

# The Campaign for Omicron Zeta



*Restoring & Renewing Our Home  
at 125 Edgemoor Lane*



Cornell University



ISWZA  
FRATERNITY



Lambda Chi Alpha  
FRATERNITY, EST. 1909

# “A Place to Hang Up Our Hats”



**Ernst J. C. Fischer**  
*Grand High Alpha*  
Omicron-34

May 7, 1921

“Is there a member of Omicron, who would consider himself a good Cornellian... and had appeals to come back from time to time to visit the University, who would do so with as much desire if it were not for the fact that he had **a home to go to?**”

... We want to see that the fellows now and in the time to come, to enjoy that which we did not have, and finally to have a place that always means a place to hang up our hats, get out our old pipes and be boys once more.”

# Our Purpose

Close to a century since “Fisch” wrote that letter, we join together to not only ensure that all Omicron alumni will “have a place to hang up our hats” for years to come, but to provide a safe, impressive, and welcoming home for future Lambda Chis.

That is the purpose of the Campaign for Omicron Zeta:

*ensuring the success of  
Lambda Chi Alpha at Cornell  
for the next Century.*



*Opposite: A warm welcome in winter. Photo by Zack Schildhorn '07 O-1659.*

*Clockwise from top right: 1. The gazebo overlooking Cascadilla Gorge, from the College Avenue bridge. 2. The dining room at a recent Homecoming barbecue. 3. The Dormer Gym, occupying the old third floor dorm. 4. A recent ISWZA meeting in the Chapter Room. 5. The Ronald K. Bartholomay Library. Photos by Jason Cho '98 O-1512.*



# Our Brotherhood

## Leaders on the Hill



Lambda Chis, both undergraduate and alumni, are actively involved on campus at many levels. We are fully engaged with the University and President Skorton in transforming the rush and new member education process on campus.

### A Proud History

Lambda Chi Alpha got its start in an era when fraternities were mostly restricted to wealthy legacies. But the bonds of Mug and Jug weren't based on background or famous names, but on basic, honest friendship. It was Omicron Zeta who pushed the national fraternity to drop its restrictive membership clauses, and it was Lambda Chi Alpha who eliminated abusive pledging long before hazing was in the national spotlight.

Since President Skorton's vow to "end pledging as we know it," the Fraternity and Sorority Advisory Council has implemented a new member education program, but we are ahead of the curve—this program is based in part on the Lambda Chi Alpha associate member program already in practice.



**Stephen B. Ashley '62**  
Omicron-913

*Cornell University Trustee*

*Honorary Chair  
The Campaign for Omicron Zeta*



**Dr. Ralph V. Wilhelm '67**  
Omicron-995

*Chair, Fraternity & Sorority  
Advisory Council*

*AXA Grand High Zeta  
and Board of Councillors*



### A Thriving Chapter

Our undergraduate chapter continues to grow, putting the squeeze on accommodations at the house. But the quality of the chapter is as strong as ever. Lambda Chi Alpha's average GPA stands at 3.34, above the fraternity average of 3.29.

The chapter enjoys a good social position, and high visibility with many brothers serving on the boards of the IFC, The Cornell Tradition, and the Meinig Family Scholars among many sports teams, honor societies, and clubs. The intramural program is also strong, with a soccer championship in hand and a shot at the All-Sports Trophy for the first time since 1949.

The brothers bring their passion to the community, lending a hand to the Cornell Plantations, as well as the Ithaca community through the North American Food Drive. But what drives them is their bond with each other, and love for Lambda Chi.

*Top left: Delegation to the national centennial, 2009. Bottom left: Veterans at 614, August 1945. Above: Homecoming 2011.*

# The Campaign



*Campaign Committee members, from left: Co-Chair Doug Levens '92 O-1454, John Zelenka '03 O-1612, Co-Chair Ralph Wilhelm '67 O-995, Bob McKinless '48 O-612, Co-Chair Sandy Gilbert '62 O-933, Mo Jardaneh '09 O-1688, and Elliot Sloane, '74 O-1152.*

The need to renew our historic home is clear. The Campaign Executive Committee, appointed by ISWZA, has been laying the groundwork for several years to ensure a successful fund-raising campaign and house renovation—one which is estimated to cost **\$2.4 million**.

