

March 26, 2008

TO: WIU Kappa Theta Alumni

RE: Update...the good guys are really back now! (Please see History of Our Chapter attached)

1. We Bought a House: After looking for almost 2 years, we found a decent House that was in our price range and appropriate for the size of Kappa Theta Chapter (approx. 30 members). On March 19, 2008, the Alumni Association purchased 440 N Campbell in Macomb. It has 5 bedrooms, two baths, two kitchens and three living areas. It is on a double lot (approx. ½ acre) just one block North of the square. We paid \$78,000 for the property, but it needs some repair work as the House is nearly 100 years old. It is a great place to get them started.

A Dad of one of the undergrads is a general contractor and has made a trip from Chicago to Macomb to estimate the repairs. The foundation needs some structural repair, all windows need replacing, baths remodeled, porches rebuilt, and the parking area resurfaced. We need furniture for the first floor as we want visitors and rushees to have a great first impression of our House. Ernie Blomquist, KΘ 144, visited the property prior to the purchase and said it reminded him of walking into our old House at 216 N Sherman. We want to maintain that warm and friendly atmosphere that we always had.

To that end, we ask for your financial support. We are estimating that it will take \$35,000 to put the property in the kind of shape that will represent us well. If anyone is interested in contributing to this effort, the Alumni Board and undergrads would greatly appreciate your help. Please contact any Board member to help this cause. For all those that contribute, a plaque with names and KΘ's will hang prominently in the House as you enter. This is a major event in our history at WIU.

2. Annual Meeting and House Dedication: April 26, 2008, at 3:00 PM. The Alumni Association Annual Meeting will be held in Macomb at the new House located at 440 N. Campbell. In conjunction with the Annual Meeting, we will also dedicate the new House with a commemorative plaque from the TX National followed by a cookout. We hope you can attend the meeting.

3. Next Major Reunion: The next major Reunion is scheduled for the Summer of 2009. Anyone interested in organizing the Reunion should contact a Board member. We will notify you as soon as a date is set.

4. On a Sad Note: Our undergrad adviser, Larry Zoochi (WIU professor) passed away in October of last year. Please see the attached History for more detail.

5. Our Website has been Updated: Please check out our new website at www.thetaxiwu.org for current information.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, or wish to donate to the housing cause, feel free to contact any of the following brothers.

YITB

Alumni Association Board of Directors

President/Director	Gary Tagtmeier	KΘ 291	630-969-1865	fin975aw@aol.com
Secretary/Treasurer/Director	Guy Weglarz	KΘ 485	630-968-8764	guyweg@sbcglobal.net
Vice President/Director	Gary Ugron	KΘ 255	847-359-7244	gugron@aol.com
Vice President/Director	Tom Tyrrell	KΘ 517	847-426-2227	tyrrellcastle@fvi.net
Vice President/Director	Don Wharton	KΘ 139	847-359-3174	dwharton425@comcast.net
Legal Advisor	Ernie Blomquist	KΘ 144	847-359-2772	erblomquist@aol.com

Brief History of: Alpha Kappa Theta Association of Theta Xi, Inc. at WIU

Alpha Kappa Theta Association of Theta Xi, Inc. was incorporated on July 26, 1967 in Illinois as a non-profit corporation to act as a housing corporation for the undergraduate chapter of Theta Xi at Western Illinois University. Over the years, more than 800 men have been initiated into Theta Xi through Kappa Theta Chapter. This has only been possible through the time and energy of numerous Alumni who have selflessly dedicated a great deal of time to manage this organization.

In December of 1989, the House at 216 N Sherman was destroyed by fire. There were no injuries, but the House was a total loss. Insurance claims were filed and a decision was made to rebuild, however, the city of Macomb and the local residents wanted the House located out of the mostly residential neighborhood. After some negotiation, the lot at 216 N Sherman was exchanged for a lot at 812 Wigwam Hollow Rd. in an area that was more conducive to Greek housing. Kappa Theta Chapter did very well for a number of years at the new location, however, in 1997, due to a series of inappropriate incidents, the Chapter was suspended from operating at WIU for a period of no less than five years. The House at 812 Wigwam Hollow was soon rented and eventually sold to PKA a startup fraternity at WIU. With some hard work and diligent negotiations the Alumni Association profited approximately \$150,000 from the sale.

The corporate structure was maintained during the suspension period and recolonization actions were initiated. Once again, through the efforts a few alumni, undergrads were recruited to re-establish Theta Xi at WIU. They proceeded to rebuild the Chapter to the point of being recolonized in 2007. This was due in large part to the efforts of a very dedicated adviser from WIU by the name of Larry Zoochi. Larry was instrumental in re-establishing our presence at WIU by keeping the members focused and on track. To our very sad regrets, Larry passed away on Oct. 8, 2007 in his early 50's from pancreatic cancer. He will be greatly missed.

The active members hung together through this great loss and have continued to thrive. As a result, the Alumni Association purchased a House on March 19, 2008. It is a great place that will accommodate six guys and provide a stable environment and meeting area. It needs some work, but the plan is to make improvements with Alumni Association funds and Alumni donations.

The new house at 440 N Campbell is just 2 blocks east of Lafayette (Rt 67) and just north of the Square. The undergrads will occupy the House beginning with the Fall Semester of 2008 after improvements are complete. Many of the Board members have visited with active members and interacted with them socially. They have commented that it is just like the old days. We encourage you to stop by if you get a chance.

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