



CRESCENT NEWS



Epsilon-Chi Zeta of Lambda Chi Alpha • Spring 2022

Doing What Needs to Be Done

Eric Alred '81 (EX651) Receives National AXA Order of Merit Award

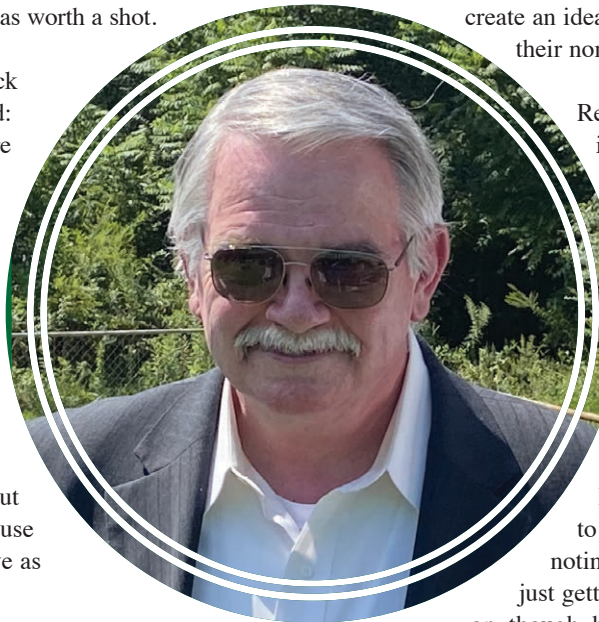
Although he didn't have the intention of joining Greek life when he arrived to MSU, **Eric Alred '81 (EX651)** is grateful he ultimately chose to give it a chance. He was a snare drummer for MSU's Famous Maroon Band with his hometown friend, **Mike Mahoney '78**, who was also a Lambda Chi affiliated into MSU's chapter after transferring from Millsaps College. The more Mike talked about the fraternal experience, the more Eric was convinced it was worth a shot.

Once he joined Lambda Chi, Eric found quick comfort in his newly discovered brotherhood: "The people were my favorite part; they were all great to be around. A good time was had by all," he shared.

More than 20 years passed before Eric took on an alumnus role in the House Corporation. He explained, "I didn't step foot in the chapter house for many years, but I always kept up with what was happening. I noticed a slow decline in Lambda Chi and realized something had to change. I felt like I needed to help bring about that change." Shortly after, he attended a House Corporation meeting in which he would leave as the new president.

As Eric familiarized himself in the role, he was reminded how togetherness is the key to solving anything. "I'm proud of seeing alumni and active members gather to accomplish goals together; reinforcing a positive fraternal environment is not a one-man show. Our success is the result of the hard work and commitment of many of our brothers. I'm happy with the progress we've made so far, and there is even more to do," he shared.

Mark Ertel '77 (EX5370), **Scott Baldwin '86 (EX783)**, **Ben Nanney '06 (EX1084)**, and **Carter Allen '17 (EX1320)** believe that Eric's determination has strengthened Epsilon-Chi in ways they've never seen before. So when Eric was looking the other way, they all sent in nomination letters for the Order of Merit Award to the Lambda Chi Alpha's General Fraternity and elaborated on Eric's willingness to create an idea and turn it into a reality. (See excerpts from their nominations on page 2).



Reflecting on the day he received the call informing him that he won the National AXA Order of Merit Award, he explained the shock he felt when he answered the phone, noting, "I didn't even know I had been nominated." Eric was merely doing what he could to better the Lambda Chi community, so it was a surprise for him to get the recognition. "They were certainly sneaky; but in all seriousness, I am moved by it," he added.

Eric has an assortment of goals he would like to accomplish as House Corporation president, noting that the job to improve Lambda Chi is just getting started. Of all the roles Eric has taken on, though, being a grandfather is his favorite: "With my grandchildren, my job is to spoil them, play with them and, when they smell funny, hand them back to their parents," he joked.

To learn more about what's next for Lambda Chi, you can connect with Eric at ealred21@gmail.com.

