



The Omicron Arrow

Omicron Chapter ♦ Psi Upsilon Fraternity ♦ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

ALUMNI PROFILE: J. ERIC SMITH '79

Q: Why did you join Psi Upsilon?

I grew up in Bloomington, and when I was at the University of Illinois from 1975-79, there were about ten guys in the house from Bloomington-Normal, including my future brother-in-law, John Haas '77. I didn't want to do traditional rush, so I came down senior year with my best friend Fred Frost '79, who's now a doctor at the Cleveland Clinic, to check things out. I got along great with Danny King and many others, and ended up loving the place. There were about 50 brothers and everyone lived in. Psi U's were a really fun, eclectic group and a bunch of nice guys, so everything worked



out really well. I knew I was right where I should be.

Q: Tell us about your family

I married my high school sweetheart, Diane, who eventually became a "Little Sister of the Diamond." We have four kids—the two older ones went to Bloomington Central Catholic and University High while the younger ones went to Stevenson after we moved to the Lake Forest area. Leslie is our oldest and went to Illinois State University and lives in Wrigleyville. Michael went to the U. of I. and is back at PWC in Dallas in finance like dad. Christopher just graduated last May from Miami (Ohio) and (See page 12)

OMICRON TEAMS WITH SIGMA KAPPA TO MAKE ATIUS FINALS

"Atius is a great event for Psi U to continue to participate in"

by Josh Klein '14 - Atius Director

This past spring Psi U participated in the Atius-Sachem performance for the first time in several years. My personal experience in the performance began over winter break when I was asked to be the Atius chair for the upcoming semester. A few weeks into the Spring semester I began meeting the Atius chair of the Sigma Kappa sorority to discuss

(Continued on Pg 14)



*Back - Daniel Amador '13, Nico Guzman '13, Grant Gribble '14, Arnaud Brisard '14, Josh Klein '14
In front of them - Kaiyao Duan '14, John Cheline '14.5, Jan Lumibao '13, Bob Chain '13 and Eric Fuentesbella '13. Steve Bieszczat '13 is in the wig and dress (He played Michael Jackson's mother in the show). Hadrien Brisard '13 and our band Dirk Dekoning '13, Aaron Sachs '14, Luke Diehl '12 and Nick Greenway '12 aren't pictured.*



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ARCHON'S CHAPTER REPORT

JAN LUMIBAO '13

With just over one hundred years gone by, the Omicron chapter continues to serve as a symbol to its brothers of the importance of leadership, initiative, and deep friendship rooted in the heart. Over the past few years, brothers have enthusiastically taken to heart these ideals in hopes of advancing each aspect of the house. Their efforts have tightened the bond between brothers while at the same time making the chapter's endeavors more well rounded. The alumni have been very involved with undergraduate life, and it is a fact that Psi U has the best alumni on campus. Through their efforts, the house itself has seen wonderful physical renovations. The most recent was the Centennial Grill Project, which brought a new grill that the brothers love. These efforts will transpire again this summer, during which a landscaping project for the front lawn will be done, which, when finished, will make the façade of the house even more aesthetically pleasing.

Having a good looking house is always a point in the mind for potential rushes, whose pledge classes have been growing over the past few years. This past fall, former VP of New Members **Lucas Diehl '12** brought in an astounding initial pledge class of 31, yet initiating only 19. The chapter did not let this setback discourage them, as they, with the leadership of **Nicolas Guzman '13** initiated the Omicron Chapter's largest spring pledge class in memory, welcoming 13 2014.5's, one being a transfer pledge from the Epsilon Nu Chapter at Michigan State. The reputation on campus that we maintain as "genuine, down-to-earth guys" has brought us great success during rush.

The Scholarship Grant Program will also aid in our rush efforts even more. By seeking to reward those who exhibit "moral, intellectual, and social excellence," the chapter can introduce itself to motivated incoming freshman of high character. **Dan Relihan '13** has already done a great job planning for a new, more aggressive outlook, and will build upon the work of SGP Chairs of the past such as myself, **Raf Gnatek '12**, and the program's founders, Paul Palamattam '10 and Dean Marinakis '90.

Our success recruiting, as well as the initiative of VP Externals, has boosted our social calendar to the delight of many. This year we sought to build on relationships with sororities from last year while reaching out to others. This year, through the work of VP Externals **Daniel Amador '13** and **Kyle Deger '12** and their social chairs, we had fun exchanges with Phi Mu, 4H, Pi Beta Phi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Zeta, Kappa Delta, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Gamma Phi Beta, and Sigma Kappa. In addition to these, we also had the pleasure of performing in Atius Sachem Mom's Day Sing with Sigma Kappa, bringing our talents to the stage, moms, and the Greek Community. Atius was a great time during which we grew closer to the ladies of Sigma Kappa and learned to work together, while at the same time having fun and building friendships.

Along with improving relationships with other houses in the Greek Community, brothers in the house have sought and continue to improve themselves academically. The house GPA has increased in the past year, from 3.0965 to a 3.2, led by motivated brothers **Nick** and **Alex Munaretto '12**. Alex had just recently received a score in the 99.7 percentile on his dental admission test, an achievement one should be very proud of. All our accomplishments are shared and applauded as we strive to stay academically motivated and excellent.

Psi U has always found ways to give back, and through the Active Actives Scholarship, it has rewarded the chapters most active members. This year, the scholarship



Jan enjoying spring barndance with his girlfriend, Victoria Murphy

(See Page 5)



UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE: SAL PALAFOX '12

"HE HAS TRULY TAKEN HIS TENURE AT PSI Upsilon AS FAR AS ONE COULD POSSIBLY TAKE IT."

Of the undergraduates considered for a profile, Sal Palafox's name came to the fore. As Archon Jan Lumibao '13 wrote, "He's a successful junior in mechanical engineering and has done countless services for the house from O-board, Internal, and Philanthropy, doing a more than stellar job in each. He has truly taken his tenure at Psi Upsilon as far as one could possibly take it."

