

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alumni Weekend

Saturday, May 30

2 to 5 p.m.: BBQ at LXA

The undergraduates will be selling centennial pint glasses for alumni purchase. Each glass costs \$5, and the proceeds will go towards the house.

Stay tuned to
www.lambdachigettsburg.com
for full details.

ON THE WEB

Have you been to our brand new alumni web site, www.lambdachigettsburg.com? If not, what are you waiting for?

The site has many great features, including:

- The latest Theta-Pi news and event details
- An online directory (search for the contact information of old friends!)
- Photo albums (browse our archives and submit your own pictures)
- Alumni updates (let us know what's new with you!)
- The ability to connect with your Facebook profile
- And much more!

If you haven't yet registered on the site, use your Member ID (found above your name and address on this newsletter) to follow the First Time Login instructions on the home page.

GET PUBLISHED

We want to feature more alumni news, stories and photos in the Theta-Pi News and on our new web site. Send your submissions to our editors at content@affinityconnection.com. They may be chosen to appear in and upcoming edition of our newsletter or monthly e-Letter.

THETA-PI NEWS



www.lambdachigettsburg.com April 2009

Theta-Pi Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity at Gettysburg College

ALUMNI STORIES

From "Christmas on Mars" to Sinking the "Flying Dutchman," Emerson Tracy '56 Relives the Best LXA Memories from the '50s

Emerson Tracy '56 remembers many things from his days at Gettysburg, and many of his favorite memories come from stories involving Lambda Chi.

Including this one. Emerson says that all of the house decoration competitions were a fun time for brothers and were popular events on campus for Greek Life.

The Christmas decoration was no different. This competition involving a two-story rocket ship was a proud moment for Emerson. Brothers decorated the lawn and had Santa Claus come down a ladder after landing on Mars.

"His head was in a large glass bowl for his air supply," says Emerson.

Little Martians and small eruptions with steam coming out of them, along with the added touch of Santa Claus, gave the brothers "Christmas on Mars" theme a first place finish.

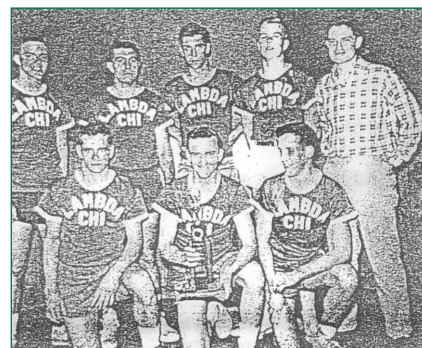
Competition was a driving force for the Lambda Chi house all year long.

During IFC weekend, all the houses were in competitions, including singing competitions and skits to roast professors and administration members.

"We had some real screwballs in the house—so our skits were great," explains Emerson.

TKE had a reputation for winning the singing contest for years. Lambda Chi brothers set their sights on the grand prize one year trying to beat the defending champs. The fraternity got together and practiced their rendition of the famous "Drink Song."

The performance was no ordinary choir session. In the middle of song, brothers took off their light jackets revealing red sashes across their chests. To top off the performance, brother pulled out mugs they



had hidden behind them and finished singing their song in unison.

"They had never seen anything like it! It blew the judges socks off and we won!" says Emerson.

The float competition was also a big event for brothers. One year Gettysburg played Lebanon Valley, The Dutchmen. Brothers decided to make large replica of the ship "Flying Dutchman" to scale and full of detail. An ocean made of ribbons and the ship's keel attached to rods lined the float making for an impressive show.

"When the bullets coning tower of a sub came up and fired a torpedo explosions and smoke erupted—courtesy of **Mike Bishop**, again—the crowd cheered. The ship shook and slowly sank below the ocean," says Emerson.

Thus the Lambda Chi theme "Sink the Flying Dutchman" took home first prize.

Emerson has great memories of competition at Gettysburg involving Lambda Chi. He attributes the wins and the fun to the group of brothers that made his college years so great.

"Whenever it was competition of a "House" pulling together we were the best on campus," says Emerson. "We were a really special house made up of fantastic guys and a wonderful housemother."

Legacies of Gettysburg

The badge was silent. Nevertheless, as we searched for its history, we could begin to imagine the sounds of college debating contests, of a professor speaking in a lecture hall, perhaps even the sound of bands playing patriotic music and voices delivering heartfelt speeches, or the firm rap of an oak gavel calling a meeting to order.

We had found a badge of Phi Sigma, a local fraternity established at Gettysburg College in 1916, which later became one of the 11 founding fraternities of Theta Kappa Nu, and that is now Theta-Pi Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha. Its ancestry, by itself, gave this artifact special status but the history of fraternities is also the story of the individuals who helped shape them. We hoped to determine the original owner to see what could be learned from it; and we were not disappointed.

