



Alpha Phi TIDEings

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA PHI CHAPTER OF THETA CHI

WINTER 2009

INSIDE:

Scholarship Established
2

Alumni Spotlights
3

Educational
and
Patriotic
Accomplishments
4

Dear Bill
5

From the Editor
6

ALUMNI RELATIONS IMPROVING THANKS TO DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

Story Highlights

- Alpha Phi alumni encouraged to stay involved with Chapter
- Undergraduates and alumni bond at Homecoming
- House Corporation maintains aging Chapter House

This has been an interesting fall at the University of Alabama, one that very few of us expected. By the time you read this, the Tide will (hopefully) be preparing for a national championship. This good fortune, of course, did not fall out of the sky. It was the result of great coaching, great athletes, and hard work (and a little bit of luck).

While the Alpha Phi alumni resurgence has not been quite as spectacular, it has been steady over the past few years. Credit for making this happen goes to the Chapter (particular this year's group of officers), **Gary Bryant '76** and **Mike Sanders '78**. In coordination with his son, **Taylor '10**, Gary has been instrumental in letting all of us know about the goings on for game weekends, and Mike has been publishing this newsletter. The response received from both is really starting to snowball.

That is important for several reasons. First and foremost, every Alpha Phi alumnus should know that he is still welcome and a part of both the Chapter and the University. Second, the House Corporation is committed to keeping up with the dramatic changes and growth occurring here at the University. We can

only do that with a strong alumni base. Third, it is important the undergraduate members get to know the brothers who came before them. It is hard to plan your future if you do not understand your past.

On that note, I received several positive comments from those who were at the house for Homecoming. They recognize and appreciate the effort the undergraduate members gave to make them feel welcome. It certainly enhanced the experience.

We want to hear from you. Tell us what is going on in your life so we can share it with everyone else. If one of your pledge brothers has experienced good fortune or achieved a milestone, it is newsworthy. If a brother needs our help, let's get the word out. We would particularly like to hear from those of you who graced the halls of Alpha Phi in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s.

On a final note, those of you who came to Homecoming saw the support straps that were securing the columns on the front of the house. While not as sightly as we would have liked, they are necessary to keep the outer veneer of the columns together. This is not a structural problem, but is a sign of age and is being addressed now. Although the house is in very good condition for its age (57), the maintenance increases in amount and frequency each year. The House Corporation is taking the necessary steps to keep pace—so pardon our progress.

Fraternally,

Peter S. Mackey '78

House Corporation President

(251) 432-0612 | psmackey@bcmllawyers.com

ALPHA PHI OF ΘΧ HOUSE CORPORATION

President

Peter Mackey '78
(251) 432-0612

Members

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 '78**,
capstone56@comcast.net.

Chapter Officers

President

Cory Vaughn '10

(615) 668 1090

cavaughn@ua.edu

Vice President

Trey Collins '11

Secretary

Steven Mote '10

Treasurer

Robert Rummel '10

Chaplain

William Henry '10

Social Chairman

Andy Bolton '11

Historian

Alex Boggs '10

Librarian

Jordan Loebel '10



UNDERGRADUATES THANKFUL FOR ALUMNI SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP

Story Highlights

- New Chapter officers elected
- Alumni volunteers provide mentoring and leadership to undergraduates
- Alumni and undergraduates meet at football tailgates

It has been a pleasure to be president of such a great fraternity. This will be my last letter as undergraduate president, as the new officers are transitioning to authority. I am confident that the next group of officers will continue the strong tradition of Theta Chi Fraternity at the University of Alabama. I wish the best of luck to all of the new officers and especially **Cory Vaughn '10**, the new Chapter president. I am confident Cory will do a great job and I have high expectations for the new group. I am excited about providing some suggestions from what I experienced and learned over the past year.

I learned many things from serving as the undergraduate president that I will take with me as I graduate this May. As I reflect upon the previous year, the experience of leading Alpha Phi Chapter has been challenging yet fulfilling. I am humbled to have played a role during an important and prosperous time. I am thankful to men such as **Pete Mackey '78** and **Dru Horton '98**, who give tremendous amounts of time and service to the Chapter. Alpha Phi alumni and undergraduates are fortunate to have these men. I encourage more

alumni to get involved with the Chapter and meet the undergraduates.

