Alpha Chapter Finishes Solid Foundation and Prepares for More Success

*Things are good at 161 Rugby Road. As we head into our 152nd year, we count our blessings:*

- For the first time in our long history, we are completely debt free. The mortgage was paid off in October.
- The house is full with 24 brothers residing on premises. This allows our financial model to function well and we hope to fund short term improvements with margins.
- With our Chapter Excellence Fund (CEF) currently at $300,000, we plan to award about $15,000 in merit and need based scholarships to our Alpha actives in 2011. This valuable rush tool is the largest such fund at Virginia and the second largest at Chi Phi nationally.
- Capable and dedicated alumni continue to lead the way. John Harris ’82 has energized the active brotherhood as Chapter Advisor.
- Our kitchen was remodeled and streamlined as we converted from a commercial kitchen (all meals are now catered). New appliances included a stove, two refrigerators, washer, and dryer. The wood floors were also refinished and look terrific.
- In the coming year, the 2nd and 3rd floors will be renovated beginning with new windows and modern heating and air conditioning.
- In January, the boards of the Alpha Home Association (AHA) and Alpha Alumni Association will meet together to plot our future course. Our 100 year lease with The University renews in 2023 and we need to begin studying major upgrades to our house as we approach our second century at 161 Rugby Road.
As the fall semester unfolds, I’m proud to report that the brothers of the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi continue to excel in nearly every aspect of undergraduate life. While our fraternity retains one of the finest and most cohesive brotherhoods at the University, the level of brother involvement in the Charlottesville community and with the national fraternity has increased markedly over the past year. Specifically, Chi Phi brothers have sponsored multiple philanthropic events, sent weekly volunteers to mentor young students at the Field School for Boys, and attended the Chi Phi National Congress in Boston. While these achievements are notable, we still remain focused on ensuring the recruitment of a strong pledge class in the upcoming semester. Currently, we are in the process of preparing to bring in a solid pledge class so that we can perpetuate the storied traditions of 161 Rugby Road.

Chi Phi has been extraordinarily successful in raising support for local charities this semester. Hoodang, our annual philanthropic full-day concert, witnessed over five hundred guests in attendance and raised nearly $3,000 in donations for Charlottesville’s “Shelter for Help in Emergency”, a nonprofit organization protecting victims of domestic violence. We have also forged a connection with a program that organizes volunteers to tutor at a local elementary and middle school in Crozet. Each day of every week, Chi Phi sends several brothers to help kids with their homework and supervise after-school athletics. In the remaining weeks of the semester, our brothers are organizing a food drive to benefit the local emergency food bank and we are sponsoring a less fortunate family by financing gifts for the holiday season. With a handful of brothers serving on the Mid-Autumns Carnival executive committee, it is clear that Chi Phi produces student leaders who are generous with their time and excited to give back to the Charlottesville community.

Chi Phi brothers are also active participants in University-related activities and committed members of the Chi Phi National Fraternity. We have several brothers who serve on IFC Governing and Standards Boards and other individual brothers serve their greater student body on Student Council. We also have several brothers on different club sports teams and enjoy high participation in IM sports. George Lyle, an ROTC member and Hullabahoo singer, currently lives in a room on the lawn which he generously allows the rest of the brothers to use for tailgating before home football games. Chi Phi brothers continue to excel in the classroom, achieving high marks and gaining the reputation of being hard workers in the academic setting. This past July, several brothers attended and participated in the Chi Phi National Congress in Boston. All in all, our chapter is producing some very talented and well-rounded young men.

Rush is one of the most important functions that we perform as a house as it is critical to maintaining the traditions of Chi Phi and indirectly honoring the legacy of the alumni who have come before us. We are focused on the goal of recruiting a large pledge class of excellent character. Active brothers are taking the necessary steps toward making this goal a reality and we look forward to announcing the initiation of such a pledge class in the spring.

As my term as Alpha draws to a close, I am happy to reflect on the success and growth that we’ve enjoyed as a fraternity over the past year. One thing is clear: none of it would have been possible without the unwavering support and guidance of the alumni. On behalf of the active brothers at 161 Rugby Road, I would like to extend a heartfelt “thank you” for your commitment, service, and contributions. We wish you the best in the upcoming holiday season!
Alpha Awards Record
Scholarships

Due to the generosity of many alumni, Alpha was able to award record numbers and amounts of scholarships from the Alpha CEF Educational Trust. A total of $12,500 was granted to 10 well-deserving recipients (12 applied). On behalf of the active brothers, I wanted to thank each and every brother who has contributed to the Trust. We are making a positive difference in the lives of many of our active brothers and helping the Chapter with its future recruitment efforts. Special thanks and round of snaps to Jim Soderquist ’67 and Owen Parry ’65 who have done so much over the years to create and develop the Trust for the benefit of the Chapter.

After consulting with the active brothers, a few changes were made to the selection process this past year. In addition to criteria such as academic excellence, leadership skills and community service, part of the awards were directed to brothers with “needs based” financial situations. These brothers had also demonstrated strong success in the classroom but their respective financial conditions were also factored into the process.

Please join me in congratulating the following 2010/2011 Alpha CEF Educational Trust scholarship recipients:

- Daniel Verhotz
- Thomas Hickman
- Travis Tiffany
- James Bolling
- Lance Creath
- Gabe Rust-Tierny
- Henry O’Donnell
- John Brussard
- Ben Pasquarella
- Thomas Gibson

In honor of two of our most respected alumni, James Bolling ’11 is the winner of the Reddy Echols Scholarship award in honor of academic excellence and Travis Tiffany ’11 is the winner of the Jack Cook Scholarship award in honor of overall excellence. James maintains the highest GPA in the chapter and is a double major in biology and economics. He has been on the Dean's list every semester and serves as the Chapter’s community service chair. Travis received the highest ranking from the Chi Phi scholarship evaluation system and is majoring in foreign affairs and economics. He is the President of an organization that travels to Central America and the Caribbean providing free health care and is a tutor in a local middle school for boys, all while maintaining strong academic performance.

