

CROSS & C&C CRESCENT

QUARTERLY ISSUE #1 - APRIL 2019

JED Announcement
PG. 5

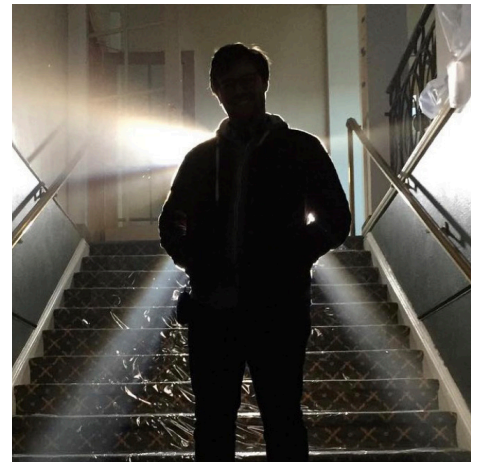
OK CITY
PG. 10-13

**PURE, HIGH, & EVER
GROWING**

PG. 18-21

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From the Editor.....	3
Lambda Chi Alpha Gets Social.....	4
JED Announcement.....	5
ASU: One Brother, Three Labs, Endless Innovation....	6-9
OK City: Dancing Through Life.....	10-13
NCIS: From Lambda Chi to the Silver Screen.....	14-16
Gentleman's Corner: Right Brain & How to Be Creative in Everyday Life & the Benefits.....	17
Pure, High & Ever Growing: A Lifetime of Service, Brotherhood, and the Arts	18-21
Geico Ad.....	22
Stead Leadership Seminar Facts.....	23



staff list

Managing Editor:
Tad Lichtenauer

Editor:
Taylor Grayson

Assistant Editor:
Ian McFarland
Jaren Wilt

Layout & Design:
Amanda Pittman
Ian McFarland

Cover Story Credits:
Set Design - Daniel Uhde
Props and Costumes - Danielle Buckel
Lighting - Michael Moffatt

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



It is with mixed emotions that I announce this as my last issue serving as editor of the Cross & Crescent. Through my time on staff at Lambda Chi Alpha, I have had the great fortune of meeting some of the most interesting and selfless people imaginable. Having the opportunity to be a small part of this fraternity through storytelling has meant the world to me.

And so, it is my great honor to introduce the spring 2019 issue of the magazine. As with the change and growth that comes with spring, so too must we change. This issue focuses on the personal development our members see in themselves, specifically through the arts and innovation. You will notice that each piece of this issue has an artistic element to it, leading to the cover story focusing on CEO Bill Farkas. Throughout his life and time serving as CEO, Farkas has held the arts in the highest regard and discusses his passion for it more in our exclusive story.

Please remember to keep checking cc.lambdachi.org for the latest updates on what is going on throughout all Lambda Chi Alpha chapters, as well as our social media channels.

If you have a story idea which you would like to submit, please email communications@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 communications@lambdachi.org or log on to LCAOne/Officer Portal and access the "Submit Chapter News" form to share their news with us.

As always, we would like to extend our thanks to members and friends of Lambda Chi Alpha alike for continuing to promote and support the best experience of any fraternity. Personally, I would like to thank everyone both on staff and throughout the fraternity for making these past two years ones to remember.

Thank you for reading!

All the best,
Taylor Grayson
Editor
Cross & Crescent



SOCIAL MEDIA

TAKE A PEEK AT WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@LAMBDAALPHAHQ

@LAMBDAALPHA

@LAMBDAALPHA



LAMBDA CHI ALPHA PARTNERS WITH THE JED FOUNDATION

jedfoundation.org

Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity is pleased to announce a partnership with The Jed Foundation (JED), a leading nonprofit that exists to protect emotional health and prevent suicide for our nation's teens and young adults. Together, they are launching Lambda Chi Alpha Lifeline, an online mental health resource center tailored from JED's ULifeline website.

ULifeline provides college students with information about emotional health issues and the specific resources available on their campus. It also offers a confidential mental health self-screening tool.

