



# Alpha Phi TIDEings



A PUBLICATION OF THE ALPHA PHI CHAPTER OF THETA CHI • FALL 2015 ISSUE



Theta Chi Chi tour of Bryant Denny Stadium

## Join Us

*Larry Kloess III '77, Alpha Phi of Theta Chi Alumni Association President*

I trust everyone is having a good summer thus far; augmented with family vacations, garden harvesting, trips to new locations, and renewals of friendships across the country. Friendships, in fact, are at the core of our mission as the Alpha Phi Chapter's Alumni Association. We are all about renewing and recharging our fraternity friendships from many years ago, or even from yesterday. With our fast-paced society and mobile work-settings, it's been increasingly difficult to create and retain deep friendships in our lives. Our careers often take us to different locations, for different opportunities, with different responsibilities. It's quite rare that we stay in the same town throughout our careers, and this makes it all the more difficult to preserve the deep and meaningful friendships we enjoyed during our college days in T'Town.

The Alpha Phi Chapter's Alumni Association helps accomplish this by reconnecting all of us to our brothers from the Capstone. The Association helps to remind us of our times together during "the best four years of our lives" (as one of my pledge brothers often



Larry Kloess III ('77) & Col. Larry Kloes Jr. ('54)

*cont'd on pg 2*

Most Outstanding  
New Member - Adam  
Brandau



Most Outstanding  
Senior - Johnston  
Watkins



## OX Awards Day

Most Outstanding  
Junior- David Cadden



Most Outstanding  
Sophomore - Matt  
Gillham



*cont'd from pg 1*

describes his days at the fraternity). If you haven't already done so, I would invite you to join the Alumni Association. It's a very simple process. Just send an email to Brother Craig Cornwell ('77) with the following information:

Email: [cgcornwell@gmail.com](mailto:cgcornwell@gmail.com)

- Your name and graduation year
- Your email address (both work and home)
- Your home mailing address
- Your cell phone
- Your profession and job title (if not retired)
- Your spouse's name and number of children

And then, once you're a member of the Alumni Association, we ask you to do 6 simple things:

1. Visit the chapter house at least once every two years; and more often if possible.
2. During your visits, say hello to Kathy Murphy, the best housemother on the campus!
3. When called upon, agree to serve as mentors for the upperclassmen as they evaluate their career choices.
4. Attend and/or sponsor the Founders Day dinner each spring in Birmingham for the graduating seniors.
5. Find ways to reconnect thru reunions, homecomings, and other gatherings.

6. Update your contact information (address, email, phone, etc.) for our files.

We look forward to significantly expanding our membership ranks in the Association in the coming months, and to revitalizing the fraternity friendships that have meant so much to us. We already have the best fraternity on campus, in the best new house on campus, at the best location on campus, and with the best House Mother on campus. Now, we just need the best Alumni Association on campus.

Here's to friendship. RTR...

Larry Kloess '77

### Bottom Line Financials:

- The new house costs \$7.2 million
- We sold the old house for \$1.7 million
- We raised \$1.2 million in the campaign
- Half of the funds raised went into the new house construction budget.
- \$150,000 is in multi-year pledges receivable
- \$137,000 is in our reserve fund.
- The current mortgage is \$4.9M, and is being paid down methodically with house rentals/fees.

Additional contributions/pledges are welcome; please contact Brother Wes Wicker, '79, at [WWicker@SinclairTownes.com](mailto:WWicker@SinclairTownes.com).

## A Theta Chi Opinion

Steve Casey '75

**Brother Steve Casey is current president of the Birmingham Bar Association. This is a portion of a message that he recently sent to lawyers in that group about some recent unrest. It doubles as a wise message for Theta Chi brothers as educated leaders in their communities.**

Like many of you, I am saddened and deeply concerned about recent national events which cause me to question the direction in which we, as a society, are moving. As I write this message, some 3,000 national guardsmen and police are on the streets of Baltimore, Maryland, to help maintain peace and order in the wake of great turmoil and unrest. Protests are continuing in Ferguson, Missouri, Chicago, Oakland, Dallas, Philadelphia, New York City and Boston, and there is angst and uncertainty in many quarters of our country.

I look at our own community, steeped in a history of discriminatory practice and violence, and worry whether, or when, similar unrest might again visit our streets. To be sure, progress has been made in eliminating discriminatory practices in our country, and some may argue too little, too late. They may be right. But the fact remains that today, we see a growing distrust of many societal institutions, from law enforcement to schools to churches and courts, among others. Yet these institutions are fundamental, and necessary, to the Rule of Law and the foundation upon which our democracy was built.

