

THE Ψ PSI

PHI KAPPA PSI ♦ THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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FALL 2011

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Phi Psi Grateful for Service and Safety

Thanksgiving comes early for Alabama Alpha this year. We are thankful that none of our undergraduates were injured during the tornado that devastated Tuscaloosa on April 27 and we're also thankful that our Chapter House sustained no damage. Many of our undergraduates, led by chapter President **Conner Barnes '07** and Vice President **Ryan Snyder '10**, immediately began working with UA Greek Relief to serve meals and assist with the early cleanup efforts in Tuscaloosa. They continue to work with the Boys & Girls Club in Alberta City to help them rebuild their facility.

We give thanks for the lives of **Michael Yant Newman '65** and **Jeremy Daniel Norrell '88**, who passed on to Chapter Eternal this spring. Their acts of devotion for our brotherhood will long be remembered by those whose lives they touched.

We are also thankful for the memories we have all shared over the past 45+ years at our Chapter House. As we begin our final academic year at the Chapter House, we reflect on the past but look forward to new beginnings. We plan to have a weekend in spring 2012 to do both, so look for an upcoming announcement.

Sometimes "thanks" seems so inadequate, but we have taken a large part of this edition of *The Psi* to publicly say thanks to **Jay Masingill '68** for his lifetime of service to our Chapter. I know that I would have never remained involved with Phi Psi after graduation were it not for Jay's influence. For hundreds of Phi Psis, Jay stands as an example of how to honor the responsibilities of brotherhood found in our Ritual (many times to his own, and Sally's, detriment). Thanks, Jay!

I hope everyone has the opportunity to come to Tuscaloosa this academic year to reflect on the great memories from our Chapter House, say thanks, and meet our undergraduates that are excited about the opportunity to create new memories.



In the Bond,
Shannon Price '88
House Corporation President
price291@hotmail.com

Phi Psi Turns the Tables on Tuscaloosa Tornado

Alabama Alpha Becomes Beacon of Hope for Community Through Donations and Service



Alabama Alpha brothers work with the Boys & Girls Club of Tuscaloosa after the tornado.

Deadly Tornado Tears Through Tuscaloosa

In April, an F4/F5 tornado swept through the state of Alabama, claiming the lives of several dozen Alabamians, injuring many more, and leaving many families homeless. The tornado first touched down in Tuscaloosa and severely damaged Alberta City, the home of the Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama. While the University encouraged students to return to their hometowns, many stayed in Tuscaloosa to volunteer and help out the city many had begun to call home.

Alpha Chapter Stays for Cleanup

Our Chapter wasted no time in getting out in the wreckage to help out affected families. Some of our members helped deliver food to drop-off locations around town as a part of the UA Greek Relief efforts. Phi Psi was able to donate several hundred pounds of food for meal preparation. Other members assembled in chainsaw teams

and helped remove debris and fallen trees from homes and yards. As focus moved away from debris removal and damage control into the rebuilding process, our efforts focused on helping out the Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama.

Boys & Girls Club Receives Help

We established a fundraiser through our national headquarters to benefit the local chapter of the Boys & Girls Club in Tuscaloosa. The funds will be used to repair the facilities that have been damaged and were not covered by insurance and to replace any stolen or looted materials lost after the storm. Extra money will help create some fun and exciting experiences for the children without charge to their families. Needless to say, our fraternity has gained more than we ever could have imagined out of this experience by doing our part for our community. For more information about the fundraiser or to donate,

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Phi Psi Turns the Tables

(Continued from page 1)

please visit www.phikappapsi.com/Today/BoysandGirlsClub.

Effects on Chapter Organization a Slight Setback

The tornado came through Tuscaloosa at a time that was most inconvenient, the week before finals, or Dead Week. This is around the time we usually select the initiation order for new initiates and elect new officers. Because we were unable to have that Chapter meeting in which all this business was scheduled to happen, I am unable to give an update on new initiates and new officers. However, that will be covered in the first Chapter meeting of this semester and you will be updated in the next newsletter.

