



# THE PSI



The Official Journal of the  
Alabama Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi  
Located at the University of Alabama

## Chapter Rebuilding – Success at the Capstone!

### National Headquarters Supported Us

Brother Joel Gildner, Tennessee Epsilon '97, the Director of Expansion, made the rebuilding of Alabama Alpha his primary focus for this summer and the beginning of the school year. Joel spent several weeks during the summer scouting the campus and meeting freshmen as they came for orientation. Then, when school started, he began recruiting in earnest. Mark Solomon, Missouri Alpha, Educational Leadership Consultant joined Joel to support his activities and to begin the pledge education process for our new group. Mark will continue to be the primary interface as ELC through the coming months.

All of their effort culminated on Sunday, September 22, with a formal pledge ceremony. This group of nine outstanding young men includes:

Stuart Mayfield (Junior/Xfer student)(GP and Frat. Ed.)  
Russellville High School, Russellville, AL  
GPA 2.85

Sports Psychology and Health and Physical Fitness

Thomas Miller (Sophomore) (VGP/ Governing)  
Centennial High School, Alpharetta, GA  
GPA 3.7

Business Mgt. (4.1 GPA)

Jonathan James Tune (Freshman) (P)  
Central High School, Florence, AL  
GPA 3.93

Psychology

Brett Edwards ( Sophomore)(AG and Rush/ Alumni/PR)  
Winterboro High School, Alpine, AL  
GPA 3.5

Advertising

Steven Tod Smitherman (Freshman) (BG/ Grievances)  
Walker County High School, Jasper, AL  
GPA 3.0

Finance

John Cochran (Freshman) (HI and Scholarship)  
Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, AL  
GPA 3.5

Pre-Business

Justin Slaughter (Freshman) (Hod)  
Vestavia Hills High School, Vestavia Hills, AL  
GPA 3.23  
Business

Nick McGlawn (Freshman) (Philanthropy)  
St. Thomas More High School Lafayette, LA/Mobile, AL  
GPA 3.5  
Pre-Law

Brian Boykin (Sophomore) (Social/Finance)  
Baker High School, Mobile, AL  
GPA 2.4  
Finance (2.3)

From this point forward, the group will be evaluated by National Headquarters. Their ability to organize themselves effectively and to recruit a significant number of additional members will figure prominently in determining when they will be initiated.

Next weekend, a pledge retreat with Shannon Price, Yames Newman, and Ben and Marcus Woolf will kick off their planning for the future.

### Now, Show Your Support

Now that we have a good start on the chapter rebuilding process, we need your support more than ever. And you can best show your support by **sending in your \$100 annual contribution to the Sustaining Membership Campaign.** That's right; we need your money! We have a couple of guys who can live in the house this fall, and a few more in the spring; but basically we have lost our rental income for this school year; and that is what usually pays the mortgage payment. And one of the air conditioners is broken and beyond repair. Our mortgage is on track to be paid off in 2003; but we must replace the rent that we won't get. So, send in your contribution now! You can even do it on line via PayPal on the chapter web site.

# THE Ψ PSI

Vol. 38 No 1  
September 2002

## Chapter Officers

### President (GP):

Stuart Mayfield

### Vice President (VGP):

Thomas Miller

### Treasurer (P):

Jonathan James Tune

### Rush Chairman:

Brett Edwards

## Alumni Support

### Chapter Advisor:

Ben Woolf

### Assistant Chapter Advisor for Fraternity Education:

James Newman

### Faculty Advisor:

Rick Funk (South Carolina  
Alpha), Associate Dean of  
Students

### Editor, The Ψ Psi:

Tryon Hubbard

### President, Alabama Alpha House Corporation:

Shannon Price

## Mark your calendar for Founders Day 2003

Founders Day 2003 will be held at the Inverness Country Club on Saturday, March 1.

The format will be similar to past events, beginning about mid-day.

You will receive a formal announcement early in 2003.

Those of you who attended in 2002 are encouraged to invite a brother who was not there to come with you.

## Football!

The Tide opened its 2002 football season with a close win over MTSU, then followed with a close loss to Oklahoma. As I write this, it's about 15 minutes to kickoff in Tuscaloosa against North Texas State. Next week brings Southern Mississippi to T-town. By the time I get to see a game, it will be October 5 and Georgia will be visiting Bryant-Denny Stadium

## Alumni Cookouts

There will be alumni cookouts at the house two hours before kickoff of the Georgia, Ole Miss (Homecoming) and Auburn games.