The Campaign Committee consulted with the undergrads on their needs, and toured recently renovated Cornell fraternity houses and met with their alumni. Greg McElroy, a professional fraternity fundraising consultant, was engaged to assist.

In 2011, the Edgemoor Leadership Foundation was created to fund education and leadership programs. ELF is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and can receive tax-deductible gifts.

With the assistance of McElroy & Associates, we successfully completed a feasibility study confirming that our goals were realistic. Cornell University approved this study, clearing the way for contributors to the Campaign for Omicron Zeta to receive credit toward university giving societies and class recognitions.

Philip B. Prigmore '69 O-1065, an Alfred-based architect specializing in historic preservation and design, has been an invaluable resource. His firm, JHL Tecture, was selected for PDM work.

Finally, the Campaign was formally announced on October 19, 2013 at the Omicron Zeta Centennial Celebration. The foundation is laid; now it is up to all of us to make our fraternity's dream home a reality.

## Edgemoor Leadership Foundation

### *Our 501(c)(3) foundation*

The Edgemoor Leadership Foundation (ELF) was created in the fall of 2011 to improve the education and leadership experiences and achievements of Omicron's undergraduate members. It also provides our alumni, parents, and friends a way to make IRS-approved 501(c)(3) **tax-deductible donations**.

ELF's funds can be used to help renovate the house and add top-notch educational space for study and research. ELF can fund learning events that could include outside experts, alumni, and internet-based courses, seminars and conferences. ELF can also provide scholarships and grants for books, tutors and trips to leadership training programs.

Campaign contributions to ELF are not mandatory; your personal tax situation (or desire to fund quality education) will dictate if ELF is your preferred way to donate to Omicron's future. ELF exists to serve the students and alums, lighting the way to a bright 21st century—a journey that is just now getting started.

Elliot Sloane '74 O-1152, President  
Jim Morrill '84 O-1298, Treasurer  
Doug Skalka '82 O-1273, Secretary

# Edgemoor: Our Home

Over a century ago there was a group, a rollicking band of inseparable friends. Outsiders called them Mug & Jug, a name they embraced. With graduation approaching, they wanted to see this same friendship continue at school and beyond, and they organized themselves as a fraternity. The master stein that provided an evening's beer would provide them a name as well: ISWZA, from the German drinking song whose lyrics adorned it, *Im Schwarzen Walfisch Zu Askalon*.

## **"Strengthen the Fraternal Bonds"**

From the start, the members of ISWZA sought to live together, sharing rooms for a year, then able to rent a whole house starting in 1909. Just a few years later, we bought a house of our own at 614 Stewart Avenue.

On October 11, 1913, ISWZA became Omicron Zeta, the twelfth chapter of the growing national fraternity Lambda Chi Alpha. We were the first chapter to own our own house and take our meals together, "a practice which cannot but help to strengthen the fraternal bonds and fellowship of the members" in the words of the national correspondent.

Omicron speedily outgrew that house, and in 1921 purchased a house at 125 Edgemoor Lane, which was being vacated by Phi Delta Theta. We have remained ever since. ISWZA adopted the name "Edgemoor" for the house in 2013.

It is the home we found in Ithaca, the base from which we set off into the world, and to which we return again. It is where we formed lifelong friendships, developed our social lives, and learned how to become leaders. It is where our little brothers now follow in our footsteps.

*This house is our legacy to future generations of Lambda Chi Alpha at Cornell.*

## **An Aging Facility**

But despite the efforts of alumni and undergraduates alike, a century of wear and tear is manifest. The house is woefully energy-inefficient. The electrical and plumbing are outdated and inadequate. Standards are rising, as they should, but incremental improvements are becoming more frequent and more costly with each passing year.



