Winter 2017 • Issue 4

# CROSS & CRESCENT

## PERMANENT PG. 10

Globetrotting: Brother Manning and Wife Walk Across the World **PG.** 4

Coast to Coast Q8

PG. 14



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From the Editor3							
Coast to Coast Q&A4-5							
Ever Expanding, Ever Growing <b>6-7</b>							
Meet the New Staff8							
Alumnus Aids Hurricane-Ravaged Island9							
<b>PERMANENT GOOD:</b> Wabash Alumnus Dedicates Re- tirement to Laying Educational Foundations Around the World							
Globetrotting: Brother Manning and Wife Walk Across the World							
Feelin' Philanthropic <b>17</b>							
Reflections on a Chapter Closing: An Opinion Piece from General Counsel Lynn Chipperfield <b>18-19</b>							
Social Roundup21							
'You Can Help, so Why Not?': Troy Alumnus Dedicates His Life to Saving Kids Around the World <b>22-23</b>							
Gentlemen's Corner <b>24</b>							
"It's OK to Be Different". Drugs University Brother							

Wild,	Wild	West:	Cornell	Chapter	Alumnus	is	Living	His
Dream	n					• • • •	27	-28











## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



The fall semester has almost come to an end, so we take time as a Fraternity to remember the best stories of the quarter. Though it has been a difficult time for fraternities and Greek life around the country, we are proud of our members for continuing to uphold the values and ideas which we hold dear, as seen through the stories we tell.

Among the stories in this issue of the Cross & Crescent, you will find articles

which demonstrate heart, dedication to the greater good, and above all, a duty to our brotherhood. This issue also includes useful tips and tricks for undergraduate brothers who might be interviewing for a job in the near future, and a chance to meet our traveling consultants, among other things.

Please remember to keep checking lambdachi.cc for the latest updates on what is going on throughout all Lambda Chi Alpha chapters. If you would like to see every article as it is published, please feel free to sign up to receive email alerts by visiting lambdachi.cc/subscribe. If you have a story which you would like to submit, please email editor@lambdachi.org.

As a reminder, Chapter News is due by the 15th of each month. We look forward to seeing what our chapters are accomplishing, so we ask chapters to continue to email editor@lambdachi.org or log on to LCAOne/Officer Portal and access the "Submit Chapter News" form to share their news with us.

We would like to extend our thanks to members and friends of Lambda Chi Alpha alike for creating the best experience of any fraternity.

All of us here at International Headquarters wish our members a happy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to the wonderful stories we will be able to tell next semester.

Thank you for reading!

Best Regards,

Taylor Grayson

Editor, Cross & Crescent





- 2. All I want for Christmas is...
- 3. Drive-out music: What's a song that always gets you hype?
  - 4. Go-to fast food on the road?



December 2017 - lambdachi.org - Quarterly Issue #4

I see myself married, working in volunteer services at a university (preferably USI) driving a nice Volvo XC90, with two dogs (both labs).

I play video games and watch Netflix as often as possible to relax while I'm on the road.

> Carhenge, a replica of Stonehenge but made out of vehicles, in Nebraska.

5

5. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

6. What do you do to relax and take your mind off work?

7. Weirdest place you've visited while on the road?

8. Strangest question you've been asked?

'Can you eat a hot dog in one bite?' The worst part is, it was the ELC that preceded me that actually did this for some chapters and encouraged them to ask all future ELCs. But no, I cannot eat a hot dog in one bite.



## EVER EXPANDING...

#### CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

- 12 men
- Held first philanthropy event in the form of a Thanksgiving cook-off
- One member represented Lambda Chi Alpha in Zeta Tau Alpha's "Big Man on Campus" event
- All members are looking forward to a big spring recruitment effort



#### **UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA-RENO**

- 30 men
- Participated in first service event, with more events in the works
- Looking forward to continued recruitment efforts



#### **TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

- 45 men
- Officers actively working to begin building operations
- Participated in many Greek events around campus
- Currently meeting seven of the 14 standards and developing a Colony Action Plan to ensure the group meets the standards





## **CONTINUED GROWTH...**

#### FLAGLER COLLEGE

**About:** Flagler College is located in the heart of St. Augustine, Florida and is a private, four-year institution. The college was founded in 1968 and has over 2500 students. Lambda Chi Alpha will be the school's first fraternity ever.

**Fun Fact:** The centerpiece of campus is the Ponce de Leon Hotel which was a luxury hotel built in 1888.

#### **MARSHALL UNIVERSITY**

**About:** Marshall University, located in Huntingdon, West Virginia, is a public research institution with a undergraduate population of 10,250 students. Lambda Chi Alpha was originally founded on the campus in 1946 and was active until 2006. We are excited to bring our organization back to campus.

**Fun Fact:** Lambda Chi Alpha's Zeta designation at Marshall University is Zeta-Zeta Zeta.

#### VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

**About:** Vanderbilt University is located in downtown Nashville, Tennessee and is home to 12,500 students. The university is a private research institution and Lambda Chi Alpha is excited to be re-joining the community. Lambda Chi Alpha was originally installed at Vanderbilt in 1922.

**Fun Fact:** New Vanderbilt students get to storm the football field before the first home game to the student section.

#### WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

**About:** Wright State is located in Fairbone, Ohio; a suburb of Dayton. The university is home to roughly 18,000 students. The current fraternity and sorority community has more than 20 organizations and Lambda Chi Alpha cannot wait to be a part of it.