It has been a football season to remember at the University, and I thank all of you who visited the Chapter House for Homecoming and other games. We had great turnouts on the home game weekends, and I apologize if I did not get a chance to meet all of you. I hope to see many of you in the coming years as I come back to the house as an alumnus.

The relationships I have made with the men of this Chapter will last a long time. Before pledging Theta Chi a senior told me that wherever you go after school there will be Theta Chis there to turn to for support. I now realize the importance of that and am grateful I joined a fraternity that is as tight knit as Alpha Phi Chapter.



Sincerely,

Taylor Galloway '09

Outgoing Chapter President

(985) 630-7335

ptgalloway@gmail.com

Scholarship Established in Honor of RON GARIKES '80

The Foundation of the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) established the Ron W. Garikes Scholarship Fund to honor Ron's 20 years of service. The \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded annually to fund a student's attendance at the SMPS national conference. The scholarship fund was created by the foundation in partnership with Karlsberger, a full-service planning and architecture firm where Ron spent most of his 27-year career, most recently leading the firm's national laboratory and technology group and as COO of their Birmingham, Alabama office.

A distinguished life member and fellow, Ron has served SMPS in the roles of national

president (1991–92), national board secretary, southeast regional director, and foundation trustee. Ron is a founding member of SMPS Alabama and was president of that chapter. Ron is an accomplished industry author and presenter and is a contributing author to the three editions of *The Marketing Handbook for the Design and Construction Professional*.

Ron's numerous contributions to SMPS helped further the education of its members and establish the recognition of the professional services marketing industry. He exercised exemplary leadership and vision, advised, and shared his buoyant humor and exuberance to strengthen SMPS. A scholarship

fund is a fitting tribute to a professional who has made his education a part of his life's work.

The mission of the SMPS Foundation is to promote research and education that advances the body of knowledge of professional services marketing in the architectural, engineering, and construction industry. Contributions to the Ron W. Garikes Scholarship Fund may be sent to SMPS Foundation, 44 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 444, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please make checks payable to SMPS Foundation and indicate that the donation should be applied to the Ron W. Garikes Scholarship Fund.

Alpha Phi Gave Alumnus Sense of Belonging and Fellowship

Spotlight on Kirby Montgomery '75

Kirby Montgomery '75 first learned about Theta Chi when he attended a summer recruitment party. "I met many Theta Chis and was impressed with the Chapter House. I met the brothers at freshman orientation, and they invited me to join. I was shocked and excited. These were a sincere bunch of guys. **Marvin McConaghy '72** came by my home in Birmingham to meet my dad. He was an impressive young man, as well. I joined and it gave me an instant sense of belonging and fellowship."

Theta Chi played an important role for Kirby during a formative time in his life. He has many wonderful memories of the Alpha Phi Chapter, but some of his favorites include initiation, Alabama football, and simply spending time with brothers. "I remember sitting on the front steps of our fraternity house my senior year after the house was all cleaned up and everyone was gone. I reminisced about the wonderful four years I had spent at the University of Alabama and Theta Chi. Theta Chi was wonderful for me; its principles and ideals were instilled in me, and I believe they helped fashion the person I am today."

Kirby earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a concentration in insurance in 1975 and has worked in the reinsurance field since that time. He works for Markel Corporation, a pub-



Kirby Montgomery '75 and his wife, Marcie

"Theta Chi was wonderful for me; its principles and ideals were instilled in me, and I believe they helped fashion the person I am today."

licly owned company specializing in special lines property and casualty insurance. Kirby credits many of his career opportunities to Theta Chi. "Theta Chi gave me the courage to become president of the Alabama Insurance Society my junior and senior years." Theta Chi also gave Kirby many leadership opportunities that were useful in his career. "Theta Chi

is a wonderful laboratory for future leaders because of all the opportunities our fraternity has for assuming responsibility."