*Top: Founding Fathers of Omicron Zeta, October 1913*

*Middle: IFC Weekend, February 1969*

*Bottom: Happy Holidays from Lambda Chi, December 2013*

*Next page: Chapter Room and Mitchell Room, 1921 & 2011*



## Edgemoor in '21: One of Cornell's Finest Fraternity Lodges

The *Omicron Alumni News* deemed our "splendid new home" to be "one of the finest fraternity lodges" at Cornell.

The first floor is so arranged as to rank high from a utilitarian standpoint, but it also provides that which Omicron has long wanted, an adequate place in which to hold dances and other social entertainments.... The rooms are connected by broad arched doorways, so that the entire floor may be thrown open for dancing....

The dining-room presents a very home-like appearance with its dark woodwork, paneled ceiling, and cheery lights.... Dormitories, in which all of the men sleep, are on the second and third floors, in an addition built this summer directly over the dining-room.... This has given Omicron more space for studies, and makes possible the accommodation with ease of forty-five men.

## Edgemoor in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Time for Renewal

Our house is aging, with many outdated systems and ever-rising maintenance costs. But there are issues even more fundamental.

Based on focus groups with our current active brothers, and an in-depth survey of current and recent undergraduates, and alumni tours of other recently renovated fraternities on the Cornell campus, it is clearly evident that the ideal fraternity house for the 21<sup>st</sup> century is quite different from the one most of us remember from our days on The Hill.

Today's Cornell students have grown up differently, and want to live differently during their college years. Dormitory sleeping arrangements a long time ago became a thing of the past. Today's most desired features are comfortable suite-style living areas with upgraded technical and communications infrastructures where students both study and sleep.

Other desired features include large study rooms, like the Reading Room at Willard Straight Hall we remember; a well-equipped exercise room, to help the men stay fit during Ithaca's long winters; and a more flexible dining room and kitchen, providing more on-demand eating options to fit the on-the-go, all-hours lifestyle of today's students.

Many competing houses have already undergone multimillion-dollar renovations. In Collegetown, rows of new amenity-rich high-rise apartments have turned the streets into Manhattan-like canyons. And the University's residential colleges, offering every modern convenience, have expanded across the campus.

To keep our little brothers well-sheltered, to continue to attract the finest members, and to maintain our leadership position on campus, Lambda Chi Alpha needs to renew our historic home.



# Edgemoor's Future

Edgemoor is well into its second century, and it's been showing its age for many years. We want to bring it up-to-date— but without sacrificing its century-old charm and elegance. This calls for a committed response from our alumni brothers to ensure that AXA continues our leadership role on campus in our historic house. The Campaign Committee has approved a substantial restoration and expansion project which is estimated to cost \$2.4 million.

## Approved Critical Needs

### Infrastructure: Safety and Energy Efficiency

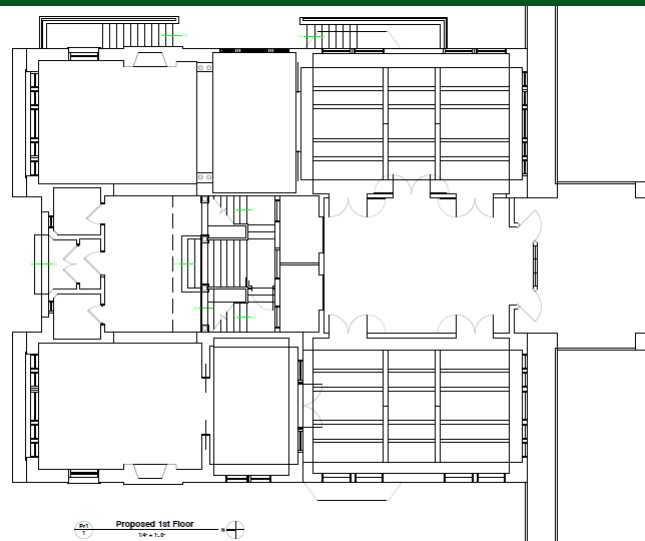
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|--|-----------|
| • Implement energy and thermal efficient design: build to LEED standards   | \$150,000 |
| • Replace utility systems and fixtures: mechanical, electrical and plumbing  | \$300,000 |
| • Upgrade and conceal sprinkler system, add whole-house security system and life-saving system   | \$150,000 |
| • Upgrade the communications systems: wireless Internet throughout the house, wired cable and Internet in each room and conferencing and projection systems for house meetings | \$ 25,000 |
| • Rehabilitation of kitchen service areas  | \$ 50,000 |



