



Alpha Phi TIDEings

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA PHI CHAPTER OF THETA CHI

SUMMER 2011

Theta Chi Granted Lot on University Boulevard

Support of Every Brother Needed to Move Forward

The past few months have been met with mixed emotion for Alpha Phi. On April 20 I received news from House Corporation President **Mike Sanders '78** that our housemother, Kathy Murphy, was named Housemother of the Year at the Order of Omega awards banquet. For those of you who know Kathy, she does outstanding work for our Chapter and we are fortunate to have her.

On April 27 I placed a call to **Pete Mackey '78** and asked if he had spoken with his son in Tuscaloosa. I had just seen a picture from Twitter of the tornado passing south of Bryant Denny stadium. I had the emptiest feeling knowing what destruction was taking place. My next few hours were spent trying to contact the Chapter to make sure everyone was accounted for. Several brothers had close calls and suffered property losses, but as we would expect, these young men proudly stepped up and immediately began to contribute to the recovery effort.

Over the next week, as I watched the news reports and took in the devastation, I began preparing for a business trip. As I was getting ready to walk out the door, I received a text message from Pete telling me that **Mike Sanders '78** had died. Mike worked diligently for the Chapter over the past couple of years and played a crucial part in trying to secure a lot for construction of a new Chapter House. A group of brothers attended Mike's funeral on May 11 in Sheffield. The night before the funeral, several of us had dinner in Birmingham where I learned Brother **Mason Easley '00** had also passed away.

A few days later Pete asked me to step into Mike's position as president on the House Corporation. The next 12

days were very reflective for me, and many of us were waiting anxiously for the news from President Witt on our lot application. On May 24, **Wes Wicker '79** told me the news I had been waiting to hear for the last three years: "Dr. Witt called me this afternoon to tell me that the Site Selection Committee has awarded Theta Chi the next lot on University Boulevard." President Witt and the leadership of his office have been great advocates for the Greek system in this endeavor, and they are to be commended.

The next 12 months will be critical to our success as we form our long-term project plans and strategy. I want to thank all those who have made a financial commitment to the project. For those that have not, I ask that you give serious consideration to what the Fraternity means to you and the relationships you have because of it.

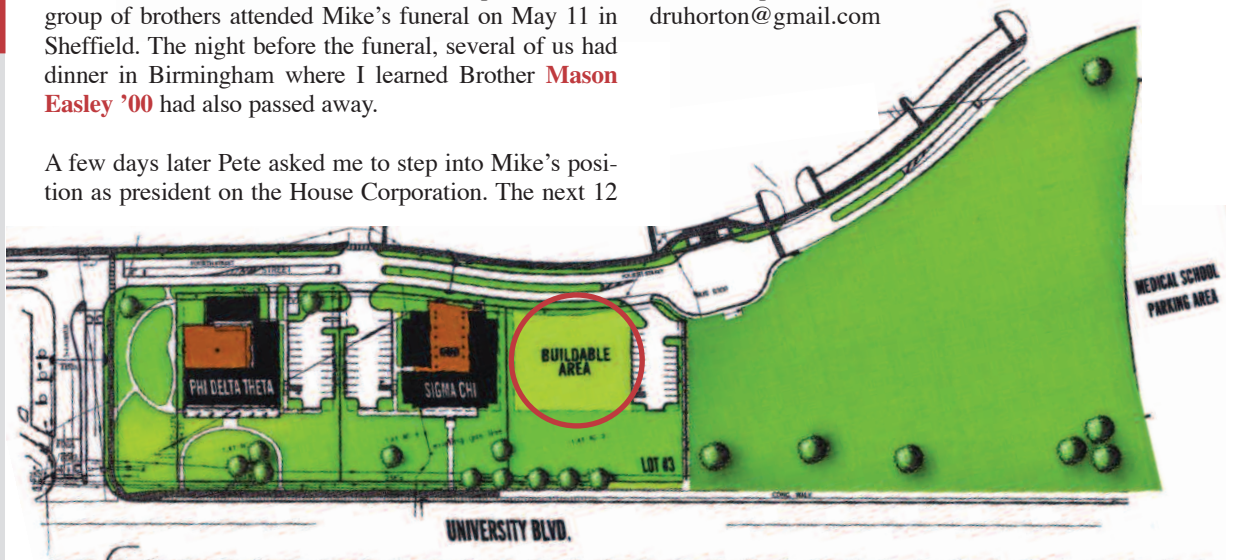
Gentlemen, the challenge before us is simple. Encourage every brother that you are personal friends with to make an annual financial commitment over a five-year period. Regardless of your pledge amount, your participation is needed to make this campaign a success.