Q: Why did you join Psi Upsilon?

I knew Tom Bochula '10 from high school (St. Viator in Arlington Heights) where we played volleyball together. In the fall of freshman year, Tommy invited a few friends and me from Viator, Kyle Deger '12 and Chris Corey '12, over for some parties as well as other recruitment events. We had a good time and liked all the guys, so the three of us decided to pledge.

Q: Tell us about your family.

I'm a first generation American—my parents are from Mexico City. My dad was being transferred to Chicago as part of a training program to become an industrial engineer, so we immigrated to the U.S. I was born in Evanston and grew up in Des Plaines. When it came time for college, I looked at some other universities, but they were all missing something. My sister graduated from the University of Illinois, so I was familiar with the campus, and with the mechanical engineering program ranked so high (#6 in the latest edition of *U.S. News and World Report*), I decided Illinois was the best fit for me. As for my Psi Upsilon family, my pledge father is Nate Thompson '10 and my pledge sons are Ben Hilgendorf '13 and Dan Relihan '14.

Q: What is your major? What do you plan on doing when you graduate?

I'm studying mechanical engineering, and I'd like to go into manufacturing or design. My dream would be to work in the automotive industry. Growing up I always loved cars; my uncle worked for a racing company designing brakes, so I talked to him about it all the time.

Q: What's your favorite class or professor?

ME 370—Mechanical Design with Professor Armand Beaudoin. It has open-ended projects where you come up with projects on your own and create an object from start to finish. Matt Cropper '12 was in class with me, and we created a machine to put dip multiple tea bags into mugs. We had to design the entire motion and all the individual components. We had to do an

analysis on it as well. That class really makes you think outside the box and see how much work goes into inventing new products.

Q: What has Psi U meant to you?

It may sound simple, but I guess brotherhood is what comes to mind. They say you have to make your college experience as small as possible, and Psi U has helped me to do so by giving me a home away from home. It's a nice place to come back to, you



learn how to deal with groups of people and how to run big events, and it's been a great place to figure out type of person you want to be.

Q: What are your top Psi U memories?

I'd say the Aztec ceremony is one of my favorites; I love the meaning behind everything and it is something that is uniquely ours. I also really enjoy our annual "90's Party." We play the music from when

Q: What hobbies/activities do you enjoy?

I like to play the music at the parties, and I've DJ'd about three-quarters of the bigger parties. I love music in general, so I enjoy making playlists for all our parties, like Afterhours and the big Halloween party we had last year. I also like playing basketball outside the house on our new court and grill area. I'm also always up for a challenge with sports video games.

Q: What's your favorite room?

Room #22—the big one off the sundeck. Sean Brody '12, Andy Alcalá '12, and I lived there in a triple. We're the three biggest guys in house, so it's funny we'd all be in the same room. At least five or six brothers were hanging around there all the time. Because all of us are Mexican, it was also known as "The Mexican Pack." It was always the place to be.

I've also got to say I enjoyed living in the Beta Chi, even though it flooded multiple times when I lived there. J.C. Hintz '12 and Nathan Nimrick '12 were in one end of the hall, and Chris Corey '12 and Andy Alcalá '12 were down there, too. One time when it flooded, all of us were up to 2 a.m. vacuuming out the water and having a couple drinks in the process. We ended up ordering pizza, and it became one of my favorite memories of living in house. We really had a niche, and the BX was a top choice during room picks last semester.

Q: What positions have you held?

I've been on O-Board since I initiated, and was V.P. Internal in Fall 2010 and prior to that as interim when Craig Lichtenberg '10 had to step down to do student teaching. I helped institute several by-laws, including Study Hours to help brothers with grade problems, and an officer training seminar to help better prepare brothers hoping to get onto the Executive board. But my two main things have been philanthropy chair and pledge educator.

Last year I helped organize "Hotcakes for Haiti" where we sold pancakes and ended up donating \$1100 to the Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. This year with the help of our V.P. External, Kyle Deger '12, I ran our "Food for Thought" philanthropy to benefit CU Schools Foundation and their work with Champaign-Urbana Public Schools. For years brothers have tutored at Booker T. Washington Elementary School, and with Kyle in the School of Education, the event was a natural fit. (Continued pg 13)



Brother Palafox with his girlfriend, Sarah

we were kids. It was relaxed and everyone dressed up—I wore Zubaz pants last year—it was a good time. Ironically, the time we were dealing with the flooding in the Beta Chi was a favorite, too. At the time, the guys living down there (including myself) were really frustrated, but it brought us together and we all are good friends since.



Recap of Last Year's Outing



'89s Representin': (l to r) Brothers Stan Parker '89, Eric Madland '89, Dave Yang '89, and John Janikowski '89 in their Psi U golfing attire

The Omicron Alumni Association held its 2010 Golf Outing at Mount Prospect Golf Course. Coordinated by **Mark Tallungan '00** and with an assist from **Andrew Brennan '04** and **Justin Kuehlthau '03.5**, there were 30 golfers in attendance and raised a total of \$2073.50 for the chapter.

Dave DiPrima '89, whose home is on the 9th fairway of the course, was our generous host for a post-golf BBQ. "Psi, Psi, Psi" to these brothers for putting together a great event.

Among the winners were **Dave Yang '89** who had the longest drive, while **Dev Proctor '87.5** was closest to the pin. Brothers **Andrew Haning '00**, **Jim Colombo '01**, **Jason Borucki '98**, and **Andrew Brennan '04** were tournament champions.

