



The chapter house is lit up in pink during October for breast cancer awareness month.

THE LINK

BETA DELTA CHAPTER, FOUNDED 1885

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A PUBLICATION OF ALPHA TAU OMEGA AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

FALL 2013

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Congratulations, Seniors!

In the spring 2013 issue of *The Link*, we inadvertently left off **Brandon Poley '10** in our senior spotlight section. Brandon is from Memphis, Tennessee, and was involved in alumni relations while in the chapter. Brandon, we wish you much success in your career.

Since resuming the alumni contribution program in fall 2012 for the newsletter, historical preservation, and furniture replacement, we have had 23 alumni contribute \$4,350. Thank you so very much. This program is different from the capital campaign, which assists in funding the new (2011) chapter house.

We have used the historical funds to frame 18 photographs from every decade (1880s to the present), and we are in the process of hanging them on the first floor of the chapter house and in the chapter room on the fourth floor. There are not many organizations who can say they have been in existence for 128 years. Our chapter history is impressive, and it is because of alumni that we are able to showcase our storied past.



was purchased for the living room from the alumni fund.

The first inductees for the ATΩ Beta Delta Hall of Honor have had their biographies and photographs framed and mounted on the first floor of the chapter house (see photo below). The brothers who came before us in the early years of Beta Delta were fascinating men. Please stop by to read their histories. Some ATΩ alumni from Ole Miss stopped by the house prior to the game on September 28 and, as they stood in front of the Hall of Honor, were overheard saying, "We need to do something like this."

Letters are mailed to you each year in the late fall and spring semesters for the *Historical Preservation/Newsletter Annual Campaign*. We are grateful for your contributions and we hope that you will consider making contributions in 2014. On behalf of the chapter, we hope you and your family will visit the chapter house to view our shared history.

Fraternally,
Judge Alan King '71
Newsletter Editor, Board of Trustees
aking1986@live.com

We have applied some of the funds to help defray the newsletter expense. The chapter instituted a marketing fund several years ago, so they pay for some of the newsletter cost, but this fund also assists. In addition, an impressive piece of furniture



Recommend a Man for Recruitment

Do you know a young man who will be attending the University of Alabama? There are many sons, nephews, and grandsons of ATΩ alumni who would make a great addition to the chapter. If you know of any young men considering the University of Alabama, please send us their contact information. Due to the large number of men who go through recruitment each year, the chapter highly encourages alumni to submit recommendations as early as possible. Thank you for your support!

Fraternally,
Recruitment Chairman Assistant Recruitment Chairman
Colin Kruger '13 **Hastings Knox '13**
cmkruger1@gmail.com hmknnox@crimson.ua.edu

HALL OF HONOR

The ATΩ Beta Delta Hall of Honor recognizes alumni who have distinguished themselves, their families, and the University of Alabama in extraordinary ways. **Judge Alan King '71** has researched the inductees, tracked down photographs, and written the biographies for the first framings at the chapter house. Please drop by the house to read about a few of our incredible alumni dating back to the early days of Beta Delta.

Visit Us Online

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

CHAPTER CONTINUES TO RISE ABOVE THE REST

Full is upon us and Beta Delta is already off to a fast start with what we expect to be another banner year for Alpha Tau Omega. The chapter is moving forward in more ways than one and is building upon past successes as we look toward the future. We continue to be a leader among fraternities on the University of Alabama campus, as well as among Alpha Tau Omega chapters nationwide.

TOP FRATERNITY ON CAMPUS

In April, Alpha Tau Omega was honored at the Order of Omega Awards Banquet with the Most Outstanding Fraternity award. It was the second time the chapter has taken home this honor in the last three years and the fourth time in the last seven. In addition, our secretary, **Davis Hill '11**, was recognized with Most Outstanding Junior honors.

ATΩ NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Beta Delta collected several impressive awards at the National Fraternity's Awards Banquet in Indianapolis in August. In addition to taking home our 12th True Merit bowl, the chapter was recognized as National Runner-up for the Top Chapter Award. While we fell short of the top honor, it was Beta Delta's best showing in three years. It was gratifying to see our brothers' hard work rewarded and we are already looking to expand on this success for next year's ATΩ Congress.

RAISING THE BAR

The chapter continues to move forward in several important areas, including academics and philanthropy. Beta Delta posted an overall 3.29 G.P.A. for spring 2013, and

roughly 40 percent of our brothers were named to the dean's list. In addition, 20 men earned 4.0 G.P.A.s for the semester. This past year, the brothers raised more money for local charitable causes and logged more community service hours than ever before. ATΩ sponsored five philanthropy events during the spring semester.

