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# Cross & Crescent

a Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity publication

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### ACTING ICON REMEMBERED



Best known for playing the recurring roles of storekeeper Mr. Jones on "Gunsmoke" and Rev. Robert Alden on "Little House on the Prairie," Dabbs Greer died on April 28, 2007. He was a character actor who performed many diverse supporting roles in film and television for more than 50 years.

By Tad Lichtenauer

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### VETERAN ACTOR SHINES



James Rebhorn is a character actor who has appeared in more than 100 TV shows, feature films, and plays. He is best known for portraying lawyers, politicians, doctors, and military men, and often plays the bad guy.

By Chris Barrick

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### FORMER WHITE HOUSE SPEECHWRITER



Michael Johns is a health care executive, former federal government official and conservative policy analyst and writer. In addition to his extensive private sector experience, Johns was a White House speechwriter to President George H. W. Bush.

By Tad Lichtenauer

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# Acting Icon Remembered

Best known for playing the recurring roles on “Gunsmoke” and “Little House on the Prairie,” Dabbs Greer died on April 28, 2007.

By Tad Lichtenauer (Butler 1987)

**ROBERT WILLIAM “DABBS” GREER**, died April 28, 2007, in Pasadena, California, after a battle with kidney and heart disease.

He was best known as a character actor who performed many diverse supporting roles, acting in nearly 100 movies and hundreds of TV show episodes.



## Greer (Drury

1938) was a very familiar face in films and especially on TV. He was a sort of “everyman” in his roles and played merchants, preachers, businessmen, and other “pillars of the community” types as well as assorted villains.

Most of his work was in supporting roles, but Greer told the Albany, New York, Times Union in 2000: “Every character actor, in their own little sphere, is the lead.”

## Raised in Missouri

Born in Fairview, Missouri, Greer was the only child of a pharmacist father and a speech therapist mother.

He began acting in children’s theater productions when he was eight years old and later attended Drury College in Springfield, Missouri, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in drama.

He joined Theta Kappa Nu while at Drury in 1938, which merged with Lambda Chi Alpha in 1939.



Willing to do whatever it took to survive as an actor, Greer has been playing small-town doctors, bankers, merchants, druggists, mayors and ministers since the 1950s.

After many years of bit parts, Greer began to receive more screen time in “House of Wax” in 1953, “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” in 1956, and later in “It! The Terror from Beyond Space.”

He also was recognizable to fans of “The Adventures of Superman,” as he appeared in three separate episodes on that show, including the series’ inaugural entry “Superman on Earth” in 1952.

He was the major guest star, as a man framed for capital murder in “Five Minutes to Doom” in 1954, and as an eccentric millionaire in “The Superman Silver Mine” in 1958.

## Best Known Roles

After building up his resume, Greer eventually received his most notable roles as the storekeeper Mr. Jones on “Gunsmoke” from 1955 to 1960, and as Rev. Robert Alden on “Little House on the Prairie” from 1974 to 1983.

Showing no signs of slowing down, Greer continued accepting roles in such films as “Two Moon Junction” in 1988, and “Pacific Heights” in 1990.

Often cast as a minister, he performed the marriages of Rob and Laura Petrie on “The Dick Van Dyke Show” and of Mike and Carol Brady on “The Brady Bunch,” and he played Rev. Henry Novotny in the hit CBS TV show “Picket Fences” in the 1990s.

In the 1958 film, “I Want to Live!,” he played the San Quentin captain who finished strapping down Barbara Graham in the gas chamber prior to her execution and was the last person to speak to her.

As a result of that role, he was cast years later in a similar role in the 1999 smash hit film “The Green Mile,” in which he played the elderly version of Tom Hanks’ Death Row Officer Paul Edgecomb.

Greer never married and had no survivors. ➡

# Chapter News

Chapter news, alumni news, and reports of death

## Arkansas (Gamma-Chi)

- ☞ Clyde C. Treece (1930) died February 1, 2003.

## Cal State-Northridge (Beta-Rho)

- ☞ Approximately 72 alumni, chapter members, and guests attended the White Rose Formal held on April 20, 2007, at the Monterey at Encino in Encino, California. During the event, Justin Bloomfield was awarded the High Alpha Award, **Spencer Schmerling (1991)** received the Alumnus of the Year Award, and Neil Sanchez was given the Outstanding Associate Member Award.



- ☞ **Michael Cooperman (1995)** was promoted to director of product development for JDPower.com. In his new role, his responsibilities include identifying new ways to drive increased traffic to the company's website.

**George Owens (1992)** accepted a position as the managing director of marketing for SCI Management, Inc. based in Houston, Texas.

## California-Davis (Delta-Gamma)

- ☞ Thomas Juillerat was selected first team for the 2007 All-Fraternity All-American Basketball Team.

**Rommel Marentez (2006)** was selected honorable mention for the 2007 All-Fraternity All-American Basketball Team.

## California-Santa Barbara (Zeta-Eta)

- ☞ Launched in 2002, **Ron Weber (1987)** owns SD Interactive, an interactive agency in San Diego, California, that specializes in growing a company's web business.

## Central Missouri State (Lambda-Pi)

- ☞ The chapter sponsored a Mud Volleyball Tournament on April 28, 2007. All proceeds went toward the chapter's goal of donating 10,000 cans to the North American Food Drive.

## Delaware (Lambda-Beta)

- ☞ The chapter is sponsoring the Athletics youth baseball team that plays in the Newark National Little League.

At the Student Leadership Awards, the chapter received the Outstanding Community Service Award for a food drive for the Emmaus House, a Homeward Bound facility that addresses homelessness.