2011 Golf Outing is Saturday, July 16th - Mount Prospect Golf Course

Join us as Psi U hits the links. **Mark Tallungan '00** has volunteered to once again coordinate things, and **Dave DiPrima '89** will again host the post-golf BBQ at his home. The course is at 600 S. See-Gwun Avenue in Mount Prospect, while Dave's house is located at 420 S. We-Go Trail just off the 9th fairway. Cost is \$116.00 per person, covering greens fee, cart, lunch at the turn, post-round BBQ and other treats. Register at www.illinipsiu.com - Tees are 11:04 am to Noon. For those brothers who need a helping hand, we're also selling "mulligans" to raise money for the house - \$5.00 each with a maximum of three per person. The format will be a scramble; contact Mark for more info at tallungan78@yahoo.com

Winners of the 2010 Psi U Scholarship Grants

- ◆ First Place (\$1,750) Ryan R. Lee
Streator Township High School, Psychology with a Pre-Law focus
- ◆ Second Place (\$500) **Frank D'Ambrosio '14**
Lockport Township High School, Mechanical Engineering
- ◆ Third Place (\$250) Scott Cinel
Fenwick High School, Computer Engineering

The Psi U Scholarship Grant Program will awards scholarships totaling \$3,000 for the next year. (1st - \$2,000; 2nd - \$750; 3rd - \$250) to three (3) incoming male freshmen attending the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign who exhibit the highest moral, intellectual, and social excellence. There were a record 75 applicants with Omicron brothers personally interviewing 15 in consideration for the awards.



Archon Lumibao with First Place winner, Ryan R. Lee

Awards List for Homecoming 2011

- The Omicron Chapter is pleased to announce the following awardees
- ◆ "Psi U of the Year" - **Nicolas "Nico" Guzman '13**
 - ◆ Joseph A. Miller '57 Psi U Alumnus of the Year - **Dean Marinakis '90**
 - ◆ Kenneth F. Reimer '51 Pledgship Award - **Matt Hamielec '14.5**
 - ◆ Sam Biardo, Jr. '02 Biggest Heart Award - **Sean Brody '12**
 - ◆ Dean C. Marinakis '90 & David P. Komie '92.5 Scholarship Award - *vacant*
 - ◆ Psi U Sweetheart - **Britney Shlifka**
 - ◆ Griffin Award for Senior Excellence - **Dave Wardein '11**
 - ◆ Junior of the Year - **Sean Brody '12**

Active Actives Winners for 2011-2012

Congratulations to the following brothers on receiving this year's "Active Actives" Grants. The program recognizes in-house juniors & seniors for their leadership and active participation with a \$1000 deduction from their housing contract. The winners for this upcoming year are:

- ◆ **Brandon Burd '13.5**
- ◆ **Nicolas "Nico" Guzman '13**
- ◆ **Jan Lumibao '13**



ARCHON'S CHAPTER REPORT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

was awarded to **Nicolas Guzman '13**, **Brandon Burd '13.5**, and myself. We will make sure that the chapter will stay motivated for the upcoming years to make sure we build upon our previous successes as a chapter.

The Omicron Chapter of Psi U has always wanted to give back as well. Along with the volunteer work done, this past spring, and with the leadership and initiative of **Sal Palafox '12**, our chapter held "Psi Upsilon Presents: Food For Thought," a philanthropy event for the CU Foundation which benefits Champaign-Urbana Public Schools. The Omicron gave back to the local community by having a weeklong sale on the quad and at the house selling PB&Js, pretzels, chips, juice boxes, and other snacks. Through our efforts and the generosity of others, we were able to raise \$1,000. This event became something we could sink our teeth into and run for many years to come. In addition, **Brandon Burd '13.5** spearheaded the chapter's

"Relay for Life" campaign, raising \$980. In all, just in spring, the Omicron raised nearly \$2,000 benefitting various charities.

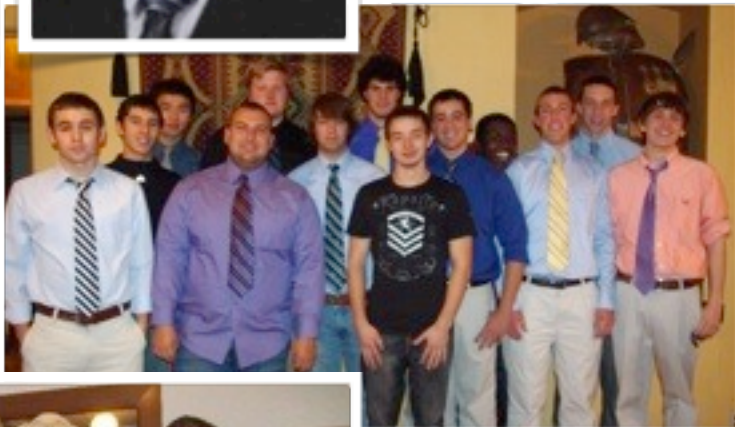
Though Psi U has seen a lot of success and change in the past year, we will still strive to be better than we were, than we are, while sticking to the values that brought us here in the first place, deep brotherhood and friendship, rooted in the heart. In changing times, this remains constant. We will definitely miss the faces and character of graduating seniors like **Chris Cremer '13**, **Dave Wardein '11**, **Eric Hofreiter '12**, and **Brad Dizunno '11.5**, and will strive to emulate their legacies. By staying focused and remembering who we are, Psi U can build upon its success and become even more of a presence on campus. I look forward to this year's Convention in D.C. and fall's homecoming, and will always be proud to represent the character that the garnet and gold of Psi U symbolizes.



(Above) Two of Our Active Active Honorees: **Nico Guzman '13 (L)**, **Brandon Burd '13.5 (R)** **Jan Lumibao '13** is the third

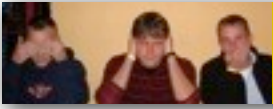
Jan Lumibao '13, **Hadrien Brisard '13**, **Victoria Murphy**, **Sean Brody '12**, and his girlfriend & prior Psi U Sweetheart, **Christina Rook**

(Below) A bunch of Psi U's enjoying fall barndance



(Left) Some of the 14s and (Below) the 14.5s at initiation





The 2010 Arrow

I received *The Arrow* and enjoyed reading about Brothers Cofel and Pete Jensen, the strong man.

