



# THE LINK

A PUBLICATION OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FALL 2008

## BETA DELTA SHINES ON UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CAMPUS

### Alumni Leadership Analyzes Student Living and Embarks on a New Alumni Relations Plan

#### INSIDE:

- 2
- Beta Delta Academics Ranked First
- 3
- Alumni Relations Program Launched
- 3
- Alumnus Spotlight
- 4
- Beta Delta Looks Forward to 125 Years

In the past 10 years, Beta Delta has again emerged as one of the top fraternities on the University of Alabama campus. Our undergraduates are extremely hard-working and talented. They have proven Beta Delta's excellence through a number of awards won over the years. This year at Congress they received seven Excellence Awards and ranked first in academics among fraternities at Alabama. It is no wonder they recruit quality men each year and have nearly doubled their pledge class number since 2004. This year alone Beta Delta pledged 41 new members and the chapter totals more than 125 men.

In the 123 years Beta Delta has existed at the University of Alabama, undergraduates have exemplified the ideals of an Alpha Tau Omega man. Our members today are a fantastic example of the great standards set forth by the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and the alumni who have come before them.

The growth of Beta Delta Chapter can be seen over the last 100 years through our various chapter houses. Our needs have gone from a small meeting room to an entire house. The first chapter meetings in the 1880s were held in a building in downtown Tuscaloosa. Our numbers soon increased, and in 1910 we rented a house near campus on Queen City Avenue. Wanting our own Beta Delta home, in 1917 we constructed a house on what was then named University Avenue, now University Boulevard, at the present site of the Beta Theta Pi house. In 1966, we moved to our present house on New Fraternity Row.

Fraternity houses used to be the number one living option for young men coming to college. But with universities spending millions on dormitory renovations and upscale apartments catering to student living, many undergraduate men are choosing other alternatives. In the past three years, 10 fraternities at the University of Alabama have recognized the need to remain competitive with alternative student living facilities and have either built new houses, renovated, or are currently renovating. The Board of Trustees and House Corporation have begun analyzing options for the Beta Delta chapter house.

It is our goal to involve alumni and gather your feedback about all important ATΩ issues. Our aim is to give you more information, get you more involved, and remind you this is your fraternity. Please read more about our new alumni relations program on page 3.

This is definitely an exciting time to be a Beta Delta ATΩ! We are enthusiastic about the future of our fraternity and look forward to the exciting months ahead.

Fraternally,  
**Judge Alan King '71**  
 Board of Trustees Vice Chairman  
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*P.J. Hughes '99, T.O. McDowell '78, Denny Hughes '86, Dale McIntyre '81, Jeff Lisenby '87, and Alan King '71 at the 2008 recruitment event at Vestavia Hills Country Club.*

# Beta Delta Academics Ranked First Among Fraternities at Alabama, Sixth among ATΩ Chapters

**BROTHERS GIVE 3,850 HOURS TO CHARITABLE CAUSES**

The beginning of the 2008-09 school year for Beta Delta Chapter has already been quite exciting. Beta Delta continues to excel and improve in all areas of chapter life. Some of our greatest successes have come in the areas of recruitment, philanthropic activities, intramural sports, and academics.

## ATΩ Cleans up at Congress

The year started off with the chapter receiving numerous awards at Congress. We received Excellence Awards in scholarship, ritual, communications, campus involvement, pledge education, financial management, and recruitment. The Board of Trustees received the Upper Alpha Award for superior involvement.



Beta Delta members participated in a brotherhood football game at Bryant-Denny Stadium in fall 2007.

These awards were capped off by Beta Delta receiving yet another True Merit Bowl.

## Chapter Expands to 125 Men

Our recruitment efforts paid off with a pledge class of 41 outstanding young gentlemen who are all great additions to the chapter. This pledge class brings the size of Beta Delta to 125 men.

## Beta Delta Gives Time to Charitable Activities

We have recently expanded our philanthropic activities as a chapter. The brothers of Beta Delta gave 3,850 hours to charitable causes last year, which ranks us among the top 15 of all ATΩ chapters nationally. Also, to date, our intramural teams are undefeated in all sports in the fraternity league. This continues a tradition of domination of Beta Delta sports teams in the intramural leagues.

## Outstanding Academics

In mentioning the successes of our chapter, I cannot leave out the excellence in academics our brothers have demonstrated. The chapter's overall G.P.A. for the academic year was 3.27,



Members paint during a Beta Delta community service project. From left: Tyler Rudman '07, Duncan Harmon '07, Marshall Houston '07, and Jimmy Young '07.

which ranks first among all fraternities at Alabama and sixth among all ATΩ chapters. Because we work so hard we are able to have swaps with almost every sorority on campus and have band parties several times a month.

