



Ten O Five Isaacs

Published by Gamma Epsilon Chapter of
Sigma Chi Fraternity at Whitman College

WALLA WALLA, WASHINGTON

FALL 2005

CONSUL PROUD OF IMPROVEMENT

In January, I was privileged to leave my post as quaestor and take over as consul from outgoing Gamma Epsilon Consul Andrew Shultz '05.

Led by Cole Smead '06 and a couple of dedicated individuals, Gamma Epsilon began the spring semester with great success. After adding an informal interview system and a formal bid ceremony, six bids were given and six were accepted. With two men accepting bids given to them from the previous semester, we gained a class of eight quality men.

Also this semester, Gamma Epsilon brought in Erwin Chemerinsky, a renowned constitutional law scholar, professor at Duke University, and father of Brother Adam Chemerinsky '08, to give a lecture on civil liberties and the war on terrorism. Brother Eamon McCleery '06, president of the Whitman Civil Liberties Union

and Alliance for Workplace Justice, introduced Professor Chemerinsky to the audience of students and staff.

Improving the image of our chapter on campus was not the only focus of the semester. I am proud to report that our chapter has adopted a new risk management plan and has taken steps to improve our academic performance. Scott Thompson '05, a future student of law at Duke and our scholarship chairman, started a mentor program, pairing academically successful upperclassmen with younger members.

We also set mandatory study hours for those earning below a 3.0 GPA.

In addition, Gamma Epsilon won the Whitman Student Triathlon, was a crowd favorite at the Chorale Contest and placed second in Greek Week (something no fraternity has done in recent history).

I am convinced that these great trends will continue next fall. Recruiting quality men over this last year will yield major dividends for Sigma Chi here at Whitman.

Consul Grant Curry '06



Gamma Epsilon Sigs won the lip sync competition during Greek Week this year.

Sigs Compete at Motor Rally

Tyson F. Wood '82 sends this news, "*Rick Warner '81 and I competed in the 16th annual Monte Shelton Northwest Classic Motor Rally on August 5-8, 2004, in Rick's 1967 Lancia Fulvia Sport (see photo). Rick faithfully drove the nimble Sport 'flat-out' to place 16th among 60 competitors while I navigated.*



We also enjoyed the company of fellow Sigs a week later in Manzanita, OR, for the annual beach gathering. In attendance were Bruce Boyington '81, Bob Douglas '82, Roger Douglas '82, Tom Niebergall '80 and Todd Trzcinski '82."

Tyson is senior vice president of investments at UBS Financial Services, Inc. Between them, Tyson and his wife, Leanne (Pacific Lutheran), have three children, Christina and Larissa, 12, and Ryan, 10.

Contact "Woody" at 116 Parkway Cir., Phoenix, OR 97535 or via e-mail at tysonwood@charter.net.

'Ten O Five Isaacs' Celebrates a New Year!

Welcome to the first issue of our new program year publishing *Ten O Five Isaacs*. The members of Gamma Epsilon Chapter of ΣΧ at Whitman are proud to bring you this publication. The brothers of Gamma Epsilon are committed to providing our alumni with a newsletter twice a year, covering the latest in chapter and alumni news. Continue sending us your personal news and photos—your correspondence keeps everyone informed and involved.

Our newsletter program depends entirely on support from alumni like you! Your contributions help us continue to deliver news of the chapter and your fellow brothers. Please send a contribution today in the enclosed envelope. By contributing, you are helping ensure *Ten O Five Isaacs* remains a Gamma Epsilon Chapter tradition. Thank you for your support!

An Update from Our Outgoing ARC

This is the last semester for me as alumni relations chairman at Gamma Epsilon. It has been a great ride!

There are many goals that I have accomplished the last year, such as incorporating alumni events into our chapter, starting a website and establishing an alumni listserv. Our website is located at http://www.whitman.edu/content/sigma_chi. Information about our alumni listserv can be found at the website as well. The listserv is located at sigmachialumni@whitman.edu. We believe opening these two avenues of information technology will keep our alumni informed about the latest developments here at Gamma Epsilon.

We hosted an Alumni Dessert on April 28. Generous alumni support allowed us to build a new brick barbecue on the back lawn. We have

hosted several barbecue's since, inviting friends of our chapter and professors over for lunch. We anticipate next fall's barbecue will be very helpful with rush.

In the future, we would also like to host a formal alumni banquet for prospective pledges during the fall rush period and give our alumni ample notice so that they can attend events



Our new brick barbecue

such as initiation, chapter and Sweetheart.

Last semester we hosted a dinner for local alumni, which was very successful. We would like to do something like that again next year.