Kirby enjoys motorcycling, cars, and motor sports. He participates in the Corvette Club of Richmond and has been building a 1955 Chevrolet Nomad custom rod for a few years.

Kirby hopes to become more involved with Alpha Phi. "I wish I could have been closer to the Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi following my graduation. After living in Texas, Illinois, Iowa, and Connecticut, I finally moved south again to Richmond and hope to get back to visit Alpha Phi now. Although I have not been involved with my Chapter, I did serve for several years on the Theta Chi risk management committee and most recently was reappointed to the Theta Chi loss prevention committee. I also represent Theta Chi as a board member of FRMT Ltd., the fraternity's principal insurer where I also serve as head of the audit committee."

Kirby and his wife, Marcie, live in Manakin Sabot, Virginia, with their three Samoyed dogs, Nikita, Allie, and Natasha. E-mail: kvmontgomery@aol.com

Alpha Phi Alumnus Testifies before House Committee on Financial Services

Mike Washburn '77 Speaks about Community Banking

Mike Washburn '77, president and CEO of Red Mountain Bank in Birmingham and a member of Community Bankers Association of Alabama's board of directors, testified on the issue of financial restructuring on October 21 before the House Committee on Financial Services in Washington, D.C.

At the invitation of U.S. Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-Vestavia Hills), ranking member of the committee, Mike, who also serves as vice chairman of the Congressional Affairs Committee of ICBA, provided positive testimony concerning the one segment of the financial system that is working well—the community banking sector.

The testimony was provided in the midst of one of the most difficult times many Americans have witnessed. In his testimony, carried live on C-SPAN, Mike characterized community banks as "strong, common sense leaders that did not engage in the practices that led to the current crisis" and as "open for business, making loans, accepting deposits, and ready to help all Americans weather these difficult times."

Mike's testimony focused on five key elements: the need to address excessive concentration, essential emergency measures, effective bank regulatory structure, maintaining and strengthening the separation of bank-



Mike Washburn '77 testified before the House Committee on Financial Services in October.

ing and commerce, and how congress can improve the regulatory system.

In his closing, Mike reiterated the important role that community banks play in the economic well-being of individuals across our country.

Alumni Update

Benton Burroughs Jr. '66 is a partner at Reed Smith LLP in Falls Church, Va. He and his wife, Dorinda, live in McLean, Va., and have two children, Dawn and Todd. E-mail: bburroughs@reedsmith.com

Mike Sanders '78 has worked for Shaw Inc. in Baton Rouge, La., for the past seven years as a project controls specialist. He started showing dogs as a hobby in 1990 and has bred and shown more than 20 champions, many nationally ranked. Mike judges the terrier group at AKC shows and lives with three Rottweilers, three West Highland White Terriers, and one Bedlington Terrier in Sheffield, Ala. E-mail: capstone56@comcast.net

Chris S. Connell '84 enjoys living in Birmingham, Ala. He goes to as many Alabama games as possible with his family. Chris and his wife, Renee, have two children, Kendall and Michael, who both attend the University of Alabama. E-mail: cconnell1728@charter.net

Thomas J. Howard '93 reports that after graduation he earned an MBA from the University of Notre Dame in 1997. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Lindsay, and dog, Huck. Thomas is the founder and president of MemberClicks, www.memberclicks.com, a company that provides Web site and management solutions to the membership organization market. Thomas and Lindsay enjoy traveling, Tide football, and shark fishing. E-mail: thomas@memberclicks.com

Dru Horton '98 is married to the former Minta Elizabeth Moss of Vicksburg, Miss. The Hortons call Mobile, Ala., home and had their first child, a son, Moss McGinnis, in December 2007. Dru is a consultant with Baseline Consultants, a project management firm that provides scheduling and control services to the building industry. E-mail: dhorton@baselineconsultants.com

Justin Truelove '04 graduated with a B.S. in marketing and lives in Birmingham, Ala. He sells annuities, mutual funds, and stocks for Wachovia Securities and works as a licensed financial specialist for Wachovia opening accounts, taking care of mortgage loans, and taking a company public. He is the youngest person on the Alpha Phi House Corporation board. Justin loves to hunt and offshore fish whenever possible during the summer on his brother's boat at Orange Beach.