Fraternally,
Dru Horton '98
House Corporation President
druhorton@gmail.com

Alpha Phi Needs Your Help to Increase Campaign Participation

Attention, brothers!
Help us increase our
campaign participation
by returning
your gift today.

Total Alumni: 1,257
Total Contributors: 146
Percent Participation: 10%



The future location of the Theta Chi house on University Boulevard.



Mike Pope '80 (right) and his wife, Andrea, with sons Wesley '12 and Brandon '10.

Mike Pope '80 joined the Alpha Phi Chapter initially for the social aspects. As the years rolled by, he grew to truly appreciate the deeper meaning associated with the Fraternity: friendship, loyalty, character, and brotherhood.

His favorite memories are from the late-night work parties as a pledge and cruising with Pops and Tojo in the convertible with Boston blaring. He recalls his initiation and time as a pledge marshall. It wasn't until he graduated that he realized the impact the Alpha Phi Chapter had on him: lifelong friendships and his motivation to be a strong leader. "True leadership is a characteristic that is sorely lacking in this country," he says. "Everyone seems to want to go along with the crowd and take the path of least resistance. We need leaders in all walks of life, whether it be in business, politics, athletics, church or government, to step forward and lead—do things not because they are popular but because they are the right things to do."

Mike has taken his leadership beyond the walls of the Chapter House. He serves as the vice president and operations manager for Technology Service Corporation's Alabama operations. He never ceases to learn

SUPPORTING THE LEGACY

Spotlight on Mike Pope '80

either, as he's working on his third master's degree from the University of Alabama. Mike has chosen to take a role in contributing to Alpha Phi's campaign, as well. His motivation behind his contributions is two-fold. "First, I owe much to the Fraternity in terms of the support provided during my undergraduate days; second, I have two sons who are Theta Chis, and it was time for me to give back to their Chapter."

When asked why it was important for all alumni to support the campaign, Mike stated that "the Fraternity is only as strong as the brotherhood ties that bind individual members—the campaign is an active way to show that we are bound together not only during our collegiate days but also for a lifetime." He believes every alumnus should give to the campaign, even with a small amount, and then follow up with a visit to the house. "See if you don't feel more a part of the fraternal fellowship even if you've been out of school for 30+ years." Mike believes getting involved will remind alumni what the fraternity is all about.

Mike and his wife, Andrea, whom he dated at UA and married after graduation, reside in Huntsville. They have two sons, **Brandon '10** and **Wesley '12**. When Mike isn't busy with school or work, he can be found on the golf course, running around Huntsville or, most recently, backpacking.

Theta Chi Remembers Two Beloved Brothers, Randy Griffin '76 and Mike Sanders '78

By Pete Mackey '78

I turned 55 years old when writing this article, and that milestone has perhaps colored my perspective in the sentences that follow.

Two of my old college roommates, **Randy Griffin '76** and **Mike Sanders '78**, have joined the Chapter Eternal: Randy in October of 2009 and Mike in May. Rare is the day that I don't think of one of them. Both loved Theta Chi and carried their weight in the Chapter in ways that many of us never saw or realized. I miss them both and know that countless others join me.

