



## A Full Year for Phi Gam

Our Fraternity started this fall semester with another great pledge class and I hope you can find an opportunity to come by the Chapter House and meet some of them. Phi Gamma Delta continues to be a leader at the Capstone with numerous campus and student government leaders, philanthropic projects, and is among the top percentage of Fraternities in grades. Theta Chapter also has a full social calendar this fall after a limited schedule last spring. I want to remind everyone that you are always welcome at the Chapter House and encourage you to visit before any home football game. We also hope to see you at our annual Pig Dinner event next spring. More details can be found on page 4.

### EXPANSION PLANS FOR CHAPTER HOUSE

The size of our pledge classes has been at a consistently high number for several years now

and we have been able to operate at maximum capacity in the Chapter House, with the glaring exception of our Chapter Room. We already have the plans to build a new Chapter Room above the Band Room and the University is encouraging us to adapt the emergency call and fire system that is integrated with UAPD that most of the other Greek houses are using. I would like to urge you to consider a pledge to complete this addition. We have included a pledge card with this newsletter or you can contact **Jim Andrews '81** at [jim@lithopublishing.com](mailto:jim@lithopublishing.com) for more information.

Fraternally,  
**Neal S. Hutchinson '84**  
Board of Chapter Advisors President  
[neal@mcgowinking.com](mailto:neal@mcgowinking.com)

*Perge!*



*Brothers gather outside the Chapter House before an event.*

## Experience, Connections, and Hard Work Create a Company Young Entrepreneur Hallett Ogburn '10 Reflects on His Time at Theta

When **Hallett Ogburn '10** decided to take a risk and join Phi Gamma Delta without knowing anyone, he didn't know how much the Fraternity would shape his life and help him succeed in his future career. Through many connections, Hallett founded a company right out of The University of Alabama's MBA program and created a global platform to help universities streamline their healthcare systems.

Hallett graduated with a bachelor's degree in finance in 2010 and struggled to find a job. He decided to meet with the dean of the business school to explore his options for what could be next. The dean helped Hallett see his skills in economics classes he had taken while earning his finance degree. That led Hallett into the economics master's program at Alabama and later into the MBA program. While working toward his MBA, Hallett and a classmate were working on a class project that, a year and a half later, became the company he founded, MedProctor. Hallett tested the product at Alabama, quit his job, and Auburn University signed a five-year contract with his new company. "I should have failed several times, but somehow I am still here," Hallett said. MedProctor has only grown since, with the platform being used in the majority of countries.

MedProctor, based in Nashville, Tenn., is a cloud-based technology

platform that streamlines the process of collecting and verifying critical health information for incoming students with a focus on immunization verification.



Being in Phi Gamma Delta taught Hallett many skills that helped prepare for him for his career after college. "They were the best four years of my life; I wouldn't trade my experience for anything." He learned how to socialize well with people, which helped him connect with people as an entrepreneur later on down the road. Some of his early investors were his own brothers from Phi Gamma Delta. When asked what advice he would give to undergraduates, he passed on what he found made him successful in his own career: "Get a job in college; it helps you learn and builds your resume. As an employer, I prefer experience and a hard worker who is willing and able to learn over a good GPA without experience. Don't be afraid to learn; you *are* going to stumble."

When he isn't busy with his company, Hallett enjoys saltwater fishing with his dad, **Richard H. Ogburn '76**, golfing, and spending time with his friends in Nashville. He enjoys coming back to Tuscaloosa each year for an Alabama game. You can get in touch with Hallett [hallett.ogburn@medproctor.com](mailto:hallett.ogburn@medproctor.com).





