



The Red & White

WWW.OMICRONXI.ORG

facebook "Omicron Xi"

"Omicron Xi Alumni" 

Omicron Xi Fraternity Spring Edition

Est. 1947

From the President:

As we get closer and closer to the end of yet another great school year, I hope that this letter finds all of you well! Looking back at this year, it has been incredible to watch the fraternity grow and thrive.

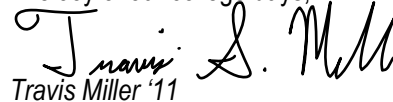
This spring we pledged twelve new freshmen and added a social bid giving us a grand total of 46 Okies. We have enjoyed getting to know them and helping them get acclimated them to the fraternity. Hopefully, you will get the chance to at least meet them at some point

as well. I have every confidence that these new guys will continue to carry on the rich legacy of the Omicron Xi Fraternity which you have passed along to us.

Another big development this year was the creation of a formal fraternity purpose statement. Through many discussions within each pledge class, and within the fraternity, we created a two page document defining our core values of Love, Integrity, Fellowship, and Wisdom. It was a great process that will have a lasting impact as it continues to strengthen and encourage the brotherhood.

Soon I and the 11 other graduating seniors will join the alumni ranks. We look forward to the continued blessing of brotherhood that we will share with each of you. We are proud to say that we leave the fraternity in good hands.

The Joy of our college days,


Travis Miller '11



A Senior's Perspective:

The Blurry Vision of a Concussed Entrepreneur

Well, the reality of graduation is rapidly approaching. Sleeping hours continue to dwindle, fuzzy goals are beginning to exit the nebulous stage and take on nearly perceptible shapes, and my enthusiasm for the next step functions in an inversely proportionate manner to my sanity. I'm going crazy, but I'm excited. It may be the product of six concussions, it may be the fact that I still have seven weeks of safety, but my ardor for life beyond Grove City's collegiate walls vastly outweighs my anxiety about the uncertainty of existence sans-Hopeman.

I have been blessed to attend Grove City College, blessed to be an Okie, blessed to experience the richness of community, brotherhood, and intense relationships. The active-to-alumni

metamorphosis will be a bittersweet phenomenon. My relationships with my closest friends will change significantly. Distance will work against the level of day-to-day intimacy that we are accustomed to sharing, but the post-college "welcome-to-planet-earth" maturation process may propel us towards relational depth we haven't experienced before.

Regardless, I won't worry about missing the Okies – I'm bringing the Okies with me. Just kidding...but seriously. Dimmer (Andrew Dymski '11), Brandon

Jones '13, and myself are working together to change the world via GuavaBox, our Internet Content Marketing and Strategy firm. Getting off the ground and becoming profitable will require inestimable hours of work, but we can't wait for that first summer when we have an Okie intern. Fill the stein!

The preceding predominantly incoherent thoughts ought to have expressed the following: More than anything else, I am excited to see how God works in each of us, active and alumni, to achieve his glory and execute His perfect plan amidst the chaos of our dynamically changing lives. I am stoked to see how He works corporately among the group, and super pumped to see what's in store for me beyond Grove City College – hopefully involving GuavaBox. Bop!
Gray MacKenzie '11
Galatians 1:10

Celebrating Brotherly Love

FRATERNITY. Huh! What is it good for? Absolutely... well, how about we answer that question?

I think I speak for the entire sophomore class when I say that living as a part of the Omicron Xi fraternity has been an incredible experience thus far. Of the 11 sophomores that live on the hall this year (down to ten since Alex Moore decided to go all "kiwi" on us



Okies performing "Survivor" at Greek Sing 2010

because "studying" in New Zealand is totally "cool as"), eight of us have the opportunity to once again live on the hall with our freshmen RA's (Andrew "Dimmer" Dymski, Gray MacKenzie, Jordan Gallo, Carl Laamanen, and Evan Saenger). On top of that, we've had the privilege of being mentored by the rest of the senior class, as well as a select group from the 2009 pledge class (Kirk Gagliardo, Mike Swanson, Mark DeVivo, Ryan McMorrow and Dave Cole).

From this experience, I think I could describe living as a fraternity as "living with those you love, and loving those you live with." I say this

because even though the Okies are undoubtedly the most incredible guys I've ever had the privilege of knowing, it's not always easy to love each other.