An encased photo of 1952 Sweetheart Darcy Wayant and her badge was presented to the chapter at the Alumni Dinner on December 4, 2004. It now hangs in the charter room. The photo and a handwritten note from Darcy to the chapter looks so amazing, in large part, because of alumni support. Thank you!

We thank our alumni for their continued support of Gamma Epsilon and encourage all graduates to browse our website and subscribe to our alumni listserv.

*Alumni Relations Chairman
Spencer Fox '05*

Sweetheart Provides Perfect End to a Great Year

This year's Sweetheart Gala, held in Penticton, British Columbia, was a blast! Thirty-five brothers and their dates drove up to the Penticton Lakeside Resort & Casino for a weekend of fun in the sun. This beautiful resort provided amazing lake vistas.

The weekend culminated with a dinner and dance at the Grand Okanagan in Kelowna, just 45

minutes north of Penticton. After the dinner, the men of Sigma Chi crowned Meghan Bunch Sweetheart of Gamma Epsilon Chapter. Three dozen white roses were given to Meghan right before the entire brotherhood sang "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

All in all, it was the perfect end to a perfect weekend. Meghan is the perfect candidate; she is fun, sweet

and a great friend to all the brothers. We thank Meghan for all she has done for us, and we congratulate her on receiving this honor. In addition, we thank both the Penticton Lakeside Resort and the Grand Okanagan Resort for hosting this wonderful event. Hopefully, next year's Sweetheart event will be just as much fun!

*Sweetheart Chairman
Andrew Shultz '05*



Our new Sweetheart, Meghan Bunch '07 (left), with Brett Cottle '05 and Emily Arneson '06 in Kelowna



Gamma Epsilon Sigs with their dates at the Sweetheart Gala

A Message from Our Magister

The 2005 spring semester brought eight new pledges to Gamma Epsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi, five of whom initiated this summer. With the initiation of these five outstanding young men, our new member count for the 2004-05 school year rose to 13. These 13 new Sigs will be instrumental in the future progress of our chapter.

The senior class that we are losing is full of strong leaders, excellent recruiters and passionate ΣXs. We will be looking to these new brothers to step up and fill the shoes the seniors left empty. Our five potential initiates are freshmen Thomas Alcorn (pledge class president), Will Gibson and Adam Knappe and sophomores Brett Mayhew and Matt McKenzie.

As their philanthropic project, our pledges helped organize and execute a fund-raiser to build a new house for a single mother whose husband recently died in Central America. The pledges helped make the fund-raiser an enormous success, raising more money than the group had predicted.

As of press time, our pledges will be initiated at the end of the summer, just before the fall semester begins. We hope that with these 13 new members, we will maintain the strength and success that the older brothers have built at Gamma Epsilon.

Magister J.D. Fischer '06

Whitman Baseball Will Miss These Sigs!

Baseball has been America's favorite pastime forever, or at least since I can remember. Little kids are still brought into their backyards by their fathers to swing a bat two days after they learn how to walk! Those days shared by father and son symbolize the purity of this wonderful game. Unfortunately, the integrity of the game has recently been challenged with blatant cheating at the professional level. Players trying to get an edge have been ruining a kids' game that they are lucky enough to be paid to play.

Despite this, another part of the game is still pure of and unchanged by performance-enhancing drugs. For our graduating senior Sigs, there will be no million-dollar signing bonuses, no multimillion-dollar shoe endorsement deals and no chance to play this game for a living.

Our chapter has three young standouts who began playing together eight years ago at Blanchet High School in Seattle, WA. Brothers Spencer Fox, Andrew Shultz and Sean Kinney have found a way to stick together for nearly a decade on the baseball diamond. The self-proclaimed "Blanchet Boys" have played the game the right way, with heart and intensity. Win or lose, these Sigs have given the

game all they have and then some. A good example is a diving catch in the outfield made by Andrew against Pacific Lutheran University this year in the late innings when Whitman was down by 11 runs. As he came off the field, players and fans remarked about what hustle he showed even though his team was unlikely to salvage the game. Andrew can't understand why people would be so impressed by his effort because he takes it as a given that he should play his heart out for all nine innings no matter what.

These three brothers have all had great careers during their time at Whitman College. Spencer turned himself from a backup high school player to three-year starter at the college level, hitting a brisk .273 in his sophomore year and providing solid defense behind the plate every game. Andrew made himself a mainstay in the outfield by making diving catch after catch, prompting applause even from opposing hitters who had triples taken away from them. Andrew also showed he could swing the bat by hitting .316 and .295 in his last two seasons. Sean set the all-time season and career hits records at Whitman during his four-year career, with 57 his junior year and 197 for his career. He also showed his versatility by moving from the position of outfield to shortstop halfway through his senior year to shore up the defense.

