



Alpha Phi TIDEings

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA PHI CHAPTER OF THETA CHI

— SPRING 2008 —

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ALPHA PHI MOVES FORWARD Alumni, Reconnect with Theta Chi

About five years ago, **Pat Hughes '76** convinced me to get reinvolved with the House Corporation, but I was hesitant to do so. In my first draft of this message, I wrote that my hesitation was based on the four hours of bad road between Mobile and Tuscaloosa and the time commitment that serving on the House Corporation requires. While both of those were minor factors, the truth is that I was afraid—I had been gone for so long that I was not sure I even belonged or would be accepted. After four years of being involved in Chapter life as an undergraduate and 18 months on the road as a field representative, I spent the next 20-plus years relatively uninvolved in the Chapter and the National Fraternity.

There were some good reasons for that lack of involvement. My wife, Carol, and I raised two children, I developed my law practice and coached youth sports year around. Although I kept up with several Alpha Phi alumni here in the Mobile area and a few in Birmingham, I slowly drifted away from everyone else.

Would people ask me where I have been for the last 20 years? Where is an old composite? Can I even remember what all of my pledge brothers looked like? I spoke with **Dale Taylor '69** and he was very reassuring. He explained that my path was not all that different from

most college alumni. The carefree college life gives way to the working world, and we naturally shift into a life that revolves around our growing families. When the kids have grown and our business commitments, hopefully, become more subject to our control, we have more time to get involved.

Armed with those words, I came back to my first Homecoming in many years. As I ran into old friends, the memories flooded back. On the drive back to Mobile the next day, I reflected on everything I took in that short weekend. I thought of all the things the Fraternity did for me and realized how lucky I am to be a part of the special thing that is Alpha Phi.

Since then, I have reestablished relationships I want to keep for the rest of my life. I have met brothers from different eras who share that view and do me one better. To all of you who have remained involved in the Chapter since you left the University, keep it coming and invite an old pledge brother you have not seen in a while to take a trip to Tuscaloosa one Saturday this fall. If you have not been active, here is your invitation. The water is fine—jump on in.

There are a lot of reasons you will want to come back. The University is growing at such a rapid pace you may not even recognize it if you have not been on the campus in the past few years. Enrollment is escalating at a dizzying pace. Dr. Witt aims to have 28,000 students on campus over the next several years. Coach Saban is bringing back the grand traditions of the Crimson Tide teams of the glory days. It is a good time to be an Alabama fan.

On the Alpha Phi front, the Chapter continues to excel. As you will see throughout this newsletter, Alpha Phi has been recognized both on campus and through awards from the National Fraternity. The current Chapter officers are an impressive bunch of young men who take their roles seriously and love the Fraternity.

I want to give a special thanks to **Mike Sanders '78** for reviving this newsletter. It has been a lot of hard work on his part. After you read this edition, talk to

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Left: New members and their brothers lend a hand with Habitat for Humanity. Right: Undergraduate men assist with Habitat for Humanity.

Alpha Phi Excels at the Capstone

Undergraduate Members Proud of Academic Rankings

This is an exciting time for the Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity here at the Capstone. We have undergone tremendous growth over the past five years and are adding great members to our Chapter. These members are from Alabama and all over the Southeast, taking our values, ideals, and traditions to many other places. I am proud to be the president of an organization that has excelled in many areas, and this past year was no exception.

Last fall, we initiated 41 new members to our Chapter who have shown great initiative in building on the excellence we have accomplished at Alabama. Keeping with the tradition of our Chapter, a few of these young men are sons of alumni from the 1970s and 1980s. We are always excited to initiate members to our Chapter who have some sort of connection to Alpha Phi, and we encourage everyone to send

us suggestions of family and friends they would like our Chapter to consider for membership.

Alpha Phi continues to be one of the top 10 chapters in scholarship compared to other fraternities on campus, and I am confident this trend will continue with the 2008-2009 school year. We have had numerous members involved with honor societies on campus that have helped our members broaden their friendships with other successful students at Alabama. Many of our recent graduates from the Alpha Phi Chapter have chosen to take their education to another level with various graduate degrees, and others have chosen to venture out into the world of business. These graduates have been sources of much needed wisdom and direction for the undergraduate Chapter.

