

The Gamma Eye

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

ΔΣΦ | **DELTA SIGMA PHI**
BETTER MEN. BETTER LIVES.



DELTA SIGMA PHI • MOSCOW, IDAHO • FALL 2023 • 16th EDITION



"L to R - Shakil Salim (Secretary), William Murray (New Member Educator), Seth Rahe (Treasurer), Joshua Rardon (President), Andrew Wood (Vice President), Cole Barrett

LEADERSHIP REPORT

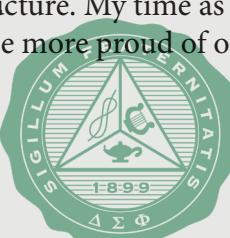
This semester has brought many new changes to the new member experience for the Gamma Iota chapter of Delta Sigma Phi. Revitalizing the new member education program from years of valued but out-dated practices, safeguarded as traditions was essential to the growth of our chapter. But doing so while maintaining the essence of what makes our experience unique and special was of the utmost importance to me. I ran for New Member Educator with the sole purpose of giving to Potential New Members (PNMs) the sense of care and devotion for the Fraternity that I received during my pledginghip. With those principles set forward I went in my endeavour. As a leader of this chapter, it was now my goal to create this new educational course.

During this restructuring, I was able to retain some of the traditions that I held near and dear but with a more positive and educational spin to them. One of these is regarding the search for a green brick. It was inevitable that our current tradition of having new members find the brick on campus, would be frowned upon and in the current optics, viewed as an "aimless task with out educational purpose", also known as hazing. Without disposing of the tradition completely, it was voted to alter this task. Now, during my weekly meetings with the PNM's, the brick is to be searched for and once found within the Castle, they give the history of that section, instilling purpose into this once less valuable task. As an example, in one such case, I have hid the brick on the porch and once discovered told them the history of the infamous "Toby the Cannon". I could hide it on the porch and tell them about how seriously different generations took the red light and green light district feud. By giving the new generation a positive experience with an old tradition that wasn't always such, I can retain a link that new members have with some of Gamma Iota's legacy.

It cannot be understated how important it was for me to communicate with nationals on this. With many eyes on the chapter, I needed to make sure that every aspect of the new educational course had approval of the national fraternity and our university leadership. By only using the assignments and lessons in the Lamp, our national charters new member education guidance, and then contacting nationals to get approval on any alterations or innovations to our local version of the program, I found much safer success in this restructure. My time as New Member Educator certainly had its ups and downs, but I could not be more proud of our 2023 Spring and 2024 Fall inducted Brothers.

YITBOS,

Cole Barret PC '21
New Member Educator



ΔΣΦ

04.13.24
Save the Date

61st Annual Bike to Boise
Alumni Dinner

SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH
STONE HOUSE IN BOISE

IF YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH PLANNING, PLEASE REACH OUT
TO BROTHER BIVENS AT 208-305-9820

Alumni Editor: Thomas Entwtit
Undergrad Publisher: Bernardo Bautista

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SAILOR SPOTLIGHT

Brother Steve Arnt has been prominent for 63 of our chapter's 73 years. He learned his leadership skills early starting in high school and grew them at the U of I. His Army career as a medical evacuation (Dustoff) helicopter pilot saw him thrust into the Vietnam conflict at levels of risk that make my night carrier landings look like child's play.

Steve was born in Boise and moved to Payette from the second grade on. He describes himself as short and skinny through school. He says he wasn't athletically competitive and was limited to short girls. He gave up piano at thirteen and excelled at band (All-northwest first chair French horn). He was president of the Key Club and led the building of a monument to the 1958 USAF Thunderbirds support team crash that killed nineteen people. He and his dad drove to Moscow for rush in 1960. They arrived at the 901 Deakin house and saw house president, John Beckwith, raking the lawn. They were both impressed. Steve liked the group and joined a pledge class of about twenty. House routine probably hasn't changed much. A Saturday morning pledge work party cleaned the house and grounds. Study Table began thirty minutes after weeknight dinners until 9:00. A typical night saw them head to the old Nest restaurant, across from the Perch, for curly fries, then to the sleeping porch and bed at 10:00. Meetings with sorority pledge classes saw