## Denison (Gamma-Iota)

- ☞ The chapter received local news media recognition for its successful North American Food Drive and Adopt-A-Highway community service programs.

## East Tennessee State (Iota-Omicron)

- ☞ **Kenny Chesney (1990)** won his third consecutive entertainer of the year trophy at the 2007 Academy of Country Music Awards held on May 15, 2007, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## Elon (Delta-Pi)

- ☞ At the 2007 Greek Awards, the chapter received the Most Improved Chapter Award and the Greek Week Award, which is based on points accumulated for winning various competitions and community service activities.

## Florida (Epsilon-Mu)

- ☞ Chapter and alumni members dedicated the newly renovated Dirghalli Library and Conference Room in honor of Educational Foundation Board of Director **Rev. S. George Dirghalli (1950)**.

## Florida Tech (Beta-Nu)

- ☞ At a chapter Founders Day event on April 22, 2007, President **Gus Schutte (2001)**, Vice President **Jeff Benes (1975)**, Treasurer **Jon Shea (1998)**, and Secretary **Scott Pio (2007)** were elected to serve two-year terms as the new Alumni Association board of directors.

## Georgia Tech (Beta-Kappa)

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and retired furniture industry executive, **Fred Preddy (1959)** has authored “You Gotta Make It Happen,” a motivational book about how to tackle life’s challenges. All proceeds from the book will benefit The Crossnore School, founded in 1913 as a private, non-profit children’s home and school in the western North Carolina mountains.



## High Point (Iota-Phi)

The chapter hosted its annual Rock-A-Thon from March 23–25, 2007, at the Slane Student Center to benefit the Aicardi Syndrome Foundation. The chapter chose this cause in support of **Kevin Clement’s (1990)** daughter who is afflicted with the disease. The event included bands, games, T-shirts, cookouts, with a total of \$2,400 raised.



On April 17, 2007, High Point University officials held a dedication ceremony for the newly renovated baseball stadium named in honor of **Coy O. Williard Sr. (High Point 1930)**. **Coy Williard Jr. (North Carolina-Chapel Hill 1979)** attended the event and threw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to the scheduled baseball game. The elder Williard served as an adviser and sponsor to the Fraternity.

## Indiana (Alpha-Omicron)

**Jade Butcher (Indiana 1972)** was inducted into Indiana Football Hall of Fame. He was the star flanker on Indiana University’s 1968 Rose Bowl team. Named to the 1968 and 1969 All-Big Ten teams, and as an All-American in 1969, Butcher was drafted by the NFL’s Atlanta Falcons. He also was inducted into the Indiana University’s Hall of Fame in 1988.

## Iowa (Iota-Chi)

Father **George McDaniel (1964)** was named the chancellor of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, in addition to serving as parochial vicar at Holy Family parish. He previously worked for 33 years at St. Ambrose University.

## Kansas State (Gamma-Xi)

**Dexter Deeds (2008)** was named a College of Engineering ambassador.

## Kent State (Pi-Gamma)

The chapter held its annual Water Balloon Fight on April 19, 2007, with proceeds going to the Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Center. Although the event was a success, the chapter fell just short of its attempt to break the world record for the largest water balloon fight.

## Kentucky (Epsilon-Phi)

**Franklin Hecker (1948)** died.

## Maryland-College Park (Epsilon-Pi)

After eight years as the executive vice president of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, **Jon Williamson (1965)** announced his retirement effective August 1, 2007. He joined the NIC after a distinguished career with the Internal Revenue Service.

## Massachusetts (Gamma)

University of Louisville Coach **Rick Pitino (1974)** was named to the second team for the 2007 All-Fraternity All-American Basketball Team.

## Michigan State (Gamma-Omicron)

The chapter initiated 10 associate members on April 12, 2007, at the Freemason Lodge of Okemos in East Lansing, Michigan. Notable alumni in attendance included **Eric W. Novak (1995)** and Pastor **Mark Inglot (Michigan State HON)**.

## Michigan Tech (Phi-Phi)

Chapter members held public tours of its historic chapter house and donated money raised to the local chapter of Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. Built in 1899, the chapter house was formerly the historic Charleston Bed and Breakfast.

## Missouri-Columbia (Gamma-Kappa)

For the second year in a row, chapter members volunteered as poker dealers in a series of charity poker events to benefit the Rainbow House, an agency that offers temporary shelter for children in need, as well as other services.

## Murray State (Lambda-Eta)

**Jay Powell (2002)** was named the 16<sup>th</sup> Gulf Coast Community College men’s basketball coach. He previously served as the team’s assistant coach.

## New Mexico State (Zeta-Gamma)

Chapter members supported The Big Event, one of the largest community service projects at New Mexico State University, by volunteering at Haven Animal Inc.

### North Carolina State (Gamma-Upsilon)

■ **John T. Kanipe Jr. (1963)** was named senior consultant for the higher education executive search practice at Conway and Greenwood, Inc., a Raleigh, North Carolina-based executive search consulting firm specializing in retained search assignments to recruit senior-level executives.

### Northeastern State (Delta-Beta)

■ Former chapter President **Cody Brumley (2007)** was inducted into the Northeastern State University Hall of Fame as a result of his college achievements.

### Northern Colorado (Sigma-Omega)

■ The chapter repeated as intramural basketball champions.

### Northwestern (Alpha-Iota)

■ Chapter members and members of Delta Zeta sorority held a Watermelon Olympics on May 5, 2007, to raise money for Mary Lou's Place, a shelter for battered women and their children. The annual event and competition drew more than 100 participants from 25 teams.

