

Epsilon Echo

Epsilon Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 2001

Words From The Alumni President

Greetings once again, my fellow brothers and distinguished alumni of Epsilon Chapter! We are already well into another year of Theta Chi at the ol' Epsilon. Believe it or not, we are just a few years from our centennial celebration. Our chapter first opened its doors on March 20, 1909. As of this writing, we are just a wee bit away from our 92nd birthday.

My, how time flies! I can remember serving the chapter as president at our 75th anniversary celebration just a scant few years ago. Hmmmm.... Well, I guess I just dated myself. But I've only been involved with Theta Chi Epsilon for just a few years compared to many of you. In fact, from looking at the Epsilon archives and the history of the chapter and alumni association, I'm quite the youngster in relative terms. Many of you have been Theta Chis for two, three, and even four times as long as I have been.

Over the next several *Echo* newsletters,

we would like to take you back to various points in our chapter's rich history. We will be exhibiting various artifacts from our Epsilon archives that may be of interest to you. We have several historic documents, photographs, ledgers, fraternity publications and records, and all sorts of other things of interest. I'd like to begin sharing those with you as you might find them as valuable as I do. Please stay tuned to future *Echo* sections titled, "From the Archives of Epsilon."

In parting, I'd like to extend special thanks to Jacob Coolberth '02 for his work on the Don Simonds '08 article in this issue of the *Echo*. It's a great article on one of our chapter's most beloved brothers, and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Fraternally,
James Melvin '85
Alumni President

Epsilon Chapter Is As Strong As Ever

This year has been an active and rewarding one for the active brotherhood of Epsilon Chapter. We have been very involved on campus, in the community, and with the national fraternity as well. The brotherhood is prospering here at WPI, during a time when fraternities in general are experiencing increased scrutiny and pressure from society as a whole. In fact the chapter is growing stronger and thriving under these conditions.

Even before the school year began, Epsilon Chapter started the year strong at the national convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. We were awarded Chapter Excellence Awards in nine different areas: Theta Chi procedures and involvement, ritual, new member education, campus involvement, chapter operations, the helping hand, finances, Internet technology, and alumni programming. We also received the highly coveted Howard R. Alter Jr. Award for Chapter Excellence. This is Epsilon Chapter's sixth award, which is more than any other chapter of Theta Chi, another honor we are extremely proud of.

The first quarter of the year was a typically busy one for Epsilon Chapter. We had five brothers serve as orientation leaders for WPI's new student orientation program, more than any other organization on campus. The brotherhood also participated in WPI's second annual Greek Week. Theta Chi managed to take second place in the weeklong competitions, and the brotherhood accepted its award during halftime of the Homecoming football game from University President Edward Parrish.

The entire chapter also participated in a daylong brotherhood retreat at nearby Saint John's High School in Shrewsbury. Main topics of conversation included chapter operations, rush, and the impending

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EBA WEEKEND *April 21, 2001*

Another school year is about to come to an end. That means it's time to head back to the house and celebrate with another graduating senior class from Theta Chi. This year's EBA Weekend schedule will be similar to last year's:

- 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: EBA Meeting
- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.: Alumni vs. Actives Softball Game
- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.: Alumni and Seniors head to Boston Billiards
- 6:00 p.m. - till you leave: Pool, foos, and darts at the house followed by a party.

We had a great turnout last year. The alumni dealt the third consecutive loss to the actives in the revival of the alumni/active softball game. We are looking to continue our winning record. We hope you can make it back to the house for a great time as we welcome the graduating class to the ranks of the alumni! See you there.

Career Night Proves Helpful To All

The support of alumni and the participation of undergraduates helped to make this year's EBA career night a great success. The event took place in the chapter house library at 7:00 p.m. on November 22, 2000. The panel of six alumni speakers was diverse in engineering and management backgrounds, and each panelist provided a unique point of view. This year's alumni panel included Chris Haraldsen '96, Jim Melvin '85, Mark Willingham '87, Larry Breen '94, Dave Giusti '94, and Conan Buzby '00.

