

# THE Ψ PSI

PHI KAPPA PSI ♦ THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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SPRING 2008

## ALABAMA ALPHA ALUMNI MAKE 2007 SPECIAL

~ TREMENDOUS TURNOUT AT FOUNDER'S DAY ~  
~ SUCCESSFUL SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ~  
~ GAME DAY EXPERIENCE ~

Our alumni have always made Alabama Alpha special and 2007 was no exception. From a tremendous turnout at Founder's Day last spring, to a highly successful Sustaining Membership Drive, to great support at football games this fall, 2007 was an impressive year!

This fall saw the return of many alumni to the Capstone. Our alumni enjoyed catching up with old friends under the tent in the courtyard, meeting our undergraduates, watching other football games on our new plasma television in the dining room, and feasting on great food before heading across the street to watch the Tide. Special thanks to our housemother, Linda Campbell, and our head cook, Debra Hinton, for making each game day special. If you are coming to Tuscaloosa for a game next fall, plan to spend some time at the house and enjoy the Phi Psi game day experience.

You will see more details on our upcoming Founder's Day activities on page 3, but we have another special day planned in Tuscaloosa. We are honored to have the last direct descendent from our Fraternity's founders as our guest speaker. **Gordon Letterman, West Virginia Alpha '72**, has a vast knowledge of the history of our Fraternity and a unique ability to demonstrate how our founding principles are still relevant today. If that all sounds too stuffy for you, he has a great sense of humor and is an adept storyteller.

Finally, I want to thank the many Brothers who continue to generously support the Chapter financially. Alabama Alpha's Sustaining Membership Program is our annual contribution campaign. Contributions made to this campaign have been used to make many of the renovations and improvements to the Chapter House that you see and many that you can't see when visiting the Chapter. Contributions have also been used this year to provide recruitment training to our undergraduates. Most of the facility upgrades and much of the programming that we offer to our undergraduate members could not be supported by the Chapter alone, so your support is vital to us offering a well-maintained facility and a program that is attractive to future Phi Psis.



Brothers meet prior to kickoff of the Alabama vs. Tennessee game: front row from left, Teddy Grogan '71 and David Williams '70; middle row, Bobby Pirtle '73 and Tommy Gunter '70; back row, John Carey '71, David Gunter '75, Ed Lowery '71, and Jay Masingill '68.

The Sustaining Membership Program received more than \$11,000 in 2007 from nearly 55 generous Brothers. The Alabama Alpha Foundation also received gifts of \$2,000 and awarded \$4,500 in academic scholarships to Alabama Alpha undergraduates. All these gifts are acknowledged individually elsewhere in *The Psi*, but thank you again for your support. We look forward to another great year in 2008!



Amici, In the Bond,  
**Shannon Price '88**  
House Corporation President  
(205) 421-1020  
price291@hotmail.com

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

Founder's Day  
March 8, 2008

More details on page 3!  
Go to [www.phipsiala.com](http://www.phipsiala.com) for updates.



# Alabama Alpha Chapter Has Busy Fall Semester

## PHI KAPPA PSI RECEIVES HONOR OF ACCREDITATION WITH DISTINCTION

### PHILANTHROPY PROJECTS INCLUDE HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, BEST BUDDIES, AND THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

The past few months at Alabama Alpha have been very busy. We are sustaining a Chapter size of 45 and plan to have a spring new member class of five to 10 men who fulfill the ideals of Phi Kappa Psi and will help us reach our full potential by next fall. With **Nabil Dawahre '06** as our new recruitment chairman, I believe we will produce a structured recruitment system that the Chapter will be able to use for years to come.

We recently were one of 12 Phi Psi Chapters nationally to receive the honor of being accredited with distinction, which is the highest honor a Chapter can receive. This would not have been possible without the hard work of **Matthew Greene '05**.

Alabama Alpha is also eligible to apply for the Grand Chapter Award, which we plan on doing this spring, bringing further national recognition to our Chapter.

Grades remain one of the top priorities of the Chapter, and I expect us to remain above the all-male average and rank within the top 10 of other fraternities.

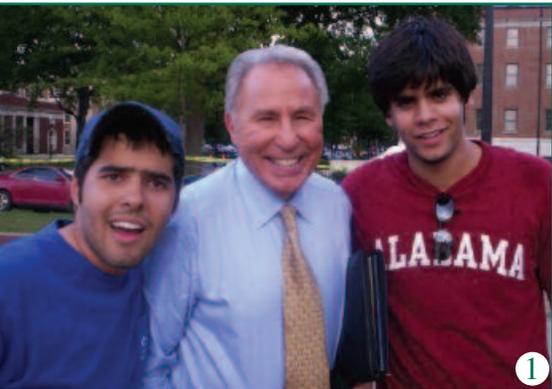
Aside from school, we have been very active in philanthropy projects, including Habitat for Humanity, Best Buddies,

and the Boys and Girls Club. Many members have gone beyond their service requirement.