**Fun Fact:** Tom Hanks (a Wright State alum) continually gives to the university and has led a capital campaign for the institution. In recognition of his support, the university has the Tom Hanks Center for Motion Pictures.















...joins the staff as accounts payable and reporting specialist in Business Affairs, reporting to Sunny Reed. Her first day in the office was Sept. 25; Responsible for payment processing, data entry, and managing vendor relationships; went to Ivy Tech



...joins the staff as accounts receivable and billing specialist in Business Affairs, reporting to Sunny Reed. His first day in the office was Sept. 25; Responsible for processing all cash receipts and collections for Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and the Educational Foundation; went to Butler University



...joins as digital content specialist in Communications & IT, reporting to Taylor Grayson. His first day in the office was Oct. 2; Responsible for content generation and posting both to the online blog site, organization website, related social media platforms, and other distribution methods; went to University of Southern Indiana RYAN

...joins as associate director of alumni engagement in Alumni Services, reporting to Jayme Little. His first day in the office was Oct. 9; Responsible for the administration of alumni volunteers, including: alumni volunteer certification process; High Pi approvals; and supporting alumni trainings throughout the Fraternity, including the Neville Alumni Advisors College; went to IUPUI



...rejoins the staff as director of development in the Educational Foundation, reporting to Travis McDearmon. His first day in the office was Oct. 2; Responsible for executing strategic direction and vision of key fundraising priorities and leading the Foundation's development efforts; went to IU





...rejoins the staff as director of chapter services. His first day in the office was Nov. 13. He is responsible for overseeing the collegiate experience, ensuring overall health and consistent development of chapters and colonies; went to UNC-Greensboro Meet the Staff



## **ALUMNUS AIDS HURRICANE-RAVAGED ISLAND**

By James Vaughn, Digital Content Specialist



A s Hurricane Irma roared toward the United States destroying nearly everything in its path, Jonathan Rodriguez-Lucas knew he'd probably be sent to help.

He's a member of the National Guard.

That's what they do.

He was right.

"We were activated a little less than a week after Irma hit," he said. "We had a bit of a warning, but the official order came down only about 12 hours before we left."

His team — the Ohio Air National Guard's 200th Red Horse Squadron was headed for St. Thomas, an island in the Caribbean Sea that was ravaged by the category 5 storm.

Rodriguez-Lucas, a Lambda Chi alumnus from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, left for St. Thomas Sept. 13, his squadron's main responsibility being to set up a Disaster Relief Bed-Down System (DRBS). They maintained two "tent cities."

It was the first time he had ever done anything like that.

"As can be expected, there was a lot of devastation," he said.

He returned to the States after more than a month of relief efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The most rewarding part was just knowing that even though we weren't directly out in the field cleaning up, we were supporting the camp, which was in turn supporting the people," Rodriguez-Lucas said. "We had people come up and tell us thank you. There was one local woman who brought us food ... In that kind of situation, emotions are always high. But they really are glad you're there."

Of course the mission didn't come without challenges, like the semi-open-ended orders they received.

"We didn't necessarily know when we were coming home. We were also down there when Maria hit, so we had to leave and come back," he said. "There was a lot of uncertainty."

Rodriguez-Lucas also had to be away from his wife and 16-month-old son, which was hard, he said, but they're used to it. "It's just what I do. The peanut is oblivious to all of it, and for my wife it's just like, 'Oh, he's off playing Air Force again," he said.

Reflecting on the experience, Rodriguez-Lucas compared being in the National Guard to being in the fraternity.

"We were always focused on service," he said of his time in Lambda Chi at WPI. "I'm pretty sure we put in more community service hours than the community service fraternity on campus. It was always there. It was never really a question of were you going to do it, it was always when are you going to do it."

There's a sort of brotherhood about being in the military.

"It's kind of like being in another, slightly different kind of fraternity," he said. "I was the new guy, but I wasn't necessarily treated like the new guy."

Rodriguez-Lucas graduated in 2007 from WPI and joined the Air National Guard last year. He is based in Mansfield, Ohio.

C



## 'PERMANENT GOOD'

Wabash Alumnus Dedicates Retirement to Laying Educational Foundations Around the World

BY: JAMES VAUGHN, DIGITAL CONTENT SPECIALIST



Bill Cook, far right, sits surrounded by school-aged girls and boys in Uganda during a trip for his foundation.

In 1992, while Bill Cook was eating dinner with his son at a restaurant in San Andrés Tuxtla, Mexico, a 12-yearold boy came in begging for food.

The owner spotted him and kicked him out.

Cook told his son, Angel, whom he adopted from Puerto Rico, to tell the young boy to wait outside. Cook doesn't speak Spanish. "The kid ate an enormous amount of tacos at the local tacos stand and we sort of said goodbye and that was that," Cook recalled. "But then the next morning, he was there at the hotel when we were packing our bags to say 'goodbye' and 'thank you.'"

The boy introduced himself as Pedro Martinez. Cook was so surprised he took a photo of the boy, which still hangs on his wall at home.

"I always wanted to remember this is a kid who needed somebody to do him some permanent good, and all I did was feed him for a night and he was hungry the next night," Cook said. That experience inspired him to start the Bill Cook Foundation, and that photo continues to inspire him today.