ITB, **Jack Rooney '53**

Nice letter---sent in my dues several days ago. Keep up the good work. Just received the Arrow in the mail and the contents were outstanding.

YITB, **Jack Hester '54**

Dave, Just was reading the Omicron newsletter-good job. Boy that's a really nice looking publication. I spent over an hour reading it and I'm not sure I finished up. Good job on this issue.

ITB, **Joe Miller '57**

Bros. Komie and Marinakis, Congratulations on the Distinguished Alumni Service Awards! I guess I'll be the weakest link in our fearsome golf foursome on that front. Seriously, well done gentlemen.

ITB, **Jim Yale '86**

Dave, My copy of the Arrow arrived today. You've outdone yourself once again. Fantastic!

ITB, **Bret Coale '01.5**

Great work with the Arrow and with keeping the Chapter informed of new events. Thought I'd let everyone know that I'll be moving to Ithaca this fall to start a faculty position at Cornell University in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. I was also awarded a research grant by the National Geographic Society this year for fieldwork and genetic analysis of village dogs throughout the Americas which should keep me busy as I start up my lab at Cornell. Looking forward to meeting the new members of the Chi chapter as well reuniting with the elders at the Elmira Christmas party; drop me a line if you're coming to Upstate New York.

ITB, **Adam Boyko '99**
arboyko@gmail.com

Homecoming

I hope all those that attended homecoming decided to participate by contributing to the Omicron. The house looked great and of course it is always a better homecoming when the Illini win. This year all donors got to see continued improvements of the last few years - sign, bbq equipment - and based on comments that I heard from other Alumni Brothers ...a much cleaner

and better maintained house. Please thank the undergraduates again for a great homecoming.

YITB, **Brad Corner '72**

Hey Brother Cajda - Thanks for all you do for the house and was glad to make the donation based on all the efforts of brothers like you. The place looked great at Homecoming and my 6 year old son told me he wants to live there when he's in college!!!

ITB, **Adam Judd '93.5**



Longest Drive winner Dave Yang '89 with our outing organizer Mark Tallungan '00

The 2010 Golf Outing

A big thanks to Mark and Dave and all who worked to put the golf outing together! Despite our lackluster performance, our team had a great time. I for one will work to get the mid-to-late 80's classes more represented in future events. Looking forward to seeing the "new" house on my next trip to Champaign!

ITB, **Jim Yale '86**

E-Mail Updates

Dear Brothers:

1) I was in Portland a couple of weeks ago and got to hang out with **Matt Plavcan '97** and **Noah Fichter '02**. Great hosts in an awesome city. Matt is planning on making it out to HC this year so lets hold him to it!

Also, Noah is currently a cook at a local restaurant called the Tin Shed which was featured in a documentary show on PBS called Breakfast Special. I had breakfast there and while they don't have a Diner's Stack (yet) it was excellent stuff!

2) Also, if you haven't heard we are currently in the process of restarting the Rho chapter at Wisconsin. If you know of any undergrads there or would be interested in being involved with the resurrection of one of our fellow Big 10 chapters please let me know.
YITB, **Tom Fox '00** (tfox@psiu.org)

The Rho alumni president Chuck Leicht '67 had an apology to pass along to the Omicron brothers: "By the way, a carload of us went to the 1965 Illini/Wisconsin game and crashed at your house. We all got drunk at Champaign's most famous "Kams." I drank way over my limit, and we had to rush out of the place when someone yelled "RAID!!" Somehow I wound up back at your house and located one of those large sleeping areas, which I think you called a dormitory.

I woke up in a stupor several hours later and hurled. Now, when someone from out of town blew lunch at the Rho, we woke them up and handed them a mop, bucket, and sponge, but rather than cleaning up my shame that night, I did the cowardly thing and quietly escaped to another large room where I slept quite soundly. I now apologize publicly to you & your alumni of that era.

Your guys came up every other year for the football game, but you never came in numbers like the Mu. Compared to the Minnesota chapter, you were short hitters (can't drink beer). When I was president as a senior, some poor schlub passed out on our living room couch, then must've awoken and hurled in the early morning. Rather than have our pledges clean up after him, we had Br. Short Hitter clean up after himself. 'God I love it. I do love it.' I'm sure Br. Short Hitter's consolation was you won the football game.

As for my own cowardly sin in your dormitory, you may publish my apology in *The Diamond* or to your alums if you have an e-mail group. If you have a chapter website, I'll consider confessing my sins there, too."

The trip I made, I recall we were able to match the Rho beer for beer Friday night, but when we woke up Saturday am, we switched to coffee rather than the beer that the Rho brothers were still drinking. The Rho house on Lake Mendota was a truly fine fraternity building. I hope they're able to get it rolling.

ITB, **Bob McIntire '68**



E-Mail Updates

After reading this sorry example at Pi Lambs (losing their house-see photos below) please let alumni know there is a bright spot of up to 7 house projects either newly renovated and or new construction (e.g., Pikes) on the west side of campus that visually show major commitments of different fraternal alumni groups to continue to support their houses at Illinois.

Our undergraduates working with the alumni to maintain and improve the house are very much the key to avoid the downside of the Pi Lamb example. The west side neighborhood is more “transitional” today than ever before as many of the houses have “bad curb appeal” of obvious deferred maintenance which implies more future Pi Lamb stories in the future in Psi U’s neighborhood.

The sharp, well maintained look that both prospective new members and their parents see in the first 3 seconds of looking at our house is a critical positive to our present and future success as we continue to differentiate ourselves from the scruffy not well maintained exteriors of many other houses.

This requires a minimum of on going dues voluntarily of all alumni and execution of voluntary clean up by the undergraduates to maintain not just the exterior but the house systems and interior that needs to consistently show the same level of care and pride of

ownership of “our house.”