"Dustoff/Army Medical Evacuation Helicopter Pilot Steve Arnt."

them pair off by height. Steve says he usually got the one most comparable to his height. He says they would go to the sub and dance or just stare at each other over a cup of coffee. Somewhere along the way he grew. I arrived a year after Steve and don't remember him being short. House meetings were Monday nights without pledges. Steve was impressed with how many brothers living off campus would attend. The first Bike to Boise was called "Two Wheels for Easter Seals." Steve was as prominent in the planning and the event as he was in the recent 60th commemoration of it. He was very involved in the house and served as our President in 1963/1964. He was good at it and his leadership skills were becoming apparent. Don Fry PC '62 remembers, "He had the original idea for the bike ride, but he handed it to me to raise it in the chapter meeting. Since the ride was successful, I got a lot of credit, but Steve never let on. The success was his reward, not the kudos." ROTC was mandatory for freshmen and sophomores. Steve chose the Army and became a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1964. The Army also paid for his acquiring a private pilot's license. Somehow, the Army ignored this, and his initial orders were as an armor (tank) officer. This was quick-

ly rectified by Steve's designation as a Medical Service Corps officer. The Army Surgeon General needed medical evacuation pilots and solved it by sending ROTC grads with pilot's licenses to flight school. That launched Steve's brilliant, but dangerous, career. Early on, he flew very old Korean War vintage (H-19) helicopters but was soon flying Hueys and was sent to Vietnam. Attrition in the "Dustoff" business was very high and promotion was rapid. Steve's unit had four Majors as platoon leaders. Three had died in his first six months. Steve soon commanded six Hueys and twelve Warrant Officer pilots. The oldest was twenty and Steve was only twenty-three. He was living in a tent in the middle of a rubber plantation. He built an officers' club out of a ten-hole outhouse kit. Leadership challenges were many and Steve's favorite phrase, "Your mission and your men," was always in focus.

After a year, he rotated to Japan for eighteen months followed by a return to a Vietnam unit with severe drug problems where the prior C.O. had been fired. He solved it within two weeks, having to ship out fifteen people. He now had twelve Hueys and twenty-five pilots. He transferred after six months to Danang as C.O. of a unit that trained Vietnamese pilots. His living conditions were excellent. He then moved a unit to Hawaii for 3-1/2 years and a great tour. His war was over, and he was promoted to Major. He was further rewarded with a transfer to Baylor University for a master's in healthcare administration (MHA) degree. He rotated quickly through a residency and senior jobs in Colorado and Utah and to Fort Leavenworth for Command and Staff College. He made Lt. Colonel and was selected for a medical battalion command. He was assigned to the Surgeon General's office and the office of the Secretary of Defense prior to assuming the Battalion Command. He was soon working on legislation and became the DoD Director of Healthcare Cost Containment. His career had been punctuated by leadership. "Mission and Men" had been a common theme. If you ask Steve about leadership, that's the first thing you'll hear. He realized that he didn't make enough money to educate his kids, so he retired. He worked for the Sisters of Charity in Houston for five years as a lobbyist. After five years he was asked to move to Houston. He declined but remained as a consultant for the Sisters which he continued for 31 years, retiring 10 years ago.

Upon Brother Arnt's retirement from the



"University President Donald Theophilus shakes hands with Chapter President Steve Arnt at the start of the inaugural ride in 1963."

military some his awards included 2 Bronze Stars, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, 3 Army Meritorious Service Medals, 32 Air Medals representing hundreds of medical evacuation missions, 2 Meritorious Unit Commendations, Vietnam Armed Forces Medal - 1st Class,

Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation w/Palm, and designation as a Senior Army Aviator. Steve says that being President of the house taught him how to make decisions, since there was not a "Mother may I?" package to rely on at Idaho. He says, yet again, "You can never go wrong

making decisions based on the mission and the men. Candidly, I found it was seldom necessary to put the welfare of the men before the mission." He oozes this stuff. It's served him well and is totally genuine.

