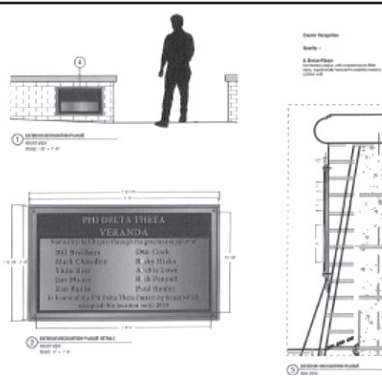




GEORGIA ALPHAN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GEORGIA ALPHA CHAPTER OF PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY AT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - FALL 2020



Our 2020 Chapter Advisory Board Update *A Year Like No Other*

Brother,

On behalf of the Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) of Georgia Alpha, I would like to recap the chapter's accomplishment in 2020—a year like no other.

As you might recall, the Chapter closed in March this year along with the rest of the campus. Most of the actives went home and completed their classes virtually. Despite this significant adjustment, the Chapter completed the spring semester with an overall GPA of 3.71, which ranked second out of nearly 30 fraternities on campus.

In addition to completing school remotely, our officers led by President **Seth Currie #2475** continued their officer responsibilities with many restrictions through the fall semester. Please read their stories on how they achieved their goals on page 3. The Chapter procured a pledge class of 26 fine young men who were initiated on October 1, bringing the total number of actives to 130.

In early November, new officers were elected for 2021. Please see these officers listed on page 2. These names and positions are also listed on our website, gaalpha.com, under the "Chapter" tab.

As previously shared, a small group of alumni obtained naming rights to the

veranda that fronts Ivester Hall in the Terry College of Business complex, which sits where the former Chapter house stood until 2009. Please see pictures above of this area and the plaque that will be placed there.

The official dedication will be in the fall of 2021 prior to a home football game. This event will be the centerpiece of the 150-year anniversary celebration of Georgia Alpha that was chartered on June 5, 1871, making it the oldest chapter in continuing existence on the UGA campus. We have not finalized a date for these events due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. Once the 2021 football schedule is finalized, we will confirm this date.

Please ensure your contact information is updated by submitting updates through our website, gaalpha.com, under the "Alumni" tab. All communications for these events, as well as our 2021 Founders Day, which we hope to host this spring, will come via email from the website. We want each of you to make these events and hope you will encourage others to update their information as well.

As 2020 concludes, there are many things the CAB is thankful for. Most of all are the outstanding young men we have the privilege to work with. Several years ago, we began an annual fund to pay for projects around the house that the Chapter cannot budget for. With 2021

marking such a significant milestone in our chapter history we have set a goal of \$150,000 to be used to replace all the dorm room furniture. In 2009, we raised a similar amount led by **John McGoogan #1485**. Despite the actives doing their best to maintain things, the bedding and furniture is in dire need of replacement. Please see page 4 for photos of the furniture. You can submit your gift by completing the form on page 4. You can also contribute on our website under the "Annual Fund" tab.

The Chapter turnaround since 2012 has been led by these young men who have been great leaders not only in our chapter but also in numerous organizations across campus. As Georgia Alpha alumni, we should be in great appreciation of their stewardship. On behalf of the CAB, I hope each of you will consider supporting the 2021 annual as we will need widespread support. Check our website for updates on our progress and a list of donors.

In closing, I hope that the COVID-19 crisis will clear in the near future and that we will all be able to gather soon thereafter. In the meantime, I hope you and your family have a safe and healthy holiday.

Yours in the Bond,
Mark B. Chandler #1686
Advisory Board Alumni Chairman
(404) 358-7904
markc@hpiinc.net

Chapter Advisory Board

Chairman
Ashley Dillard #2108
stad10@yahoo.com

Treasurer
Howard Guest #2119
hguest3@yahoo.com

Housing Corporation
Chairman
David Boohaker #2092
david.boohaker@gmail.com

Alumni/Rush Chairman
Mark Chandler #1686
markc@hpiinc.net

Housing Corporation
President
John McGoogan #1485
jmc@prestwickcapital.com





2021 Executive Board

President

Matthew Ikard #2503
(615) 210-7294
matthewikard@llfilail.com

Vice President

Jack Herrin #2523
(902) 356-7617
jackherrin81@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Patrick Leonard #2553
(404) 947-6704
peleonard6@gmail.com

