Chi Phi Memories...

**Alpha Notes**

**Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity**

At the University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Va.

**Spring 2008**

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**161 Rugby Road**

Left: Chapter house as it stood in 1925, shortly after its completion.

Right: The Alpha Chapter overgrown with Ivy in 1938.

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**Bid Day**

Left: Brothers celebrate the new pledges arrival at the Chapter house in 1966.

Right: Brothers and new pledges gather on the roof in 1994.

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**Alpha Brothers**

Left: The majority of Alpha brothers were enlisted in the military in 1945.

Right: The brick walkway remained a favorite spot for Corks and Curls yearbook photos in 2000.

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www.chiphiuva.com
Alpha Notes

I am proud to report that the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi at 161 Rugby Rd. continues to be one of the most active and well-respected fraternities at the University of Virginia, thanks in part to its undergraduate members and strong alumni support. This spring we have continued our success in new member recruitment, philanthropy, and academic standing at the University. We continue to dedicate ourselves to upholding the tradition and values established by those who came before us, and strive to make the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi one of the best fraternity chapters in the country.

The brotherhood currently stands at 64 of the best and brightest young men the University has to offer. This number includes 17 new members recruited this spring, one of the strongest pledge classes among any of the 31 IFC-chartered fraternities. Over the past three springs, the Alpha Chapter has extended 53 bids to potential new members through formal recruitment and 51 of those bids were accepted; one of the highest success rates on Grounds. We are proud of this accomplishment and attribute it to the hard work of the brotherhood exemplifying the honor and integrity ingrained within the chapter.

In regards to philanthropy, the brotherhood has one of its most successful years yet, contributing close to $10,000 to Pancreatic Cancer and ALS. In October, our annual Hoodang Benefit Concert (pictured left) raised close to $6,000 alone; our donation to cancer research was the largest it’s been in over five years. In the last weekend in March, our parent’s formal auction was completed nearly $4,000 for ALS research. These two causes have a personal meaning to the active members, as two of our brother’s fathers passed away recently from ALS and another brother’s father passed away recently from Pancreatic Cancer. Our commitment to these charity organizations is a point of pride which manifests our commitment to our brothers and demonstrates the tight-knit nature of the chapter.

The Alpha Chapter has also continued to improve its academic standing at the University, and has maintained a fraternity wide grade-point-average above that of the IFC average, the all-male average, and the university-wide average. Undergraduates have been recognized for their academic success and the brotherhood currently boasts five Echols Scholars, three Jefferson Scholars, two Rodman Scholars, one College Sciences Scholar, four men involved with the Honor Committee, and numerous other award recipients and honor society members. While it may be easy to measure academic success, we are also immensely proud of our record of involvement and leadership across all facets of the University community.

In February, the Alpha Chapter hosted a Regional Leadership Alliance put on by the Chi Phi Nationals staff and the Grand Epsilon for regional Chi Phi chapters. The two day seminar was an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the history and tradition of our fraternity, as well as a forum to demonstrate our dedication to the national fraternity. The Alpha Chapter is also involved in fraternal governance here at the University, with two brothers on the Inter-Fraternity Council governing board, two on the IFC-Judiciary Executive Committee, and numerous others serving as judiciary committee support officers. We will also be applying for the Ghering Award for the first time in years, the highest among a Chi Phi chapter can receive. The Alpha Chapter’s leadership among its fraternal peers is a testament to the attitude of the brotherhood and the desire to take responsibility for the health of the Greek system at the University and nationwide.

I am confident that the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi is in a great position to continue the positive trends that were established by the alumni who have been passing through this chapter for nearly 150 years. Our success regarding new member recruitment, philanthropy, and academic excellence reflects the strength and values instilled in the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi. We are extremely proud of our accomplishments this year and we’re looking forward to continuing that success this upcoming fall. Thank you, alumni, for your continuing support and guidance. I hope everyone has a great summer and I wish you all the best.

~ Cullen A. Hitt ’09 | Alpha

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Much is new at 161 Rugby this spring. After another incredibly successful rush, I am continuing to work side by side with our management company, Real Properties, to keep the house in top shape. We recently received new brown-leather couches and chairs for the 1st-floor along with a gracious donation from the Hotel Roanoke. Benjamin Smoot, a fourth-year brother, has family ties with the hotel, which happened to be undergoing a renovation over the holiday season. Thanks to him we accumulated a variety of chairs and couches and some useful tables, desk lamps, and ottomans. House projects this year have included constructing wood benches for sundeck seating and fixing some of the basement furniture. Additionally, many of the 19 brothers living in the house this year took it upon themselves to repaint and fix up their individual rooms back in August. Sixteen of these in-house brothers are in the 3rd-year class (pictured right).