Carnival Held for Boy & Girls Club

In the spring, we held a carnival in our front yard for the children of the Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama. Various games included a dunk tank, bounce house, and bottle throw, complete with prizes. We also held an Easter egg hunt for the children, with the eggs hidden around the yard. Both events were a huge success and we intend to host similar events this semester, as well.

Tailgating Season Scheduled

I encourage our alumni to visit the house this semester as it is possible that this might be the last football season at our current location. Homecoming will be celebrated on the weekend of October 8 (vs. Vanderbilt). The brothers and I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones as we cheer on the Tide this football season. Roll Tide!



Loyally,
Conner Barnes '07
Chapter President
cbbarnes2@ua.crimson.edu

*Brothers put on a carnival for
the children of the Boys & Girls club.*



THE ALABAMA ALPHA FOUNDATION REPORT

The Alabama Alpha Foundation is pleased to announce that it currently has assets of just over \$100,000. The Foundation was established as a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation to support the academic pursuits of the undergraduate men in the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity at the University of Alabama. It accomplishes its mission by awarding scholarships to members that meet high academic standards. Since the Foundation's inception in 2004, it has awarded \$20,000 in scholarships. Most recently, **Conner Barnes '07** was awarded a \$500 scholarship at Founders Day 2011 for his academic success.

Phi Psi Teams Up with Boys & Girls Club

Courtesy of *The Crimson White* and Jasmine Cannon

Amid the damage to the West Alabama chapter of the Boys & Girls Club sustained on April 27, the Alpha chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has organized a relief and support fundraiser to help rebuild the organization.

Chapter President Conner Barnes and Vice President Ryan Snyder worked to put together a plan that would spread to the fraternity's national level.

"The original plan was to pitch the idea to our other chapters around the nation and see what they could do to help out," Barnes said. "When our nationals got word of what we were doing in Tuscaloosa to help out, they wanted to take the idea and spread it to all of our chapters in attendance at a conference this summer, as well as the alumni in attendance."

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America are Phi Psi's nationwide philanthropic partner. Barnes said after they explained their plan to help out the Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama, those at the national headquarters helped make the fundraiser national instead of solely local.

"The damage done to the Boys & Girls Club of West Alabama by the tornado has given Phi Psi an opportunity to focus the efforts of our chapters and Alumni Associations on one Boys & Girls Club," stated Tryon Hubbard, Alabama alum and national president of Phi Kappa Psi.

Stephen Miller, UA alum and senior unit director at the West Alabama Boys & Girls Club said, "I think it's important for students to always give

back. And, the fact that you have a group of Greek guys that want to come out and adopt us as their local philanthropy, I think it means a lot to our kids, to the community, as well as the campus of UA. It speaks volumes about college students that are not only here to get an education, but to give back in the process."



*One brave undergraduate
volunteers for the dunk tank
during the carnival.*

With the help of UA grad Bo Latham, Snyder and Barnes put together a video telling about their help with the local Boys & Girls Club that is now featured on the national website, phikappapsi.com.

Barnes said the video was also featured at the fraternity's national conference, and an article about their work will be printed in the next issue of the national magazine.

"Our whole goal is to aid those who have been a part of this tragedy," said Shawn Collinsworth, executive director of Phi Kappa Psi. "Our hearts go out to them...it really affects all of us. We want to make sure that we, as Phi Psi men, are here to help where we're needed and where we can."

Hubbard said, "The result of the campaign will be a better facility for the Boys and Girls Club and more focus by our chapter on working with the club in the future. The children served by the club will be the ultimate beneficiaries, not only of the facility, but of the hands-on service by our chapter down the road."

To support or donate to Phi Psi's efforts to rebuilding the Boys & Girls Club, visit phikappapsi.com/Today/BoysandGirlsClub.