GROWING IN BROTHERHOOD

The brothers of Beta Delta held the annual Viking Week this spring, culminating in a themed Valhalla party. Summer recruitment events provided an opportunity to reconnect with brothers as well as recruit the next class of Beta Delta pledges. The 51 men we pinned are busy enjoying swaps, learning the history and values of Alpha Tau Omega, and are immersed in the positive experience of ATΩ.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

I am continually grateful for the outstanding support we receive from our alumni. If you have not had the chance to engage with the chapter in some time, we are always happy to hear from you, whether it is a recommendation for recruitment or simply stopping by the house on a game day. As we enter our third year in our new home on University Boulevard, ATΩ Beta Delta is as strong as ever. I would enjoy the opportunity to show you what we are doing here in Tuscaloosa.



Fraternally,
Marlan Golden '11
Worthy Master
(334) 324-2732
marlanjgolden@gmail.com



Six active brothers traveled to Indianapolis in August to the ATΩ National Awards Ceremony and were joined by Amos Burns '49, Walter Monroe '63, Walter Hughes '60, and Chief Executive Officer Wynn Smiley.



A group of Beta Delta seniors and their dates cheer on the Crimson Tide in Bryant-Denny Stadium.



Brothers accept the Most Outstanding Fraternity Award at the UA Order of Omega banquet in April.

Thank You, Brothers, for Your Generous Support

Thank you to the following brothers for expressing your loyalty and contributing \$4,350 to the Beta Delta Chapter. This showing of generosity is a testament to the strength of the alumni and friends of our fraternity. Your gifts will help preserve the heritage of our organization and ensure that young men have the opportunity to join a strong brotherhood.

Each donor is listed by initiation year under his individual annual campaign giving level. If an error has been made in recording your gift, or your name has mistakenly been omitted or listed improperly, we sincerely apologize. Please let us know by sending corrections to **Judge Alan King '71** at aking1986@live.com. We thank you for your support!

ATΩ Red Elephant Member (\$5,000 and above)

Beta Delta Roll Tide Member (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

- * W. Archibald Norton '53
- Ronald M. Childree '54
- * Col. Arthur L. Brooke III '55
- * John W. Petrey '56
- Lee A. McDavid Sr. '65
- W. Stancil Starnes '66
- Richard A. Hamm '80

Lifelong ATΩ Member (\$500 to \$999)

- T.O. McDowell '78

Azure and Gold Member (Up to \$499)

- * Sam E. Christopher '49

- Robert J. McCreary Sr. '51
- John R. Coleman '52
- * John S. Megginson Jr. '56
- Dr. C. Roy Woodruff '57
- * Walter J. Hughes '60
- Lewis M. Stewart Jr. '63
- * Curtis L. Frisbie Jr. '64
- * Thomas H. Sheehan '66
- Thomas C. Sullivan '66
- Joseph B. Bolen III '67
- * Judge Alan L. King '71
- Douglas S. Reynolds, M.D. '75
- John P. Dobbins '00
- * John P. Summerford '11

Lifetime annual giving levels are listed. This campaign is separate and apart from the capital campaign.

*Donor to the spring 2013 appeal

JIM KENNEMER '69 SHARES WHY HE STAYS CONNECTED TO BETA DELTA

After attending a number of fraternity rush events prior to college, **Jim Kennemer '69** found a connection with the members of Alpha Tau Omega. “The brothers, and particularly the chapter leaders, really made an impression. The early indications of leadership were real—several of those same individuals have gone on to stellar careers in business.”

He grew close with his pledge class and took leadership opportunities, including serving as treasurer of Beta Delta. “My pledge class was a pretty tight group. The personalities covered the full range, and we all got along as a team. The chapter as a whole had an innate sense of pride in being ATOs and upholding the character and reputation embodied by that.”

Since obtaining his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, Jim has become the president of Vision Research Corporation, which develops systems and services for the early detection of eye problems in children. His background before

that was in the computer industry, doing large-scale system design and implementation, custom hardware manufacturing, and extensive software development. Looking for something different, a friend mentioned a unique NASA-developed technology for the detection of vision problems. Jim was intrigued and obtained the exclusive license from NASA, developing Vision Research Corporation around it.