### Student Needs: Livability

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • Replace the original Grand Stairway                                | \$200,000 |
| • Build new study/tutoring room and Fitness Center above dining room | \$400,000 |
| • Rehabilitate existing study/sleeping rooms                         | \$450,000 |
| • Build new study/sleeping rooms                                     | \$150,000 |
| • Rehabilitate kitchen   | \$100,000 |
| • Rehabilitate the dining room and the rathskeller                   | \$250,000 |
| • Rehabilitate the Gazebo  | \$ 50,000 |
| • Landscape and illuminate the grounds                               | \$ 75,000 |
| • Improve the parking lot  | \$ 50,000 |

**Total Estimated Construction Costs:    \$2,400,000**



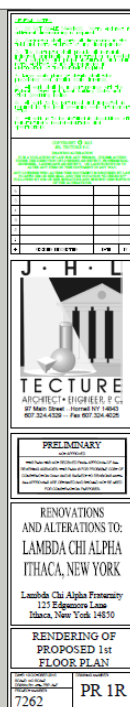
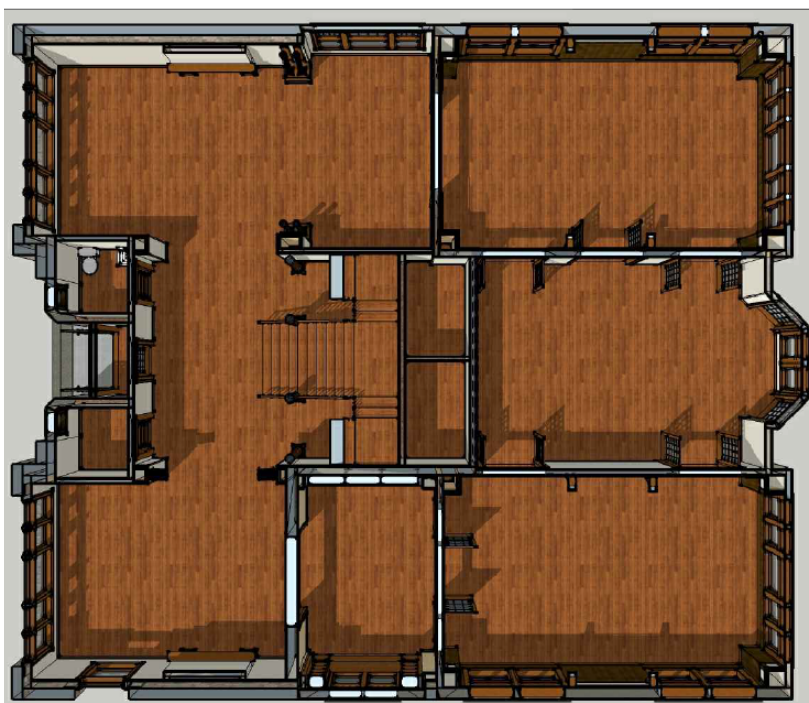
## Restoration of the Grand Staircase and First Floor Expansion

It is time to restore our entrance to the original elegance we see above. Modern technology, the addition of new fire stairs, and the presence of fire sprinklers will allow us to open up our encased stairwell and add a more dignified replacement. This will also expand the depth of the foyer, restoring the sight lines from the east wing to the west wing of the house.