Randy joined Theta Chi as a student at Troy State and transferred to the U of A in 1973. Of course, he was no stranger to Alpha Phi. He and his older brother, **Tom '70**, had been frequenting Theta Chi's halls for quite some time. In January of 1977, **Reed Rogers '79**, **Bill Page '77**, Randy, and I invaded 23 Cherokee Hills, a nice home in a southeast

Tuscaloosa neighborhood, where Randy and I shared a bedroom.

I have heard it said that everyone has some genius in them; you just have to know where to look. It was during this time that I saw Randy's genius. He loved the woods and felt comfortable in nature. He understood animals in a way that few humans do, could fix things that were broken, and build items from scratch. Not being able to do either, I was envious of the ease with which he could work with his hands.

Randy moved to a farm in Montgomery, started his own construction company, and went to work for the Retirement Systems of Alabama. I spent many a night at that farm house over the next several years, stopping there each time I passed through. That is probably the happiest I remember him.

That said, I never really saw him unhappy. Randy's basic life philosophy was "it's all good," even in 2008 when he was diagnosed with cancer. The night before his first surgery, I called to wish him luck. I could hear the Beijing Olympic Games theme playing on the television in his hospital room. We had idle chatter until I summoned up the nerve to ask him if he was ready for what lay ahead. His response, "let the games begin," was vintage Randy Griffin.

The next year and a half were not easy. He did not go it alone, however. His mother, Edith, brother, Tom, and good friend and physician George Handey, were at his side. Through it all, he kept the same positive attitude. Edith was his primary caregiver until he died. I spoke with her recently and asked how tough that last year was. "I would not have had it any

(Continued on page 4)

THANK YOU, LOYAL BROTHERS, FOR COMMITTING \$626,675

We are deeply grateful to the following Theta Chi brothers for committing more than \$626,000 to the *Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future* campaign. These brothers recognize the importance of ensuring the future of the Alpha Phi Chapter and have demonstrated a sense of gratitude for their personal experience by making an investment in the future of Theta Chi at Alabama.

All pledges to the campaign are 100% tax deductible through the University of Alabama and will be reflected in the donor's lifetime giving to the University. With the support of Dr. Witt and the

University administration, projects like ours continue to improve the Greek experience at Alabama.

Commitments are still needed from the rest of our alumni to achieve our goal and complete phase one of this major project. All donors contributing a minimum of \$2,500, over a five-year period, will be recognized on a plaque prominently displayed in the Chapter House (and moved to our new home once it is built). Donors at or above \$1,000 will be listed in all campaign publications. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has been mistakenly omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please advise our campaign coordinator by calling (785) 843-1661 so that we may make a correction.

Dale Taylor Honorary Circle (\$50,000 and above)

In memory of Randy Griffin
J.C. Brock '76
Peter S. Mackey '78
Wesley K. Wicker '79
Thomas J. Howard '93

Snake and Sword Circle (\$25,000 to \$49,999)

Gregory L. Mullins '85

Builder of Character Circle (\$15,000 to \$24,999)

Bryant Family Gift
Gary W. Bryant '76
Taylor H. Bryant '10
Michael D. Sanders '78
In memory of
his father, Billy Sanders
Kloess Sons Gift
Larry H. Kloess III '77
Price M. Kloess '79
David H. Kloess '85
In honor of
Larry H. Kloess Jr. '54
Michael A. Pope '80
In honor of
Ron Garikes '80

Excellence Circle (\$10,000 to \$14,999)

In memory of
William H. Thomas '63
Col. Lawrence H. Kloess Jr. '54
John E. Hagefstration Jr. '83
Don Bell '61
Michael J. Mazenko '69
Anthony "Di" DiPiazza '71
Pete Derzis '75
Dr. Charles W. Rush '75
Dr. Rhett B. Murray '82
Dru M. Horton Jr. '98
In memory of
Ellis Porch III '98
Tucker R. Groves '99
Justin R. Truelove '04