This football season was an exciting one for the brothers of Phi Kappa Psi. We were pleased to invite alumni to return to the house and enjoy a meal before games. We would like to thank our housemother, Linda Campbell, and our cook, Debra Hinton, for making this possible.

We continue to receive a large amount of alumni support, especially from **Fred Clay '67**, **Jay Masingill '68**, and **Shannon Price '88**, who have donated much time and energy to the Chapter. I would like to invite all alumni to stop by to see the Chapter's progress and see what legacy they have left behind.

As we grow in size, our focus on academics, recruitment, and community service remain our top priorities. I have no doubt that this spring semester will set the standard for semesters to follow.



Fraternally,  
**Aubrey P. Richardson III**  
Chapter President  
(908) 208-8631  
aprichardson3@gmail.com



1. *Nabil Dawahre '06, Lee Corso (ESPN College Gameday anchor), and Nathan Naidu '05 before the Alabama vs. Georgia game.*

2. *Adam Newman '05, Peyton Harris '07, and Jamie Stewart '06 dress up for Halloween.*

3. *JD Gunter '06, Collier Meyer '07, and Armon Drysdale '05 enjoy dinner before the Chapter Christmas Party.*



# ALUMNUS SEES NEED FOR MORE MEN TO EXPERIENCE PHI PSI LIFE

## ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT—David Ekland '76

**W**hen I was applying to different colleges during my senior year in high school, my father told me I might want to visit some of them prior to making a decision. I made my first college visit to the Alabama campus in the spring of 1976. It was the only college visit I made. I loved Tuscaloosa.

Being from Iowa, people asked me why I was looking at schools so far away from home. My only reply was that I had to get out of the cold and snow. I showed up in Tuscaloosa and it proceeded to snow six inches that winter.

I remember becoming an active at Alabama Alpha on Halloween 1976. We were the first pledge class to go through an eight-week pledge program. I don't think I was what you would call an ideal pledge, but it was a great experience for me. I was a Yankee going to school in the Deep South. The culture and people were totally different than what I had ever been exposed to.

The Phi Psi experience I had during my two years at Alabama is something I would not trade for anything. It was a time in my life that I look back with fond memories. I know it was the first time I wore a tie to a football game when it was 90 degrees. I remember the actives taking us to Birmingham to get "our wings," learning to play shuffleboard, and seeing the Chapter president on the roof of the house watching a tornado go by. I owe many a thank-you to the people who took this stranger into their lives. I especially owe gratitude to my pledge dad, **David Gunter '75**, and his wife, Jayne. You sometimes don't realize until later in life what fun you had, what knowledge you gathered, and the institutions you cherish.

I was asked by Brother **Tryon Hubbard '64** why someone so far away still gives to this Phi Psi Chapter. It is a simple answer. I hope this Chapter is around long enough so that more men have the opportunity to be a



part of the Phi Psi house at the University of Alabama. It is the first time in your life you learn to live with and become friends with individuals you may not have searched out in high school or college.

*David and his wife of 26 years, Julie, are both graduates of the University of Iowa. They have been very active in the American Cancer Society and are founding members of the New Directions group of ACS that has raised more than \$2 million for local cancer research since its inception in 1994. David has been a member of the Hospice Board of St. Luke's Hospital. David and Julie are founding members of the Ronald McDonald House in Cedar Rapids.*

*David is president of Seltec Sales Corporation, a manufacturers' representative for electronic components. His father started the company in 1970, and David became president in 1988 after the passing of his father. He is responsible for nine states. They are headquartered in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and have offices in St. Louis, Kansas City, and Chicago. He is treasurer of 3A Inc., a distributor of electronic, EOL components located in Cedar Rapids. Julie is president of 3A Inc. They have three children; Andy (23) is a graduate of St. Ambrose University in finance/economics and works for DraftFCB in Chicago, Amy (21) is a junior at Luther College majoring in chemistry and Spanish, and Aaron (17) is a junior at Washington High School. If you are ever in Iowa or Palm Springs, California, give David a call to play a little golf. E-mail David at [davidekland@seltecsales.com](mailto:davidekland@seltecsales.com).*

# FOUNDER'S DAY 2008

**T**he Birmingham Alumni Association and the Alabama Alpha Chapter will jointly host Founder's Day in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on Saturday, March 8. This year promises an event that you will not want to miss!

