REPORT

**R**ecruiting new members is a vital aspect of any fraternity, and we have successfully attracted six new members using innovative recruitment strategies. As a chapter, we employed a combination of social media campaigns, campus events, and personal invitations to reach out to potential candidates and share their values and objectives. With a larger emphasis on value-based recruitment strategies, we started to focus more on the quality of potential new members rather than quantity.

The recruitment strategies employed were generally effective in attracting new members. The events we hosted were particularly successful, which allowed PNMs to create relationships and introduce them to the fraternity. Personal invitations were another successful strategy employed by the fraternity. Members of the organization reached out to potential candidates, inviting them to attend fraternity events and learn more about the organization. By providing personalized information about the fraternity, members were able to connect with potential new members on a more personal level and build stronger relationships.

The recruitment process was successful, resulting in the initiation of six new members into the fraternity. The strategies that we, as a fraternity, used were effective, but there is still room for improvement. By refining social media strategies, utilizing campus events, and improving personal invitations, Delta Sig can attract more potential candidates and continue to grow and thrive as an organization.

Overall, our recruitment efforts demonstrate the power of innovative strategies and the importance of reaching out to potential candidates in diverse ways. By creating engaging content, hosting a range of events, and providing personalized information, we, as a fraternity, were able to attract new members and build a stronger connection with the community. Over the summer we are planning to hold a couple of events, but with IFC ruling that we are not allowed to give out summer bids, we are planning to hit formal rush in the fall hard. Planning is already underway, and we are hoping for a great turnout!

YITBOS  
Benjamin Jones PC '21  
Recruitment Director

## SPRING 2023 GRADUATES



## MESSAGE FROM THE UAB

**T**he UAB co-chairs (Mil Desilva & John Schisel) are currently focusing their efforts on supporting the current recruitment chair (Benji). Through training provided by headquarters on Chapter Builder and planning efforts with Benji our goal is a strong PC'23. The first step towards this goal is Benji presenting the recruitment plan, budget, and needed resources to a group of alumni around the end of May, first part of June.

YITBOS,

Mil DeSilva PC '06  
& John Schisel PC '06  
UAB Co-Lead Advisors

# INTEL FROM HQ

MESSAGE FROM OUR REGIONAL COMMISSIONER

## TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NORTHWEST REGION:

This message is intended for all of the present and future leaders of Delta Sigma Phi in the Northwest Region. The Northwest Region includes the University of Idaho (Gamma Iota), Washington State University (Gamma Delta), Boise State University (Iota Theta), University of Oregon (Theta Rho), and Oregon State (Beta Epsilon).

The purpose of this message is to remind all of you that it is imperative that each and every one of you strongly consider attending National Convention, taking place July 20-23, 2023 in Austin, Texas.

In addition, I need all groups receiving this message to reply with their current alumni officers/advisors and their contact information. Also, this is your chance to request advice for your chapter or to simply share your thoughts.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

Without a doubt, one of the MOST SIGNIFICANT events in your fraternity life is the National Convention!! You will experience the REAL brotherhood experience. You will participate in the highly emotional Pilgrim's Degree Ritual! You will select the Grand Council, debate and decide on future policies of the fraternity, meet with HQ staff, participate in the awards ceremony, and form bonds with members from all over the country that may last a lifetime!!

The National Convention will be held in Austin, Texas from July 20 to July 22, 2023, at the Hilton. Registration may be found at the following: [convention.deltasig.org](http://convention.deltasig.org)

**NOW FOR THE REALLY GOOD NEWS!!**  
Registration for Undergraduates is paid through dues.

For the event above, NOW is the time to register. Then, get your funds allocated, your time budgeted, and your travel schedule finalized. As always, never hesitate to reach out to me. I am dedicated to the success of our chapters in the Northwest.

YITBOS  
Terry Buttchen



Contact Terry: NorthWest@DeltaSig.org

## HQ PROGRAMS ATTENDED – LEAD WEEKEND

As leaders of our Fraternity, we were thrilled to participate in the LEAD weekend trip to Chicago in January. The trip not only provided us with valuable insights and resources but also helped boost the morale and motivation of our leadership team. The opportunity to collaborate with other leaders and headquarters staff helped us gain a better understanding of the broader fraternity community, and how we can better support the needs of our chapter, undergraduate members, and alumni.

