



THE LINK

BETA DELTA CHAPTER, FOUNDED 1885

Success Starts Here.

www.atoalabama.com

A PUBLICATION OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

SPRING 2015

Beta Delta Chapter Board of Trustees

Chairman

Walter Monroe '63
Birmingham, Ala.

Vice Chairman

Denny Hughes '86
Mountain Brk, Ala.

Treasurer

Jim Kennemer '69
Birmingham, Ala.

Secretary

Tommy House '02
Anniston, Ala.

Members-at-Large

Sam Faucett '53
Northport, Ala.

Walter Hughes '60

Hoover, Ala.

Lee Mac Albritton '63

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Greg Houston '75

Birmingham, Ala.

Kane Burnette '99

Mountain Brk, Ala.

Andrew Tucker '06

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Chapter Advisor

Amos Burns '49

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

University of Alabama

Faculty Advisor

Kevin Almond '10,

Honorary Initiate

Northport, Ala.

University of Alabama

Margaret Garner

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

HON. JOEL F. DUBINA '66 DELIVERS KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT INITIATION LUNCHEON IN JANUARY

Judge Joel F. Dubina, Senior Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit, addressed the new initiates, members, parents, grandparents, and guests at the initiation luncheon of the Beta Delta Chapter on January 24. Also in attendance and addressing the more than 250 people was National Fraternity President

Jeff Busch, Washington State

'76. Former National President and Beta Delta alumnus **Walter J. Hughes '60** was also in attendance.

Judge Dubina remembered his own initiation into ATΩ nearly 50 years ago that was attended by his father, noting that some of his lifelong friends are his brothers in ATΩ. Judge Dubina remarked that “the scholastic achievements you have made are really quite remarkable, and I know firsthand those achievements had much to do with the fraternity being able to acquire the property on which this magnificent new house was built.”

Asking the new initiates and members to consider how they will choose to live the remainder of their life, Judge Dubina recounted that when he was initiated he had no clue what he would do as a profession or what he would try to accomplish. He told of his first job following graduation in a meatpacking plant owned by the late legendary Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant and managed by the father of one of his closest friends, who played football for Coach Bryant. Beginning as a common laborer on the nightshift, he worked his way into being offered an executive position



This year's freshman ATΩ members.

with the company. He gave that opportunity serious consideration but instead, and with the concurrence of his wife, Beth, he determined to attend law school and leave the meatpacking business behind.

While he never had any intentions of practicing law, much less becoming a federal judge, with the encouragement of his family and his wife

and her family, he became the first person in his family to graduate from law school (but not the last – his daughter, Congresswoman Martha Roby, is also a lawyer and represents the State of Alabama as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives). Judge Dubina was encouraged by his father, who told him more than once that law school teaches a person how to think. He said that was one of the best decisions he ever made was listening to the encouraging words and advice of his father.

“No matter what you choose to do with your life, it is important to remind yourself that time is a precious commodity, the supply of which is not inexhaustible.” Choosing how to use the days our Creator has given to us is a challenge, but Judge Dubina encouraged everyone in attendance to live every day to its fullest and yet learn to live a balanced life, devoting ample time to family, friends and community, while all the time avoiding the temptation of scheduling your life away. “The good Lord has given each of you a variety of talents and it is your responsibility to use them to help your fellow man and make our world a better place in which to live.”

REACHING FOR THE TOP

Making Beta Delta the Best

Another successful year is in the books. Our chapter was led this past year by the dedicated leadership of Worthy Master **Peter Inge '12** and his able executive committee. **Chase Green '12**, vice president, played an instrumental role in the leadership of the chapter while Peter was serving an internship in New York with an investment bank. Recruitment was very successful with

50 new pledges joining the chapter in the fall. The pledge class achieved an overall GPA of 3.37 and 39 pledges were initiated in January 2015. The chapter had an overall GPA of 3.3 in the fall, the highest among large fraternities on campus. Beta Delta had 175 men on role in the fall, including pledges, and of that number 124 men maintain a 3.0 GPA or better, with 19 men having a perfect 4.0

(Continued on page 2)



Brothers enjoy an afternoon of paintballing.



Cheering on Alabama during the Iron Bowl.



Taking a break in sunny New Orleans.

A Focus on Brotherhood

This year, the brothers at Alpha Tau Omega have voiced a strong desire for an increase in brotherhood events. This spring we have several unique and exciting brotherhood activities planned. While the weather is still cool, and because of the surmounting success of the event last fall, we are planning to have another fraternity-wide paintball outing. Last year, nearly 40 members showed up for a day filled with tromping through the woods, guns, and flying paint. One member even forded a creek, gun in hand, to win a vital match.