The festivities will begin at the Alabama Alpha Chapter House at 10 a.m. with either an initiation of the spring pledge class or, if that is not feasible, a mock initiation. In either case, it will be an opportunity for alumni to experience our initiation ritual. We will be asking for alumni volunteers to serve in various initiation roles during the ceremony. A continental breakfast will be available for brothers and guests beginning at 9 a.m. before initiation and for Phi Psi ladies and guests during initiation. From 11 a.m. to noon there will be a social hour (cash bar) at the Chapter House. The Founder's Day banquet will be held at Indian Hills Country Club beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Our special guest this year will be **Gordon R. Letterman, West Virginia Alpha '72**. Gordon is the great-great-grandson and the last direct male descendant of Founder **William Henry Letterman**.

For those of you who are basketball fans, the Alabama Crimson Tide takes on the Vanderbilt Commodores at 6 p.m. that evening at Coleman Coliseum.

The cost is \$30 per person. To R.S.V.P., contact **Tim Connell '86** by e-mail at [tkcbama@bellsouth.net](mailto:tkcbama@bellsouth.net), by phone at (205) 919-8073, or by mail at 628 Merriweather Drive, Calera, AL 35040.



(Photo to the left) New initiates in the fall 2007 (Not pictured: Alan Hill)



# FALL 2007 NEW INITIATES

**Conner Barnes**  
*Tuscaloosa, Ala.*

**Mark Gilbride**  
*Columbus, Ohio*

**Justin Murphy**  
*Oakton, Va.*

**Benjamin Beutel**  
*Charlotte, N.C.*

**Peyton Harris**  
*Russellville, Ala.*

**Ryan Nash**  
*Knoxville, Tenn.*

**Nathan Calden**  
*Woodstock, Ga.*

**Alan Hill**  
*New Orleans, La.*

**Donald Paddock**  
*Centerville, Ohio*

**Justin Day**  
*Centre, Ala.*

**Collier Meyer**  
*Houston, Texas*

**Robert Salinas**  
*Tuscaloosa, Ala.*

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Aubrey P. Richardson III '06**  
*South Brunswick, N.J.*  
(908) 208-8631  
aprichardson3@gmail.com

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Ronald Evans '06**  
*Gretna, La.*

### TREASURER

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

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

**Adam Rudolph '07**  
*Knoxville, Tenn.*

### RECORDING SECRETARY

**Benjamin Oertling '06**  
*Metairie, La.*

### HISTORIAN

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

### MESSENGER

**Nabil Dawahre '06**  
*Colorado Springs, Colo.*

### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

**Blake Tallmadge '06**  
*Dunwoody, Ga.*

### CHAPLIN

**Timothy Hughes '04**  
*Slidell, La.*

### RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN

**Nabil Dawahre '06**  
*Colorado Springs, Colo.*  
(719) 213-7320  
nfdawahre@gmail.com

## ALUMNI UPDATE

**William Banks '64**, his wife, Tami, and son, Conner, live in Calera, Ala. Bill is a P.H. environmentalist for the Alabama Department of Public Health.

**Dan Armstrong '66** is president and owner of Dan Armstrong Construction Inc. in Gulf Shores, Ala. E-mail: danarm@gulftel.com

**James W. Henson '67** and his wife, Shannon, live in Oakland Park, Fla., where he is the assistant fire chief. E-mail: jwhenson@bellsouth.net

**Bill Bower '69** is an attorney in Mountain Brook, Ala. He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Scott and Jim, and one grandchild, Will. E-mail: williambrower@bellsouth.net

**Jackie F. Keel '71** works in the defense attaché office of the American Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, as an electrical engineer.

**Ed Lowery '71** and his wife, Cynthia, have two children, Elizabeth and Harrison, and live in Franklin, Tenn. He is chairman of the board of Citizens Corporation. E-mail: elowery@comcast.net

**Dennis R. Cameron '72** is a CPA for Cooke, Cameron, Travisw & Company P.C. in Birmingham, Ala. He and his wife, Tracey, have three children: Barrett, Brent, and Callie. E-mail: dennisc@cctco.com

**Harold G. Galemore '74** and his wife, Marie, have two daughters, Amy and Lori, and live in Spanish Fort, Ala. He is employed with Trans Montaigne as a controller. E-mail: h.galemore@mchsi.com

**Robert L. Oviatt '75** is the head strength coach for Washington State University. He was inducted into the USA Strength and Conditioning Hall of Fame. Rob and his wife, Kathleen, live in Pullman, Wash., and have four children: Allison, April, William, and Lindsay. E-mail: oviattr@wsu.edu