The focus of the evening was on resume writing, interview skills, excelling in the work place, and mock interviews. Special attention was given to standing out among

the numerous qualified applicants as well as preparing, planning, and practicing for interviews. Everyone who attended, old and young alike, learned a few helpful tricks and techniques to secure his dream job. The undergraduate participants were very appreciative and gave extremely positive feedback.

The alumni association is always trying to extend a helping hand to the undergraduate brothers, and this year's career night was a success in doing so. If you wish to take part in the next event or comment on possible improvements, please contact me at driscollmp@hotmail.com.

Matthew Driscoll '00

Epsilon Chapter Is As Strong As Ever

(continued from page one)

alcohol-free status of the chapter house as imposed by the national fraternity. The brotherhood came up with a number of ideas for non-alcoholic social events and an overall strategy to make the transition easier. The chapter also helped organize a national midyear leadership challenge for our Northeast region of the fraternity. Held in WPI's Higgins Laboratories facility on a weekend in November, the conference was well attended both by the chapter and by other chapters in the region and was fun and informative for all who attended.

The second quarter of the school year was another important one for the fraternity for one main reason: rush. Rush went very well for the house this year. Rush Chairman Craig Daniels did an excellent job coordinating events in A-term as well as during the intense five-week formal rush period during B-term, and his hard work paid off. The chapter awarded 29 bids to freshmen, from which we obtained 23 pledges. This continues the upward trend of increasing rush numbers for the house; we have steadily obtained more new brothers in each of the last four years, which clearly demonstrates that Theta Chi's rush program is getting better and better. This year we obtained the third largest number of pledges among the 12 fraternities on campus. Theta Chi is now the third largest house on

campus overall, up from our ranking of seventh at the end of rush last year.

C-term is one of the most enjoyable times of the year for the brotherhood. This is the time during which we educate our pledges in the ways of the house and of the national fraternity as well. Marshal Salvatore Beatini has certainly been up for the task, and it shows in the quality and the quantity of our pledge class. Pledging began with 23 prospective members. Now, as the program is nearing its end, there are still 23 freshmen working hard to become brothers of Epsilon Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. With these solid new brothers, the chapter is ensured potential for further growth and continued prominence on campus.

The brothers of our chapter are also involved in many activities on campus and in the community. Aside from athletic endeavors such as baseball, track and field, soccer, and crew (just to name a few), we have brothers involved in the Interfraternity Council, student government, and the aforementioned new student orientation program. There is also regular brother participation in such philanthropy events as the Jimmy Fund Walk for Cancer and the Worcester City Cleanup. We are currently organizing a blood drive to be held at the house during the month of April. Scholastically the house is holding its own as well, with numerous brothers being accepted to prestigious study-abroad programs in such exciting locales as Australia, Thailand, and Puerto Rico.

In closing, I would like to reinforce that Epsilon Chapter here at WPI is as strong as ever. I would also like to thank all alumni for their support on behalf of the active brothers, who understand that the tradition of excellence by which we live today was established by those who came before us.

Fraternally,
Ryan P. Johnson
Chapter President

Dates To Remember

EBA Clambake June 2, 2001 Edgewater Park (The Cove) Newton, MA

It is almost time for the second annual EBA clambake. On Saturday, June 2, starting around noon, all alumni, actives, and their families (significant others as well) are invited to "The Cove" in Newton. Unlike other EBA events, the clambake offers the opportunity for the whole family to come out and join in the fun. The Cove offers us an abundance of resources. We will have 10 picnic tables, six grills, a softball field, basketball courts, tennis courts, canoeing, and plenty of space to spread out and have fun. And for the kids (and kids at heart), there is a full playground with slides, swings, and more.

For food, EBA will provide plenty of clams, steaks, hamburgers, and dogs, as well as snacks to munch on. Beer, soda, and a variety of juices will also be provided.

For more information, go to:

<http://jmmelvin.ne.mediaone.net/oxe/alumni> -> Clambake

EBA Open Golf Tournament July 28, 2001

Stay tuned to the alumni Web site for more details:

<http://jmmelvin.ne.mediaone.net/oxe/alumni> -> EBA Open Golf Tournament

Get connected...

Alumni Web site:
<http://jmmelvin.ne.mediaone.net/oxe/alumni>

Alumni e-mail:
theta_chi@oxe.east.sun.com

Contact Jim Melvin for more info at
James.Melvin@east.sun.com
or 781/442-0643.