During the workshops, we learned about various leadership styles, effective communication strategies, and how to manage conflict in a productive and respectful way. These insights have helped us identify areas of improvement within our organization and develop plans to implement positive changes. For instance, we have improved our recruitment strategies, established more frequent and productive communication channels with our members, and begun to better reflect the needs of our chapter.

One of the highlights of the trip was the individual meetings we had with headquarters staff. These meetings were a cornerstone of productivity and helped us gain a deeper understanding of how to implement changes within our chapter. The staff provided us with guidance on fundraising, alumni engagement, strategic planning, risk management, chapter

support, and more. We have since been able to push initiatives and goals across a wide range of efforts as a result of these meetings.

Overall, the trip to Chicago helped us grow and improve as an organization. It allowed us to reflect on our strengths and weaknesses, learn from others, and develop new strategies to better serve our community. As a result, we have seen a significant improvement in the productivity and morale of our leadership team. We are excited to continue leveraging the knowledge and skills gained during this trip to fulfill our mission and better support our members.

In conclusion, we are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the leadership development trip to Chicago. We are incredibly proud of the work that we have accomplished as a chapter and are excited to see the impact that we will continue to make moving forward.

YITBOS,

Michael Bivens PC'15  
ACB President

Ryan Malone PC'20  
Chapter President



**Javier Cardoza, SECRETARY; William Murray, VICE PRESIDENT; Nathan Tinno, TREASURER; Josh Rardon, SERGEANT AT ARMS; Ryan Malone, PRESIDENT; Benjamin Jones, RUSH CHAIR; Cole Barrett, NEW MEMBER EDUCATOR; Michael Bivens, ACB PRESIDENT.**

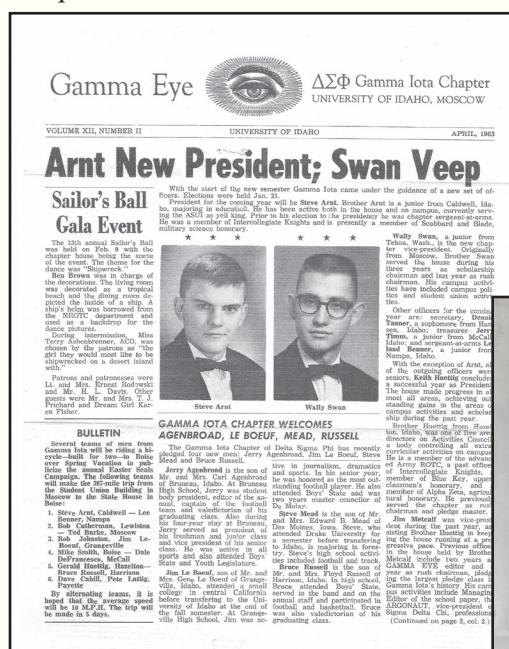
# HISTORY

## CATCHING THE EYE OF THE ALUMNI

**S**ince the founding of Gamma Iota, one of the chapter's oldest traditions has to be our alumni newsletter, The Gamma Eye. First named and published in the Spring of 1953 by a precocious freshman editor by the name of James Kocher. Despite only being our third year on campus he saw the need and value of informing the alumni on the happenings of the members, alumni, and chapter. The copy we have of that initial publication appears to have been hand typed and probably was mimeographed and then hand stuffed into envelopes and mailed to the alumni.

Some of the highlights from the first edition include:

- Brother Kocher introduced himself and encouraged the alumni to stay in touch and come by the chapter house anytime.
  - Alumni Robbie Van Kleek, Wilson Church man, and Dan Anderson all added daughters to their families.
  - Dick Parsons headed off to graduate school in Political Science at Fort Robins, CA.
  - Jim Rodgers sent a Christmas gift check to the chapter.
  - The chapter bought a used piano for the house. Despite the rough exterior, when played by member Bill Exworthy it produced “very nice tunes.”
  - The furnace was rehabbed and produce heat like it was brand new and the up stairs hallway was tiled.
  - Jim Wright and Dave Womeldorf both pinned their sweethearts. Jim was tubbed



**Above:** Issue from April 1963

## THE 1<sup>ST</sup> GAMMA EYE

by the pledges and Dave's was still pending at the time of the publication.