We are also planning a brotherhood softball tournament at a local Tuscaloosa city field. This event will consist of five teams ranging from seniors to freshmen. We will compete all day to decide the champion and will then finish off the evening with a chapter-wide cookout. When the

weather gets warmer, our aim is to take a weekend lake trip where we will fish, relax, and enjoy time on the water.

Finally, for all the brothers that live in-house we occasionally have movie nights in Fellowship Hall. These nights, scattered throughout the spring semester, usually have a great turnout from those wishing to view all the newest movies.

Fraternally,
Evan Abston '12
Historian
Evanabston22@gmail.com

A CLOSER LOOK AT PHILANTHROPY

This semester, Alpha Tau Omega started philanthropy off strong with our Wells for Warriors benefit at Gallettes. This event raised over \$5,500 to be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project helping wounded veterans cope with their needs. The philanthropy committee intends to continue this success throughout the semester by making the most efficient use of our philanthropy budget. We will hold at least two more benefits at Gallettes this semester as these come at little-to-no cost to us yet raise much more than events we have tried in the past.

To help increase community service hours we are focusing on events such as soup kitchens and other activities that will take place off campus. We will continue to have a few cookouts to raise money; however, we are taking our focus off these as they tend to be costly due to high food prices.

We also have consolidated the philanthropy committee to a core group of guys that will each be in charge of planning their own event. This will hopefully build experience for guys who want to be philanthropy chairman in the future. We also hope to solidify a few events that will become annual philanthropy events. If successful, these major operations could be built into a new Beta Delta signature event. Ideas for such an event include the possibility of ATOpen, a campus-wide tennis tournament designed as a fundraiser to benefit a local charity.

Fraternally,
Luke Yordy '13
Philanthropy Chairman
lyordy@crimson.ua.edu

REACHING FOR THE TOP

(Continued from page 1)

GPA. Obviously, a vast majority of the men of Beta Delta take scholarship seriously.

Connor Herfurth '13 assumed the duties of Worthy Master in January 2015. The entire chapter looks forward to a great 2015 and a successful year under Connor's leadership and that of the other officers. Connor has said that Beta Delta always expects to be a True Merit chapter and in the top ten of chapters in ATΩ, but this year nothing less than the top chapter award will do. The entire Board of Trustees stands ready to assist the chapter in reaching these lofty goals – might as well win the National Championship if you field a team.

Our financial position is strong, our membership is outstanding and leads the campus in every aspect of Greek life, from recruiting to scholarship, and the future is very bright for our chapter in the hands of the men who lead us. These men are of the highest character and integrity and are worthy members of the brotherhood we all enjoy. I hope that each alumnus of the chapter will have an opportunity to visit the chapter house and meet some of these fine young men.

Fraternally,
Walter H. Monroe '63
Chairman, Board of Trustees
whmonroe3@aol.com

BETA DELTA LEADS THE WAY SCHOLASTICALLY

Full of 2014 was outstanding for Beta Delta in regard to scholarship and honorable recognition. Thanks to our outstanding scholarship and new member education program, we raised the pledge class GPA to a 3.37. This is one of the highest new-member GPAs on the University of Alabama campus.

Because of these efforts, we were awarded the Most Outstanding Scholarship Award at the Greek Excellence banquet in January. That night, we also were awarded the Most Outstanding in Community Relations Award. This is evidence of all the brothers' hard work in putting together some of the most abundant and effective philanthropy events on campus during the past semester.

We are looking forward to the Order of Omega Awards, in hopes of being awarded the top chapter on campus. We are also looking to the True Merit Awards, expecting to be one of the most outstanding chapters nationally.

Fraternally,
Colin Kruger '12
 Secretary
 cmkruger@crimson.ua.edu

Recruitment Recap

The year 2014 proved to be yet another outstanding year for Alpha Tau Omega in the recruitment category. We began the process early in the fall of 2013 by hosting three tailgates and cookouts off campus for three of the largest home football games of the year. In doing so, we were able to get an excellent handle on the quality of young men to expect in the spring, as well as map out an idea of our top candidates.

Upon returning from winter break, we made quick work scheduling recruitment events throughout the spring. The festivities began with ATΩ Everest in early February and continued with Ruh Rah Reggae in March. Bids were extended from the second party in March up until the second week of school that fall.

Summer recruitment was filled with sunshine and good times with brothers. The recruitment committee planned and orchestrated five more major events that summer, including a float down the Cahaba River and two full days out on Lake Tuscaloosa. On average, we had over 300 people in attendance, a majority of whom were brothers of Beta Delta. In the end, we were extremely satisfied with our new pledge class and are looking forward to seeing them in leadership roles in the future.