"There are so many people along the way that teach, influence, and mentor you, and it's a blessing to learn from them."

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VISION, LEADERSHIP, ORGANIZATION, AND DEDICATION

Brothers Weigh In on the Order of Merit Nomination

Since 1935, Lambda Chi Alpha has recognized distinctive, lengthy, and dedicated service—particularly at the local chapter level—with election to the Order of Merit. Every two years, the Fraternity recognizes dedicated alumni who have continuously given of themselves to the Fraternity on a local level. This award demonstrates appreciation for service to the Fraternity and outstanding individual and chapter accomplishments.

Several brothers were involved in the nomination of **Eric Alred '81 (EX651)**. These are some excerpts from their nomination letters:

“A book could literally be written about Eric and his steadfast commitment through brotherly love to our Zeta, Epsilon-Chi. This is not a myopic commitment only to our Zeta. He is profoundly committed to our larger Fraternity. Our alumni have rallied and the chapter has grown only because of the foundation he has built. In my fraternal opinion, no one, and I have met many Order of Merit brothers, deserves this recognition any more than Eric Alred!” —**Mark Ertel '77 (EX 537)**

“His passion and love for our chapter, past, present, and future, has been very evident as seen through his tireless efforts. When you talk to Eric, he never takes credit for these successes but always recognizes the team effort it took to make it happen. I know, however, that I speak for our entire active and alumni base in saying that we will forever be appreciative of his vision, leadership, organization, and dedication. We would absolutely never have accomplished these things without him.” —**Scott Baldwin '86 (EX783)**

“Our entire organization in Epsilon-Chi, both alumni and undergraduate, is as strong as it's ever been in our history. There is no doubt in my mind that this is due to the many years of hard work, countless sacrifices, and relentless effort put in by Brother Eric Alred. In the last 11 years, our chapter has experienced many changes, but only one constant: Brother Alred. Looking back on that conversation I had with Eric in the dining room when I was an undergraduate, it is easy to see that our chapter's success is because of Eric's unwavering dedication and love for his brothers. All brothers from Epsilon-Chi, both past and present, will stand with me and exclaim that we all are indebted to Eric and his continuing years of service to get us to where we are today!” —**Ben Nanney '06 (EX1084)**

“Eric not only had a dream to get a new chapter house, but he also had a dream to invest himself in everyone he worked with to help better all those around him. When High Kappas educate the associate members and the active chapter on the core values, there is one that sticks out to me when it comes to Eric. This would be loyalty. Eric is the most loyal Lambda Chi Alpha I have ever witnessed in my time as an undergraduate brother. I have gone to General Assembly and the High Alpha Summit and still have not seen someone who is as passionate and as committed to achieving success for a chapter as I have seen in Eric Alred.”

—**Carter Allen '17 (EX1320)**



A LIVELY LAMBDA CHI SPRING

*Epsilon-Chi Chapter Succeeds in
Academics and More*



*Our brothers enjoying
New Orleans during their trip for formal.*

Over the last few months, the members of Epsilon-Chi Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha have been extremely busy. The semester has already been packed with brotherhood events, study sessions, social functions, and intramurals.

We finished the last semester with a GPA of 3.13, which beats the men's average of 2.91 and gives us the fifth-best GPA out of 17 fraternities. Thirty of our members made the President's List and 45 made the Dean's List. We also had 97 members earn a GPA above a 3.0. To raise our GPA, we are currently hosting study sessions three nights a week that are mandatory for all associate members and every active member who holds a GPA below 2.85.

Our philanthropy schedule this semester consisted of two events: a poker night and a food night at the house. The poker night was open to all active and associate members of the chapter, and half of the stakes went toward Feeding America. Our food night took place in our courtyard on April 5, and we sold \$5 tickets to enjoy slow-cooked barbecue.

We held an alumni event at our box in right field at Dudy Noble on April 9 for the baseball game against LSU, and a Parent's Day event was hosted at the same venue on March 26. All alumni were welcome and encouraged to attend both events, which were both followed by festivities at the house. If you didn't make it to one of our events this time, we hope to see you at one in the future!

