

# B.O. ALUMNI BLAST

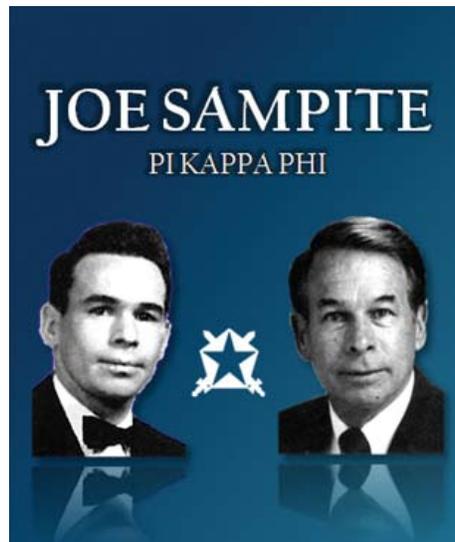
## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BE A PI KAPP

On December 13, 2008—more than 50 years after first being introduced to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity—Joe Sampite officially became a member of the Beta Omicron chapter.

Sampite was a member of Phi Kappa Nu, the local fraternity that became Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity when it chartered at Northwestern State University in 1956. Because he graduated before the Phi Kappa Nus were initiated into Pi Kappa Phi, Sampite was never initiated with the founding group.

Sampite said he was proud to finally be initiated into Pi Kappa Phi so many years later. “They’re a great group of young guys who are involved in the community and interested in helping other people. I’m very excited to be a part of that,” said Sampite. “I’m looking forward to being involved with them, especially helping people with disabilities.”

He was recognized at the Beta Omicron’s Founders’ Day Banquet on Saturday, December 13. He was also presented with a pair of his signature white socks, a gift from his peers in the Beta Omicron founders group from 1956.



In both his personal and professional life, Sampite has represented the Pi Kappa Phi’s vision of being a leader and a gentleman. A veteran of the Korean war, he later served as the mayor of Natchitoches for 20 years (1980 - 2000). Sampite was eventually named to the Louisiana Political Hall of Fame. He was a high school teacher and coach for many years and was recognized as a statewide leader in the promotion of education and recreation. In 2000, Sampite was inducted into the Northwestern State University’s Long Purple Line, the university’s Hall of Distinction. He was also named by the Shreveport Times as one of the “Top 100 Most Influential People in North Louisiana.”

Throughout his career, Sampite has also lived the values of Push America—the national philanthropy of Pi Kappa Phi—as a longtime volunteer for the disability community. In 1984, he received the “Louisiana Parks and Recreation Distinguished Service Award.” Sampite also helped to establish the Natchitoches Association of Retarded Citizens and was named “Professional of the Year” by the Louisiana Association for Disabled Children.

## REMEMBERING OUR ROOTS

In honor of the national fraternity’s founding on December 10, 1904, the Beta Omicron chapter celebrated the enduring brotherhood of the fraternity’s founders with a banquet on Saturday, December 13.

Alumni, actives and associate members gathered in historic Russell Hall on Northwestern State’s campus to share a meal in honor of the friendship of the seven Pi Kappa Phi founders. Several alumni and faculty members, friends of the fraternity, and NSU President Dr. Randall Webb were in attendance.

Alumni Director of Events Kie Boyett gave the opening remarks, calling to mind the importance of every member honoring his lifelong commitment to brotherhood. Alumnus Dion Boyett gave the invocation.

“The Founders of Pi Kappa Phi would be proud to know that their dream has grown to be America’s Leading Fraternity,” said Chaplain Shayne Creppel, the event’s organizer. “We’re leading by example here at NSU.”

Creppel also presented a special ceremony to honor the founding fathers. Alumni Director of Communications Lane Luckie recognized graduating senior Matthew Darby for his contributions to Pi Kappa Phi. Chapter



Advisor Doug Ireland introduced the newest member of Pi Kappa Phi, alumni initiate Joe Sampite, the former mayor of Natchitoches. The Rho Associate Class also presented their big brothers with a hand-made paddle in appreciation of their guidance.

# PI KAPPA PHI BETA OMICRON B.O. ALUMNI BLAST

## PUBLISHER

The *B.O. Alumni Blast* of Beta Omicron is published and printed by Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity Headquarters through its alumni newsletter program.

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## NOTES

### ALUMNI DUES

Your alumni dues help to fund alumni mailings and events. Dues are \$50 annually. If you have not yet paid your dues for 2009, please send payment to:

David Morgan Jr., Treasurer  
11304 Naples Cove  
Austin, Texas 78739

### MONTHLY GIVING

The Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter makes monthly giving safe and easy with an automated monthly transfer. To arrange to have a small gift automatically transferred each month from your banking account to Beta Omicron Chapter, contact Treasurer David Morgan Jr.

### ALUMNI UPDATES

To include an update about yourself in the next issue of the newsletter, e-mail your submission and photo to Lane Luckie at [laneluckie@hotmail.com](mailto:laneluckie@hotmail.com). Visit our Web site below for a complete list of members and contact information.