### Oakland Area Alumni Association

■ Approximately 20 members attended an Oakland Area Alumni Association event on April 18, 2007, at the Blackhawk Grille in Danville, California. Notable attendees included **Merton Van Dreser (Iowa State 1951)**, **Charlie Frick (DePauw 1973)**, **Michael Colocado (Oregon State 1994)**, Associate Director of Alumni Relations **Josh Lodolo (California State-Northridge 2004)**, Educational Foundation President and CEO **Mark Bauer (California State-Fullerton 1979)**, and Executive Vice President Emeritus **George Spasyk (Michigan 1949)**.



### Ohio (Alpha-Omega)

■ **Mark Crouse (1991)**, senior director of merchandise-production for Live Nation, is in charge of the development, design and production of merchandise for all Live Nation motor sports events, including Monster Jam, Toyota Arenacross Series, Amp'd Mobile AMA Supercross Series, Knoll Gas IHRA Drag Racing, IFMA Freestyle Motocross, and the Dew Action Sports Tour.



### Oklahoma (Gamma-Rho)

■ The chapter won the following 2007 IFC Awards: Outstanding Community Involvement & Volunteerism, Outstanding

Chapter Programming, Outstanding Campus Involvement, Outstanding Academic Programming, Outstanding Alumni Programming, Outstanding Multi-Cultural Programming, and Outstanding Fraternity/Sorority Involvement.

**Eddie Coates (2008)** won the 2007 IFC Scholarship Award for Academic Achievement and Fraternal Involvement.

House Mom **Carol Roberts** was named 2007 IFC House Director of the Year.

### Parsons (Iota-Rho)

■ **William J. Nussbaum (1971)** died April 5, 2007. He spent 30 years working for the Ramsey, New Jersey Police Department and retired at the rank of lieutenant.

### Philadelphia Area Alumni Association

■ Area chapter and alumni members attended the Philadelphia 76ers professional basketball game on April 10, 2007. Chapters represented included University of Delaware, Millersville University, University of Pennsylvania, West Chester University, High Point University, University of Kentucky, and University of Jacksonville.



Notable alumnus in attendance was **Ralph von dem Hagen (Delaware 1966)**, one of the chapter founders at Delaware.

### Pittsburgh (Gamma-Epsilon)

■ At the 2007 Greek Awards, the chapter won Greek God, Greek Sing (with Delta Zeta sorority), Best Recruitment, and Fraternity Education awards.

### Pittsburg State (Lambda-Chi)

■ **Dave White (1972)** was elected to serve a four-year term on the Overland Park, Kansas City Council representing Ward 3. He also has been appointed to serve as vice chair of the city's Public Works Committee.



### Rose-Hulman (Theta-Kappa)

■ Former chapter President **Scott Decker (2007)** was named a Greek Leadership Awards winner for his efforts to reinvigorate the chapter and increase spirit among members and alumni.



Chapter members raised more than \$1,000 and ran 152 miles participating in the Run for the Kid's Sake, a 24-hour relay run that benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters.

### Sacramento Area Alumni Association

About 25 area alumni attended the Sacramento Area Alumni Association event held at the Sheraton Grand Downtown in Sacramento, California. Attendees included Educational Foundation Board Member **Mark Hoag** (Michigan State 1972), Associate Director of Alumni Relations **Josh Lodolo** (California State-Northridge 2004), Educational Foundation President and CEO **Mark Bauer** (California State-Fullerton 1979), and Executive Vice President Emeritus **George Spasyk** (Michigan 1949).

### Sam Houston State (Sigma-Mu)

**Charles W. Jones III** (1981) was promoted to East Coast production manager for Wachovia Dealer Services with responsibility for the Southeast, mid-states, Northeast, and Great Lake divisions. Previously, he served as the senior vice president mid-states division manager for Wachovia Dealer Services.

### San Diego (Zeta-Pi)

**Ryan Jetton** (2008) announced the chapter donated \$30,000 to the Center for Community Solutions. The funds will assist CCS in providing sexual assault prevention and intervention services.

### San Diego Area Alumni Association

About 70 area chapter and alumni members attended a Founders Day dinner on April 19, 2007, held at the Handlery Hotel in Mission Valley, California. The guest speaker was **Jeff Witous** (Cal Poly-San Louis Obispo 1983), vice chairman of the Educational Foundation Board of Directors. Each of the three area chapters gave reports highlighting their respective activities. Alumni also announced the Circle of 100, a new scholastic and Fraternity education scholarship program.

### San Francisco Area Alumni Association

Approximately 25 alumni attended the San Francisco Area Alumni Association event on April 19, 2007, held at Lake Merced Golf Club in Daly City, California. Hosted by Educational Foundation Board Member **Moe Cevallos** (Rensselaer Polytechnic 1967), event attendees also included Associate Director of Alumni Relations **Josh Lodolo** (California State-Northridge 2004), Educational Foundation President and CEO **Mark Bauer** (California State-Fullerton 1979), Executive Vice President Emeritus **George Spasyk** (Michigan 1949), and past Order of Merit recipient **John Gezelius** (California 1978).

### Southeast Missouri State (Delta-Phi)

Chapter members volunteered at the eighth annual Adventure Days camp, an event of the Boy Scouts' Learning for Life

Adventure that is open to all elementary school students but particularly designed for those with special needs who are unable to participate in regular Scouting activities.

### Tennessee-Chattanooga (Zeta-Phi)

**William M. Grover** (1960) died April 19, 2007. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a flight instructor and a retired air traffic controller.

### Texas Christian (Iota-Pi)

**Millard E. Leach** (1964) died April 30, 2007.

### Texas State-San Marcos (Lambda-Phi)

**Gordon L. Parker Jr.** (1968) died May 2, 2007. He spent 38 years in the pharmaceutical industry, most recently with Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals.