Steve cites his philosophy resulting from his Delta Sigma Phi Experience:

As noted, before: 'Mission and the Men'
Always give credit for success to those who work for you
Always take responsibility for organizational failures. Don't use the word 'problem' or allow those that work for you to use that word. It does not allow for consideration of a very important decision option. 'Doing nothing' may be the best action. The term 'issue' gives you the most wiggle room. Allow those that work for you to make mistakes. They will learn more and be of greater benefit to the organization'

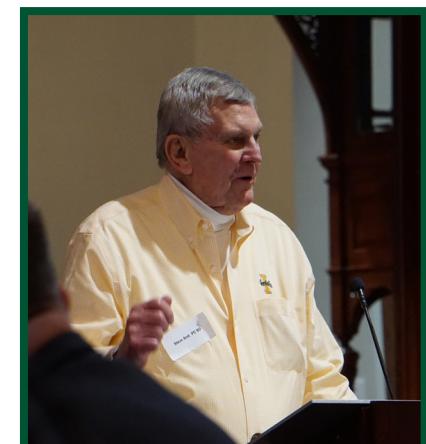
Steve has been a presence at Gamma Iota for so many years. Some highlights:

- Chapter Sergeant at Arms and President
- Involvement in Bike to Boise from its inception and served on the 60th Anniversary Dinner committee. He also delivered the keynote address on the inaugural ride in 1963.
- Many donations including the building fund, printed Gamma Eye, HQ military scholarship, and Hope House.
- Member of the 70th Anniversary Committee
- Frequent communication with many of us
- Chairing the monthly Boise coffee group
- Lots of homecomings, always stopping by the house
- Helping the ACB
- Being my Big Bro

Steve called me a few years ago, very excited. He said, "I just bought a Ford Explorer. Judy and I are moving to Boise." He's made the most of it with lots of quality time with kids, grandkids and brothers. He and Judy have used their McCall cabin well. He fishes the Salmon River regularly.

YITBOS,

Patrick Noonan PC '61



Above: Brother Steve Arnt delivers the keynote address to alumni and members at the 60th Anniversary Alumni dinner

GROWTH REPORT

RUSH REPORT

In a testament to the enduring spirit of camaraderie and the pursuit of positive change, I am thrilled to report that the Gamma Iota Chapter has welcomed seven new members into our fraternity during the fall semester of this year. The recruitment drive is not just about numbers; it's about forging meaningful connections and empowering a diverse group of young minds.

One of the standout features included in our recruitment efforts is our unwavering commitment to inclusivity and diversity. We believe that true strength comes from embracing our differences and learning from one another. Meaning that our fraternity is a melting pot of talents, backgrounds, and perspectives. We want to continue fostering a community that reflects the rich tapestry of our society. Moreover, recruitment is not just about signing up new members; it's about finding individuals who align with our values and are passionate about making a difference. Our events are designed to showcase the unique aspects of our fraternity and allow prospective members to get a real sense of what we, as an organization, stand for. Breaking away from traditional recruitment efforts, our chapter has made an effort to create events that not only engage prospective new members, but also create paths that lead to deeper and more meaningful conversations and connections.

Each year we gain more momentum within the recruitment sphere. It is evident that our commitment to our core values of culture, harmony, and friendship set us apart from the rest of the Greek community, enabling us to create an environment where we are able to transcend stereotypes and continue to empower our members. Moving forward, with the newly appointed recruitment director, Cole Barrett PC '21, we all believe that he has what it takes to continue this path of exponential growth. By building on the efforts of past directors and the new resources that have been made available to us, I believe that within the next few years we will see an influx of new members join our fraternity.

