



# Alpha Phi TIDEings

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## Mike Ross '86 Elected House Corporation President

*The Alpha Phi House Corporation owns and operates the chapter house at the University of Alabama. As 501(c)(7) non-profit organization, the house corporation represents the legal entity of Alpha Phi Chapter of Theta Chi.*

Your House Corporation is in a state of transition. Brother Toby Roth was elected to the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi at the most recent Biennial Convention. I was humbled to be asked to succeed him. Brother Roth did an outstanding job of leading the House Corporation (among other things) for several years. I will be leaning on him for continuing guidance and counsel!

We have also have transitional leadership for both the **Chapter Advisory Board** and the **Alumni Association**. We are indeed fortunate to have Brother **Frank Weber '76** step in as President of the Chapter Advisory Board and Brother **Mike Mann '75** as President of the Alumni Association. I look

forward to working with them as we move forward.

The House itself is in great shape! Other than the usual wear and tear, and some ongoing issues with the elevator and HVAC (that we and all of the other Greek organizations with new houses have experienced), nothing out of the ordinary is in need of attention. We certainly hope that everyone will have the opportunity to come by and see the house this spring, or some time in the near future!

Financially, the House Corporation is in good shape. The undergraduate chapter has done an outstanding job of making sure that the House is full each semester. Therefore, the rent collected has been more than sufficient to provide for debt service, repairs and maintenance. Also, due to past prudence on behalf of our prior leadership, we do have a nice cash cushion in case of emergency. It's hard to believe, but our new house is now five years old!

The leadership of the House Corporation, Chapter Advisory Board, Alumni Association, and the leadership of the undergraduate chapter held a mini-retreat on Lake Tuscaloosa on February 2nd. To a person, our Alumni were very impressed with our undergraduate leadership.~

On a personal note, I'd like to thank our fellow alumnus brothers that have taken an interest and been involved with Alpha Phi. Also, selfishly, I would like to see more of us become involved! Not only would our undergraduate chapter benefit from your wisdom, I would love the excuse to get together with you two to three times a year and reminisce about our time in Titledown!!

Fraternally,

Mike Ross '86  
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### House Corporation Officers

**Curtis Finch '79, Treasurer**  
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**Robert Baugh '79, Secretary**  
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**Duane Lamb '76, House Chairman**  
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**Mark Piglia '20, Chapter President**  
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**Brendan Healy '20,**  
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## From the National Fraternity—Toby Roth '90, National Marshal

Last summer I had the privilege of being elected to the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi, and now serve as the International Marshal of our beloved fraternity. In just nine months of service, I have quickly come to appreciate the leadership role that Theta Chi fraternity is playing in the

national conversation about several critical issues facing our fraternity system today.

**Safety.** Six years ago, Theta Chi Fraternity took the bold step of launching the Sacred Purpose – an organization-wide effort to promote health, safety and the well being of our members nationwide. The mission of the Sacred Purpose initiative is to protect our brothers and the broader campus community by providing health and safety education. The central component of this program was the creation of the office of Vice President of Health & Safety in each of our undergraduate chapters. The VPHS is the third highest-ranking officer in the chapter, and he is tasked with implementing the mission of the Sacred Purpose.

Since the inception of the Sacred Purpose, over 1,500 health and safety programs have been sponsored on a variety of topics, including: responsible alcohol use, drug abuse prevention, mental health awareness, suicide prevention, hazing, sexual assault prevention, and fire/life safety. As validation of these meaningful efforts, in 2016 the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) presented Theta Chi its prestigious Laurel Wreath Award honoring our success with this innovative program.

**Student Rights.** Theta Chi is also committed to the rights of our student members – most notably their constitutional rights of Due Process and Freedom of Association. Of course, the Maxim of Theta Chi is “Alma Mater First and Theta Chi for Alma Mater.” However, increasingly around the country, our chapters are experiencing situations where, incredibly, their alma mater is imposing limitations and even all-out assaults on these rights. While our Greek system at the University of Alabama enjoys a very positive working relationship with the UA administration, that is not the case on numerous other campuses.

These problems are occurring in every region of the country and include: prohibiting single-sex organizations on campus; system-wide suspensions/discipline of all fraternities or even the entire Greek system for one chapter’s alleged misdeeds; punishing a chapter or individual members without due process, such as notification of charges and a right to have a hearing; closing campuses to new fraternity expansion even when demand exists; and imposing deferred recruitment/rush when data does not establish this improves student performance (in fact, the data reveals the opposite).