## Meet the Chapter

In addition to getting together with old friends, these cookouts will give many of us our first opportunity to meet the young men who have been recruited to rebuild our chapter for the future. I urge everyone to come, with or without tickets, to meet these guys.

## Welcome Visiting Brothers

We have also invited the actives and alumni of the Georgia Alpha and Mississippi Alpha chapters, and Alabama Beta colony to participate in the cookouts. Finally, Phi Kappa Psi is making a real impact in the South; and events like these will help to build the relationships among chapters and alumni that are needed to build for the future.

## 71<sup>st</sup> Grand Arch Council

Phi Kappa Psi's 71st Grand Arch Council convened in Pittsburgh on August 7 - 10. An all-time record 762 Phi Psis registered for the Sesquicentennial GAC, including eleven from Alabama Alpha. This was my first GAC since Denver in 1964; and it was a real pleasure to see brothers like Phil Davidson and Dud Daniel again. Two Alabama Alphans, P. Scott Nelson and Shannon Price, were inducted into the Order of the S.C. in recognition of their participation in seven GACs.

As a group, we visited Canonsburg, PA, where Jefferson College was located back in 1852, and, just down the road, Washington, PA, where Washington

and Jefferson College is home to Pennsylvania Alpha chapter. Pictures of us in front of the location of the Widow Letterman's house in Canonsburg and also at the Phi Kappa Psi memorial fountain on the W&J campus are on our web site.

On the national scene, Fred Clay remains a Trustee of the Permanent Fund, and new SWGP John Ciccarelli has appointed Tryon Hubbard as Director of Alumni Associations.

## More Updates!

As always, I encourage you to send me updates about yourself, your address, your business, and your family. Since the last issue of *The Psi*, we have received 21 more address/email updates and have found several brothers who were "lost".

### Frank Taylor (3) - Living on the beach!

Some of the charter members may recall Brother Frank Taylor's cottage at Panama City Beach that served as headquarters for several Spring Break outings. When that cottage burned about 10 years ago, Frank's goal became to build a new retirement home in its place. He has succeeded - a beautiful blue and white two-story Key West style house with art deco interior has risen from the ashes of the old cottage. Frank stays busy sailing his Hobie Cat, riding his wave runner, and sipping gin and tonics on his front porch overlooking the Gulf of Mexico with his Golden Retriever, General, at his side.

In his spare time, Frank finds good deals on beachfront property for Phi Psis like Johnny Gafford (8).

### Johnny Gafford (8), working in Montgomery, relaxing at the beach!

Charter Member Johnny Gafford and his wife, Linda, recently acquired a condo at Bahama West, just down the road from Frank Taylor (3), who located it for them. Johnny recently retired from the Alabama Air National Guard and he and Linda hope to be living at the beach within a year.

### Rodger Rainey (96) 9/7/02 - Lost brother found! Mortgage Banker

I have been in the mortgage banking business since 1972. I have been in Boise, Portland, and Seattle since 1989. I have been with Washington Mutual for the past two years. We are the largest mortgage business in the US, with approximately 1/8 of the market. My expertise is in interest rate risk management and my current responsibilities include managing our strategic relationship with Fannie Mae.

I am very active physically and enjoy swimming, working out, bicycling, white water rafting, cross country skiing and snowshoeing. I can swim 3 miles! But I don't do it very often because it takes an hour and 45 minutes. Thanks again for tracking me down. Rodger

**From Mary Kathryn Renken on behalf of Robin Renken (148) 8/25/02**

Robin and I have enjoyed reading about many of his fraternity brothers and the many exciting things in their lives!

Robin retired from the United States Marine Corps in April 1997. Even though he was a CH-46 helicopter pilot for all those years, he chose a completely different second career. He has been in telecommunications now for 5+ years, and never bored. Robin was very active in the Boy Scouts of America, serving on many committees and in leadership. Guess having 2 sons that are Eagle Scouts motivated him even more. Robin serves as a deacon at our church, McLean Presbyterian Church, and he teaches 5th/6th grade Sunday School. What a servant's heart the Lord has given him! I am sure many of his fraternity brothers will be surprised,

but it's amazing what the Lord can do with us.