Our scholarship and recruitment programs are just two of the many areas we have excelled in over the past year. More than the big areas of focus, it is the little things that keep our members close. Whether it is the sit-down dinners we enjoy every night or the pick-up basketball and football games in the backyard, the members enjoy each other's presence. We would not have gotten this far were it not for our great alumni and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has influenced our Chapter in one way or another. I look forward to the upcoming year and encourage everyone to drop by the house and say hello. Roll Tide!

Fraternally,
Taylor Galloway '09
 Chapter President
 (985) 630-7335
 ptgalloway@gmail.com

ALPHA PHI OF OX HOUSE CORPORATION

President
Peter Mackey '78

Tom Griffin '70
Fulton Hamilton '72
Steven Casey '75
Gary Bryant '76
Mike Sanders '78
Greg Smith '80
Dru Horton '98
Tucker Groves '99
Justin Truelove '04
Lucas Elgie '05

Please send newsletter ideas
 to Mike Sanders, capstone56@comcast.net.

Chapter Officers

President
Taylor Galloway '09
 Covington, La.
 (985) 630-7335
 ptgalloway@gmail.com

Vice President
Brody Summerall '09
 Gadsden, Ala.

Secretary
Michael Wright '09
 Gadsden, Ala.

Treasurer
Rob Rummell '10
 Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Social Chairman
Clay Looney '10
 Nashville, Tenn.

Recruitment Chairman
Kenny Crow '10
 Mobile, Ala.

Chaplin
James Little '12
 Haleyville, Ala.

Historian
Alex Boggs '10
 Memphis, Tenn.

Sports Chairman
Scott Gray '10
 Birmingham, Ala.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Alex Addington
Memphis, Tenn.

Franklin Leach
Gadsden, Ala.

Ross Applegate
Atlanta, Ga.

Mitch Lee
Birmingham, Ala.

Charlie Bingham
Fairhope, Ala.

Michael Martin
Birmingham, Ala.

Andy Bolton
Monroeville, Ala.

Joe McFadden
Orlando, Fla.

Travis Bridges
Huntsville, Ala.

Sam Miller
Fairhope, Ala.

Will Calloway
Nashville, Tenn.

Austin Monceret
Birmingham, Ala.

Gamble Cleveland
Atlanta, Ga.

Michael Nix
Birmingham, Ala.

Caleb Cole
Huntsville, Ala.

Justin Peterson
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Wil Cole
Homewood, Ala.

Pep Pfluke
Enterprise, Ala.

Trey Collins
Mobile, Ala.

Adam Pike
Huntsville, Ala.

Blake Cummings
Atlanta, Ga.

Brandon Pope
Huntsville, Ala.

Beau Dean
Birmingham, Ala.

Adam Presley
Nolensville, Tenn.

Mike Eves
Tampa, Fla.

Matthew Reebals
Homewood, Ala.

Scott Ford
Nashville, Tenn.

Blake Richardson
Fairhope, Ala.

Jacob Frazier
Huntsville, Ala.

Richard Roper
Mobile, Ala.

John Hicks
Birmingham, Ala.

Will Sanford
Birmingham, Ala.

Taylor Holland
Cullman, Ala.

Andrew Skelton
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Ross Kerwin
Memphis, Tenn.

Zac St. Clair
Mobile, Ala.

Greg Komara
Huntsville, Ala.

Will Steele
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Drew Lane
Suwanee, Ga.

Ben Trammell
Oxford, Ala.

THETA CHI GAVE ALUMNUS A GREAT START

Spotlight on H. Harold Williams '49

When **Harold Williams '49** attended Alabama in 1946, he was asked to visit Theta Chi and he recalls, "**Perry Ingram '48** put a button on me and I didn't take it off." He enjoyed visiting Theta Chi and that was all there was to it—he joined. Theta Chi was a great experience for Harold. He was exposed to leadership roles, handling the dealings of a business, and the meaning of true camaraderie.