Secretary

Cam Walter #2537
(770) 703-0088
waltercam522@gmail.com

Brotherhood Chairman

Brock Thrasher #2554
(404) 670-2437
brock@lthrasher.com

Social Chairmen

Reed Stout #2538
(615) 924-3758
reedstout1227@gmail.com

Jack Graddy #2545

(901) 626-2813
jackgraddy11@gmail.com Sophomore

Philanthropy Chairman

Thomas Weingartner #2506
(404) 662-9603
tiweingartner26@gmail.com

Academic Chairman

Matthew Geisler #2512
(419) 481-3752
geislerma99@gmail.com

Recruitment Chairman

Bart Mueller #2530
(901) 652-1069
bartrammueler@gmail.com

Phikeia Educator

Sam Gaynor #2555
(512) 516-9173
samgaynor5@gmail.com

Warden

Tyler Shiflett #2509
(615) 812-4573
tylershiflett6@gmail.com

Risk Management

Sam Greenwell #2564
(513) 716-2526
sam.greenwell.33@gmail.com

I'm a Dawg, You're a Dawg

Georgia Alpha Brother Publishes Book

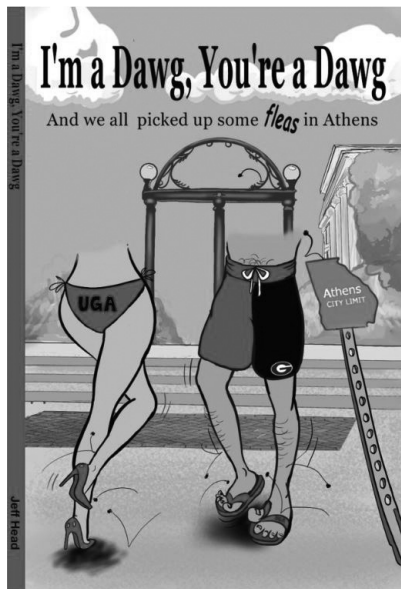
In almost 150 years of continued existence and 2,600 initiates, the list of published authors from Georgia Alpha is a short one. However the year 2020 has brought changes that no one could have imagined and now our own **Jeffrey Head #1638** has published a book, *I'm a Dawg, You're a Dawg And We All Picked Up Some Fleas in Athens*, based on his experiences as an undergraduate in the mid-1970s.

Many of you have reached out about this book and also wanted to know how to get a copy. Below is Jeffrey's story of how the book came about. You can order a copy by simply emailing him at headjeffrey@gmail.com. Chip Caray, voice of the Atlanta Braves, is doing an audiobook of *I'M A DAWG* which should be out in the very near future. Look for it in audio version soon.

It is a great read and brought back a lot of humorous events that occurred at the corner of Lumpkin and Baxter.

Who let the Dawgs out? UGA in the mid-seventies; the Dawgs were loose. No dawg catcher in Athens could keep pace with this pack of Red Clay hounds and the tall tales they lived at Georgia Alpha Chapter! *I'M A DAWG, YOU'RE A DAWG AND WE ALL PICKED UP SOME FLEAS IN ATHENS* is my new book. It is a collection of humorous vignettes from my time at the University of Georgia. I was fortunate enough to attend at a time when life was simpler, and we entertained ourselves in a variety of ways. Beer was always a good option, which then led to many possibilities. I have recounted some in the book, and still have a few up

my sleeve. I waited until my children were over 30 years of age to write the book for fear they might try to emulate some of this collegiate insanity. The book is a fun, easy read and I hope it brings some levity to the challenging times we live in. Order your copy at headjeffrey@gmail.com.



The radical sixties had ended. The wide open seventies followed. You saw the movie Animal House. Jeff Head lived it. Return to the University of Georgia campus from 1974 to 1977. You will be transported to the corner of Baxter Street and Lumpkin Street, catercorner from old Stegeman Hall. A stone's throw from the UGA Bookstore; and a short stroll to historic Sanford Stadium. You will be treated to tall tales, all true. Like nothing you have read since Lewis Grizzard, enjoy

THE PLUSH TAIL, OBNOXIOUS NINE, BANNAS FOSTER, STREAKING UGA STYLE AND MUCH, MUCH MORE. If you like a good belly laugh, this book is for you. If you are a wallflower, get a copy of Ladies Home Journal. But for the guys and girls who enjoy living life to the fullest, get ready for a full body laugh.