Cook, an alumnus of the Alpha-Kappa Zeta chapter at Wabash College, launched the foundation in 2015, having no idea what he was getting himself into, he said. All he knew was he wanted to do as much permanent good as he could for the world's poorest children.

The foundation's mission is to help children all over the world receive the best education possible, regardless of their circumstances. It supports education from basic literacy and vocational schooling through university education, according to its website.

In November, the foundation was seeking donations for projects in Papua New Guinea, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Kenya.



Pedro, the young boy found begging for food, poses after thanking Cook for his generosity.



#### 'Those 4 Years Were So Valuable'

Cook was born and raised in Indianapolis, where he attended Arsenal Technical High School.

After high school, he went on to Wabash College, also in Indiana, where he joined Lambda Chi Alpha. He actually rushed the summer before his freshman vear. he said.

"Wabash is very small and it's all men, so it sort of plays by its own rules," Cook said. "I got put in the Lambda Chi house by pure lottery."

He joked the only reason he was given a pledge pin was because he could pay a house bill.

"I didn't really impress anybody, I don't think, but I had a high GPA in high school, so I'm sure they figured, that's good, he'll help us boost the 'ole' GPA," Cook said.

For two or three days, he said, everyone was pleasant. Then, one night that first week, the brothers had the incoming freshmen line up in the house.

"What did I get myself into?" he thought.

"Gentleman, we were very impressed by your high school grades and all of the teams you were on and everything you've accomplished," Cook said he recalls hearing. "But gentleman, we're not impressed anymore."

"In college, there are plenty of smart people," he said. "Being smart, it doesn't single you out.

"When you join a fraternity, you realize it's not about just you anymore." As the only child of a doctor, that was something Cook had to get used to. All

## YOU DISCOVER THAT IT'S ABOUT THE GOOD OF ALL OF YOU, THERE'S A SENSE OF COOPERATION AND COMMUNITY THAT I NEVER HAD GROWING UP.

the most in this world — the grades, the prestige, the material items — went out the window.

"You discover that it's about the good of all of you. There's a sense of cooperation and community that I never had growing up," Cook said. "You have to build your own world with the 24 guys you're thrown together with. Those four years were so valuable to me because I learned things I didn't learn growing up."

It's a perspective he's carried with him throughout his life.

He adopted three boys and served as a guardian for eight others.

Cook earned Master's and Doctorate degrees in Medieval History from Cornell University, an Ivy League school in upstate New York. Eventually, he landed a job at the State University of New York at Geneseo, where he worked as a professor studying the history of Christianity for 42 years. He retired in 2012.

#### 20 Countries in 2 Years

Retirement has yet to slow Cook down, though.

He's spent the past two and a half years globe trotting — stopping where he's needed most.

Because he completed a lot of work for the Young President's Organization (YPO), an international leadership organization for CEOs, he had a group of people to turn to for donations once his foundation received 501c3 status, becoming an officially recognized nonprofit.

"I had no idea how to do any of this stuff. I just sort of made it up as I went along," Cook said. "But I did know that while 20-dollar contributions are great, 10.000-dollar contributions are even better."



Young girls walk through a field on their way to school in a village in India. The Bill Cook Foundation helped fund their education.







The inside of a classroom the Bill Cook Foundation helped fund in Myanmar.

Two years in, the foundation has already raised nearly 500,000 dollars.

"I keep telling people I want to be the third largest foundation under the name 'Bill," he said, laughing. "You've got Gates, and you've got Clinton."

So far, the foundation has helped children in 20 different countries.

The foundation looks for ways to help them get an education, whatever that may be.

"That's any kind of education," Cook said, whether that means building a school, having books or clothes shipped, fighting to change a policy, or providing food and housing so the kids' focus can be on their education.

He even helped three Cambodian men move to Indiana to attend his alma mater.

The foundation's work extends beyond K-12. The goal in every location is to build a foundation for success.

"We basically look for projects where it doesn't take a lot of money to make a difference," Cook said. "My hope is that 40 years from now, we've educated enough people that we've made a little bit of a difference in the world."

"You can't eliminate ignorance easily. You can't just give somebody a shot for it. They've got to go to school for 10 plus years. So that's why we're trying to build a structure for the long haul."

"When you have more educated people, they're going to demand an education for their children. They're not going to go backwards," he continued.

Cook isn't naive to his age.

"At 73, you never know when a knee is going to go, or an organ for that matter," he said.

For the time being, he's scurrying around trying to lay as many foundations as possible.

#### Finally, Some Permanent Good

Recently, Cook made it back to Mexico to reunite with the boy he and his son met begging for food. But it wasn't an easy feat.

"I went to his neighborhood and had trouble getting anyone to talk to me," Cook said. "Finally, someone told me to go down a path to a ramshackle shack."

There was a man about Pedro's age in the yard, he recalled. The man said he had a brother named Pedro, but he had moved 1,000 miles away.

"The brother called him, but he remembered nothing of the event," Cook said. "That's when one of the man's kids looked at the [Cook's] photo and told his dad it was Uncle Angel, not Uncle Pedro." They called Angel who remembered every detail, he said.

Permanent Good

"He told me later he would never, as a street kid, give his right name," Cook said.

His real name is Angel Fararoni. He's a man now, and he has three young boys of his own.

"When I finally went to have this great reunion, I realized that his son, Kevin, wasn't speaking," Cook said.