Harold and Eloise as grand marshals of the Pell City Annual Christmas Parade.

Before attending Alabama, he entered the Air Force in 1942 and spent time in India as a chief clerk in an engineering office of an air service squadron. He helped operate and repair depot for planes in efforts to remove the Japanese from India and Burma. In 1946 he returned home to Alabama. While in the Fraternity, he became Chapter president in 1948. When he took over the Chapter, it was not doing very well financially. He gave his time and support to turn Alpha Phi around. Harold says, "I've had a great life and Theta Chi did very much to get me started. My presidency there was a great volt of electricity; it showed me I could do some great things."

Harold earned an accounting degree in 1949 and—following Eloise Wilkins, whom he met just two days after returning from India—applied for law school in Columbia. He says being president of Theta Chi really helped him on his application for law school. They both

received graduate degrees, Harold's for law and Eloise's for teaching. The two were married in 1953 in their hometown of Pell City, Alabama. Harold says he married her "after chasing her for seven years, nine months, 11 days, five hours, and 20 minutes."

In 1952, Harold began his career as an attorney at Balch & Bingham in Birmingham. He retired 14 years ago but still takes care of some daily business for the firm. Harold and Eloise have donated much of their time throughout their lives on boards and committees. Harold has also given his time teaching Sunday school. Through life, he has learned much about the value of people and relationships. He tries to bring joy to others and says you should "try to lighten the corner where you are."

In his spare time, Harold enjoys photography and has taken pictures for various things, including his law firm, his church, baby dedications and baptisms, historical events, and clubs. He also enjoys reading, especially about politics and history. He and Eloise have two grown children, Richard and Anna, both Samford University graduates. Harold and Eloise live in Birmingham but enjoy visiting Pell City often. Last December, they were grand marshals of the Pell City Annual Christmas Parade. E-mail Harold at hwilliams@balch.com.

RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATION

Prospect's Name: _____
 Home Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____
 Parent(s): _____
 High school attended: _____
 Does prospect have a ΘΧ relative? _____
 Reference submitted by: _____
 Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Alumni, we value your referrals. Please submit recommendations to **Kenny Crow '10** at jkcrow@bama.ua.edu or **Pete Mackey '78** at psmackey@bcmlawyers.com.

THETA CHI PRODUCES OUTSTANDING LEADER

Alumnus Spotlight—W. Donald Bell '61

When **Don Bell '61** visited Theta Chi at Alabama, he realized he was among friends and decided to join. His experience at Theta Chi was a great one that taught him many things. Most importantly it taught him about camaraderie and leadership.

While an undergraduate, Don held various positions within the Chapter, including vice president and president. At that time, Don helped organize the fundraising to build a new Chapter House. "It seemed impossible to raise enough money for a fraternity house but we did it and built it. However, I never got to live in it. I graduated a month before it opened," he says. Raising these funds, putting teams together to head up projects, and the leadership experiences he gained are some of his best memories. Other favorite memories include playing intramurals with his brothers and the great parties they had, especially the Pirates Ball.



Don received a bachelor of science in electrical engineering and is president and chief executive officer for Bell Microproducts. He founded the company in 1988 and it is now one of the largest companies worldwide in the IT distribution industry. For his achievements, Don is in the Engineering Hall of Fame of the State of Alabama. Don's leadership experiences have taught him that leadership is the most important thing a company or organization can have. "If you have true leadership, then the team does well. If you do not have leadership, then you won't achieve the same success you would otherwise. Whether it be in sports, chapters, universities, or companies, the ones that do well are the ones that have a great leader who can rally the people to do their best and can achieve success for individuals as well as for the collective group."

The advice Don would like to give to young alumni is to understand your goals and totally

commit yourself to achieving them. He also reminds undergraduates that college is a great time to develop skills and relationships, and to the best possible degree figure out what you want to do in life. He says, "Total commitment towards these goals differentiates those people who will be successful and happy later in life. Figuring it out and then doing it is the most important thing in life."