"There's only one way to be a DGD...and that's to pick up a flea or two...and Jeff's stories are Dawg-gone funny...and awfully close for comfort for every UGA grad...and parent! A carefree, fun read that's sure to take you down memory lane...or at least Baxter, Lumpkin, and Milledge! Enjoy!"

— Chip Caray, Voice of the Atlanta Braves

Fall 2020 Initiates

Georgia Alpha initiated 26 young men on October 1, 2020. Procuring and initiating a pledge class of this size and quality with the restrictions of COVID-19 is a testament to the outstanding members and leadership of our Chapter.

- Bruno Anez #2577
- Beau Blanton #2582
- John Brunner #2593
- Declan Cleaver #2599
- Christian Elizalde #2588
- Lee Fenstermacher #2595
- Jonathan Gilbertson #2592
- Will Gladden #2576
- Ben Graff #2594

- Tim Hall #2596
- Josh Hameed #2579
- Rory Hibbler #2581
- Logan Kelly #2575
- Austin Lalomia #2600
- Denton Lord #2583
- Evan Meetze #2580
- Russell Mills #2585
- Max Murray #2597

- Everett O'Gorman #2589
- Cole Shmittlein #2584
- Connor Socia #2587
- Hugh Stacey #2598
- Camden Sutherland #2586
- Ben Tharp #2578
- Jack Tucker #2590
- Charlie Turner #2591



Persevering Through the Pandemic

Chapter Officers Share Thoughts and Experiences from the Fall Semester

President

Seth Currie #2475

2020 has been one of the most unconventional years for everyone and has brought new challenges that the brothers of Georgia Alpha were prepared to take on. I commend all of my officers and every brother for the obstacles they individually and collectively overcame to further their education and stay healthy throughout this semester.

This year specifically has changed my role as chapter president. One of the biggest tasks I had for the semester was finding alternatives for all of the events and chapter meetings we previously hosted while maintaining social distancing guidelines, following local and state guidelines, and overseeing the health of all of our members. While some of the alternatives were not easy (or financially doable), we have been able to come up with some equivalent events for our members to participate in and bring our Chapter together when this year is pulling everyone apart. Without the support of our friends and family, the University, our alumni, and every member, this year would not have been possible, and I would like to personally thank all of them for supporting us.

Brotherhood Chairman

Matthew Ikard #2503

COVID-19 has changed the world we live in, as well as fraternity life. As brotherhood chairman, it is my job to increase the overall bond in the fraternity and improve college life. In a normal fall semester, this would usually involve brotherhood events like tailgates for Georgia football and dodgeball or poker nights for the whole fraternity. With on-campus tailgating banned by UGA and having to account for capacity limits and social distancing, this made my job a lot harder.

One change I made this semester wasn't a new event, but instead was simply calling brothers to check up on their well-being. Coronavirus took a mental toll on everyone and I needed to make sure that my brothers were coping well with that. I was also able to have some small events with capacity limits. We also had a few poker nights that were split up into smaller groups, and we followed similar guidelines for Georgia football games. It is unfortunate that I was not able to do all I wanted to as brotherhood chairman, but I am happy to have made something work in these uncertain times.

Philanthropy Chairman

Thomas Weingartner #2506

The philanthropic efforts of our brothers have not slowed down in any way despite dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the summer and this semester, I made sure that any activity we conducted

was done so with full attention to social distancing guidelines, especially when assisting our ALS families. Out of consideration for the safety of our Adopt-a-Families, we have only completed work or spent time with them outside — with plenty of space in between each other. We always show up to their property with masks on, but never go inside their homes. Some of the ways we assisted our fellow families include doing yard work and going fishing with their children. The most important aspect for me is to ensure that anyone who wishes to help out our ALS families does so with the utmost consideration of their surroundings to keep everyone safe.

