



PHI GAMMA DELTA REMAINS STRONG

Chapter Moves Forward with Renovation Plans

Theta Chapter pledged another great class of over 40 young men in the fall, all of whom were recently initiated. Many of you are aware that we had an incident in the Chapter House during our pledge education program. Due to the action of only a few undergraduate brothers, we suspended our pledge education program early. Our undergraduate leadership immediately suspended the individuals involved and self-reported to the University. After a thorough investigation by the University, our Chapter was placed on social probation for the remainder of the fall and a restricted social schedule for the spring semester. The normal social schedule will resume in fall 2016. The Board of Chapter Advisors is proud of the way our undergraduate leadership has responded to this unfortunate event, and we look forward to working together to continually improve our pledge education program and Chapter in general.

UPDATING THE CHAPTER HOUSE

We are making progress with our fundraising to build the much-needed new Chapter Room. I encourage you to contact **Jim Andrews '81** at jim@lithopublishing.com to make your pledge to this campaign. As with other campaigns in the past, your donation is 100% tax-deductible through UA. We hope to have enough financing to get the project started soon.

SAFETY A PRIORITY

Finally, as the University has grown in recent years, so have safety

concerns all over campus. The board has overseen upgrades in security for our undergraduate brothers with the installation of a new HD camera system and changing the guard service last spring.

Please contact me with any concerns you may have. I hope to see you all at Pig Dinner on April 2. More details can be found on page 4.

Fraternally,

Neal S. Hutchinson '84, Board of Chapter Advisors President
neal@mcgowinking.com

Perge!



Brotherhood Beyond Four Years

John Lawrence '02 Reflects on Choosing Phi Gamma Delta

When **John Lawrence '02** came to The University of Alabama, many of the Fraternities he saw appeared the same. They each offered strong alumni networks, student involvement, and shared similar membership—but Phi Gamma Delta offered something more.

“What distinguished Phi Gam was its commitment to the recruitment process,” John said, “Even though I was one of many, I always felt like a priority.” His decision to join Theta Chapter has been “without a doubt” one of the best decisions he believes he has made.

Joining Phi Gamma Delta provided John not only a wealth of memories, but opportunities for growth and support. “When I arrived in Tuscaloosa at 18, I had a long way to go in the maturation process. Phi Gam was instrumental in my personal and professional development,” John said. Surrounded by peers and role models,

he was able to shape his decision-making and leadership skills. John served as both Chapter President and Corresponding Secretary during his undergraduate years, taking to heart everything his brothers had taught him.

John graduated with a degree in marketing and works as senior manager and counsel on eBay’s Federal Government Relations team. He spends his days advocating for public policies on Capitol Hill to promote a robust marketplace for eBay users. John encourages undergraduates and young alumni to identify alumni in their fields to network with. “You have an advantage that is not available to a lot of your peers, but you have to use it,” John said.

While he may not be able to return to the Chapter House as often as he would like, John does visit once or twice a year when he attends the occasional football game. “Today, the Chapter

House appears to be in great shape, and I look forward to visiting every time I’m in town,” he said. Many of his best friends today are Phi Gam brothers, and Phi Gamma Delta remains an important part of his life. You can contact John at johnwilliamlawrence@gmail.com.



John Lawrence '02 and his father.



A Lifetime Bond Damon Boiles III '99 Shares Phi Gam Memories

With childhood friends, **Tyler Benitone '97** and **Trent Benitone '98**, already members of Phi Gamma Delta, **Damon Boiles III '99** felt at ease arriving at Theta Chapter. It didn't take long for him to decide pledging Phi Gam was the "natural, easy decision." For Damon, Phi Gamma Delta would become one of the most rewarding decisions of his life.



As an undergraduate, Damon stayed busy with both Theta Chapter and his academics. He served as Scholarship Chairman, Philanthropy Chairman, and Historian during his undergraduate time at the Chapter. Damon managed to balance his active involvement in the Fraternity with his pursuit of dual degrees, graduating with a B.S. in marketing and B.A. in English. He now works as an attorney for Catepillar.

Damon's path to becoming an attorney was directly impacted by his Phi Gam brothers. "During my undergraduate years, I often had conversations with **Todd Lowther '00** about our plans to go to law school," Damon said, "His path always inspired me to keep law school in mind." Damon pursued a career in sales and marketing before finally deciding that law was his destined profession. "I studied for the LSAT, and ultimately the bar exam, with **Brian Hoven '02**. We worked hard and sometimes even had fun getting through the difficult days of studying."

