



GEORGIA ALPHAN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF GEORGIA ALPHA CHAPTER OF PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY AT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA - SUMMER 2017

Not Your Father's Rush

One of the most misunderstood subjects that Chapter Advisory Board (CAB) members try to communicate is how the recruitment process changed over the last couple of decades.

The recruitment process is more expedited than what many of you recall from your undergraduate days. In the late 1980s, the University of Georgia Interfraternity Council (IFC) decided to implement a structured formal recruitment shortly before the fall semester started. While this change seemed like a way to "level the playing field" for all the chapters, it turned out that chapters began bidding potential members prior to the on campus recruitment. UGA IFC did not police this violation very well, partially because its leadership was composed of members from the largest chapters that benefitted most from this change. In time, these chapters wrapped up their pledge classes by the end of July and would not even participate in structured rush—to the point of leaving their houses locked up for the young men on house tours to stand outside.

Georgia Alpha spent most of this time on the short side of the recruitment process. We were

Submit recruitment recommendations at gaalpha.com, or contact **Ashley Dillard #2108** at stad10@yahoo.com or **Mark Chandler #1686** at markc@hpiinc.net.

fighting with the other small chapters over a limited number of recruits who went through structured rush. Fortunately, we turned the corner and are now competitive with any chapter at UGA. At this point you might be asking "What does this have to me?"

For nearly 150 years of Georgia Alpha's existence, rush recommendation has always been the key source of selecting prospective members. Coupled with recommendations from the Chapter actives, we rely on these to recruit new members. Given the facts described above, we need these qualified recommendations as soon as possible, but at least by the end of the high school year. You can submit a recommendation via our website, gaalpha.com, or contact **Ashley Dillard #2108** at stad10@yahoo.com or **Mark Chandler #1686** at markc@hpiinc.net. The sooner we can get your recruit's information, the better chance we have to pledge him.

While the recruitment process changed, prospects and resulting pledges from our alumni is the ultimate way for our Chapter to thrive and to retain a close goodwill with our alumni.

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

Public Relations/ Phikeia Chairman

John Barnett
john.barnett@gmail.com

Scholarship/ Philanthropy Chairman

Jason Fitzer
jasonfitzer@gmail.com

Housing Corporation President

John McGoogan #1485
jmc@prestwickcapital.com

Save the Date

Annual Alumni Luncheon at the Chapter House on 130 Greek Park Circle

Saturday, August 26, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Catered by Lee & Daniel Epting, Epting Events

Cost: \$40 per person. Spouses welcome.

An email reminder with RSVP instructions to be sent closer to the event.

150th Anniversary Celebration of Georgia Alpha

Many of you inquired about plans for this event. According to GHQ, Georgia Alpha was founded June 5, 1871. We plan to host an event in 2021. While it is four years away, this is a significant event and achievement. Georgia Alpha is the 14th oldest Phi Delta Theta chapter and the oldest in continuous existence nationally and on the UGA campus.

We will form a committee to plan this event to be chaired by **John McGoogan #1485**. If you are interested in helping with this event please email John at jmc@prestwicklending.com.



Georgia Alpha Launches the 2017 Georgia Alpha Annual Fund

Make your contribution today at gaalpha.com!

Brother of Georgia Alpha,

On behalf of our Chapter Advisory Board (CAB), I am pleased you are receiving the first print newsletter in several years. As many of you know, we have been focused on the turnaround of our Chapter over the past few years.

In a period of four years, Georgia Alpha went from the verge of folding in the spring of 2012 to winning the Harvard Trophy for the outstanding large chapter in 2016. This miraculous turnaround can be attributed to the leadership of **Ashley Dillard #2108** our CAB Chairman, along with the quality of our actives that have made Phi Delta Theta one of the outstanding chapters on the UGA campus.

The Chapter has approximately 130 brothers of which 20 live in the Chapter House at 130 Greek Circle. As you recall, we chose to take the University's option to relocate us here from Lumpkin Street on a long term lease. The University built Georgia Alpha a \$3.1 million house which conformed to building code requirements for student housing. Additionally, the lease requires UGA to maintain the house which includes daily cleaning service as well as all capital expenditures. At the end of each spring semester, UGA comes in and takes care of any items they deem need addressing, which typically exceed our expectations.

this was the best option a decade ago. Realistically it was the only option as the Chapter was struggling with membership and the prospect of a significant capital campaign to fund a new house on private property was not likely. In fact, we had to raise roughly \$150,000 to furnish the new Chapter House. Fortunately we were able to do this, led by our long time CAB member and House Corporation President, **John McGoogan #1485**.