"Many college students will experience periods of emotional distress and mental health challenges, and among college students, it is less common for men to seek help when they are struggling," said John MacPhee, CEO of JED. "We are pleased to see an international fraternal organization like Lambda Chi Alpha supporting their members' wellbeing and empowering them to know when and how to help themselves and each other with resources like Lambda Chi Alpha Lifeline."

The average onset for many mental health conditions is the typical college age range of 18 to 24 years old. In fact, according to the National Institute of Mental Health, 75 percent of all individuals with an anxiety disorder will experience symptoms before age 22. Other students, who might not have clinical anxiety or depression, still suffer.

Lambda Chi Alpha staff is eager to promote the importance of mental health to our members, something that we believe is an important topic to discuss.

"The partnership with the JED Foundation is an excellent opportunity for the fraternity," said Lambda Chi Alpha Chief Operating Officer, Justin Fisher. "I believe their mission to protect the emotional health of and prevent suicide for young adults fits hand in hand with our mission to equip men to lead an ethical life of growth, service, and leadership."

"Our hope is that Lambda Chi Alpha, through the help of the JED Foundation, can be a safe space where our members will have the resources and skills to help themselves and each other."

Learn more about the Jed Foundation at www.jedfoundation.org

ASU:

One Brother, Three Labs, Endless Innovation

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



He did not want to join Greek Life, plain and simple. When Ajay Bezawada first stepped foot on Arizona State University's (ASU) campus, he, like so many others, had a negative view on fraternities and the whole Greek Life system. He chose to double major in biological science and neuroscience, so his time was scarce to begin with.

But then as he entered his sophomore year, Bezawada witnessed his core group of friends flourish within Lambda Chi Alpha.

"I saw these group of men, and I could see past their letters to who they truly were, and they were people I really saw as role models... and it really just drove me to want to be better, and these group of guys could push me to do things that I wouldn't be able to do on my own," said Bezawada.

Currently a junior, Bezawada has accomplished feats far beyond his years, all with the constant support of his brothers. What Bezawada is most proud of, though, is his time spent

between three very different labs.

The first lab where he conducts research works to further understand tissue regeneration. With the faculty lead, Bezawada spends hours upon hours conducting tests on fruit flies, of all creatures. As Bezawada explained, fruit flies only have three chromosomes, which are easily manipulated and have many genes which are applicable to humans.

With his research in this lab, Bezawada says the ultimate goal would be regenerating organs eventually. Until then, Bezawada continues to damage tissue to see how to manipulate it to regenerate.

In addition to tissue regeneration, Bezawada just began a second lab with a Nobel Prize-winning professor where they study sensory perception.

"Science research is so vast, but there is so little known about how our actual basic senses work," said Bezawada. "They are obviously the most integral parts of who we are."

Though the work becomes

challenging at times, Bezawada diligently pours himself into understanding peripheral vision and how it impacts our every day life. Because his work just started this semester with peripheral vision, Bezawada is still developing research ideas.

But Bezawada's biggest accomplishment, by far, remains his top-secret work in ASU's Luminosity Lab. Similar to Google's innovation lab, Bezawada's work revolves around pushing forward health care and artificial intelligence, to name a few things. The lab is purely student run, helping fuel his ability to create and revolutionize ideas. As a pre-med student, Bezawada realizes that his career will soon revolve around the application of skills, more so than the memorization of facts.

"Something that I think is very vital to becoming not even just a good doctor, but progressing science has to be research, because research is where every new discovery is essentially made," said Bezawada.



Bezawada says that he has surrounded himself with the best people possible for his success in the lab and after, and those are his Lambda Chi brothers.
Photo courtesy of Bezawada.

// It's not that I
need to be the
one person who
is the face of
change...

With all that Bezawada has accomplished, he admits, with a laugh, that sometimes it is hard to believe how far he has come.

"Looking back, if I told my freshman-year self I could have done all this, I would not have bought it," said Bezawada. "But I believe in the saying, 'If you want to do something, you will find time to do it.'"

