

Gamma Pi News

May 2010

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For the first time in its history, Gamma Pi received the Leadership Development and Values Integration awards, as well as 3rd place in the Chancellor's Cup competition.

Gamma Pi takes home awards, Chancellor's Cup Recognition

For the first time in its history, the chapter competed in and took home two very significant awards: Leadership Development, and Values Integration-Honoring Your Founders. The Leadership Development award stems from Theta Xi's commitment to become the premier leadership development fraternity in the United States. Programs such as President's Academy, Rising Stars Academy, and District Leadership Academy make this possible. Additionally, several leadership opportunities, through the executive board and committee chairmen, allow our members to hone their leadership skills. The Values Integration award comes from Theta Xi's Statement of Position on Fraternity Values, as well as a Values Into Action workshop held earlier in the semester.

Additionally, the chapter placed 3rd in the Chancellor's Cup competition. This competition allows over 70 different student organizations to compete in such areas as educational programming, philanthropy, and school spirit. The competition is designed to allow student organizations to give back to the campus and community and recognizing the value therefrom. Theta Xi placed 3rd and is already looking at winning 1st place for next year.

Brothers, parents gather for banquet

As part of an historic move to involve parents and families in chapter operations, the chapter took a major step by hosting the Gamma Pi Spring Appreciation Banquet and Awards Ceremony. This event was held in conjunction with Family Day, where undergraduate brothers and parents enjoyed free food, fun, and festivities. Family Day was hosted by the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership. Although the threat of rain moved the event indoors, everyone still had a great time and enjoyed the festivities offered.

Later on in the evening, it was time for the banquet. This event featured a catered dinner, slideshow presentations, and award presentations. Adam Hughes was Master of Ceremonies for the event. Undergraduate brothers and parents were provided an opportunity to reflect on the past year and recognize outstanding individuals in the chapter. More than 30 people attended this prestigious event. Among the awards given out were: Highest GPA- Trey Archer; 6294- Ty Cecil and Andrew Fetch; Alpha Nine- Drew Clawson; and Most Outstanding Alumni- Aaron Thompson.

Congratulations to all of our award winners. More information about the formation of our parent's organization can be found in this newsletter.

Chapter gets tested in basketball, dodgeball

Staying true to its test of being actively involved in intramural sports, the chapter saw participation in a variety of intramural sports this semester, including basketball, dodgeball, and softball. Because of the high interest in basketball, the chapter fielded two teams for the season: MisMatch and No Way Out. Both teams saw incredibly tough games, with several of them down to the wire, resulting in losses only by a few points.

The chapter once again participated in Relay for Life dodgeball this year. Early on, incredible dominance was witnessed during the season. The chapter made it all the way to the semi-finals of the tournament, before nearly getting shut out by the opposing team, stopping us just short of the championship game.

In softball, one of the strongest sports for the chapter, the team saw fierce competition but prevailed throughout the early round of the playoffs, capping an end to another above average season.

From the Alumni Relations chair

Brothers and Parents,

Before I even begin, let me draw your attention to whom this newsletter is addressed to. Not only are we sending this out to alumni this semester, but also all parents as well. This is certainly an exciting change for the chapter that we are very proud of.

It is not the only change, however. Certainly, there have been a lot of them. It would not be possible for me to list all of them in this newsletter nor should I pretend that they have all been positive. However, a strong leadership and the dedication of 22 brothers has helped this chapter grow and develop, and move on from the problems experienced just a few months ago.

This is where you, as alumni, come in. Yes, I know that sounds like a broken record. However, as I've said, many exciting things have happened in the chapter. These things are going to cease to exist without your support. Within the next year or so, nearly half of the chapter will graduate and become alumni members like yourself. This means that the chapter will need more support from you, not even less.

The problems experienced are nothing new; most of them happened to you while you were an undergraduate. That's why the formation of an alumni mentor program to advise and counsel chapter members is more important than ever. Otherwise, the rocky road that neither you nor I want to be on will continue to be traveled.

Benjamin Franklin, our Patron Saint, once said "Some people die at 25, and aren't buried until 75." Theta Xi commitment does not end as an alumni member; it merely begins. We can either continue to travel down the same road or start getting demonstrated alumni support, and set the example not just for the chapter but the fraternity as a whole, as to the real meaning of alumni dedication.

So, what do you say? It's not hard at all. If you want to see this chapter grow and avoid dormancy, send me an e-mail sometime to find out how you can become involved once again.

YITB,
Adam Hughes
Gamma Pi 136

Theta Xi fielded several intramural teams throughout the semester, each season record being distinct from one another.



Gamma Pi chapter of Theta Xi Fraternity.

