



Alpha Phi TIDEings

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Alumni Events Calendar

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Jordan Parker

Dewey A. Lichty

A PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA PHI CHAPTER OF THETA CHI • WINTER/SPRING 2015 ISSUE



Toby Roth '90 was elected President of the Alpha Phi House Corporation at its Homecoming meeting last Fall. Brother Roth was Chief of Staff for former Alabama Governor Bob Riley. Currently he is Managing Director of the government affairs firm Capitol Resources of Alabama, in Montgomery. Toby and his wife Michelle have three daughters, Lillian, a freshman at the University of Alabama, and twins Madeline and Annabel who are juniors in high school.

Alumni Events Calendar

Friday, April 10th: House Corporation Meeting, 3-5 p.m., The Law Offices of Sirote & Permutt-2311 Highlands Boulevard South, Birmingham

Saturday, April 11th: Alumni Initiation at the house.

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday: April 16-18th: Desperado Party at the house

Saturday, April 18th: A-Day (NOTE TO ALUMNI: "You are welcome to come by the house prior to the A-Day game, but be aware that the house will be decorated for the chapter's major theme party and rush event.")

5:30-7:30 p.m.-Thursday, April 23rd: Founders' Day/Senior Night Dinner for Alumni, chapter seniors, and undergraduate officers. Cocktails, casual dinner & networking social at Avondale Brewing Company in Birmingham (Frank Weber host. Contact Frank at fweber@bellsouth.net).

Alumni Initiation

Do you know a father of a brother who would like to join Alpha Phi of Theta Chi?

Do you know the brother of a brother. Or a son of a brother who would like to join?

Do you know a prominent alumnus of the University of Alabama who would like to join Theta Chi?

The House Corporation and the newly formed Alumni Association are hosting an Alumni Initiation ceremony on Saturday, April 11th at the chapter house. This is a shortened, honorary version of our Ritual, performed by alumni and undergraduate members to initiate legacies and other interested parties into the fraternity. An alumnus initiate is a fully-fledged member of Theta Chi and assumes alumni membership upon initiation

Nominations must be made by March 31st and a nomination form must be completed. New alumni initiates will receive a Membership shingle. Contact Wesley Wicker for more information at wwicker@sinclairtownes.com or call 404-213-4446.

10:30 a.m.-12 noon, Saturday, April 11th:

Lunch and cocktails to follow

Resurrecting Founders' Day/Senior Night Dinner

Frank Weber '76 and Robert Baugh '79 have agreed to resurrect the Founders' Day/Senior Night Dinner in Birmingham. The event was hosted by alumni in Birmingham from the mid-1970s through the late 1980s, but died with the untimely passing of longtime volunteer Lanny Moore. We believe this will become a valuable networking event for alumni and undergraduates. All alumni are invited to participate.

Thursday, April 23rd

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Avondale Brewing Company

201 41st Street South

\$25.00 per brother; cash bar

RSVP and contact Frank Weber for more information fweber@bellsouth.net.

Back in the Day

Larry Kloess III '77 has become the president of the newly formed Alumni Association

As the old saying goes,...*back in the day*...all of us shared a common bond of rush parties, pledge classes, roommates, band parties, work parties, pledge swaps, initiations, formal parties, weddings, reunions.....and Camelot, LAGNAF, and Desperado!

All of these special memories are moments of our lives together, back in the day as brothers and alumni of Alpha Phi of Theta Chi. As I reflect on my own days at the Capstone (1973-1977), I remain amazed at the lifelong friendships and memories from those glory days so long ago. A number of us have stayed connected thru various venues, business interests, and family friendships.

As the new President of the Alpha Phi Alumni Association, my hope is that we will all have additional opportunities to reconnect with the chapter in the coming years. More importantly, that we will all take advantage of those opportunities.

We have so much to be proud of with the Alpha Phi Chapter. Last year, we completed a successful Capital Campaign for the new house, and then completed the construction project on time and below budget. We are now blessed with the newest and most beautiful fraternity house on the campus right on University Boulevard! We also have one of the most respected chapters on campus, in terms of our key performance metrics.....in academics, sports, and community involvement.