As mentioned earlier, Ryan, our oldest son, graduated the United

Above your name on the address label is the date of your most recent update to the database. If it is out of date, please send in an update – especially email address.

States Military Academy at West Point on June 1, 2002. He is now a commissioned second lieutenant stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia. Being a computer science engineer, signal corps was a perfect fit for him in the Army. Our youngest son, Andrew, is now a plebe at West Point, studying mechanical engineering. What a blessing our sons are to us! Robin and I will celebrate our 24th wedding anniversary in December. We just don't know where the time has gone, just too quickly. You have Robin's work email and our home address and phone number. We would love to hear from friends. Blessings, Mary Kathryn Renken (Robin Renken #148)

**Jeff Ford (328) 8/21/02 – Legacy!**

On 21 Aug at 0326, Amy delivered William Jeffrey. He is 7 lbs, 8 ozs, 21 inches.

Mom and Will are doing great. We won't swamp you with a million pictures, but here are a few (see the web site).

Cheers, Jeff, Amy, and Will

**Gary Hopkins (7) 7/1/02 - Interim Dean of Engineering**

Interim Provost Susanna Maxwell announces the appointment of Walter Hopkins as the interim dean of the College of Engineering and Technology. Hopkins' appointment will begin July 1, and continue until a permanent dean is appointed. The search for a permanent dean will begin early in the fall 2002. Hopkins received his Ph.D. from Auburn University, and his MSEE and BSEE from the University of Alabama. He also is licensed as a professional engineer.

Hopkins, professor of electrical engineering, has been at NAU since 1983. He was associate dean from 1992-94, and chair of the Department of Electrical Engineering from 1990-93 and during the 1995-96 school year. Before coming to NAU, he taught at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and the University of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

He also has had industry experience at NASA and Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Huntsville, Ala., as well as consulting experience with the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

His research interests are primarily on computer analysis and modeling, especially control systems. He has developed new methods of analyzing nonlinear systems using a frequency response approach as well as a method of detecting trapped underground miners by way of a low frequency transmitter contained in the battery pack. He also was active in developing the freshman components of NAU's award-winning Design4Practice course sequence.

Maxwell said, "Dr. Hopkins' long and successful history with the College of Engineering allows him to provide strong and knowledgeable leadership in the year ahead."

**Al Pardue (19) 6/28/02 - tough duty**

I have been on recent duty at Marshall and Hawaiian Islands for missile flight tests with the US Army Space & Missile Defense Command. I am starting to think more and more about retirement. My son Derek has spent this past year in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with his wife, Selma, doing field work for his PhD in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Illinois. They are planning on returning late summer to complete studies.

**Jack Harris (121) 5/27/02 - Coach of the Year!**

Carol and I still teach in the Lawrence County School System, and spend most of our time keeping pace with our son, Peyton. He is a 8th. grader, and has done some remarkable things. He took the Duke Talent Identification Search test (the ACT) and made a 26 on it as a 7th grader. He was invited to their Grand Awards Ceremony in May. When asked where he planned to attend college, he told them "Why the University of Alabama, of course". This delighted the Duke folks as you might guess, but he got his award anyway.

I am Lawrence County's golf coach. As luck would have it, I just got Coach of the Year for NW Alabama (Times Daily). This was the first time they had given this award and I was delighted, needless to say.

**Bob Boackle (38) 6/5/02 - get in touch...**

I would like to say "Hello" to my fraternity brothers and their families and wish them well.

My wife Martha decided to return to school, so I am the husband of a college student! It is like going to college all over again. I have three children (Kathy, Melody and John) and I am a Grandfather with three wonderful grandchildren.

I teach Immunology at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston (I have been here since 1975). I have federal research grants in cancer research and in inflammation.

I play my guitar and sing for my grandchildren and watch them dance! Music and music ministry in church and in prison (Kairos/Cursillo) are a big part of my life.

My email address is boacklrj@musc.edu and **I would love to hear from my old friends especially those with whom I have completely lost touch (since college) like Bill Boozer, Hoot Owl, Sam Harris, Speedy Lawrence, Andy Dillon, Drew Peterson and so many others.** Wow, the stories I could tell about those days in the fraternity house... like when the pledges stole the front door to the house, or when we pledges "escaped" during hell week (when we were sent on a scavenger hunt) and drove to B'ham and had a party at my home!

