Alpha Chapter Leading National Chi Phi Campaign

Thanks to a $1.6 million lead gift and a strong showing of support from Alpha Chapter Alumni, the Chi Phi Educational Trust has raised $6.1 million toward a capital campaign goal of $10 million.

Surprisingly, Chi Phi has never conducted a major capital campaign.

This campaign effort is designed to enhance and endow the educational programs of the National Fraternity. More specifically, it will allow the Educational Trust to triple the amount of annual scholarships, create a Greek Life Museum for Chi Phi’s vast archive collection and increase the educational and leadership opportunities for the undergraduate membership. Raising $10 million will place Chi Phi into the top 10 of all men’s fraternities nationwide in terms of assets and educational support.

The National Fraternity launched Changing Lives: The $10 Million Campaign for Chi Phi at the 146th Chi Phi Congress last June. Brother Jim Soderquist ’67 serves as National Co-Chairman for this monumental undertaking.

Although the Changing Lives Campaign is a national effort, there are positive implications and opportunities for every Chapter at the local level, including Alpha. In fact, a number of Alpha Alumni are already contributors to the national campaign because of their support for the Alpha Chapter Excellence Fund.

“More than one-third of our $10 million goal is earmarked for direct Chapter support,” explained the Educational Trust’s Director of Development Elizabeth Knott. “We know that Alumni are very loyal to their home Chapter, and we’ve designed numerous opportunities for Alumni to support this campaign and their Chapter Excellence Fund at the same time.”

All donors who contributed to the Alpha Chapter Excellence Fund after July 1, 2009, as part of Alpha’s 150th Anniversary or any other local effort had their gifts counted toward the national campaign. Pledges and gifts from Alpha Alumni currently total $436,113, or 7.1% of the amount raised to date.

Historically, Alpha Chapter Alumni have been incredibly generous in their support of the Alpha Chapter and the Fraternity/Educational Trust. However, Chi Phi has numerous new Chapters and Colonies that by virtue of their brief history, lack a substantial base of Alumni support. These new Brothers receive assistance through the unrestricted gifts to this campaign.

“I wear several hats as part of this effort,” explained Brother Soderquist. “I certainly encourage all Chi Phi Alumni to support the national campaign by making unrestricted gifts or by designating their gift for the national scholarship program or a specific leadership program. Unrestricted support allows the Trust to spend money where the needs are greatest now, and in the future. However, we’re also encouraging Brothers to support their home chapter, contribute to their Chapter Excellence Fund and be recognized as a national campaign supporter.”

Alumni can learn more about the national campaign by visiting www.ChiPhiCampaign.com.

HVAC Project to Begin Over Winter Break

Finally, after working through numerous issues and red tape, Alumni Advisor, John Harris ’82, will oversee the long-awaited installation of the new heating and AIR CONDITIONING system for the 2nd and 3rd floors over winter break. All work should be completed when the actives return in January 2012. After further study, we will also redo the 1st floor and basement, probably this summer.

The project to install sprinklers has been delayed by questions on construction and city water pressure. We hope to implement this system the summer of 2012.

PLEASE NOTE: During this construction period, we ask that you consider making all your donations to AHA to help cover costs. We are NOT having a capital campaign for these significant upgrades and will finance the expenses with existing AHA building funds and margins from the operation of the house.
Richard F. Hall, Jr. ’47
William B. Guerrant ’49
Richard P. Taylor ’50
Claude A. Smith ’55

Chapter Eternal

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

Richard F. Hall, Jr. ’47
William B. Guerrant ’49
Richard P. Taylor ’50
Claude A. Smith ’55

World’s Oldest Pledge?

Although not enrolled as a student at the University of Virginia, Jerry Meadows Reid spent many hours with his best friend from Richmond, Bill Sturman ’67, at the Chi Phi house as Bill’s guest in the mid-1960’s. There he met his wife of 42 years, Susan Findlay Reid of Roanoke, and stood as Brother Sturman’s Best Man at his wedding in the University Chapel.

Many years passed before Jerry realized his dream of becoming an undergraduate student at The University in 2009 and, yes, even joining that fraternity that had been such a major part of his life during those early years. Now enrolled as an undergraduate and participating in all activities of same, Jerry Reid ’13 reflects:

“I enjoyed the full gamut of the social life wrapped around the Chi Phi Alpha Chapter in the 60s. Those were the days, my friends, and it is pleasing to remember them now as I walk The Grounds as a third year student and Jefferson Literary and Debating Society member.”

