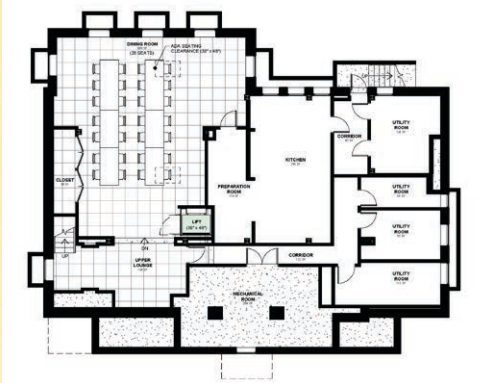


ZETA DATA



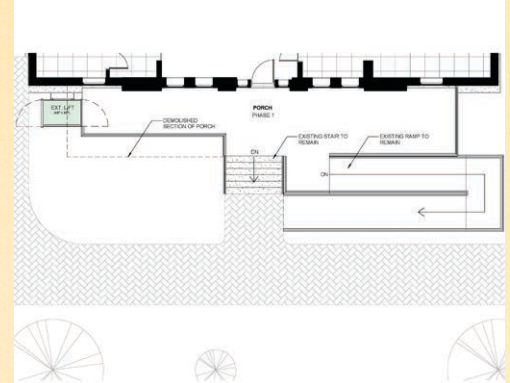
ALPHA-IOTA ZETA OF LAMBDA CHI ALPHA AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY / SPRING 2021



Basement



First Floor



Porch

New Lease Agreement Requires 2339 Sheridan Road to Be ADA-Compliant by 2022

You Can Add to Alpha-Iota Zeta's Legacy by Helping Fund Chapter House Updates

If it wasn't clear before, the past year has crystallized how precious a college student's on-campus experience is. The time each of us spent at Northwestern went by quickly, but it gave us many cherished memories. No organization played a bigger role in our development than Lambda Chi Alpha. The lifelong friendships, leadership lessons, and shared values helped to make us the men we are today.

For Alpha-Iota Zeta, the hub of our growth has been centered at 2339 Sheridan Road for nearly a century. Ten years ago, we came together as a brotherhood to make critical improvements to our home. Today, we are faced with the challenge of ensuring our great Fraternity's preservation for the benefit of future generations.

Our new lease agreement requires our home to be ADA-compliant by 2022. While there might be some extension offered, this project will be necessary sooner than later. Beyond any mandate, we believe 2339 Sheridan Road must be inclusive, comfortable, and safe for all brothers and guests. Our Lambda Chi home has been the place where we first met our brothers, learned core values, and grew into men. Our values call us to offer this opportunity for all.

Over the past 10 years, the alumni association has worked hard to maintain good financial standing. Our savings have increased by more than \$300k in this time. While our priority was to provide

for the Chapter House, the COVID-19 crisis has steered our resolve to ensure Alpha-Iota Zeta always has financial reserves. When the necessary decision was made to send all Northwestern students home early in spring 2020, the alumni association forgave rent fees to alleviate the financial burden on our students who are already stretched in attending our prestigious university. That forgiveness continued in the fall quarter. While a limited number of students returned to the house for winter quarter, these impacts have provided a real challenge. As we are heartened by news of vaccines and looking forward to a bright future, we must ensure that these COVID-19 setbacks don't become long-term liabilities for our organization.

We must maintain this emergency fund to protect our undergraduates and our house from unexpected circumstances.

We don't yet fully know the challenges our future brothers will face, but we do know that Lambda Chi Alpha is the transformative life experience to give them the support they need to be successful. And we know, more than ever, that communal living is a cornerstone of the Lambda Chi experience that is our duty as alumni to provide for undergraduate men.

Yours in ZAX,
Michael Garson '10
(732) 331-9491 | michaelmgarson@gmail.com

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Complete first-floor and entryway renovation
- Entrance access ramp and revitalized front terrace
- First-floor suite and bathroom renovation
- Preparation for future expenses of a live-in advisor

PROJECT COST BREAKDOWN

Interior lift and shaft	\$277,753
Accessible bedroom and bathroom	\$109,275
Exterior lift	\$66,769
General conditions	\$117,951
Asbestos allowance	\$33,154
Porch, walls, stairs	\$130,528
Front restroom improvements	\$29,258
Contingency	\$30,588
Reserve fund	\$200,000
TOTAL	\$995,276



Left: Brothers enjoy a day on the water. **Middle:** Brothers go skiing at Wilmot Mountain with members of Northwestern sorority. **Right:** Rich Godsel '22 and Nate Heyen '23 play a game of pool. The live-in brothers also frequently play ping-pong and watch movies together.