YITBOS,

Ben Jones PC '21
Rush Chairman



Thanks to Vandal Head Football Coach Eck and his family for inviting us to sit on his weekly podcast and giving a shout out on our annual Bike to Boise philanthropy.

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP

I trust this message finds you well and thriving in your respective endeavors. As ACB President, it brings me great pleasure to share the impactful strides we've been making as an organization and to extend an invitation for your continued support.

The ACB has been hard at work over the past few months, focusing on key areas to enhance the fraternity's overall effectiveness. One major initiative is the improvement of our processes and procedures, ensuring that the ACB operates seamlessly to support the needs of our beloved fraternity. We recognize the importance of a well-organized structure in fostering success, and we are committed to ensuring that every aspect of our operations reflects excellence.

Communication lies at the heart of a strong and connected fraternity. To that end, we are diligently working on improving our communication channels with stakeholders like yourself. We understand that staying informed is crucial, and we want to keep you updated on the exciting developments within our fraternity. A robust communications plan is in the works to keep everyone in the loop about GI news, events, and achievements. In line with our commitment to knowledge-sharing, we are close to introducing the ACB Knowledge Base—a comprehensive resource hub that will house valuable information and resources for easy access. This initiative aims to be the go-to source for assistance for all ACB members and to improve the ease of leadership endeavors.

Now, I extend a heartfelt request for your support—whether in the form of your time or your treasure. We have identified a critical need to enhance the physical facility that our undergraduates call home. We are seeking volunteers to step into vital roles, including the Facilities Director position, and as advisors to provide guidance and support to our undergraduates.

As we look toward the future, I want to inform you that after much consideration, I have decided not to run for re-election as ACB President in the upcoming summer term. It has been an honor and privilege to serve in this role, and I am confident that with the support of our dedicated alumni, the ACB will continue to flourish under new leadership.

I express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and commitment to Gamma Iota. Together, we can build an even stronger and more vibrant fraternity community.

YITBOS,

Michael Bivens
PC '15
Alumni Corporation Board President



Welcoming PC '23 (Left to Right): Shakil Salim, Porter Giltzow, Drew Bowman, Hudson Falkner, Josu Arrubarrena, Jonah Anderson

DELTA SIGMA PHI

REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

Another calendar year has come and gone. On the other hand, the school year is only at halftime. Therefore, this is the opportune time to reflect on the Fall semester and to form initiatives for the Spring 2024 semester. This planning process will allow us to course correct where needed and to celebrate where appropriate. As a reminder, The Northwest Region includes chapters at the U. of Idaho, Washington State (Gamma Delta), Boise State (Iota Theta), and the U. of Oregon (Theta Rho). From a big picture perspective, the Fraternity world is facing many challenges. Paramount among them is recruiting and academics. This includes bringing in quality new members and having all of our members graduate.

According to a 2022 study, ONLY 64.1% of men graduate from college. We know that through accountability, mentorship, and support, fraternity membership helps men to earn their degrees. This positive support system is increasingly critical with male enrollment decreasing and completion more challenging. One of the most helpful tools that Delta Sigma Phi has ever produced is the Growth Website. Please click or go to the following: <https://growth.deltasig.org>. Even as alumni, we should discover what the active chapter is doing to add strength through numbers and what we can do to support them. So, where are we from a national perspective? Delta Sigma Phi is currently at 100 chapters and will soon have 4,700 active brothers. In addition, we have added over 1,200 new members this Fall. Your fraternity has two West Coast expansions underway: UC Berkeley and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Alumni at both locations are the lifeblood to this endeavor. Three more quick pieces of information.

First, our Parents Newsletter was emailed the week of November 20, 2023. We have a mailing list of over 500 parents. Second, the next National Convention is in Denver, CO (driving distance for many) in the Summer of 2025. Plan now to attend. Third, our Courage and Culture Risk Prevention Program has already engaged almost 1,000 men. What a startlingly impressive program to offer to our members. In sum, the fraternity faces many challenges, just like we always have. And we will face those challenges and thrive, just like we always have, with the support of alumni like YOU.