The **EPSILON ECHO** is published by the Epsilon Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity at WPI for its members and friends. News contributions, changes of address, and photographs are welcome at all times and may be sent to Theta Chi at WPI, Alumni Records Office, P.O. Box 390575, Cambridge, MA 02139-0007.

A Salute To “Mr. Epsilon Chapter”: Donald Simonds '08

As an undergraduate member of Theta Chi, I have benefited greatly from fraternity life. I live with my best friends. I've learned how to meet and communicate with different people, I've held leadership positions, and I've learned how to prepare a meal for over 100 people. I am sure that I am not alone when I say that my Theta Chi experience will be of infinite value in the future.

Epsilon Chapter has grown to be one of the strongest fraternities on the WPI campus. Over 1,600 men have become brothers. All of us have been given that opportunity because of the hard work and dedication of the alumni who came before us. Brother Donald Dwight Simonds '08 dedicated his life to our fraternity and is a big reason why we are all Theta Chis.

Donald was born in Westminister, Massachusetts, on October 20, 1885, and graduated from WPI with a BSME in 1908. In fact, Don was never actually an undergraduate member of Theta Chi, as our chapter was not installed until March 20, 1909. While in school, Don wore the black and gold of Pi Omega Pi. This society came very close to becoming a chapter of Alpha Delta Phi as a petition was approved. However, one week later, Donald moved that the petition be withdrawn after meeting with R. T. Pollock, a Theta Chi transfer from MIT. Pi Omega Pi then unanimously voted to petition Theta Chi and a month later became Theta Chi's fifth chapter. Coincidentally, the letters Pi Omega Pi represent three Greek words meaning, “Try to help all.”

As an alumnus, Donald continued to serve his fraternity and alma mater diligently. Don was elected as our alumni delegate to the national convention, which was held here in Worcester in 1917. He is one of only four brothers from Epsilon to serve on the Grand Chapter.* From 1914 to 1915 he was our national counselor, and from 1919 to 1922 Don served as national historian, during which time he collected much of the information included in the book *The History of Theta Chi*, published in 1927. In 1917 brother Simonds and brother Frederick Hugo led the charge in acquiring

what is still our chapter house on the corner of Dean and Salisbury streets. In order to obtain the property, the Epsilon Building Association was formed, and Don was the first president, a title that he held for over 30 years.

In 1964, he took on the job of chairman of the fundraising committee to rebuild the chapter house and was the largest contributor to the fund. For his years of service and dedication to our fraternity, the Grand Chapter presented the Distinguished Service Award to brother Simonds in 1940 and the Citation of

Honor in 1967, while Epsilon gave him the Alumni Award in 1965. He was also a holder of the Golden Guard Certificate in 1959 and at one time was the president of the WPI Worcester County Alumni Association and was the president of the Tech Old Timers for two years. Brother Simonds even wrote a song for our fraternity entitled “For Theta Chi.”

Aside from Theta Chi, Donald was a dedicated family man and a tireless worker. He worked for Reed Small Toolworks as a manager from 1916 to 1962 with a brief stint as an insurance salesman. He also spent time as a clerk for George C. Whitney Company and for many years was the superintendent of the Sunday school of the First Baptist Church of Worcester. On January 29, 1978, brother Simonds passed away at the

age of 92. In September of that same year, the *Echo* was dedicated to him just as this issue is. A book of letters from his friends was compiled for him. Here are a few excerpts:

“For over 50 years, Don Simonds and Epsilon Chapter have been synonymous in my mind. None of us can ever fully appreciate the amount of time, energy, and substance you have lavished on Epsilon Chapter in particular and Theta Chi in general. Thanks largely to you, Epsilon is still an active chapter.” (E.B. Johnson '23) “I can recall so clearly that in 1915-'16 you used to drop in on the brothers at 1 Lancaster Terrace, to advise and encourage us in directing Epsilon to a firm posture in our responsibilities to WPI. I know of no brother in the history of Epsilon who did more for Theta Chi at WPI and our alma mater than you.” (Aurthur E. Gorman '17)



A favorite photo of Don Simonds '08 from his daughter, Jean Simonds Gras.