**Ken Mahan (37)**

Our two young'uns have grown up, and have long been off the payroll. Mary Helen & I both work for the State of Alabama.

We have gone snow skiing at least one week each year starting about

1975. The first picture is of us on a snowmobile. We're on our way (30 miles) to Old Faithful in Yellowstone (side trip while snow skiing at Big Sky). I grew the beard for the ski trip in Feb.; it came off when we got back.

The 2nd picture is of MH and our 34 month old grandson who lives in Md (he's pretty tied after about 4 hours at the Smithsonian, etc.). Poor kid, never had a chance about the color of his hair; his grandfather on his dad's side also had red hair.

**Don Parks (36) - another Lost brother found!**

A lucky phone call today led me to Don Parks, living in Colorado with his wife, Bonnie. Don would like to hear from other Phi Psis. His mailing address is 18692 Highway 145, Dolores, CO 81323. Phone 970-882-3023. I'll post his email on the web site when I get it from him.

**Jeff Emerson (288)**

After living and working in Washington, DC since graduating from UA 10 years ago, I moved to Helena, AL in Shelby County in March with my wife and 3 year old son. Glad to be back in Alabama.

**Pat Finley (20)**

I have lived in the Dayton area for about 28 years. I have been married to my wife Shirley for 16 years. We have a 12 year old daughter, Sarah, who is just finishing the seventh grade. About the time I got remarried I found that programming was more fun than financial analysis. I went back to school and got a Masters in Computer Science from the University of Dayton in 1993. I have been working as a programmer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base since 1990. After I finished the school work my wife moved into a job where she had to travel on occasion. Sarah and I have had the good fortune to be able to tag along on the summer trips. We have been able to travel around in Scotland and southern Germany. We have also been able to visit Vienna, Paris and Sydney. Fortunately the traveling has ended.

I still have my interest in model trains and am currently negotiating turning the exercise area into a train room.

**Keith Gray (240)**

If any of the alums or undergrads are looking for jobs in the public sector, i.e. Capitol Hill or government work in the DC area please tell them to let me know. I would be happy to speak with them about opportunities up here either working in government or lobbying. Email ALFADC@aol.com

**Mike Gunter (185)**

I am practicing Internal Medicine at a clinic in Opelika, Al - Internal Medicine Associates. I practice general internal medicine (primary care). We have 18 physicians in our group and have about 80 employees. I spend about 80% of my time practicing medicine and another 20% serving as our president, which entails general oversight of our administrators. My wife -Julia- and I have been married for 15 years, have 3 kids and are expecting another in October. We have a girl age 9- Sarah Grace and two boys - Jackson 6, and Ben-3. I still play tennis and am enjoying watching my children learn to play this and also learning the piano from my mom. Phi Psi will be represented well this June when my brothers Tommy and David and myself (among others) will play for the state 4.0 team title in Mobile.

**Bud Russell (31) - public service**

This week we attended the Democratic National Committee Dinner on Capitol Hill with Mr. Dashle and Barney Frank as keynote speakers ...followed by lunch with the Chair of the D|NC, Terry McAuliffe. From there to NYC aboard the new Accella Amtrack fast train and a weekend of client entertainment including Deutsche Bank and Hypo Variens Banc of Germany. Later this month hosting a fund raiser for our Georgia senator, Max Cleland at which Senator Lieberman will keynote.

Philanthropically, we just returned from Ecuador where we endowed two banks for the Foundation for

International Community Assistance (FINCA) which make micro-loans mostly to women in 22 underdeveloped countries around the world in order to finance their efforts to feed their children by manufacturing their cottage products and selling them in local markets ... better to teach a them to bake than to give them a loaf of bread.

My Phi Psi heritage stands me in good stead for all these things and I only wish I had more time to go back to Phi Psi ... perhaps next year!

**Alfred Hopton (304) - online soundtrack review**

<http://www.cineminit.com/soundtrack/s/index.htm>

**Ted Peterson (294) – Coppola!**

For Immediate Release May 7, 2002  
FRANCIS COPPOLA'S VIRTUAL STUDIO OPTIONS SCREENPLAY WRITERS, ACTORS, ARTISTS FIND COMMUNITY & OPPORTUNITY ON WEB

In 2000, five-time Oscar winner Francis Ford Coppola expanded his presence on the web and fulfilled a 20-year ambition by re-opening his legendary ZOETROPE STUDIOS at [www.zoetrope.com](http://www.zoetrope.com). Coppola recently posted a message on the website's public forum saying he was looking for a horror genre screenplay to option. American Zoetrope had recently produced the box office hit Jeepers Creepers last summer, and a sequel, Like Hell: Jeepers Creepers 2, is already in the works.