YITBOS,

Terry Buttchen
Northwest Regional Commissioner
northwest@deltasig.org



Left to right: Mrs. Richard Gibb, UI Pres. Richard Gibb, Elmer Nelson, Charles Bartell, Delta Sig Exec. Dir. Allen James, Gamma Iota Pres. David Kiser, Dream Girl Lauri Brown.
Nelson and Bartell accept the Grand Council award at the 30th anniversary celebration.

Left to right: Mrs. Richard Gibb, UI Pres. Richard Gibb, Elmer Nelson, Charles Bartell, Delta Sig Exec. Director Allen James, Gamma Iota Pres. David Kiser, Dream Girl Lauri Brown.
Nelson and Bartell accept the Grand Council award at the 30th anniversary celebration.

GAMMA IOTA HISTORY

Each anniversary of the founding of Gamma Iota marks an important milestone within our chapter's history. The celebration of the 30th anniversary was a three-day event in 1980 lasting from October 3rd to the 5th. The start of the event was on Friday where registration for guests took place while there was a cocktail bar hosted by the ACB at the chapter house. That night there were around 30 alumni present, a number would grow as the weekend progressed.

Saturday started off with breakfast at the Spruce Tavern owned by alumnus Ron Hampel with around 50 alumni present. Then at exactly 11:00 am the doors to the tavern were locked for a chapter meeting. This meeting consisted of a discussion about alumni relations. This would help engage alumni into a more crucial part of the Gamma Iota chapter.

The highlight of the anniversary celebration was a banquet in the afternoon that consisted of many prominent alumni and honored guests. Some of those present were Allen James - Executive Director from HQ, Dr. Richard Gibb '61, University of Idaho President and Delta Sig alumnus from Western Kentucky (Gamma Kappa), and Robbie Van Kleek '50 - Founding Chapter President.

There were numerous awards given out during this banquet. ACB members Charles Bartell and Elmer Nelson, were presented the Grand Council Award. Doug Madsen, past Chapter President in 1976 was finally presented with the National Outstanding Delta Sig award for the same year. Up next were Kevin O'Brien and Rick Sparks, both of PC '76, who received runners up for Delta Sig of the Year in 1980. Rick went on to work for HQ as a Field Rep and Kevin was one of only a handful of students at the time to ever graduate with a 4.0 GPA from Idaho. The final award of the banquet was second place in the National Chapter Leadership contest which was presented to the current Chapter President, David Kiser. A special announcement capped off the banquet when Theodore Prichard's wife announced a scholarship in his name for the highest GPA living in the house, which is still in place to this day. Dr. Prichard was a founding member and served as our first ACB President. Speakers for the event included Charles Bartell - ACB President, Dr. Richard Gibb - University President, and Robbie Van Kleek - 1st Chapter President.

The weekend concluded with the Vandals defeating Portland State 37-17. The game was a great send-off for this monumental achievement and a wonderful weekend of celebration. It also served as a prelude to the Mortgage Burning Celebration the following year in 1981.



Page for the 30th anniversary event

YITBOS,

Seth Rahe PC '22
Chapter Historian

BROTHERHOOD UPDATE



Brother Tinno helping at the tipi raising ceremony

INDIGINOUS TIPI RAISING CEREMONY

The Tipi Raising Ceremony was planned as a celebration of Indigenous People's Day, which always falls on the same day as Columbus Day. This ceremony was important because it shows the long lasting traditions and cultures of my people, nation, and other fellow indigenous tribes. It shows the strength in keeping them alive, knowledge passed down from our elders, on to the next generation. But it also shows just how hard it is to get and maintain a Tipi. The Tipi was put up by University of Idaho Native students, who were led by Native American Student Association (NASA) President-Dosa Nappo. My role was to be the speaker for the ceremony. I gave a walk through of the process for preparing the tipi all the way to the point where it was raised in its final state, supporting itself, and ready to be used. By the end of the ceremony we had a good turn out of students and staff who came to observe. I was truly honored to be asked to speak at the event by the Native American Student Center (NASC) staff.