Though his days are consumed with various research and preparation for

becoming the best doctor he can be, Bezawada continues to fall back on the support system of Lambda Chi Alpha.

"I grew tremendously the first year in the fraternity, just learning more about myself and really starting to form this bond with people who I could have throughout all times," said Bezawada. "Once I got past the moral development, the personal development, and the time management, which I thought was

all crucial, from there on it has been about support."

As Bezawada moves into the final phases of his undergraduate life, he is eager to stay connected with the fraternity, but more so, start a lifetime of service.

"It's not that I need to be the one person who is the face of change, but I want to be someone who can inspire 100 other people to make their own change." **C&C**

but I want to be
someone who can
inspire 100 other
people to make their
own change. //

OK CITY:

Dancing Through Life

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



Growing up in a creative household, Nick Drago always knew his heart belonged in the world of show business. His mother was an author, his father an abstract painter, and there was never an instance where they did not encourage him to try new things.

Drago recalls growing up with an affinity for sport and physical activity, but soon found his love for dance at a young age. At the time, dancing for males was still in its infancy, and Drago remembers more often than not being made fun of for his choices. But with the constant support from his parents and an undeniable talent, Drago persisted in dance.

As he matured, so too did his scope of dance. Drago studied everything from ballet to tap. At the age of 18, Drago landed his first job as a dancer in Los Angeles and secured an agent. He knew this was the life that was meant for him, and so the college search began to continue to hone his skills.

Drago and his parents looked at several schools close to their Houston home, but when they found Oklahoma City University, it was everything Drago had been searching for. The dance program offered a balanced mix of styles and techniques that would effectively prepare Drago to return to Los Angeles following graduation.

What Drago also found at Oklahoma City University which he did not even realize he was missing was the brotherhood of Lambda Chi Alpha. Now, more than a decade removed from his undergraduate days, Drago is adamant that Lambda Chi has been and still is a guiding force in his life.

"The support system from Lambda Chi Alpha has 100 percent helped me get to where I am today," said Drago. "When I became an Associate, they told us these were going to be our brothers: these are going to be the guys that stand up with you at your wedding, these are going to be the guys with you at funerals of loved ones.

"Being an only child, I took that to heart."

Drago is as passionate as one can be about Lambda Chi, saying that this brotherhood has helped him achieve his dreams of performing in Los Angeles and gave him a band of brothers he cherishes.

"I think Lambda Chi really set me up to be the man I am today," said Drago. "That has been a long journey to get there, but the fraternity itself allowed me to start building those blocks."

Following college, Drago moved back to Los Angeles and has been there ever since. As a dancer, Drago has worked with big names such as Rhianna, Jason Siegel, Neil Patrick Harris, and Emma Stone. He has worked on such shows as *How I Met Your Mother* and *Goliath* on Amazon, as well as movies such as *La La Land* and *The Muppets*.

When Drago is not on a job, he and his business partner are maintaining



Drago performed in *La La Land* in the now famous opening dance number on the L.A. freeway. Photo courtesy of Nick Drago.

// I think Lambda
Chi really set me
up to be the man I
am today...

their dance workshop, Flow 40 Dance. An education-based business, the trained group of professionals travel the country to teach at local dance studios.

Drago says the hardest part of his line of work is the unknown. One day there could be nothing, and then the

next day on a set somewhere. But what makes each week frightening by not knowing what may happen is also the thrill of Drago's job.

"The hardest part is the intangibles, and the most exciting part is also the intangibles," said Drago.

Through the years, Drago has made a name for himself in the dancing community in Los Angeles, something he always dreamed about. He will always remember where he started, though, and the organization near and dear to his heart that has seen him through all of his ups and downs.

C&C

That has been a long
journey to get there,
but the fraternity itself
allowed me to start
building those blocks. //

NCIS:

From Lambda Chi to the Silver Screen

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



Cameron Dupuy knows crime, in fact he knows it so well, he could script an entire television episode about it. NCIS: New Orleans episodes to be precise.

