Drum roll please...This summer we will be (“finally” all former tenants say) changing the heating systems and adding air conditioning on the second and third floors. Since the house first opened in 1924, we have used the same radiators for heating (f.y.i., they will still be on duty for the first floor), enjoyed (?) the same windows which will be reconditioned, and never had more than fans or window units for cooling. A modern H/AC system will be installed and, in addition, the entire house will get sprinklers - a major safety improvement.

Although we are waiting for final cost estimates as of this writing, we now hope to effect these changes for approximately $120-130,000. The Alpha Home Association Board has decided not to have a capital campaign at this time. Our mortgage was paid off last October and for the first time we are debt free. We plan to stay that way. Bills will be paid as follows:

1. Tap the existing AHA Building Fund for $50-60,000.
2. Utilize operating margins which, fingers crossed, will be in the $25-30,000 range for the year ending 6/30/11.
3. Insurance and utility savings should be in the $5-10,000 range.
4. Encourage alumni to redirect annual giving on a temporary basis to fund AHA instead of our Alpha CEF.
5. To the extent we are still short, several brothers will be asked to loan us up to $10,000 each to be repaid in the near future.

As relates to point #4, your AHA Board urges that alumni donors consider redirecting funds they would normally give to our Chapter Excellence Fund (CEF) to the annual AHA Building Fund to help finance these upgrades. This is a temporary request and will end as soon as these costs are paid. By the way, our Alpha CEF is in great shape now totaling over $300,000 and producing about $15,000 per year for Alpha scholarships (see nearby article by John Harris ’82).

NOTE: Although currently under active review by Congress for action, at this time it is our view that donations for fraternity house safety and building improvements are not tax deductible. CEF donations are tax deductible as educational grants.

Please help us cover these overdue improvements!
It’s hard to believe that soon we will be seeing our fourth-years graduating and everyone transitioning into their planned summer activities. Although the semester will soon be coming to an end, I am proud to report that the Chi Phi Alpha Chapter of 161 Rugby Road continues to remain one of the most well-respected and active fraternities on grounds. This spring, we continued our success with new member recruitment, community involvement, and academic standing at the University of Virginia.

After a long and fun recruitment process this spring, we welcomed in 21 new members that were very excited to become part of the closest brotherhood on grounds. With the addition of this new pledge class, the Alpha chapter currently stands at 62 of the best men that the University has to offer.

The brotherhood continues to involve ourselves in both the University and Charlottesville communities. Brother Jordan Davis is Head Program Director of PLAY: After School Activities at Madison House; a program that gives students the opportunity to be mentors and role models to kids who need them the most. In particular, the brotherhood has remained active in the Field School program—a local all boys middle school in Crozet. Brother Travis Tiffany is Program Director for the Field School program, while multiple brothers spend time tutoring and supervising after-school athletics every day of the week. We also have brothers active in other programs such as Big Siblings, Dance Marathon, the IFC, and the IFC-JC.

Complementing our dedication to involvement and leadership in our communities, every brother continues to strive for academic excellence at the University. We currently have multiple Echols Scholars while our chapter GPA currently exceeds the all male average and the overall University average. We attribute this accomplishment to the honor and hard work that is ingrained within our chapter.

The Alpha Chapter also remains very active socially in the University community. We celebrated St. Patrick’s Day with the traditional grill out during the day while many brothers and guest escaped the heat of the afternoon by means of a slip and slide. The last weekend in March, we held our annual Parent’s formal at James Monroe’s historic Ash-Lawn Highland home. The black tie formal continues to be one of the brotherhood’s favorite events. The annual gift auction raised nearly $2,500 for The Ashley Cowie Greek Woman of the Year Scholarship. The scholarship has great personal meaning to the Alpha Chapter, and this accomplishment manifests our commitment to our fellow brothers and demonstrates the cohesive nature of our brotherhood.

We are all very proud of the current standing of the Chi Phi Alpha Chapter. The brotherhood continues to dedicate ourselves to the timeless values and traditions established by the many alumni who have come before us. Our success in new member recruitment, community involvement, and academic excellence is a testament to the Alpha Chapter’s leadership among our fraternal peers and our commitment to our brothers. We are all very thankful for our alumni for your continued support and guidance. I wish everyone all the best and I hope you all have a great summer.
The Alpha Chapter is hosting a cocktail reception at 161 Rugby Road on Saturday, June 4, 2011, 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.

