Jim Soderquist ’67
Elected as the Next Grand Alpha

Our own James P. Soderquist has been elected to the highest position in the national fraternity. Brother Jim, Alpha ’67, earned a majority of the votes at the 143rd Congress in New Orleans to become Chi Phi’s next Grand Alpha. He will sit on the Grand Council for one year and will assume his new position next June when the Congress convenes in Denver. He previously served the national fraternity as chairman of the Chi Phi Educational Trust and as a member of the College of Excellence Faculty.

The last Grand Alpha from the Alpha Chapter was Benjamin Russell, who was initiated in 1899 and served as the national head in the 1930’s.

Jim is the product of generations of hard-working Scandinavians. His immigrant great grandparents Theodore and Tillie Soderquist settled in Bay City, Michigan in 1878. Four brothers of Theodore also immigrated to central and eastern Michigan. Two generations later, in 1945 Paul and Geraldine Soderquist welcomed their first child, James Paul, in Tawas, just a few miles around Saginaw Bay from Bay City.

In the domestic turmoil of the post-World War II years, this growing family was transferred twice, first to Detroit and then to Portsmouth, Virginia. We are thankful for their second move that brought this worthy family and our great friend to the Commonwealth. Jim attended public schools in Portsmouth. In high school he developed a respect for Thomas Jefferson and the traditions of the University of Virginia. In his junior year he had a date with his classmate Irene Vaughan, and they have been dedicated to each other ever since.

So in the fall of 1963 Jim came to Charlottesville to attend Mr. Jefferson’s University and to become the first of his family to receive a college degree. From his room at 106 Emmet Street he began to find his way around the Grounds. The fraternity rush schedule in those days coincided with the football season, so he soon crossed the threshold of 161 Rugby Road for the first time. Thanks to the energy of several brothers, including second yearmen Donald Johnston and Ken Ellison and third yearmen Owen Parry and Ray Sutherland, Jim decided on his future home. Although he rushed other houses, he committed to Chi Phi well before Bid Sunday.

Jim & Irene Soderquist

Irene visited when possible, first by Trailways bus and later in her own 1963 VW Beetle. She was a welcome addition to the big weekend events of Openings, Mid-Winters and Easters.

Alumni from those days will be quick to assert that the faculty was much tougher with grades than they are today. After a disappointing academic semester, Jim’s father traveled to Charlottesville to ask if there was some problem. Then, with a “just checking” comment, he returned to Portsmouth. We recognize the same soft-spoken strength in our friend Jim.

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Save the Dates!

February 28, 2009 - Young Alumni Formal
details on page 6

June 7, 2009 - Virginia Reunions
details on page 6

October, 2009 - Chi Phi 150th Reunion
details on page 3

www.chiphiuva.com
As my term as Alpha draws to a close, I’m proud to report that the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi at 161 Rugby Road continues to foster the tradition of excellence set nearly 150 years ago. We remain one of the most active and involved houses on Grounds through our contributions to the University and Charlottesville community, as well as our dedication to the National Chi Phi Organization. Throughout my four years at the University I’ve watched the brotherhood continue to evolve and grow, bringing in great classes of men and effecting positive change throughout the University each year.

The brotherhood currently stands at 50 of the best men the University has to offer and so far the year has been met with great success. In regard to recruitment, we continued the tradition of strong pledge classes, initiating 17 new members into the fraternity last spring. Our success in recent years during rush and our ability to grow the brotherhood is a positive reflection on Chi Phi and indicative of the strength and character of the chapter. We have also strengthened ties with the National Chi Phi Organization. In June, two brothers attended the 143rd Chi Phi National Congress in New Orleans, LA and accepted the Chapter’s first award in recent memory. The Alpha Chapter received the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a Chi Phi chapter, The Thomas A. Gehring Award for Chapter Excellence. This award is a testament to the motivation and work ethic ingrained in the chapter and an achievement the brotherhood takes great pride in.

Beyond our involvement within the University and the National Fraternity, we also work to maintain an important tradition to serve the greater community. We have had great success in past years raising money for philanthropy and this fall was no exception. We hosted our 13th Annual Hoodang Benefit Concert on September 27th to raise money for UVA Children’s Hospital. Despite the rain, the event still managed to draw hundreds of students and Charlottesville citizens, enabling us to raise over $2,000 for charity. Although we certainly take great pride in our academic standing and our involvement throughout the University, we are extremely proud of our efforts to help others and serve a greater cause.

As the fall semester draws to a close, I can’t help but reminisce over the past year’s incredible journey with a group of men I am honored to call my brothers. As I look toward graduation in the spring, I can say without reservation that Chi Phi will be in the capable hands of a new generation of men. I’m confident they will continue to uphold the honor and tradition that have defined the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi for nearly 150 years. Thank you, alumni, for your continued support. I wish you all the best in the coming years and I look forward to a great turnout for the 150th reunion celebration in 2009.