During his time at the University of New Orleans, Dupuy was captivated by film and television, which he soon made his major. While completing his undergraduate degree, Dupuy secured himself a once-in-a-lifetime internship with NCIS: New Orleans.

Dupuy worked hard throughout the internship, and when it came time for his graduation, Dupuy was asked to stay as a script coordinator for the show.

Now, in his current role, Dupuy rubs elbows with some of the most seasoned television writers on the market. Each day, it is up to Dupuy to work in the writer's room and serve as the last line of defense before the script and story documents see the light of day. Dupuy then proofreads the documents and gives his notes to the writers.

What Dupuy enjoys the most and finds most exciting about his position is keeping the continuity of the show and making sure everything is legally correct. This means that Dupuy has the pleasure of providing many of the names on the show. He has even worked the names of several brothers into episodes.

While his role as script coordinator keeps him on his toes each day, it is Dupuy's ultimate goal to become a writer. Recently, he had the opportunity to co-write an episode for the show, an opportunity he says was the highlight of his career, so far.

"Personally, I learned so much about how a TV show works and the mechanics of how they are written, and how to write a good one, so that has been a great experience for learning," said Dupuy.

The episode which Dupuy cowrote will air at the end of February and took about two months in all for it to come to life. After pitching the idea and writing the first draft (over

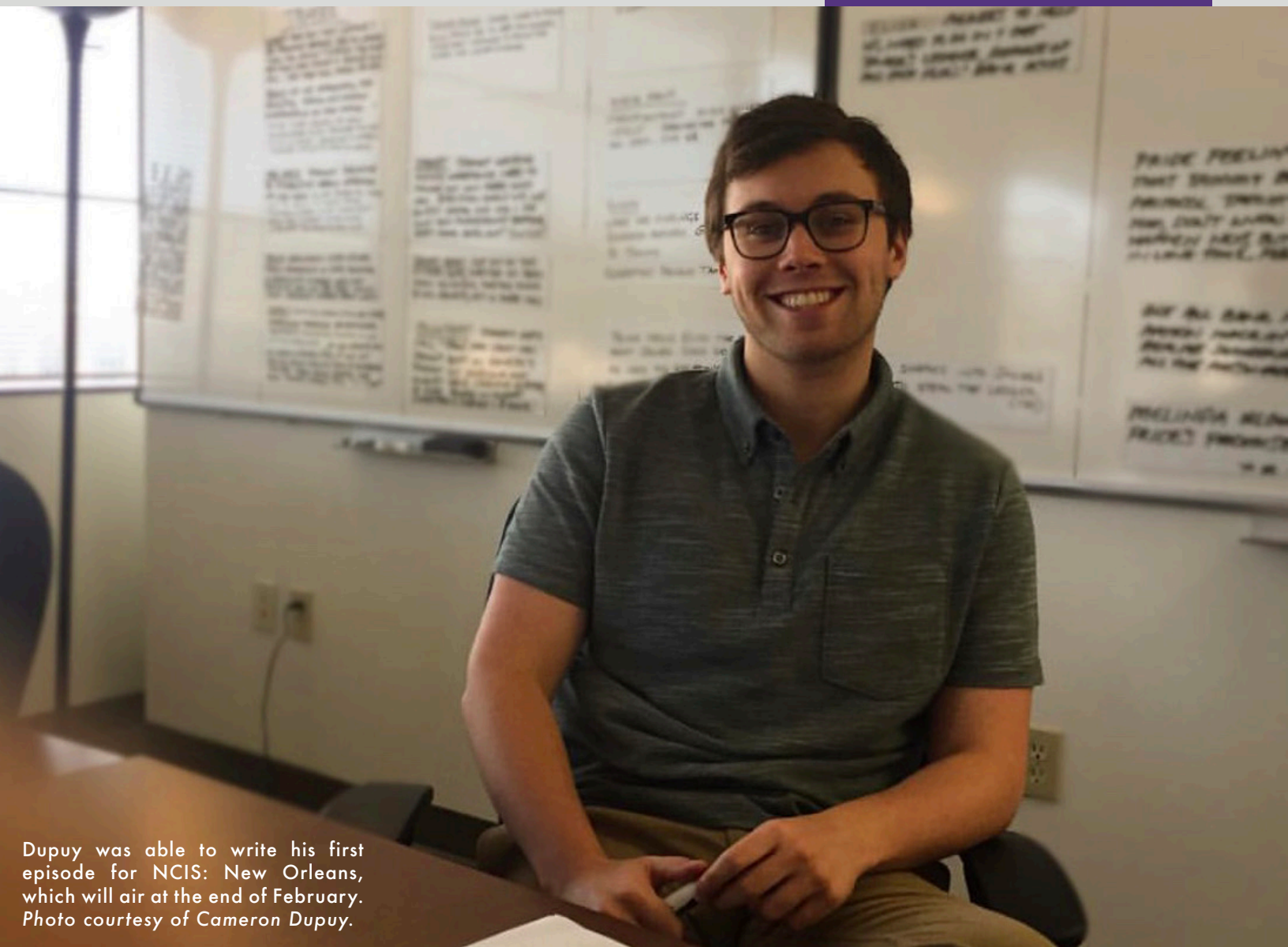
60 pages written in about 10 days), Dupuy and his writing partner were able to help visualize what the episode and costumes would look like.