Sometimes our roommate decides to stay out 'til 4:30 in the morning talking to his girlfriend (which we've had a surprisingly high number of this year... shocking, I know!) and then decides to get into bed the loudest he ever has, all of this happening the night before we have three midterms. Sometimes, your partner sets you three different times in one game of Okie, then proceeds to pee himself in response to your best insult.

Continued on Page 4...

Entering Into the Brotherhood

Excitement, anticipation, frustration, fatigue, and jubilee. These are just some of the things that come to mind when reflecting back on the experiences of the latest freshman class and our transition from rush candidates, to pledges, to actives. Our pledge class came from all over the country, from the heat of New Mexico to the hills of Pittsburgh. We were thrust together and, after some frustrations and plenty of arguments, our class came together and is excited to finally be a part of this brotherhood.

Pledge treated each of us differently; some needed more sleep than others, some had more pressing school requirements than others, and some had more personal things to deal with than others

(shout out to my fraternity brother, Kyle Banal, who did all of pledge while on crutches and in a walking boot). That said we all came together as a group and did what we had to do to get things done. It was awesome to witness and take part in.

I vividly remember the sheer jubilation that took place when we became actives. This was obviously very special to all of us, but especially so for myself, Ryan Althausen, and Peter Dobrotka, each of whom officially joined the brotherhood of Omicron Xi after our biological brothers (Andrew, Jon, and Sam respectively) had already led the way. My thus far short lived experience as an active has been great. Sporting my Okie hat, seeing all my brothers around campus, planning events and most importantly continuing to build my relationship with God through the help of these men has been great. I speak for

my entire pledge class when I say that being blessed with the opportunity to join the Okies is something we are incredibly thankful for, and something we know will shape us into the men God wants us to be in life. Thank you all who have helped make this fraternity what it is today, we hope to see you around campus very soon. Until then, fill the stein....

Chris Dymski '14



(Above) Okies and the sweethearts, Jayna Grassel, at Okie Formal



(Left) The Omicron Xi pledge class of 2011

Contact Us:

Omicron Xi Fraternity
GCC Box# 288
200 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127
www.omicronxi.org

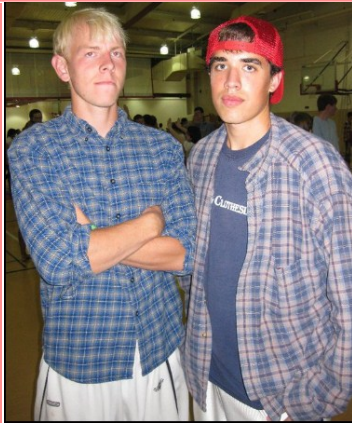
PRESIDENT
Dan Vaccaro
Phone: (603) 459-9555
Email: VaccaroDG1@gcc.edu

ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE
Mike Swanson
Phone: (412) 983-3578
Email: SwansonMD1@gcc.edu

TREASURER
Jonathan Noack
Phone: (631)-879-8795
Email: NoackJD1@gcc.edu



An Okie RA Experience



Joel A. and John D., both freshman RAs, apparently don't like the photographer

Last fall I experienced one of the most surreal moments of my life. I came back to campus a week early as an RA to check into room 311 in Memorial Hall. The first thing I did upon arriving on campus was collect my room key and sign my name to the envelope which held it. I could literally feel my eyes grow wider as I looked at the names of those who had previously lived in room 311. The list included the names John Tiernan, Mark Lyon-Vaiden, Dan Croce and Blake Curle among others. All

these Okies share in the tradition of being a role model and friend to the incoming freshmen guys at Grove City.

As I walked down the hall of 3MC, arguably the most renowned freshmen hall at GCC, and unlocked my door, I couldn't help but sense it was unreal. As I thought of the time I had spent as a freshman with Blake Curle and Craig Carnahan in 311, I could not believe I was now living there. That first week I often thought back to all the memories I had made with my freshmen hall and the huge role Craig and Blake played in facilitating the friendships I established. The bonds that I forged on my freshmen hall are still some of the strongest friendships I have and I'm confident that many of them will continue for the rest of my life.

On top of establishing those relationships with my freshmen hall, I had the privilege of being a member of the 2009 Okie pledge class and have been blessed to form meaningful

relationships with my brothers in the fraternity. Now, as a junior I've had the opportunity to serve as a freshmen RA just as many members have chosen to do in the fraternity's recent past. My hope was that I would be able to be as good of an RA as Blake and Craig were for me. I wanted 3MC to be just like it was my freshmen year. I had high expectations for the year.