Sincerely,
Cullen A. Hitt ’09
Alpha

Support the Alpha Chapter Today!

Remember, all CEF 150 gifts:

- Are 100% tax deductible
- Count 100% towards the annual UVa Fund drive and UVa Capital Campaign
- Count 100% towards National Chi Phi giving goals

Those brothers contributing a total of $1,500 in the campaign period (8/1/07 to 10/1/09) will be invited to an exclusive brunch at the Colonnade Club with special honor for those giving $15,000.

Please support your fraternity now!

www.chiphiuva.com

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We regret to inform you of the death of

John Montgomery McCarthy ’64

Brother McCarthy died suddenly at his home in Kents Store, Virginia on May 9, 2008. A native of Norfolk, he graduated from Maury High School, U.Va., and T.C. Williams Law School. After retiring from the Attorney General’s office for the Commonwealth of Virginia, he became an accomplished artist known for his contemporary Virginia landscapes. John joins his brother Joe McCarthy ’61 in the Chapter Eternal.
Beta Notes

The fall semester is off to a great start for the Alpha chapter this year. Currently, twenty-one actives reside at 161 Rugby Road, the most it has been in quite some time. Many have taken it upon themselves to renovate their rooms with freshly painted walls, new blinds, and other hardware. The tradition of contributing back to the house still lives.

The Alpha chapter as a whole is going through an important transition this year – Alpha Home has hired a new management company, House Renovation Corporation (HRC), an extremely proactive and reliable group. They started their contract by carrying out some valuable renovations this past summer after our walk-through in April. They continue to be an asset to the Alpha chapter, as we move forward in new directions this year.

In addition to the HRC repairs, the house also boasts some exciting new installments such as the professionally installed audio system, wireless Internet, and rugs for the first floor. With the help of Jim Soderquist, Owen Parry, and David Marshall, we were able to make headway on these projects over the summer in order to facilitate their presence at 161 this year. That is not all, however. Bath-

room renovations on the first, second, and third floors will soon be complete and electrical improvements for individual rooms may be on the horizon.

We all look forward to an excellent rest of the semester and a successful rush this upcoming spring.

Evan Berger ’09
Beta

Alpha Chapter’s 150th Anniversary Reunion 1859 - 2009
SAVE THE DATE: October 2009

The exact weekend of our biggest and best reunion yet will be determined by the Board of Visitors in February 2009 when they set the U.Va. calendar and specify the Fall Break weekend in October which we will use for our outing to maximize available sites.

HELP NEEDED:
Please contact Jim Soderquist ’67 (434.960-2419 or Jimdds@aol.com)
if you will be a Class Captain for your year at Virginia.

HELP NEEDED:
Contact Billy Bob Mellen ’53 (434.244-0220 or Mellenchrl@aol.com) with any questions on our CEF 150 campaign to raise $150,000 for our own Alpha Chapter scholarship program. Otherwise, please send your donation in using the enclosed Response Form or online at www.chipiuiuva.com (credit cards accepted).
Brother Stone Hits Inspirational Twenty-year Milestone

Many of you know of Brother Ed Stone’s ’94 courageous battle against leukemia as a Second Year in 1989, but you may be unaware of the powerful story that has evolved since. In November of this year, Ed will kick off a celebration of twenty years since surviving that battle. To celebrate this milestone, he has taken up the challenge to raise $20,000 in the fight against blood cancers. “I was blessed to survive my cancer treatment, when so many patients do not,” he said. “Raising money and awareness in the fight against cancer is the least I can do. Many wonderful people have warmed to my story and have supported my fund-raising endeavors over the years.”

After being treated for leukemia at the UVA Health Sciences Center in 1989, Ed looked for a way to contribute to the fight against cancer. He drew inspiration from the Lifting Pounds to Beat Cancer competition he had participated in back in high school to benefit the American Cancer Society (ACS). “The popularity of the weight room with my brothers and other fraternity members on Grounds made me think that Lifting Pounds could generate some interest.” In the spring of 1993, the Alpha Chapter hosted the first annual Lifting Pounds at UVA, featuring UVA strength coach John Gamble as the event’s spotter. Through the leadership of Brothers Stone, Chris Ralphs ’93 and R. J. Myer ’95, the Alpha Chapter hosted the event annually for three years, raising several thousand dollars for ACS.

Starting in 1996, Ed’s Little Brother, Kyle Van Houtan ’96, transformed this fund-raiser into the Hoodang Benefit Concert, a multi-band social event and fund-raiser. This year’s Hoodang was the thirteenth year of the event and therefore the sixteenth consecutive year the Alpha Chapter has actively raised funds to beat cancer.