Junior J.D. Fischer remarked, "From Spencer's leadership behind the dish, to Shultz's diving catches, as well as Kinney's bat, these seniors will be sorely missed. I don't know what baseball at Whitman will be like without their heart and inspiration. They played the game the right way."

Basement Chairman Sean Kinney '05



Graduating seniors (l-r) Sean, Andrew and Spencer prepare for their last home baseball game at Borleske.

Ten O Five Isaacs is published by the brothers of Sigma Chi Fraternity at Whitman College for members and friends.

Alumni news items, photographs and change of address notices should be sent to Gamma Epsilon of Sigma Chi, c/o Newsletter Program Headquarters, P.O. Box 45621, Seattle, WA 98145-0621.

Involved Sigs Strengthen Chapter

Campus leadership and community involvement have been top priorities at Gamma Epsilon Chapter. As a chapter, we realize that brotherhood with an emphasis on friendship, justice and learning is important inside the house. At the same time, we also realize that it is vital to get out of the house and be an active member of the Whitman College and the Walla Walla communities.

This year, Gamma Epsilon strongly emphasized philanthropic activities, athletics and involvement in campus and community organizations. Our chapter believes that active participation in the community keeps our chapter healthy and maintains our reputation as the best fraternity on campus.

During our recruitment process, we not only seek young men who exhibit the qualities of The Jordan Standard, but also those who are active and willing to give back to the community. This recruitment philosophy has made Gamma Epsilon a very well-rounded chapter. For example, Whitman has 13 varsity baseball players who wear the White Cross, plus five varsity tennis players, two varsity ski racers, two varsity swimmers, five lacrosse players, four rugby players and one varsity basketball player.

In addition to athletics, Gamma Epsilon Sigs are active in the Whitman Chorale and the Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC), with Scott Thompson '05 the immediate past president of ASWC. Brother Zach Lough '08 is the Mikado in Whitman's production *The Mikado*, and several other brothers have minor theater roles.

Brother Ben Reibar '06 is a member of the Whitman Investment Club. This club is in charge of investing \$300,000 in the stock market to fund scholarships for needy students.

Many of our brothers also hold down jobs in the Whitman and Walla Walla communities. These jobs range from working in the Admissions Office (Robert Street '07) and Starbucks to *America Reads* (Alex Farnand '06).

Ten of our brothers teamed up to coach YMCA basketball to second graders during the winter. We also have many brothers who weekly mentor students at local elementary schools.

Each September during Opening Week, Sigma Chi hosts a faculty and new student luncheon. This luncheon is on the college's master calendar each year, and it is always a huge success. The luncheon is designed as a way for new students to meet faculty in an informal setting at the beginning of the school year.

On April 26, Sigma Chi brought Erwin Chemerinsky to lecture on campus, a well-respected civil right's lawyer and professor at Duke Law School. Mr. Chemerinsky is currently repre-

senting the American Civil Liberties Union in the Ten Commandments case before the Supreme Court. He is also representing Guatemala Bay detainees in a separate case. The lecture was attended by several hundred students.

This type of campus involvement is vital to the survival of our chapter. Gamma Epsilon also brings good publicity to the entire Whitman Greek community by giving back to Walla Walla. It is important for others to see the positive attributes associated with fraternities—not just the stereotypes represented in the media. Our chapter represents itself well, and this creates positive feelings about the entire Greek system, which in turn, is advantageous for Sigma Chi.

Pro Consul Robert Street '07



Gamma Epsilon Sigs performing at the Whitman Chorale Contest

A Senior Reflects on Graduation

I'm about to graduate, and it's scary—but you all know that. You've been there before. You've walked across that stage, grabbed that diploma and shaken that waiting, congratulatory hand. You faced that wide, unknown, "real world." For the next two days, I will be in complete awe of that—complete, unfathomable awe.

Then on Saturday, I'll be a wreck—dealing with family members and friends, last greetings and good-byes—then at 11 a.m. on Sunday, May 22, I will forever bid adieu to my childhood. What will I find on the other side? I'm not sure. You know, but for some reason, you can't tell me.

I hear a lot of "You have no idea" and "Whitman is not like the 'real world.'" But that doesn't tell me anything I don't already think. You know, and I don't. But soon enough, we'll both know.

Then, when I come back to visit next year and the friends and brothers I'm leaving behind ask me what it is like out there, I'll have that same sort of grin on my face and that sort of glassy-eyed stare that I see on the alumni who visit...the one that almost breaks your heart because you see how much they miss ΣΧ...the one that shows you that things will never be quite the same again.

I suspect that I won't be able to tell them the answer either. I will smile and laugh, buy someone a beer and enjoy the memories. Always.

Mike Kaplan-Miner '05