It is hard not to deify my RAs for the role they played in my life freshmen year. To this day, it astounds me how dedicated, patient, loving and available they were to the guys on 3MC. While I've striven to display such attributes this year, I've come to realize that I am not Blake or Craig. I am not any of the Okie RAs who have gone before me. And this year's 3MC is not exactly like my freshmen year. Upon first realizing this, I was definitely disappointed with myself. However, as I think about it more and more, I begin to see that trying to be the guys who have come before me should not be my aim.

Every Okie has unique characteristics that set him apart from the rest of the fraternity. What we share is our faith in Christ and dedication to serving Him first and foremost. I've realized that seeking the Lord and who he's made me to be ought to be my focus. I've realized that I don't have to be someone I'm not in order to serve my freshmen and point them to Christ. While I will never forget or cease to appreciate the unique qualities of Okie RAs who have gone before me and the joy they brought, I'm learning to focus on the One who speaks through us all and find my identity in Him. It truly is a blessing to recognize and embrace the differences in each Okie and witness how God uses them to love and serve His children.

John Dellape '12

New Fraternity officers for 2011-2012

President—Dan Vaccaro, 2012

Vice President—Benjamin Shackleton, 2012

Secretary—Jamie Schleicher, 2013

Treasurer—Jonathan Noack, 2013

Social Chair—Mitch Narbe, 2014

Sergeant-at-Arms—Gary Horvath, 2013

Alumni Representative—Michael Swanson, 2012



The Okie "Crest Cake" — the best, and worst, thing to happen at Homecoming 2010

Thank you to our recent alumni who have committed to annual lifetime dues of \$25. We appreciate your giving. If you are interested in joining them please contact us. We also thank those who have supported us in the past, your generosity is much appreciated.

Celebrating Brotherly Love cont.

Even in such a great fraternity, there's always the potential that you simply won't see eye to eye with one of your brothers.

All of this comes into play when we are expected to love each other. True love for our brothers entails accepting each other's faults, as well as acknowledging each other's strengths. Thankfully, I feel like this is something that we do incredibly well as a brotherhood of believers. I'm so thankful that my brothers who have come before me cared enough to select a group of men who follow God in their daily walks and seek Him for their joy. It's only because we

recognize that God first loved us that we are able to then love each other.

I have been blown away by the level of accountability and support I have received from my brothers this year, especially outside of my own pledge class. I can't thank the seniors and juniors living on the hall enough for the time that they have spent investing in us underclassmen. Even the juniors who have been serving our campus as freshmen RA's have still found time out of their busy schedule to make an impact in my life.

I can't wait to live on the hall again next year. Even though only three other members of my pledge class will be on the hall with me (Brandon Jones, Jamie Schleicher,

and Jon Noack), I am so excited to be able to continue to be poured into by my brothers, as well as be able to give back, especially to the rising sophomores. God has truly blessed us as a fraternity and I know it's because of the love that we are able to share with each other.

For the Brotherhood and what is right,
Gary Horvath '11



Actives and Alumni enjoying the annual Homecoming dinner

A Note from Your Alumni Representative



The Joy of Our College Days...

I can't believe another year has passed us by. It was wonderful seeing many of you for Homecoming this past Fall and we look forward to seeing many of you again. Homecoming is

September 23-25 this year, and the fraternity

is going to hold another formal reception dinner — more details will follow from the new alumni representative, Mike Swanson. In addition, for information throughout the year, please check us out at www.omicronxi.org. I cannot express the enjoyment actives get from interacting with alumni!

The other day I received in the mail a O Xi sweatshirt and t-shirt from an alumnus from the late 90's. The chaos that ensued

over who would be able to wear these items took about a week to sort out. In the end I awarded them to two actives — stop by and we'll tell you the stories of what they did to deserve them! Regardless, it was at this moment that I realized the incredible appreciation actives have for older items. These items remind us of our legacy and the traditions we still carry with us. The items in our possession, however, are few and far between. Memories are best enjoyed when they are shared with others, and actives are eager and excited to share in the fraternity's past.

In two weeks I will join all of you as an alumnus of our fraternity. I am confident that the fraternity is in good hands and my prayer is that the love of Christ will continue to shine through the actions of actives. For alumni, my prayer is that we can exhibit this love in our vocations, as well as through continued correspondence with our brothers.

-Ryan McMorrow '11



The setup of MAP Cafeteria before the Okie-Pi Christmas Party