I hope you are as excited as I am about the future of Beta Delta Chapter, as it looks to be a very bright one. Speaking for all the active brothers, I can say we are committed to upholding ATΩ ideals and continuing the excellence that has always been a hallmark of our chapter. We are always looking for new ways to get alumni involved in the chapter and hope you will visit the chapter house whenever you are in town for a game day or just passing through.



Fraternally,  
**Andrew M. Tucker '05**  
Worthy Master  
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## 2008-09 CHAPTER OFFICERS

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WORTHY KEEPER OF ANNALS  
**Daniel E. Smith '05**  
Hoover, Ala.

WORTHY SCRIBE  
**Christopher M. Jordan '05**  
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WORTHY USHER  
**Riley D. Edwards '06**  
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

WORTHY KEEPER of EXCHEQUER  
**Robert W. Plumb Jr. '05**  
Mountain Brook, Ala.

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**Charles C. Gray '05**  
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ALUMNI RELATIONS CHAIRMAN  
**Marshall Houston '07**  
Birmingham, Ala.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIRMAN  
**Taylor Johnson '07**  
Indian Springs, Ala.

## ALUMNI MEET POTENTIAL NEW MEMBERS AT RECRUITMENT EVENT

Nearly 30 alumni attended a recruitment event hosted by **Tom Curtin '74** last June. The event took place at Vestavia Hills Country Club where chapter members, alumni, and potential new members mingled and got to know one another.

Heavy hors d'oeuvres were served and the crowd was entertained by chapter member **Greg Little '06**, who sang and played the guitar.

**Judge Alan King '71** said, "It was so interesting to watch alumni from the sixties, seventies, eighties, and nineties talk to potential new members and tell them about their experiences as ATΩs. It's no wonder almost every man in attendance pledged ATΩ."



# ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Upon graduating from The Capstone, we all leave ATΩ with high hopes of keeping our fraternal bonds intact. Unfortunately, we quickly find that many new interests—careers, families, and civic activities—can create valid diversions. The day-to-day activities of life take over and, before long, we fall out of touch and begin to wonder what happened to our brothers. Without a solid alumni relations program in place, our members lack the means for staying connected to the fraternity.

With this in mind, our annual alumni relations program is designed to help our members stay in touch and to cultivate awareness and involvement in Beta Delta. There are several elements that are key to the program's success.

We will mail two newsletters each year containing alumni news, information on upcoming events, reports on various chapter activities, and current lists of undergraduate and alumni officers. The fall and spring newsletters also contain a list of all those who have contributed to the annual appeals.

After the fall and spring newsletters, we will send out an appeal to help support the chapter. Due to the various giving patterns of our members, we have found that two appeals each year are far more successful than just one. Many alumni choose to contribute each

time they receive a solicitation, while others would rather give a larger gift on an annual basis. We also realize that, occasionally, members will misplace the first appeal and the second one gives them another opportunity to support the chapter. The contributions received as a result of these semi-annual appeals not only help sustain the alumni relations program, but provide funds for house maintenance and the Beta Delta Chapter of the Alpha Tau Omega House Corporation.

Once a year, we will send out a biographical update that allows alumni to update the information we have on record. These updates also provide the information for one of the most popular features in the newsletters, the "Alumni News" section. Altogether, the updates are a vital tool in maintaining our records and our ties with one another. Inserted into this newsletter is our first bio update; please fill it out and return it to us with your updated information.

We hope that through the Beta Delta annual alumni relations program your fraternal bonds are regularly renewed and strengthened. We are always interested in hearing from you, so if you have any suggestions, alumni news, or ideas for articles, please submit them to Beta Delta of Alpha Tau Omega, P.O. Box 660722, Birmingham, AL 35266.

## Hubert Kessler '60 Elected Beta Delta Board of Trustees Chairman

Hubert Kessler '60 served as worthy Master of Beta Delta in 1963 and graduated from UA in 1964 with a degree in personnel management. He completed advanced Army ROTC and served as an officer on active duty for two years. Following six years as assistant personnel director for Reynolds Metals Company, he was employed by The University of Alabama as associate vice president for human resources from 1972 to 1997. Hubert is now assistant vice president of administration for Coral Industries Inc. in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Hubert and his wife, Cindy, have three sons, one daughter, and six grandchildren. He has served with the Beta Delta House Corporation and was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees for 2008-09. "I am tremendously impressed with both the academic and service accomplishments of the chapter."

An avid tennis player, Hubert founded the Tuscaloosa Tennis Association and was inducted into the Alabama Tennis Hall of Fame in 2005. E-mail him at [hubert.kessler@coralind.com](mailto:hubert.kessler@coralind.com).