### Washington (Alpha-Psi)

On April 27, 2007, 146 chapter and Pacific Northwest Area Alumni Association members celebrated Founders Day. Noted attendees included **Don Hart** (1945) and guest speaker **John Fiala** (1996), former varsity linebacker who played in the NFL for the Pittsburgh Steelers. At the event, \$4,300 in scholarships money was awarded to five undergraduate chapter members.



**Curtis L. Beattie** (1969) died April 22, 2007. In 1981, he formed Curtis Beattie and Associates, a very successful architectural firm based in Seattle, Washington. Beattie was a long-time Fraternity alumni volunteer and he also received the Presidential Medal for the Outstanding Office Building from former President Jimmy Carter.

### William & Mary (Epsilon-Alpha)

After being traded from the Cincinnati Reds to the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in January 2007, **Brendan Harris** (2004) is batting over .300 and starting at shortstop.

# Understanding Today's College Student

Alumni involvement can play an important role in helping to recruit and mentor this generation of young men.

By Tad Lichtenauer (Butler 1987)

The experts refer to this generation as social, skeptical, talented, stressed, giving, global, inexperienced, multicultural, influential, and team/goal-oriented.

These young adults are invading college campuses with higher expectations than any generation before them.

They are so well connected that if something doesn't meet their expectations, they can click a mouse or punch a cell phone button and instantly inform their friends.

They are Millennials. Born between 1980 and 2000, this generation is as large or larger than the Baby Boomers generation.

## Primary Characteristics

According to experts Neil Howe and William Strauss, who have written extensively about Millennials, this generation of students is predicted to be drastically different from its predecessors.

Howe and Strauss say for this generation their parents are their heroes and also their primary influence on values and views.

However, the role of these "helicopter parents" often leaves the Millennials inexperienced, even though many grew up as latch-key kids and spent a significant amount of time home alone.

Millennials come from small, close families, and even though they have a high self-esteem, they are known for being poor at scheduling and lean heavily on older adults for help while in college.

They usually choose a college close to home and they are very interested in financial success and material possessions. Many have worked in high school and also will work while going to college.

Also, under-aged drinking and illegal drug use remain a dangerous influence on this generation but the experts say overall rates of "partying" have been falling since the mid-1980s.

Millennials are categorized as not being terribly interested in politics but their interest level is on the rise. They tend to be skeptical, even cynical about institutions, including media, and especially advertising.

They are very multicultural, and globally aware, but the experts say they are not very knowledgeable. They also are pessimistic about direction of the world, especially the environment.

Millennials are known for their volunteer work and for their interest in participating in club activities. They prefer internet to telephone for interpersonal communication, even socialization. They are very multi-task oriented, which sometimes can be mistaken for rudeness.

Most Millennials think it's cool to be smart but are intellectually disengaged. They accept individuals in authority roles but they have a high level of stress and sometimes have short attention spans.

This generation is not known for supporting organized religion, but do have an increased sense of morality and honesty.

Most Millennials tend to gravitate towards group activities, seeking family-like support and structure, and because they are aware of importance of social skills.

## Shaped by Their Times

Born from 1980 through 2000, the most influential years for this generation as a whole are the 1990s and the 2000s.

They're the first generation to grow up surrounded by digital media, and also the first generation to grow up during and after the terrible events of 9/11, Columbine High School, and now Virginia Tech University.

Just as all generations are programmed from the moment of birth, the Millennials began a series of programming experiences when they were infants. These experiences created the filters through which they see the world.



According to expert Claire Raines' 2002 book *Connecting Generations: The Sourcebook*, there are eight key trends have had a profound effect on the Millennials personality:

- Focus on children and family
- Scheduled, structured lives
- Multiculturalism
- Terrorism
- Heroism
- Patriotism
- Parent advocacy
- Globalism



Growing up, Millennials were bombarded with a unique set of consistent and compelling messages, many of them so embedded in the culture that adults, let alone children, were barely even aware of them.

The school system reinforced a distinct set of values. Parenting patterns molded the perspective of this new generation.

Raines goes on to write in her book that all of this led to the following messages having a profound effect on the generation as a whole:

- Be smart, you are special
- Leave no one behind
- Connect 24/7
- Achieve now!
- Serve your community

This repetitive messaging translates into a generation with a different school and work ethic than any other.

### Lambda Chi's Opportunity

The Millennial generation is and will make a significant impact on colleges and universities, in the community, and in any organization they join for years to come.

Chapter members and alumni need to understand the Millennials to best recruit, develop, and mentor them. Many of the ideals that Lambda Chi Alpha offers to its members are an excellent match for this generation.

These smart, young men also want to have fun and they want to be respected and challenged, and to join a fraternity that offers them the greatest benefits.

The Millennials are very interested in being a part of a group or a team and they want to make a difference in the community and the world in which they live.

They have positive attitudes, good manners, and they have a high degree of respect for themselves and others compared to previous generations. Once recruited to join our Fraternity they should be very helpful at attracting similar upstanding young men.

In a well-run recruitment program, Lambda Chi Alpha's ideals need to be introduced and explained to potential members and reinforced throughout all key aspects of Fraternity life.

Incoming students who can understand and relate to the values of our Fraternity will be more apt to join, and more likely to become positive contributors.



### Technology's Influence

Millennials represent one of the largest generations in U.S. history, surpassing 80 million.

They are arriving on college campuses having been consumers of technology in ways that previous generations barely understand, and the challenges that these students present are unique.