For those who will soon be entering the business world, Jim said, “Try as many different things as you can. You’ll find the things that give you the most satisfaction. Learn as much as you can about them, develop the skills needed and steer your path toward them.”

Over the years, Jim has kept his connection with the chapter strong. For the past four years he has served as treasurer on the Board of Trustees. “When I started, we were still in the old house. Trying to make sure the Board had the information it needed to decide whether to proceed with a new

house, and then to make sure we could handle all of the costs, was quite an exercise. We now have a gorgeous new house, a great group of young men, and outstanding chapter leadership. We are all extremely proud of the University and ATΩ National awards the chapter and its individual leaders have received. They’re further testament to the strength of Beta Delta.”

The chapter’s success is one of the many reasons Jim encourages brothers to reach out and stay engaged. “If you’re not familiar with the chapter today, you owe it to yourself and the undergraduate members to go back and see all that has been accomplished. You will truly be impressed.”

Jim also encourages brothers to maintain the connections made as an undergraduate. “We have several alumni events throughout the year and an alumni directory. Pick up the phone. You’ll be surprised how glad your old friend is to hear from you. Get together! Meeting at the house on a football Saturday can be a great way to do that.”

Jim and his wife, Nancy, live in Birmingham. They have two children: **James III '05**, and Lindsay. Jim enjoys time at the lake, boating and water skiing, snow skiing and bad golf. E-mail: kennemer@vision-research.com

Welcome, 2013 Pledge Class

Deacon Aldridge
Hartselle H.S.
Hartselle, Ala.

Jeff Brink
Austin H.S.
Decatur, Ala.

Robert Ezell
Mountain Brook H.S.
Birmingham, Ala.

Nathaniel Leson
Holy Spirit Catholic School
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Ryan Rhodes
Hewitt-Trussville H.S.
Trussville, Ala.

Ben Splawn
Virgil I. Grissom H.S.
Huntsville, Ala.

Rufus Aldridge
Bob Jones H.S.
Madison, Ala.

Ryan Caselton
St. Louis University H.S.
Chesterfield, Mo.

Aaron Fine
Vestavia Hills H.S.
Birmingham, Ala.

Ross Meade
The Steward School
Richmond, Va.

Hill Robinson
Fairhope H.S.
Fairhope, Ala.

John Stoffer
Brentwood H.S.
Brentwood, Tenn.

Austin Atkins
Northridge H.S.
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Daniel Cash
Virgil I. Grissom H.S.
Huntsville, Ala.

Alex Franz
Deep Run H.S.
Richmond, Va.

Griffin Meyer
Coppell H.S.
Dallas, Texas

Michael Seifert
Kirkwood H.S.
St. Louis, Mo.

Tom Sykstus
Virgil I. Grissom H.S.
Huntsville, Ala.

Alex Baker
Spain Park H.S.
Hoover, Ala.

Robert Dalee
Huntsville H.S.
Huntsville, Ala.

Rob Grady
Iowa City West H.S.
Iowa City, Iowa

William Miller
Jackson Christian School
Jackson, Tenn.

Peyton Shields
American Christian Academy
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Cameron Tew
Alabama Christian Academy
Montgomery, Ala.

Anderson Barnett
Vestavia Hills H.S.
Birmingham, Ala.

Chase Davis
Lamar School
Meridian, Miss.

Ben Graves
Saint James School
Montgomery, Ala.

Kevin Moore
Dobyns-Bennett H.S.
Kingsport, Tenn.

David Smith
Florence H.S.
Florence, Ala.

Austin Trego
Ryle H.S.
Union, Ky.

Carter Belew
Florence H.S.
Florence, Ala.

Adam Dodson
Bob Jones H.S.
Madison, Ala.

Colin Holladay
Huntsville H.S.
Huntsville, Ala.

Garrett Murphy
Vestavia Hills H.S.
Birmingham, Ala.

Grant Smith
Homewood H.S.
Birmingham, Ala.

Sid White
Bob Jones H.S.
Madison, Ala.

Sam Boatman
Chaparral H.S.
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Michael Doehring
McGill-Toolen Catholic H.S.
Mobile, Ala.

Jeremy Horton
Dobyns-Bennett H.S.
Kingsport, Tenn.

Alex Pettey
Hartselle H.S.
Hartselle, Ala.

Russell Smith
Coppell H.S.
Dallas, Texas

Sam Whorton
Briarwood Christian School
Birmingham, Ala.

John Booth
Virgil I. Grissom H.S.
Huntsville, Ala.