## Beta Delta Brother Elected President of ATΩ National Fraternity

### ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT—WALTER HUGHES '60

Walter Hughes '60 was elected president of the Alpha Tau Omega National Fraternity at the 78th biennial Congress in Louisville, Kentucky, becoming the 39th president of the fraternity. He graduated from The University of Alabama in 1963 and completed his MBA at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1974.

The many positions Walter has held with the fraternity helped prepare him for the role of president. He served on the Board of Directors from 1998 to 2006 and on the ATΩ Foundation Board of Governors from 2006 to

2008. Walter also served as a member of the Beta Delta Chapter Board of Trustees.

In addition to serving Alpha Tau Omega, Walter has maintained a successful career. He worked in the insurance industry, serving as president of General United Life, Vulcan Life, The Statesman Group, and American Life and Casualty. Walter also served on the board of directors for American Life, Vulcan Life, Statesman Life, and Statesman Bank for Savings. It's hard to even imagine how he had extra time for other non-work obligations!

Before working in insurance, Walter served in the U.S. Army. He is a decorated veteran, serving as an infantry officer from 1963 to 1966. He retired as a lieutenant colonel from the Army Reserves in 1979. Walter and his wife, Nancy, raised four children; three of whom are members of ATΩ and live in Birmingham.

"For many years ATΩ has been a very important aspect of my life, and I am delighted to have the opportunity, as national president, to pay back the fraternity for all of its wonderful experiences and positive contributions to my life. I stand as a living testimonial to the opportunities, benefits, and positive experiences of a true lifelong ATΩ journey." Walter is the second Beta Delta president of the fraternity, following **Lawrence Long '26** who served in 1956. Walter is very proud to hold the title of president of ATΩ and looks forward to the years to come. E-mail him at [walterjhughes@hotmail.com](mailto:walterjhughes@hotmail.com).

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIRMAN

**Hubert Kessler '60**

*Tuscaloosa, Ala.*

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VICE CHAIRMAN

**Judge Alan King '71**

*Birmingham, Ala.*

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**Denny Hughes '86**

*Mountain Brook, Ala.*

**Robert Wetzler '91**

*Birmingham, Ala.*

**Zac Riddle '02**

*Birmingham, Ala.*



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ALPHA TAU OMEGA  
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*Address Service Requested*

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**Attention:** This newsletter is intended for Alpha Tau Omega alumni and parents. If your son is still attending The University of Alabama, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he is no longer in school, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

## WEB SITES

Beta Delta Chapter — [www.bama.ua.edu/~uaato](http://www.bama.ua.edu/~uaato)

National Fraternity — [www.atq.org](http://www.atq.org)

The University of Alabama — [www.ua.edu](http://www.ua.edu)



*Front left: Todd Poley '04, Brian Wirges '04, Robby Plumb '05, C. J. Jordan '05, (back) Chris Green '07, Cal Horton '06, Ryan Letson '04, Dan Almond '05, Riley Key '05, Charlie Gray '05, and J. T. Berney '06.*

## ALUMNI AND UNDERGRADUATES DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY AT AMOS BURNS BALL

More than 140 alumni, chapter members, friends, wives, and guests attended the Amos Burns Ball at SoHo Square in Homewood, Alabama, on April 18, 2008.

There was a serving table with prime rib, fish, vegetables, and an array of desserts. Attendees both young and old danced to the melodious sounds of the band Mumbo-Jumbo.

The evening was a tribute to **Amos Burns, Epsilon Epsilon '49**, who has spent over 50 years serving the ATΩ Beta Delta Chapter. The proceeds from the evening's festivities funded an academic scholarship in his honor.

## Beta Delta Looks Forward to 125-Year Anniversary Celebration

Beta Delta Chapter is gearing up for 2010 when our 125-year anniversary takes place. As Alpha Tau Omegas, we take great pride in our long history and meaningful past. To put the longevity of our chapter in perspective, ATΩ at The University of Alabama was founded before the Statue of Liberty was dedicated in New York Harbor, before the Washington Monument was completed, and before the Wright brothers flew at Kitty Hawk. Just think, ATΩ has been around even longer than some of America's most historical events.

It's clear Beta Delta has an incredible history. We have existed longer than many organizations and businesses. For over 12 decades, young men with greatness on their horizons have passed through our doors and become lifelong ATΩs.

We will celebrate ATΩ's history during our 125-year anniversary in spring 2010 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The date will be announced in the spring 2009 newsletter, so stay tuned! The celebrations will include a first-class banquet and memorable festivities.

***We hope everyone plans to attend this unforgettable celebration!***