I am not so naïve as to think that I know any of the answers or the path we should take. But I do know that civil conversation and debate is prerequisite to most any progress, and the conversation around these recent events must continue. As educated people, leaders in our communities, and champions and defenders of individual's rights, lawyers are uniquely situated to contribute to, and participate in, that conversation.

Most would agree that all of us exhibit some form of bias or prejudice in our lives, whether it be as harmless as choices in food or music, or as harmful as many biases against class, race or gender. When we begin our lives, I believe we are naturally drawn to that which is familiar. As we grow older and experience life, our attitudes and biases develop in our hearts and minds. Some of these are taught, of course, and some we come by on our own. For me, harmful bias or prejudice is a moral issue, and one that cannot be completely "legislated away." My personal view is that the challenges around this issue won't really be solved until people's hearts change, one at a time.

I am reminded of the "Birmingham Pledge," so artfully penned by our colleague Jim Rotch in 1997 and boldly displayed on the side of the Birmingham Police Department Central Headquarters on 1st Avenue North:

***I believe that every person has worth as an individual.***

***I believe that every person is entitled to dignity and respect, regardless of race or color.***

***I believe that every thought and every act of racial prejudice is harmful; if it is my thought or act, then it is harmful to me as well as to others.***

***Therefore, from this day forward I will strive daily to eliminate racial prejudice from my thoughts and actions.***

***I will discourage racial prejudice by others at every opportunity.***

***I will treat all people with dignity and respect; and I will strive daily to honor this pledge, knowing that the world will be a better place because of my effort.***

The website that hosts the pledge, [www.thebirminghampledge.org](http://www.thebirminghampledge.org), encourages individuals, one at a time, to "sign it, live it, [and] share it." The tenets of the pledge strike at the center of much of the tumult and unrest that our country is experiencing, and the message bears repeating time and again.

As lawyers, we play major roles in judicial and legislative processes within our communities, states and nation. We are largely viewed as "problem solvers" and are truly fortunate to have obtained an education that so many others can only dream about.



## Football Season is Coming

Alumni and guests are always welcome at the house, and especially on home game days. Some Food/Refreshments are generally available 2 ½ hours before kickoff. Check our website for details for each game.

You can find information about parking, traffic, quad activities at: [www.uagameday.com](http://www.uagameday.com).

**Game Parking**—Behind the house there is a convenient gameday bus shuttle stop for the University parking Lot “A”. Season passes guaranteeing you a space in Lot A can be purchased at that website for \$175. It will guarantee you a spot nearby the house.

## Tour the New House Online...and in Person!

If you haven't seen the new house, you have got to do it! Tours of the house will be given to visitors, prospects and alumni on gameday, or any other time you are in Tuscaloosa.

Our new house has been featured in a great video on YouTube, search for: “Grand Opening of the Theta Chi–Alpha Phi Chapter House (The University of Alabama).” Some online commentary about the new house can be found at [www.totalfratmove.com](http://www.totalfratmove.com).

“Theta Chi At Alabama Just Mollywhopped The Competition With A New, Monstrous House”

Check out our new website: [www.thetachiua.com](http://www.thetachiua.com), and join our group on Facebook: “**Theta Chi–University of Alabama.**”

## Alumni News

- Gordon O. Tanner ('70) is the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of the Air Force and Chief Legal Officer and Chief Ethics Official for the Air Force in Washington, D.C. In this role, he provides oversight, guidance and direction for legal advice provided by more than 2,600 Department of the Air Force military and civilian lawyers worldwide.
- Mike Ross ('86) is Eastern Regional President of Renasant Bank
- Ben Ayers ('86) - is Dean, Terry College School of Business, the University of Georgia
- John Ward ('77) was recently featured on NPR in his capacity as Director of the Division of Viral Hepatitis Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He has represented the U.S. at research conferences around the world, working toward prevention and cure.
- Phil Jarrell ('78) joined a number of alumni from the 1970's “Camelot” generation at the storied Flora-Bama for the annual April mullet tossing competition. His toss, officially measured at 73 feet, was recognized as the longest toss of the entire competition, in the aging Theta Chi alumni category.

## Making the Grade

The Alpha Phi Chapter had a GPA of 3.19 this spring. This is the highest GPA that the chapter has received in at least the past five years. This puts Alpha Phi in the top five for IFC fraternities.