The new officers of the Alumni Association include Dave Pylant ('75) as President-Elect and Craig Cornwell ('77) as Communications Director. We want to encourage everyone to join the Association and commit to six simple things:

1. Visit the chapter house at least once every two years; and more often if possible.
2. During your visits, say hello to Kathy Murphy, the best housemother on the campus!
3. When called upon, agree to serve as mentors for the upperclassmen as they evaluate their career choices.
4. Attend and/or sponsor the Founders Day dinner each spring in Birmingham for the graduating seniors.
5. Find ways to reconnect thru reunions, homecomings, and other gatherings.
6. Maintain your contact information (address, email, phone, etc.) for our files.

It's really that simple. We all have an obligation to stay connected with the fraternity that meant so much to us during our days on the campus. Thanks to the dedicated alumni brothers who are serving on the House Corporation Board and the Chapter Advisory team, we are maintaining significant ties to the chapter and providing seasoned guidance to the undergraduates. You can be assured that your "reconnection" with the chapter will be beneficial for everyone, and much appreciated as well. Should you wish to officially join the Alpha Phi Alumni Association, please email the following information to Craig Cornwell at cgcornwell@gmail.com (name, class year, address, e-mail and phone).

Corrections and Additions to Alumni Recognition Wall:

There are two alumni recognition walls in the new chapter house. In the Grand Foyer on the first floor, there is a Donor Recognition Wall for recognizing all alumni who contributed \$2,500 or more to the campaign for the new house. On the second floor, near the Brothers' Lounge, there is a Professional Hall of Honor.

If your name, class year, or listing is incorrect or missing; please contact Wesley Wicker by March 31st. We will be updating both recognition walls this spring. Send your information to wwicker@sinclairtownes.com or call 404-213-4446.



Editor's Note from Wesley Wicker '79: This is an unusual insert in our twice-yearly newsletter. However, the alumni leadership felt that this was an issue worthy of discussion.

University administrators tell us that the three major issues college students face today include: hazing, alcohol and drug abuse, and depression. The latter often results in suicide or attempted suicide. Last fall, Alpha Phi lost an undergraduate brother who suffered from extreme depression.

No fewer than three Alpha Phi alumni have passed as a result of suicide. I pledged one of those men, and his death haunts me to this day. Did he ever consider reaching out to another brother for help? Could I have helped him? Are we too busy in our daily lives to recognize that someone we know, and care about, is suffering from depression?

Recognizing the challenges facing college students today, the National Fraternity instituted a new office, the Vice President of Health and Safety, in each chapter. Theta Chi also created a new initiative to address the health and safety of our brothers. Known as the Sacred Purpose, the initiative reflects our ideals, "to lend a Helping Hand to all who seek it."

I have no doubt, that among our 2,000 initiated alumni of Alpha Phi, there is a brother looking for your Helping Hand.

Parker's Story

By Johnston Watkins '15

If I were to say the average person would meet upwards of 10,000 people in a lifetime, how many of those people would have something positive to say about you? What if I asked you to put a number on how many of those 10,000 people would even remember you? What would your answer be? I'm no gambling man, but I would bet in the 22 short years of Parker Jordan's life, he had already met 10,000 people. I would also bet, out of those 10,000 people that Parker met, they would all have something positive to say about him. Parker could walk in a room of ten strangers and walk out with ten new friends. How many people do you know that could do that?

The first time I met Parker was the morning of our first sorority bid-day, August 2011. I had recently received my bid to Theta Chi, and hadn't met many of the brothers yet. As I walked in the back gate of the old house, a tall, friendly looking guy approached me and said, "Hey you must be my new pledge brother, my name is Parker and from now on, what's mine is yours." That was the first thing Parker ever told me, and that is exactly the kind of person he was.