The Spring semester is up and rolling for the Alpha Chapter. Currently we have twenty-four brothers living in the house, even having to convert one of the singles to a double to accommodate the influx of brothers wanting to live in the house. Joey Beyersdorfer has been doing an outstanding job as our Alpha, working everyday to bolster the Chi Phi image in both the fraternity scene and to the broader school community. Pulling a strong pledge class of twenty-one of the University’s finest has raised the level of excitement in the brotherhood to an all time high. Bringing this group into the house has rejuvenated the life-blood of the fraternity and secured Chi Phi’s legacy for many years to come. It has been a great experience for me personally bringing these guys into the house.

The house is in excellent condition. We recently upgraded our kitchen facilities with new refrigerators, a new stove, and the all-important panini-maker. HRC, our house management company, has been busy adding heavy white blinds to the windows on the first floor, as well as much-needed toilet paper roll holders to the bathrooms. The brotherhood has been busy making improvements to the Chi Phi house as well. Along with improvements to the wireless internet, a few of the Chi Phi brothers took it upon themselves to install a projector, as well as a 22-foot retractable projector screen in the parlor. Since its installation, the projector has served the brotherhood well, serving as a gathering point for brothers to enjoy each other’s company while watching various sporting events.

As of last year, the Alpha chapter has completely paid off their loans on the house. The freed-up-money will be routed into making much-needed improvements to the house. This summer, Chi Phi will install a central heating and cooling system throughout the house, replacing the radiators and window AC units on the second and third floors. The brothers will look forward to this improvement, as they will not only make living in the house more comfortable, but they will also hopefully reduce our energy consumption as well.

As the University’s Architecture school and Art Museum seek to increase accessibility to their facilities from Rugby, the University has been hard at work improving the grounds around the Chi Phi house. This summer, the university is planning on constructing a diagonal pathway from the middle of the quad to the A-school parking lot. Don’t worry, the Chi Phi house and the alumni bricks on the walk to the house will be left untouched. But the University has taken special interest in improving the look of the quad, revamping the hedges, and re-seeding the lawn to restore the grass in front of the house.

Serving as the Beta this semester so far has been a rewarding experience for me. I am honored to be giving back to my fraternity that has given me so much, and am looking forward to the fleeting rest of the semester.

We are once again beginning the annual process for awarding scholarships from the Alpha CEF Educational Trust. Last year we were pleased to provide $12,500 to ten very deserving active brothers. This year, due to the continued generosity of our alumni, we expect to increase the scholarship amount to approximately $15,000. The Alpha CEF Educational Trusts is one of the largest Scholarship Trusts within Chi Phi and among all fraternities at UVA.

The criteria for the scholarships include academic excellence, leadership skills, community service as well as needs based considerations. Our two top scholarship awards are the Echols Scholarship in honor of academic excellence and the Cook Scholarship in honor of overall excellence. The application deadline for the 2011 scholarships is April 30, 2011. The awards will be announced and funded prior to the 2011/2012 academic year.

Thank you again for your support of the Alpha CEF Educational Trust. Because of you and your generosity, we are able to help our brothers achieve their academic goals and maintain a strong Alpha Chapter.
Behavior Issues Plague UVA Fraternity System

By Owen Parry (’65)
President, Alpha Alumni Association

The annual Fraternity Alumni Council Meeting was held at Jefferson Hall on Saturday, 4/2/11. Jim Soderquist ’67, Grand Alpha, attended with me. As always, the session was informative and the remarks by Dean Allen Groves were particularly salient. Unfortunately, behavior problems may be ready to boil over as he emphasized. The “It’s a cultural thing” explanation notwithstanding, no action seems to get the students attention and that has the school highly frustrated. Individual connections with responsibility and accountability are not as they were in the past. Disturbing incidents by UVA fraternity men are on the rise.

With all three top UVA slots changing (besides Casteen and Sandridge, the Provost too is leaving), the “understanding” that comes with 20 years of the same President and 44 years of the same COO is gone. Also, the four new BOV members have limited or no UVA experience. The expectation is that the newcomers will be much less comfortable with some “traditions”.

Numerous incidents of alcohol abuse leading to ER visits (particularly with underage 1st years), physical violence not seen before, and total disregard for any sanctions have everyone on edge. IFC is investigating changing/eliminating their traditional weekly Thursday evening meetings as the members are inconvenienced on a “party night”. The newly elected President of IFC, Neil Holby, is a fine fellow (ardently supported by Dean Groves) but his fraternity, Zeta Psi, is under active criminal investigation for hazing. While “innocent until proven guilty” certainly is proper, he was openly questioned by Ben Warthen (a former BOV member and current FAC board member) on the propriety of serving as the fraternity system’s lead representative.