VISIT BETA OMICRON'S WEB SITE AT:  
[www.pikappnsu.org](http://www.pikappnsu.org)

## HOMECOMING 2008 FOR BETA OMICRON

In the spirit of lifelong brotherhood, Pi Kappa Phi members and their families gathered on the weekend of October 18 for the fraternity's annual Homecoming activities. On Friday, Pi Kappa Phis lined Jefferson Street for the annual Homecoming Parade and pep rally. Purple pride and shouts of "Fork 'Em Demons" helped pump up the students and alumni.

The Rho associate class was awarded second place for their float in the parade.

The associates also won third place in the lip sync competition during the week.

Families later gathered at the Beta Omicron chapter house for an evening social. Active and associate members mingled with alumni—sharing stories and a few laughs. Saturday morning, The Beta Omicron Alumni Housing Corporation held its annual meeting to discuss future projects of the group to benefit the chapter. A new slate was elected to the board of directors. The active chapter also presented the "Distinguished Alumni Award" to Doug Ireland and Dr. Mike Land. Member Britt Richey was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship as the Fall 2008 winner of the Beta Omicron Chapter's "Morgan Extra-Mile" Scholarship. This year's NSU Homecoming game versus Texas State is October 24, with kick-off at 7 p.m. at Turpin Stadium. Alumni events and details will follow.

Following the meeting, the chapter enjoyed a large turn-out for tailgating at Turpin Stadium before the Homecoming game. Members, their wives and children enjoyed barbecue and snacks before the football game. At halftime, Pi Kappa Phi member Wil Adams was honored as part of the NSU Homecoming Honor Court for a second consecutive year. Beta Omicron founding member Dr. Jerry Payne was also inducted into the NSU Hall of Distinguished Educators. Payne was recognized for his 45-year music education career, including a 4-year stint as NSU's director of bands. The weekend proved to be a big success, as the chapter's future continues to look more promising each year.



Beta Omicron during NSU's Homecoming festivities in 2008.

## ALUMNUS' NSU BASEBALL NUMBER RETIRED

Pi Kappa Phi alumnus and former NSU Demon baseball player Billie Roy Cook was honored at the annual Demon Baseball Opening Day Banquet on February 7, 2009. Cook and fellow baseball standout Jim Willis had their NSU baseball numbers retired. Their retired numbers will be displayed on the outfield wall at Brown-Stroud Field. They join two others as the only numbers retired in NSU baseball history.

After the banquet, Cook was honored again with plaques from Beta Omicron's undergraduate chapter as well as the alumni founders group. A baseball signed by Cook will be displayed in the chapter house to commemorate his accomplishment.

Cook was a record-shattering pitcher for the Demons who had 29 victories from 1956-59—still a school record 50 years later. He was a dominating factor in Gulf States Conference. A three-time All-GSC pitcher, Cook posted an 8-1 record in 1956 and led the nation in wins in 1957 after compiling a 10-1 record and earning most valuable player honors in the conference. Nicknamed the team's "Iron Man" by NSU's *The Current Sauce* newspaper, Cook took victories in two doubleheaders during the 1957 team.

Cook earned his bachelor's degree from Northwestern State University and his master's from Kansas State University. He is a retired military officer and earned the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster after serving in Vietnam. Cook played semi-pro baseball in the Big Eight for two summers while in college, with an 8-5 record. He married his high school sweetheart, Mary Ellen (LaCaze) Cook, from Natchitoches. They have four sons; all married, and have nine grandchildren living near them in Smithfield, Va.



Beta Omicron's Billie Roy Cook's NSU baseball number retired.

## ARE YOU AN INVOLVED ALUMNUS?

Since Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity's founding in 1904, each member has made a lifelong commitment to preserving our brotherhood. Through financial contributions—no matter how big or small—you can make a positive impact on Beta Omicron as an alumnus. And regardless of how much time you have, there are plenty of opportunities to be involved. Have a wife or kids? Chances are, they can participate too! From regular alumni events such as football tailgating, open houses, golf tournaments and alumni socials, there are year-round opportunities to reconnect with fraternity brothers. Alumni can sign up for online or print newsletters to keep up with Beta Omicron. If you're able to go the extra mile, multiple advisory boards help our undergraduates in your specialty area. Other alumni give back by simply showing they're "Strong Enough To Care." Some choose to join the Beta Omicron Alumni Association and contribute their ideas and donations in support of the chapter. Many alumni also stop in Natchitoches between business trips or even on a spare weekend. Any way you choose to participate, you'll catch up with brothers from your college years and make new friendships. Get involved today! For more information on how you can be involved, please contact Lane Luckie at [laneluckie@hotmail.com](mailto:laneluckie@hotmail.com)

## ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: ADAM UPSHAW

In December, alumnus Adam Upshaw ran in Austin's Trail of Lights 5k with a very special friend. He pushed 9-year-old Parker Brown the entire way, under 180,000 softly flickering lights. While they didn't finish first, Upshaw said it didn't matter because of the smile on Parker's face.