Please thank the Omicron Boards present/past members for their service as well as the undergraduate chapter for presenting the chapter house very positively at last summer’s convention as there were many favorable comments from the delegates of other chapters of Psi U and alumni visitors.
YITB, **Brad Corner ’72**

Chapter House Renovation Project

Psi Upsilon, I just wanted to send a quick note letting you know how great your new patio looks. I’m very pleased to see you spend money on improving your property and taking pride in your facility. Thanks and I hope you enjoy the new patio.

Jamie Redmond, Representative, Private Certified Housing

Congratulations to:

Bob Peterson ’68 on his election to the Psi Upsilon Foundation Board.

Brad Corner ’72, Dean Marinakis ’90, and David Komie ’92.5 on being awarded the Psi Upsilon Distinguished Alumni Service Award at the 167th Psi Upsilon Convention. They join Joe Miller ’57 in receiving this prestigious award!

Lew Finkelstein ’83 on his election to the Psi Upsilon Executive Council.

Dave Komie ’92.5 on earning National Board Certification in Social Studies/Early Adolescence.

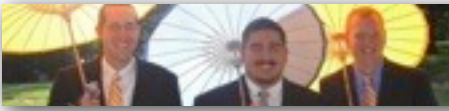
Jason Ornduff ’93, a law partner with Thompson Coburn LLP in Chicago who concentrates in estate planning and administration, on being elected a fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

Howard L. “Tad” Huntington ’95.5 on being featured in the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin article “Eagle Scout lawyers to spend time helping 30 Scouts get merit badge.” Also congratulations to Tad’s wife, Ellen, on the release of the Lyrebird Ensemble's (flute and harp duo) debut CD, Taking Flight. You can learn more and order a copy of the CD at **at www.lyrebirdensemble.com.**

Congratulations to **Josh Reed ’03** on a being published as a contributing writer to the *College Basketball Prospectus 2010-11.*

Matthew DalSanto, Ph.D. ’04 on joining the prestigious law firm of Winston & Strawn in their San Francisco office. Per Matt: “After graduation this May from Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall), I will be working in the litigation and real estate practice groups and potentially the bankruptcy group as well. I learned this summer that my economics background will be extremely valuable when working on antitrust matters and real estate transactions. While I will be in San Francisco for the foreseeable future, I plan on making it back to Homecoming each year.”





MORE NEWS AND NOTES

Congratulations to:

Joseph J. Hudson '88 and his wife, Carol, on the adoption of their second daughter, Amelia Clare.

Mark Christian '99 and his wife, Jessica, have a new son, Nathaniel Ryan Christian. He's 21 inches and 8.8 pounds.

Mark '01 and Farrah Hoehne AOPi '01 welcomed their new daughter, Ava Rose, to the world yesterday a bit earlier than expected (8-9-10), but healthy at 5 lbs, 5oz and 18.25 inches long.

Justin '02 and Jessica Jindra also have a new daughter, Gwyneth Aurora Jindra.

Matthew Cajda '03 marrying Jessica Graham on May 8 with Nick Hauri '03 as the best man. Matt also writes: "Jessica and I are happy to announce the birth of our first child, Elizabeth Carroll Graham. Born around 10pm on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Mom and baby are doing well but Dad is still recovering!"

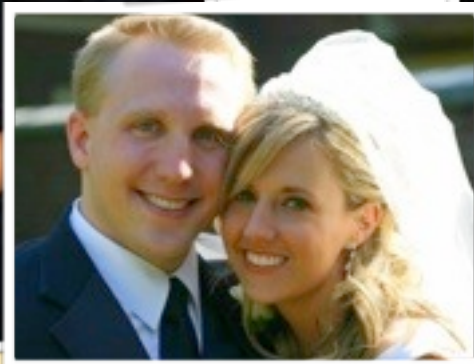
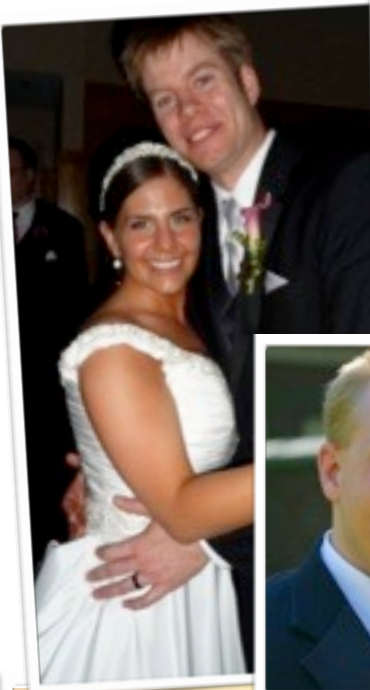
Dan Thorne '06 was married June 5th with Brothers Frank Bieszczat '04, Gary Bernacci '06, Michael Warden '06 and Scott Nellis '06 as groomsmen.

Rick Riley '07 marrying Jessie Riley. **Dave Simpson '07** was best man. **Mark Tallungan '00** presided. Many Psi U's attended.

Matthew Martinez '08 on marrying Sherilyn McNece on 7-24-10

Photo Gallery: (L-R)

*Top: The Thornes, Jindras & the Martinezs
Middle: The Cajdas & Omicrons in attendance at the Riley wedding
Bottom: Mark and Ava Rose Hoehne, Baby Cajda & Nathaniel Ryan Christian*





MORE NEWS AND NOTES

Congratulations to:

Glen Carlson M.D. '94 and his wife, Katie, on the birth of their baby Luke. He joins brothers and sisters Andrew (6), Joshua (3), Molly (2) at home. (*bottom middle*)

Andrew Haning '00 and his wife, Laurie, on the birth of their son, Hunter James (7-5-10), weighing in at 8 lbs 5 oz, 20 in. (*lower right*)

Tad Huntington '95.5 and his wife, Ellen, welcomed a daughter, 7lb 1oz Heidi Catherine, into the world on Valentine's Day. (*top middle*)

Justin D. Clark '01 and his wife, Sarah, on the birth of their first child, Jonah, on March 6. (*car seat*)

Gerrit Vuyk '07.5 on marrying Andrea Banaszek on September 25, 2010. (*far right*)

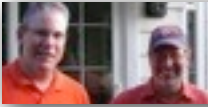


Take Me Out to the Ballgame...and Leave Engaged!