Dean Groves said that “we will do a better job” on underage drinking and hazing “will not be tolerated”. As you may know, there are specific Virginia hazing laws that carry significant penalties. However, he described the students as “not listening” and was amazed that throwing SPE off Grounds in 2009, disabling sanctions on Kappa Sig for 2010 infractions (they only pledged 9), and the active police investigation of Zeta currently underway does not seem to deter behavior that cannot be justified.

Several UVA fund raisers relayed that for the first time in their experience, when visiting alumni, graduates were not complaining about the football or basketball coach. They only wanted to know “what’s wrong”, “how can fraternities survive”, and how are “we” going to fix the behavior problems. We are at the tipping point.

What to do for Chi Phi?

We have been fortunate in avoiding major problems in recent years but must be extra careful on both issues. Our policy is and remains zero tolerance. We look to our Chapter Advisors and the AHA Board to constantly make that point with our actives. Unfortunately, UVA does not appear to be ready to do much differently and the “self-governance” concept will continue (Einstein’s comments on insanity come to mind). However, they are now declaring “no middle ground” and being thrown off Grounds (like SPE) is very much a possibility for transgressors. The “death penalty” scenario is closer to reality than at any time in my 15 year tenure.

Some houses are investigating hiring a graduate student to live in the house to help direct behavior and, in particular, oversee drinking at parties. It was lamented by Dean Groves that no active brother(s) could remain sober to fill this role at fraternity events. While a little over the top, the chances for severe action are definitely there. We plan to discuss the grad student idea at our next AHA/CEF meeting on 6/4/11.

As always, we are continually working to keep our chapter at the top with Virginia’s best fraternities. Your input is of interest so please feel free to contact me directly with thoughts, comments, or suggestions (eopjr@aol.com or 434.974-9133).
Bayly and Quad Undergo Renovations

The University recently transformed the front of the Art Museum, added an important sculpture and “cleaned up” the Quadrangle by removing the hedges and replanting grass. At least the poison ivy is gone! In case you are having trouble identifying the new addition on Rugby Road, it is Seated Woman by Henry More on loan from England and a “modern masterpiece” from 1958-59. What would TJ say? This joins another modern sculpture that now decorates the area in front of the library...Ouch.

The new and improved Bayly Art Museum which may now be referred to as the University Art Museum and/or the John and Betsy Casteen Art Museum. Like the football stadium, they have figured out how to do titling. Featured is the beautiful, new statue.

The University may add two additional diagonal brick walkways between the three houses to improve rear access and clean up the muddy paths the pedestrians make with short cuts.

Kappa Sig loses the parking spaces by Rugby Road at the parking lot entrance to the quad and A school.

The 1920’s look? That is, sans trees. Several years ago a violent storm destroyed the enormous tree between the SERP and Kappa Sig house. Also, all the hedges have been removed from the quad.

Chi Phi Educational Trust
Watts Gunn Memorial Golf Tournament

June 23, 2011
Ritz-Carlton Golf Club
Orlando, FL

Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Grande Lakes is a challenging and beautiful 18-hole par-72 Greg Norman Signature course. Set within the pristine Headwaters of the Florida Everglades and surrounded by magnificent pines, palmettos and live oaks, this distinguished Orlando golf resort offers a luxury experience.

Proceeds from the tournament support the College of Excellence and Chi Phi’s other leadership development programs benefiting Chi Phi students across the country.

See pamphlet or visit www.chiphi.org/golf for information or to register

Order a Chi Phi Print

The prints were made from an oil painting of The Chi Phi Fraternity house at the University of Virginia that was completed in 2010. The print, matted and signed, is available for purchase, $135 plus shipping.

Please contact Cathy Whitlow (whitlowsva@verizon.net) if you would like to have this keepsake to remember your days at Chi Phi.
Brothers Philip Talafarro ('04), Gilbert Garza ('07), Dave Cowden ('03), and Andrew Callahan ('05) take a break from their dates during the somewhat Young Alumni Formal.

Brothers Chris Forte ('06), Walt Houseknecht ('04), Phil Runco ('06), Alex Spotswood ('08), Eamon Redmond ('05), and Bernard Harkless ('07) party in DC.

Brothers Alex Spotswood ('08), Tommy Scanlon ('08), Pete Morgan ('08), Andrew Callahan ('05), Mickey Cloud, Chris Hope ('05), Dave Cowden ('03), Pat Cronin ('08) enjoy a ski weekend in New Hampshire.

George Toop ('67) and wife Jill in Machu Picchu (November 2010)

Chapter Eternal

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

Thomas E. Cathcart '44

Submit Alumni Updates at www.chiphiuva.com

This publication is made possible solely through the generosity and support of Alpha alumni. Please visit our web site www.chiphiuva.com.