Upshaw is a personal attendant for Parker, through a company called Disability Services of the Southwest. He takes Parker to therapy sessions and plans enriching activities after school each day. Parker lives with cerebral palsy and had a stroke at age 3. Upshaw works with the Brown family and a team of therapists who hope to achieve a more independent life for Parker.

Upshaw sees himself as a big brother to Parker, a role he learned through Pi Kappa Phi. "It's the small things in life that matter, especially to a person who is living with a disability, so I like to take time with him and really make sure that he is enjoying his time," said Upshaw.

Pi Kappa Phi's philanthropy, Push America, is what drew Upshaw to join the fraternity. He said it helps break down the negative stereotypes and shows that we are a unique brotherhood. In the summer of 2008, Upshaw cycled 4,000 miles across the country as a member of Push America's Journey of Hope team. He said the event changed his life. "Were able to touch hundreds of lives in each city we visited through friendship visits, advocacy presentations, service projects and the press."

Since 2001, seven members of Beta Omicron have participated in the Journey of Hope, including: Wes Breeden, Chris Baker, Steven Austin, DJ Kluczniak, Rodney Clements, Adam Upshaw and Collin McKnight



Adam Upshaw and Parker Brown pose after completing the Trail of Lights 5k run in Austin, Texas. The run was part of Austin's Trail of Lights annual holiday festival.

Working with Parker helps Upshaw keep that spirit alive. "This takes great patience and isn't as glorified as it's made out to be. When it comes down to it, it's not about me, and it's not just a job. This is about being able to once again make a difference in someone's life," said Upshaw.

Upshaw graduated from Northwestern State in May 2008. He plans to enroll at the University of Texas Health and Sciences Center to obtain a master's degree in occupational therapy. He plans to open a therapeutic clinic one day that would provide physical, occupational, and speech therapies, working to serve people with disabilities.

## 2009 BETA OMICRON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES-PAYING MEMBERS

Listed here are the dues-paying members of the Beta Omicron Alumni Association. Alumni dues help to fund alumni events and mailings like the the *B.O. Alumn Blast*. Please refer to the insert included in this issue for more information on how you can pay your alumni dues.

\*Mike Allain #197

\*Steven J. Austin #317

\*Andy Bachman #168

\*Wesley L. Breeden #286

\*Kie Boyett #385

\*Robert Broadwell #198

\*Rodney Clements #383

\*Gregory Comeaux #333

Billie R. Cook #368

\*Shawn Daily Jr. #252

\*George Etheredge #181

\*Shelton Eubanks #87

Mickey Frazier #48

John Gillard #319

Bruce Kinder #231

\*Joseph Kliebert #367

Lane Luckie #405

\*Steve McCutcheon #141

Travis McManemin # 189

John Mize #62

\*David Morgan Sr. #173

\*David Morgan Jr. #307

\*Bill Morrison #451

Justin L. Nolan #325

\*R. Jason Phillips #328

\*Randall L. Smith #389

\*Kyle Thomas #290

A. J. Tumminello #26

Wayne Walding #223

J. Cory Wilson #311

\*Rick Yates #176

\*Denotes members who are paying monthly dues through EFT

CHARLOTTE, NC 28224  
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PI KAPPA PHI FRATERNITY

PI KAPPA PHI BETA OMIKRON  
**B.O. ALUMNI BLAST**





## BETA OMICRON ALUMNI CHAPTER

Your support of the Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter helps assist the student chapter and pay for communication pieces like the *B.O. Alumni Blast*. One hundred percent of your contribution goes to fund those things that advance Beta Omicron Chapter at Northwestern State University.

This year, the Alumni Chapter made a considerable donation to the chapter to help underwrite recruitment efforts, finance house improvements, including a new air conditioner and tree removal, published quarterly issues of the *B.O. Alumni Blast*, and paid the national pre-initiation fee this fall for each associate member with a 2.75 or better high school G.P.A.

While some members pay their annual dues in one lump sum, the Alumni Chapter encourages you to consider spreading your gift out over the course of the year by authorizing an easy, automatic monthly transfer from your banking account to Pi Kappa Phi's banking account. Most alumni agree to donate \$20 per month, but a gift in any amount makes a difference.

Please help support your Alumni Chapter make to a difference in the lives of our student members. Sign up today!



Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity chapter house purchased December 2000. The house will be completely paid for in 2012.

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## ALUMNI MONTHLY GIVING FORM AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATIC TRANSFER OF FUNDS

I hereby authorize \_\_\_\_\_ to transfer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month to Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity's account held at Sabine State Bank Account Number \_\_\_\_\_.

My Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

My Routing Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Location (City/State): \_\_\_\_\_

I have the right at any time to cancel this transfer upon written request to the bank. I understand that should my account have insufficient funds on the day of the transfer, the transfer will not take place and will be skipped for that period. This authorization is for the benefit of Pi Kappa Phi and places no additional liability on the bank for failure to make timely transfers.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form and check to:  
David Morgan Jr., Treasurer  
11304 Naples Cove  
Austin, Texas 78739