Over the dining room, an expansion will add two new rooms: an **Electronic Learning Center** and a new reading

room behind the stairwell. The Electronic Learning Center, built to parallel the Chapter Room both in size and in style, will serve as an elegant student salon.

The **Reading Room's** two-story ceiling and tall windows will make it an airy study lounge. It will be connected to both wings of the house, allowing it to be used for overflow. To the rear of the house, doors will open onto a new patio overlooking Cascadilla Gorge, connected to fire stairs that exit to the rear of the property.



*Top left: The foyer ca. 1925*

*Top right: Proposed first floor plan. The front door (north) is to the left, the gorge to the right.*

*Left: 3-D rendering of the proposed first floor.*

# Edgemoor's Future *(cont'd)*



## New Rooms and Fitness Center

The new grand staircase will continue all the way up to the third floor. Construction of an expansion over the dining room will enable the addition of 4–6 new study/living rooms on the upper levels of the house.

The renovated house will include new heating, electrical, plumbing, and communications systems, making the house a more pleasant and usable place, with adequate electrical outlets, functional Internet access, and new bathrooms. Improved windows and insulation will make the house more efficient as well as more livable during Ithaca's winters.

To accommodate the staircase, the bathrooms will be relocated to their pre-1956 location in the east of the house. Adding a second bathroom on the third floor is also being considered.

In focus groups with undergraduates, the weight room was cited as very important to the brothers— as was its light, airy third floor location. The “Dormer Gym” currently occupies the space of the old third floor dorm, which of course was not designed for this use. To replace it, a new **Fitness Center** facility would be built on the third floor, allowing the conversion of the dorm to additional study/living rooms.

Two new fire stairs, one on each wing of the house, will add safety and utility for the residents, providing direct access to the rear of the property.



*Left: Artist's depiction of the new Electronic Learning Center to be built over the dining room, as seen from the Bartholomay Library.*

# Your Help Is Needed

Our classic home is a legacy to the many men who have committed themselves to making Lambda Chi a leader at Cornell. Great men are remembered on its walls. Names like Ernst J.C. Fischer, the Rev. "Doc" Dirghalli, and Bob McKinless are some of those honored for their outstanding service to Omicron Zeta. They are remembered along with the many brothers who sacrificed their lives in the World Wars.

Now there will be a new group of names joining these men, a new group who care enough to renew the dreams of their elders, who are rededicating ISWZA and Omicron Zeta for the next 100 years.



*Above: Proposed south elevation of 125 Edgemoor Lane.*

## Naming Opportunities

All gifts will be recognized, both large and small. For those who wish to make significant lifetime commitments of over \$50,000, there will be individualized naming opportunities to match those already in place. Other contributors will be recognized on shared plaques dedicated to the members of those giving societies.

Brothers can also combine to make class gifts to meet the minimum giving levels of a society and become a group member of that society entitled to recognition.

Naming opportunities exist for all capital improvements:

- ✓ The Reading Room
- The Electronic Learning Center
- ✓ The New Grand Stairway
- ✓ The Chapter Room
- The New Fitness Center
- The Gazebo
- The Bar
- ✓ The Kitchen
- The Gorge Walkway
- The Gorge Patio

✓ indicates an opportunity which has been claimed.

## Recognitions

Your pledge may be paid over up to five years. For annualized gifts paid to the campaign, you will be recognized at the traditional levels by both Cornell University and by our Campaign.