The back is engraved with the initials "M. L. F." and with what appears to be a stylized numeral 7. This sharpened our interest. If this were an initiation number it would designate the owner as an early member; perhaps even a founder. Since Phi Sigma was active for only the brief eight years, from 1916 to 1924, there was a good chance of finding a matching name.

We referred to the Gettysburg section of

the 2003 Lambda Chi Alpha Directory, and out of 45 last names beginning with the letter "F," found only two with a first name beginning with the letter "M"; Dr. Martin Faust 1919 and Max Floto 1918, although neither listing included a middle initial.

Internet name-searches to determine middle initials for Faust and Floto produced immediate information on both men and their distinctive accomplishments after graduating from Gettysburg College (known as Pennsylvania College until 1921), and revealed much more about their relationships to each other, and also to Donald Lybarger (Gettysburg 1919).

Lybarger was one of the 12 founders of Phi Sigma, a signer of the original League & Covenant of Theta Kappa Nu, its first Grand Treasurer as well as a Grand Archon, and then Grand High Omega of Lambda Chi Alpha following the 1939 union. Now our curiosity was at a peak.

At this point we contacted the Musselman Library at Gettysburg College. Director Karen Drickamer took an immediate interest in our quest and assigned a student assistant to help us. This is what their records disclosed.

Faust and Lybarger entered college in the fall of 1915, when there were only six

national fraternities and two locals. "It was quite natural therefore that a group of boys who were good friends should come together and talk over the possibility of establishing another fraternity," Lybarger later recounted. He also joked that he took it upon himself to take notes at their first meeting, whereupon someone else nominated him for secretary. That marked the beginning of his lifelong association with fraternal offices. A second meeting was held within a week.

Lybarger's notes show 12 names, including his own and that of Martin Faust, as signers of the new constitution for the establishment of Phi Sigma. Lybarger goes on to mention the names of "a number of brothers who came in shortly after the founding and had just as much to do with the establishment of the chapter as did the dozen original members.

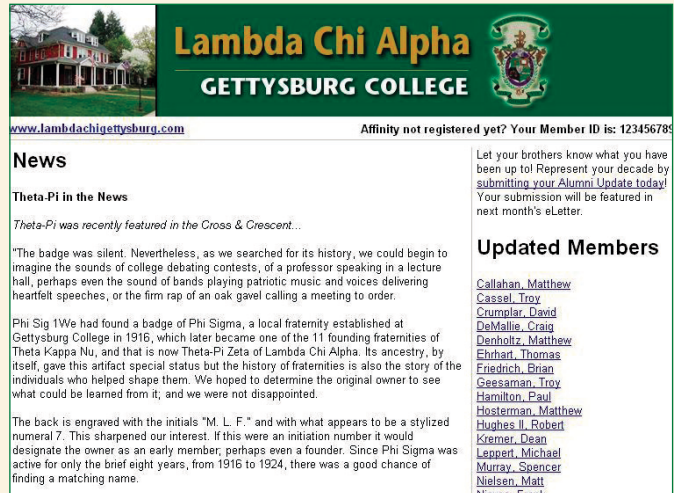
They were deeply interested in the fraternity and gave so much of themselves to its establishment." Among those he so credits is Max Floto. Although Floto's initials did not match those on the badge, what we stumbled upon was totally unexpected.

Visit www.lambdachigetgettsburg.com to read the full story!

DID YOU RECEIVE OUR E-LETTER LAST MONTH?

If Not, Give Us Your Email Address

We're missing the email addresses for 79% of our active alumni members. Help us to increase our electronic communications and save money on paper, printing and postage by making sure your email address is on file! Log in to www.lambdachigetgettsburg.com and click on the Edit Info at the top of the page to verify your contact information.



Lambda Chi Alpha
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

www.lambdachigetgettsburg.com Affinity not registered yet? Your Member ID is: 123456789

News

Theta-Pi in the News

Theta-Pi was recently featured in the Cross & Crescent...

"The badge was silent. Nevertheless, as we searched for its history, we could begin to imagine the sounds of college debating contests, of a professor speaking in a lecture hall, perhaps even the sound of bands playing patriotic music and voices delivering heartfelt speeches, or the firm rap of an oak gavel calling a meeting to order.