Our chapter is still able to maintain our valiance in fundraising for ALS research, and I am proud to say that our chapter, especially our newest pledge class, earned ourselves a fifth straight Iron Phi Chapter award (given to the Phi Delt chapter with the highest amount of money raised). Much of the semester for me has also included stressing the importance of service to our former Phikeia of the fall '20 pledge class. I helped them set up their own personal Iron Phi fundraising accounts at the very beginning of the semester, and every single new member raised over \$500 by the time they were initiated. Additionally, they conducted a distanced tidy-up of our Adopt-a-Highway in Athens (Fourth Street). Now as new initiates, their service efforts continue to be strong. I plan to continue to organize appropriate service projects and events so that our Chapter persists in serving others around the Athens community and beyond. In October, I led a canned food drive to be sent to the Northeast Georgia Food Bank. In November, distributed meals prepared by brothers to the homeless individuals around downtown Athens. I would like to conclude by mentioning one of our brothers, **JR Bingel #2567**. He recently started the Thirst Project at UGA, a service club dedicated to fundraising for the installation of clean freshwater wells and awareness for the global water crisis. Many of our brothers are involved, and I have partnered with him in giving them service credits for actively participating in this wonderful philanthropic organization.

Recruitment Chairman

Jack Herring #2523

Summer and formal recruitment were very different from years prior due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In past summers the rush team and rising sophomores lived in the house during the summer. They put on smaller events during the weeks for rushees during their orientations and big events on the weekends. This summer, we were unable to use the house at all which presented real challenges for the rush team and myself. Instead, we had events at brothers' off-campus houses for the few rushees that could make it during



Alumni and actives outside the stadium before the Georgia vs. Florida game.

the pandemic. There were fewer actives in town this summer as well, so the ones who were living in Athens truly stepped up and made sure we had yet another successful recruitment cycle.

Formal rush was even more different as there were very limited house tours and everything was socially distanced. Knowing this going in, we wanted to fill as much of our class as we could before it started. Most of the out-of-state freshmen came from formal rush and I was very pleased with the way it turned out. Despite the challenges and uncertainty this summer came with, the Georgia Alpha Chapter of Phi Delta Theta continued its success and added great young men to our Chapter. This could not have been done without the dedication and hard work of the rest of the recruitment team of **Bart Mueller #2530**, **Hayden Chunn #2535**, and **Curtis McClelland #2544**.

Education Chairman

Seth Reynolds #2508

Extreme importance was put on carrying out Phikeia education in an effective manner throughout the pandemic. We were faced with many safety challenges that broke the norms of a typical Phikeia education. However, with the help up of nationals and our internal executive committee, these young men grew significantly during the process.

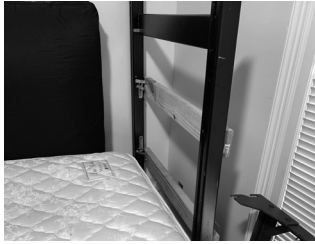
The most glaring change we had to implement was capacity limits in nearly everything we did. We had Phikeia in groups on a rotating basis meeting and interviewing brothers. Technology was also a huge factor that we utilized to connect with the Phikeia. We used Zoom and also had virtual study hours multiple times a week. Phi Delta Theta history was ingrained through the use of online modules and homework assignments. We were extremely pleased with the amount of learning that took place from these modules and will most likely continue the use of these post-pandemic with our next class. These initiated Phikeia are now no less of brothers than anyone and we are all ecstatic to have them.



Phi Delta Theta
 University of Georgia
 P.O. Box 442100
 Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Address Service Requested

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 MAILED FROM
 ZIP CODE 66044
 PERMIT #570



GEORGIA ALPHAN

Fall 2020

Help us keep our alumni records up to date! Submit your updates online at gaalpha.com, or clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to:

Phi Delta Theta
 University of Georgia
 P.O. Box 442100
 Lawrence, KS 66044-2100

Name _____

Bond Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____

Yes, I Want to Support the 2021 Georgia Alpha Annual Fund!

Please clip and return this form or make your payment online at gaalpha.com.

I wish to pledge:

- \$5,000 - 1871 Society
- \$2,500 - McGoogan Society
- \$1,000 - Burch Society
- \$500 - 690 South Lumpkin Society
- \$250 - Azure And Ardent Society
- Other: \$ _____

Name _____ Bond Number _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ Phone (W) _____ Email _____

Payment Amount: _____

Check - Made payable to: Georgia Alpha

If you would like to make a credit card payment, please visit gaalpha.com.

Please clip this form, place it in a stamped envelope and send to:

Phi Delta Theta, University of Georgia
 PO Box 2187 | Columbus, GA 31902