Phi Gam impacted Damon beyond his choice of career, helping shape his transition into adulthood. "When you leave home for college, you begin making decisions your parents once made for you; important decisions. To some extent, the people you are around at that time affect those decisions, and that affects who you become during that transition," Damon said. The brotherhood of Phi Gamma Delta gave him a place to develop, grow, and continued to support him even after his undergraduate years. "Many of the friends I made in Phi Gamma Delta during my years at Alabama remain among the best I have ever had, and they continue to affect who I am today and who I will be tomorrow," Damon said.

Damon and his wife, Weezie, live in Guntersville, Alabama, with their twin 4-year-old sons. He enjoys traveling, golfing, biking, sailing, and cooking. Though he only gets back to campus for one or two games a year, he is always impressed by the quality of the Chapter's membership and continues to stay close with several of his Phi Gam brothers. You can contact Damon at dboiles3@gmail.com.



Dr. Robert Witt, chancellor of The University of Alabama System, Burnham Hawk '13, and Sid McDonald '61. Dr. Witt and Sid worked together at The University of Alabama.

REMEMBERING SID MCDONALD '61 Loyal Theta Brother, Devoted UA Trustee

Alabama Business Hall of Fame inductee, University of Alabama trustee, government official, grandfather, and Phi Gamma Delta are just a few words attributed to the remarkable life of the late **Sid McDonald '61**, who entered Chapter Eternal on May 15.

Coming from the small town of Arab, Alabama, Sid arrived at The University of Alabama in 1958, a decision that shaped the rest of his life. "Being born and raised in a small town, Sid always told me Phi Gam, as well as The University of Alabama, opened his eyes," **Burnham Hawk '13**, Sid's grandson, said. "It was the first time he truly realized that there was a bigger world out there." The University of Alabama served as a place where Sid grew, formed friendships, and eventually allowed him to make real, positive changes for future generations of students.

Graduating with a degree in business and administration, Sid began his career working in the telecommunication business, serving as president of Brindlee Mountain Phone Company and founder of Deltacom Long Distance Services. His business acumen was widely regarded in Alabama, leading him to be inducted into the Alabama Business Hall of Fame in 2010.

Sid was dedicated to serving his community and held various government positions throughout his life, with the aid and support of his Phi Gamma Delta brothers. **Jack Powers '60** remembers meeting Sid during recruitment in 1958, determined to recruit him into the Phi Gam brotherhood. Their friendship endured long past their college days, as Jack served as the campaign manager for several of Sid's elections. Sid represented Marshall County in the Alabama House and Senate, served as Alabama Finance Director, and ran for governor of Alabama. "Phi Gam had a huge impact on his career," Burnham said.

The passion Sid had for The University of Alabama led to some of his most rewarding accomplishments. In his 16 years as a member of the Board of Trustees, Sid was closely involved with many major decisions that supported the growth and progress of the Alabama System's campuses and the Health System. "He was a tireless advocate for students, faculty, and staff," Burnham said. Burnham encourages alumni to visit Sid McDonald Hall, which was dedicated in Sid's honor in September 2014.

Sid's devotion and love for the University has left a powerful legacy to inspire future generations of Phi Gamma Delta brothers, and he will always be remembered for his keen business sense, public service, and, most of all, for his embodiment of Phi Gamma Delta and The University of Alabama.



Raising the Bar

Theta Chapter Heads into Successful Fall Semester

The Theta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta continues to enjoy another successful semester at the Capstone. As we progress through an exciting spring semester, I would like to reflect on some achievements and updates that have occurred in the past few months.

ACADEMIC ACCOLADES

We had an incredible semester academically with 10 members achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA and more than 40 achieving a GPA of 3.5 or above. As we progress through the spring semester, we hope to continue growing in our scholastic efforts as a Chapter.

DEDICATING TIME TO SERVING THE COMMUNITY

In addition to academic success, we made a huge impact philanthropically on campus. After each football game, our members participated in the Fifth Quarter Program for the West Alabama Food Bank. During the closing minutes of all home games, Phi Gams, members of Alpha Gamma Delta, and food bank personnel salvaged food prepared for fans and then immediately repackaged the food and delivered it to the food bank. The Fifth Quarter Program was created by Theta Chapter and we are immensely proud of its success. Through our efforts, the food bank receives more than 2,000 pounds of food per game.

Along with the Fifth Quarter Program, our members are extremely active with Al's Pals, a UA program that allows college students to mentor local elementary students. Our Chapter

also helped with events like the Yeah Yeah Yeah 5K for Cystic Fibrosis.