I am grateful to be on a campus that embraces and acknowledges Native American Peoples and their homelands. It is a huge part of my identity that I don't always get to express while being away from home. The opportunities that were given to me here on this campus and the ability to express who I am have been what convinced me to originally select, and now to continue furthering my education at the University of Idaho. It also allows me to be an example to the youth from Native Communities, and lead by example, demonstrating that you can further your education while expressing your culture at the same time. It has also allowed me to set an example to my fellow sailors, showing that a collectively diverse and exemplary group of individuals make up our great brotherhood.

Delta Sigma Phi has been one of the biggest positive impacts on my life. Being a kid who came from a reservation in Fort Hall, Idaho, it feels amazing to know that you can also be a part of something special outside of that community, which I have found in our fraternal brotherhood. It has widened my perspective on my life and what I want to do for a career. It has helped me quite literally go places, like to the Delta Sigma Phi Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The men who I've met have been people worthy of appreciation. I value getting to be myself, with the support system I have here as a Brother of Delta Sigma Phi, and now can also call this my home. The diversity of this Fraternity is incredible from a chapter standpoint and national perspective.

Leadership has been an undeniably eventful year for Gamma Iota. At the end of last year, our campus and community was struck by 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 our brothers. Through this tragedy, our bond became much closer.

The brotherhood has continued to show resilience with excellence in all its actions. This year marks the ninth 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 present in every another philanthropy event hosted by our Greek community this year. I am happy to announce that the 60th anniversary of our Bike to Boise philanthropy was a raging success! After the exhausting but exhilarating three-hundred-mile, 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 five thousand eight 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 time 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 the highest quality that truly exemplify leadership, and live by the values of our great organization. It has certainly been an exciting year and I am excited and hopeful for the future to come.

YITBOS,

Ryan Malone PC '20

PHILANTHROPY REPORT

Through unwavering dedication and collective effort, we have made significant strides in bettering our communities and uplifting those in need, embodying the core values of Delta Sigma Phi.

As part of our close relationship with the Kappa Delta Sorority we have won the Shamrock Philanthropy once again! Raising over \$1895 for their partnership with the Boost collaborative Agency and prevent child Abuse America. Their weeklong philanthropy included a quesadilla sale, scavenger hunt, and their soccer tournament. This will be the 9th time (in a row) Gamma Iota has lifted the Shamrock trophy, surpassing the efforts of Fiji, Pike, Lambda Chi Alpha and Pi Kap, to try and dethrone the gentlemen in the castle.

SAVE THE DATE for the 61st annual Bike to Boise dinner Saturday April 13th at the stone house.

After electing the two new Bike to Boise chairmen, Andrew Woods and Shakeel Salim, our fraternal brotherhood has started its organization and social media campaigns to fund-raise in efforts for the chapter to donate to our long time benefactor, The Hope House. This year we have a goal of \$4,800, which is \$200.00 per each active member. We are deeply excited to share this historic tradition with the young gentlemen who this year have been initiated, as well as our potential new members.

YITBOS,

Bernardo Bautista PC '19
Philanthropy Chair



Homecoming 2023 with the Alpha Phi Sorority

YITBOS,

Nathan Tinno PC '22
Brother

GROWING LEADERS



CONVENTION 2023

This last July I had the absolute pleasure of being able to go to my first national convention in Austin Texas. I was able to attend with Brothers Josh Rardon and Michael Bivens. The event was truly a spectacle from beginning to end. Convention kicked off with the start of a Grand Council meeting, with over 500 brothers in attendance the room was filled from wall to wall. Brother Bivens and I had the pleasure of sitting at the front of the base of the triangle to represent Gamma Iota. During these Grand Council meetings we learned of all of the exciting things the national fraternity has been working on, such as starting several chapters across the nation, a promising progress report of Vision 2025, and a partnership with HistoryIT, a company that works to digitize and immortalize local chapter history such as composites, photos, and important moments so brothers can view them at any Time.

