

# THE Ψ PSI

PHI KAPPA PSI ♦ THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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FALL 2007



*Left: Mike Whatley '89 and guest speaker Harry Lee attended the tour of Bryant-Denny Stadium on Founders Day.*



*Right: Harry Lee, a former Crimson Tide football player, led a special tour of the stadium showing Phi Psi alumni the media room, recruiting room, dressing rooms, sky boxes, and the "A" club room.*

## ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATE BROTHERS UNITE FOR FOUNDER'S DAY CEREMONY

~ House Corporation Sends Four Actives to Boot Camp

~ Your Financial Support Provides Necessary Maintenance to Chapter House

**W**ith the completion of the Ramsey Room renovation and dedication this spring, the House Corporation has completed many renovation projects at the Chapter House. Any of you who visited for Founders Day can attest there is always something else to work on, but we are now focusing on performing routine maintenance and working on minor projects such as upgrades to our kitchen equipment and basement area.

On a sad note, you will read in this issue of *The Psi* about the death of Ken Bittner, the House Corporation's maintenance superintendent. Ken was largely responsible for much of the work done at the Chapter House over the past five years and he will be sorely missed.

The House Corporation was proud to split the cost with the Chapter to send four undergraduates to Lawrence, Kansas, this summer for Phi Psi's Recruitment Boot Camp. **Tim Hughes '04**, **Ronnie Evans '06**, **Charles Landis '04**, and **Aubrey Richardson '06** spent an intense weekend learning how best to

sell the benefits of our Chapter to potential new members and came back motivated to live the values of our Fraternity and recruit like-minded new members.

The Chapter continues to earn recognition both within the University Greek system and nationally within Phi Psi. One particular award given to the Chapter this spring was the Order of Omega Greek Relations Award. This award was given as a result of the hospitality our Chapter and alumni showed the Dekes last year while they did not have a house. Thank you to everyone for making them feel welcome.

Your financial support has allowed us to make major improvements to the Chapter House during the past five years while limiting the debt we incurred to less than \$100,000. Your continued support is instrumental in maintaining our property at this high level and supporting the development of our undergraduates

*(Continued on back page)*



# Alabama Alpha Climbing the Ladder of Success

~ CHAPTER G.P.A. ON THE RISE

~ MEMBERS ENJOY RECRUITMENT AND LEADERSHIP CAMP

~ PHI KAPPA PSI FIRST CHOICE FOR IVORY PLAQUE

Over the last several months the Alabama Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has been very busy. Our G.P.A. has been climbing along with our success in intramural sports, our volunteer efforts at local charities, and the recruitment of outstanding gentlemen.

The Chapter G.P.A. for the spring semester increased to a 2.88. This is higher than the all-independent male and all-fraternity averages. We are ranked the 11th highest out of 28 fraternities at the Capstone. This fall, we will continue to raise our academic standards with more required study hours and a higher G.P.A. requirement.



*Chad Durrance '05, Patrick Sharpton '05, and Patrick Adcock '04 enjoyed their time at the Founders Day festivities.*



Alabama Alpha is very involved with Habitat for Humanity, Best Buddies, the West Alabama Boys and Girls Club, and Relay for Life.

The Phi Psi 500 is one of the Chapter's most important goals to reach.

Alabama Alpha also sent several members to Recruitment Boot Camp this summer. Held at the Kansas Alpha Chapter House, this program helps form better recruitment and pledging systems. The members who went to boot camp came back with renewed spirits about the entire recruitment experience.

Several members also attended the Woodrow Wilson Leadership School at Vanderbilt University. Our members learned about leadership, scholarship, and service. These men will use the lessons learned throughout their life.

We participate in every intramural sport that the university has to offer. Currently, we are ranked first for the Ivory Plaque, which is awarded to the best fraternity overall in sports.

I have no doubt this fall semester will be even better than the spring. Thank you to all the alumni for your support and, on behalf of the Chapter, I would like to remind all the alumni to stop by the Chapter House and see what you have helped build.



Fraternally,

**Thomas Sinowski '04**

Chapter President

[tcsinowski@gmail.com](mailto:tcsinowski@gmail.com)



**Top:** Phi Psis and friends walk to support Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig disease. Pictured are (back row) Lauren Taylor, Tommy Sinowski '04, Patrick Adcock '04, Jerome Hastings '04, and Jonathan Sharpton '03 (front row) Patrick Sharpton '05 and Chad Durrance '05. **Bottom:** Eric Curole '04, Josh Norton '06, Chris Messonnier '04, and Josh Gardner '05 enjoy crawfish at Phi Psi's Outback 2007.





## NEW INITIATES

**Parker L. Dennison '07**  
Huntsville, Ala.

**Brian J. Lowe '07**  
Iowa City, Iowa

## Alabama Alpha Mourns the Loss of Special Friend

**K**en Bittner, a very special friend to the Alabama Alpha Chapter, died on April 6, 2007. Most of you did not know him, but he was very instrumental in the success of our Chapter over the past four years. He was one of the original contractors who worked on our initial renovation beginning in 2003.