In addition to a great writing opportunity, Dupuy says the lessons he learned about deadlines and working with a plan in mind have been invaluable.

"It's amazing what you can get done when you're told you only have 10 days to do it," said Dupuy, laughing. "I would never think I would be able to write a script in 10 days, but here I am."

Dupuy credits much of what he learned about collaboration and communicating effectively with others to his days in Lambda Chi Alpha.

"It [Lambda Chi Alpha] had a huge effect on me in general, it was a really meaningful part of my life," said Dupuy. "I think the two things I've carried forward with me are leadership qualities and how to talk to people efficiently."



Dupuy was able to write his first episode for NCIS: New Orleans, which will air at the end of February. Photo courtesy of Cameron Dupuy.

// I think the two things I've carried forward with me are leadership qualities and how to talk to people efficiently. //

Such a large part of television writing, according to Dupuy, is pitching an idea and being able to clearly articulate that idea, something he says he learned from talking to brothers from all walks of life in the fraternity.

While Dupuy is just at the beginning stages of his career, he has already had meaningful experiences which he hopes will carry him forward in his dream of becoming a full-fledged writer. **C&C**

GENTLEMAN'S CORNER

RIGHT BRAIN

& HOW TO BE CREATIVE IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND THE BENEFITS

If you would split the brain right down the middle into two symmetrical, or equal parts, you would have a right and left hemisphere. Although equal in size, these two sides are not the same, and do not carry out the same functions.

The left side of the brain is responsible for controlling the right side of the body. It also performs tasks that have to do with logic, such as in science and mathematics. On the other hand, the right hemisphere coordinates the left side of the body, and performs tasks that have to do with creativity and the arts. Both hemispheres are connected by the corpus callosum and serve the body in different ways .

FROM BRAINMADESIMPLE.COM

RIGHT BRAIN TIPS



1. Sleep is **crucial** for creative thought.



2. Creative people **live longer**. A lot of this has to deal with **how creative people deal with stress**. (Seeing it as a challenge and something exciting, rather than a barrier).



3. **Positivity can boost creativity** - brings out the most creative energy!



4. Being part of **multiple social groups** can be good for creative energy, getting new ideas from different sources.



5. **Exercise** helps boost creative thought.



6. **Seperate work from creative thinking** - (i.e. if trying to write, don't do research and the writing together, they are two very different forms of thinking).

PURE, HIGH, & EVER GROWING:

A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, BROTHERHOOD, AND THE ARTS

AS CEO BILL FARKAS LOOKS AHEAD TO RETIREMENT AND THE NEXT STEPS, WE LOOK BACK ON HIS SERVICE TO THE FRATERNITY THROUGH HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARTS

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



Farkas is firm believer that the same issues that face the fraternity are the same that are discussed through the arts.