The Chi Phi Constitution allows for membership under special circumstances and Jerry was unanimously approved by the Grand Council at this summer’s 146th Chi Phi Congress after review and approval by your AHA Board last January. Brother Reid was subsequently initiated by the members of the Alpha Chapter during their Fall 2011 initiation. Jerry is currently an active brother fully participating in all fraternity functions.

Jerry Reid ’13 offered this quotation:

“Friends we have if we have merited them. Those of our earliest years stand nearest in our affections. Our college friends are the dearest.”

Although Brother Sturman ’67 as since passed into the Chapter Eternal, you can rest assured that he would be saying: “Well done good and faithful brother.”

Welcome Brother Reid!

Reunions Weekend 2011

As usual, your Alpha Chapter hosted a reception at the house on June 4th as a part of U.Va’s Reunions Weekend. We had a great turnout and everyone enjoyed themselves seeing old friends and meeting new ones.

If you missed this fun event, don’t worry - the next one is already scheduled! On Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 2 - 4PM your Alpha Home Association will host a cocktail reception at 161 Rugby Road. Returning Alpha Chapter alumni from the classes of 1962, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007, their spouses and guests, plus local and interested alumni are invited. This function is FREE to all.

William B. Guerrant ’49

A prominent banker, Brother Guerrant went to the Chapter Eternal on July 22, 2011 at age 86. Born in Durham, NC in 1924, his childhood was spent in Danville where he acquired his love for the outdoors, hunting, and dogs. After high school, he enlisted in the army and was soon fighting in France. In the early stages of the Battle of the Bulge, Bill was seriously wounded in 1944 and decorated as a combat veteran.

After graduating from Virginia with a degree in chemistry, he married Anne (to be his wife of 60 years until her death in 2007) and joined Dow Chemical ending up with their International Division in Amsterdam after many years of service. Upon his return to Williamsburg, he signed on for a second career with Peninsula Bank (later SunTrust) where he significantly expanded operations over the next twenty years. Brother Guerrant was President of Williamsburg-James City County Chamber of Commerce, the Planning Commission, and the Rotary Club. He was active as a Youth League Coach, in the Old Men’s Club, with Troop 103 of the Boy Scouts, and Ducks Unlimited. “He was a vital part of the community,” former Mayor Gil Granger recalled. “You could count on Bill to pitch in and do what he could, and then to do some more.”

In 1982, Bill received the Prentis Award for his support and involvement with the College of William & Mary. He was a long-time supporter of academics, the arts, and athletics at W&M, Mary Washington University, and U.Va. His generous support of our Alpha Chapter was a never to be missed annual event.

Bill and his wife welcomed W&M students to live in their home. One who joined the family for Sunday night dinners was Robert Gates, who recently retired as Secretary of Defense.
1960’s Quiz: Name That Brother

Do any of these fellows look familiar to you 60s Alphas? This picture was taken on June 27, 1964 at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club at the wedding reception of Bower Patrick ’65 and Betty Anne Whitehead.

Left to right: Pete Johnson, Brian Donnelly, Jack Doherty, Ray Sutherland, Wayne Quick, Ken Ellison, Ned Webb, Tony Young, Nat Goodwin, Rob Rutherford, Bower Patrick, Reese Smith, Jack Ayers, John McCarthy, Hardin White, Joe McCarthy, Ric Tierney, Alastair Macdonald, Billy Thomas, Owen Parry

Left to right: Pete Johnson, Jack Ayres, Bess Johnson, Lee Chapman (VMI, Darden), Mary Harrison Whittle (Mary Baldwin), Betty Anne Patrick, John Brenner

Bonus Throwback Photo:
Back before grass was invented at a Reunion Weekend in 1969.

Alpha Home Association Board Changes

Out with the old and in with the new! Your AHA Board will undergo changes in 2012 as our growth continues and our successes mount. We remind you that you are always welcome to attend our AHA Board meetings, make suggestions on what needs doing, and to participate directly as a Board member if you are interested. Our next formal ABA Board meeting is scheduled for January 2012 at Alumni Hall.

New AHA Board Member - Paul Tesoriere ’96

Paul graduated from Virginia in 1996 and continued his education at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Upon graduation in 2000, he returned to the University of Virginia to complete his residency in Internal Medicine. Brother Tesoriere is a hospitalist at Martha Jefferson Hospital where he serves as the Director of Hospital Medicine. Paul lives in Crozet with his wife Sarah (whom he met at a Chi Phi mixer?) and his 7 year old twins. This is Paul’s second time on the AHA Board.