Kevin was disabled.

The public school he attended didn't offer special education classes, so the foundation paid the fees required for Kevin to attend a special school.

The boy also needed a mouth operation to correct a birth defect so he could finally learn to speak, Cook said. The foundation paid for that as well.

"I was finally able to do some permanent good for him," Cook said, "all these years later." **C&C** 



Kevin Fararoni. Photos courtesy of Bill Cook.





## LET'S GET SOCIAL

## Join the conversation #LambdaChiAlpha







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Facebook.com/LambdaChi



@LambdaChilHQ



### GLOBETROTTING

Brother Manning and Wife Walk Across the World



Bob and Martha Manning hiking the network of trails along the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Photos courtesy of Robert Manning.

#### By: Taylor Grayson, Associate Director of Communications

As a boy, Robert Manning believed he would never see what lay west of his home state of Maryland.

Manning hailed from a remarkably rural part of the state, but when the time came to choose to attend college, he was ready. The young man possessed an adventurous spirit, and so the decision to attend Washington College was his start on the journey away from the comfortable life he knew.

Though physically he may not have been very far from home, Manning says he grew more as a person through his time in college than he ever thought possible, especially his membership in Lambda Chi Alpha.

"As a boy from rural Maryland, college was a revelation to me and Lambda Chi was a formative influence on my education," stated Manning.

Another book, the Mannings emphasize the accessibility of walking some of the world's greatest trails.

Manning's decision to join Lambda Chi opened many doors for him, mainly teaching him the value of learning about individuals from all walks of life. He started to realize that there was a whole world outside of Maryland, and he was eager to see it.

When Manning graduated in 1968, the United States was in the height of the Vietnam War, so Manning served his time in the Coast Guard. He spent the next three years on active duty and was stationed in San Fransisco. As Manning describes, it was an entirely new experience and further pushed him out of his comfort zone.

The real story, though, begins while Manning and his wife, Martha, were living in San Fransisco.

The couple lived in the city, but often



wanted to get away, so they started visiting Yosemite National Park. From there, a love of the natural world and a quest to walk across the world was born.

"The most intimate way to see and experience national parks is to walk through them," said Manning. "That's what my wife and I started doing, we started as novices and probably made every mistake, I'm sure, but we had a good time."

Over the last 20 years, Manning and Martha have developed their passion for seeing the world on foot. They have hiked over 60 long-distance trails across the world and show no signs of slowing down.

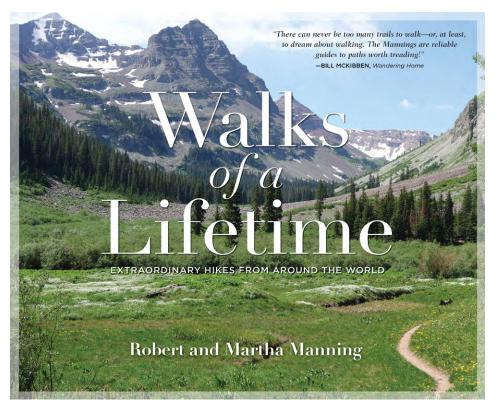
The first book by Robert and Martha Manning, the couple describes the immense benefits of walking.

One of the favorite trails the Mannings have traversed was the Long Trail, located in Vermont. Manning taught at the University of Vermont after his time in the Coast Guard for 40 years, so the trails around the area became old friends. After completing the Long Trail (about 275 miles from the Massachusetts border to Canada), Manning and Martha asked themselves what more could they do.

The Long Trail was just the beginning of their 20 years of adventures, going everywhere from the famed John Muir trail in California to the Coast to Coast Trail in England.

In between hikes, the Mannings have written two books about the thrill of hiking throughout the world. The books, Manning says, aim to demonstrate the many benefits of hiking.

"It's [hiking] just a much more genuine way to experience the world and appreciate it," stated Manning. "You see so much more on foot, and you can see not only the landscape, but you are walking through it, you hear it-you hear the birds and the animals calling-you smell it, you can even taste it in the local foods, so it's just such a rich way to experience the world."



The first book by Robert and Martha Manning, the couple describes the immense benefits of walking.

Manning and Martha have since been endorsed by the Sierra Club, Appalachian Mountain Club, and the American Hiking Society. They were also named "hiking ambassadors" by the American Hiking Society and present around the country about hiking.

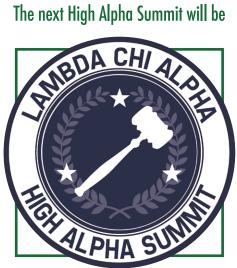
"When we go on these long-distance walks, it's an opportunity to get away from the hectic nature of our everyday lives and get back to something much more simple; it gives us an opportunity to talk and think about things that are much more important than everyday details of life," said Manning.

Manning has come a long way from the rural boy in Maryland who had never traveled west of the state before college. Today, he is living his dream of exploring the world on foot, enjoying every mile along the way.

IT'S [HIKING] JUST
A MUCH MORE GENUINE WAY TO
EXPERIENCE THE WORLD
AND APPRECIATE IT.



## 49% of participants reported BETTER BETTER BETTER STRENGTHS& OPPORTUNITIES TO BE AN EFFECTIVE



"PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN AND WORK IN SMALL GROUPS WITH BROTHERS FROM ALL OVER NORTH AMERICA."