In their 2007 book "Connecting to the Net.Generation: What higher education professionals need to know about today's college students," Reynol Junco and Jeanna Mastrodicasa found that in a survey of 7,705 college students:

- 97% own a computer
- 94% own a cell phone
- 56% own an MP3 player
- 76% use instant messaging (IM)
- 15% of IM users are logged on 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- 34% use websites as their primary source of news
- 28% own a blog, and 44% read blogs
- 49% download music using peer-to-peer file sharing
- 69% of students have a Facebook account

Chapters that implement this thinking will have an advantage over other fraternities because our program inherently brings with it the concepts, ideals, and mechanisms that appeal to and benefit this new generation of students.

### Important Role of Alumni

As mentioned earlier, this generation of young men will often seek out advice and direction from older adults.

They have a strong belief in family and a respect for authority figures. Lambda Chi Alpha must continue to do its part to encourage alumni to help develop, counsel, and mentor our undergraduate chapter members.

Millennials desire feedback regarding their personal development and want someone who will guide them and teach them about different aspects of the Fraternity and life in general.

With a strong family background, Millennials have a clearer sense of their own values and will be coming to college with a better understanding of what they are looking for from organizations, colleagues, and friends.

Alumni must continue to make themselves available whenever and wherever possible to offer assistance and guidance to this very important generation of brothers. ➕

# Pledge/Associate Member

A look at our early pledge/associate pin designs and the key roles played by notable brothers and chapters.

By Jono Hren (Florida Tech 1975)

LAMBDA CHI ALPAHA HAD BARELY 3,000 total initiates in 1919, when something began stirring in Alabama that 20 years later would forever change the face of our pledge/associate member pin.

## The Shape of Things to Come

A local fraternity, christened Phi Kappa Nu, was founded at Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama. The school is now called Samford University.

Of the five founders, only **James J. Bell (Samford)** is listed in the 2003 Lambda Chi Alpha Alumni Directory. The names of the other four — **Bolivar B. O’Rear (Samford)**, **Walter G. Pledger (Samford)**, **Dewey H. McMeans (Samford)**, and **J. Ford Robinson (Samford)** — are all but lost to history.



Photo by: Robert McLaughlin (Purdue 1963)

When Theta Kappa Nu was formed in 1924, Phi Kappa Nu’s four-triangle badge and its ritual were adapted for use by the new national fraternity.

The ritual, originally written by **George A. Neely (Samford)** served Theta Kappa Nu for 15 years, and eventually formed the basis of Lambda Chi’s Associate Member Ceremony.

Surprisingly, Lambda Chi Alpha’s pledge ceremony prior to the 1939 union with Theta Kappa Nu consisted of little more than taking the Obligation of an Aspirant and signing a form.

Also at this time, the Theta Kappa Nu badge was combined with Lambda Chi’s pledge pin. The October 1939 issue of the *Cross & Crescent*, reporting extensively on the recent merger, was already making reference to the old “before the union” pledge button.

## No Easy Task

The Emblems and Ritual Committee at the time was chaired by **William D. Hope (Michigan 1940)** and included **John E. Mason (Pennsylvania 1913)**.

Although the task of combining the two emblems may sound easy, it was not.

Simply placing the Gothic arch over the Theta Kappa Nu badge all but obscured the central triangle. Two possible solutions included making the central triangle larger, or eliminating it altogether. The latter option was tried first.

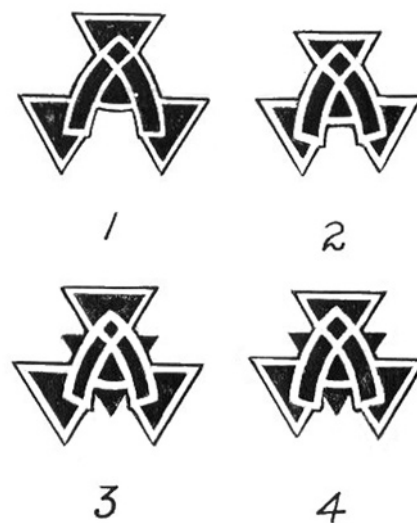
Pledge buttons consisting of only three triangles are known to exist, with at least one example residing at our Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. The triangles are undersized and do not meet at a common point in the center. These pins were made by L.G. Balfour and used the same threaded post as on previous pledge buttons.



## Cause for Confusion

Our history at this point gets rather confusing. Four designs can be seen in the picture accompanying this article.

Figure 1 shows the pin actually produced, although not at 7/16 inch, but at 3/8 inch. Figure 2 was supplied to *Baird’s Manual* and published in three consecutive editions from 1940 through 1957. Figure 3, with its wider arch, is not thought to have been used. Figure 4 was pictured in the 1940 *Paedagogus*.



The central triangle, significantly enlarged and temporarily borderless in design, was soon restored. No fewer

## 1940 Paedagogus



than three depictions of the new pledge button appeared in the 1940 *Paedagogus* — all different. But the practice of enameling requires an edge, so the borderless version was not actually produced.

It would be nice to say the Fraternity settled on a standard design, but variations in proportion continued throughout the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.



Closely following the changing trends in men's fashion, even the back of the pin evolved. In the 1940s, the new pledge button used a threaded screw back and disk, so it could be worn on coat lapels. Later, a hinged pin with safety clasp, similar to those used on official badges, allowed the pin to be attached to a button-down shirt in the 1950s and 1960s.

By 1970, the standard back consisted of a sharp spike, secured with a butterfly, or military style, clutch back. These were more economical to manufacture, less prone to breakage, and perfect for T-shirts. Today, a longer, spring-loaded, clutch back holds the pin in place.

One last pattern bears mentioning. Just as extreme brother badges, such as the "White Elephant", have been designed, so, too, have extreme new member pins.