HARRISON YELVERTON III '81 PROUD OF SON'S EDUCATIONAL AND PATRIOTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Harrison Yelverton IV is a senior at the United States Naval Academy and has five years of naval commitment after graduation. He plans to graduate May 22, 2009, with a degree in economics and his service selection will be Navy surface warfare. He was plebe weapons trainer in summer 2007, having



Harrison Yelverton IV, son of Harrison Yelverton III '81, is a senior at the United States Naval Academy and plans to graduate in May with a degree in economics.

earned expert qualification in both rifle and pistol. Last summer he served as plebe SAVI (sexual assault victim intervention) instructor and is now the brigade officer for the SAVI program. He marched with the Naval Academy drum and bugle corps (the oldest in America) his freshman, sophomore, and junior years. He currently has a rank of midshipman lieutenant and upon graduation and commissioning will be an ensign.

Harrison is the son of Sharon (DeLong) and **Harrison Yelverton III '81**, grandson of Katherine (Kearley) and **Harrison Yelverton Jr. '55**, and nephew of Kelley (Davis) and **Robert Yelverton '85**.

Harrison III is the president of Timesavers Inc., a computer consulting company specializing in inventory sales and service management solutions. The company was formed in 1978 and has grown from a local company to serving customers all over the country. Sharon is a 1982 graduate of Alabama and is retired from the Jasper City school system. She earned her wings as a Pinnacle Airlines flight attendant and works out of Atlanta with Delta Connection and Northwest AirlinK. Their daughter, Kennon, is a sophomore at Alabama majoring in nursing and is a member of Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority.



Sharon, Harrison IV, Kennon, and Harrison III

Dear Brother Bill

Dear Brother Bill,

I was thinking that it would be a good idea to get together with some of my old fraternity brothers, go by the fraternity house in Tuscaloosa and show some of these young guys just how it was done in the '70s. Your thoughts?

Fraternally Yours, Dreamin' in Decatur

Dear Dreamin' in Decatur,

Hold that thought, big fella. Even though you asked for your name not to be revealed I know who you are, and what you are planning is not a good idea.

First of all, take a good long look in the mirror. The only thing ripped on you is the seat of your pants. Yes, you were the sandwich eating king of the Party Store, but now you are the Pepcid eating, acid reflux king of the early bird buffet.

Yes, I do remember how skilled you were chasing new members on the scavenger hunt and pelting them with eggs as you hung out the window of a car. Bad idea then, and a worse idea now since you are night blind and it is now illegal.

I must admit it would be fun to watch you do the hustle in the party room. I'm certain that the undergraduates would be very impressed as your butt went one way and your gut went another.

And what trip back to Tuscaloosa would be complete without a late-night visit to the Krystal? Oops! The Krystal is gone. That's OK because you are flexible. You're now thinking you can take your audience out to the Truck Stop for some breakfast and red eye gravy. Uh oh, the Truck Stop is also gone. That's OK since you need to be in bed by 10 p.m. anyway. As we all have learned, regularity is now much more important than popularity.

Yes, Dreamin' in Decatur, it is great to go back to the fraternity house and reminisce. In our minds we are still picking up our dates on sorority row. Now the sorority girls are our daughters and our daughters' friends, and I'm wondering if you really want to tell undergraduate males the stories you are thinking about. We can't talk about drinking a beer because the drinking age is 21. There is no Locust Fork, Chevy 6, or Cookie from Eli. There are no bus trips to

Birmingham to attend football games because they don't play in Birmingham any more.

Our day is done. We are now the storytellers. If we tell our stories well and not too often, we can entertain the undergraduates.

*Yes, Dreamin' in Decatur,
it is great to go back to
the fraternity house
and reminisce.*

We can take them to our composites and make legends out of people we have not seen in years. We can tell them how it was done, but we can't tell them how to do it now. We can support them in what they do but not do it for them. That is our mission.