Fraternally,
Colin Kruger '12
 Former
 Recruitment Chairman
 cmkruger@
 crimson.ua.edu

*Want to
 inform ATΩ of a
 prospective new
 member headed to UA?
 E-mail Recruitment
 Chairman John Booth '13
 at johnwilsonbooth@
 gmail.com.*

FACULTY PERSPECTIVE OF ONE COMMITTED TO BETA DELTA VALUES

In 1998, Margaret Garner was the president of the UA Faculty Senate when she got a call from **Amos Burns '49**. She had known Amos and his wife, Dot, through church and through Dot's role at UA. Amos wanted a faculty member who would also bring a female voice to the Board of Trustees. Margaret recalls talking with then President Andrew Sorensen about whether he would have a problem with her serving as senate president and also on a fraternity board. His comment was, "Not at all. We want this fraternity to be successful, because they are returning to campus with a desire to set a new standard of behavior and academic success." She also discussed this with her husband, who had many years' experience as assistant dean of A&S, and he was also supportive.



Margaret remembers there were 13 members in Beta Delta Chapter at that time, and they were quite an impressive group of young men. Carrying multiple roles/offices in the fraternity and leadership roles outside the fraternity while maintaining outstanding GPAs, they were clearly focused, determined, and effective. Soon the GPAs of all fraternities were rising, because the others got "tired of being beaten by one consistent group." Before long, Beta Delta became known among the sororities as the "gentlemen's fraternity" because of the respectful way the group interacted with them and in other ways on campus.

Margaret sees her role on the BOT as bringing a faculty perspective to the discussion and a voice of one committed to the higher standards that all fraternal organizations have, but too frequently fall short of those long-held creeds and beliefs. Among those most glaring in the nation are the standards in areas of

personal responsibility, particularly as it relates to the use/abuse of substances, social behavior with and toward members/pledges/guests, as well as toward other groups. In addition, the roots of fraternal groups also clearly identify the expectations of having civic responsibility to one's group/campus/community, as well as fostering a commitment to academic success for its members.

"Those are my values as one who was a Greek member, and with sons who found Beta Delta to be their first choice. It is interesting that when my twins graduated high school, I had never told them that I was on the ATΩ BOT. That was strategic in that I valued their decision-making. My advice to them was that if they chose to join a group, that group should deserve them because they were young men of principle and character. Then in return, they should give back when it was their turn so that the group would continue to be worthy of young men of principle and character. They were being rushed by several fraternities, and the son of another UA staff member actually told her son that I was on the ATΩ BOT and they were totally surprised. My response to their question of why I did not tell them was, 'You have to make your own decisions; I was confident in your ability to do so and whatever you choose should be best for you. But, again, the group should deserve you.' I was obviously thrilled when ATΩ was their choice, because I knew what they stood for and how they lived it out as a chapter. This is what I still tell parents at parent orientation and it applies to any social group: Find where you fit (values, goals, etc.), be an active member, and be a contributor to that group's success so that others who share those same attributes will ensure its success and longevity."

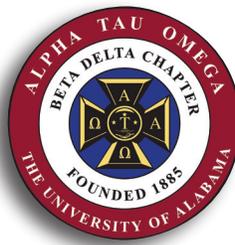
CHAPTER ETERNAL

Howard Colon Jr. '42 entered Chapter Eternal on February 18, 2014, after a short illness. He was devoted to Marie, his wife of 67 years, who survives him. He was born in Hamburg in 1921, graduated from Hamburg schools, and attended Wentworth Military Academy Junior College and the University of Alabama. He served in the Army Medical Service Corps from 1942 to 1946, attaining the rank of captain. He met Marie, an Army nurse stationed in Berlin, Germany, in December 1945. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1947 and returned with his young family to Hamburg, from where he was recalled to active duty in the USAF in 1951. He and his family transferred Air Force bases in Florida, California, Japan, New York, Virginia (where he earned a master's degree in 1958), Texas, Illinois, Germany, Montana, Georgia, and finally to Mather AFB in Sacramento. Colonel Colon retired in 1975, and then, with Marie, served two years at the Tropical Medical Hospital in American Samoa. They traveled extensively together and with their family both overseas and in the U.S.