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Updated Members

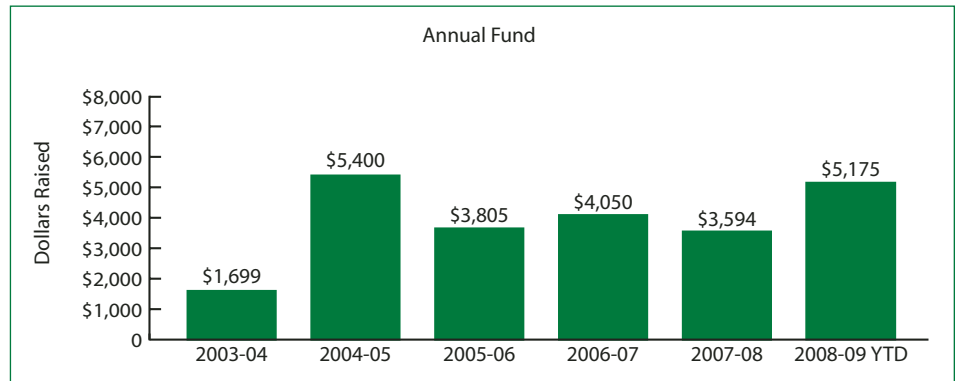
- Callahan, Matthew
- Cassel, Troy
- Crumpler, David
- DeMallie, Craig
- Denholtz, Matthew
- Ehrhart, Thomas
- Friedrich, Brian
- Geesaman, Troy
- Hamilton, Paul
- Hosierman, Matthew
- Hughes, II, Robert
- Kremer, Dean
- Leppert, Michael
- Murray, Spencer
- Nielsen, Matt
- Nielsen, Frank

ANNUAL FUND

On Pace for a Record Giving Year

Thanks to the support of our alumni donors, we have raised \$5,175 toward the 2008-09 annual fund. This puts us on pace to exceed our record giving total of \$5,650 set back in the 1995-96 giving year! Help us to make this another record giving year by making your donation before the giving year ends August 31.

The annual fund supports our efforts to keep you connected with Theta-Pi actives and alumni through publication of *Theta-Pi News* and our new alumni web site www.lambdachigettsburg.com. The annual fund also supports our undergraduate chapter, paying forward the great Lambda Chi experience at Gettysburg



for future generations.

Gifts can be made online at www.lambdachigettsburg.com, by calling 800-975-6699 or by mailing a

check payable to "Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Association" to the return address on this newsletter.

ANNUAL FUND

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Reflects gifts received as of April 16, 2009.

ALUMNI UPDATES

'60s

Richard J. Holzer '61

(2251 Charleston Way, Dayton, OH 45431-2693) Brother **Rich Reusch '60** correctly identified all but one Brother in the photograph published in the November 2008 issue of the *Theta-Pi News*. The unidentified brother between **Larry Leidel** and **Ed Egland** is **Dennis McCurdy '61**, swimming.

Charles Batcheler '61

(7426 Kennedy Rd., Nokesville, VA 20181-5841; clanebatch@aol.com) Question: In the 1960s, it was tradition, when a brother "pinned" his girlfriend, (1) he was thrown into the fishpond and (2) if it was a co-ed, she was serenaded by the entire brotherhood at her dorm. What is done today?

Richard Mitchell '62

(1695 Village Ave., Garnet Valley, PA 19061; joycemitch6151@comcast.net) Within the last year, we sold our townhome on the golf course and "upsized" to an over-55 community where we built a large single-family house, with finished basement, etc. It can be called the house that the grandkids built as they take it over when they visit from Boston. Drew, our grandson, turned three in January and our granddaughter, Alexandra, turned one in February. We try to visit with them at least once a month. As the saying goes: if we knew how much fun the grandkids are, we would have had them first! Rich, our son, was married in October to Maggie. The wedding was moved up from November as Rich received mobilization orders for Iraqi Freedom, with a ship out date of November 2. He has put in for an exemption, as he has been out of the military for 9 1/2 years,

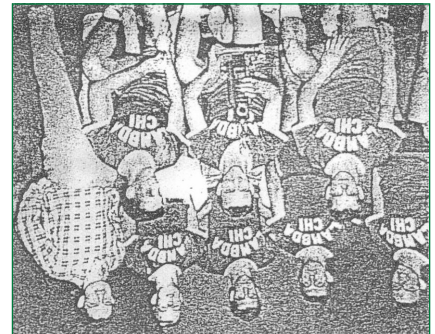
was not in a reserve unit, etc. We are awaiting the Army's decision, with ship out orders now scheduled for 1/4/09! Both Joyce and I still work full time, Joyce working from home in the travel business and my law office is still in Media, Pa.

'00s

Michael Eckhardt '79

(16414 Englewood Ave, Los Gatos, CA 95032-4624; eckhardt@everstag.com) My wife Susan and I have a son (Stefan) who is a high school junior. My goal for 2009 is to consistently shoot double my age on the golf course. Please stop by to visit.

We want to know what's new with you too! Submit your update at www.lambdachigettersburg.com.



260-060

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*A Glimpse into Chapter
Life in the 1950s...See Page 1
for Some Great Memories!*

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