Soon after the posting, dozens of horror screenplays flooded the site, and Monster, by brothers Ted and Michael Peterson, was optioned by American Zoetrope. The script combines horror with a strong comedic element. A group of friends camping in the northern California redwoods find themselves trapped in an abandoned gold mine with a strange subterranean creature... and they're running out of gin. The Petersons have been writing screenplays together in their spare time for three years. Since 1993, Ted has been

writing dialogue and designs for computer games, finally landing his first position as lead designer for one of the top selling adventure titles of 1996, "Daggerfall." Since graduating from college and coming out to L.A. to live with his big brother, Michael has worked on several TV shows and features, including Frank Darabont's 1999 hit movie, The Green Mile. "I joined the American Zoetrope website years ago, mostly to workshop short stories," says Ted. "But when Coppola posted a message on the public forum saying he was specifically looking for a horror screenplay to option, I had to submit 'Monster.'"

"We received other bites from people interested in optioning 'Monster,'" says Michael. "But when a production company as well-respected as American Zoetrope says they like what you've written and are interested in producing it, you gotta say yes."

Coppola's Virtual studio also recently issued a casting call for Like Hell: Jeepers Creepers 2. Actors were invited to post a photograph, audio performance and resume -a multi-media "head shot." "American Zoetrope has always been known for finding new talent, and the Virtual Studio really opens up the process for all artists," said Francis Coppola. "It allows us to see and hear the actor and tells you immediately if you want to see more. It has also spawned a great deal of collaboration, which to me, is one of its most exciting aspects." Francis Coppola founded American Zoetrope in 1969 with the notion that the future of cinema was electronic. Under Coppola's leadership and philosophy, American Zoetrope has produced a library of award-winning films, including American Graffiti, The Godfather Parts II & III, The Black Stallion, The Outsiders, Rumble Fish, Peggy Sue Got Married, Barfly, The Conversation, Apocalypse Now, Bram Stoker's Dracula, Don Juan DeMarco, Mi Familia and the recent hit , The Virgin Suicides. The introduction of [www.zoetrope.com](http://www.zoetrope.com), an entirely web-based and electronic film studio, brings Coppola's vision of Electronic Cinema into reality.

**Gordon Carter (160) - Promotion**

MONTGOMERY, Ala., – A Birmingham native, Gordon Carter, has been promoted to vice president and

associate general counsel for Alfa Corp. He has served as assistant general counsel for the company since he joined Alfa in 1982. In his new position, Carter will assist Alfa's general counsel in providing legal assistance to the Alfa companies. "I have enjoyed my 19-year career at Alfa and look forward to many more years of service to the company," Carter said. "This promotion will give me new opportunities for growth."

Carter, 46, lives in Montgomery where he is a member of the Alabama State Bar, Montgomery County Bar, American Corporate Counsel Association and Alabama Defense Lawyers Association. He is a member of Elder Memorial Presbyterian Church. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Alabama and his law degree from Cumberland School of Law. Prior to joining Alfa, Carter served as a law clerk to Judge Robert Bradley of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals

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**The Chapter Eternal**

**From Patricia Brower, widow of Carl Brower (131)**

It saddens me to share with you that my husband Carl died unexpectedly on August 30, 2001, in Bangor, AL, at age 49. He was a gifted vascular ultrasound technologist and registered nurse at North Shore Medical Center in Miami, FL. He was known for his gentle touch, keen observation, and caring manner. His passions were family, fossil expeditions, and cooking. He leaves a son, Carl, Jr., age 19.

**From Lee R. Spencer, the father of Andrew Lee Spencer (366)**

"Andy died Aug. 6, 2000, ... please remember him" - Lee Spencer (his dad)



**Alabama Alpha Personal Information Update Form  
(please print)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pin No. \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

OK to

Yes, I accept

publish  
address  
and  
telephone  
on web  
site?  
 Yes  
 No

Children (names & ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (M) \_\_\_\_\_

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My check for  
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9/02

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