Soon afterward, he was diagnosed with leukemia. After an exhausting round of treatments he went into remission. He then closed his construction business and semi-retired, making the maintenance of the Phi Psi house his only work. He was responsible for all of the improvements we have enjoyed, as well as maintenance, until his leukemia returned in the summer of 2006 during the Ramsey Room project.

After another round of treatments, Ken experienced intermittent periods of good health and illness. Through all of his health problems, he worked at the Phi Psi house when he could and kept in touch. Ken was always concerned about the house and the boys— even during the worst of his fight against this terrible disease.

Ken was an incredible craftsman and a wonderful person. He did not need to work, but he did things for Alabama Alpha because he wanted to. He will be sorely missed by all of us.



## WEB SITES

**Alabama Alpha** — [www.phipsiala.com](http://www.phipsiala.com)

**Phi Kappa Psi National** — [www.phikappapsi.com](http://www.phikappapsi.com)

**The University of Alabama** — [www.ua.edu](http://www.ua.edu)

**Crimson Tide** — [www.rolltide.com](http://www.rolltide.com)

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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**Timothy Hughes '04**  
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TREASURER

**Aubrey Richardson '06**  
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CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

**Chad Durance '05**  
Huntsville, Ala.

RECORDING SECRETARY

**Josh Norton '05**  
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

HISTORIAN

**Patrick Adcock '04**  
Dothan, Ala.

MESSENGER

**Ronald Evans '06**  
New Orleans, La.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

**Nathan Culora '06**  
Lawrenceville, Ga.

CHAPLAIN

**John D. Gunter '05**  
Opelika, Ala.

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMEN

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*Jeff and Alabama Governor, Bob Riley at work in the Governor's office.*

## Phi Psi Alumnus Returns Home from Capitol Hill

~ ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT—JEFF EMERSON '88 ~

Since graduating in 1991 with degrees in journalism and political science, **Jeff Emerson '88** has spent his career in politics. Most of that career was spent in Washington, D.C., where he worked for two different congressmen and as a consultant.

His first stop in Washington was on the staff of Congressman Buddy Darden of Georgia where Jeff was press secretary. During that time, he met his future wife, Whitney, at an event in Washington and proposed four months later. They were in the middle of planning their wedding when Jeff's boss was defeated for re-election, so Jeff left Capitol Hill and went to work with the political consulting firm of Odell, Roper, and Simms. There he handled a diverse group of political clients, including the National Republican Senatorial Committee and the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada.

Jeff went back to work on Capitol Hill two years later as press secretary and then chief of staff for Congressman Spencer Bachus of Alabama. He remained with Congressman Bachus's office for six years, traveling between Alabama and Washington often. The time spent back in Alabama, plus the arrival of the Emersons' first child, made Jeff long for a return to the state. In 2002, the Emersons moved to Shelby County where Jeff continued working for Congressman Bachus's office in Birmingham. A few months later, he became deputy director of the Alabama Association of Realtors and lobbied the state legislature for the organization.



Jeff was contacted near the end of 2003 and asked if he would consider joining Governor Riley's cabinet as communicators director. A huge supporter of Governor Riley, Jeff immediately jumped at the chance and has steered the Governor's strategic communications planning, media relations, and speech writing.

Today, Jeff and Whitney reside outside Montgomery, Alabama, in Millbrook and are the parents of 8-year-old Wyatt and 5-year-old Anastasia, both of whom they adopted from Russia.

Jeff says one of the best things about coming back to Alabama was that the change made it easier to rekindle friendships with several brothers at Phi Kappa Psi. Being closer to UA has also given Jeff the chance to take both his children to several home football games.

"I was so happy I literally had tears in my eyes the first time I got to take my children to an Alabama football game. My son was wearing his Bama jersey, my daughter was dressed as a Bama cheerleader, and they were in awe of the immensity of the occasion. The stadium, the crowd, the music, the Quad, the game itself—you don't get that up in Washington, D.C., or really anywhere else. It made me think of all the times my dad took me to Alabama games," says Jeff. You may contact him at [jwhitemer@aol.com](mailto:jwhitemer@aol.com).

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**Daniel B. Banks Jr. '64** lives in Huntsville, Ala., with his wife, Jennifer Lynn. They have a daughter, Page Ann. Danny is retired but continues to do arbitration and mediations throughout north Alabama. He can be contacted at dbanks2020@yahoo.com.

**John Tryon Hubbard Jr. '64** is serving as SWP of Phi Psi and chairman of long-range planning for First United Methodist Church of Huntsville, Ala. He and his wife, Elaine, reside in Huntsville. They have two sons, John Perry and Robert Tryon.