In terms of recruitment, our chapter fared extremely well. We gained nine associate members this spring, which is larger than the previous three spring semester recruitment classes. We had three members win Senate elections recently: **Will Jones '23**, **Cole Ray '24**, and **Trace Howell '25**.

We also have members involved in many other organizations on campus, such as the Mississippi State Athletics Marketing Department, the Club Baseball Team, the Club Lacrosse Team, the Pre-Dentistry Society, the Thirst Project, New Maroon Camp, and the Accounting and Finance Student Society. Our intramural softball team is looking to defend last year's first-place finish and is currently ranked 1st in the Men's Greek League.

As we move forward to finish this semester and start the next, the men of Lambda Chi would like to personally thank all the alumni that have been involved this semester. There's also an open invitation to all alumni to visit the house at any time!

Yours in ZAX,
C.J. Fisher
High Alpha
cmf463@msstate.edu

Welcome, New Members

Peyton Burkhalter

Mandeville, La.

"I chose Lambda Chi because of the warmth and authenticity all of the members had toward me."

Steven Cagle

Savannah, Tenn.

"I chose Lambda Chi because I was shown genuine interest, not just forced conversations."

Caleb Cameron

Madison, Miss.

"I saw a real, diverse group of guys who cared about each other, and I wanted to be a part of it."

Evan Clayton

Prosper, Texas

"I chose Lambda Chi because of how welcoming all the guys were and the brotherhood they had with one another. It also really felt like a second home to me."

Andrew Dufrene

Pass Christian, Miss.

"I chose Lambda Chi because I really liked all the active members, and it was the most welcoming environment on campus to me."

Colten Easterling

Vicksburg, Miss.

"I chose Lambda Chi Alpha because of the people I talked to when I went through formal recruitment. Compared to other fraternities, Lambda seemed genuine, and I related to it the most."

Hunter Hodges

New Albany, Miss.

"I was drawn to Lambda Chi because I felt wanted and cared for as soon as I walked in the door."

Trace Howell

Clinton, Miss.

"Every member of Lambda Chi has been very open and welcoming to me, making me feel right at home."

Tyler Jenkins

Franklin, Tenn.

"I chose Lambda Chi because of the great group of guys. Everyone is super chill."

Ben Miller

Brandon, Miss.

"I was drawn to Lambda Chi because of how genuine every member is."

Walker Rhea

Madison, Miss.

"I chose Lambda Chi because it felt different than any other fraternity, and everyone seemed real."

Wyatt Slonneger

Pascagoula, Miss.

"I chose Lambda Chi Alpha because of the overall outstanding quality of the brotherhood. The great experiences I had during my time in formal recruitment could not even begin to be replicated by any other fraternity on campus."

Jacob Tuten

Suwanee, Ga.

"I chose Lambda Chi because of how welcomed I felt here, and every person I talked to had real interest in me as a person."



HIGH PI AT EPSILON-CHI

Greg Smith, Arkansas State '68 Serves Our Chapter as a Mentor

My name is **Greg Smith, Arkansas State '68**, and I was initiated into the Iota-Theta Chapter of Lambda Chi Alpha at Arkansas State University in the spring of 1968 and graduated in 1972. Over the years, I was aware of several alumni from Arkansas State who became involved with Lambda Chi Alpha chapters at other universities, and this was something I hoped I would be able to do one day.

When my wife and I retired, she wanted to move back to Columbus so we could be nearer to her aging parents and our daughter and her family. With Starkville only about 30 miles away, I decided to visit the Epsilon-Chi Chapter house at Mississippi State, hoping that I could finally have an opportunity to be involved with Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity again.

I met **Carter Allen '17 (EX1320)**, High Alpha at that time, and started attending High Zeta and chapter meetings. I have come to love Epsilon-



CJ Fisher '23 (left) and Harris Mason '22 (right) join High Pi Greg Smith, Arkansas State '68 in celebrating his Advisor of the Year Award at the Ritter Awards.