*“A Theta Chi Opinion” cont'd from pg 3*

We have the capability to influence, and to participate meaningfully in efforts to help solve systemic challenges within our communities and our country.

I also encourage every members of our Bar association to take the Birmingham Pledge, and to share it with family, friends, and colleagues, and to ask them to do the same. A quote attributed to President Theodore Roosevelt says to “do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” The simplicity of this statement belies its empowering quality but also recognizes the limitations that all of us have. Some of us are more influential

than others, and some are more adept as change agents. But all of us share certain commonalities, beginning with an education and an understanding of the history and evolution of our democracy.

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. One heart at a time. That is one way to minimize the strife in our country as we work to know each other and see life through each other's eyes and walk in each other's shoes. Make the effort to do that when it is presented to you. We are uniquely positioned to see the world through different perspectives. And as we do that, we should do as we

are called to do in many areas of life: lead others into change . . . change that is right and good.

The world today is vastly different than the worlds in which many of us were raised. If history is an indication, we will continue to face significant challenges, but we will also enjoy progress and hope. When I visit with my grandchildren, I wonder what the world will look like when they are my age, and I question whether I am doing all that I can to ensure that their world will be as safe as possible and one with opportunity. Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

## From [www.thetachiua.com](http://www.thetachiua.com):

In a ceremony held in the new chapter house, Dr. Robert E. Witt, Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, received Theta Chi's Colonel Carlton K. Butler Award. This is a Student Affairs Hall of Fame Award given annually. It is presented to the faculty or staff member of the University of Alabama who has had the greatest positive impact on the quality of student life here at the Capstone. Colonel Carlton K. Butler was the director of the Million Dollar Band for 34 years, from 1935 to 1969. Under his leadership the band earned its national reputation it maintains today. The band grew from an 80 all-male ensemble to a 130 coed unit by the time of his retirement. During his time the band played in a total of 14 bowl games, three state of Alabama Governor's inaugurations and for President Truman's inauguration as well. Dr. Robert E. Witt served as the President of the University of Alabama from 2003 to 2012. His support of the Greek System has had a lasting impact on the Capstone and her students.



Theta Chi Brothers in the Jasons Society: (Left to Right) Marcus Gibson, Zach Stander, Clayton Williams, Colton Hill, David Harris, John Anderson

Brothers Clayton Williams, Colton Hill, and Zach Stander are Alpha Phi Chapter's newest members of The Jasons Society. "Jasons" is the senior mens' honor society of the University of Alabama. The Jasons Society represents the highest caliber of men at the University of Alabama. It is a society reserved for men who actively pursue outstanding qualities of academics, responsibility, and leadership. Founded in 1914, the Jasons have honored outstanding students at the Capstone for over 100 years.

## The Alpha Phi/Theta Chi Alumni Hat

*At the alumni leadership weekend a humorous new project was initiated to honor our graying alumni. The Alumni group received a gift of a quantity of identical Alabama hats as pictured on the group photo. As an Alpha Phi alumni, you may be getting one of these one day. If you were a recipient of a hat at the leadership weekend, the distribution rules are as follows, and may be conveniently clipped out of this issue:*



### The Alpha Phi / Theta Chi Alumni Hat Directions

You are now the fortunate custodian of the Theta Chi Alumni Hat. YOU ARE NOT the owner. You will serve as its registered keeper, until you pass it on to another Theta Chi alumni custodian, sometime in the next 12 months... And then register that transfer online at [cgcornwell@gmail.com](mailto:cgcornwell@gmail.com). There are a limited number of these hats, all of which are to be exclusively entrusted forever to the custody of Alabama Theta Chis. Directions for hat recipient/custodian:

#### Recipient must wear this hat at:

- A. Some Alabama sporting event,
- B. Some other Theta Chi chapter at another campus, or
- C. Some faraway place, like the Great Wall of China, or Auburn;

Must post a picture of yourself in the hat online, on the chapters website: [www.thetachiua.com](http://www.thetachiua.com) Facebook group: "Theta Chi- University of Alabama"... or at least email the picture to another Theta Chi, if you are shy.

Must re-gift/transfer the hat on as a birthday gift to a younger Alpha Phi/Theta Chi brother when he celebrates a "big" birthday, those are defined as: 30/40/50/60/ (or any birthday over 60.

Must, with the transfer to the new custodian, include a copy of these instructions, and the magnum Carrying pouch.