**Steve G. Frazier '72** is living in Morgan City, La. He is the owner of Crimson Construction. Steve says, "I am still believing in the Crimson Tide!" You may reach him at steve@atvci.net.

**John W. Harris V '75** is excited to report that his son, Payton, will be a freshman at the University of Alabama this fall. John and his wife, Carol, live in Russellville, Ala., where he is a teacher and a coach for Lawrence County Board of Education. You can contact him at legolfcoach@aol.com.

**Phillip B. Whiteman '76** met the Vice President of the United States at a Civil War descendants reunion in June. He and his wife, Janine, live in Alpharetta, Ga. He can be reached at ga6thdist@aol.com.

**William M. Dixon '83** is president and owner of USR Healthcare in Brentwood, Tenn. He lives there with his wife, Eileen, and their daughter, Erin. They have two other daughters, Kathleen and Stephanie, who are both undergraduates at the University of Alabama. His company was ranked the number one staffing firm in the mid-state from 2003 to 2006. He can be contacted at mdixon@usrhealthcare.com.

**C. Gerry Henderson '86** is chief of pediatric urology at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash., where he lives with his wife, Michelle. You can reach Gerry via e-mail at cgerryhenderson@hotmail.com.

**Alfred C. Hopton III '89** reports he is the proud father of, Stella Frances, born Saturday, August 18. The Hopton family resides in Los Angeles, Calif. Congratulate him at ahopton70@yahoo.com.

**Brian A. Mena '94** lives in Parker, Colo., with his wife, Amanda, and their son, Aspen. He is a financial analyst for Comcast Media. Contact him at brianmena@yahoo.com.

**Jarron B. Springer '99** graduated from Nashville School of Law in May 2006. He resides in Nashville, Tenn., where he is the president of the Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association. He and his wife, Jennie, welcomed a new son, Battle, born on February 17, 2007. You can contact Jarron at jbspringer@tngrocer.org.

## FOUNDATION REPORT

The Alabama Alpha Foundation is pleased to announce that the following undergraduates were each awarded a \$500 scholarship at Founders Day for their academic excellence in the fall of 2006:

**John Cochran '03**  
**Steven Ludlam '04**  
**James Sims '04**

**Patrick Sharpton '03**  
**Chris Messonier '04**  
**Joshua Gardner '05**

The Alabama Alpha Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the academic and scholastic endeavors of undergraduate Phi Psis. The foundation accepts tax-deductible donations of \$1,000 or more and also serves as a means of receiving estate bequests to benefit Alabama Alpha. For more information, please contact **Tryon Hubbard '64** at tryon@jehubbard.com.

## HOUSE CORPORATION

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**TREASURER/SECRETARY**  
**Fred Clay '67**  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

**MEMBERS**  
**Dennis Cameron '72**  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

**Freddy Corina '66**  
*Mobile, Ala.*

**Ken Damsgard '64**  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

**Scott Huffman '85**  
*Pelham, Ala.*

**Freddie Stakes '66**  
*Birmingham, Ala.*

## CRIMSON TIDE FOOTBALL 2007

Sept. 1 **WESTERN CAROLINA**  
Sept. 8 Vanderbilt  
Sept. 15 **ARKANSAS**  
Sept. 22 **GEORGIA**  
Sept. 29 Florida State  
Oct. 6 **HOUSTON (Homecoming)**  
Oct. 13 Ole Miss  
Oct. 20 **TENNESSEE**  
Nov. 03 **LSU**  
Nov. 10 Mississippi State  
Nov. 17 **LOUISIANA-MONROE**  
Nov. 24 Auburn

HOME GAMES IN GREEN



## SAVE THE DATE

# Founders Day 2008

**Tentatively Set For  
February 23, 2008**

*More Details Coming Soon!*

**Go to [www.phipsiala.com](http://www.phipsiala.com)  
for updates.**



*Jack Mitchell '89 and his wife, Laurie,  
enjoyed the tour of the stadium.*

## ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATE BROTHERS UNITE

*(Continued from page 1)*

through programs like Recruitment Boot Camp and the Woodrow Wilson Leadership School.

Finally, I hope each of you will make a special effort to come by the house on game days this fall. We will have food beginning three hours before kickoff for most games, and you can see the many improvements we have made to the Chapter House. More importantly, you will have an opportunity to visit with old friends and meet the great group of undergraduate brothers we support. I look forward to seeing you this fall.



**Amici, In the Bond,  
Shannon Price '88**  
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# THE Ψ PSI

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### ATTENTION:

*This newsletter is intended for 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.*

## RECRUITMENT RECOMMENDATION

Alumni can help our Chapter increase the number of quality members by letting us know of any incoming freshmen or independent students who would be good candidates for membership.

Prospect's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) \_\_\_\_\_

High school attended \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Status (incoming freshman, current undergraduate) \_\_\_\_\_

Does prospect have a ΦΚΨ relative? List name, relationship and chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Reference submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit prospect recommendations to:

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