Sporting a greatly exaggerated central triangle and looking about as dangerous as a Chinese throwing star, it was illustrated in *Baird's Manual* from 1963 to 1977. It is doubtful this "Hulk" was ever actually produced, and there have been no reports of injury.

### Relishing the History

Despite the many permutations our new member pin has undergone, it remains one of the most beautiful and meaningful in the fraternity world.



As stated in the *Paedagogus*, "The associate member pin has had a most interesting history because it embodies the official badge of Theta Kappa Nu as well as the original pin of Lambda Chi Alpha." Most interesting, indeed.

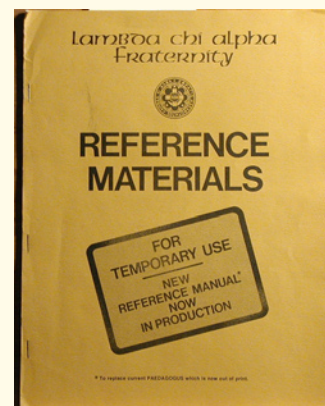
### Current Foreign Service Alum

Beginning in 1969, a movement spearheaded by then Executive Vice President **George Spasyk (Michigan 1949)** led to a major change in the Fraternity.

As communicated in the 1972 "interim" *Paedagogus*, an entirely new manual was needed, and new members were not issued "pledge pins"; they were presented with "associate member pins".

This edition of the *Paedagogus* went on to state:

"The 1972 General Assembly adopted significant legislation in the area of member education. It abolished 'pledgeship' and 'pledges', and replaced them with a positive program of 'fraternity education' for all members with emphasis on 'associate members.' Because of these dramatic changes, it is apparent that an entirely new book about the fraternity is needed.



"The present *Paedagogus* cannot be merely updated. It speaks of 'pledges' and 'pledge class' organization, etc. A new book is needed to tell the story of Lambda Chi Alpha more clearly. Consequently, a completely new book is being written under the direction of **James M. Brasher, III**, Editor of the *Cross & Crescent*. It is scheduled to be off the press by Fall, 1973.

"Until that time, this resource manual should provide all the basic information needed for proper orientation into Lambda Chi Alpha. Additional resource materials are available from the Office of Administration. Your High Kappa has a list from which they may be ordered."

The next time you pick up one of these little gems, consider for a moment all that has gone into its development, and perhaps give a nod to a man in Pennsylvania named Mason, and a man in Alabama named Bell. ➡

# Veteran Actor Shines

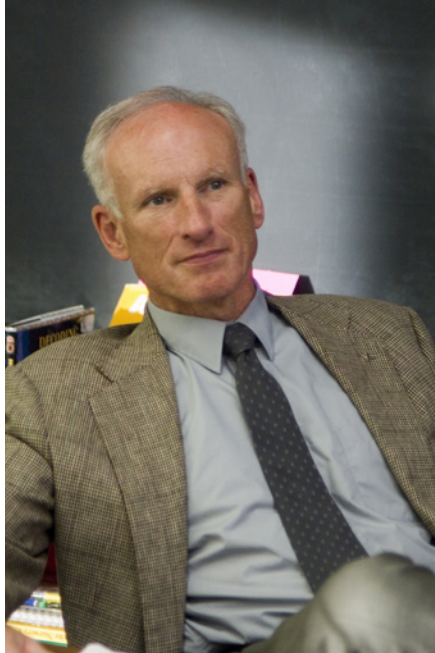
James Rebhorn is a character actor who has appeared in more than 100 TV shows, feature films, and plays.

By Chris Barrick (Butler 2004)

**BORN AND RAISED A LUTHERAN,** James Rebhorn (Wittenberg 1970) had heard of Wittenberg as early as junior high school. When it came time to apply to college, it was on the top of his list. He was accepted and majored in political science and theater arts.

As graduation approached, Rebhorn had a job lined up at the YMCA in Chicago, Illinois, an organization he had been active in throughout high school and college.

“I had enjoyed theater and thought it was valuable so I decided to go ahead and apply and audition to accredited theater schools,” Rebhorn says. “I wasn’t thinking about becoming a career actor but that I would teach.”



“How To Eat Fried Worms” Copyright MMVI, New Line Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. Photo by Van Redom. Photo appears courtesy of New Line Productions, Inc.

Rebhorn applied and was accepted to the University of Minnesota, Southern Methodist University, and Columbia University. He decided to attend Columbia because it was located New York City, New York. He thought the location would give him exposure to the professional theater.

“So much in this business is determined by luck and by who you know,” Rebhorn says. “Some of the early jobs I had in theater were through people I went to school with or had studied with.”

He got his foot in the door in theater and continues to do much of his work there. He was doing theater mainly in summer stock, dinner theater, and regional theater.

Simultaneously, Rebhorn began gaining experience in front of the camera starring in TV commercials. He had roles in more than 60 commercials, including ones for Wisk (ring around the collar), McDonald’s, Budweiser, Coca-Cola, and General Motors.

“Theater and commercials were the two prongs that I pursued,” Rebhorn says.

## The Movies

Rebhorn explains that getting into film was just a matter of luck. When a casting call comes up, agents give out a list of their clients who they think fit the role. He says he was fortunate because when he was starting in the film industry, they would do in-person auditions on the East Coast, something that rarely happens in today’s market.

“That doesn’t happen much anymore because the climate of motion picture has changed and they don’t want to incur that cost,” explains Rebhorn. “So they will audition with a digital camera and send it on the internet. This process has not worked out in my benefit.”

Though he realizes the film industry is strongest on the West Coast, he has never been inclined to leave the New York area.

