

Volunteers Needed to Ensure Longevity of Alabama Alpha

How Will You Answer the Call?

If you've been to Tuscaloosa lately, you're probably like me and are amazed at the growth of the campus. More than 38,000 students attend the University of Alabama, and a majority of them are from outside the state. The infrastructure needed to support the larger student population has exploded. There are so many new buildings and roads that the campus barely resembles the school I attended—not to mention the explosion of apartments, restaurants, and retail shops in Tuscaloosa.

The Greek system at Alabama has also changed. The average fraternity has 110 members, and the largest ones have nearly 200 members. To handle that many members, the vast majority of fraternities have built new houses or have renovated and built additions to their existing houses. With budgets exceeding \$1 million, large kitchen staffs to support the members, "swaps" so large they can't be held at a chapter house, and ever-increasing university regulation, many of us long for the more intimate fraternity experiences we had when things

were less complicated and more meaningful. But change is inevitable; though we may not always like all of the changes, the alternative is irrelevance.

Many alumni worked diligently for several years to raise more than \$1.25 million and build a Chapter House that will meet the needs of our members and keep Alabama Alpha relevant on campus for decades to come. However, a chapter house alone does not a fraternity make. It is the people who make a fraternity.

That is where you come in. Although today's fraternity experiences are vastly different from the ones we had, we still share a Ritual and Creed with today's members. We have an obligation to ensure Alabama Alpha is always healthy and we as alumni members are contributing our time and energy to help our young members.

Consider what role you can play. We need volunteers for our Chapter advisory team which works with undergraduate members

on a weekly basis. We also need volunteers for our House Corporation Board which oversees the facility and meets on a monthly basis. If you're not ready to make one of those commitments, please consider being a guest speaker and discuss your career with our students or lending your expertise in some other area to serve as a role model for them. Whatever your role, we need willing, helping hands.

The life and health of an organization such as ours depends on the character and generous spirit of its members, both active and alumni. The framework has been built to support a thriving fraternity. We need *your help* to make Alabama Alpha the best fraternity experience at the University of Alabama. To learn more about opportunities to help, you can contact me at price291@hotmail.com or at (205) 229-1419.

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

LUCKY IN LIFE

Kyle Bazemore '84 Discovered New Perspectives in the Brotherhood of Alabama Alpha



Kyle Bazemore '84 was excited to be part of the process of reestablishing the Chapter and having input in the changes that would affect all members. "I felt an immediate connection to my Phi Kappa Psi brothers. They put an emphasis on lifting each other up and wanted to make the world a better place."

Kyle says he owes who he is as a man and the success he has in his career solely to Phi Kappa Psi. "Coming from the small town of Sylacauga, Ala., to the University of Alabama was a shock for me. My hometown was a very conservative cotton industry town. Meeting individuals from different backgrounds, religious beliefs, and from all over the country was a real eye-opener." Kyle appreciated Alabama Alpha due to its smaller size and the camaraderie felt with his brothers. Kyle learned there were other ways to view the (Continued on page 2)



Kyle Bazemore '84 and his three daughters.

LUCKY IN LIFE

(Continued from page 1)

world and how to trust new people. "The years at the Chapter House molded me into who I am today. I know that wherever I go, I can connect with a Phi Kappa Psi brother."

To the undergraduates and young alumni Kyle offers this advice: "No matter what you are learning or going through, it is something that you will use later. Take advantage of networking opportunities and reach out to alumni for career advice." Kyle emphasizes that Phi Kappa Psi is not just four years, it really is for life. "Even when I don't see my brothers for a long time, when we get back together, it's like time froze and we pick up right where we left off."

When the Chapter House Kyle knew as his home for four years was torn down to be rebuilt, he was a little heartbroken. "But, when I visited the rebuilt Chapter House, I was reminded it wasn't the Chapter House building that made Alabama Alpha special, it is our brotherhood."

"When life gets hard, you always have your core and the bonds of the brotherhood are my core. I feel energized when connecting with a brother I have not heard from for some time." Kyle is loyal to Alabama Alpha and when there was a need for strong direction in communications, Kyle was there to help. He serves on the board of directors as the secretary.