*Left: Flag football with members from Phi Mu. Middle: Clarke Attaway '17, Karter Smith '17, Jon Laufe '16, Clint Smith '17, and Walker Philips '16 were all accepted into the Jasons Honor Society at UA. Right: Gerrit Vanderwerff '18, Rob Stokes '17, Evan Talton '17, Price Wicks '17, and Charlie Nelson '18 after running a 5K.*

## Theta Chapter Sets out for Success A Productive Spring Leads Fall Semester Plans

The spring was very productive for Theta Chapter. We hosted several philanthropy events and participated in a multitude of service projects in the Tuscaloosa area. In addition, several of our members were initiated into prominent honor societies across campus like Cardinal Key, Mortar Board, ODK, and Blue Key. Our men are in the University Fellows program, the Blackburn Institute, and the Blount Initiative Program. We are proud to say that our Chapter has the current president and vice-president of Capstone Men and Women, the president of Alpha Lambda Delta, the vice president of IFC recruitment, and the president of the Mortar Board senior honor society.

### NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM IN PLACE

Academically, we had 12 members with a perfect 4.0 GPA and 33 members who had a GPA of 3.5 or above. Our overall GPA was a 3.15. This fall, we have implemented a mentorship program for the younger members in the Chapter. The goal is to help guide them through their first two years with upperclassmen advising them as academic chairs. We are really excited about the fall semester academically. With our new mentorship program in place, along with a new academic advisor, we believe our semester GPA will rise even higher.

### SERVICE-FILLED SPRING

In the spring, we hosted a philanthropy that was very dear to us. One of our new members was diagnosed with Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy (LHON's disease), which caused him to lose 90 percent of his vision. We had a cookout for him where we were able to raise more than \$5,000 for LHON's research. We also continued our Fifth Quarter Program in the spring by gathering leftover food from the basketball games and gymnastic meets. Fifth Quarter has continued to be a huge success, providing over 60,000 meals to the West Alabama Food Bank over the four years we have served, and we are looking forward to adding to that total this fall.

Right before school started, we had three members travel to Boston to attend the Phi Gamma Delta Academy and Ekklesia events hosted by the National Fraternity. We are excited for all the great things still to come this fall. We hope to see everyone in front of the house before each home game. Come help us cheer on the Tide to another successful season. Roll Tide!

Fraternally,  
**Karter Smith '17**  
Chapter President

(256) 679-2961 / kmsmith18@crimson.ua.edu



*Paxton Clemons '17, Karter Smith '17, Hunter Ladd '19, Miller Jackson '18, and Blake Greeves '19 at the Shades for Sage philanthropic event.*



*Carter Standeffer '17, Will Baker '17, Blake Harris '19, Sam Centeno '17, Henry Shook '17, Thomas Harris '17, Clint Smith '17, Stuart Harmon '17, Clarke Attaway '17, and Will Clements '17 out on the golf course.*

## SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF THETA CHAPTER

It's not just for college days alone! The Office of Planned Giving helps UA alumni, parents, and friends make future gifts through their estate or current gifts that provide lifetime income. A variety of gift plans may reduce or eliminate capital gains taxes, income taxes, and estate taxes.

As you consider your charitable gifts between now and the end of the year, remember that gifts made to UA now could generate income tax deductions that may help reduce your tax bill for 2016. Giving stock that

is worth more than you paid for it may result in additional tax savings. For additional information, please contact **Taylor McElroy '95** at (205) 226-3279. Direct contributions can be made payable to The University of Alabama (reference Phi Gamma Delta) and mailed to:

Theta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity  
P.O. Box 131385  
Birmingham, AL 35213





# A Brother and Friend to Many

## Memorial Scholarship Endowment Set Up to Memorialize Joe Skinner '92

A brother and friend to many, **Joe Skinner '92** embodied the morals and values of Phi Gamma Delta. Joe brought people in and made them feel welcome; he was gracious with his time and included those around him. Joe's big smile always shined to others around him each day. "Big Joe," as many knew him, left an indelible mark on everyone he met.



Joe's brother, **Jay Skinner '90**, shares how Phi Gam shaped Joe. "Being a Phi Gam meant being a part of a special group of guys. Your Fraternity brothers are some of your closest friends in college. One of the tenants of Phi Gam is friendship, and Joe exhibited that better than almost anyone I know. He loved people, and people loved him. Joe loved being at UA. He played football in high school, and that love never went away. He really loved Alabama football. He loved the games, the sights and sounds of Bryant-Denny Stadium, and the third-quarter stadium dogs," Jay said.