In addition to our last capital solicitation in 2009, we had to fund the Chapter reorganization in 2012-13, which included paying UGA our lease payment for that school year in addition to paying Headquarters for our onsite recruitment director, Steven Fleming. The total cost of approximately \$150,000 was funded by a small number of alumni.

Thankfully we are in a great position as of now. With some good fortune, but mostly due to the outstanding efforts of our actives, Georgia Alpha is thriving and it is time alumni need to support them in return. In conjunction with our new expanded communication efforts, we will begin an annual fund each year to fund either projects to the Chapter House or award scholarships to deserving actives.

The *2017 Georgia Alpha Annual Fund* will assist in refurbishing the common areas of the house including a built in trophy case for the living room. The budget for this and the placing of some furniture is \$25,000. We ordered the

cabinetry and will complete the install over the summer in time for when the house is occupied in early August.

I trust you will support Georgia Alpha and our actives that we are so proud of. Enclosed is a contribution form with varying levels of support. I encourage you to consider making a gift of \$500 the *2017 Georgia Alpha Annual Fund* today. If this amount is more than you would like to contribute this year, please consider giving \$250 or \$100. Your gift will make an enormous impact on the campaign and the Chapter. Our brotherhood depends on annual support from its alumni. Without you, we would not be where we are today.

To make your gift, either complete and return the pledge form below or visit gaalpha.com and click "Support the Campaign." For your convenience, you may spread your gift over the course of a year by making monthly or quarterly payments. We can also set up recurring payments to charge your credit card automatically or draft your checking account.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the CAB with questions or concerns.

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

Yes, I Want to Support the 2017 Georgia Alpha Annual Fund!

Please clip and return this form.
5360 - 1451 - News

I wish to pledge:

- \$1,000 - 1871 Society
- \$500 - McGoogan Society
- \$250 - Burch Society
- \$100 - 690 South Lumpkin Society
- Other: \$ _____

Please Bill Me:

- One-Time Monthly
- Quarterly Twice a year

I wish to make my first payment:

- Now On _____

Phone Number

Payment Amount: _____

- Check - Made payable to: OmegaFi
- Debit my bank account

Name On Account: _____

Routing Number: _____

Account Number: _____

- Charge my credit card

Card Number: _____

Name On Card: _____

Exp. Date: _____ Billing Zip: _____

Signature

Recurring payment:

Would you like to make this a recurring payment?
 Yes No

Process on the _____ day of the month according to the pledge payment schedule indicated here.

I have included or will consider including Phi Delta Theta - University of Georgia in my will or estate plan.

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

Phi Delta Theta, University of Georgia (5360)
PO Box 2187 | Columbus, GA 31902

To make a payment online, visit gaalpha.com.



2017 Chapter Officers

President

Grady Saunders #2359
gradysaunders@gmail.com

Vice President

David Witlhoft #2409
davidwitlhoft@gmail.com

Treasurer

Matthew Godwin #2363
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Secretary

Kyle Harris #2384
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Warden

Alec Langford #2392
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Recruitment Chairman

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Social Chairman

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Service Chairman

Sid Anil #2426
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Brotherhood Chairman

Alex Richman #2405
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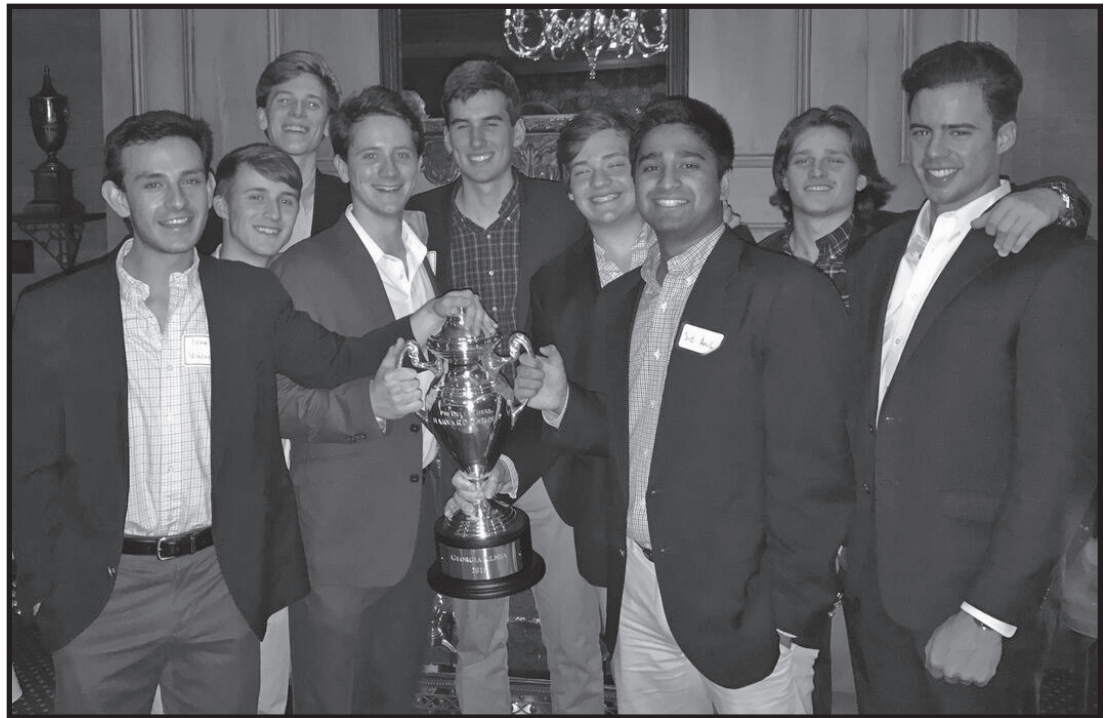
Scholarship Chairman