Bill Hendrich '79

BROTHER ADRIAN LEACH '07 OPENS NEW BUSINESS IN T-TOWN

By **Taylor Bryant '10**

As the University of Alabama grows and attracts some of the best and brightest students from around the country, the administration has made an effort to clean up the area of University Boulevard known as "the strip." With several businesses not renewing their lease, this is an opportune time for new and better establishments to open.

Brother **Adrian Leach '07** took advantage of these vacancies to realize his goal of opening a restaurant. With the partnership of his father, Tripp, friend Chris Payne, and six months of renovations and construction, Adrian opened the popular rooftop restaurant The Bear Trap.

"I wanted to open a kind of place that Tuscaloosa has never seen before. We wanted The Bear Trap to be a place unlike your typical restaurant," says Adrian.

Boasting a full view of University Boulevard and Bryant-Denny Stadium and some delicious backyard cuisine, the restaurant has been very successful. In addition to the restaurant, the downstairs has the longest bar in town—60 feet—and contains plenty of flat-screen TVs to watch Alabama football. The most noticeable features of the downstairs are the three large murals of Alabama football moments painted by Coach Nick Saban's personal artist, Tim Pailey.

"The murals have been a great hit and help create the atmosphere we were trying to get," says Adrian. "Tim did an excellent job, and his work is one of the first things people comment about when they come in."

Adrian has gone out of his way to help out his fellow brothers. Currently, eight Alpha Phi brothers are employed by The Bear Trap. If you are in Tuscaloosa, make sure to stop by and support Adrian and The Bear Trap. You're sure to be impressed by the place. You can visit The Bear Trap's Web site, www.the-bear-trap.net, to see the atmosphere and menu.



Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi
P.O. Box 2824
Mobile, AL 36652

Address Service Requested

PRSRT
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
PERMIT #570

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.*

From the Editor **Mike Sanders '78**

On October 9 it finally occurred to me that I was mortal. I had a heart attack and was told it was “mild,” which I guess was supposed to make me feel lucky. The heart attack happened on Thursday, I had a stent inserted on Friday, and I was back at work on Monday.

Last March I went to the doctor because of chronic pain in my knuckles and elbows. The doctor diagnosed me with arthritis and gave me a prescription for arthritis medication. The pain never went away completely, and on October 9 it came back with a vengeance.

Heart attacks don't occur like you see in the movies. I didn't clutch my chest and fall gracefully to the ground. I was driving to work and the pain became so intense I almost got to the point where I couldn't grip the steering wheel. I knew it was only arthritis but in the back of my head I had three main thoughts:

- I wondered if knuckle and elbow pain had anything to do with a heart attack.

- I had a clear mental image of my late dad telling me always to wear clean underwear when you travel. If I was having a heart attack, he would be proud of me for having clean underwear on.
- I also had a clear mental image of **Roger Couch '76**, the pledge marshall for our class. At our first meeting Roger told us to look around the room and see the people who would be in our wedding and who would carry our casket. I started counting who I thought might actually be willing to carry me around.

I've always heard to put an aspirin under your tongue at the onset of a heart attack. I carry a bottle of aspirin in my work bag, so I placed one under my tongue to dissolve. The heart surgeon said I was lucky to have taken the aspirin and that it may have been what minimized the effects of the attack. In the end I didn't have any damage to the heart muscle itself, which was the good news. The bad news

is that the monthly prescriptions run more than \$700. The intention of buying a Porsche when my mid-life crisis begins has been put on hold.

The reason I am telling you this is because you need to stay healthy. God forbid if this should happen to you, but just in case always have an aspirin on your person. If you carry a briefcase, keep an aspirin in it. If nothing else, wrap an aspirin in aluminum foil and keep it in your pocket with your keys and change. Lose weight, enjoy life, and get off of the couch—my new motto.

WEB SITES

Undergraduate Chapter
<http://bama.ua.edu/~thetachi>

National Fraternity
www.thetachi.org