30 Years of Advising

Jay Masingill '68 Retires after Three Decades as Advisor

Jay Masingill '68 permanently retired as advisor at the end of the fall 2010 semester. Jay began service as the Chapter's second advisor in the fall of 1977 after Dr. John F. Ramsey's retirement as a faculty member of the University. Serving as advisor for a fraternity is not an easy task. Living up to Dr. Ramsey's legacy is even more daunting. Jay described it this way: "Me following Dr. Ramsey as advisor is like Ray Perkins following Coach Bryant as head football coach."



Jay's work began with a group struggling to adjust to a rapidly changing campus environment. The anti-establishment culture on campuses across the nation proved difficult for recruiting for the young Chapter. The physical house began showing its age and the young alumni base was not in a position to provide solid financial support. With more established Chapters gradually leaving the west side of campus for 'new row,' the brothers soon found themselves alone on Mars Spring Road.

By the end of the 1970s, the Chapter shut its doors but immediately alumni began the process of rebuilding the Chapter. This process involved a restoration of the Chapter House and a massive recruiting endeavor. By the late 1980s, under

"As far as I'm concerned, Jay is Alabama Alpha. I don't think we'll ever be able to give back to him what he's given to us and the Chapter, ever."

—Todd Nugent '85

Jay's guidance the Chapter enjoyed membership numbers similar to the highest levels before revitalization. This extraordinary effort was recognized by the national fraternity and in 1990 Jay received the Outstanding Advisor Award for Phi Kappa Psi.

In the spring of 1997, Jay announced his retirement as advisor after twenty years of service. Undergraduate brothers presented him with a pledge paddle at the Founders Day celebration. After Jay's retirement, a few brothers answered the call of duty to volunteer their time as advisors. However, just like Michael Jordan and, more recently, Brett Favre, the retirement was not permanent. Soon after the 2003 initiation of a new group of brothers, Jay again volunteered to serve.

Jay's recognition by Chapter brothers goes well beyond multiple receipts of the Outstanding Alumni Award and a special recognition given to him and **Fred Clay '67** at the Chapter's 25th Founders Day celebration. Jay's reputation as one of Phi Kappa Psi's longest serving and most qualified advisors is well established at the national fraternity level as well. At the 1984 meeting of the G.A.C., Fred Clay and Jay received special recognition from the national fraternity's vice president, George Humphries, for their work with Alabama Alpha.

While going about his duties as Chapter advisor, Jay was quick to deflect praise, recognize accomplishments of others, and acknowledge

"When Jay retired as advisor for the first time, I had the privilege of trying to fill his shoes as a 'very junior' advisor.

Jay was there with me every step of the way, and his leadership during that time was not only critical for me but also for the Chapter in general."

—Brad Turner '89

his mentor, Dr. Ramsey. I feel comfortable speaking for many undergraduates over the past 30 years in acknowledging a debt of gratitude to Jay for his time and effort in supporting our beloved Chapter so well, for so long.

Thank you, Jay, for all of your hard work.

James Newman '88

"If it was not for Jay's participation while I was an active member, I would not be involved with the chapter today. Jay instilled in me and many others the true idea that being a member of our fraternity is not just four years of partying. It is a lifelong endeavor which, when called upon to serve, you do so with passion to continue the traditions and ideals to pass to the next generation of Phi Psi's."

—Marc Robins '84

FOUNDERS DAY 2011 RECAP

On Sunday, February 27, the Birmingham Alumni Association hosted Founders Day at Pine Tree Country Club in Birmingham. Nearly 100 alumni and undergraduate brothers were in attendance. Our guest speaker this year was our own **Tryon Hubbard '64**, who is serving as SWGP of our national fraternity. Tryon gave an update on the status of our national fraternity and discussed his three areas of focus for his term as SWGP, which are scholarship, community service, and a mentoring initiative. He concluded by giving every member in attendance a wallet-sized copy of *The Creed of Phi Kappa Psi* and challenged us all to read it every day for two weeks to emphasize its principles in our daily lives.

The House Corporation honored **John Adam Page '05** with the James H. Webb Most Outstanding Alumnus Award. John Adam was recognized for

his tireless efforts over the past several years coordinating the Alabama Alpha Tailgate Experience on the front lawn of the Chapter House. He has served for several years as an assistant Chapter advisor and became the lead Chapter advisor on January 1, upon the retirement of **Jay Masingill '68**.