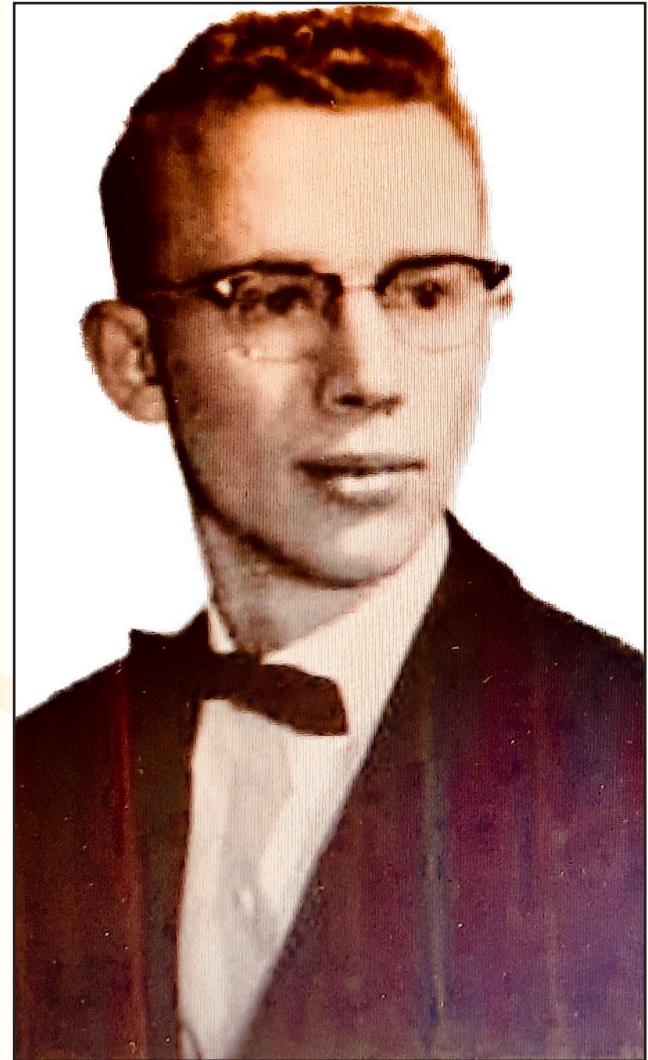
- Four pledges were initiated last fall. Bob Speedy was named outstanding pledge.
  - Bud Deerkop was President of the Vandal Ski Club and FFA.
  - The dates for the National Convention were announced in Estes Park, CO. on Sept. 7- 10, 1953 at The Stanley Hotel. Filming location for the Stephen King novel adaptation of The Shining in 1980.

During his tenure as editor, the Gamma Eye was acknowledged at two National Conventions in the mid 50's as one of the best newsletters in the country. Current staff at HQ today made similar comments about our Fall 22' edition. Nice way to honor Jim's legacy.

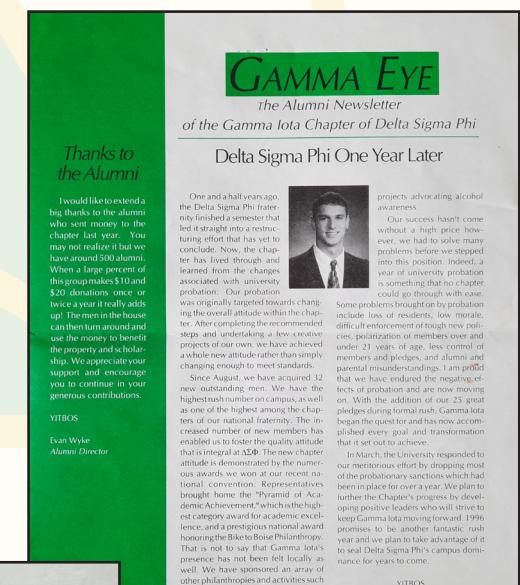
James Kocher went on to serve as New Member Educator, Treasurer, and President for Gamma Iota. He was integral in reorganizing the rush strategy and helped grow the chapter to 45 members by the time he graduated. Up next was a stint with HQ as a Field Representative and then a teaching job in Las Vegas. He stayed active as an alumnus and helped reorganize the ACB in 1958 as some of the founding alumni stepped down. With all these contributions as a member and alumnus, his most enduring legacy may be that hand typed 3-page newsletter published 70 years ago this spring. Brother Kocher entered the Bond Eternal in 1974.