Parker possessed a gift that not many people have. He was blessed with the ability to bring people together in laughter. Parker was the kind of guy that didn't care if you were laughing with him or at him, as long as you were laughing. From his loud and obnoxious comments during chapter, to his outrageous outfits and facial hair, during our parties this brother was a hoot!

I will never forget the first time I saw him wearing his onezie pajamas. I was eating breakfast at the house one morning and here comes Parker strolling in wearing an onezie. He looked hilarious in this onezie, and everyone in the dining room started laughing. I didn't even know they made onezie pajamas for a 6' 8" frame, but Parker owned one, because it made us laugh. He was good at making us laugh and that's what he loved.

If you knew Parker, then you knew how kind and loving he was. You could talk to him about anything, and know he would give

you an unbiased honest answer.

Parker was known for his big smiles and big bear hugs. If he caught wind of you having a bad day, I guarantee you would have received both. You need people like Parker in your life.

You need people who will pick you up when you're down, dust off your shoulders, and then make you smile. If I ever needed something, I knew whom to go to. Parker had your back through thick and thin. He was such a kind, selfless friend that could get along with anyone.

Dealing with the death of Parker was something with which I struggle. I just can't wrap my head around the fact that such a happy, loving person in my life is gone. As time passes, I continue to think about him, and what he did for the people in his life. I realize, even though Parker is gone, he still manages to impact us in the same ways he always did. In the days after his death, although sad, our chapter came together and grew stronger as one.

We celebrated the life of Parker Jordan, just like he would have wanted us to do. The stories told about him brought happiness and laughter, just like he would have wanted. A week after his death, the organization Walk out of the Darkness held a Walk for Suicide Awareness. The brothers of Theta Chi came together and raised enough money to double the goal set for the walk. One of our sophomores even convinced Mark Cuban to donate money in honor of Parker. We were asked to lead the walk in memory of Parker, and we did so proudly. Our chapter was brought together as one in the memory of him.

I am so thankful for the opportunity of getting to know Parker. I cherish the impact he had on my life, and all the memories we shared together. He was truly an incredible person, and he will never be forgotten



A Tribute to Our Late Brother – Dewey A. Lichy '87

By Charles W. Allen '84

During Beth's and my recent visit to Tuscaloosa for the Grand Opening of the new Theta Chi House, it was a genuinely special and long over-due opportunity to connect, as well as 're-connect' with so many of my brothers. Needless to say, our new Theta Chi House was a veritable sight to behold. I believe it's safe to say, our new home exceeded all of our expectations! It embraced the basic layout, design, look and feel of "home" (i.e. the old House), yet on grander scale with new touches of magnificence.

It was a Back to the Future-like experience for all visiting Theta Chi alumni, who toured the rooms and hallways of our yesterdays... tomorrow. I was especially moved to discover that our new Party Room had been dedicated to the memory of our late Brother Dewey Lichy. As with many brothers who discovered the commemorative plaque adorning the new, larger Party Room, it put an instant smile on my face.

When we really consider the notion, our Party Room was the place that we informally connected with all brothers on a consistent basis. We remember the swaps, victory parties following intramural sporting events, band parties, Senior Roasts, Alpha Phi impersonation events, or for other entertaining chapter festivities. It was the least inhibiting room in our fraternity house, where the word "fun" resonated within its walls. It was the place where we consistently came together, and shared the funniest, most special or significant events in our collective brotherhood. Each of us likely shared more fun, in this single space, than anywhere else on campus during our college experience.

I find the dedication of this special room to Dewey's memory exceedingly appropriate! We all owe a great debt of gratitude to brothers Greg Mullins '85 and Dr. Peter Lichy '85 for their benevolent donations that made this special room possible.

Like few others, Dewey exemplified the spirit of fun, which inculcated our entire brotherhood with his run-away sense of humor, sense of adventure, desire to connect with all... and his uncanny ability to find levity even amidst the heaviest of situations. Make no mistake about it. He seemed to never fail to put a smile on the faces of all around him. By such example, he reminded each of us to never take ourselves too seriously. Dewey understood that the key to the merry-go-round... is the merry.

