



B.O. ALUMNI BLAST



Jim Bob Key initiates into Pi Kappa Phi more than 60 years after joining predecessor

THE NEWEST INITIATE OF PI KAPPA PHI Fraternity at Northwestern State University has a unique connection to the chapter's earliest members. Jim Bob Key was one of the last members of Phi Kappa Nu, a local fraternity that affiliated with Pi Kappa Phi, becoming the Beta Omicron Chapter in 1956. Key joined Phi Kappa Nu in 1952 and initiated as the 576th member of the Beta Omicron Chapter more than 60 years later, on December 7, 2015.

A native of Winnfield, Key graduated from Northwestern State with a Bachelor of Arts in art and interior design in 1954. While at NSU, he played percussion in the band and timpani in the symphony and was a member Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

Key married Betty Sue Choate in 1955 and served in the U.S. Navy from 1955 to 1957. After returning from his station in the U.S. Navy, Key went to work with his father-

in-law, L.J. Choate, at Choate's Interiors on July 1, 1957. He purchased the business in 1960. Key was instrumental in the creation of the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra and for 50 years has been a key member of the Symphony Society, which works to create scholarships for music students. Among his many endeavors, Key also served on the Council of the Metropolitan Opera, the Regional Boards of Shreveport Symphony and Shreveport Opera and the Louisiana State Arts Council which started the Louisiana Outdoor Drama Association amphitheater at Grand Ecore. A long-time supporter of Northwestern State University's School of Creative and Performing Arts, Key was inducted into the CAPA Hall of Fame in 2015.

In addition to his involvement in music and arts, Key is a past

president of the Natchitoches Rotary Club, served on the State Board of the Louisiana Mental Health Association and was a member of the Natchitoches Historic Foundation.

Key has three daughters, eight grandchildren, and is also the proud great-grandfather to three.

Key got to know several of the student members of Pi Kappa Phi after meeting at a Natchitoches restaurant, striking up a conversation about Phi Kappa Nu and Pi Kappa Phi. He says he thinks fraternities remain relevant due to the lessons they teach young leaders through uncommon opportunities.

"These social outlets will open up avenues, allowing young men to make connections and life-long friendships. Social fraternities will always prevail as long as you keep the chapter active and full of outstanding young men."

Beta Omicron again named Pi Kappa Phi's 'Alumni Chapter of the Year'



THE BETA OMICRON ALUMNI chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity at Northwestern State University has been named the national fraternity's 2015 'Alumni Chapter of the Year,' for excelling beyond the expectations of engaging its alumni members. The alumni chapter has been a model for providing an active, enriching experience for their alumni as well as supporting their student chapter and the campus community.

Their desire to set a good example for the undergraduates is evident. "Beta Omicron Chapter alumni are motivated by the desire to pay it forward, creating a better



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experience for our students. It's that simple," alumni chapter President Lane Luckie said. "These uncommon opportunities continue beyond college, so that true commitment to lifelong brotherhood means being an involved alumnus. At the same time, I think many of our alumni keep the 1980s, when our chapter went dormant, in the back of their minds. They want to make sure we're doing everything possible to support our student members in paving a pathway to success. It's also about learning from the past." Since the chapter's re-founding in early 2000, the alumni have modeled the way, not only for the undergraduates, but alumni across the country. Over the years they have worked on digitizing their archives,

offering scholarships to students and organize an annual house improvement project, among other events and reunions. Currently they are gearing up for next year's observance of the 60th anniversary since their original 1956 chartering. If their recent endeavors are any indication, this event is sure to be quite the celebration. This is the second such award for the Beta Omicron alumni chapter in three years and with good reason. They continue to have a highly engaged alumni base of volunteers and many who contribute in their own way to not only help the undergraduates, but also provide a meaningful alumni experience. To keep the chapter's more than 500 alumni around the

globe connected, the Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter produces both printed and digital newsletters, as well as bi-monthly email blasts. The alumni chapter also leverages an interactive website and various social media, including Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Instagram to help connect alumni with student members, providing a gateway for professional networking and mentoring, especially among graduating seniors. The alumni chapter also continues to promote lifelong brotherhood by co-sponsoring or supporting an annual golf tournament, scholarship banquet, Founders' Day celebration, various tailgating events, social events in cities around Louisiana and Texas, as

well as a homecoming reunion that regularly draws more than 100 attendees. In fact, the chapter's 1956 chartering members hold a biennial reunion in Natchitoches, exemplifying a lifelong commitment to Pi Kappa Phi. The Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter also provides advisory support to the student chapter and encourages academic excellence and campus involvement. The Council of Advisors, a committee of 10 alumni volunteers, advise the students on chapter operations, while providing mentorship opportunities with successful professionals. Alumni also support educational needs of student members through a professionally managed Chapter Investment Fund,