Don says he is proud to be a Theta Chi. "It is a great Chapter that has developed over the years, and there are great people who have come after me. I think very highly of the National Fraternity and I'm very proud of Alpha Phi of Theta Chi."

He grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, and now lives in Woodside, California. In his spare time, Don enjoys racing cars for the International Motor Sports Association Series and has been racing for 35 years. He also enjoys traveling to Europe and, recently, the North Pole. Don and his wife, Lynne, have five children and 13 grandchildren. He can be reached via e-mail at dbell@bellmicro.com.

Pride in Your School and Fraternity

Reminiscing about Theta Chi and 'Bama Football

It doesn't seem like that long ago when I was a freshman pledge at Alpha Phi of Theta Chi. I absolutely loved every minute of my four years at the Capstone, much of it due to the brotherhood of Theta Chi. I'm not sure anyone received more enjoyment from their fraternity experience. I valued the friendships developed during my four years at Alabama. However, after graduation in 1976 and a career move to California in 1979, I lost contact with the Chapter.

Gary and Angela (far right) with their three children at the 2006 Alabama Homecoming



I attended games occasionally but once my three cheerleading daughters were busy with Friday night lights, my travels to Tuscaloosa came to a halt. In 1996 I was living in High Point, North Carolina, and this was my chance to introduce my son to real football, not this cheap imitation of football in the ACC. We went to the Alabama versus N.C. State game in Raleigh, and it was a perfect day for football. Late in the game my son said, "Dad, this is the biggest game I have ever seen. The crowd is so loud and the stadium is huge!" I realized then that I had failed as a graduate of the University. His measure of crowd noise, venue, and football was a game in Raleigh. I decided to join Tide Pride the next year and have attended virtually every home game since.

My first home game with my son was a very special event in 1996 for the Alabama versus Auburn game at Legion Field. We left Thursday afternoon so we could visit the Fraternity house, Bryant Museum, and the campus. My son had a big day leaning on the goal post at Bryant Denny Stadium, lunch with about 60 brothers,

talking to Clem Gryska, watching the Crimson Tide practice on Friday, and pictures and a chat with Coach Stallings on the practice field. In what seemed to be a perfect ending, 'Bama won on Saturday in the closing seconds with a Kitchens to Riddle swing pass for a touchdown. Then to everyone's surprise, Gene Stallings retired as we listened to the post-game show while heading home.

That's how it all began. Now every trip to Tuscaloosa on game day starts with a visit at the Fraternity house. I guess I've seen about 75% of my pledge class over the years as well as many others who stop by the house. I've gotten to know brothers from the eighties, nineties, and more while at the house for lunch on game days. I want everyone to know you are always welcome. During the 2007 season we had two pledge class reunions, and I foresee more of these events in the future. It was great to see those who attended the reunion as well as the usual sightings of **Fulton Hamilton '72, Patrick Hughes '75, David Gibson '77, and Bill Thomas '63.** (Continued on page 6)

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Benjamin Davies Jr. '42 entered Chapter Eternal on August 13, 2007. He suffered a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was a resident of Birmingham, Ala.

ALUMNI NEWS

George O. Layman '48 works as an organization representative for construction companies in Florida. He resides in Pensacola, Fla.

Jimmy M. Wall '51 is retired and lives at a great retirement community called Capstone Village on campus in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Last fall, he coordinated a course for lifelong learning at the University. He has a 4-year-old grandson and hopes he will someday be a Theta Chi. E-mail: jimmymwall@bellouth.net

Aubrey N. Blackwell '52 has been a resident of Darien, Conn., for 40 years with his wife, Mary. They have three children: Mark, Keith, and Lori. Aubrey retired in 1994 as vice president of Western N.Y. Operations of Occidental Chemical Corporation. E-mail: ablackwell01@sbcglobal.net