Retiring Board Member - Owen Parry ’65

E. Owen Parry ’65

New AHA Board Member - Jeff Shields ’69

Jeffrey B. Shields is a partner in the Bethesda, Maryland CPA firm of Shields & Modiano, which he established in 1982. He and his wife of thirty three years, Marion, live in Potomac, Maryland with their Golden Retrievers Bogie and Lilly. Brother Shields brings an enthusiasm and dedication for our Alpha Chapter that will benefit us all. This is his first time on the AHA Board.
Due to the continued generosity of many Alumni, Alpha awarded a record amount of scholarships from the Alpha CEF Educational Trust. A total of $14,000 was granted to 12 well-deserving recipients.

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 recruitment efforts.

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. All awardees demonstrated strong success in the class room.

Please join me in congratulating the following 2011/2012 Alpha CEF Educational Trust scholarship recipients:

- John Harris '82
- Daniel Verhotz
- Colby Cashen
- Aman Gill
- Thomas Hickman
- Jason Truwit
- Gregory Coffin
- Ben Pasquarella
- John Brussard
- Cole Friedman
- Lance Creath
- Robert Kolosieke
- Joseph Makhoul
- Lance Creath
- Ben Pasquarella
- Robert Kolosieke
- Joseph Makhoul

In honor of two of our most respected alumni, Robert Kolosieke ('12) is the winner of the Reddy Echols Scholarship award in honor of academic excellence and Travis Tiffany ('12) is the winner of the Jack Cook Scholarship award in honor of overall excellence.

Robert attends the McIntire School of Commerce and maintains the highest GPA in the chapter. He is a double major in Finance/Accounting and Economics. His near prefect 3.96 GPA is tarnished by only one A-. (Bob Mizell '77 informed me he also earned only one A- while at UVA) When not studying, Robert is a Scout Team Player for the UVA Women’s basketball team, a position formerly held by Daryl Brewster ’79.

Daniel received the highest ranking from the Chi Phi scholarship evaluation system and is a double major in Neuroscience and Biology. He is an Organic Chemistry Teaching Assistant and maintains two part-time jobs.

Thank you again for your support of the Alpha CEF Educational Trust and the active brothers.

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Alpha Chapter Receives High Grades from National

Jonathon Perout, Field Executive from National, visited our chapter October 24-26, 2011. Here are some quotes from his report:

“The Alpha Chapter was extremely accommodating to me during my visit; I really enjoyed spending time with the Brothers and their hospitality was wonderful.

The chapter has many strong attributes in the areas of Recruitment and Philanthropy to name a couple.

The chapter runs very smoothly and just needs to tweak a few things to become even better.

The finances of the chapter have been managed very well and the chapter is current with both the National Fraternity and the University.

The chapter has done a very good job with TME by utilizing programs offered by the University of Virginia in the topics of sexual assault, alcohol education, health related topics, etc. I had the pleasure of seeing one of these presentations the last time I visited Alpha Chapter, and they are definitely a great benefit to the organization.

The chapter has really done a great job of fixing any Risk Management issues that it was facing previously. The chapter appears to have a good understanding of the Chi Phi Personal Safety Policy and is doing its best to follow it.”

A round of snaps is definitely in order for our active brothers and their Alumni leader, John Harris ’82.

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Are You Tired of the Same Faces?

Aren’t you tired of seeing too many pictures of the 60s and 00s brothers? Time to act for your pledge brothers. Send pictures (most important), updates, articles, and whatever you think is of interest for the next issue of Alpha Notes. Pictures sent electronically are easiest but we are pleased to copy and return hard copy. Contact our Alumni Hall coordinator whenever is convenient for you:

Kate Redding
ksr9s@virginia.edu
434-243-9066
Alpha Notes
Joey Beyersdorfer (’12)

As my term as Alpha comes to a close, I am proud to report that the Alpha Chapter continues to foster the tradition of excellence set by our alumni nearly 150 years ago. The brotherhood remains one of the most active fraternities in both the University and Charlottesville communities, as well as to the National Chi Phi Fraternity. I’ve had the opportunity to witness the brotherhood continue to grow and evolve in a positive direction during my four years at the University, and I am confident that trend will continue.