Red Carnation Circle (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Scott R. Beal '50
Michael D. Williams '75
Dr. David B. Gibson '77
In honor of
the Gibson Family
John W. Ward '77
Bud Garikes '79
In honor of
Ron Garikes '80
Bill Hendrich '79
Yelverton Family Gift
H. Oscar Yelverton Jr. '55
Harrison O. Yelverton III '81
Robert J. Yelverton '85
Alan W. Higgins '82
James A. Bruno '83
Frank J. D'Amico '84
The Holland Family Gift
Dr. Gary E. Holland '85
Taylor L. Holland '11
Jeffrey W. Culton '86
Hilary H. and
Michael D. Ross '86
In memory of
Lanny D. Ross '87
Robert L. Swann '95
Charles D. Bendall Jr. '10
Jonathan C. Looney '10
Justin Peterson '11
Blake Richardson '11
Michael J. Wright '13

Helping Hand Circle (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

Brig. Gen. Roland E. Ballow '53
In memory of
Dr. Tony Swider '54
White Family Gift
Jerry M. White '63
William C. White II '95
William E. Gardner '68
Ben Sims '69
Dale Taylor '69
Dr. Michael B. Kirkpatrick '70
In honor of
Dr. Wanda Gilliam Kirkpatrick
Nick Parnell '70

Barry L. Mullins '74
Patrick P. Hughes '75
Paul D. Jacobs '76
In honor of
Rice A. Jacobs '73
William H. Page Jr. '77
Edward B. Parker II '77
In honor of
the Parker Family
Greg Wren '77
Gregory E. Smith '80
In memory of
Lin Hauser '81
Rick Collins '81
J. Scott Hays '81
R. Andrew Gregorius '89
Robert P. Brady '94
Justin Sherer '99
Lucas T. Elgie '05
In memory of
Bill H. Thomas '63
Williams B. Banks '09
Alexander O. Brown '09
Louis J. Carruba '09
Alfred D. Eichold '09
J. Garrett Galloway '09
Preston T. Galloway '09
Billy J. Strobel '09
Brody R. Summerall '09
Samuel H. Thompson '09
Neal C. Townsend '09
Gamble Cleveland '10
William Cole '10
Beau Dean '10
Matthew Eichenblatt '10
Michael Eves '10
John E. Fearon III '10
Kevin S. Gibson '10
Christopher S. Gray '10
David S. Hamlin '10
Patrick A. Harlan '10
William T. Henry '10
Daniel R. Hightower '10
Michael L. Hogue '10
Henry A. Holliday '10
Mitch Lee '10
Max K. McGill '10
Daniel G.P. Mulroy '10
Paul Pfluke '10

David Russell '10
Will Sanford '10
Andrew L. Sawyer '10
Christopher A. Skelton '11
Ben Trammell '10
Jason Vaughan '10
Cory A. Vaughn '10
Teddy Williams '10
Alex Addington '11
Joseph Bolton '11
Blake Cummings '11
Jorda Elliot '11
Scott Ford '11
John Hicks '11
M. Ross Kerwin '11
Greg Komara '11
Andrew Lane '11
Michael Martin '11
Brian D. Matney '11
Joseph McFadden '11
Austin Monceret '11
John K. Morris '11
Michael Nix '11
Adam Presley '11
Jon D. Sanford '11
James M. Little Jr. '12
Michael W. Russell '12
Travis Bridges '14

Brotherhood Circle (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Jimmy M. Wall '51
John R. Jordan '58
In memory of
Col. Carlton K. Butler
James D. Ward '58
Ronald D. Watts '67
James W. Davis '69
Curtis Finch '79
David D. Onosko '80
In honor of
the Class of 1980
Todd D. Nunnelley '97
Jake T. Embry '00
Robert W. Reid '10
Robert D. Rummell III '10
Will Calloway '11
Trey Collins '11
Matthew Reebals '11

Another Semester of Success

Undergraduates Continue to Strive for Best G.P.A. on Campus

I want to begin by saying what an honor it has been serving as the undergraduate president of the Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi. Over the last few months our Chapter has seen achievements in academics, campus involvement, community service/philanthropy, and recruitment. We hold each of these parts of the Fraternity as vital components to the continued success of Theta Chi.

