As Spring is upon us, while UVa student Chi Phis’ thoughts turn to exams, graduation, summer jobs, summer vacation, and perhaps graduate school or a job in the “real world,” the thoughts of UVa. Chi Phi Alumni turn to reunions. Every year, alumni who graduated in multiples of 5 years ago head to Charlottesville in early June to hang out on the Lawn, reconnect with classmates, enjoy the University, and listen to bands from the past and the present. For example, this year the University of Virginia undergraduate classes of 2008, 2003, 1998, 1983, 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963, 1958, 1953, and 1948 return to Charlottesville for their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th, and 65th reunions.

However, for Chi Phis who want to gather with all the guys who were in the fraternity during their time in Charlottesville, this presents a problem. The brother who was a second year pledge wants to see all the guys who were first year pledges at the same time, but graduated a year after he did. Chi Phis want to see the big brother who was 4th year when they were 1st year, the pledge who joined when they were 4th year, all the guys who lived in the house with them, and all the guys who spent time with them at the House on Friday afternoons.

Whatever happened to the brother with the dog that was the de facto mascot of the house? What happened to the brother who outfitted himself in shoulder pads and catcher’s gear, ran around the ledge at the top of the house, launched himself into the evergreen tree and slid down? Whatever happened to the brother who got mad at our fraternity neighbors for damage they caused while playing lacrosse in the quad, threw a small grill through their French doors, and then walked over with a lacrosse stick, apologized for the inadvertent damage caused when he was playing “Hi-bachi Ball,” and asked if he could retrieve his hibachi? What happened to the guy who climbed up a ladder so he could look in the window to watch his brother and the brother’s girlfriend studying together, only to have the brother push the ladder away from the house and send the spectator into the hedge by the sidewalk next to Rugby Road? Where are the guys who outfitted themselves as golfers, with knickers, golf clubs and golf bags, and caddies, went onto the platform above the 161 Rugby Road front door, drove golf balls through the window of the adjacent bedroom window, and then opened the window and politely inquired of the brother and the girl studying in bed together (the girl now cowering under the covers) whether they might be permitted to “play through”, and then climbed into the room, patiently lined-up their shots, and continued playing out into the hall of the House? What happened to “Limpy,” the guy who was sitting in a second story Chi Phi window playing cards, when he fell out of the window, hit the ground, and messed-up his foot?

If guys only return for “their reunion” every five years, guys who want to be reunited with all of the guys who shared the house with them will never get their wish. So, is there nothing that could be done about this dilemma?

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2013 Chi Phi Congress and Golf Tournament

Jim Soderquist ’82

This year’s 148th Chi Phi Congress will be held June 27-30 in Baltimore, MD at the Royal Sonesta Harbor Court Baltimore.

On Thursday June 27th, the Chi Phi Educational Trust will be sponsoring the third annual Watts Gunn Memorial golf Tournament at Bulle Rock Golf Course in Harve De Grace, Maryland. Proceeds from the tournament are used to support the Chi Phi College of Excellence and other leadership development programs.

Additional information, to include registration and opportunities for sponsorship can be found on Chi Phi’s website (www.chipi.org). Hopefully, those Brothers living in the Maryland/DC area will form at least one team to represent the Alpha Chapter.

Archives Search

Jeff Shields ’69

A group of your brothers is searching for materials relating to the circa 1923/1924 construction of our house at 161 Rugby Road. We plan to digitize these materials, compose the story surrounding it to provide a framework, and include it on our website so that everyone interested in learning more about this important aspect of Alpha Chapter’s history on the quad has easy access to the story. Please send pictures, articles, stories, and memorabilia to me, Jeff Shields, at jeffreybshields@yahoo.com or via mail to 9476 Newbridge Drive, Potomac, Maryland 20854. If via mail, I promise to return any items you send me. I very much appreciate your time and effort to move this project forward.

Alpha Notes

Josh Newman ’14

The spring semester picked up right where the fall semester left off for Chi Phi. At the end of the fall semester, the brotherhood felt extremely confident about the coming formal rush. In a unified effort, the house was able to recruit 24 quality new members this year. I believe that this is the largest pledge class that the Alpha Chapter has ever taken. These young men are great additions to the house, and will serve well in preserving the house’s reputation on Grounds, as well as ensuring the continuity of Chi Phi at UVA.

Additionally, Chi Phi has added a new spring semester philanthropy event. The new event, known as “Bonnahoo,” was co-sponsored by Chi Phi and Pi Beta Phi on April 26th. The event was an all afternoon music festival, and between ticket and t-shirt sales, I believe that both Chi Phi and Pi Beta Phi will be able to donate a significant amount to our charities, Ronald McDonald House and Read, Lead, Achieve respectively. We hope to make this philanthropy into an annual partnership with Pi Beta Phi in future years.