Ron Trucks: “Your work will impact future generations of Gamma Pi”

This semester, the chapter was fortunate to host Ron Trucks, the fraternity's Director of Operations, for a chapter visit. At this visit, Ron met with the executive board, held one-on-one meetings with brothers as requested by them, and conducted a group activity for the chapter.

At the three-hour long e-board meeting with Ron, many great discussions took place as to issues in the chapter and solutions to them. Most noted were recruitment, finance and housing. When it comes to recruitment, Trucks notes it's important to have a niche. “Figure out who you want,” he said. “Ask questions... what makes him a good guy?” When asked about finances, Trucks took time to explain the fees and payment plans. “I am not advocating for one. I am here to merely tell you the facts.” When the issue of housing came up, Trucks noted that it was in the chapter's hands. “I cannot give you a house. Set up a housing/emergency fund. Contribute whatever you want to it, but contribute something.”

Trucks then held a large group activity later on in his visit, allowing brothers to share their strengths and weaknesses about themselves and one another. “I feel a strong, tense feeling in this room,” Trucks noted. “Let's talk about it.” Trucks was impressed with many other aspects of the chapter at that point, which was a partial reason for holding the activity as opposed to a ritual meeting. “I hear you guys do an excellent, respectful ritual meeting. That's not my concern at all.”

Trucks concluded by sharing his thoughts and insight about the chapter. “You have several very notable alumni. This chapter is very important to us. You are a very young chapter... consider yourselves realistically about 3 years old.” Trucks noted that “There is nothing wrong with Gamma Pi... we have neglected you because we thought things were okay, and you all didn't need someone other than Dr. B to visit... I want to apologize for that.”

Overall, chapter members were very pleased to have been able to discuss personal and fraternity issues with someone on the national level. “I know what people think when they think of 'headquarters.'... hopefully you don't think of us like that anymore.” Trucks said with a smile.

Full Moon Over Fashion brings in proceeds, entertainment

In what was easily the largest event ever hosted by the chapter in its 12 year history, the brothers gathered under the direction of Drew Clawson to host Full Moon Over Fashion. This event brought students together to showcase the latest clothing styles from the best stores. Additionally, a Multiple Sclerosis educational event was held; half of the proceeds from this event went to M.S. research.

Close to 400 people turned out to watch this spectacular event. This event not only provided spectators with entertainment for a great cause, but also helped increase Theta Xi's positive reputation on campus. Hundreds of dollars were brought in from this undoubtedly successful program, and the brothers are looking forward at hosting this event next year, with Drew Clawson leading the way for all of us.



Relay for Life



UNCP Day Of Service



Intramural Dodgeball

Chapter gives back at Day of Service, Relay for Life

The chapter continued to stay true to its test of giving back to the community, participating in a variety of philanthropy and community service projects this semester. To start off, the chapter made a return visit to the Robeson County Humane Society, a local community service agency continuously supported by the chapter. The brothers cleaned cages, walked dogs, and helped with the general upkeep of the facility.

A new endeavor for the chapter was participating in UNC Pembroke's Day of Service. For its assignment, the chapter assisted at The Haven Animal Shelter in Raeford, NC, organizing supplies as well as raising money and collecting donations at the Pembroke Wal-Mart.

One of the largest philanthropies for the chapter was Relay for Life. For 24 hours, the brothers either walked laps or helped out at our site, where they sold snow cones and drinks. This year's theme for UNCP Relay for Life was "change the channel on cancer." Each Relay team represented its own TV show; Theta Xi represented Tool Academy. The brothers enjoyed celebrating, remembering, and fighting back for those who either have or have lost their lives to cancer; as several have personal connections to this disease. Close to \$300 was raised by the chapter with all of the proceeds going to cancer research.

Parent's Club In Planning Stages

As mentioned earlier on in this newsletter, the chapter will be initiating the formation of a parent's club to complement the work of volunteer alumni officers and provide another level of support, advice and counsel to all chapter brothers. The role of a Parents Club is to provide parents and guardians of chapter members with regular communication regarding the activities and accomplishments of the chapter and its members. The Parents Club will also schedule weekend programs to bring parents and guardians together with their sons to meet other parents and guardians. For more information regarding the parent's club, please contact us.

Chapter Integrates with Facebook

The chapter continues to provide the tools necessary to make the online experience best for everyone. Recently, facebook connect was introduced for the chapter website. This allows brothers to login to the Members Area of the website using their facebook username and password, eliminating the need to remember multiple user credentials. Additionally, comments on pictures, videos, and events can also be published to facebook. Our fan page now has over 250 fans and continues to grow. Pictures and videos from now all the way back to 2008 are featured, and it is regularly updated with the latest events and news. Become a fan by following the URL below.

Contact Information

Call, click, or come by.

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