YITBOS

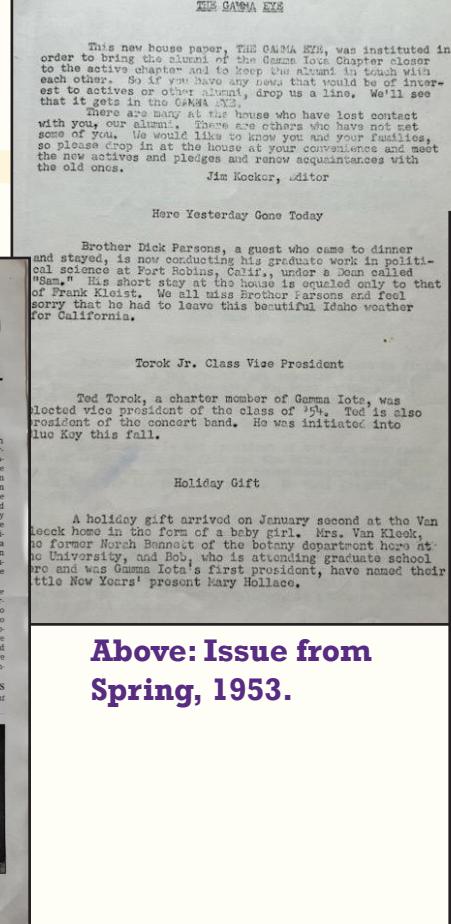
Seth Rahe PC 22  
Chapter Historian



**Above: James Kocher PC 1952**



## Above then Below: Issue from Spring 1996 & May 1987



**Above:** Issue from  
Spring 1953



Terry Misner, our Dream Girl for 1987-88,  
from Pi Beta Phi.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## NEW GAMMA EYE EDITOR

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

**I**t is my great pleasure to be the new Gamma Eye Alumni Editor. The importance of the newsletter does not escape me, nor any brother, I feel. But I, having been the undergraduate member to revamp and return the newsletter in 2015, especially thank Brother Eric Pickett for inviting me back to serve the chapter and always being supportive. Back when recruiting Brother Pickett to assist as a volunteer Alumni Newsletter Editor, I would have never imagined the importance it could be, and then was. These past 15 editions got better and better at each publication under his guidance. He served with great dedication, he went above and beyond serving as ACB Secretary, as well as traveling several weekends up to Moscow to physically assist with restoring "the Castle". This for it goes without saying, but I will: THANK YOU, TRULY, FOR YOUR SERVICE. You honored the chapter with your years of dedication, reconnecting the Undergraduate/Alumni Bridge, and rekindling the bond of brotherhood within us all.

When I was rushing as a freshman it had been apparent there was a loss, a disconnect if you will. We had broken ties with much of the greater base of our alumni brothers. We clearly had connections with recent graduates, but

only in the ways in which any recent graduate could connect with their alma mater, a social level. This was not a sturdy foundation for us, should anything happen to the chapter at that time, for us to rely on. Without this newsletter and the many conversations started by it stoking that fire of Friendship and Brotherhood within the Alumni Base, there would have been no way for the chapter to survive the bumpy road we then soon after endured.

So, thank you for your donation of time, service, and dedication to OUR chapter. What I can only think to compare with, from what I have been told, to the years of service from Brother Charles G. Bartell. I look forward to the next 10 years of Gamma Eye's being published, relying on the structure you helped create of it, and wish you the best in the next chapter of your life. I look forward to seeing you at the 75th!