Large Pi Omega Pi emblem that resides in the artifacts closet in the alumni room.



Don Simonds' Pi Omega Pi pin.

“You have made many contributions to Theta Chi in your lifetime. Because of your past record you were able to make one of your greatest contributions to Theta Chi this fall without lifting a finger. Through your example, the present active brothers have recognized that a fraternity is a lifelong brotherhood.” (Roger Perry '45) “You have shown the brothers who came after you what the helping hand is, by your sacrifice of time and energy. By being a charter member of the chapter, you showed that you believed in the ideals on which our fraternity was founded. You did all in your power to perpetuate its ideals. You built this chapter we have today with your knowledge and sterling example of character. You guided the chapter by serving on the alumni association. You built a new chapter house, which we the actives are proud of. For all these things, we are proud to say that we are brothers and we are part of your chapter, Epsilon Chapter. Brother Simonds, we have come to realize more about our fraternity and what an alumnus should do from the history you made. We wish there was more we could do to show our appreciation. We owe you more than we could ever give. You gave us a deep pride in Epsilon Chapter, which is priceless. Although these are only words, we want to sincerely say ‘thank you’ Brother Simonds.” (The active brothers of Epsilon Chapter 1975-'76)

He has made a difference in all of our lives without most of us even knowing it. Donald has shown us unequivocally that Theta Chi is for life. Brothers, both alumni and active, pledges, and future brothers of Theta Chi, please join me in saluting brother Donald Dwight Simonds, Mr. Epsilon Chapter.

Fraternally,
Jacob Coolberth '02

Special thanks go to Kimball Woodbury, Jean Simonds Gras, Paul J. Landino, and others who provided information included in this article.

*The other members of Epsilon to serve on the Grand Chapter are: George R. Martin, national marshal 1910-'11; Frederick V. Hugo, national counselor 1915-'16 and national treasurer 1916-'17; Joel MacGregor, national chaplain 1918-'20.

EPSILON *Alumni Write*

In 1999 ROBERT B. TAYLOR '35 moved to Freedom Village, a retirement center in Bradenton, Florida (6610 17th Avenue Ct. W, 34209). His first wife, Molly, died two years ago, and in May 2000 he married Marian Ford.

— THETA CHI —

"Still kicking around!" writes FOSTER McRELL '36, who makes his home on Cape Cod at 9 Forest Gate, Yarmouth Port, MA 02675.

— THETA CHI —

J. RICHARD WEISS JR. '42 is retired from Merck & Company in Rahway, New Jersey. He lives at 854 Bradford Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090.

— THETA CHI —

Stay in touch with RUSSELL D. TURNER '48 at 370 W. Pin High Dr., Pueblo West, CO 81007.

— THETA CHI —

After 41 years of employment with Lockheed Martin, ROBERT A. MEYER '52 retired on January 1, 2000. He resides at 154 Fountain Dr., Slidell, LA 70458, and plans to "just take it easy for a while."

— THETA CHI —

ALEX C. PAPIANOU '57 and his wife, Marcia, have moved twice in recent months. "First we downsized from our large home (three floors, four bedrooms, one acre) at 15 Birch Tree Road, buying the small ranch house next door at 19 Birch Tree Road. Then, because we still hadn't fully unpacked after the move, we loaned our house to a new minister and his family for the next eight months. We are temporarily at 9 Cob Way in West Dennis, Massachusetts—nice restaurants, gift shops, antique shops, no traffic, and great golf courses. If you're around, call us at 508/394-3541." Send e-mail to Al at alpappy@juno.com.

— THETA CHI —

Retired from Bell Communications Research, ROBERT M. KANEN '58 lives at 16 Overlook Dr., Long Valley, NJ 07853.

Write to EVERETT L. WALKER '59 at 12570 Collier's Reserve Dr., Naples, FL 34110 (eggzee@aol.com).

— THETA CHI —

ROBERT D. BEHN '63 reports that his latest book, *Rethinking Democratic Accountability*, was just published by The Brookings Institution Press. Mail reaches Bob at 147 Church St., Watertown, MA 02472 (bobbehn@aol.com).