In between the Grand Council Meetings, the brothers had the opportunity to connect and bond with brothers from across the country. After attending several national events I can confidently say that it is a special feeling to meet with brothers from chapters far disconnected from your own but finding that we all share a bond with the values of the fraternity and creating friendships that might not ever have existed without the help of events like this Convention. 2023 was also the 100th anniversary of the Pilgrimage Degree. I had the pleasure of experiencing the spectacle of this ritual with brothers from varying different chapters, pledge classes, and backgrounds. It was an incredible sight to see how fast we were all able to bond with each other as we discovered the secret of the fez.

On the final day of Convention, we began with a Bond Eternal for all of the brothers that we have lost this, and to reflect on the light that they have provided to our lives. Following this somber moment, the Eta Chapter graciously opened their doors to brothers and guests and provided a tour of their chapter. Convention closed with the traditional "Singing of the Pilgrims" and an award ceremony to honor all of the great work and leadership that chapters and alumni alike have displayed in the past year. Convention was an incredible experience, and I couldn't recommend it more.

YITBOS,

Ryan Malone PC '20
Chapter President



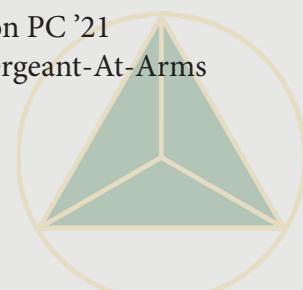
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Leadership Institute (L.I.) proved to be a transformative experience; an experience interrupted for three years due to Covid. Upon L.I.'s return, I found myself not merely chosen to represent Gamma Iota, but entrusted with the sacred task of harnessing the wisdom gained for the betterment of our chapter. In a time where there are now many leadership programs to choose from, designed and usually fully funded by our national charter, and many are simply digital or in-person lectures, then some like LEAD Weekend for a whole chapter/region of chapters. L.I. stands as a beacon of experiential, immersive leadership driven learning. Over four highly personalized, inclusive days, roughly 35 leaders from Delta Sigma Phi chapters, all over the nation are immersed into an experience like no other. To not only absorb invaluable lessons but wielded our new-found abilities in the crucible of real-time challenges. The crucible forged a formidable confidence within me—a confidence that extends its benevolent hand to guide not only myself but also my peers. My trajectory became clear, a trajectory that now propels our fraternity to unparalleled heights on campus. I was among some of the most brilliant leaders chosen to participate. I stood as a beacon of leadership, representing our chapter, while forging bonds with those from chapters far and wide, from the towering institutions of the Eta chapter in Texas to the new Theta Xi chapter at FSU. My conviction is unwavering; every aspiring undergraduate should embark on the pilgrimage to LI. It is there that destinies are shaped, futures altered for the better. As I reflect on the impact and how it has changed me, I cannot help but envision a future where I, as a torchbearer, contribute to funding these transformative programs. A voice in my mind echoes, urging those who came before me to delve into the profound experiences LI creates to undergraduates and alumni alike. Collectively, we endeavored to support and finance, ensuring more aspiring minds can partake in the radiance of this national recognition.

In the tapestry of my future presidency, threads of wisdom created from LI will weave through my leadership practices. I foresee a group of undergraduates treading in the footsteps I now boldly forge, inspired by the trail I blazed due to Leadership Institute.