Joe was often recognized as the big man on campus and was welcoming to all throughout the Greek community. Joe also served as pledge

class president during his time at Phi Gamma Delta. He graduated from Alabama with a business degree, and went back home to Mountain Brook, Ala., to work with his father as a real estate appraiser. At the age of 33, Joe passed away. His death struck many, and we hope his spirit and character will live on through the Joe Skinner Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

**Josh Hammond '92** has been instrumental in initiating a scholarship in Joe's name. "There hasn't been a proper way to memorialize him and it made a lot of sense to look into the memorial scholarship opportunity at UA," Josh said. The qualifications for those who will receive the scholarship will revolve around what Joe loved at Alabama: the university, Culverhouse Business School, and Phi Gamma Delta.

Fellow pledge class brothers **Josh Hammond** and **Tommy Joyce '92**, along with Jay, are helping coordinate this effort. If you'd like to give, you can contact Josh at [josh@bustersliquor.com](mailto:josh@bustersliquor.com) or Tommy at [Tjoyce@southpace.com](mailto:Tjoyce@southpace.com).



*Brothers outside the Chapter House during their Fiji Island event.*



*Joe Skinner '92 with his parents and Tommy Joyce '92.*

## Welcome, New Members

**John Adams**  
Montgomery, Ala.

**Reid Adams**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Glen Barlow**  
Mobile, Ala.

**Burton Bellande**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Josiah Bonner**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**William Burgess III**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Thomas Byrne**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Alec Campisano**  
Louisville, Ky.

**Joshua Denney\***  
Birmingham, Ala.  
(Brother **Jacob Denney '17**)

**Nicholas Dreher**  
Nashville, Tenn.

**George Duckworth Jr.**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**Dalton Ewing\***  
Birmingham, Ala.  
(Brother **Cameron Ewing '19**)

**David Fernandez**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**Jackson Grelier**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Ross Hardin**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**John Hemmings III**  
Montgomery, Ala.

**Lawrence Hereford\***  
Birmingham, Ala.  
(Brother **Faulkner Hereford '17**)

**William Horsley**  
Jackson, Miss.

**Sam Jones**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Mason Lake**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**Scott Littrell**  
Decatur, Ala.

**Jacob Malone**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Douglas Martinson III\***  
Huntsville, Ala.

(Father **Doug Martinson Jr. '86**,  
Uncle **Mac Martinson '88**)

**David McAllister**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

**John McLaughlin**  
Guntersville, Ala.

**Luke Nolen\***  
Fayette, Ala.  
(Father **Merrell Nolen '85**,  
Brother **Jack Nolen '11**)

**Brett Nolfo**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Raley Orndorff**  
Charlotte, N.C.

**Hayes Payne\***  
Huntsville, Ala.  
(Brother **Davidson Payne '16**)

**Joseph Puglia Jr.**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Thomas Radke**  
Alexandria, Va.

**Trip Sappenfield**  
Charlotte, N.C.

**Oliver Smith**  
Memphis, Tenn.

**Carter Stockton**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Luther Stoll**  
Boulder, Colo.

**Charles Treadwell**  
Memphis, Tenn.

**Andrew Tucker**  
Memphis, Tenn.

**Olin Vinson**  
Montgomery, Ala.  
(Brother **Hayes Vinson '17**)

**Trevor West**  
Dallas, Texas

**Connor Whitson**  
Memphis, Tenn.

**Nelson Whyte**  
Montgomery, Ala.

**Fulton Williams**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Byron Williamson Jr.**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Peter Wilson**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

\* Legacy, relation  
in parentheses



# THETA FIJI



PHI GAMMA DELTA  
THETA CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 131385  
Birmingham, AL 35213

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## SAVE THE DATE **Pig Dinner 2017** February 11



*Charlie Stakley '17, Rob Stokes '17, JD Cade '17, Hayes Vinson '17, Will Ruppel '16,  
John Buckley '17, Jacob Denney '17, and James Ash '17 enjoying last year's Pig Dinner.*

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Phi Gamma Delta at the  
University of Alabama



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