A tear rolled down Bill Farkas's face. It was the kind of cry that was unexpected. But there he was, nonetheless, sitting in the audience at a production of *The Lion King* on Broadway experiencing the kind of sobs that wrack your body.

He did not want to attend the production, but at the request of a friend, he found himself waiting for the curtain to open to reveal the elaborate animal costumes coming forward.

What Farkas was unprepared for was the raw emotion the opening notes of "Circle of Life" would bring out of him.

But as Farkas puts it, that is the power of the arts: a few notes from an orchestra can elicit a response never before imagined.

Now, as Farkas prepares for retirement as Chief Executive Officer of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, he looks to the next chapter of his life

and reflects on his passion for the arts.

What is now a way of life for Farkas began with his mother. As a young girl, her father would take her to Chicago to experience Broadway and the soulful exchange between the jazz musicians on the scene. The magic of theater and music continued throughout her life and was soon passed down to Farkas and his siblings



Throughout his career, Farkas has created a welcoming atmosphere for every member and alumnus he interacts with.

Farkas fondly recalls Sunday afternoons after church spent exploring the Indianapolis Museum of Art with his mother and the evenings spent with the symphony orchestra (much to his brothers' dismay). And so, the love affair with the arts began.

The love his mother had instilled in him guided Farkas's decision to pursue a fine arts major with a focus on radio and television at Butler University. The best part of the program, Farkas says, was the opportunity to expand his world view when it came to the arts. As part of his degree, all fine arts majors were required to attend fellow students' recitals or other concerts.

While it might have been a requirement, Farkas could feel that appreciation growing with each new

experience. He knew he wanted to explore every possible facet he could.

So, when the film crew of *Hoosiers* came to Butler's campus in 1986, Farkas wanted to be involved. The night the final game sequence was shot was one of the coldest Indianapolis had seen, affecting the crowd numbers at Hinkle Fieldhouse. Only about 3000 people actually attended, so the film crew had to continuously move those people around. It was nothing like Farkas had ever seen before, and he wanted to dive in further.

"There are so many things that I like about the arts, and that has grown from my childhood," said Farkas. "Music speaks to me; I have no musical talent whatsoever, I can't read

music, but I greatly appreciate it live."

Now as an adult, Farkas takes his love of the arts with him as he travels the country for Lambda Chi Alpha. Through his time as CEO, Farkas has had the pleasure of meeting brothers from all sides of the arts industry and see how Lambda Chi Alpha played into their inspirations.

Through his constant love and support of the arts, Farkas has not only been inspired by these brothers, but also had his hand in inspiring those around him. This can be said of current Special Assistant to the CEO at Lambda Chi Alpha International Headquarters, Brandan Bonds.

When Bonds first met Farkas, he was immediately impressed by the way

in which Farkas carried himself and the respective manner in which he interacted with everyone. So, when Bonds had the opportunity to work directly with Farkas, he jumped.

Now, through the strong connection the pair have formed, Bonds considers Farkas a father-figure to him and experienced some of the most meaningful conversations of his life with him, including the arts.

"The reason Bill's passion for the arts is so inspiring to me is that it teaches you to look at different things and different people from multiple viewpoints," said Bonds. "You go to see a play and these characters have their own story lines, and when you apply that to real life, you look at IHQ for instance, and we all come from different walks of life, and we each have our own story.

"While we might not be able to live each other's stories, we can talk to each other and understand what impacts our plotline, and that is his [Farkas] viewpoint."

With that viewpoint, the arts and the goals of the fraternity become intertwined in Farkas's mind.

"The issues that are being addressed in the arts are issues that are facing us and how do we deal with that," said Farkas.

Many of the same issues faced in the brotherhood are those that grace the cinema and stage each day. It is through those performances that we are able to question what we know and discuss new ideas presented to us.

"Really good theatre is when you have that discussion that follows two hours later, or at the breakfast table or even two years from now," said Farkas. "So, it can be escapism, but it can also be enlightening about a range of topics."