I would also thank National for its support of the CEF scholarship process and specifically John Hutzler (KD ’90) and his team for their good efforts. John Harris ’82 served as the Chair of the scholarship committee and was joined by Les Yonce IV ’94 and Rich Jacobs ’93. Thanks to Les and Rich for their devotion and good work in support of the CEF.

- John Harris ’82

Chi Phi Reunions Reception

June 4, 2011
2-4 p.m. at 161 Rugby Road!

Full Reunions information is online at www.virginiareunions.com

The Alpha Chapter is hosting a cocktail reception at 161 Rugby Road on Saturday, June 4, 2010, from 2 - 4 p.m. Returning Alpha Chapter alumni, spouses and guests, plus local and interested alumni are invited. This party is sponsored by your Alpha Home Association and is FREE to all.
Can You Spot the Chi Phi?

Can you find the Alpha Chapter brother in these photos (hint, some are easier than others!) Answers can be found on the back page.

Beta Report

Sean McGinty - Beta

The Chi Phi House at 161 Rugby Road is as lively as ever. Looking forward to 2011, we expect the activity to continue. For those who plan to come by the house this fall, you will immediately notice some big changes in and around 161 Rugby Road recently. The University has put in place plans to redo the front of the Art Museum and to put in new walkways through the quad beginning that process by removing the large hedges in front of the house.

The kitchen was updated in the summer. New appliances including a new stove and two refrigerators have been added as well. Brothers now can work on their culinary skills and keep their beers cold at the same time! Not only that, brothers can now wash their clothes with the recently new and improved washer and dryer in the basement. Lucky for us, we no longer have to wait for school breaks to be able to take our clothes home and have them washed.

The house is currently occupied by twenty-four brothers. This is the most living there in recent memory. We hope in the following years the desire to live at the best location in Charlottesville continues. With the higher number of brothers living in the fraternity, there is never a lack of action and always a brother to be found who is willing to spend some quality time with you. The actives are hoping that this brotherhood proves fruitful in the spring and impresses rush prospects with the idea that they would be joining a very close and active fraternity. We invite any alumni who are in Charlottesville to stop by 161 Rugby Road to check out the house and to chat with any brothers who are there at the time.
Alpha Chapter Leads the Way at National Congress

The 145th Chi Phi Congress was held in Boston July 15-18, 2010. Your chapter was well represented:

• Jim Soderquist ’67 was reelected for a second two year term as Grand Alpha of the Chi Phi Fraternity.

• Owen Parry ’65 was elected Vice Chairman of the Chi Phi Educational Trust.

• Alpha Home Association was awarded “Alumni Association of the Year” with a handsome plaque to commemorate the occasion.

• Brother Parry was presented the “Distinguished Service Award” for 2010.

Alumni Updates


Brock Jolly ’00, Jeff Draim ’01, Matt O’Neill ’99 and Chris Hamann ’99 ice climbing on Skaftafell, the largest glacier in Europe

Trey Garza ’07, Andrew Callahan ’05 and Dave Cowden ’03 hang out in New York during the summer.

Philip Taliaferro ’05, Pete Lalor ’06 and Eric Rohleder ’05 following an afternoon on the water.
Chapter Eternal

We regret to inform you of the passing of the following Alpha Chapter alumni.

- Alan S. Robinson ’36
- William P. Thurston, Jr. ’45
- George E. Hogan, Jr. ’52
- Charles E. Ashburner ’57

Frank Thompson ’50

Brother Frank Thompson ’50 died on September 29, 2010 of lung cancer. A long time and generous supporter of the Alpha Chapter, his enthusiasm, energy, and positivism will be sorely missed.

After serving as a Marine in the South Pacific in WWII, Frank returned to UVA where he received his degree, boxed for the University’s team (later, he once sparred with Kid Gavilan of “bolo” punch fame), and was President of the house. During summers, he danced professionally at Atlantic City hotels and gave lessons to the guests. He went on to Harvard Business School and served in the Coast Guard during the Vietnam era. Starting out at Westinghouse, Frank eventually wound up with McKinsey & Co.

A multi-talented person and world traveler, Frank always attended Marine, college, and fraternity reunions. Brother Thompson is remembered as modest about his many accomplishments, friendly to all with never an unkind word about anybody, and a zest for life rarely seen.

Submit Alumni Updates at www.chiphiuva.com

Miami Victory!
Brothers Jim Soderquist ’67, Bower Patrick ’65, Owen Parry ’65 and Bob Henderson ’69 with Clark Tracy before the ‘Hoos got the ever so rare ACC win over Miami.

Eamon Redmond ’05 (right) brings out his best boat shoes in honor of sister Fegan’s wedding to Brother Chris Forte ’06 (center left). The wedding took place at a maple syrup farm in rural Vermont.

Can You Spot the Chi Phi”
from page 4

A. “Reddy” Echols. Lower right corner.
B. Don Johnston ’66. Center with white jacket.
C. Bower Patrick ’65. Black polo, if you couldn’t tell...

Frank Thompson ’50 and Malcolm Minor ’51 at UVA Easters Weekend 1950

Brothers Frank Thompson ’50 and Jeannine Dehl at Alpha’s 150th Reunion in October 2009