To address these fundamental – if not existential issues – facing our fraternity system, Theta Chi has joined with our peer fraternities to challenge unacceptable university policies across the country. Our coordinated efforts have included walking away from university recognition and operating under the umbrella of independent IFCs. We’ve gone so far as to go to court to challenge the most outrageous of these university policies. To be clear, Theta Chi will not defend bad behavior and our chapter members should expect to be held accountable if they break the rules. However, Theta Chi will stand firmly behind chapters and members that live up to our ideals and standards, yet face unconstitutional infringement of their fundamental student rights.

While these safety and student rights issues may strike you as unrelated to our Alpha Phi chapter and the University of Alabama, I can assure you they are very much relevant to fraternity life in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Student safety has been an issue on our campus and in our own chapter, and as for student rights we should be mindful that the higher education community is subject to trends and precedents just like other institutions in this country. Today’s campus issues in the Ivy League or Pac-12 are just a few short years away from the campuses of the ACC, Big Ten, and yes, the SEC. Complacency and indifference do not serve our fraternity or our university well, and you can take comfort in knowing that Theta Chi fraternity and its Grand Chapter are identifying and addressing these critical issues wherever they arise.

Fraternally,

Toby Roth '90, President  
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Mike Ross (left) awards the fraternity’s Citation of Honor to Toby Roth’ 90 and Dave Pylant ’75 for their service to Alpha Phi. (Far right) Chapter President Mark Piglia ’20.



Mark Piglia '20,  
Chapter President

## From the Undergraduate Chapter Mark Piglia '20, President

*Fellow brothers of Alpha Phi, it is with great excitement that I share the recent successes of our dear chapter with you:*

- This past fall, Alpha Phi initiated 52 pledges into our brotherhood. This impressive group of young men flock to the Capstone from as near as Birmingham, as far as Los Angeles, and anywhere in between. This pledge class achieved a 3.27 GPA, tied for 4th highest among all IFC fraternity new members.
- Our chapter, consisting of 135 active members, attained a Fall 2018 GPA of 3.23, ranking us 7th among all 31 IFC fraternities and 5th among IFC fraternities having more than 40 members. This GPA was a considerable improvement from our 3.10 in Spring 2018.
- **Jack Fenimore '19** finished a successful term as President of Capstone Men and Women in the end of January. **Stephen Guerrero '22** was selected to join the distinguished group of students. The Capstone Men and Women serve as the school's official student ambassadors.
- **Hunter Scott '21** was elected as the Vice President of Financial Affairs for the Student Government Association in early March. Hunter previously served as a senator in the College of Arts and Science, where he was a member on the Financial Affairs committee. Prior to Senate, Hunter served as a Councilor in SGA's First Year Council and he was involved with Freshman Forum. Hunter serves Theta Chi as the chapter's Vice President of Health and Safety.
- **Cade Boseck '21** was elected as a senator for the College of Engineering in the SGA elections held in March. Cade currently serves the chapter as Academic Chairman.
- Several of our members are active in organizations across campus, including: Student Government Association, Greek Ambassadors, Capstone Men and Women, Business Honors Program, ROTC, Crimson Tide Productions, Arts and Sciences Ambassadors, and many more.
- The undergraduate chapter raised more than \$2,000 for the Tuscaloosa Out of Darkness Walk, benefiting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The chapter has participated in the walk each year since 2014 after the loss of Brother Parker Jordan.



Hunter Scott '21 was recently elected to serve as the Vice President of Financial Affairs for the Student Government Association.



Stephen Guerrero '22 was recently selected to join Capstone Men and Women, an extremely honorable group of students who serve as the University's official student ambassadors.

We are constantly pushing ourselves to excel. Hoping to remain on pace with the scope of the University, we have become more aggressive in our out-of-state recruitment. With close to 60% of the Capstone's students coming from outside the state of Alabama, our chapter has adapted and reflects near the same demographic as the University. We look to recruit the best young men UA has to offer, and shape these individuals into Theta Chi men through our educational pledge program. If you have any recommendations of potential new members or suggestions for the rush process, please contact our rush chairman, **Nicholas Slay '20**.