Since graduation, Ed’s impressive fundraising efforts have focused on the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), an organization dedicated to fighting blood cancers. Over the past eleven years, he has completed sixteen endurance events for ‘Team in Training’ (TNT), becoming Virginia’s first Triple Crown participant for completing a triathlon, a century-ride, and a marathon. In all, Ed has served as TNT participant, mentor, and patient-honoree, and has along the way raised over $170,000 for LLS. “There’s little I could imagine more heartwarming than scores of family, brothers, and friends stepping up to support the cause I’m so passionate about,” says Ed. “It’s only through the generosity of folks like these that researchers have been able to quadruple the leukemia five-year survival rate over the past half-century.”

Next September, as Ed’s 20th year draws to a close, Ed and his two sisters will compete in their first TNT endurance event as a family. Those of you who know Ed well will recall that Lorri donated her bone marrow when Ed was sick, and Meg hosted Ed at her home in C’ville, helping him get back on his feet after treatment.

$20,000 is an ambitious goal, but Chi Phis are known to be ambitious. If you would like to support Brother Stone in these important endeavors, please e-mail him at edwinstonjr@gmail.com and he will let you know how you can help. “The brotherhood of the Alpha Chapter has been very good to me over the years. Y’all are the brothers I never had, and I am grateful for that. Best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2009!”

SODERQUIST CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Before his arrival at Alpha Chapter the brothers had very little interest in intramural sports activities. Walking to class or to the Virginian provided all of the exercise that most of us craved. Jim was the first during that period of time to establish an athletic program at the house. He forced many of his classmates to try out for positions on the football team with practices in Mad Bowl. His efforts to organize a sports program provided the first kernels of what has become an occasionally very successful record among the fraternities. That was one of his early successes.

By the end of his second year at the University, members of the fraternity recognized his abilities and elected him Alpha, president of the house, a position that he held for two full years. His leadership and stature improved the quality of the chapter and its position on the Grounds. Subgroups such as the “Pimps” and the more sedate “Boo- as” were held under control, and there was relative peace on the Quadrange, at least as long as it didn’t snow.

When Jim arrived in Charlottesville Chi Phi ranked near the bottom, about 30th, academically, and had no standing at all in intramural athletics. By his graduation Alpha Chapter regularly held positions in the top 5 by both measures. Certainly a significant amount of credit for these successes belongs to our Grand Alpha elect.
Chapter Excellence Fund Drive for 150 Update

Gifts and pledges currently at $79,888 (53%) of goal with 12 months to go!

Those few of us who are so fortunate to reside in Charlottesville are still working for you to make the October 2009 150th Reunion of the founding of the Alpha Chapter the liveliest and most fun-filled such event ever held at the University of Virginia. We shall know the date of these events in the spring of next year and will forward a notice so that you may begin to plan on being with us without fail.

While we are still awaiting the final schedule of reunion events, it is known that we shall have a brunch for those who have donated or pledged $1,500 in tax deductible contributions to the Alpha Chapter Excellence Fund. We are sanguine that this brunch shall be a rousing success, as the only fund raising activity associated with the 150th Reunion is the desire to add at least $150,000 to those funds held solely for the benefit of active members of the Alpha Chapter who are deserving and need additional financial help to complete their course of study.

Our efforts to increase the Alpha Chapter Excellence Fund by one hundred and fifty thousand dollars was begun as a three (3) taxable year effort. In the first year, 2007, we received contributions and pledges from many of you and we are grateful for your support of this extremely worth while effort. Now in the midst of the “credit tsunami” which has affected all of us and which surely shall make all of us more cautious with our discretionary contributions, we are continuing our efforts to increase the funds available to award scholarships to those undergraduates who are members of the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi. Notwithstanding the recession and the drop in market values of our holdings, each of us still measure our taxable incomes on a yearly basis and December 2008 shall mark another end of another taxable year for measuring income reportable to our federal and state governments. Those governments allow you to deduct from your reportable income those contributions which you have made during the taxable year to the Alpha Chapter Excellence Fund. Thus we again urge all of you to consider the benefits that are to be derived from assisting us in our efforts to make the Chi Phi scholarship fund at the University of Virginia the largest on Grounds and one of the greatest in the Chi Phi universe.

Yes, your old fraternity needs your help. The Chapter is in great shape and is filled with decent and capable young men with whom you shall be proud to associate. Yet in every pledge class there are those who could do a better job of being a student if they did not have to hold down one or more jobs to be able to continue to attend your University. It is these deserving brothers that are the students that the Chapter Excellence Fund of the Alpha Chapter can and has aided. If our war chest were larger then the more students could be considered and the greater aid the CEF could provide worthy students. In 2008 it is hoped that you shall see your way clear to continuing the support that many of you have provided and that many more of you shall join in this worthwhile effort.