January 4-7, 2018 in Indianapolis.

"I HAVE THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES I NEED TO MAKE EFFECTIVE CHANGES IN MY CHAPTER. ALL I NEED TO DO IS BELIEVE IN MYSELF." 47% of participants believed they had gained the **CONFIDENCE DECENSIONAL** TO GARNER NEEDED TO MAKE A **DIFFERENCE** IN THEIR CHAPTER OR COLONY



## FEELIN' PHILANTHROPIC





## **REFLECTIONS ON A CHAPTER CLOSING**

AN OPINION PIECE FROM GENERAL COUNSEL

I've recently had the unfortunate duty to visit one of our host institutions to announce the suspension of undergraduate operations at one of our Zetas. Any time this happens it's a sign of failure, both of the undergraduate members and of the alumni, but often of the university and of the General Fraternity as well. No chapter fails on its own. There are no winners.

In reflecting on this recent experience, I have some observations to share that are applicable not just to that chapter but to many of our other chapters as well.

#### Culture is passed down.

Men don't show up to college looking for an opportunity to haze or to call men "pledges" or to serially misbehave. When a chapter has a decades-long history of disciplinary issues, it's clear that these are learned behaviors passed down through generations of alumni. The culture of a chapter is developed over time. It's sometimes regarded as a Zeta's greatest point of pride, but it's often the Zeta's most dangerous liability and it's always the hardest thing to change. The undergraduate chapter can't do it alone - it's up to our alumni to set the tone. But be mindful that that tone is often what caused the problems in the first place.

#### A house is not a chapter.

Too many times the operations of a Zeta center around a physical structure - the house. The house becomes a proxy for the brotherhood, and the desire to maintain the house and to fill the beds becomes a liability rather than an asset. It's a fact that some of our strongest chapters don't have a house. They have nothing to fall back on other than brotherhood itself. When I'm told that a chapter won't succeed on a particular campus without a house, I wonder if the members fully appreciate what they're telling me about their bond with their brothers or their ability to attract men of quality seeking a larger fraternal experience.



We're an International Fraternity. No one is ever initiated into a Zeta. He's initiated by a Zeta into the Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity. Too many of our Zetas are insular in nature - scarcely regarding anyone as a brother who has been initiated by another Zeta, and deeply suspicious of anyone from the "outside." Those who have attended General Assemblies or Leadership Seminars or High Alpha Summits know the benefits of the new friendships and the sharing of ideas that those events offer. If you operate your Zeta as an island, you're missing out on much this Fraternity has to offer.



#### The General Fraternity isn't the problem.

The Indianapolis offices can go by many names: the General Fraternity, the International Headquarters, the Office of Administration. If you're still referring to it as "Nationals," you're demonstrating an ill-disguised contempt - both for the International Headquarters and for our Canadian brothers. The men and women who work for the General Fraternity work long hours for little other than their sense of duty to the Fraternity. They gain no gratification from disciplining chapters, and the Grand High Zeta gains nothing from suspending chapter operations. Use the resources of the General Fraternity as part of your solution - don't blame it for your problems.

#### This is the 21st Century.

If you still have to remind your alumni that a reference to Associate Members means "the pledges," your Zeta is stuck in a bygone era. We haven't had pledges since 1972. If you're still hazing, you're not only treating your future brothers like children and threatening their health and safety, but you're violating the laws of the Fraternity and probably those of your state and your university as well. The Greek world is stuck in a downward public relations spiral, largely of its own making. For Lambda Chi Alpha to succeed, we must differentiate ourselves from the rest of the industry and demonstrate that we're a values-based organization that takes leadership and character development seriously. We have to treat our men like men.

#### It's not about forgiveness, it's about accountability.

It's difficult to come up with excuses for bad behavior without sounding whiney and defensive. But that's what we often hear from both the undergrads and the alums when a chapter gets off the rails. On the other hand, there's something character-enhancing and even cathartic in confessing your faults, pledging sincerely to mend your ways, and accepting the consequences of bad choices. I often hear, "The kids made some mistakes." But these aren't kids and these aren't mistakes. These are bad choices made by young adults who should know better. We've all taken an oath to hold ourselves accountable. Don't make excuses - fix the problem.

#### A chapter suspension is only a bump in the road.

A chapter only represents the undergraduate operations of a Zeta. The Zeta continues in the form of its alumni members. This is why we never suspend a Zeta, we never revoke a charter, and we never reassign a Zeta designation. It's always the intention to re-establish undergraduate operations at a Zeta at the appropriate time and when conditions favor a successful effort. It's left to our alumni keep the flame of the brotherhood burning so the right climate exists when the time comes - usually after the passage of several years - for a re-colonization effort on that campus. The day after the suspension of chapter operations is a good time to start developing that climate.

Winston Churchill said, "Success is never final. Failure is never fatal." Our rituals teach us the lesson of hope and that death is followed by rebirth. The suspension of chapter operations can be viewed as the death of the Zeta or it can be viewed as an opportunity for rebirth - for renewed commitment to the ideals for which the Fraternity stands, which its ritual teaches, and which its emblems keep constantly before our eyes. **CSC** 

## OUR RITUALS TEACH US THE LESSON OF HOPE AND THAT DEATH IS FOLLOWED BY REBIRTH.



## SOME TOPICS COVERED... CAMPUS THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS IN LAMBDA CHI ALPHA **OVERVIEW FOR THE ADVISOR**

NXA

"For undergraduates, if they see an example that the alumni actually want to keep contributing to the fraternity and investing their time, I think that makes a huge difference to Alle Advisor's Color help them understand that it's not just about the four years you're in college or whatever time you are in Lambda Chi. It is for a lifetime, and it is about growing to become your personal best, and what that means with leadership throughout your entire life."