Academics

The maxim of Theta Chi is *Alma Mater First, and Theta Chi for Alma Mater*. Here at the Alpha Phi Chapter our brothers take this maxim to heart. Once again our Chapter G.P.A. was above both the all-men's average and the all-fraternity average. Many of our brothers are members of some of the most prestigious academic honor societies on campus. These achievements are great for our Chapter, but we must strive to be better students until we become the fraternity with the best G.P.A. on campus.

Campus Involvement

Our brothers can be found in many of the different student organizations throughout campus. Brother **Gaines Gibson '12** is in his second year as a member of Capstone Men and Women. This organization serves as the official ambassadors of the university. Brother **Swinton Griffith '14** was recently elected a member of the Student Government Association's Student Senate. These are just a couple of our many brothers who have exemplified campus involvement and leadership.

Philanthropy/Community Service

Our brothers live by our fraternity's motto, A Helping Hand. In April, Chaplain **Grant Morgan '12** organized a crawfish boil with Alpha Phi Sorority that raised over \$6,000 for the Brown House of Northport. Many of our brothers also contributed to the relief effort after the April 27 tornado.

Recruitment

Our Chapter prides itself on recruiting the best young men to become future brothers of Theta Chi. Our recruitment chairmen have been working tirelessly over the summer to do just that. Events such as our Cahaba river float and Theta Chi beach trip have served as valuable recruiting tools for us to get to know prospective new members. As always, our alumni play a huge role in this through recommendations and support.

There are great things going on within our Chapter, and I can foresee things only getting better. This is thanks to alumni like you who set the foundation of what it means to be a Theta Chi. It is my hope that our Chapter continues to have the strong support of our alumni that I have become accustomed to long after I leave this University.

Jonathan Rummel '12

Chapter President

jmrummel@crimson.ua.edu



Alpha Phi
TIDEings

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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.

Theta Chi Remembers Two Beloved Brothers

(Continued from page 2)

other way," she replied. I guess you can see where Randy got his outlook on life.

A True Theta Chi Brother

Mike Sanders and I were pledge brothers. His primary claim to fame that first year was that he could stick his whole fist in his mouth. Needless to say, if you wanted to find fun, you looked for Mike. Like Randy, Mike was a real animal lover. After college, he became a noted dog breeder and show judge.

Mike went to work in the nuclear power industry at Browns Ferry near his home. He worked on the construction side, which took him to garden spots such as Dayton, Tennessee (think Scopes monkey trial), and a few small towns in South Carolina. In the mid-'80s, Carol and I ran into Mike at Lennox Square in Atlanta. He was walking out of a department store with seven giant beach towels (one for each day of the week), having decided to drop out for a few months to get a tan.

Typically, Mike was the idea guy who would get things rolling and then move on to the next project. Alpha Phi was better because he was involved. When we repainted and carpeted the upstairs a few years back, Mike literally lived in the house, brush in hand, until the job was done.

Also, like Randy, Mike knew how to have fun. I am pretty sure that Mike holds the Alpha Phi record for most stage crashes (while the band played on). And he could laugh. One of the things that I always enjoyed was watching him laugh, in part because I knew that something was about to hit the fan that would have us all in tears. Though he always had a devilish wit, it was only fully unleashed on the world when Facebook hit the scene.

Finally, Mike and Randy shared a common trait that one sees less and less these days. They would give you the shirts off their backs. Relationships meant far more to each of them than material possessions. That is only one of the reasons that I miss them. Rest in peace, brothers.