We appreciate the support of our Alpha Phi alumni network. Numerous alumni have generously volunteered their free time to work hand-in-hand with the undergraduate leadership to ensure the Alpha Phi chapter is as strong as it can be. If you are ever in Tuscaloosa for game day, or simply passing through, feel free to stop by our wonderful chapter house and meet our active undergraduate members. We enjoy getting to know our alumni and hearing about their unique experience at the Capstone. Every day we strive to uphold the excellence of our chapter, and the many successes it has accomplished since its installation at the University 93 years ago.

Roll Tide!

Mark Piglia '20, Chapter President  
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(504) 495-1885

**Alumni Association** – The Alpha Phi Alumni Association serves as the alumni communications and social arm for alumni. The Alumni Association publishes **Alpha Phi Tidings** newsletter, the Facebook page, LinkedIn page, and website: [thetachiuia.com](http://thetachiuia.com). The Alumni Association hosts alumni receptions, Homecoming and A-Day events at the house:

**Mike Mann '75, President**

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**Dave Pylant '75, Past President**

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**Chapter Advisory Board** – The

Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) serves in an advisory role and mentors the leadership of the undergraduate chapter. Each

CAB member volunteers to work with a particular chapter officer, and the leadership of the chapter as a whole, in order to assist our officers by offering their own experience and “best practices” throughout the year.

**Frank Weber '76, President**

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## Dr. Mike Mann '75, President of the Alpha Phi Alumni Association

The Alpha Phi Alumni Association serves as the alumni communications and social arm for alumni. The Alumni Association publishes Alpha Phi Tidings newsletter, the Facebook page, Linked In page, and website: [thetachiuia.com](http://thetachiuia.com). The Alumni Association hosts alumni receptions, Homecoming and A-Day events at the house.

As the incoming President of the Alpha Phi Alumni Association, I want to recognize the efforts of Brother **Dave Pylant '75** for his leadership over the last two years. He has done a remarkable job of “finding” lost brothers, getting e-mail addresses, and sending many notifications in order to keep everyone informed. If you know of a Brother that would like to get e-mails, newsletters, and other updates from the Alumni Association and active chapter, please feel free to contact me.

Unfortunately, for many of us, “life” has caused us to drift away from the fraternity brothers that were such an integral part of our college experience. After we left Alabama, marriage, kids, career, home ownership, travel, and a thousand other things left little time to stay engaged with our fraternity. If you are like me, you often wondered what ever happened to some of the brothers that you were close to, not to mention the girls they used to date, and in some cases--married. I have been richly rewarded in recent years to reconnect with a number of brothers from my era. It amazes me how easy it is to pick up the conversation where we left off decades ago.

*I would like to invite every Alpha Phi to reconnect with our fraternity.* I attended the International Convention last summer (my first!), and the Chapter Leadership Retreat in February with the undergraduate chapter officers. Our chapter is in great hands!

It will take little effort on your part, but you will find it worthwhile and enjoyable. I will do my best to keep you informed of those opportunities through: our Facebook page, our website ([thetachiuia.com](http://thetachiuia.com)), e-mail blasts, and this newsletter.

The Alumni Association hosts pre-game meals and receptions at the house, and the annual Founder's Day event in Birmingham.

We have an active alumni group in Mobile. We would like start one in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Huntsville. We are looking for volunteers to help us lead the groups. It takes very little time, and I guarantee that you'll enjoy it.

I also need your help in identifying a new Vice President for the Alumni Association. It requires very little time and no training or money. We need an alumni brother who wants to keep other brothers informed and is willing to become the President 2 years from now. Please contact me with any potential nominees. I hope to hear from you soon.

Fraternally,

Mike Mann, '75  
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Lunch or brunch will be served at the house two hours prior to kick-off for most home football games. Check the website: [thetachiuia.com](http://thetachiuia.com) for updates and announcements.

### 2019 Fall Football Schedule:

Aug. 31 Duke-Atlanta, GA

Sept. 7 New Mexico St.-HOME

Sept. 14 South Caroline-Columbia

Sept. 21 Southern Miss-HOME

Sept. 28 Ole Miss-HOME

Oct. 5 OPEN

Oct. 12 Texas A&M-College Station

Oct. 19 Tennessee-HOME

Oct. 26 Arkansas-HOMECOMING

Nov. 2 OPEN

NOV. 9 LSU-HOME

Nov. 16 Miss. St.-Starkville

Nov. 23 Auburn-Auburn

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