YITBOS,

Josh Rardon PC '21
Chapter Sergeant-At-Arms



BOND ETERNAL



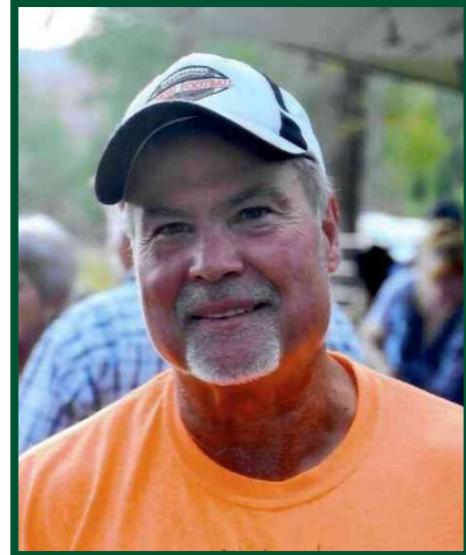
Jay Masterson PC 77

Jay Masterson pledged Gamma Iota in the fall of 1977 and entered the Bond Eternal on December 7, 2023 after a valiant and courageous battle with Lou Gehrig's disease / ALS. Jay was born in the Pacific Northwest on June 9, 1959 and was raised in Boise, ID. Jay attended school there including Borah High School where he was active in academics and athletics for the football team. Upon high school graduation, Jay Pledged Delta Sigma Phi and was a fellow pledge brother who always had a smile on his face, loved social and athletic events and always had a kind word to say to others. Jay later transferred to Boise State University and graduated with an electronics degree of which he further developed his knowledge and skills into a career with Micron Computers and other Treasure Valley electronics companies. In the early '90's Jay met and married his beloved wife Tanya and their adoration and adventure for and with each other never ceased. Tanya and Jay later settled in McCall, Idaho – they acquired and expanded a local business, grew it and then built and settled in their dream home in the mountains. When Jay was diagnosed with ALS he was the epitome of health and fought valiantly and courageously to overcome it. Alas, Jay did not overcome but pressed on with a remarkable degree of optimism and enduring faith. Jay was an eternal optimist and a true gentleman. Delta Sigma Phi's mission is to empower and encourage members to become Better Men – men of culture, men of harmony, and men of friendship. Jay Masterson hit the mark on all of these missions and for those who knew and loved Jay ... know they were truly blessed to have known and loved him. RIP brother. You are sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, it was Jay's wish that donations be made to the ALS Association "<https://www.als.org/?campaign=487487>" to promote research for a cure to this cruel disease.

YITBOS,

Eric Stoddard PC '77
Alumni Brother



Robert E Baker PC 76

Bob "Buck" Baker suffered from early-onset dementia-Alzheimer's and entered the Bond Eternal on July 15, 2023. He was a lifelong resident of Salmon and truly loved the area, particularly his family's ranch on Poison Creek.

Bob's father Bill was the Lemhi County Sheriff for 32 years and was known to many of us as simply "The Sheriff." Bob had tremendous respect for his father and made him proud. He excelled in academics and sports being a 3-year starter in football and basketball for the Salmon High Savages and was Student Body President. Bob attended U of I to pursue a business degree and pledged Gamma Iota, where he quickly made many fast friends. He served as Chapter President. Bob married Melba Howell in the summer of 1978. After graduating in 1980, Bob moved back to Salmon to start his accounting practice and to raise a family. Bob and Melba had three children: Rob, Jeana and Charles. Bob loved football and served as an assistant coach at Salmon High for a decade. He was very proud to have been a part of their 2008 state championship team. Bob also enjoyed power-lifting and won several competitions over the years. One of Bob's favorite events was the Poisonfest Music Festival he organized annually at the family's Poison Creek ranch. He loved sharing the ranch with his family, friends, fraternity brothers, and favorite performers. Bob is survived by his wife of 45 years, 3 children, a daughter in law, a grandchild, and a brother. I have been good friends with him since the 2nd grade. While we all mourn Bob's passing, we truly cherish the many fond memories over the past 60+ years. What a great guy! RIP Brother.

YITBOS,

Lynn Call PC '75
Alumni Brother