With summer approaching, we will be sad to see another class of brothers graduating and finishing their time here in Charlottesville, but hope that they will return frequently. The Chapter is at an extremely healthy size, and we anticipate another strong year of recruiting to follow. The brotherhood is always delighted to hear from our alumni, and we hope that the recent alumni, as well as those a few more years removed, will continue to contact us and keep us up to date with their lives and endeavors. Thank you for everything you do for us and for the Chapter. Please do not hesitate to contact us and let the brothers know if we can be of service.
Alumni Updates

On August 26th of 2012, just outside of Charlottesville, Eric Conn ’97 “was lucky enough” to marry a beautiful and brilliant woman, Hillary Webber. Quite a few Chi Phi brothers were there to join in the celebration, including Jay Silverman ('97), Chad Rogers ('97), Brock Jolly ('00), Adrien Pickard ('00), Matt Webber ('97), Scott Johnston ('97), Alex Lasher ('96), Byron Pickard ('98), and Eric Starkloff ('97) (not pictured).

Douglas Ward '72 says he finally decided to get his pilot’s license in 2011. The picture at right is of him flying over the Chesapeake Bay in a Flight Design CTSW.

Bob Tinker '92 finally took the plunge August 4 in Menlo Park. Evan Kraus ('92), Dan Menold ('91), and Chris Ralphs ('93) joined. Bob and his new wife, Christine, and her two children live in Portola Valley, CA.

Brother Phil Runco (Alpha ’05) recently opened a wine shop in DC and welcomed brothers Josh Phelps (Alpha ’01), Philip Runco (Alpha ’05), and friends for a wine tasting.

Brother Matt Shait (Alpha ’04), wife Bri, and daughter Havens recently welcomed future Chi Phi Joseph Walton into the world.

Brothers Kevin Clark (Alpha ’04), John Warin (Alpha ’04), Brooke Wills Kluttz (wife of Craig Kluttz), and Ryan Tiffany (Alpha ’04) held a mini 2004 reunion during the Young Alumni Reunion.
This publication is made possible solely through the generosity and support of Alpha alumni. Please visit our website www.chiphiuva.com.

Alumni Updates

Al Thieme ’89
Hello from faaaaar out on the Left Coast to all my good brothers who have stayed back east,
Life has been great this year with a flourishing acupuncture and herbal medicine practice in Portland, OR (portland-acupuncture. com). Additionally, I am in the process of starting a green building company to provide solar/wind power, conservation upgrades, and design for efficiency for commercial and residential projects.
Just returned from elk hunting in the snowy mountains of eastern Oregon, and enjoyed many amazing adventures over the summer in the Italian mediterranean, Berlin, Germany, and New Mexico. I live in beautiful SE Portland, and welcome any of you for a visit when you venture out this way.

Dan Elkin ’53
I just passed my 85th birthday. That’s about the only thing that’s newsworthy in my life. Still playing a little golf. I keep hoping to shoot my age one day, but no luck so far. I’m close, but not quite there.

Beta Notes
Andrew Sanders ’14
The spring semester has been an enjoyable time at 161 Rugby Road. The recruitment of twenty-four new members wasn’t the only change to come to the Alpha chapter. The most notable change was the installment of an in-house sprinkler system. This new sprinkler system, which spans all four floors, services every room and hallway, and brings the chapter house up to more modern safety standards. The installation of the entire system was a fast and thorough process that also led to re-doing the ceiling of the second floor hallway, which served to cover up all of the new plumbing.
As usual, most brothers are excited for spring weather, and the expanded use of the front lawn that comes with it. To take advantage of this, the brotherhood has decided to schedule another philanthropy, Bonnahoo, for April 26. Bonnahoo will be an outdoor music festival organized with the Pi Beta Phi sorority. The proceeds of the event will be donated to the Ronald McDonald house charity, along with the literacy oriented First Book charity. Finally, renovations of the basement are on the horizon. These renovations will serve to revamp the basement and make it yet another space in which brothers can socialize and spend time together. I have deeply enjoyed my first semester as Beta, and I look forward to continuing my service to the Alpha chapter when school resumes in the fall.

Call for Board Service
We are seeking candidates to serve on an Alpha Chapter Alumni Board. We have three areas of service: House, Alumni, and Chapter Advisory, for board participation. This is a great way to reconnect and serve your Fraternity. There is no requirement to be based in Charlottesville. Please contact John Harris (434-296-2486 or Harris.john60@gmail.com) if you have an interest and would like to learn more about this important service opportunity.

Chapter Eternal

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

Ralph H. Alexander, Jr. ’47
Robert C. Brydon ’59

What’s a “HooWah?”

To the left is a page from the 1901 edition of Johns Hopkins yearbook, which was submitted by an alumnus as it adds “a bit more intrigue about the origin of UVa’s ‘Wahoo.’” Could it have been a more universal cheer on college campuses of the 1890’s?

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