Must never remove, the "official licensed collegiate product" laser tag under penalty of ridicule.

Must tell the Alpha Phi alumni association to whom you passed your hat...So we might monitor its whereabouts. And also update your information on the chapter alumni Data Base by contacting:

Craig Cornwell  
[cgcornwell@gmail.com](mailto:cgcornwell@gmail.com)  
 (334) 538-5390

**New Alumni Leadership** – It is our pleasure to announce the following volunteers who were elected last fall and continue to serve Alpha Phi Chapter in 2015:

**Alumni Association** – The Alpha Phi Alumni Association is responsible for alumni communications and activities. The Alumni Association is responsible for publishing the Alpha Phi Tidings newsletter, the Facebook page, Linked In page, and website: [thetachiuu.com](http://thetachiuu.com). The Alumni Association hosts alumni receptions, Homecoming and A-Day events at the house.

President- Larry Kloess III '77  
Larry@claytonadvisors.com  
(615) 397-2601

Dave Pylant '75  
Vice President (President-Elect)  
dfpylant@gmail.com  
(205) 982-0020

Craig Cornwell '77  
Newsletter Editor  
cgcornwell@gmail.com  
(334) 538-5390

Wesley Wicker '79  
Annual Campaign Chairman  
wwicker@sinclairtownes.com  
(404) 213-4446

Lucas Elgie '05  
Social Media Chairman  
Lucas.elgie@gmail.com  
(205) 310-2393

Frank Weber '76  
Senior Night Founders' Day Chairman  
fweber@bellsouth.net  
(205) 540-6358

Pete Mackey '78  
Mobile Alumni Chairman  
psmackey@bcmlawyers.com  
(251)510-6905

Lee Wagner '88  
Atlanta Alumni Chairman  
Llw541h@att.net  
(770) 355-8549

Michael Wright '11  
Tuscaloosa Alumni Chairman  
Michael@jnjapparel.net

Jeff Culton '86  
Chapter Archives Coordinator  
jeff@expodisplays.com  
(205) 281-4093

Chris Wagner '18  
Undergraduate Alumni Chairman:  
cdwagner2@crimson.ua.edu  
(678) 984-6887

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the president of any one of our three active alumni groups. We welcome alumni who are interested in chapter and alumni activities.

**Get engaged!**



Alpha Phi  
**TIDINGS**

Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi  
P.O. Box 2824  
Mobile, AL 36652  
*Address Service Requested*

**House Corporation** – The Alpha Phi House Corporation is the legally incorporated entity that owns the fraternity house. The House Corporation is responsible for the financial operations, budgeting and management of the chapter house.

Toby Roth '90 President  
troth@capitolresourcesllc.com | (334) 221-8796

Chris Richards '05  
Vice President (President-Elect)  
richards.chris.t@gmail.com | (205) 482-6754

Warren Giardina '99  
Treasurer  
warren.giardina@wellsfargo.com | (205) 641-0359

Robert Baugh '79  
Secretary  
rbaugh@sirote.com | (205) 930-5307

Dru Horton '98  
Past President  
druhorton@gmail.com | (251) 463-5511

Clayton Williams '16  
Undergraduate Chapter President  
Cpwilliams1@crimson.ua.edu | (615) 838-3902

Zach Stander  
Chapter Treasurer  
zmstander@crimson.ua.edu | (256) 278-8383

**Chapter Advisory Board** – The Chapter Advisory Board serves as a mentoring organization for the undergraduate officers of the chapter. Board members are assigned to a particular chapter officer and expected to communicate and mentor the undergraduates, utilizing their own fraternity experiences and “Best Practices” for each office.

President, Phillip Burns '08  
lota Lambda/Longwood University '08  
Phillip.d.Burns@gmail.com | (757) 876-1028

John Conway III '70  
jconway111@charter.net | (334) 953-1341

Chad Dolan '14  
cddolan@crimson.ua.edu | (251) 422-3588

Stanford Golden '65  
goldenstanf@comcast.net | (615) 896-5546

Eddie Parker '77  
ebparker@mindspring.com | (256) 234-2982

Lawren Pratt '88  
lp@sain.com | (205) 940-6420

Jonathan Rummel '12  
jrummel@go.olemiss.edu | (662) 915-2550

Alan Stevens '73  
alandstevens@bellsouth.net | (205) 901-7798

Frank Weber '76  
fweber@bellsouth.net | (205) 540-6358