The Neville Advisor's College is Lambda Chi Alpha's premiere alumni advisor training conference for High Pis, Alumni Advisory Board members, Alumni Control Board

members, and House Corporation members. The **OVER** 

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curriculum will focus on harm reduction, legal issues, and issues around capital campaigns and alumni relations.

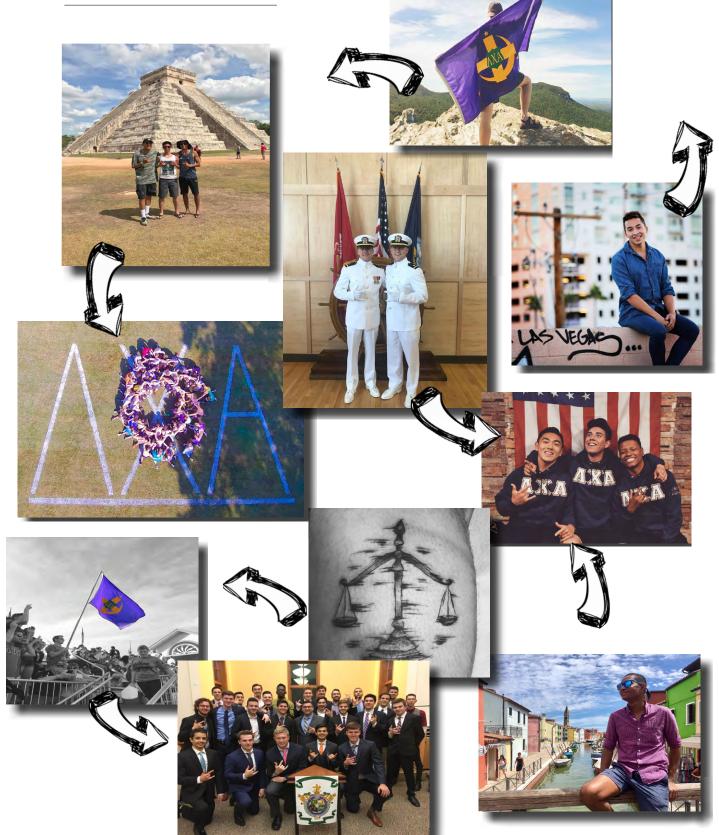
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## SOCIAL ROUNDUP





## 'YOU CAN HELP, SO WHY NOT?'

#### Troy Alumnus Dedicates His Life to Saving Kids Around the World

#### By: James Vaughn, Digital Content Specialist

If someone had asked Dr. William Novick what the most rewarding part of his job was a decade ago, the pediatric heart surgeon would have said the look on a parent's face when he tells them their child's surgery was successful.

But today, the greatest reward is having former patients send him pictures of their babies, he said.

Dr. Novick, medical director, founder and CEO of The William Novick Global Cardiac Alliance and an alumnus of the Sigma-Tau chapter of Lambda Chi at Troy University, has dedicated his life to helping children in underdeveloped countries around the world.

"Knowing that the children we've operated on are now having their own children, that really shows the level of success we've had with this program," he said.

When Dr. Novick started school at Troy in south Alabama, he was rushed by several different fraternities, he said. But a chance meeting with an older post-grad named Robert Cauthen, a University of Georgia alum, changed his path forever.

Cauthen told Dr. Novick all about Lambda Chi and introduced him to a former pledge at Birmingham Southern who was planning to transfer to Troy.

"The three of us got to talking and we had this idea of filing for a chapter (at Troy)," Dr. Novick said.

The Sigma-Tau chapter was founded by 14 original members, including Novick. Following his graduation from Troy, Dr. Novick headed to the University of Alabama – Birmingham where he earned a Master's degree in

biochemistry and a medical degree. He completed his general surgery residency at the Graduate Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania.

F. CEP

After six years in Philadelphia, Dr. Novick headed back to Alabama to work as a surgeon before spending two years as the only pediatric surgeon on a team of seven cardiothoracic surgeons at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Women and Children in Orlando, Fla.

That's when the University of Tennessee came calling.

"I wanted to pursue academics, and they wanted to develop an international program" Dr. Novick said.

He had just developed an international program in Orlando, so it was a good fit, he said.

"At the time, literally, this international concept had exploded," he said.





William Novick (center) performs surgery on a patient. Photos courtesy of William Novick.

In 1999, a wealthy woman from Philadelphia offered to endow a professorship at Tennessee, but only if Dr. Novick would receive it.

"In 2001, I went full time in providing the services outlined in the professorship, which were that I dedicate my life to service for others in countries that did not have reasonable pediatric heart surgery," he said.

He was also expected to pursue academics by writing, publishing and presenting, and build or improve heart surgery programs in developing and transitional countries.

The program sends teams around the world to operate on 500-800 kids every year, Dr. Novick said.