Farkas is a firm believer in a performance transporting you to places you never would have



Farkas donates much of his time and efforts to the Phoenix Theatre to support local Indianapolis arts.

dreamed of before.

One such theater experience Farkas recalls began in a theater in New York City above a subway station. The rattling of the train made for interesting background noise, but as soon as the performance featuring five people in an Irish pub, each telling a more terrifying ghost story, began, he was lost in the stories.

"Each of these stories was so well-written and then so well-acted, that by the final one (mind you, I'm in a crowded theater with other people and a subway going on, knowing these are actors), the story is so scary that the actual hair on the back of my neck is standing up," said Farkas. "And I'm thinking to myself, 'how cool is this'."

Through all of these accumulated experiences, Farkas knows that now more than ever, the arts need to be present in the world.

"Arts are needed more than ever, not dissimilar from the fraternity," said Farkas. "If we are going to address some of these topics, the arts can get

us there or if we need an escape from the daily grind."

Part of Farkas's mission the past 14 years has been to address the hard issues. Through the long partnership with the local Phoenix Theatre in Indianapolis, Farkas is able to, in the form of theater, help Lambda Chi men understand these issues.

"Sometimes those 70-seat black box theaters are where some of the best performances and most thought-provoking performances take place," said Farkas.

Lambda Chi Alpha as an organization has partnered with the Phoenix Theatre to support shows which broach the tough topics, such as race, sexual assault, and drug abuse. To continue providing these unique opportunities, Farkas does all in his power to make sure these stories have a place to be told.

Recently, the Phoenix Theatre moved locations to a larger space where more shows and experiences can be shared. Farkas had a large part to play in this move, aiding the theatre in

their mission.

"I had the pleasure of working with Bill on the board of the Phoenix Theatre, where he was my immediate predecessor as board president," said Frank Basile, former board president of the Phoenix Theatre. "We encountered a couple of serious issues during that time, and Bill partnered with me to successfully deal with those issues.

"Thanks to his strong guidance and unwavering support, I will be forever grateful."

In an ever-changing world where not much is certain, art reminds us that there is always room to grow and keep questioning the ideas we encounter.

"I think it is part of being a Lambda Chi that we are challenged when we look to the cross & crescent- pure, high, and ever-growing, and I think that the arts can help us, whether it be challenging or not," said Farkas.

And so, as Farkas's time at Lambda Chi Alpha comes to a close, he challenges brothers to elevate themselves as beacons of light in their

communities and continue to search for answers through the help of the arts. C&C



The costume is arguably one of the most crucial parts of the theatre experience, as it tells its own story.



Each costume is carefully constructed and planned for the ultimate theatre experience.

WE'RE IN THE BUSINESS OF SAVING YOU MORE.

Lambda Chi Alpha members could save
even more with a special discount.



GEICO[®]
MEMBER DISCOUNT

geico.com/MyDiscount

1-800-368-2734

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. GEICO contracts with various membership entities and other organizations, but these entities do not underwrite the offered insurance products. Discount amount varies in some states. One group discount applicable per policy. Coverage is individual. In New York a premium reduction may be available. GEICO may not be involved in a formal relationship with each organization; however, you still may qualify for a special discount based on your membership, employment or affiliation with those organizations. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2019. © 2019 GEICO



STEAD

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR 2019

You will gain the knowledge and have the resources to become a better leader and will obtain a richer fraternal experience. You'll have the opportunity to meet and work side-by-side with Brothers from all over the world. Stead Leadership Seminar is an opportunity of a lifetime. Each seminar will give brothers memories and experiences that will suit them well in life.

University of Denver & Washington University in St. Louis

August 1st - August 4th, 2019



LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

A LIFETIME OF TRUE BROTHERHOOD

11711 N. PENNSYLVANIA ST.
STE 250
CARMEL, IN 46032

(317) 872-8000 | lambdachi.org
Headquarters@lambdachi.org



Λ
LAMBDA CHI ALPHA
PUBLICATION