I feel fortunate to be a part of the Lichy extended family, because Dr. Pete Lichy was my Theta Chi little brother. We developed an extremely close friendship during our process of rushing Dewey during his senior year at Homewood High School, and the bond continues to persist to this day. During our college years, we were also roommates in the old Theta Chi house. He'd often invite me to spend weekends with his family at his home in Birmingham, where I connected with the members of his family, not the least of which was Dewey.

Through out our college years and for many years thereafter, I came to know Dewey as the court jester that we all came to know and love. During his impressive business career, some situations called for excessive formalities, which Dewey's free spirit and sardonic wit was forever impervious. Without fail, he always lightened the spirits of all amidst such scenarios. As they say, maybe some birds were never meant to be caged.

We're all saddened by the tragic loss of our late brother Dewey Lichy. Yet, we can all rejoice in the knowledge that his adventurous light continues to illuminate the spirit of our collective brotherhood, as we continue to convene, laugh together, and share experiences together. We continue to grow together.

Each time we enter Dewey's new special room, and view his commemorative plaque, I know he would challenge each of us to never forget what that single, special place has meant to each of our lives. Like that single candle's flame, that illuminated the Old South Barracks at Norwich University for first Theta Chi's first meeting, Dewey would tell us to never let our flame be extinguished.

In his special memory, we will all carry that bright light forward – never to permit it's dimming. To all brothers in Dewey's memory...Shine On.

New House To Be Decorated with Iconic Photographs

Scan and submit your favorite Photos for a wall display on the upstairs hallways in the new house to oxzapphotos@gmail.com.

We are seeking scanned, iconic photographs of Alpha Phi through the years to be photo-shopped and printed onto a wallpaper-like product known as Wall Armor. Alumnus Jeff Culton's company, Expo Displays, is going to produce a wall-to-wall photographic history of our chapter in the upstairs hallways of the new house.

We suggest that you submit formal pictures, formal pledging, Camelot, Desperado, etc. A committee will review and select the winning photographs. Send your photos to oxzapphotos@gmail.com.

A committee of alumni and undergraduates will select photographs in March and the Wall Armor will be installed this spring.



Dear Alpha Phi Brothers & Parents,

My name is Clayton Williams, Chapter President of the Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. This year has been a great year for our chapter. This past fall we initiated forty-eight new brothers. We hosted the Grand Opening of our new chapter house in September with more than 750 people in attendance. The event was a huge success.

The undergraduate brothers have made an effort for increase our philanthropic efforts this year. Last fall, the chapter raised more than \$33,000 for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and we participated in a Suicide Awareness Walk. Additionally, we collected the most cans, 1816 pounds, for Beat Auburn Beat Hunger, a food drive that supports the West Alabama Food Bank.

This spring, the chapter will participate in eight philanthropy or community service events, several of which will be hosted at the chapter house to support the USO, Theta Chi's new national philanthropic partner.

Past president Marcus Gibson received the IFC Greek Man of the Year Award at the Greek Excellence Awards Banquet in January. This is a huge honor for both Marcus and Alpha Phi Chapter. It is truly a great time to be a brother our chapter. We would like to thank everyone for supporting us as well as thank those who contributed to our new home.

If you are interested in staying in contact with the chapter please follow our new twitter account, @ThetaChiAlabama, or on our website at thetachiua.com. We will be posting event information, as well as any accomplishment of our current undergraduate brothers.