To fund that travel, he created two charities — the International Children's Heart Foundation from 1993 to 2014, and The William Novick Global Cardiac Alliance, which he founded in 2014. "I've been doing this for so long that my name and our two different groups have become synonymous with helping kids round the world with heart disease, so we'll receive requests," Dr. Novick said.

They aren't just flying in, doing the work and flying out. They're training the locals as well.

IT IS A BIG BROTHERHOOD, AND WE NEED TO THINK OF THE ENTIRE WORLD THAT WAY. "Our feeling is it's always great to operate on a kid and have them survive and make mom and dad and grandma and grandpa happy," he said. "But what about the next kid that's born? If we don't train the local team, what's going to happen when we walk away?"

Dr. Novick credits Lambda Chi as his inspiration for doing the work he does.

"One of the things that a fraternity teaches you is that we're all in the same boat together, and if you cannot help your fellow man in a time of need, then your purpose on earth is somewhat diminished," he said.

"It is a big brotherhood, and we need to think of the entire world that way.

No matter where that person is and no matter what the problem is, you can help, so why not?"



## GENTLEMAN'S CORNER: INTERVIEW TIPS & TRICKS

You've heard it a million times: how well you interview determines whether or not you get that job offer. But just how do you nail something most people see as one of the hardest feats in the professional world?

We compiled a list of 15 interview tips and threw in a few of the most common questions you'll probably hear during every interview. Interviewing is just the first step in your professional career, but equipped with the right tips and tricks, we're hoping you'll be unstoppable.

#### **1.** Do your research. Know the company or organization.

- **2.** Ask questions.
- **3.** Dress to impress.
- **4.** KEEP YOUR ANSWERS CONCISE. DON'T RAMBLE.
- **5.** Take multiple copies of your resume with you.
- **6.** ARRIVE 15 MINUTES EARLY.
- **7.** Give a firm handshake.
- **8.** Clean up your social media. Make sure it's appropriate.
- **9.** SHOW ENTHUSIASM.
- 10. Be authentic. Don't lie to get the job.
- **11.** Sit up straight. Body language is important.
- 12. Elaborate. Don't just repeat what's on your resume.
- 13. Tell them how getting the job would benefit them, not you.
- 14. Send a "Thank You" email after the interview. Follow up.
- 15. Write down the time and date of the interview so you don't forget.

67% of bosses say the most common non-verbal mistake a person makes during an interview is failure to make eye contact.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED Q'S**

- **1.** Tell me about yourself ...
- **2.** What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- **3.** What interested you about this job?
- **4.** What do you hope to gain from this job?

**5.** Tell me about a challenge or conflict you've faced in the workplace and how you dealt with it.

33% of bosses claim they know whether they're going to hire someone within the first 90 seconds of an interview.



## "IT'S OK TO BE DIFFERENT"

Drury University Brother Writes Book Series to Inspire Young Adults



Wilson during a book signing.

#### By: Taylor Grayson, Associate Director of Communications

The rain pelted Chris Wilson's face as he slowly trudged back to his dorm room from the studio. Pitch dark, the only sounds to be heard were the squelching of Wilson's shoes and the steady patter of the rain hitting the pavement.

The stormy night reflected the battle waging in Wilson's mind about his life's path: did he continue his journey down the road of architecture, one he knew he could not keep up, or reach for something else.

As Wilson continued walking, it slowly dawned on him that he had begun to dream in equations, and that was simply not him. He hurried into his dorm room, called his parents, and told them that he would take a new course in life, away from the world of architecture: he would earn an English degree with a writing emphasis.

Wilson now possessed a newfound sense of purpose. Following his graduation from Drury University (then Drury College), he went on to become the managing editor of a local Missouri newspaper. Following his time at the paper, Wilson went to work for an agency aiding individuals with disabilities. When the federal funding for the agency was cut, Wilson was faced with a decision about what he would do for the rest of his life.



Wilson and a chapter brother. Photos courtesy of Chris Wilson.



So, Wilson quit everything, went back to school, and received his teaching degree. He then knew that his calling in life was to give back to children through teaching. But something else which Wilson had wanted to do for quite some time was brimming just under the surface, as well.

I WANT TO TELL THE STORY OF PEOPLE WHOSE STORY USUALLY DOESN'T GET TOLD, FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE MARGINALIZED OR OVERLOOKED.

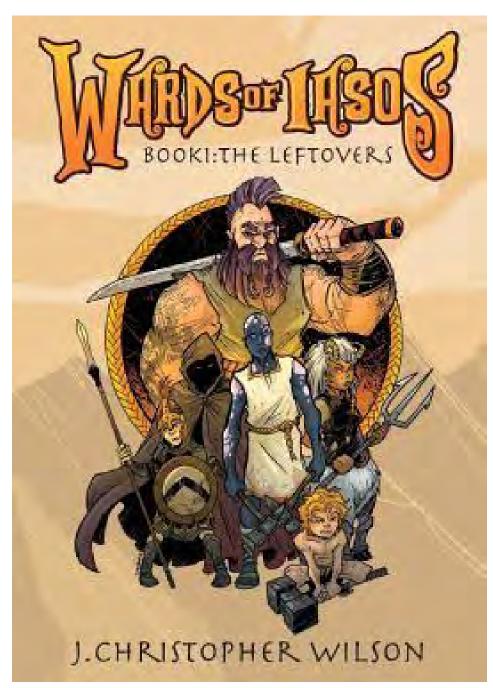
Before Wilson began his teaching career, he had written many academic books, but had never really thought about writing anything more. When a publisher came to Wilson, though, asking for names of illustrators for a different project, they got to talking. Soon, Wilson signed a contract to produce an illustrated book for young adults. The Wards of Iasos was born.