House contracts for the Fall 2008 – Spring 2009 academic year are being handed out this week. Currently, 21 brothers plan to live at 161 starting in the fall, two of which will be new 2nd-year members. Everyone is looking forward to having a wide spectrum of guys living at Chi Phi house next year. In April Dr. Jim Soderquist and I will be conducting a house walkthrough to plan out what renovations will be happening this summer.

Currently, the executive board is working diligently towards completing our application for the Gehring Award. If the house does indeed receive some monetary award we plan to allocate part of this money back into the physical structure of 161 Rugby Road. I am looking forward to an excellent end of the spring semester and a strong beginning in the Fall 2008 term.

~ Evan M. Berger ’09 | Beta

Virginia Reunions 2008

Save the date: June 7, 2008
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at 161 Rugby Road!

In addition to the official activities, the Alpha Chapter is hosting a cocktail reception at 161 Rugby Road on Saturday, June 7, 2008, 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!
Chapter Excellence Fund 150– An Update from the Chair

Plans are still being formulated to make the 150th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi on the Grounds of the University of Virginia an event that will survive in all of our memories for a long, long time. Your help in spreading the “word” to others is appreciated. If you have any suggestions as to how to make that particular weekend more meaningful for you, then please do not hesitate to inform us of whatever it is that you would like to see done or provided.

The final decisions will be made in about a year, but it will be in October 2009 that you and your buddies from your era should plan on being here in Charlottesville to send the Chapter off to a roaring start for the next 150 years of being a substantial contributor to undergraduate life at one of the nation’s premier institutions of higher learning. It is hoped that the celebrations will be most acceptable to all and reasonable as to its cost to the participants.

It was decided that the Alpha Chapter did not need to ask its alumni and friends for financial assistance for capital improvements and the Reunion Committee has stuck steadfastly to that aim. Financially, our goal was to use the circumstance of the 150th anniversary to increase substantially our Chapter Excellence Fund (CEF) which is held by the Alpha Alumni Association for the sole benefit of Alpha undergraduates. The goal is to raise $150,000 to be added to the CEF of the Alpha Chapter. Some of you have made pledges and have participated in this effort and these contributions are greatly appreciated. On my tax return for 2007, I personally was glad that I had made the first of my yearly payments to the University of Virginia Fund for the benefit of the Alpha Chapter CEF.

Many of your responses to our efforts indicate that you share with the Reunion Committee a recognition that it is an important for the Alpha Chapter CEF to be a meaningful fund from which scholarships can be granted to the members of our chapter. Simply put, the larger the Fund, the more meaningful grants can be made. In our first year of seeking your participation, we have not reached the goal of $150,000, but have made a significant start. We urge those of you who have contributed to stay the course and continue your wonderful support. To those who have not yet contributed, we urge you to put the Alpha Chapter Excellence Fund in the forefront of your charitable endeavors in 2008. We would like whatever breakfast or other celebration to which $1,500 cumulative donors to the CEF are invited over the 150th Anniversary Celebration to be a roaring good time and a victory celebration for all of us in obtaining our goal.

This spring the active members of the Alpha Chapter participated in our CEF fund raising drive. We did not ask them to solicit contributions; rather we felt that that was our job. They made telephone calls to those persons who had contributed solely for the purpose of expressing the actives appreciation to those contributing. I understand that some of the conversations were lively and fun for both the persons receiving the calls and those who made them. The success of having the undergraduates express their appreciation to older Chi Phi’s has lead us to believe that we might repeat making such calls in the future. The undergraduate actives expressed their pride in the fact that the Fund available to grant scholarships to the members of the Alpha Chapter is the largest such fund of any of the fraternities on Grounds and is one of the largest such funds in the Chi Phi Fraternity. Of course, those who have not yet contributed to the CEF are welcomed to join us in making this a truly meaningful scholarship fund.

One wag has put our efforts to increase the size of the CEF as putting future rushees in a position of making the decision of joining the Alpha Chapter for the purpose of perhaps being granted a scholarship while being an active if the student keeps his grades high enough. We certainly are not in that position now, but it is nice to contemplate what we might do in the future. As one who has contributed to the CEF, I am pleased to know that our scholarship fund has
strengthened the Alpha Chapter and kept it in the forefront of fraternities at the University.