### Campaign Recognition Societies

**The ISWZA Society**  
\$100,000 and Higher

**The Omicron Society**  
\$50,000 to \$99,999

**The Edgemoor Society**  
\$25,000 to \$49,999

**The Cascadilla Society**  
\$10,000 to \$24,999

**The Lambda Chi Society**  
\$5,000 to \$9,999

**Purple, Green & Gold Society**  
\$1,000 to \$4,999

### Cornell University Recognition Circles

*(Annual Giving & Class Reunion Credit)*

**Presidents Circle**  
\$25,000 and more per year

**Dean's Circle**  
\$10,000 to \$24,999 per year

**Tower Club**  
\$5,000 to \$9,999 per year

**Quadrangle Club**  
\$1,000 to \$4,999 per year

**Charter Society**  
\$500 to \$999 per year

# Campaign Honor Roll

*We thank all who have committed to Lambda Chi Alpha by making a pledge. Those listed below have pledged \$1,000 or more to the campaign through February 2, 2014.*

## 1940s/1950s

**\$127,400**

Robert F. McKinless '48

A. Roderick Carlson '52

William D. Adams '55

James H. Quest '56

Robert Hurlbut (dec'd) '56

Henry G. Kammerer '57

Carl J. Igelbrink '59

Charles Y.B. Way '59

Hamlin "Sandy" Gilbert '62

John E. "Jack" Kempster '62

Lee J. Manning '62

Robert C. Miller '62

Chris N. Napjus '62

Lawrence E. O'Brien '62

Peter D. Saderholm '62

Robert M. Elliott '63

William G. Imig '63

Jay "Lee" Leonard '63

John R. Lutz '63

Thomas D. Miller '63

Richard E. Bertelson '64

John Hastings '64

James W. Hirsch '64

R. Wayne Mezitt '64

## 1960s

**\$790,800**

William T. Curtice '60

Bruce B. Veghte '60

James M. Blomquist '61

John A. Comstock '61

Robert A. Pezzulich, MD '61

John A. DeWitt '65

Alan R. Fridkin '65

James E. Loomis '65

Edward Thomas Shineman '65

David R. Landrey '66

Edward K. Lortz '66

Stephen B. Ashley '62

Robert W. Cutler, Jr. '62

Frank L. Sullivan, Jr. '67

Ralph V. Wilhelm, Jr. '67



James A. Bowman '69

Gary A. Gould '69

Warren C. Lem '69

Henry B. McNulty '69

Philip B. Prigmore '69

Alan B. Shineman '69

John D. Steed '69

## 1980s

**\$81,000**

Clifford M. Manko '80

Richard A. Meigs '80

William Stasiuk '80

Dwight Dietrich '81

Mark E. Fernau '82

John P. Servis '82

Douglas S. Skalka '82

James A. Morrill '84

John Tansey '84

Tracy "TJ" Flemings '85

Jonathan H. Grunzweig '85

Christopher DiNapoli '86

Leonard Bardfeld '87

William H. Casswell '89

Anonymous

## 1970s

**\$186,500**

Paul G. Funch '70

William L. Meli '70

Richard A. Albright '71

Gary W. Hedge '72

Joseph P. Willis, III '72

Randy L. Rosenberg '74

Elliot B. Sloane '74

Frank X. Sherman '76

James R. Sollecito '76

Andre P. Martecchini '78

Robert W. Shaw '78

Scott B. Jacobs '79



*Above: the summerhouse in summertime, 2010*

*Left: festivities in the bar, ca. 1947*

*Opposite top: the Hollengreen Room ca. 1925*

## 1990s

**\$123,800**

Thomas J. Bruno '90  
Dominic J. Delmolino '90

Kristian L. Billiar '91  
Steven W. DelRosso '91  
James M. Dumas '91  
Michael A. Karet '91  
Eric R. Schneider '91

Michael L. Agostin '92  
Thomas A. Boorady '92  
Aubrey E. Bout '92  
Douglas E. Levens '92  
Sambhav N. Sankar '92

