



313 E Armory Avenue 1943-1947

Omicron Contributions to the War Effort



The house suspended operations for three years during World War II. There were no indications of the house closing at the March 8, 1943 chapter meeting, the last one with recorded minutes available. Based on notes from 1951, the last chapter meeting before the shut down was estimated to have been on May 17, 1943. Based on accounting records, the last operating day of the chapter was June 10, 1943, with operations resuming in February 1946. The first post-war chapter meeting was held on March 11, 1946. During the spring and summer semesters of 1946, the brothers were sharing the curved house with Chi Phis and Delta Kappa Epsilons. By September 1946 enough brothers had returned or joined that the house resumed full operations housing only Omicron brothers.

March 1942

The house showed the first signs of doing their part by purchasing a war bond instead of holding their Spring Formal.

Patriots truly are the members of Psi Upsilon who bought a defense bond with the money they would normally use for their spring formal. And so, at 9 p. m. tomorrow, the men are staging their substitute for the formal — a radio dance built around a ware-house theme. The house will be decorated with commercial posters and the products they advertise.

27 March 1942—Daily Illini

Right: Group photo from the 1943 Illio. This was the last year the fraternity would appear in the annual publication until 1947.



Tammick Carothers Heath Latham Lee Hammer Lewis Peterson Knox Wood Andrews M. Pearce Benson Fischer Mueller Laird Dieffenbacher Cox Jackson Pritchard Culp Latimer Lamoree J. Pearce Garvey Johnson Griffin Kwaniewski Karakas Hackman Crum Olds Webber Alcock Sweet Bryan Buck Harder Fagan Galt Gossett Watson Hestford Abbott Abbott Garry VanPatten Buscher Perry Dagg Davis

October 1943

The Omicron Chapter was one of 16 fraternities that chose to remain inactive for the duration of the war as of October 1943. By the end of the war, 45 of 52 fraternity houses on campus would be utilized to house ASTP trainees.

Status of All Illini Fraternities Given

29 Houses Remain Active on Campus

Sixteen fraternities will be inactive for the duration of the war. They are: Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Sigma Phi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Phi, Delta Sigma Phi, Delta Upsilon, Farmhouse, Kappa Delta Rho, Phi Gamma Delta, Pi Kappa Alpha, Pi Kappa Phi, Psi Upsilon, Sigma Phi Sigma, Theta Chi, Theta Kappa Phi, and Theta Xi.

7 October 1943—Daily Illini

June-July 1943

The Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) was developed in April 1943 by the Chief of Staff of the Army. The program was implemented at several Universities and Colleges to train soldiers in the fields of medicine, engineering, languages, science, mathematics, and psychology. The inflow of men to the University required substantial amounts of housing with around 14,000 trainees staying at the University between July 1943 and March 1946.

ASTP Takes Over Six Additional Fraternities

Six additional fraternity houses have been selected by military and University administrators for use by the Army Specialized Training program. They are Sigma Phi Sigma, Alpha Chi Rho, Delta Upsilon, Psi Upsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Phi Kappa Tau. The houses were selected at the ASTP meeting Thursday in Chicago. A number of University officials attended the meeting and made the recommendations. The work of preparing the additional houses is already underway and will be completed next week. The six houses previously selected, Chi Phi, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Psi, and Delta Phi, have been cleared of normal furnishings and have been equipped with additional beds to house the first unit of ASTP trainees, who will arrive before July 12.

20 June 1943—Daily Illini

Final Arrangements Completed for Housing Army Trainees

Plans for Messing are Undecided; Selection of 12 Fraternities Approved by Negotiators

Plans for evacuating the Ice rink will be executed as soon as possible, Mr. Morey said. Beginning July 1, STAR men will be housed in six fraternities—Delta Upsilon, Sigma Phi Sigma, Alpha Chi Rho, Psi Upsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, and Phi Kappa Tau. ASTP trainees will be quartered in Chi Phi, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Kappa, Phi Kappa Sigma, Phi Kappa Psi, and Delta Phi. "The fraternities also will be paid a portion of the 3 per cent general and indirect cost item paid to the University." The portion to be paid to fraternities will be the portion applicable to the items listed under operating expenses above. "The University assumes responsibility for operation costs, such as fuel, electricity, water, laundry, janitor supplies, and labor, for which it will be reimbursed by the government on a cost basis.

24 June 1943—Daily Illini

Five More Houses will be Occupied by ASTP Men

Five more fraternity houses were taken over yesterday for use by trainees of the army specialized training program. This makes a total of 11 houses which will be occupied by ASTP trainees. The five houses are Delta Upsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Phi Sigma, Psi Upsilon, and Alpha Chi Rho. Seven additional houses are next in line for occupancy. These are Phi Epsilon Pi, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Kappa Sigma, Beta Theta Pi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Theta Delta Chi, and Phi Gamma Delta. It is contemplated that this group of 23 houses is all that will be needed as quarters for ASTP trainees at the present time. However, negotiations with other houses will be opened as soon as it appears that more are necessary.