The effort to raise an additional $150,000 for the CEF has two more of your taxable years before final tabulation. We are nearly halfway to that goal and it would be most rewarding if more of our alumni joined us in our efforts. This truly is a “the more the merrier” sort of undertaking. We enclose another form that you may use in returning a pledge or contribution.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to make the Alpha Chapter the very best that it can be.

Fraternally,

William Robert Mellen ’53
Chairman, CEF 150

Alpha Brothers, 2001

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Top Ten Reasons to Donate to CEF 150

Alpha Chapter’s CEF is for the exclusive educational use of our own undergraduates. In honor of our 150th anniversary at the University of Virginia in 2009, we are raising $150,000.

10. All CEF gifts are 100% tax deductible.

9. All CEF donations count towards National Chi Phi giving goals.

8. All CEF gifts count 100% towards the annual UVA Fund drive and the University Capital Campaign. For example, CEF donations during UVA’s fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) count towards cumulative UVA giving for consideration in the University’s Rotunda Society at $2,500+.

7. Assure our future as we attract top flight brothers with significant annual scholarships.

6. Those with Matching Grant programs get 100% credit for all funds received.

5. Help build the largest single fraternity scholarship fund on Grounds.

4. Avoid irritating phone pressure from awkward brothers between 6:00 - 7:00 PM.


2. It is really easy to contribute: Response form, on-line at our web site, telephone, all credit cards accepted, automatic installment plans available, wills and bequests welcome, and more.

1. Pass on to others the unique privilege of being a Chi Phi at Virginia with bonds that last a lifetime.

Results to date (3/25/08):
Donations received - $31,693 (21%) & Donations pledged - $72,080 (48%)
Young Alumni Update

Chris Hope ’05, Andrew Callahan ’05, Keaton James Hurt ’09, Josh Cowden ’09, Dave Cowden ’03 and Alex Cauley ’11 enjoy a snowmobiling trip in Big Sky Montana.

Phil Runco ’06 and Andrew Daly ’05 complete the 2007 Marine Corps Marathon this fall.

Chris Forte ’06, Pete Deery ’05, Brian Shea ’05, Ben Martin ’05, and Bryan Wood ’07 ring in 2008 in Washington D.C.

Walt Houseknecht ’04, Andrew Callahan ’05, Dave Henry ’04, John Warin ’04, Ryan Tiffany ’04 and friend Russ enjoy St. Patrick’s Day in New York City.

Alpha Chapter Brothers from 2003-2007 gather for the wedding of friend Jacque (Chevalier) Minow
Alpha History
100 Years Ago...
Ever Hear About Brother Echols?

Pictured are Alpha Chapter brothers from 1907/08, exactly 100 years ago. Seated third from the left is the Chapter Advisor, Reddy Echols. A legend at our University, he is commemorated by the Echols Scholars program among other honors.

William H. Echols Jr. (1859-1934) was the oldest son of William Holdings Echols. He took his undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia in 1850, was a railroad engineer in the South, a mining engineer in the West, taught at the Missouri School of Mines, and then returned to the University of Virginia where he took his graduate degree in 1891 as Professor of Mathematics. He remained at the University until his death in 1934. Echols was a campus legend. At six foot four and with red hair and a mighty voice, he could hardly be missed.

Echols became famous when the Rotunda that Thomas Jefferson designed caught fire in 1895. Actually the fire began in the Annex, a building connected to the Rotunda by a Portico. Echols hauled a fire hose up a ladder in a lecture hall and fought the fire until the roof started to collapse. He swung under the ladder and went hand over hand to the floor and a safe escape. Next he got the idea of saving the Rotunda by destroying the Portico. He took 100 pounds of dynamite and put 25 pounds on each of the main columns of the Portico. This took out the pillars but left the roof. So he sent to town for more dynamite. He carried 50 pounds to the roof and threw it on the Portico. This created a blast that was heard 25 miles away but, alas, the Portico roof held, the fire crossed it and the Rotunda was destroyed. A more mathematical tale involves a student-faculty baseball game that he refereed in 1908. For one close play he flipped a coin to decide if the player was safe. The faculty won the toss and the game.

Brother Echols was actively involved in the affairs of the Alpha Chapter throughout his tenure at the University. He was President of Alpha Home Association during the construction and financing of our current house at 161 Rugby Road.