Congratulations to **Mike Chen '09** on his engagement to **Kate Minogue '09** AOPI and house sweetheart Spring '06. (*at left*) Mike reports: "This was mid-June. She said yes, but the kicker was that it happened at the Cubs/Sox opener at Wrigley Field. I am a die-hard Sox fan & she is a hopeless Cubs fanatic.

We were in the bleachers, & several other Psi U's were on hand to help with the surprise proposal; **Bobby Lee '09.5**, **Andrew Chapello '10**, & **Matt Turk '08.5**. Needless to say it was very exciting.

The ring was actually inside a baseball that we (Bobby Lee) cut in half with a table saw, and was used as part of the proposal. Long story cut (very) short is that we played it off that a foul ball we had caught had been signed. Written on it was the proposal, and the rest is history. She had no idea it was coming."



PHOTOGRAPHS

“O DEAR OLD SHRINE; OUR HEARTS AROUND THEE TWINE;
WE LOVE THEE YET; WE’LL NE’RE FORGET; THE DAYS OF AULD LANG SYNE”



Psi U's Sweethearts
(Left) Christina Rook - Fall 2010
(Right) Renee Wunderlich - Spring 2010



Undergraduates and their dates, including Britney Shlifka Psi U Sweetheart - Fall 2011 (bottom left), as they enjoy Spring Formal



Homecoming - Brothers Bob Petersen '68, Bob McIntire '68, Brad Corner '72, William Young '70 (Stefan Young's '06 father), Don Tomaska '71, and Pat Gilmore, '69



The Naours: Two full-fledged and one honorary (l to r) Dave Naour M.D. '89, Boyd Bach '91, and Jeff Naour M.D. '90



Alumni V.P. Bret Coale '01.5 and Alumni President Andres Cuadra '04 with last year's Pledge of the Year, Bob Chain '13



Future Psi U Takes in Homecoming: James Troxel '01.5, Chris Monroe '01.5, Jacob Monroe (Son of Chris & Rebecca Monroe), Karen Brand (Girlfriend of James Troxel) & Rebecca Monroe (Wife of Chris Monroe)



PHOTOGRAPHS

“O DEAR OLD SHRINE; OUR HEARTS AROUND THEE TWINE;
WE LOVE THEE YET; WE’LL NE’RE FORGET; THE DAYS OF AULD LANG SYNE”



The '01s: (top) Trey Meers; (2nd from back) Mark Hoehne, Lucio Herrera, Andrew Gaspar; (3rd from back) Justin Clark, Grant Alsman, Jon Drew; (4th from back) Mike Decraene (sp); (front) Fred Miller, Steve Tallungan, and Jim Columbo.



Psi Us at the Mark Hopkins in San Francisco: Tom Fox '00, Kelly & Adam Boyko '99, Brad Corner '72, Lew Finkelstein '83, Tim Hansen '82, Matt DalSanto '04 & fiancé, Ellen Rheume
Congrats to the 91's on their 20th reunion!



Congrats to the 01.5's on their 10 Year Reunion: (l-r) Brothers Chris Monroe, James Troxel, and Alumni Vice President Bret Coale



Happy 90th B-Day to Art Wood '43! His family threw him a big party, including an artifact table with his Psi U paddle & letterman's sweater. Pictured here at the celebration with Brother Wood are his children Greg, Steve, Sue, and Cindy (clockwise from top left)



The Omicron Installation Ceremony - May 28, 1910
May the next century be as great as our first!



The chapter circa late 1970s: Brother J. Eric Smith '79, whose profile is in this issue, is top row at right



ALUMNI PROFILE: J. ERIC SMITH '79

FROM ARCHON OF THE OMICRON TO PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SWISS RE, AMERICAS

is a C.P.A. with Price Waterhouse, while Anna just finished her junior year at Illinois. She's a James Scholar in the School of Education and a member of Gamma Phi Beta. We come from a family of educators, and Anna's thinking of being either a math or science teacher at the middle school level.

Q: What do you do for a living and how did you get into this profession?

(Editor's note: As we went to press, Brother Smith took a different job. The following four paragraphs are from the news release announcing this change—not from our interview.)

Effective July 11, J. Eric Smith will join Swiss Re as President and CEO, Americas, with responsibility for leading the company's Property and Casualty and Life and Health reinsurance businesses in the US, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. He will also have operational oversight of all Swiss Re Group activity in these regions and will join the Swiss Re Group Management Board.

Swiss Reinsurance Company Ltd is a leading and highly diversified global reinsurer and operates through offices in more than 20 countries. Founded in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1863, Swiss Re offers financial services products that enable risk-taking essential to enterprise and progress. Smith will relocate from San Antonio, Texas to Armonk, New York, the site of Swiss Re's Americas headquarters.

Smith, a 30-year insurance veteran, joins Swiss Re from USAA Life Insurance Co., one of the highest rated life insurers in the US, where he served as President. Smith also serves on the Executive Committee of the American Council of Life Insurers, a trade association that represents the country's largest life insurers and reinsurers.

Prior to USAA, Smith was President of Allstate Financial Services where he was responsible for the \$3 billion Allstate agency line of business. Smith also spent over 20 years with Country Financial, helping to build its Property and Casualty business.

(Editor's note: Back to the interview.)

I always wanted to be in insurance. Growing up in Bloomington you have a positive image of the business. My dad's company sold office equipment to State Farm—his office was even inside State Farm. Country was his other big account, and when it came time to get a job, that's who I went with.