Chi as if it were my own chapter. The reason I became High Pi was to help mentor the brothers and guide them in making wise decisions. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the members grow and become young men and leaders, since their generation will be our country's next leaders.

As High Pi, I am also on the House Corporation Board. I try to understand the financial needs of the chapter (for example, extra money for projects) and convey these needs to the Board.

Lambda Chi Alpha National wants each chapter to have an Alumni Advisory Board to mentor and advise the officers of the chapter. **If you are a former officer and are interested in serving on this Board, please**

let me know. My email is lambdachialphauniv@gmail.com and my mobile is (904) 710-2822.

JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!

Visit our website at lxamsstate.com/alumni for more information, a digital payment option, and a current list of members.

Membership dues: \$100/year or \$10/month.

Membership benefits:

- Ensure continued alumni newsletters and communications
- Fund alumni social gatherings for members
- Access a digital membership directory of members
- MSU cap with AXA letters (first year of membership)

You can also join via check made payable to "Epsilon-Chi Zeta Alumni Association" and mailed to: Lambda Chi Alpha, P.O. Box 218307, Nashville, TN 37221.



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Chapter Officers

President

CJ Fisher '23

Mishawaka, Ind.

cmf463@msstate.edu

"I wanted to become an officer because I value the culture we have, and I want that to continue."

Internal Vice President

Harris Mason '22

Meridian, Miss.

External Vice President

Robby Skelton '24

Memphis, Tenn.

"I wanted to become an officer because I realize that there is so much opportunity for change in the city of Starkville alone, and I believe Lambda Chi and our philanthropy efforts can have a major impact on our community."

Secretary

Grant Norman '23

Dubois, Pa.

Treasurer

Wade Lowery '24

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

New Member Educator

Matthew Cox '24

Memphis, Tenn.

"I wanted to become an officer because I want the opportunity to teach the values our chapter upholds."

Recruitment Chairmen

Cole Ross '23

West Point, Miss.

(662) 295-9447 | jcr686@msstate.edu

Nathan Blankenship '24

Huntsville, Ala.

(256) 698-2694 | ndb205@msstate.edu

"I wanted to become an officer because I want to do my part in recruiting members that will be leaders and good assets in our chapter."

Olman Castro '24

Lithia, Fla.

(813) 509-7652 | ojc34@msstate.edu

"I wanted to become an officer because I want to make an impact on the chapter by recruiting new members that will make a difference."

Ritualist

Graham Leslie '23

Woodstock, Ga.

"I wanted to become an officer because I feel I can make a lasting impact on the operations of the chapter."

Alumni Chairman

Sam Theobald '24

Union City, Tenn.

"I wanted to become an officer because of the people who have come before me. I want to connect with our former alumni and make sure that they are up to date with everything we do."

Risk Manager

Wyatt Slonneger '24

Pascagoula, Miss.

"I wanted to become an officer to serve and give back to this Fraternity, which has given me so much. I found that maintaining the safety and stability of our chapter was the best way for me to serve toward its never-ending advancement."

Scholarship Chairman

Jacob Woods '24

Paducah, Ky.

"I wanted to become an officer so I can improve the overall GPA of the chapter and allow actives to reach their full potential through both attendance and grades. I believe the aspects of accountability and striving for excellence will help lay a solid foundation for the future of this Fraternity and better prepare the active chapter as they embark on their next journey."

Social Chairman

Jake Witterman '23

Alpharetta, Ga.

Executive Committee

Carter McElroy '23

Vicksburg, Miss.

Colten Easterling '25

Vicksburg, Miss.

"I wanted to become an officer so that I can use this position to change this chapter for the better and affect others in a positive way. It is important to me that this chapter continues to grow in a positive way and not regress."

Ben Miller '25

Brandon, Miss.

"I wanted to become an officer so that I can use my abilities to have a positive impact on this chapter in return for all that it has given me already."