Fraternally,

Clayton Williams

Clayton Williams
President, Alpha Phi Chapter

Please send rush recommendations to our undergraduate Rush Chairmen:

Will Maddox
wamaddox@crimson.ua.edu | (205) 307-8792

Jack Duffley
jpduffley@crimson.ua.edu | (404) 660-2673

Robert Crismon
rcrismon@crimson.ua.edu | (251) 232-5518

Editor's Note from Wesley Wicker '79: This is my last issue of *Alpha Phi Tidings*. I'm handing over the writing and editing to **Craig Cornwell '77**. It has been my honor and pleasure to publish the alumni newsletter. Over the last four years, our alumni have planned, constructed and raised more than \$1 million for our new chapter house. We hosted the largest gathering of Alpha Phi alumni in our chapter's 89-year history last fall. I'm pleased to report that the House Corporation operates the chapter house in the black, with reserve funds in excess of \$250,000. After completing the construction of the house, our Capital Fund continues to receive gifts and pledges that will enable us to continue to pay down the loan, earlier than scheduled, and we have established a Long Term Capital Maintenance Fund with more than \$100,000. I was recently asked by a fellow alumnus, "Was it worth it, getting involved with the alumni and spending all the time on the new chapter?" My answer was simple, "Yes. How about you?"

New Alumni Leadership – It is our pleasure to announce the following volunteers who were elected last fall and continue to serve Alpha Phi Chapter in 2015:

Alumni Association – The Alpha Phi Alumni Association is responsible for alumni communications and activities. The Alumni Association is responsible for publishing the Alpha Phi Tidings newsletter, the Facebook page, Linked In page, and website: thetachiuu.com. The Alumni Association hosts alumni receptions, Homecoming and A-Day events at the house.

President- Larry Kloess III '77
Larry@claytonadvisors.com
(615) 397-2601

Dave Pylant '75
Vice President (President-Elect)
dypylant@gmail.com
(205) 982-0020

Craig Cornwell '77
Newsletter Editor
cgcornwell@gmail.com
(334) 538-5390

Wesley Wicker '79
Annual Campaign Chairman
wwicker@sinclairtownes.com
(404) 213-4446

Lucas Elgie '05
Social Media Chairman
Lucas.elgie@gmail.com
(205) 310-2393

Frank Weber '76
Senior Night Founders' Day Chairman
fweber@bellsouth.net
(205) 540-6358

Pete Mackey '78
Mobile Alumni Chairman
psmackey@bcmlawyers.com
(251)510-6905

Lee Wagner '88
Atlanta Alumni Chairman
Llw541h@att.net
(770) 355-8549

Michael Wright '11
Tuscaloosa Alumni Chairman
Michael@jnjapparel.net

Jeff Culton '86
Chapter Archives Coordinator
jeff@expodisplays.com
(205) 281-4093

Chris Wagner '18
Undergraduate Alumni Chairman:
cdwagner2@crimson.ua.edu
(678) 984-6887

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the president of any one of our three active alumni groups. We welcome alumni who are interested in chapter and alumni activities.

Get engaged!



Alpha Phi
TIDEings

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House Corporation – The Alpha Phi House Corporation is the legally incorporated entity that owns the fraternity house. The House Corporation is responsible for the financial operations, budgeting and management of the chapter house.

Toby Roth '90 President
troth@capitolresourcesllc.com | (334) 221-8796

Chris Richards '05
Vice President (President-Elect)
richards.chris.t@gmail.com | (205) 482-6754

Warren Giardina '99
Treasurer
warren.giardina@wellsfargo.com | (205) 641-0359

Robert Baugh '79
Secretary
rbaugh@sirote.com | (205) 930-5307

Past President- Dru Horton '98
druhorton@gmail.com | (251) 463-5511

Undergraduate Chapter President- Clayton Williams '16
Cpwilliams1@crimson.ua.edu | (615) 838-3902

Undergraduate Treasurer- Brandon Slay '16
bsslay@crimson.ua.edu | PHONE

Chapter Advisory Board – The Chapter Advisory Board serves as a mentoring organization for the undergraduate officers of the chapter. Board members are assigned to a particular chapter officer and expected to communicate and mentor the undergraduates, utilizing their own fraternity experiences and “Best Practices” for each office.

President, Phillip Burns '08
lota Lambda/Longwood University '08
Phillip.d.Burns@gmail.com | (757) 876-1028

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