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along with providing an annual Freshman Leadership Scholarship to incoming students at Northwestern State. Alumna David D. Morgan also funds the 'Extra Mile' scholarship to recognize academic performance while encouraging active and sustained involvement on campus and within the student chapter. Since 2008, Pi Kappa Phi members have been awarded more than \$40,000 in grants through this program. In July, alumni representatives from

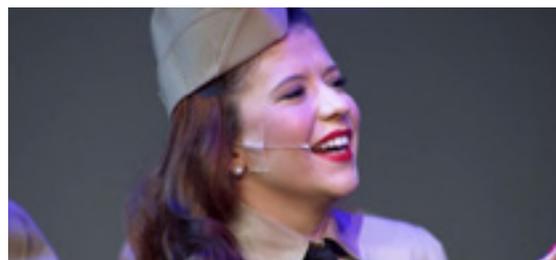
each decade of the chapter's existence were present for the Journey of Hope arrival at Shriners Hospital in Shreveport. Sponsoring the barbecue and arrival event is just one of the many ways Beta Omicron chapter alumni support the fraternity's philanthropy, The Ability Experience. Alumni are also involved in the Fraternity on a national level by serving on boards, advising chapters at other institutions, and volunteering as

facilitators for various programs, conferences, and workshops. The same level of support is shared with the Northwestern State campus community, with countless alumni serving as faculty, staff, board members, guest speakers, donors, and avid Demon fans. All of these efforts are coordinated by a seven-member volunteer board of directors, which includes president Lane Luckie, vice president of membership DJ Klucznik, treasurer

David D. Morgan, secretary Wil Adams, director of housing Joey Kliebert, director of alumni events Rodney Clements, and director of special projects Wes Breeden. More than 50 alumni chapter members contribute monthly dues, making these efforts possible. The Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter also serves as a housing corporation, which owns and manages the Fraternity house located at 730 University Parkway.



Past Pi Kappa Phi roses Sylvia Murphy and Mandi Ridgell discovered they had unique connection while working on a documentary project.



Two NSU Pi Kappa Phi sweethearts featured in National WWII Museum documentary

Two graduates of Northwestern State University are featured in a new educational video produced by the National World War II Museum and New Orleans PBS affiliate WYES-TV. Sylvia Murphy and Mandi Ridgell, were sweethearts of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity in 1957 and 2007, respectively.

The women were interviewed by the production crew for a segment

in a video series that will be shown to middle and high school students around the country, promoting the museum and teaching lessons about that era of American history.

Murphy, who is also the wife of 1956 Beta Omicron Chapter chartering member Mike Murphy, is a volunteer at the museum. Professionally, Ridgell is a member of the singing trio 'The Victory Belles.' Group

members perform at the WWII Museum's Stage Door Canteen, around the museum and are also available to entertain at events around the country.

In the video, Murphy explains the influence of music and performers during the war, while Ridgell teaches the other interviewees the 'trunk,' a style of dance popular in the 1940s.

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Above Left: Chris Lyles (#322) and wife Laura, a past Rose Queen, welcomed their second son on June 11.



Above Right: In September, Kie Boyett (#385) and wife Tobin welcomed their second child, Knox John-Manuel.

Bouncy Beta Omicron Babies!

Congratulations to these alumni who had new arrivals in the last year

Josh Robert (#342) and wife Sommer, on the birth of their son, Rhett Joshua.

Mason Vidrine (#477) & wife Jill, on the birth of their son, Carter.

Joedy Wiggins (#468) and wife Lauren, on the birth of their son, Joedy Jr.

Garon Gaspard (#370) and wife Courtney, on the birth of their son, Kolton.

Rhett Crosby (#360) and wife Donice, on the birth of their son, Easton Rhett.

Britt Richey (#426) and wife Yvette, on the birth of their daughter, Addison Kate.

Kie Boyett (#385) and wife Tobin, on the birth of their son, Knox John-Manuel.

Todd Boddie (#288) and wife Kim, on the birth of their daughter, Skylar Elizabeth.

Chris Rajewski (#352) and wife Dawn, on the birth of their daughter, Harper Leigh.

Chris Lyles (#322) and wife Laura, on the birth of their son, Cooper.

Nick Nguyen (#503) and wife Laura, on the birth of their son, Mason Scott.

Jesse Baker (#446) and his wife Errin on the birth of a boy, Finnley Jack.



Left: Garrett Webb (#470) and Whitney Mixon, a past Rose Queen, were married October 24 in Hammond, Louisiana.

Left Below: Brad Deville (#439) and Ashley Leger eloped on February 2 in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado.

Tying the knot!

Best wishes to these alumni who were married in the last year:

Cody Cloud (#494) and past rose queen Kathryn Rogers.

Garrett Webb (#470) and past rose queen Whitney Mixon.

Matt Rachal (#381) and Candice Moore.