YITBOS  
Thomas Entwit PC 2014  
Gamma Eye – Alumni Editor

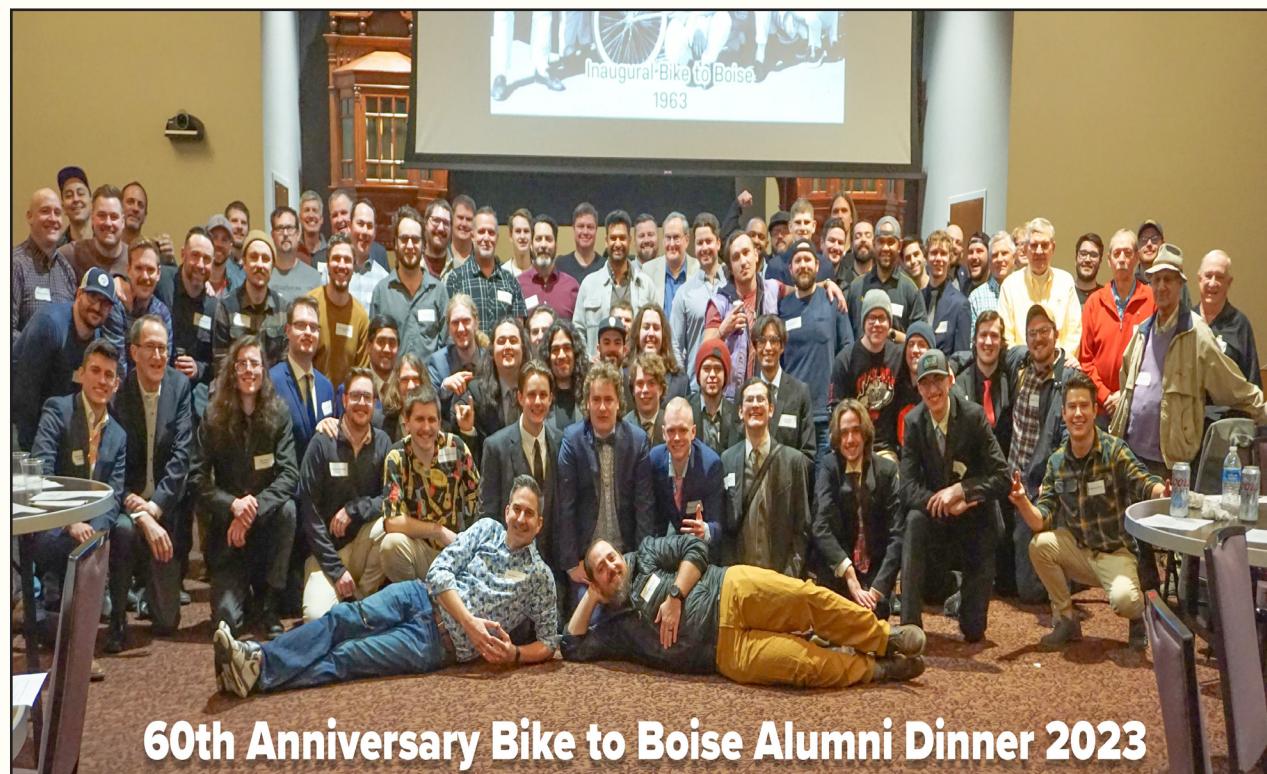
### EXTRA THANK YOU'S:

**C**heers and appreciation to those alumni who sponsored the Undergrads to attend the **60th Anniversary Bike to Boise Dinner:**

- Arnold Candry PC 57
- Paul Stewart PC 58 (x 2)
- Steve Arnt PC 60
- Mike Rowles PC 64
- Ole Bergset PC 65
- Ray Wickersham PC 67
- Larry Decker PC 68 (x 2)
- Ed Litteneker PC 70
- Ted Argyle PC 74 (x 2)
- John Argyle PC 76
- Paul Wakagawa PC 76
- Matt Douglas PC 79
- Jay Gibbons PC 80
- Chuck Caswell PC 80
- Bruce Truxal PC 81
- Brendan Boyle PC 86
- Ken Herzog PC 86
- Ron Mowery PC 89
- Dave Morasch PC 90
- Aaron Williamson PC 90
- Don Wade PC 92
- John Carpenter PC 93
- Travis Thompson PC 93
- Beau Brazier PC 94
- Jake Carlson PC 09
- Tyler Delay PC 11

A special shout out and thank you to those alumni and undergrads who served on our 60th Anniversary Bike to Boise Dinner Committee and helped make it such a great event!