Q: What activities do you enjoy?

Being a dad is #1. After that, my family enjoys both golf and travel. We're a golfing family; I'm the youngest of six kids and started the game at age six. Three of my four kids golfed in high school, and all of them play today. We've been very fortunate to take some great trips. When each of my kids turned 13, I took them on a trip where they got to decide where to go. We went to San Francisco, California, Colorado, and Hawaii. Besides that we really enjoyed traveling to Hawaii and Italy, where my mom's side of the family is from. As a family, the trip we enjoy

most is going to Green Lake, Wisconsin every year.

Q: Are you involved with any particular charities or public service?

My wife and I support the American Cancer Society, and we often participated in the annual Alzheimer's Memory Walk in Chicago.

Q: What was your major and what other campus activities were you involved in?

I majored in finance at Illinois and did my M.B.A. at Kellogg in 2001. I worked the whole time while I was in school, and it was Joe Miller '57 who got me my first on-campus job with the housing division. I had to walk around collecting register tapes and reconcile them with cash drawers. The next job I had was kind of fun at the soybean research lab, but my best job was with the old computers with the punch cards. You had these keypunch machines and card readers, and you'd end up with a stack of these cards. You'd have to wait in line, feed them into the machine, and then come back for your report later, which came on that old green paper with the lines. I

Psi U taught me to find the value in everyone. Some of my most satisfying memories are of brothers for whom Psi U did them some good...and they benefited the fraternity as well. Everybody is different and if you're not careful, you might overlook someone with value.

J. Eric Smith '79

worked for a professor in the Ag School, and he gave me a key to Mumford Hall to run jobs for the cooperative extension. It was a big deal back then because I had access to my own machine, and I could go in their at night, do my homework there, and help out Psi U's who were in a jam and needed computer access. It seems funny now, but the pay was great & it was a great perq.

Q: What was campus like when you were in Champaign-Urbana?

The culture was changing on campus. When I arrived in 1975, there were still guys around from the Vietnam protest era when the National Guard marched on campus. The house had a great mix of guys back then, too. By the time I left, the preppy mode had hit campus, and it was the cool thing to be in a fraternity once again.

Q: Did you live in the house, and if so, who were your roommates?

My freshman year we still had the dorm, but Bob DalSanto '75 (dad of Brother Matt '04) and I had a dresser and desk in Danny King's room, which was at the end of the third floor

overlooking 4th street. Later I was with Bill Mathers '76 and John McIntosh '75 across the hall. Sophomore year I roomed with Jeff Jelms '78, who's a CPA and I'm still in touch with, in the big second floor room off the sundeck on 4th street. I stayed in that room as archon for my junior year with Ben O'Connor '81 as junior roommate. It was a famous room because of all the stick-on mirrors we hung up everywhere. I lived out-of-house sr year.

Q: What Psi U positions did you hold?

After pledgeship I was co-house manager with Tom Kortendick '80 during sophomore year. I remember we raised pop prices like a nickel and everyone was up in arms about that! We rebuilt the Beta Chi pit—what an awful job that was. Sophomore year I was rush chair. Though I was a finance major, I knew sales and marketing a bit so I went and got the list of guys from the university. We had all the guys make phone calls to high school seniors from their area. I remember we had little cards made up, and I constantly asked around if people had made their phone calls. We ended up having a huge turnout for rush—bigger than we'd had in a long time—and we got a great group with the '81s from that. Junior year I was treasurer and then president, and senior year I lived out of house.

One funny story from when I was treasurer. At that time my sister Paula, who eventually became Dean of the Special Education Department at Illinois State University, was on campus a couple days a week doing her Ph. D. We were talking and she asked if she could get a meal plan to eat at the house on like Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

She was 30 years old asking this, and I remember going to the chapter meeting with her request—and they were fine with it. She got to know the guys and saw all the funny things we did like throwing for dessert and so on...she only asked for advance warning if we were going to have a food fight!

Q: What are some of your favorite memories from your fraternity days?

I had wonderful times at the University overall, so I could go on with story after story. "Crow Calls" were great when I lived in the dorm, as was Homecoming. I remember one Homecoming I was down in the Red Room and some alum challenged Brother Frank Brady '79 to a contest—with me as bartender. Well Frank and I worked it out that I'd give him watered down drinks while I loaded up on the alum's drinks. You can imagine the outcome.

Another time I went with Tom Kortendick '80 to New York City to the Psi U convention hosted by the NYU chapter. We were set to host the next year, so we figured we'd go and see what was involved—it was a great time.



ALUMNI PROFILE: J. ERIC SMITH '79 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

When it came time for us to host, we had everyone there including Henry Poor, Γ '39. We were buzzing because word was Fred Nichols '29, who ran the Chicago Tribune, was going to show up, and we were hoping that everything was in order for his approval. Another time Ted Funk '27 came back for either convention or Homecoming, and being from Bloomington this was a big thing. (*Editor's note: the university's Funk ACES Library is named in honor of his family*) We were having this wonderful resurgence and of all things, somehow the talk got to our lack of a professional dishwashing unit. Brother Funk was a unique man, and he started in on how things were in the Depression, and how they never had a dishwasher, and so forth. But after this long diatribe, and with me under the gun as president, he wrote a check for something like \$3000 on the spot to buy us the unit. Another time when I was president, John Parker '28 from Lincoln would come by the house. He was right out of the 30s—cut from

the old cloth—and he shows up at Homecoming with this entourage. Brother Parker insisted that the chapter president and his girlfriend come tailgate with him and his party. Very old school and a great time, too.

Q: What kind of influence has the fraternity had on your life since graduation?

Psi U provided me with great friendships and things I've used all the way through my life. It helped me as a leader because it's a pure environment—if you do something wrong, you're going to hear about it. Psi U taught me how to run a team and how to be fair, and to make it about the team and them receiving credit, not you. It taught me to be respectful and to not overlook people, instead to leverage their point of view—there are good ideas all over the place.