Butch York (#455) and Erin Shocklee.

Jake Bryan (#515) and Taylor McLoughlin.

Brad Deville (#439) and Ashley Leger.

Jackson Mahaffey (#481) and Julie Strother.

Patrick Sledge (#409) and Deanna Horn.



DUES-PAYING MEMBERS

2015-2016

Listed here are dues-paying members of the Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter. Alumni dues help to fund alumni events and mailings like the B.O. Alumni Blast. *Denotes members who are paying monthly dues through EFT.

- Wil Adams* (#417)
- Mike Allain* (#197)
- Chris Alley* (#467)
- Joshua Alost* (#406)
- Steven Austin* (#317)
- Andy Bachman* (#168)
- Nick Breaux* (#445)
- Wes Breeden* (#286)
- Robert Broadwell* (#198)
- Stan Brouillette (#205)
- Kevin Bruce* (#469)
- Steven Carrier* (#351)
- Rodney Clements (#383)
- Greg Comeaux* (#333)
- Billie Roy Cook (#368)
- Shayne Creppel* (#463)
- Shawn Daily* (#252)
- Brad Deville* (#439)
- Mike Edwards (#183)
- George Etheredge* (#181)
- Shelton Eubank's (#87)
- Larry Gracie, PhD* (#115)
- Chad Hancock* (#407)
- Chase Harvey* (#475)
- Doug Ireland* (#452)
- Bruce Kinder (#231)
- Joey Kliebert* (#367)
- DJ Klucznik* (#391)
- Joshua LeBlanc* (#462)
- Robert Lockwood* (#335)
- Lane Luckie* (#405)
- Steve McCutcheon* (#141)
- Cameron Moises* (#454)
- David Morgan* (#173)
- David Morgan, Jr.* (#307)
- Bill Morrison, PhD* (#451)
- Mike Murphy (#5)
- Logan Nolan* (#325)
- John Parish* (#221)
- Alan Pasch* (#357)
- Jason Phillips* (#286)
- Chris Rajewski (#352)
- Chris Reich* (#511)
- Taylor Richard* (#438)
- Monte Robinson (#174)
- Chris Sanders* (#460)
- Derek Sandoval* (#506)
- Randy Smith* (#389)
- Jason Stelly* (#355)
- Adam Stoll (#341)
- Kyle Thomas* (#290)
- Cory Wilson* (#311)
- Rick Yates* (#176)
- Butch York* (#455)

BETA OMICRON ALUMNI CHAPTER

Your support of the Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter has a measurable impact on the success of our students. One hundred percent of your contribution goes to fund worthwhile projects that advance Beta Omicron Chapter's tradition of excellence at NSU.

With your help, the Alumni Chapter supported these efforts:

- Funding the publication of this newsletter
- Sponsoring a leadership scholarship for incoming freshmen
- Awarding travel stipends to 5 students attending Pi Kappa College for Emerging Leaders
- Underwriting the cost of the student chapter's recruitment efforts
- Alumni Chapter national dues/ Housing Corp. Tax Return
- Funding repairs & renovations during the Chapter House work day
- Sponsoring the NSU Presidential Investiture/ Command Performance
- Purchasing an NSU tailgating space during football season

While some alumni make an annual contribution, please consider spreading your gift out over the course of the year by authorizing an easy, automatic monthly funds transfer. Most alumni agree to donate \$20 per month, but a gift in any amount makes a difference. Support your alumni chapter and make a lasting impact in the lives of our student members!

ALUMNI DUES

Your alumni dues help to fund alumni mailings and events. Dues are \$50 annually. If you have not yet paid for 2016, please send payment to:

David Morgan, Sr.
Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter Treasurer
16004 Chateau Avenue
Austin, Texas 78734

MONTHLY GIVING

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

ALUMNI UPDATES

To include an update about yourself in the next issue of the newsletter or submit historic photos and story ideas, email your submission to pikappNSU@gmail.com.

Alumni monthly giving form

Authorization for automatic transfer of funds

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE the Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity Housing Corp., Inc. to transfer

\$ _____
each month to their account held at Sabine State Bank, account number: _____

_____ from my account.

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 Fraternity and places no additional liability on the bank for failure to make timely transfer.

MY ACCOUNT NUMBER

ROUTING NUMBER

BANK NAME

BANK LOCATION
CITY/ STATE

DATE

SIGNATURE

PRINTED NAME

Mail above form and your first check (payable to "Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity") to:

David Morgan, Sr. | Pi Kappa Phi Alumni Chapter Treasurer | 16004 Chateau Avenue | Austin, Texas 78734



IN 2016, BETA OMICRON CHAPTER TURNS 60!

Throughout the year, pikappNSU.org and our social media accounts will feature nostalgic pictures, videos, and special reflections on our storied legacy. Watch your mailbox for information about our Diamond Jubilee Reunion in Fall 2016.