Samuel P. Givhan '65 is still farming cattle, catfish, and grains. He finished a three-year term as chairman of Black Belt Action Commission Small Business Development Committee last fall. Sam serves as president of Central Alabama Farmers Co-op and has served as president of Dallas County Farmers Federation for the last 25 years. He also serves on the boards of Alabama Farmers Co-op and South Fresh Aquacultures. He lives in Safford, Ala., with his wife, Lynne. E-mail: s_givhan@hotmail.com

George B. Fletcher '66 reports that his son, Ley, is head track and cross-country coach at Coker College in Hartsville, S.C., and has one daughter, Lindsey. George's daughter, Merritt, is an artist and author living in Northfield, Mass. George and his wife, Betty, are retired and live part of the year in Huntsville, Ala., and Destin, Fla.

W. Earl Cooper '71 and his wife, Mandy, have three great children who are happily married and have given them five grandchildren. He serves as treasurer of a committee to start a church plant in the Auburn area for the Church in America. Earl and Mandy reside in Brewton, Ala. E-mail: ecooper@leighplace.com

Paul Jacobs '76 graduated from Air War College in June 2006 at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. He was deployed to Iraq in December 2006 through May 2007. Paul lives in Montgomery with his wife, Teresa, a bankruptcy administrator for the middle district of Alabama.

Their son, John, attends the Montgomery Academy. E-mail: jacobs2508@knology.net

Philip E. Miles '86 opened a law practice in Gadsden, Ala., and has a new associate, Jonathon Welch. They specialize in civil and criminal litigation in state and federal courts and provide an array of other services, including disability representation, business formation, and probate work. When not working, he plays

guitar with The New Delusions and in an acoustic duo called logjammin'. Philip has three children: Megan, Joshua, and Savannah. E-mail: philipmiles@earthlink.net

William L. Pratt IV '88 works at Sain Associates Inc. in Birmingham, Ala., as a division manager. He and his wife, Anne, have three children and live in Birmingham. He reports that he ate at

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He'll Still be Your Brother and Trusted Friend—Just Older A Note to Undergraduate Members

Take a look at your best friends in the Fraternity. At some point between 18 and 22 years old, you probably trusted them with your life. They share almost all of your secrets and you share theirs. And while love may not be a cool thing to say, you love them all like brothers. The fact is, you will find it very difficult to develop friendships after college that are as strong as those you formed in Theta Chi.

Now, double your age and fast forward your life. So many of us "old alumni" can tell you that your next 20, 30, and 40 years will go by so fast you can hardly believe it. One of the greatest gifts that Theta Chi will give to you is friends that last a lifetime. Your four (five or six for some of you) years in college merely lay the foundation of a lifetime of friendships. The experiences you share with your best friends in the Fraternity now are going to stay with you forever. I promise that you will still be laughing about your college days with your Theta Chi friends for years to come.

But it does take a little bit of work; time, family, and career will put distance in your friendships. That crazy guy who you would never let near your sister will get married, grow in his career, and heaven forbid have children of his own. And you will do the same. To keep a friendship alive takes a commitment to find reasons to get together—whether it be family vacations, football weekends, going to New Orleans for no reason, or business lunches. These things may seem far-fetched to you now, but they will play a big part in keeping your Theta Chi friendships alive.

I live in Jacksonville, Florida, so I do not often bump into my college buddies. It is important to me to keep those friendships alive. In the past year I have traveled to Mobile to attend the



Former Alpha Phi Vice President Bill Hendrich seeks future campaign advice from Vice President Dick Cheney.

wedding of my roommate's daughter, watched Alabama beat Tennessee in Tuscaloosa, had a lunch in Birmingham with another roommate, and hosted a party with many Fraternity brothers from around the country for the Alabama versus Florida State game in Jacksonville. Without question, the best times I have had this year were with my Fraternity brothers, most of whom I met over 30 years ago. Time has aged us all, but it has not changed our love for each other. We still go by the same names that we called each other in college. We are still in awe of the things that we did and don't feel bad or guilty about much of it. We are still very capable of doing stupid things under the influence of alcohol (I didn't say we matured that much). We still make each other laugh until we cry. And we are all still very grateful that we met each other at The University of Alabama and Theta Chi Fraternity.

