

Building Scholarship

By HORACE A. SANTRY, '36law

HOW do the Phi Gams do it? This question is again a leading one among Greeks at Oklahoma, since recently released averages reveal the fact that Phi Gamma Delta, for the tenth time in the past eleven semesters, led all other fraternities in scholarship with the record-breaking mark of 1.672. The answer is—the chapter adviser system, which, at the time of its adoption in 1926, was an innovation in the fraternity world.

The man primarily responsible for its inception and development is Judge Fred B. Owen of Oklahoma City, who has been a moving force in the Oklahoma chapter of Phi Gamma Delta since its installation, and is a member of the national fraternity's Permanent Committee on Scholarship. It was Judge Owen who, while seeking a solution to the ever-potential problem of poor fraternity scholarship, conceived the idea of employing a chapter tutor to aid the boys in adjusting themselves to University life. Through his efforts, a graduate student at the University was selected in 1926 to take his meals at the chapter house and counsel the members on matters of scholarship.

While this step alone caused some improvement in chapter scholarship, it was generally felt that further action was necessary. In the following year, accordingly, the Phi Gamma Delta scholarship was first offered at the University, and the system as it now exists came into being. Under the present arrangement, the chapter and alumni each year select a graduate member of Phi Gamma Delta from some other institution, who lives in the chapter house, receives his remuneration through the joint efforts of the chapter and its alumni, and is ready at all times to serve the fraternity's scholastic interests. The University likewise coöperates by providing tuition to the adviser in the form of a scholarship. Of course, when the man selected applies himself successfully to the task, his term extends beyond a year; Bill Rodgers, '33law, whose capability and efficiency were vital factors in the system's development, held the position for four years.

Most important of all the chapter adviser's duties is his function of assisting new students in their orientation to the University. He provides the directing hand often so necessary in enabling boys to take

the long step from high school to college. He aids them in planning their courses, and teaches them how to study, how to concentrate, and how to apply themselves. The peculiarity of his position enables him to counsel with them in their minor crises, and enables him to develop in them mental breadth and strong character, as well as an aptitude for study. If, in his relations with each year's pledges, he is able to engender in them an interest in knowledge for its own sake, and a wholesome pride in scholastic achievement, his job is already more than three-fourths done.

In a sense, the chapter adviser is also a liaison officer between the boys and the faculty. By constant checks on the members' grades, and by frequent interviews with the professors of those who are having difficulties in their work, he can create a closer understanding between instructor and student. Once this is done, failures become rare indeed.

While the chapter adviser is in no way to be regarded as replacing the commercial tutor, he can usually be of much aid to the boys in their classwork. Since one of the qualifications for the position is high undergraduate scholarship, he will generally be well-informed on several subjects. This enables him to assist students in courses which they find difficult to master, by providing advice and information which is necessarily unavailable in the classroom. In a way, this personal instruction serves to bridge the gap created by our modern system of large classes.

The conspicuous success of this system at Oklahoma, and the fundamental soundness of the ideas behind it, have caused its rapid expansion, until today almost every large national fraternity whole-heartedly endorses it, and large universities in every part of the United States and Canada are espousing it as a means of bringing out the latent possibilities of fraternities to the fullest degree. Recently Dean James Findley of the University of Oklahoma received word that the University of Michigan hopes to install a method of supervision in its fraternities closely patterned after that used by Phi Gamma Delta here, and this is only one of many instances.

Perhaps the most serious accusation which fraternities have always had to face, both from parents and from universities, is that they detract from the scholastic efficiency of students. In the adviser system, the Oklahoma chapter of Phi Gamma Delta and its alumni feel that they have found the panacea.

Following are the first semester grade averages:

1. Phi Gamma Delta	1.672
2. Delta Tau Delta	1.549
3. Sigma Alpha Mu	1.498
4. Phi Kappa Psi	1.454
5. Beta Theta Pi	1.413
6. Sigma Nu	1.367
7. Kappa Sigma	1.287
8. Pi Kappa Alpha	1.244
9. Delta Chi	1.216
10. Sigma Epsilon	1.170
11. Pi Kappa Phi	1.087
12. Sigma Chi	1.017
13. Delta Upsilon	.983
14. Phi Beta Delta	.978
15. Sigma Alpha Epsilon	.949
16. Alpha Sigma Phi	.933
17. Phi Kappa Sigma	.900
18. Kappa Alpha	.874
19. Phi Delta Theta	.852
20. Lambda Chi Alpha	.807
21. Theta Kappa Phi	.790
22. Acacia	.743
23. Alpha Tau Omega	.661

Sooner Roll Call

Directory Changes

Robert Alexander, '26as, '32M.A., 219 West Jackson Street, Wewoka.
 Willie E. Bliss, '33bus, 225 East Tenth, Oklahoma City.
 Dr. Gaines Levy Brightwell, '31med, Station Hospital, Ft. Logan, Colorado.
 Mrs. Elizabeth Burke Champion, '28fa, 203 West Magnolia, San Antonio, Texas.
 Jack W. Dunn, '27eng, care Sheldon-Burden, Cut Bank, Montana.
 Ernest C. Hicks, '22as, Hollis.
 Mrs. Cecilia Bonifield Joyner, Box 57, Blytheville, Arkansas.

Hugh A. Kearns, '29pharm, 1540 East Sixteenth, Tulsa.
 Dr. John F. Kupka, '25pharm, '28as, Haskell.
 Ruby Pearl Nichols, '30home-ec, Rush Springs.
 Phil J. Lehnhard, '31eng, Box 518, Bellville, Texas.
 Harold Arthur Olivey, '32eng, Box 81, Texon, Texas.
 Patti Ann Owens, '23nurse, Britton.
 Deane Raley, '33pharm, care Hollis Drug company, Hollis.
 Mrs. Genevieve Keyes Rector, '26as, 1317 North Beard, Shawnee.
 Mrs. Mildred Thornton Rice, '32as, 603 Diamond Street, Holdenville.