The Alpha Chapter currently stands at 48 men who continue to affect positive change to the University each and every year. At the beginning of the fall semester, the Alpha Chapter initiated 21 new members. Our success in recent years in recruitment is a positive reflection on Chi Phi and indicative of our strong and unified recruitment practice and strategies. In addition, we recently initiated Brother Jerry Reid into the Alpha Chapter. We had the pleasure of welcoming Jerry into the brotherhood and we look forward to hearing more of his stories and advice. We have also been working to strengthen our relationship with the National Fraternity. This past summer, two brothers attended the 146th Annual Chi Phi National Congress in Orlando, FL where they had the opportunity to meet and socialize with fellow Chi Phi brothers from across the nation.

Staying involved in our surrounding communities remains a top priority for the Alpha Chapter. Continuing our philanthropic success in recent years, the Alpha Chapter hosted the 16th annual Hoodang Music Festival on September 17th. The event drew hundreds of people and helped raise over $1,000 for the Ashley Cowie Greek Woman of the Year Scholarship. In addition, Chi Phi brothers hold the majority of the Executive Board seats for the Mid-Autumns Carnival—an event aimed at closing the gap between both the University Greek and Charlottesville communities. 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.

Our success in recruitment, community involvement, and academics is a testament to the Alpha Chapter’s leadership among our fraternal peers as well as to our commitment to our brothers. As I look forward to graduating in the spring, I am confident that the Alpha Chapter will remain in the capable hands of a new generation of men. We are all very thankful for our alumni and your continued support and guidance. I wish everyone all the best and I hope you all have a great holiday season.

As the winter weather slowly creepes into Charlottesville, 161 is alive and well. The year is off to a great start and the brothers are really enjoying being back in action. Over the summer, UVA has made improvements to the quad, adding diagonal brick walkways and new cement stairs towards the back of the house. The new landscape only serves to bolster the appearance of the already majestic Chi Phi house.

The first floor has been given a face-lift. Some historic documents have found their place on our walls, including the original Alpha chapter charter, which now hangs above our fireplace. We have also hung composites from the last few years, as well as a kudu head to fill up the walls. With the addition of all this extra garb, the first floor has really transformed into a place that instills a sense of pride in the brotherhood.

Even with the capacity to house 24 brothers, it looks like there will not be enough room in the house to accommodate the large quantity of guys trying to live here next year. Leases will passed out soon, and with 21 guys in the second year class alone, the house will almost certainly have to turn brothers back.

All the brothers are excited about our new HVAC heating/cooling system that is to be installed over the winter break. This project marks the culmination of a long process of planning on the part of multiple groups and as always, we are very grateful to all who had a hand in making this possible. The brothers will certainly enjoy the added comfort the new heating and cooling system will afford us.

As always, all of us here at 161 appreciate the hard work of our property manager Ron Lavis and our accountant Dave Marshall. I have certainly enjoyed working with the company that manages our house, Home Renovation Corporation, in maintaining the house over my tenure as beta. Although I am excited to be relieved of duty, I am looking forward to continuing to be involved, as well as bringing in the new Beta and showing him the ropes.

Beta Notes
Ian Forsyth ’12

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Alumni Updates

Matthew A. Steger ’01, wife Liz and big sister Caroline (age 2) celebrated the birth of our son, Henry Creighton Steger, on February 12, 2011.

John Ascenzo ’03 and wife Marta ’05 celebrated the birth of their first child, Tristan John Ascenzo, on January 7, 2011.

Brothers Andrew Wessel ’01, Matt Steger ’01, Brian Barney ’01, John Ege ’01, Rob Forker ’01, and Colin Williams ’01 relax on the steps of the Rotunda during their 10-year reunion.

Chi Phi brothers enjoy the 91st running of The Hunt Steeplechase in Far Hills, NJ. From the left: Andrew Callahan ’05, David Cowden ’03, Rob Lunga (Friend) and Ed Golay ’06.

Dan Hinchman ’04 and wife Sandy ’04 celebrating their son Ward’s first birthday in Charlottesville.

Before the Duke game on 11/11/11 some of the Pledge Class of ’61 met for dinner 50 years after they first pledged: Hardin White, Ale Macdonald, Bower Patrick, Owen Parry, and Ray Sutherland.

Above: Brothers Dan Hinchman ’04, Andrew Daly ’05, Zach Hill ’06, Craige Kluttz, Sean Bowie ’04, Pete Lalor ’06, Phil Taliaferro ’04, Walt Houseknecht ’04, John Warin ’04, Dave Cowden ’03, and Ryan Tiffany ’04 celebrate during Philip Taliaferro’s wedding reception in Palm Beach, Florida.

Right: Philip Taliaferro ’04 and his new bride Catherine.

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.