Yetta G. Samford Jr. '42 entered Chapter Eternal on December 28, 2013. Yetta attended Auburn University, where he was initiated into Alpha Tau Omega and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. Upon graduation he entered the University of Alabama School of Law. Yetta was truly a man who supported equally his undergraduate alma mater and his law school. Yetta served the University of Alabama for 21 years as a member of its board of trustees and was awarded the honor of trustee emeritus in 1993. He was awarded an honorary LLD degree from the University in 1995 and served on the President's Council until his death. He was a great friend to the Beta Delta Chapter, whose members always considered him to be one of their own, irrespective of his undergraduate history. Yetta practiced law in Opelika but also served the people of the state as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Mobile College, the Board of Corrections, the Alabama State Docks, the State Chamber of Commerce and the Business Council of Alabama. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Liberty National Life Insurance Company, Torchmark Corporation, West Point-Pepperell Inc., and the Farmers Bank of Opelika. He was elected as a member of the Alabama Academy of Honor prior to his death.

J. Burns Johns '56 entered Chapter Eternal on March 25, 2014. Burns was born in Montgomery where he attended Sidney Lanier High School. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1959 and served in the United States Army reserve for ten years. Burns was president of Birmingham Publishing Company and J. Burns Johns & Co. and was the founder of Intercash LLC. Burns is remembered for his wonderful wit, wisdom, laughter, intelligence and memory, and for his "Burns' opinions." Burns died after battling brain cancer.

Winton M. Blount III '63 entered Chapter Eternal on February 9, 2015. Winton was a Montgomery businessman, political strategist and philanthropist who was instrumental in the early successes of the Republican Party in Alabama. He ran for governor in 1994 and 1998 stressing education and civil justice reform. He was a founder of Leadership Alabama and instrumental in the Business Council of Alabama and the A+ Education partnership. He was on the Board of Directors of the Episcopal School of Alexandria, Virginia, Alabama Power Company, Business Council of Alabama, Progress PAC and the Central Alabama Community Foundation. After leaving the University of Alabama, Winton graduated from the University of the South and received an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. For many years Winton served as CEO of Blount International Ltd. He died of natural causes at this home.



THE LINK

Alpha Tau Omega
Beta Delta Chapter
P.O. Box 660722
Birmingham, AL 35266

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAWRENCE, KS
PERMIT #570

Keep up with Beta Delta Chapter by visiting our website, www.atolabama.com.

W. Jerry Howell, M.D. '63 entered Chapter Eternal on October 16, 2014. Jerry and his twin brother were pre-med students at the University of Alabama and were both initiated into Beta Delta in 1963. He was born in Enterprise in 1944 and graduated from the University in 1966 and from the medical school in 1970. Jerry completed his residency in the United States Air Force, serving in Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star and named the Flight Surgeon of the Year. After leaving the Air Force he practiced medicine in Prattville, Ala., until he returned to medical school to pursue a specialty in psychiatry and addiction. He was board certified in both fields and became the foremost authority on addiction in Alabama as he served the Birmingham community and its hospitals for many years prior to his death from cancer.

These brothers also entered Chapter Eternal within the last several years. We realize they may have been noted in a previous issue, but we wanted to ensure their names were listed.

Albert B. Davis '39
Hon. F. Arnold Drennen '37
J. Patterson Hardy Jr. '69
Clifford T. Inglis '21
Robert H. Jackson '55
Edwin M. Martin '21
Walter C. McCoy, M.D. '37
Walter H. Monroe Jr. '46
Arthur B. Patton '47
Robbie A. Pierce '21
Edsel K. Renfroe '44
Walter W. Reynolds '21
Robert L. Spencer '60
James O. Spencer Jr. '56
Thomas M. Turner '62
Joseph A. Walker '47
James M. Walker '46
W. Clinton Wallace '69
C. Lee Walls Sr. '53
John W. Wilson '51
Walter S. Wilson '46

House Campaign Fund Tops \$2 Million Raised

In June of 2014, after more than four years, a generous contribution from the active chapter carried the New House Campaign Fund over the top and past its goal of \$2,000,000. About 30% of the goal was in direct cash gifts and 9% was in the form of bequests. The remainder of roughly 60% was in pledges, with most donors opting to pay out their pledge over five years.

As of the end of December 2014, pledges still to be paid totaled approximately \$160,000. About half of that amount was current based on each donor's specified payment schedule, with the other half behind on the payment schedule. If you are behind on your contribution schedule, please consider catching up in the next few months. The campaign fund was and remains a critical component in our ability to finance the beautiful house the active chapter and all alumni now call Beta Delta's home. The campaign fund also supports the long-term care and upkeep of the house, and it will help ensure that ATΩ remains at the top of Greek organizations on campus for decades to come.

To all alumni who contributed to the campaign fund, a generation or two of active members owe, or will owe, you a big thank-you for helping provide a house that has such a profound influence on the perception of ATΩ for all who walk through its doors.