**Richard D. Lively '87** is an attorney in Prattville, Ala. E-mail: richarddlively@aol.com

**David M. White '87** is the sr. marketing associate for Sysco Food Services of Columbia. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children: Emma, Jonathan, and Caroline, and live in Bluffton, S.C. E-mail: dmwls@aol.com

**Jason Halcomb '88** is owner and CPA of Darroch & Halcomb P.C. He and his wife, Kim, have two children, Ryan and Lauren. E-mail: jasonhalcomb@yahoo.com

**Scott Batey '90** is enrolled in a Ph.D. program in social work at the University of Alabama. He received the National Alumni Association Fellowship, which will fund his tuition, as well as a monetary award. His research interests include rural substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. E-mail: dsb4ua@aol.com

**Bradley M. Casselman '90** and his wife, Jennifer, have one child, Delaney, and reside in Sterrett, Ala. He is a senior statistician for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. E-mail: bcasselman@mindspring.com

**Jason L. Irvin '97** is the director of marketing and sales for Birmingham Medical News. He lives in Hoover, Ala. E-mail: irvirvin@hotmail.com

# THANK YOU ALABAMA ALPHA DONORS

The Alabama Alpha House Corporation gratefully acknowledges its supporters. The following is a list of contributors to the Alabama Alpha House Corporation and the Alabama Alpha Foundation since 1980. Donors' cumulative giving totals are listed by giving level. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift(s), we sincerely apologize. Please send corrections to the Alabama Alpha House Corporation, P.O. Box 19144, Birmingham, AL 35219. Thank you again for giving back to the Chapter—it truly makes a difference!

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\* Harry Katapodis (165)  
Christopher Larson (94)

\* Ray Moir (84)  
John Neal (4)  
John Olszewski (72)  
Robert Pirtle (141)  
Pledge Class of 1984  
Tim Price-Williams (104)  
Richard Raleigh (30)  
John Ramsey (CA G '28)  
\* James Reed (336)  
Ward Saxon (98)  
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Terry Smart (66)  
\* Philip Williams (216)  
Steven Williams (202)

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Thomas Early (260)  
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Charles Goldthwaite (46)  
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John Thompson (93)  
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Terry Holley (159)  
Alexander Hood (113)  
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Roy Jones (229)  
Richard Mayo (39)  
Robert Merrill (54)  
David Miller (273)  
Boyden Moore (302)  
John Moorman (115)  
Albert Pardue (19)  
Brad Plumley (351)  
Mercer Prickett (74)  
Will Rasberry (402)  
Robin Renken (148)  
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Jason Terry (312)  
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\* Brad Turner (301)  
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John Watt (NC A '75)  
Ed Wesson (126)  
David Williams (110)

\* Denotes 2007 donors

# 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PLEDGE CLASS

It is hard to believe, but it has been 20 years since the fall pledge class of 1987 was initiated. Here is what the Brothers who were initiated on January 30, 1988, are doing now:

**Jim Wilson (283)** is a partner at the law firm of Leitman, Siegal & Payne P.C. in Birmingham.

**Rusty Spruell (284)** lives in Lebanon, Ohio, and is a volunteer firefighter.

**Walt Davis (285)** lives in Virginia and was spotted at the LSU game this fall.

**Tom Haladey (286)** is a famous Hollywood director, Yahoo! message board instigator, and new father to Jackson Palmer.

**Mike Payton (287)** is a semi-professional golfer on the Huntsville mini-tour and still works on the space station.

**Jeff Emerson (288)** is the official mouthpiece for Governor Riley and was last seen putting a cup of water over the state senate's chamber door.

**Jack Mitchell (289)** lives in Tuscaloosa and coaches football at Hillcrest High School. It is rumored he applied for the Hoover High job.

**Ben Woolf (290)** lives in Tuscaloosa, practices law, and has fathered enough children to have his own basketball team.

**Shannon Price (291)** lives in a nursing home in Shelby County and enjoys going to Vegas with other senior citizens.

**Ward Harris (292)** is a bar owner in Tuscaloosa.

**Jimmy Harris (293)** is a former U.S. Senator; current whereabouts unknown.

# THE Ψ PSI

Phi Kappa Psi  
Alabama Alpha Chapter  
P.O. Box 19144  
Birmingham, AL 35219

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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.*



## 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)

## HOUSE CORPORATION

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**Shannon Price '88**  
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Birmingham, Ala.

**Ken Damsgard '64**  
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**Freddy Corina '66**  
Mobile, Ala.

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

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



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

## Huntsville Alumni Association Founder's Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16  
6 P.M. HERITAGE CLUB

Keynote Speaker SWGP Steve O'Rourke

*Spouses are welcome.*

For more information or to make a reservation, contact Glen Buttrey at [imglenb@comcast.net](mailto:imglenb@comcast.net).