Wilson explains his series as one that he hopes speaks to kids who see themselves as outsiders. As Wilson explains, it's okay to not fit the mold of society, to be different. Many of Wilson's characters in the series could be considered outsiders, but with true hearts.

"I want to tell the story of people whose story usually doesn't get told, for people who are marginalized or overlooked," said Wilson.

Wilson hopes that by using his book (with Book Two on the way coming next fall), he can demonstrate to not only his students, but kids all across the country, that being "weird" is the new cool.

"I'm telling those kinds of stories be-



cause I work with those kids, and we need to tell more stories about people like that, and I think that's one thing that help make my book unique," said Wilson. "These kids [in the book], their families do not want them and they are troubled; they have made bad decisions, they have stolen, they have beat people up, they have refused to follow their families.

"Ultimately, it is a story about kids and teens who don't belong or are on the outskirts of society, but told in a fantasy world."

Wilson is currently working on the third book in The Wards of Iasos series, as well as another manuscript.

Through his books, Wilson hopes to continue to inspire young adults everywhere to see their quirks as something of wonder. **C&C** 



## WILD, WILD WEST

#### Cornell Chapter Alumnus is Living His Dream

By: James Vaughn, Digital Content Specialist



Drew Seery, a conservation educator at the San Diego Zoo, teaches a class of elementary school students about elephants.

When Drew Seery was in elementary school, he wrote a paper about what he wanted to be when he grew up. He had just watched a show on the Discovery Channel about the San Diego Zoo, he said, so he wrote that one day he would work there.

Now, 20 years later, he does.

And he's become the poster boy for conservation education at the zoo.

"I've wanted to do exactly what I'm doing since I was in the fourth grade," Seery said. "I always dreamed of working at the San Diego Zoo. I just never thought it would actually happen coming from New York." Seery was social chair of the Omicron Zeta chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha at Cornell University, where he studied natural resources. He went on to get his master's degree in elementary education at Manhattanville College, also in New York. He thought he'd pursue the more traditional classroom route.

"After graduation, I didn't really have a plan," he said.

A small nature center in Upstate New York was looking to hire an educator, so he applied for that and got it. He also did some marine conservation overseas in Fiji.

Then a young woman he had been in marching band with at Cornell sent him

the job listing for the position at the San Diego Zoo.

"I had never even been to California. It was so far away," Seery said. "But I was at a crossroads in my life. I wasn't tied down. My lease was up. So I thought if I'm going to do this, now's the time to do it."

Without expecting much, he applied for the job and to his surprise, landed it.

"I didn't know what to expect coming in," he said. "The first thing I remember realizing is this is not just a zoo, it's a conservation organization that happens to have a zoo."

It's one of the largest, most active zoo's



in the world with 100 acres of land and more than 650 species and subspecies.

"I get to hang out with animals all day and teach people who actually want to learn," he said. "But I love more than anything that every day is different. It keeps me on my toes."

As an educator, Seery reaches about 500 students every year. He leads private tours for celebrities and Make-A-Wish kids. He's also responsible for various educational programming in schools, at the zoo and around the world.

In fact, he just started writing his own curriculums. He's working on one for students in pre-K through second grade about baby elephants.

The zoo has included him in its annual magazine the past couple years. He believes he became the face of conservation education because he truly loves what he does.

"I have a special connection and bond with my students," he said. "I think they've kind of chosen my picture the past two years because I demonstrate what it means to be in environmental education. You can see the passion on my face."

His dream has gotten even bigger. Now, his goal is to be the director of education at a zoo.

"Right now, at this point in my life, there's no where I'd rather be than on the ground," he said. "But in the next 10 years or so, I'd like to progress into management and really shape an education department."

Seery credits Lambda Chi and being in a fraternity for helping him get to where he is today.

"Lambda Chi gave me a network of people who care. If you need something, there are always brothers in the field who can help you," he said. "Working with people as social chair started me on this path of dealing with the public

#### VE WANTED TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING SINCE I WAS IN THE FOURTH GRADE, I AI WAYS DREAMED OF WORKING AT THE SAN DIEGO 700. I JUST NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN COMING FROM NEW YORK

people."

His advice to undergrads and anyone who is chasing their dream is to put the work in first.

"Sure, you have your dream, but still take the opportunities that present themselves," Seery said. "You never want to hold back and say, 'Wait, I have to do this or do that first to get to where I want to be.' If something comes along that piques your interest, take it. You never know where it could lead you."

He jumped at the opportunity at the San

and trying to find the best ways to reach Diego Zoo even though it required him to move all the way across the country, and he's so glad he did, he said.

> "If I didn't have that courage to step out of my comfort zone, I would never be where I am today. A lot of people that I've talked to are just working a job. They're living for the weekends and vacations. Sure, they make a lot of money, but they hate what they do.

> But this — what I'm doing — it's not a job. It's a career. I look forward to coming to work every day because I feel like I'm making a difference and there's reallv no greater feeling in the world." C&C



Drew Seery, a conservation educator at the San Diego Zoo, feeds one of the zoo's giraffes. Photos courtesy of Drew Seery