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

Planning has begun and you can expect requests for input on how to make our 150th Anniversary of Alpha Chapter of Chi Phi Fraternity the biggest and best in our long history. Our 1859 start makes us the fourth oldest fraternity at Virginia. Please let us know if you have suggestions or ideas:

Events:
Lee Rasmussen ’93 | 434-293-8191 & lrasmussen@mkpc.com

Communications (Class Reps):
Jim Soderquist ’67 | 434-960-2419 & jsimdts@aol.com

CEF 150 (Donations):
Billy Bob Mellen ’53 | 434-244-0220 & mellenchrl@aol.com

Spring 2008
Alumni Updates

Kevin F. Hull ’96
My wife Tiffany and I welcomed our twin daughters, Megan James & Julia Kendall, into the world on October 3, 2007.
(khull@hunton.com)

Byron L. Pickard ’98
My wife Cassie and I welcomed Trevor Stephen into the world on November 23, 2007. Trevor joins his sisters, Sophie (age 4) and Audrey (age 2), in Alexandria where we make our home. Although I keep telling Trevor to “get some sleep!” , he does not comply...
(bpickard@thelen.com)

Steven Michael Bowman ’03
Had been working for Bank of America Securities and living in San Francisco, CA with brother Eric Hamel ’00. In July 2007, Bowman moved to London where he works in the emerging markets group for Credit Suisse.
(stevebowman@gmail.com)

He is the proud uncle of Julia Hunter Dixon Williams, born October 7, 2007, daughter of Colin B. Williams ’01 and Cary H. Williams.
(huntchipley@gmail.com)

David A. Cowden ’03
Worked for Charlottesville-based Rimm-Kaufman Group for two years following graduation. In May 2006, Cowden moved to New York where he worked for Avenue A | Razorfish, a Microsoft Company. In November 2007 he joined the Licensing and Consulting group at Dow Jones. Cowden lives with Brothers Chris Hope ’05 and Andrew Callahan ’05.
(dac8p@yahoo.com)

Ryan McLoughlin ’03
Moved to Los Angeles after graduation to work for News Corporation. In January 2005, Ryan began working in advertising at American Airlines Publishing while living in Venice, CA. Just recently, he made the move back east as he was promoted to manage AA Publishing’s Eastern Region advertising group. He lives on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.
(uvaryanmc@hotmail.com)

Allen “Hunt” Chipley ’03
Worked for KPMG in Richmond, VA for 2 years after obtaining a separate degree in Accounting from VCU. In October of 2006, he joined Philip Morris USA in Richmond as a Financial Analyst and recently obtained his license as a CPA in VA.

Matthew E. Crafton ’03
Worked for Williamsburg Winery for a few years before returning to school. Crafton will finish a degree in Viticulture and Enology from UC-Davis in June. He worked for Etude Wines in Napa ’07 and JRG Winemaking Consultation (also in Napa) the year before. Brother Crafton will marry Julie Purcell on June 28, 2008.
(matthew_crafton@yahoo.com)

Taylor E. Morgan ’03
Lives in Yorktown, VA and works for Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding. Taylor and his wife Katie were married in 2003 and together they have two boys Chase (age 5) and Brooks (age 2).
(taymorg03@yahoo.com)

Please use the contact form included in this mailing to update us not only on your current address but also what you’ve been up to recently.

Please include pictures with captions if available, we will return any pictures sent in or you can email updates & pictures to us at rl/v@virginia.edu.

Every Home Game is...
A Mini-Reunion!

Aug. 30  -  Southern California
Sept. 6  -  Richmond
Sept. 13 -  at Connecticut
Sept. 27 -  at Duke
Oct. 4   -  Maryland
Oct. 11  -  East Carolina

Oct. 18  -  North Carolina
Oct. 25  -  at Georgia Tech
Nov. 1   -  Miami (Homecomings)
Nov. 8   -  at Wake Forest
Nov. 22  -  Clemson
Nov. 29  -  at Virginia Tech

Please visit Charlottesville and enjoy a Cavaliers football game this fall. You are always welcome at 161 Rugby Road and at the Chi Phi Tailgate in the West Lot. Before every home game, brothers Bob Henderson ’69, Jim Soderquist ’67, and Owen Parry ’65 host a tailgate party in West Lot spaces 464, 465, 466 just in front of the main West Lot entrance. You are welcome, please join us.