"The men and creed of Alabama Alpha empowered me to follow my dream career in the automotive industry." Kyle works for Infiniti Americas as the director of communications for the U.S., Canada, and Mexico branches of the company. "I am the luckiest guy in the world; when I was 3, I knew I wanted to work with cars." Kyle is able to travel extensively in his position and work around cars all day. Traveling is one of Kyle's passions and he is on a plane every week. "I have thousands of brothers and no matter where I am, I know I can find a Phi Kappa Psi." Kyle has three daughters and resides in Franklin, Tenn., when he is not in travel mode. You can connect with Kyle at kyle.bazemore@infiniti.com.



Brothers gather outside the Chapter House with Ms. Brittany Wagner after her talk to the Chapter.

Alabama Alpha Seeing Constant Growth in Academics and Philanthropy

Phi Kappa Psi Alabama Alpha is coming to a close on our fall semester. Our Chapter has 94 active members and 50 new members. Our members have also been involved in many philanthropic events around campus.

Last spring, our active members achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.12. Our Chapter ranked above the Greek men's average of 3.10. Additionally, the 2016 new member class achieved a GPA of 3.25, which ranked fifth out of 31 new member classes. Our Chapter introduced a minimum GPA of 2.75 for initiation and active membership three years ago. This has led to a consistent improvement in academic performance.

Our Chapter has participated in many philanthropic events. We served more than 300 hours at the Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama. We are also supporters of the B+ Foundation, an organization focused on assisting the children and families fighting through cancer. We have co-sponsored Battle of the Bands and a cookout with several other Greek houses. Our new members began a campaign to raise \$3,000 for UA's School of Social Work's Youth Services Institute.

At the University of Alabama, the recruitment process takes place over summer and

concludes after the first week of classes. Our recruitment team and several alumni hosted open houses for students and their families during their orientations. We concluded our new member education program on November 1 with a class of 50 new members.

This semester, Alabama Alpha was fortunate to host Ms. Brittany Wagner from Netflix's "Last Chance U." Ms. Wagner spoke about the importance of academic success and perseverance throughout life. Additionally, our Chapter was paired with Kappa Delta and Zeta Beta Tau for Homecoming. Our new members spent several days assisting in the creation of the sorority's lawn decoration, also known as "pomping."

In the upcoming semesters, Alabama Alpha will continue to stress the importance of academic success for both active and new members. We would also like to thank the alumni of Phi Kappa Psi and extend an invitation to our Founder's Day celebration on March 3 at the Chapter House.



In the Bond,
Cord Callaway '15
Chapter President
rccallaway@crimson.ua.edu



RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Recruitment this year went tremendously well for our Chapter. As recruitment chairman, I knew the key to having successful recruitment term was an outstanding team. I could not have asked for a better group; **Spencer Stephenson '15**, **Cord Callaway '15**, **Harrison Coburn '16**, and **Carl Buehler '16** were outstanding in their duties, and without their assistance, our Chapter would not have received such an exceptional pledge class.

We set a goal for the number for new members we wanted to have by summer's end, and we easily surpassed that mark with recruiting 50 new members. These young men truly encompass what we were looking for in potential new members to our Chapter: academic, social, and professional excellence.

I also would like to acknowledge **Andrew Watson '95** and **Marc Robins '84**, who served as our alumni recruitment advisors, for very generously giving their time and assistance to us. Being able to have a hand in shaping the future of this Chapter was something I will always be thankful for and proud of.

I truly believe the Chapter is in excellent hands moving forward with these young men becoming brothers of Phi Kappa Psi. It was truly a pleasure to serve as recruitment chairman for Alabama Alpha, and it is an experience I will forever hold dear.

In the Bond,
Craig J. Jarvis '14
Recruitment Chairman

Welcome, New Members

Jonathan Andry
New Orleans, La.

Cole Arey
Granite Bay, Calif.

Hayden Bressoud
Nashville, Tenn.