Peyton Harris '07 was presented with the Most Outstanding Active Award by the Chapter. Peyton was elected due to his academic accomplishments, his leadership, and his influence on the Chapter.

Special thanks go to **Ryan Johnston '99** and **Andrew Watson '95** for doing a great job in planning and hosting Founders Day.

Alabama Alpha Remembers

Jeremy D. Norrell '88

Brother **Jeremy Daniel Norrell '88** joined Chapter Eternal on May 22 after succumbing to recent health complications.

Jeremy pledged the Alabama Alpha Chapter of Phi Kappa Psi in the fall of 1987 and was initiated



into the brotherhood September 10, 1988. His tenure with the Chapter is best described as one who served his fellow brother, the Chapter, and the fraternity with a big smile, a larger heart, and a selfless nature.

In the fall of 1989, most of the Chapter's financial resources for our social schedule focused on Homecoming, Caveman, and preparing for Founders Day. The previous graduation had depleted our Chapter's membership and our fall rush produced fewer pledges than we had planned. To improve morale and create recruitment events, our Chapter brothers began brainstorming for inexpensive entertainment ideas. Jeremy had an idea. His solution to the problem was Elvis. Six weeks after formal rush, the dining room hosted two middle-aged DJ's spinning Elvis tunes and disco records while brothers, pledges, and dates tried to remember how to dance to the rhythm. The dancing was terrible, but on a brighter note, the Chapter's first Elvis party was born.

Jeremy's service to the Chapter and his brothers was boundless. After the disappointing numbers from the previous fall rush, Chapter brothers created a plan to increase membership for the fall of 1990. Jeremy answered this call and played the lead role in assembling the largest pledge class in Chapter history. This pledge class of 29 increased the Chapter's membership by 100 percent. The following academic year, Jeremy served the Chapter as vice president.

Jeremy graduated from the University of Alabama in 1992 with a double major in political science and English. As an alumnus, his frequent visits to the Chapter House and attendance at the 1992 G.A.C. are indicative of his bond with brothers. After graduation, Jeremy's professional career took him into pharmaceutical sales and a stint as a recording engineer.

While it is with a heavy heart I write this eulogy, I cannot help but laugh, smile, and even giggle like a teenager, as I reflect upon my memories with Brother Jeremy Daniel Norrell.

James "Yames" Newman '88

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SAVE THE DATE Homecoming / Saturday, October 8

Michael Newman '65 Enters Chapter Eternal

It is with much sadness that we share news of the death of **Michael Yant Newman '65** on Monday, June 6, 2011. Mike lived in Vestavia, Alabama, during his high school years and pledged Phi Psi, along with **Dyar Burttram '65**, paving the way for **Fred Stakes '66**, **Drew Peterson '66**, **Speedy Lawrence '66**, **Gene Glass '67**, **Bruce Burttram '67**, **Lee Pike '67**, **Terry McCloud '67** and myself, all from Vestavia, over the next two years. Mike served the Chapter as president and was the recipient of the James H. Webb Outstanding Alumnus Award.

Mike and his father built a thriving oil and convenience store business in the Ft. Myers, Florida, area. Mike loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman in the waters of south Florida. Several years after selling the business, Mike contracted multiple sclerosis. He

eventually moved to Hendersonville, North Carolina, where he continued what became a 20-year battle with an incurable disease that robbed him of his mobility and physical strength, but never his good humor, strong principles, and love for the University of Alabama and Phi Psi.



Mike enjoyed all the love one could hope for in a wonderful family life with his wife, Janet, and son, Andrew. Our families stayed very close through the years and shared many happy times together. Janet, Andrew, Ruth Ann, and I, along with their dear friend Wendy and his caregivers, were with him when he went to his rest. He was strong in will, until the end, always being the man he was, and one we can all be proud to call our brother.

Fred Clay '66