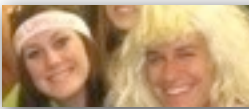
Q: What advice would you give to an undergraduate brother?

What I learned was to not be too serious and not too full of yourself. When I arrived at U. of

I., I had a bit of an attitude, but as I met and lived with people with different lifestyles and ideas, it changed me.

Some of the guys from Chicago, like Tom Brennan '77, taught me to step back and think about what made the place special. Initially Tom and I didn't hit it off, but he pulled me aside one day and talked to me about a great idea for rush. Instead of the same boring thing like every house was going to do, his idea was to make the whole first floor into a relaxed setting to create an informal, party sort of feel. This way peoples' guards would be down and they could talk & get to know each other. Well during first stage a huge group came through, and they all came back for second stage. It got us a huge class with a bunch of good guys.

Psi U taught me to find the value in everyone. Some of my most satisfying memories are of brothers for whom Psi U did them some good...and they benefited the fraternity as well. Everybody is different and if you're not careful, you might overlook someone with value.



OMICRON TEAMS WITH ΣΚ TO MAKE ATIOUS FINALS (CONTINUED FROM COVER)

possible theme ideas for our show. After several meetings we agreed to base our show on the music and choreography of Michael Jackson.

The next week we began learning our first dance, "Thriller." Our first practice had an impressive turnout of 40 people, so many that there was very little space for everyone in our living room. The first practices were both bumpy and amusing as we attempted to learn the complicated choreography to the "Thriller." As the weeks progressed our performance became more and more crisp and we learned the dances to the two last songs, "Beat It" and "Wanna Be Starting Something." Throughout the performing brothers were incredibly dedicated and by the end four more had joined the show in the form of a live band.

The last weeks before the show were hectic and stressful as the last bits of the show were tied together; finishing touches were made by the band, on the costumes and on the banner that hung outside the house.

Big Rose to Josh and the rest of the undergraduates with Atius. I don't recall the last time we made it to the finals. Dean Marinakis '90

However, by the time the first show was to occur, on the Friday of Mom's Weekend, the whole group was excited and well prepared. On both the Friday and Saturday performances our show received lots of laughs for the hilarious costumes and script. All in all the show was a success and went over very smoothly. While we did not place, the show was very good and gives us a foundation to build on in future years. We also built strong friendships with many members of the ΣΚ sorority.



UNDERGRADUATE PROFILE: SAL PALAFOX '12 (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

We had a sidewalk sale on the Quad selling school-themed snacks along with a raffle of three iPod shuffles as incentive to donate. James Liu '13 is an advertising major, so he helped us spread the word, and the ladies of Phi Mu helped out a lot. We collected \$760 and with the alumni association's generous help, it bumped our donation to \$1000. I believe "Food for Thought" can be the staple philanthropic event we've been looking for. We received a very positive reaction from the parents of the brothers and the campus at large. If this event grows, we could eventually approach the College of Education to receive even larger support.

I was pledge educator for the '13, '13.5, & '14 classes and helped out with the '12.5s and

14.5s. Being pledge educator is a great way to get to know everyone, and I thought it was a good way to get my foot in helping lead the chapter. You see them doing work, and you're their first contact with the house. You get to set the example, which is as an important thing as you do for them. I have to say I had a lot of help and support from my fellow '12s along the way, too. You really get to see who the future of the house will be.

Q: What other organizations are you involved with on campus?

I'm in the Morrill Engineering Program. It's like a mini-professional society for minorities of academic merit interested in engineering. You have to have a G.P.A. above 3.0, which I'm

proud to say I have, and it's an extra resource for you on campus.

Q: What are your goals?

I want to graduate holding onto to my G.P.A. and get a good job. I also want to leave a mark on the house. Bobby Lee '09.5 was kind of my inspiration for this. He said that, "*Even if you never hold a position in the house, you can still make a difference. If you always tried to be the best brother you could be, everything else would fall in place and people will put their trust in you.*" I hope that I can help the house stay in order as we transition to being a bigger house, and continue to recruit men of integrity. I hope I come back in ten or fifteen years and people will remember me for what I helped start.



2011 CONTRIBUTORS (January 1, 2011 to June 1, 2011)

Thank You!

We would at this time like to thank the following brothers for the generous support and contributions for 2011. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list - please contact Andres Cuadra (andrepsi@yahoo.com) if there's an error.

Numbers in parentheses indicate consecutive years of giving since 2005 (Year 1 of the 10/10 Challenge).

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BONDS ETERNAL

John S. Parashos (class uncertain) Age 33, Attorney. Devoted son of Steve and the late Ann (nee Racic) Parashos. Loving brother of Mark Parashos. Dear nephew of Martha Racic, Jim Racic, his godparents Andreas (Vetta) Parashos and many aunts, uncles and cousins here and in Greece.

Russell Pollitt '54 on June 6, 2011. Russ was a 1950 graduate of Danville High School and attended the U of I until he was called to serve in the U.S. Army. Following his service, he was a sales representative for General Electric from 1955 to 1987. He then became the southern U.S. regional sales manager for Valmont in the ballast department until his retirement in 1998. Russ was a member of Second Church of Christ in Danville and the Kiwanis Noon Club. He was a past president of the Red Mask Theater. He served on the Vermilion County Board and was a past board member for the Salvation Army and the Women's Care Clinic. Russ was an avid sports fan and enjoyed the Cincinnati Reds, Dallas Cowboys and the Mavericks, the Danville Dans and the Danville Vikings. He also liked to attend the Danville Symphony Orchestra events, read books, play bridge, talk politics and, more than anything, spend time with his kids and grandkids.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES



Chris Cremer '13



Brad Dizonno '11.5



"PSI, PSI, PSI!"



Eric Hofreiter '11.5



Dave Wardein '11



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