My brothers and best friends from 30 years ago are still my brothers and best friends today; they are just older.

Bill Hendrich '79
Bill.Hendrich@coxradiocom

ALPHA PHI MOVES FORWARD

(Continued from page 1)

the Alpha Phi alumni you see regularly. Make sure they received this newsletter. If they did not, send us some updated contact information so we can include them in the next edition.

If you have a son, relative, or friend whom you would like the Chapter to consider for this fall's pledge class, let us know. Feel free to contact me directly. If you are thinking about coming up for a football game (or two or six) keep on the lookout for e-mails from **Gary Bryant '76**. He will provide the who, what, and where of activities at the Chapter House for each home football game weekend.

We look forward to seeing you back at the Chapter House.

Fraternally,
Peter S. Mackey '78
(251) 432-0612
psmackey@bcmlawyers.com

Pride in Your School and Fraternity

(Continued from page 4)

I am one of five owners of AP Industries (www.apindustries.com), a manufacturer of bedroom furniture, and it's my cradle to retirement! The management team bought the company several years ago. I am the vice president of sales and marketing and handle the product development and sales for the U.S. My wife, Angela, and I live in High Point and have four children: daughters Allison, a UNC-Wilmington graduate, Leslie, a UNC graduate, and Lauren, an N.C. State graduate. Our son, **Taylor '10**, is a sophomore at Alabama and is a Theta Chi. Due to his choice in university, he is the only child who will be in my will! We are now empty nesters; Angela plays tennis and I play golf.

I encourage you to plan a trip this year and make sure to bring the family. If you have not already sent me your e-mail address please do so. I will e-mail you the weekend football schedule of events, as well as the menu to assist in planning your game day travel. When you stop by the Chapter House, say hello to Taylor; he is a huge 'Bama fan and, of course, enjoys being a Theta Chi!

Gary W. Bryant '76
gwbgenap@msn.com



Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi
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Attention: This newsletter is intended for Theta Chi alumni and parents.
If your son is still attending The University of Alabama, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House.
If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

ALUMNI UPDATE

(Continued from page 5)

Dreamland about a month ago; the parking lot is now paved for those of you who have not been there for several years.

Phillip D. Corley Jr. '91 was elected managing member of the law firm Wallace, Jordan, Ratliff & Brandt LLC. He serves on the board of directors for M. Power Ministries and The Birmingham Tip-Off Club. He resides in Birmingham, Ala., with his wife, Isabel, and three children: John, Beck, and Sam. E-mail: pc@wallacejordan.com

Mark L. Pyburn '93 is regional sales director of Intuitive Surgical Inc., manufacturers of robotic surgery equipment. He lives with his wife, Margaret, and their children: Mary Catherine, Mark Jr., Amelia, and Helen, in Nashville, Tenn. E-mail: pyburn4@lycos.com

Galen E. Burdeshaw '95 and his wife, Jennifer, were married in November 2007 and live in Simpsonville, S.C. They are both Ironman triathletes. Galen competed in his

third Ironman Triathlon in fall 2007; he completed the 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and 26.2-run in 11 hours and 50 minutes. He has completed over 12 marathons in the last 10 years. Galen and Jennifer own two dogs, a boxer named Maggie, and a recent champion beagle named Swan Lake Dixie Land Delight, also known as Murphy. E-mail: galen.burdeshaw@charter.net

David G. Patton '03 lives in Homewood, Ill., with his wife, Lori. He is the operations manager at Tricon Metals & Services Inc. in University Park, Ill. E-mail: david.patton@gmail.com

Patrick G. Lewis '04 is a mortgage consultant at Bank of England in Little Rock, Ark. E-mail: patrick_lewis1@hotmail.com

James B. Spencer '07 works for Empire Distributors in Atlanta, Ga., where he resides. E-mail: spence012@bama.ua.edu