Rebhorn is most often seen where he is featured in dark villain roles. His character is usually a lawyer, political official, some kind of agent, or some other kind of guy in a suit.

“Film and television, though creative, tend to be very uncreative when it comes to casting,” he claims. “They generally want to hire you based on the last thing they saw you in. It is very difficult to break out and do roles that are out of that type.”

Last year he did get the call to do a Hallmark Hall of Fame special, “Candles on Bay Street,” when Director John Erbman asked him to play the part of a farmer.

“It was a small role but it was a pleasure to be a character who doesn’t wear a suit,” jokes Rebhorn. “I try to make it known to directors and producers that I am interested in doing other types of roles than the ones I have done, but it is difficult. It is such a huge investment of money in motion pictures that they don’t want to take chances.”

Though Rebhorn has appeared in blockbusters such as “Independence Day,” “Scent of a Woman,” “The Talented Mr. Ripley,” and “Carlito’s Way,” he finds that he is able to take something from any role he is given.

“The way I look at the world, if you can’t find a way to get something good out of the experience, then you have lived an unhappy life,” he says. “All the actors I have worked with, superstars or otherwise, I have enjoyed.”

He does admit there are jobs as an actor that have been more challenging and enriching. He found "8 Seconds," which was a rodeo movie, to be very challenging and compelling. Other movies that have had a large impact on him are "The Game," "The Talented Mr. Ripley," "Snow Falling on Cedar," "Lorenzo's Oil," and a number of independent films.



"The Book Of Daniel" - Episode 1  
Photo by: KC Bailey/NBCU Photo Bank

Rebhorn has had a stint of comedy, too, including appearing in the finale of "Seinfeld." He laughs because even in that episode he was a lawyer in a suit but it was in a comic forum.

"Probably the most humorous movie I did was "Scotland PA," which was an independent film. It was a take on Macbeth and it was very funny," Rebhorn says. "The other one — once again I was wearing a suit and tie playing a FBI agent — was called the "Last Shaw." It was with Alec Baldwin and Matthew Broderick, and again a very funny movie."

And who can forget his role in "Meet the Parents."

**The Theater**

Rebhorn got his start in theater and still acts there on a regular basis as he does one Broadway show a year. Most of his stage work is done at the Roundabout Theatre Company. He recently finished a revival of "Prelude to a Kiss." He also did a seven-month stint of "12 Angry Men."

He says that the immediate feedback in stage and the relationship you have with the audience is very stimulating, exciting, and gratifying.

"It is also exciting to play something from the beginning to the middle to the end," Rebhorn says.

"In a movie, more often than not, you will do the final scene on your first or second day of work. On occasion, though very rare,



The cast of the Roundabout Theatre's Broadway production of "Twelve Angry Men" (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

they try to film in order."

He does admit the drawbacks of the stage. It is not nearly as lucrative as film or television, and it is exhausting.

"To do a show eight times a week is tiring," he says. "Particularly on the weekends when you want to spend time with your family."

**The Fraternity**

When Rebhorn showed up on the Wittenberg campus, he took part in formal rush. He remembers being immediately impressed with the Lambda Chi house because they stressed education and they consistently had the highest grade point average.

"That was appealing to me," Rebhorn says. "When I got talking to them about what they thought fraternity was about, it became clear they valued the importance of brotherhood and that appealed to me."

The other appealing attribute of the Lambda Chi house was their stance on the impending Vietnam War. At the time it was atypical that fraternity groups supported the anti-war counter-culture, of which Rebhorn was a part.

"At Lambda Chi, it was not only welcome, it was encouraged," he says. "Not that there was a majority of the house that was anti-war but there was a feeling that one could be an individual while still being a part of the group."

Rebhorn says speaking out against the war was embraced because the different viewpoints actually strengthened the brotherhood.

"You were encouraged to be an individual while still being a part of the group," he says. "I found that to be a very compelling argument for Fraternity life...and still do."

Rebhorn served the chapter as ritualist. To date, Rebhorn holds the ritual close to his heart and considers it the best memory of his Fraternity days.

He also stays in touch with many of the brothers from Wittenberg. He finds it a thrill, too, when his brothers come to see his shows.

"I get reports on people, get sent pictures and letters, and some come see me in shows while in New York," he says.

He reunited with a brother who went to see him in "Prelude to a Kiss" and during the run of "12 Angry Men" over 20 brothers saw the show.

**Next Act**

Rebhorn recently wrapped up his yearly stint on Broadway and says he tries not to talk about what is coming up because so much can change.

"There are a few independent films in the can but whether they will have a broader audience I don't know," he says. "For now I have this beat up old house that I keep working on as my hobby."

# Former White House Speechwriter

A former White House speechwriter to President George H. W. Bush, Michael Johns is a health care executive, former federal government official, and conservative policy analyst and writer.

By Tad Lichtenauer (Butler 1987)

**MICHAEL JOHNS IS A HEALTH CARE EXECUTIVE**, former federal government official, and conservative policy analyst and writer.

In his industry capacities, **Johns (Miami-FL 1986)** has held functional responsibility for executive management, sales and marketing management, investor relations, Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance contracting and other functions.

In addition to his extensive private sector experience, Johns was a White House speechwriter to President George H. W. Bush, a public affairs aide to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and a senior aide to former New Jersey Governor and 9/11 Commission Chairman Thomas Kean, and U.S. Senator Olympia Snowe.

He also has served as a policy analyst at The Heritage Foundation and an editor of the foundation's magazine *Policy Review*.

## Early Beginnings

Johns' initial interest in public speaking and speechwriting began at Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, where he grew up.