- Steve Arnt PC 60
- Ted Argyle PC 74
- John Argyle PC 76
- Eric Pickett PC 78
- Aaron Williamson PC 90
- Gary Salzman PC 93
- John Schisel PC 06
- Tyler Delay PC 11
- Michael Bivens PC 15
- Bernardo Bautista PC 19 - Undergrad Rep
- Andrew Wood PC 22 - Undergrad Rep



**60th Anniversary Bike to Boise Alumni Dinner 2023**

### CONTACT LEADERS FEATURED WITHIN THIS ISSUE



**JOHN SCHISEL**  
UAB CO-LEAD  
SCHISEL11@GMAIL.COM



**MIL DESILVA**  
UAB CO-LEAD  
DESLIVA.MIL@GMAIL.COM



**RYAN MALONE**  
UNDERGRADUATE PRESIDENT  
Maloo209@VANDALS.UIDAHO.EDU



**BENARDO BAUTISTA**  
UNDERGRADUATE PUBLISHER  
BAUTISTA.SANCHEZJR@GMAIL.COM



**THOMAS ENTWIT**  
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
BAILEY.ENTWIT@GMAIL.COM



**MICHAEL BIVENS**  
ACB PRESIDENT  
MikeBiv95@GMAIL.COM

# BOND ETERNAL

IN MEMORY OF



JAMES M GALLEGOS  
(1960- 2023)

**J**immy Gallegos passed away suddenly on April 22nd, 2023. Jim was extremely close to his family, as we all experienced this with his brotherhood in the time spent at the Delta Sig house. You could always count on his big smile and contagious laugh. Whenever there was a social event, Jimmy was always ready to pitch in and help. He even accepted to be in my wedding party and supply the beer for the reception back home. Fun times. Jimmy enjoyed the finer things in life: camping, fishing, barbecues, and watching sports with family and friends, and in all these events with a cool beer in hand. Our condolences go out to his wife Patty, his children, father, brother, and sisters. So, let's all raise a Bud Light (no politics here, he worked for them most of his adult life) and toast to our brother Jimmy G. Rest in peace.

YITBOS  
Joe Freiburger PC 79

LYNN A MARSH  
(1945- 2023)

**L**ynn Marsh was born September 14, 1945 in Spokane, WA. but grew up in Grangeville, ID. His high school pursuits included football, baseball, gymnastics, and band where he sat next to his future wife. He earned his Eagle Scout in 1962. After graduation, Lynn joined Gamma Iota. He married his sweetheart in 1965 and graduated with a B.S. in Education in 1969. His first teaching job was at Burien Jr. High in Seattle. 2 years later he took a position at Cascade High School where he taught math, science, industrial arts and served as the Junior Class Advisor, wrestling coach and volunteer ski coach spanning 18 years. He received a Teacher of the Year while there. Lynn worked for the Valley County Search and Rescue as an advanced EMT and served as a Deacon in his church.

In 1990, they moved to Boise where he taught math for 1 year at Borah High School, then at Meridian Academy where he received the 1992-93 Outstanding Technology Instructor for the state of Idaho. He developed a science and english program with another teacher that was his thesis for a Masters in Education from Boise State in 2000. His final teaching position was at Marion Pritchett High School in Boise.

He loved outdoor activities with family including camping, hiking, rafting; but especially fishing. He entered the bond eternal on May 14, 2023. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carol. 2 children, 2 siblings, numerous nieces and nephews and his beloved granddaughter. He left quite a legacy as a husband, father, and educator. RIP Brother Marsh.