Facing Challenges Head-on

Alpha-Iota Zeta Undergraduates Push Forward Despite Pandemic Struggles

COVID-19 certainly hasn't made things easy for Alpha-Iota Zeta during the 2020-21 academic year. A few brothers who couldn't pay dues due to the economic strain of the pandemic made the difficult decision to deactivate. Due to university policies, we couldn't conduct any recruiting during the fall quarter. However, our recruitment team worked tirelessly with national advisors during the winter quarter to determine how to safely build our brotherhood during a pandemic.

During the fall quarter, we held Chapter meetings via Zoom to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Many brothers are burnt out on Zoom calls, but the bonds of brotherhood are still being built thanks to some creativity. Many members have been participating in

virtual Dungeons and Dragons sessions, playing board games, and joining each other for online gaming. We also formed a Dance Marathon team and have remained as dedicated as we can be with our innovative fundraising efforts. We've done our best to keep as many brothers involved as possible.

We know part of the Lambda Chi experience is learning from mistakes and holding our brothers accountable. In full transparency, four brothers were suspended and assigned to community service after an incident where bottles were thrown at the window of another fraternity house. One of these brothers has already graduated; the other three are working through their sanctions. All four members apologized to the fraternity on the receiving end of this

incident and paid for the necessary repairs. We deeply regret this incident and are confident that the proper mechanisms are now in place to protect our campus reputation and relationships.

Despite all of this, there is good news. We opened the Chapter House in the winter quarter to accommodate 12 men. We normally have 24 men living in, but this will at least provide the Chapter some revenue. Every brother has their own room (in some cases a two-room suite) as we've strived to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Fraternally,
Brendan Gibson '22
Chapter President

BELIEVING IN LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

Abolish Greek Life Movement Helps Put Fraternal Experience into Perspective for Alpha-Iota Zeta

Last year was most unusual for us all, but few environments have seen more disruption and turmoil than college campuses. In addition to the pandemic-related changes to online coursework, housing and social restrictions, a discussion of diversity, equity, and inclusion came to the forefront last summer. Historical institutions have been challenged for their relevance, and on several campuses around the United States, fraternity and sorority students examined their own Greek experience.

These crucial conversations have been held around Northwestern University. In July 2020, *The Daily Northwestern* wrote how the 20% of Northwestern's campus who is Greek has discussed reckoning with its diversity and inclusion. As part of this reckoning, Greek students discussed ways to reform their chapters or even abolishing Greek life from campus altogether. To be very clear, these conversations were

initiated by concerned students; this has not been led from the campus administration.

"These issues have definitely impacted us," Alpha-Iota Zeta High Alpha **Brendan Gibson '22** said. "We had some people deactivate. And we've had serious conversations about the points [proponents for change] were trying to bring up. A lot of it has led to positive change. Abolish Greek Life has brought things to our attention—for example, how we recruit. People have brought up issues about how with Zoom recruitment (because students are at home) we might see more into [the potential associate member's] socioeconomic issues."

Chapter members stand to have more confidence in the values and mission of the fraternity knowing these

(Continued on page 4)

A Loyal Lambda Chi Through and Through

Mike Grover '05 Enters Chapter Eternal Following 13-Year Battle with Brain Cancer

When **Mike Grover '05** was diagnosed with brain cancer at the young age of 24, he could have very easily given up on many of his life goals. As a loyal Lambda Chi through and through, Mike lived life to the fullest during his 13-year cancer battle before he entered Chapter Eternal on January 10, 2021. Mike was truly a man of loyalty, duty, respect, stewardship and service, honor, integrity, and personal courage as he raised his daughters, Sophia, Deborah, and Rivka, with his wife, Lea.

"He never wanted his life to be defined by cancer," Lea told the *Chicago Tribune*. "He wanted to be defined by the things in his life that he cared about and that mattered."

Mike was only given 12 to 18 months to live after his diagnosis of glioblastoma, which is the most aggressive form of brain cancer. He was given the diagnosis just a few days after getting engaged to Lea. Nevertheless, Mike went on to marry Lea, go on their honeymoon to New Zealand, be a successful structural engineer, and be a wonderful role model to his daughters.

"Not every death is a tragedy," Mike said in a December 2020 interview that was conducted by Lea for StoryCorps Chicago. "I guess that's what I'm going for. I've survived this thing a lot longer than I was supposed to. And if I leave well-adjusted kids, then I think my death would be a victory."