"By 11<sup>th</sup> grade or so, I was beginning to get intrigued with the American political process and global affairs, and I decided to run for treasurer of our student government," he says.

Each candidate was given a few minutes to speak to the entire school and then the election was held.

"I remember laying out my platform and then addressing the school," he says. "I was mostly known for athletics in high school, so I know many people saw a different side of me then and I suppose that was probably the first speech I ever authored."

Not surprisingly, Johns won the election.

## White House Experiences

Not surprisingly, Johns says nothing matches working for the president of the United States.

"You cannot walk around the West Wing or the South Lawn or anywhere on the White House grounds and not be reminded of what an honor it is to serve a nation at that level where so many great American men and women have worked," he says.

Interestingly, Johns' view has always been that the most memorable speeches he wrote during his White House years ultimately belong to the president.

"So I try not to discuss the specific ones I wrote or some of the memorable phrases I contributed, but I was involved in plenty of very significant ones at a critical moment, with the former Soviet Union collapsing, the U.S. facing challenges from Iraqi aggression in the Persian Gulf, and the president confronting a serious challenge from then Governor Clinton in the 1992 presidential race," he says.

Johns was often successful in positioning important conservative ideas in ways that appealed to American moderates and sometimes even liberals.

"I think growing up in a blue collar area of the country gave me perspective and appreciation that the American dream is a great concept, but it's just that — a dream — if it doesn't touch people's lives in tangible ways," he says.



Michael Johns and former President Richard Nixon.  
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Many times Johns has discovered Washington, D.C., leaders forget what life is like for many Americans: the financial pressures, the erosion of job security, paying for children's college education, navigating our health care system, or meeting the dual pressures of work and family.

"We are a wealthy nation but too many Americans still struggle with the basics of day-to-day existence," he says. "They want their nation protected and they want functionality and some security and opportunity in their day-to-day lives."

## President Reagan's Influence

Johns has no doubt what leader had the biggest influence on him: President Ronald Reagan.

"He really successfully defined and implemented a lot of modern conservative policies and left Washington a very

different place, and he influenced many young people like myself who were just beginning to get involved,” he says.

Johns was impressed that Reagan correctly understood the former Soviet Union’s aggression and brutality and did not sidestep that uncomfortable fact, and that he also was visionary enough to predict and then encourage its ultimate collapse.

“Reagan’s view that the government works for its citizens, not the other way around, always struck me as an important insight, too,” he says.

At the beginning of his first term, from 1981 to 1984, Reagan greatly influenced Johns’ thinking on the world and our nation while Johns was working as a policy analyst and editor at The Heritage Foundation.

“My fondness for Reagan only grew further during that time,” he says.

**Blogging and Running for Office**

As an outlet for his views, Johns decided to start his own blog as it is becoming more and more apparent to him that this type of medium represents the future.

“The response so far has been very positive,” he says. “I write only when I think I have a new or special angle on a particular issue, and I am not afraid to write very lengthy articles, sometimes 3,000 words or so, if I feel the issue warrants it.”

Johns’ approach to writing longer entries is somewhat different than those taken by other bloggers.

“But my view is that I want to be intellectually sound in my writing,” he says. “I may disagree with American liberals, but I respect their involvement in the debate and I am not a conservative who wants to take cheap shots at people with differing views.”

He hopes that readers will come to appreciate that his writing is accurate, thoughtful, and constructive. If he can do those things, then he says his blogging will make a positive contribution.

As for his political future, Johns says he has never understood the propensity of politically engaged people to deny any interest in running for office.

“For me, running for a U.S. House or Senate seat some day seems a very logical extension of everything I’ve done to date in my career,” he says. “I know I could do some very positive things, and it would be an honor to do that.”

The more complicated issue for Johns is identifying the right time and the right district, but he says he really does hope that opportunity presents itself some day.



**2008 U.S. Presidential Candidate**

Before former White House speechwriter **Michael Johns (Miami-FL 1986)** began providing influential foreign policy guidance to the Reagan administration as a Heritage Foundation policy analyst, **Dr. Ronald E. Paul (Gettysburg 1957)** was known as one of the Republican congressmen who initially endorsed Reagan for president.

Today, Paul is a 10-term U.S. Congressman from Texas, obstetrician, and now a 2008 presidential candidate, seeking the Republican party nomination.

He advocates a limited role for the federal government, low taxes, free markets, a non-interventionist foreign policy, and a return to monetary policies based on commodity-backed currency.

Paul is known among his congressional colleagues and his constituents for his consistent voting record. He has even earned the nickname “Dr. No” because he is a medical doctor who votes against the bills he believes violate the U.S. Constitution.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Paul graduated from Gettysburg College where he also was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. He then went to the Duke University School of Medicine, before serving as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force during the 1960s.

In 1968, he moved to Texas, where he began his medical practice as a specialist in obstetrics/gynecology, and he has delivered more than 4,000 babies.

**Lambda Chi’s Impact**

When Johns originally arrived on the University of Miami campus, he spent a lot of time at the Lambda Chi house, attending parties and other events, and developing a number of friendships.

“I never considered affiliating with any fraternity other than Lambda Chi,” he says. “When I was tapped, I was very happy to be affiliated with such a great Fraternity with so many wonderful members.”

Johns says he hopes to see future Lambda Chi members get

as much from their affiliation as he has received from his, and to see Miami’s chapter continue to thrive and prosper.

“I learned many things through my Lambda Chi experience,” he says. “I learned the value of team-oriented approaches, the valuable but rare nature of Fraternity brotherhood, and the ability to interact with all sorts of different people because we were a very diverse chapter. I know Lambda Chi Alpha will always be a big part of my life.” 🇺🇸



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