3 July 1943—Daily Illini

September 1945

By fall semester 1945, the fraternity was not yet active. With a huge influx of returning veterans the University was short on housing. The Omicron Chapter was leased by the University to house women for the fall 1945 semester.

Lease Psi Upsilon

The University has leased the Psi Upsilon fraternity house, 313 East Armory Avenue, to house women students and the lease will be turned over to a private operator. Efforts are being made to obtain other fraternity houses and rooms in private homes to house the surplus of women expected this fall. Some agreements have been made to supply rooms for rushees who do not pledge sororities and it is expected that the number of rooms available for that purpose will be increased.

29 September 1945—Daily Illini



Above: Photos of ASTP trainees on campus from the 1944 Illio.

August-September 1946

When rush came around in Fall 1946, the Omicron Chapter was up and running. With many fraternities returning to active status, Psi Upsilon managed to acquire 19 pledges.

Psi Upsilon: Frank Cunningham, William Lee, James Schmidt, Fred Fischer, Frank Fisher, Dick MacHamer, Leonard Weber, Donald L'Brien, Donald Acer, Bud Neeves, George Culp, David Pyle, John Tallman, Thomas Emrick, Charles Hopkins, Herman Nabel, James Cunningham, Bruce MacDonald, and Richard Leonard.

First post-war Pledge Class 22 September 1946—Daily Illini

Fraternities Plan Informal Rushing As 339 Men Vie For Openings

Informal rushing of 339 men by 12 fraternities will begin this week in preparation for the September election. E. S. Stafford, dean of men, announced yesterday. Rushing lists containing the names of the men have been mailed to each chapter active on the campus. Staffed announced that Psi Upsilon has been given permission to restrict the fall. It will be located at 402 East Daniel street, Champagne. Through many fraternities will be unable to accept any men this fall because of the large number of prewar actives expected back. Staffed advised them to conduct mockers and other rushing activities in the event that they may be able to pledge men at a later date. According to rushing regulations, students must file their names with the dean of men prior to accepting a pledge pin. Also, they must have been in residence in Champagne-Urbana for a minimum of eight hours. Other fraternities which will operate during the next school year are: Acacia, Alpha Chi Rho, Alpha Delta Phi, Alpha Epsilon Pi, Alpha Gamma Rho, Alpha Kappa Lambda, Alpha Kappa Phi, Alpha Phi, Alpha Rho Chi, Alpha Sigma Phi, Alpha Tau Omega, Beta Theta Pi, Chi Phi, Chi Psi, Cosmopolitan Club, Delta Chi, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Delta Phi, Delta Sigma Phi, Delta Psi, Delta Upsilon, Epsilon Phi, Eta Phi, Kappa Alpha Psi, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Omega Sigma, Phi Epsilon, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Phi Sigma, Tau Delta Phi, Tau Epsilon Phi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Theta Chi, Theta Delta Chi, Theta Xi, Triangle, Zeta Beta Beta, Zeta Phi, and Zeta Psi.

LEGION TO HEAR GARVEY
Neil F. Garvey, assistant director of extension, will discuss Illio election laws and procedures at 7:30 p. m. Thursday at a meeting of the campus post of the American Legion. The group will meet in 314 Illini Union.

Today's Scripture
I Timothy 2:5. "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship
WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY
Room 213 Gregory Hall
Tuesday Nights 7 to 8 p. m.

6 August 1946—Daily Illini



Left: Group photo from the 1947 Illio. This was the first year the fraternity was back in the annual publication.

Top Row: Thomas Davis, Homer Hardy, Fred Zander, Theodor Remy, Robert Schmidt, Grant Nelson, Robert Lee, Jack Stout, Robert Lewellyn, Warren Alcock, Jr., Gene McCarthy, Donald Sweet
Third Row: Alan Kenna, David Lamoree, Arthur Bodger, Herbert Jackson, Charles Crum, William Burris, John Lutz, Lawrence Fisher, Alvin Griffin, Kelly Cox, Leslie Bock, Gene Krasnowski
Second Row: James Cunningham, Edward Fisher, Donald Acer, David Pyle, Franklin Fischer, George Culp, Houston Neeves, Charles Hopkins, Frank Cunningham, Richard Leonard
Bottom Row: William Lee, Thomas Emrick, Thomas Callinan, Leonard Weber, Bruce MacDonald, Jack Tallman, James Schmidt, Herman Nabel, Walter Kenyon
Not in Photo: Richard MacHamer, Charles Hunter, Ira Abbott, Frederick Fischer