Mike lived out Lambda Chi Alpha's mission by leading an ethical life of growth, service, and leadership. His education wasn't done after he graduated from Northwestern in 2005. In 2012, he earned his master's in structural engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology as he was working for U.S. Steel. He then went to work for Skidmore Owings & Merrill as a structural engineer. While Mike's career accomplishments left his peers in awe, his biggest achievement in life was his family.

"The thing I'll say about you is that I don't know anybody who has ever loved their family as much as you do," Lea said near the end of the StoryCorps Chicago interview. "And I say that selfishly because I don't know that anyone has ever loved me as much as you do."

Mike responded, "I love you so much." Those who wish to contribute to the Grover family can support their GoFundMe at www.gofundme.com/f/love-for-the-grover-family.



Mike Grover '05 with his daughters, Sophia, Deborah, and Rivka. Photo courtesy of his wife, Lea, from her blog, [Becoming SuperMommy](#).

THANK YOU, GENEROUS DONORS

You Can Make a Difference at Alpha-Iota Zeta with a Gift Today!

We are grateful for the following brothers who have given generously to support Alpha-Iota Zeta over the past year. Due to Northwestern University Foundation's privacy policies, exact donation totals for individuals are not provided to the Fraternity. If you have questions about your donation total, please contact Northwestern University Foundation at (800) 222-5603 or email giving@northwestern.edu.

Donations from our loyal alumni are vital to securing Lambda Chi Alpha's future at Northwestern. You can make a huge impact on our brotherhood today by making a gift at wewill.northwestern.edu/recurringgift. Thank you for your dedication to Alpha-Iota Zeta!

Arthur A. Macy '52
Arthur J. Kerr Jr. '53
Dr. Marvin P. Sondalle '53
Michael G. Barbour '58
Col. Robert L. Sims '59
Joseph L. Janette, D.D.S. '58
William R. Miller '58
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Raymond F. Douglas '60
M. Richard Kem, M.D. '61
David P. Colley, M.D. '62
Richard R. Miller '64
Gary F. Grammer, J.D. '65
Samuel S. Stewart Jr., Ph.D. '66
Robert T. Langan, Ph.D. '71
DeMar A. Neal, M.D. '75
James F. Padden '76
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Antonio D'Amico '87
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David H. Abrams '95
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Eric Carlsen '01
Frank D. Keller '01
Michael J. Badalov '02
Max S. Bulbin '06
Michael M. Garson '10
Benjamin J. Reisman '14
Rovik J. Robert '17
Nathan R. Mills '18
Kyle A. Borawski-Pickard '19

How to contribute

If you have not contributed to this campaign or would like to increase your gift, please use the enclosed envelope and return it to Northwestern.

Please be sure to note Lambda Chi Alpha in the memo line.



Rich Godsel '22, Matthew Perez '22, and Robert Gallo '21 go out for shakes during and officer transition meeting for Standards and High Kappa.



Matthew Perez '22 and Mick Rios '22 study together for an upcoming exam.



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ZETA DATA



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Share Your Memories

Alpha-Iota Zeta would like to feature your photos in upcoming newsletters! Whether it's a much-needed member class reunion or even a virtual or socially distanced hangout, we want to see them. Please send any pictures from your gatherings with brothers to dbettenhausen@penningtonco.com.

BELIEVING IN LAMBDA CHI ALPHA

(Continued from page 2)

discussions are out in the open and a diverse, inclusive membership is a tenet of Alpha-Iota Zeta. "The 30-plus brothers active in the Fraternity at this point are committed," Brandon said. "Why pay dues if you can't do the social things if that's all you're in it for? If you're still paying dues through this pandemic, then you truly believe [in Lambda Chi Alpha]."

Perhaps not since the Vietnam War era has the collegiate social fraternity seen such scrutiny for relevance. Much as it did then, we have full confidence that Lambda Chi Alpha continues to provide leadership and social opportunities that young men at Northwestern desire. First- and second-year students returned to campus for winter quarter. The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has

been working with the active Chapter on a recruitment campaign.

Naturally, fall quarter was difficult for our Lambda Chi men to do much to build connections, but a group of sophomores has laid groundwork for a successful spring recruitment through their friend networks. As the vaccine rollout ramps up and a return to a welcomed and familiar buzz around campus slowly but surely builds, we expect an overdue desire for social engagement will benefit Lambda Chi Alpha with new blood for the next generation.

Yours in ZAX,
Michael Garson '10
(732) 331-9491
michaeltgarson@gmail.com