William Buehler
Marlton, N.J.

Carson Butler
Roseville, Calif.

Corey Butts
Gadsen, Ala.

Mitchel Canaday
Hilton Head, S.C.

Ian Capobianco
Long Island, N.Y.

Kevin Casey
Orland Park, Ill.

Owen Connolly
Sayville, N.Y.

Liam Coughlin
Marblehead, Mass.

Aaron Craig
Clanton, Ala.

Nicolas D'Amico
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Nicolas Disabato
Denver, N.C.

Matthew Ernst
Saint Charles, Ill.

Anthony Ferrone
Los Angeles, Calif.

Julian Godding
Chevy Chase, Md.

Michael Grafenstine Jr.
Huntington Valley, Pa.

Arthur Herrmann
Massapequa, N.Y.

Garrett Joseph
Canton, Ga.

Dillon Kane
London County, Va.

Daniel King
Fairfield, Conn.

James LaRoe IV
Dallas, Texas

William Lovegrove
Long Island, Texas

Toni Marinkovic
Palos Verdes, Calif.

Aidan McIlhargey
Palos Verdes, Calif.

Zachary McPherson
Birmingham, Ala.

Jonathan Mead
Silver Springs, Md.



Alabama Alpha welcomes 50 new members this fall.

Trevor Miller
Houston, Texas

Brett Moorman
Elmurst, Ill.

Alexander Norris
Puyallup, Wash.

Christian O'Neil
Naples, Fla.

Nicholas Parenti
Marlton, N.J.

Ryan Parker
Medford, N.J.

Alex Pembroke
Providence, R.I.

William Pencek
Berkeley Heights, N.J.

Adam Poindexter
London County, Va.

Steven Populorum
Chicago, Ill.

Jensen Quinn
Cincinnati, Ohio

Ethan Reblitz
Sarasota, Fla.

Brendan Reesing
Los Angeles, Calif.

Collin Reiter
Dallas, Texas.

Caleb Riley
Galesburg, Ill.

Alexander Ritz
Hindsdale, Ill.

Collin Seymour
Ebensburg, Pa.

Parker Smith
Atlanta, Ga.

Steven Stoma
Beaumont, Texas

Gregory Sullivan
Mamaroneck, N.Y.

John Walters
Ashburn, Va.

William Warwick
Newport Beach, Calif.

SAVE THE DATE Founders' Day 2018

*Please join us for
Founders' Day
at the Chapter House.
Saturday, March 3, 2018*

Social Hour at 11 a.m.
Lunch at 12 p.m.

Cost is \$20 per person
(pay at the door)

**RSVP by Wednesday,
February 28, 2018**
to **Shannon Price '88** at
price291@hotmail.com.

THE Ψ PSI

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

Address Service Requested

PSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
66044
PERMIT #570

Visit Us Online



Facebook
**Phi Kappa Psi -
Alabama Alpha Alumni**



Twitter: @PhiPsiAla



Alabama Alpha Chapter
www.phipsiala.com



Phi Kappa Psi National
www.phikappapsi.com



The University of Alabama
www.ua.edu

Chapter Officers

President
Cord Callaway '15
Tustin, Calif.

Recording Secretary
Patrick Swaney '15
Cincinnati, Ohio

Messenger
Trevor De Laat '17
's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands

Vice President
Spencer Stephenson '15
Dublin, Ohio

Corresponding Secretary
AJ Murphy '17
Babylon, N.Y.

Sergeant-at-Arms
Vinny Way '17
San Mateo, Calif.

Treasurer
Matthew Medick '17
Hinsdale, Ill.

Historian
David Bock '17
Fishers, Ind.

Chaplain
Hayden Tapert '17
Pasadena, Calif.

ALUMNI, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your personal, professional, and family news with us, and we'll print it in the alumni news section of *The Psi*. You can send your updates and any recent photos you may have to our new e-mail address: alumni.news@jehubbard.com. This address is solely dedicated to receiving these updates. We hope to hear from you soon, and be on the lookout for what is going on in your brothers' lives!