— THETA CHI —

Drop a line to DAVID L. GENDRON '64 at dgendron@mediaone.net or at 19 Chestnut Hill Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075.

— THETA CHI —

JOEL P. GREENE '69 resides at 38 Berwick St., Worcester, MA 01602.

— THETA CHI —

Employed by Hayes Pump, Inc., in West Concord, Massachusetts, ROBERT L. SIMONDS '69 can be reached at bsimonds@hayespump.com or at 63 Rutledge Rd., Belmont, MA 02478.

— THETA CHI —

Denise and CHRISTOPHER LACEY '85 and their four children—Julie (10), Michael (8), Jennifer (6), and Christin (2)—have moved to New Hampshire "to cool off after several years in Southern California." Their new address is 16 S. Watch Rd., #2, Meredith, NH 03253.

— THETA CHI —

"Karyn and I are happy to announce the birth of our daughter, Lauren Alyssa, on October 12, 2000," writes JAMIE G. KING '87 (6 Ryan Rd., Shrewsbury, MA 01545).

— THETA CHI —

ERIK MAKI '89 and his wife, Karen, are also the proud parents of a baby girl, Elisabeth Joan, who was born on September 5, 2000. Send best wishes to the Makis at 79 Winthrop St., Holliston, MA 01746 (emaki@rizzo.com).

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Join Us For An EBA Social Dinner

Alumni get together on the first Thursday of each month at a local restaurant to catch up on old times and new. We usually meet in the bar between 6:00 and 7:00, and then sit down for dinner. If you have any questions, suggestions for future dinners, or need directions, call Dave Polcari '88 at 617/452-6581 (work) or 978/372-1183 (home), or e-mail him at polcaridg@cdm.com.

The schedule is as follows:

April 5, 2001
LOWELL BREWERY EXCHANGE
Lowell

May 3, 2001
VINNY TESTAS
Framingham

June 7, 2001
BOSTON BEER WORKS
Brookline Ave., Boston

July 5, 2001
HORSESHOE PUB
Hudson

August 2, 2001
ON THE BORDER
Commerce Way, Woburn

September 6, 2001
REDBONES
Davis Square, Somerville

October 4, 2001
POLCARI'S
Salem NH

November 1, 2001
VILLAGE SMOKEHOUSE
Brookline Village, MA

December 6, 2001
BACK BAY BREWING COMPANY
Boston

Newsletter Goes Digital

You can now view current and past editions of the *Epsilon Echo* on the World Wide Web. Shortly after publication, the *Echo* will be scanned and posted to the alumni Web site at...

<http://jmmelvin.ne.mediaone.net/oxe/alumni> -> The Echo Newsletter

EPSILON *Alumni Write*

(continued from page four)

Rhonda and JOHN ADAMS '92 welcomed their first child, Jessica Rose, on August 26, 2000. They make their home at 242 Martin's Pond Rd., Groton, MA 01450. John works for Teradyne, Inc., where he can be reached at john.adams@teradyne.com.

— THETA CHI —

Writes ALEXANDER R. THORP '92, "I was married in a dairy barn in Massachusetts on October 7 to Elizabeth Keen. RICH HOEY '91 and GREG HUMORA '92 were present over the weekend." Alex and his bride live at 57 Jug End Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230.

— THETA CHI —

Brothers vacationing in the Caribbean are invited to look up TRACY COIFMAN '93, who's living and working in Puerto Rico. Tracy's address is P.O. Box 9507, Santurce, PR 00908 (tcoifman@compuserve.com).

— THETA CHI —

"Heather gave birth to our first child, Sean Christopher, on October 21, 2000," writes CHRISTOPHER J. VROMAN '93 (6 Heronwood Dr., Shrewsbury, MA 01545; christopher_vroman@millipore.com). Heather is taking some time off, but Chris is very busy working at Millipore Corporation and studying for another degree—an MBA at Boston College.

— THETA CHI —

Contact TODD J. MIKOLAYCIK '95 at toddm73@hotmail.com or at 171 Kearsarge Rd., North Conway, NH 03860.