WELCOME TO THE BROTHERHOOD

We initiated 41 new members into Theta this semester, which brings our membership to 134 brothers. Phi Gams are members in various prominent honor societies across campus, such as Lambda Sigma, Cardinal Key, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board, ODK, Golden Key, and Jasons. Theta members have also been chosen to be in some of the most prestigious organizations at UA. Our brothers serve as Capstone Men, including a member serving as president of the organization, are involved in the Blackburn Institute, University Fellows, UA Steward Ambassadors, and the Blount Initiative Program. We work to not only be leaders within our Chapter, but everywhere on campus.

We look forward to continuing our academic and leadership excellence this spring semester, as well as spending time together at Parents' Weekend and Pig Dinner. We would like to thank you, our incredible alumni, for all of your support this year and sincerely hope to see you at Pig Dinner this spring.



Fraternally,
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Perge!



Walker Phillips '16, Sawyer Knowles '16, and Jonathan Laufer '16 getting inducted into the prestigious Jasons Honor Society.



Phi Gam's three Capstone Men, Tucker Martin '18, Dan Shelton '17, and Faulkner Hereford '17. Phi Gam has the highest number of members in Capstone Men of any Fraternity on campus.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Treasurer

Tucker Martin '18

Birmingham, Ala.

Philanthropy Chairman

Paxton Clemons '17

Decatur, Ala.



Dan Shelton '17, Roger McCoy '17, Price Wicks '17, Faulkner Hereford '17, Charlie Horton '17, and Karter Smith '17 after the Yeah Yeah Yeah Yeah 5K run for Cystic Fibrosis.

Announcing Pig Dinner April 2, 2016

Phi Gamma Delta will host our annual Pig Dinner on April 2 at 6 p.m. We are happy to share Colonel **Trey Turner '86** will be speaking at the event. Trey was the President of Phi Gamma Delta and graduated from The University of Alabama in 1986. In his extensive military career, he flew F-14s and F/A-18s for the United States Navy in the Gulf War, graduated from Top Gun in 1992, and later became heavily involved in drone warfare. Trey served overseas in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom and in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom, where he flew a remotely piloted aircraft (RPA). He retired from a position at the Pentagon, which involved the oversight of the Predator and Reaper RPA programs.

More details of the event will follow. We hope to see you there!

THETA FIJI



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WELCOME, NEW INITIATES

Jon Adams '19
Memphis, Tenn.

Christopher Ewing '19
Birmingham, Ala.

James Hudson IV '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Samuel McLaughlin '18
Montgomery, Ala.

John Scoggins '19
Brownsboro, Ala.

Joseph Alexander '19
Birmingham, Ala.

Liam Friel '19
Louisville, Ky.

Andrew Hunter '19
Charlotte, N.C.

Austin Menard '18
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

William Simpson '19
Memphis, Tenn.

William Bright '19
Nashville, Tenn.

Benjamin Fuller '18
Birmingham, Ala.

Benton Jones '18
Brentwood, Tenn.

Robert Murray '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Thomas Simutis '19
Houston, Texas
Blake Smith '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Hall Bryant IV '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Scott Garvey '18
Atlanta, Ga.

Allen Ladd Jr. '19
Mobile, Ala.

Jackson Paisley '19
Cookeville, Tenn.

Harrison Standeffer '19*
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
(Brother **William Standeffer '17**)

Shelby Christian '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Gaston Greene III '19
Birmingham, Ala.

Andrew Luther '19*
Huntsville, Ala.
(Father **Max Luther '90**)

Jackson Payton '19
Louisville, Ky.

James Stockard III '19
Birmingham, Ala.

John Clark '19
Montgomery, Ala.

William Greeves '19
Colleyville, Texas

George Lyons IV '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Griffin Peek '19
Huntsville, Ala.

Andrew Walker '19
Louisville, Ky.

Chandler Crews '19
Birmingham, Ala.

Blake Harris '19*
Tupelo, Miss.
(Brother **Thomas Harris '17**)

John Madden '19
Memphis, Tenn.

Nicholas Randazzo '19
Orlando, Fla.

Joshua Crumbley '19*
Huntsville, Ala.
(Brother **Joe Strickland Jr. '05**)

Stephen Herrington '19
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Samuel Maughan '19
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Drew Salem '19*
Birmingham, Ala.
(Brother **Georgie Salem II '16**)

Lee Wicks '19*
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
(Brother **Robert Wicks '17**)

Lane Derrick '19
Decatur, Ala.

Robert Hopper '19*
Hinsdale, Ill.
(Father **Kurt Hopper '82**)

William McCallister '19
Birmingham, Ala.

John Sanders '19*
Birmingham, Ala.
(Brother **Steven Sanders '14**)

* Legacy; relative in parentheses