Michael Collins #2427
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Risk Manager

Carter Miller #2393
cartermiller80@gmail.com

Communication support and assistance provided by OmegaFi.
 (800) 276-6342 | omegafi.com



Brothers pose with a replica of the Harvard Trophy which was funded by a group of alumni.

Spring 2017 in Review

Golden Legion Founder's Day Ceremony

At this year's Golden Legion Founder's Day Ceremony, the Chapter commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the pledge class of 1967 and celebrated Georgia Alpha winning the Harvard Trophy during the 2015-16 school year. As part of the ceremony, a group of 40 active brothers were presented with a replica of the Harvard Trophy, funded by a group of alumni. Alumni and actives thoroughly enjoyed time together celebrating Georgia Alpha and the Chapter's achievements.

Philanthropy and Community Service

Sid Anil #2426 took over as Service Chairman and packed the calendar full of community service events at the Humane Society, a retirement home, and Athens PB&J Backpack Project. With the help of PAWS at UGA, the Chapter was able to volunteer at the Humane Society while also taking a few puppies over to the retirement home to mingle with the residents. Later in the semester, actives partnered with local organizations (Backpack Project and Athens PB&J) to make backpacks and sandwiches for the homeless community in Athens.

Additionally, the Chapter hosted their second annual Master's themed philanthropy week. Events included percentage nights at City Bar and Fuzzy's Mexican restaurant, a putt-putt date night, and the Bubble Soccer Tournament. The week was a huge success and helped to raise a total of \$18,664.26 for the ALS Association—an increase of \$600 from last year.

Bowery Ball

Since re-founding, Bowery Ball moved away from the traditional semi-formal in raggedy suits and is now the name of the Chapter's annual spring party. This year, actives decided to bring Bowery Ball back to its roots. This year's Bowery Ball consisted of two parts; the first being the traditional semi-formal date night where brothers dressed up in their finest scruffy suits. The second part was the annual spring party, which took place a couple weeks later. The spring party was held at Big Dawgs on the River and featured rapper Waka Flocka Flame as well as three other artists. An estimated 1,200 people attended, making this event the largest since the Chapter's re-founding. The outstanding success of this event is attributed to brother **Chandler Ellis #2400** and the rest of his social team!



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PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902-2187

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

Phi Delta Theta
University of Georgia (5360)
PO Box 2187
Columbus, GA 31902

Name _____

Bond Number _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (H) _____

Phone (W) _____

Email _____



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Summer 2017

Visit Our New Alumni Website!

Visit gaalpha.com to:

- Learn more about recent news and register for any upcoming events, as well as view event photos
- Search for alumni
- Review the status of ongoing fundraising efforts
- Make your contribution in support of the *2017 Georgia Alpha Annual Fund*
- Update your address, phone number and email address
- Post noteworthy accomplishments (a new baby, a recent marriage, a recent promotion, etc.)



One of the many community service projects this year included partnering with Athens PB&J and the Backpack Project to make backpacks and sandwiches for the homeless community in Athens.



During the second annual Master's themed philanthropy week, brothers held a Bubble Soccer Tournament. The growing popularity of this event makes it a must-have every year!



This year's Golden Legion Ceremony was a huge success. Alumni gathered with 40 undergraduates to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the pledge class of 1967 and Georgia Alpha's Harvard Trophy win. To view an online photo gallery, visit gaalpha.com. More details inside!