~ William Robert Mellen ’53 | Chair, CEF 150

In the ten years after receiving his degree in Biology, Jim married Irene, was awarded his dental degree by the Medical College of Virginia, attained the rank of Major in the U.S. Army, completed his orthodontic residency and returned to Charlottesville. He has been a respected orthodontist in Albemarle and Culpeper Counties since that time.

In 1980 he joined the board of the Alpha Home Association and became President of that entity upon retirement of Bill Kitchin, who had served in that capacity for 30 years. He directed renovations of the fraternity house and expansion of the basement in 1992.

Jim and Irene live in a modern Jeffersonian environment (without the servants) on a ridge overlooking the Rivanna River basin and the Blue Ridge Mountains. They are actively involved together in skiing, kayaking, hiking and fishing. One word to describe Jim would be loyalty, though there is much more to his character. Any relative, friend, classmate, teammate, patient or fraternity brother will know what I mean.

~ Alastair Macdonald ’67
Save the Date

Chi Phi Young Alumni Formal
Alpha Chapter
February 28, 2009

The City Tavern Club
Washington, D.C.

Brothers Chris Forte ’06 and Trey Garza ’07 are organizing a Chi Phi Alpha Chapter Alumni Formal. The event will be held on Saturday February 28, 2009 at the City Tavern Club located at 3206 M St., NW Washington, DC. Brothers who would like to attend the event please contact Trey at (trey.garza@gmail.com).

Virginia Reunions 2009

Save the date: June 6, 2009
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at 161 Rugby Road!

Full Reunions information is online at www.virginiareunions.com

In addition to the official activities, the Alpha Chapter is hosting a cocktail reception at 161 Rugby Road on Saturday, June 6, 2009, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Returning Alpha Chapter alumni, spouses and guests, plus local and interested Chi Phi alumni are invited to attend. This party is sponsored by your Alpha Home Association and is free to all.

See you at Reunions!
Reopening the Brick Walkway

For the first time in years, we are opening up the brick walkway in front of our home at 161 Rugby Road so you too can leave a permanent impression at the house. You may purchase a brick for yourself or in memory of a brother. It will show the last name, first initial, and year.

This is your last opportunity to purchase a brick before our 150th anniversary celebration in October 2009. All orders must be received no later than May 1, 2009 (see enclosed form).

Graduates: $225  Undergraduates: $150

Act now, do not be shut out!
We are reserving a place for your Chi Phi brick!

Young Alumni Reunions

Andrew Buckstein ’02, Ryan “the GUY” Tiffany ’04, Dave Cowden ’03, Chris Hope ’05, Ed Golay ’05, John “Weezdoctadubs” Warin ’04 and Andrew Callahan ’05 throw down at Amagansett.

Ed Golay ’05, Dave Cowden ’03, Pete Lalor ’06 and Chris Hope ’05 enjoy a few drinks in the Hamptons.

Francis “the Peach” Redmond ’05 and Ryan “Unicorn” Tiffany ’04 take in the scene at Foxfield.

John “See-Alice” Warin ’04 and Walter “Politico” Houseknecht ’04 and Benjamin Obama Martin ’05 enjoy a charter bus ride to Foxfield.

Fall 2008
Joshua Nowocin ’96
My wife, Kim, and I are expecting our first baby this December. We will be having a boy, and another little Chi Phi one day. Also, I recently visited with Tim & Greg Fleming ’95 this past August. Tim will be getting married in October. Congrats to Tim and his future wife Mistie.

Matthew Webber ’97
My wife Vanita and I welcomed our first child, son Dhillon Chase Webber on March 12 of this year.
(mjw4m@hotmail.com)

Seth Rose ’99
Married Carrie Pykosz on June 14, 2008 at Medinah Country Club outside Chicago, IL. Chris Weil ’98, Charles Pesant ’99 and Michael Cousins ’99 were in attendance to share in the festivities. Seth and Carrie now live in Chicago, IL.
(seth_rose@hotmail.com)

Matthew Carrington ’02
Moved in August 2008 to Berkeley, CA where I will pursue my MBA at the Haas School of Business. I am also engaged to Mason White (’02) as of this past February. Mason and I will be married on May 30, 2009 in Charlottesville.
(mjcarrington@gmail.com)

Steve Shuster ’03
Shuster (right) has created Busy Minds Music (www.busymindsmusic.com) and composes music for commercials. He lives in Los Angeles, California.
(steveshuster@hotmail.com)

You can now submit updates/photos online at www.chiphiuva.com

’60s Brothers Enjoy the UNC Game - Ale Macdonald ’65, Jim Soderquist ’67, Hardin White ’66, Bower Patrick ’65, Mike Wolfe ’67, Cavman, and Owen Parry ’65 loved the 16-13 ’Hoos come from behind victory over the Tar heels in overtime. Join us for any game at our Chi Phi tailgate in the West Lot, spaces 464/465/466.