Andrew I. Rosenberg '93  
Sanford C. Gordon '94  
Christopher I. Turner '94

Michael R. Filiatrault '95

Gregory C. Knight '96

Paul H. Cheong '98  
Jason J. Cho '98  
Thomas A. Lank '98

## 2000s

**\$156,800**

Andrew D. Osborn '00  
Christopher J. Tupino '00

Eric R. Langstedt '01

Jonathan D. Emanuele '03  
Joshua Strugatz '03  
John F. Zelenka '03

Amit Deshpande '05

David B. Cronheim '07  
Eugene Borukhov '07  
Daniel J. DiBernardo '07  
Steven M. Grossman '07  
Scott N. Jeffreys '07  
Kevin B. Page '07  
Lars V. Rudstam '07  
Zachary A. Schildhorn '07  
Michael C. Spinnicchia '07  
Matthew Williamson '07

Alex "Baba" Aidun '08  
Grayson D. Fahrner '08  
Christopher Gizzo '08  
Matthew H. Leighton '08  
Stanton Lenahan '08  
Peter J. O'Brien '08  
David Tse '08

Mohamad B. Jardaneh '09  
Nicholas Kinnis '09  
John Louros '09  
Wesam Saad '09  
Max A. Shapnik '09

Kyle Bailey '10  
Nelson A. Conde '10  
Robert Cronheim '10  
Konstantinos Elefter '10



Chris J. Hummel '10  
James K. Hunsberger '10  
Benjamin Kemper '10  
Joe Magdovitz '10  
Robert G. Peters '10  
Pelle Rudstam '10  
William "Bill" Smith '10  
Jonathan W. Winkler '10

Eric Bail '11  
Michael Breitsstein '11  
Brandon F. Brooks '11  
Gregg Fish '11  
Travis Lee Hartway '11  
Michael Lickstein '11  
Phillip O. Shapiro '11  
Lionel Sims '11  
Matthew J. Wicker '11

Nicholas J. Brunelle '12  
Kevin R. Cipolli '12  
John M. Grant '12  
Douglas R. Greer '12

Andrew Keating '12  
Christopher Morse '12  
Peter Nigro '12  
Brad Richards '12  
Benjamin A. Rutkin-Becker '12  
Matthew Ullman '12  
Conor Kennedy '12

James MacDonald '13  
William T. Morgan '13  
Brian Silver '13  
Adam Stein '13

## Other Gifts

Gregory McElroy (Friend)

*Below left: House serenade,  
1985*

*Below right: Flag football  
champions, 2012*



# Be a Part



A fraternity is more than just a group of friends— it is the sum of all those who came before us and all those who follow. Each of us had Lambda Chi to belong to thanks to the generosity, sacrifice, and hard work of the brothers before us. Now it is our turn.

Your pledge will provide a safer, better living environment and ensure that Lambda Chi Alpha continues to nurture and develop young men. We urge all brothers to make a thoughtful and sacrificial gift. Contact a co-chair today.

## The Campaign for Omicron Zeta

### Honorary Chairman

**Stephen B. Ashley '62 O-913**

### Co-Chairs

**Hamlin "Sandy" Gilbert '62 O-933**

sandem133@aol.com  
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**Ralph V. Wilhelm, Jr. '67 O-995**

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(317) 508-6866

### Committee Members

Robert F. "Bob" McKinless '48 O-612

James H. "Jim" Quest '56 O-792

Edward K. Lortz '66 O-970

Warren C. Lem '69 O-1041

Gary W. Hedge '72 O-1113

Elliot B. Sloane '74 O-1152

Scott B. Jacobs '79 O-1216

Richard A. Meigs '80 O-1230

James A. Morrill '84 O-1298

Eric R. Schneider '91 O-1427

Michael R. Filiatrault '95 O-1480

Jason J. Cho '98 O-1512

Jonathan D. Emanuele '03 O-1596

John F. "JZ" Zelenka '03 O-1612

David B. "Chip" Cronheim '07 O-1646

Alexander W. "Baba" Aidun '08 O-1682

William C. "Bill" Smith '10 O-1713

Greg McElroy  
*Coordinator*

Philip B. Prigmore '69 O-1065  
*Architect and Design Consultant*

The Campaign for Omicron Zeta

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[www.iswza.org/edgemoor](http://www.iswza.org/edgemoor)