— THETA CHI —

WILLIAM E. LUCAS III '98 has moved to 204 Joshua Court, North Wales, PA 19454. He's a design engineer at Bohler Engineering, where he can be reached by e-mail at wlucas@bohlereng.com.

— THETA CHI —

JEFFREY ROSS '98 works for Staging Concepts, Inc., as a mechanical design engineer. Write to him at jeffreyross@mail.com or at 887 Raymond Ave., Apt. #2, St. Paul, MN 55114.

— THETA CHI —

Civil engineer JEFFREY C. KELLNER '99 reports a new address of 21 Seafoam Ave., Winthrop, MA 02152 (jkellner@frharris.com).

DECEASED

We regret to report the death of the following alumni:

- ETHAN D. BASSETT '33
October 6, 1996
- MERWIN L. HATHAWAY '25
June 12, 2000
- FREDERICK W. LINDBLAD '42
April 10, 2000
- GORDON M. PARKER '61

New Chapter Officers

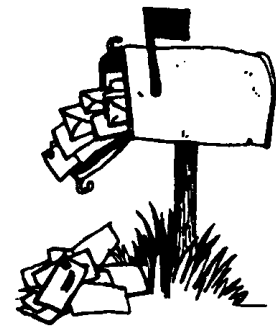
- President.....LENNY BAKERTewksbury, MA
- Vice President.....TONY GANCHITewksbury MA
- SecretaryCARLO VIVENZIOWorcester, MA
- TreasurerLEE BARBER.....North Billerica, MA
- Marshal.....MIKE SORRENTINOWakefield MA
- RushCOLBY HOBART.....Mechanic Falls, ME
- ProjectsBOB STOW.....Worcester, MA
- KitchenJON GLUMAC.....Merrimack NH
- Social.....DAVE WHITTY.....Attleboro MA
- Activities.....CRAIG PERKINSStrafford, NH
- Philanthropy.....ANDY SANTIAGOBridgport, CT

For contact info, see <http://jmmelvin.ne.mediaone.net/oxe/alumni/directors.html>.

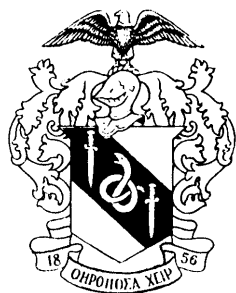
We Welcome Our Newest Brothers

- Joe Bell..... Merrimack, NH
- Luke Boucher.....Berlin, NH
- Jay Butler.....West Newbury, MA
- Chris Cichetti.....Germantown, NY
- Cean Comely.....Litchfield, NH
- Anthony Cosenze.....Leominster, MA
- Herb Cswertek.....Woodstock, CT
- Lenny Del Vecchio.....Shelton, CT
- Jim Duggan.....Oxford, MA
- Justen Garrity.....Columbia, MD
- James Hall.....Atkinson, NH
- Andrew Halloran.....Sterling, MA
- Chris Johnson.....Charlton, MA
- Jeremy Karlin.....Cherry Hill, NJ
- Tom Lavallee.....Windsor, CT
- Alex McLachlan.....Norfolk, MA
- Alex Measures.....Arlington, MA
- Spyros Photopolous.....Sharon, MA
- Ben Polidore.....Johnstown, NY
- Mike Schwartz.....Falmouth, MA
- Anthony Michael Tiscia.....Darien, CT
- Rob Vigneau.....Millbury, MA
- Gregg Visi.....Darien, CT

Send In Your Newsform



The success of this newsletter depends, in part, on the participation of our alumni. Please take a moment to fill out your newsform and return it to the address on page two. Include your latest news, news of brothers with whom you've kept in touch, and maybe also one or two of your fondest memories of Epsilon Chapter or thoughts on what Theta Chi means to you. We'll look forward to sharing your news in the next issue of the *Epsilon Echo*.



Epsilon Chapter of Theta Chi

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

We thank the following donors for their generous support during the last giving year.

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| Lee P. Hackett '61 | John J. Vestri Jr. '78 | David M. Wilk '81 | |

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| David J. Fortin '92 | Michael J. Mahoney '91 | Jeffrey C. Ross '98 | David P. Williams '85 |

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| Scott K. Goodwin '36 | John J. Lyons '70 | | |