Parker Dunaway
Heritage Academy
Columbus, Miss.

Paul Kacik
Corona Del Mar H.S.
Newport Beach, Calif.

Christian Reed
Lamar School
Meridian, Miss.

Austin Spangler
Hartselle H.S.
Hartselle, Ala.

Luke Yordy
Muscle Shoals H.S.
Muscle Shoals, Ala.

Chase Borie
Hoover H.S.
Hoover, Ala.

Ryan Krueger
Keller H.S.
Keller, Texas

Alec Reichmann
Austin H.S.
Decatur, Ala.

BETA DELTAS IN HISTORY

*A Look at Football Star
B. Auxford Burks, M.D. 1902*



THE LINK

Before Johnny Mack Brown, Bobby Marlow, Cotton Clark, Johnny Musso, Tony Nathan, Major Ogilvie, Bobby Humphrey, Shaun Alexander, Glenn Coffey, Mark Ingram, Trent Richardson, Eddie Lacy, and T.J. Yeldon, there was Bennett Auxford Burks, aka Auxford, or B.A., from Tuscaloosa, who was Alabama's first star running back.



B.A. was initiated into Beta Delta of ATΩ in 1902. He was said to "carry whole teams on his back." Brother Burks was the captain of the Crimson Tide in 1905 and was named to the All-South team. His brother, Henry, was initiated into ATΩ in 1906, and his other brother, Basil, was initiated in 1912. All three brothers played football for the Tide.

B. Auxford Burks, M.D. passed away on February 24, 1938, in Winter Park, Florida, at the age of 54.

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ALUMNI UPDATE

Newsletter Editor Judge Alan King '71

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We honor the memory of those who have gone before us:

William A. Smith '42, James M. Walker '46, Joseph A. Walker '47, Clyde "Dickie" Bozeman '53, Hubert J. Kessler '60, Michael J. Chappelle '69

ALUMNI NEWS

David Wetterau '41 turned 90 in May 2013. He has been away from Alabama since 1957, and he and his wife, Joan, live in Gambrills, Md. "I am proud to have been a Beta Delta. God bless you all." E-mail: wwetzler@aol.com

Louis W. Perry Jr. '48 recently published his book, *Thank Evolution for God*. Visit his website at www.thankevolutionforgod.com. Louis and his wife, Margaret, live in La Jolla, Calif. E-mail: lperry@sam.ny.com.

Joseph C. Graden '49 received a job offer from Goodyear while a senior at the University of Alabama. He began his employment in July 1950. During the next 38 years he served in assignments at their home office, Mexico, Philippines, Australia, and Great Britain. He retired as a vice president. Then he started two business operations and fully retired at the age of 77. He said he fondly recalls his time at UA, especially Beta Delta as a period of developing and maturing following USMC service in 1945-46. "We were a strong chapter

and campus leaders with many veterans, and Beta Delta has continued to lead." Joseph and his wife, Amelia, make their home in Sarasota, Fla. E-mail: jgraden1@comcast.net

Scott W. Spaulding '52 and his wife relocated to Easton, Pa., from Arizona, during the summer 2013. He has been retired from the U.S. Department of the Army as a civilian employee since 1987.

William A. Hughes '53 and his wife, Faye, were married on April 14, 2012. They live in Montgomery, Ala.

John C. Arant '57 enjoys volunteering and serving as commander for Georgia District 9 at the American Legion. He likes working to support veteran activities, with the largest veterans lobbyist organization. He and his wife, Marilyn, live in Cumming, Ga. E-mail: jarant01@bellsouth.net

Curtis L. Frisbie Jr. '64 and his wife have been married nearly 46 years and have two sons and four grandchildren. They like to hunt and fish and have traveled to many places to hunt (New Zealand, South Africa, Turkey, Tanzania, Botswana, Kyrgyzstan, China, Spain, Alaska) and fish (Costa Rica, Brazil, Mexico, Panama, Bolivia, Alaska, the Arctic Circle) and go scuba diving (Bahamas, Hawaii, Tahiti, Mexico, Puerto Rico). Curt writes stories about most of their hunting and fishing trips and you can find them if you Google his name. He lives in Dallas, Texas. E-mail: cfrisbie@gardere.com

The Hon. J. Thomas King Jr. '68 was inducted as a fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation in February 2013. This honor is bestowed upon only one percent of the membership of the Alabama Bar Association. Tom and his wife, Marsha, live in Mountain Brook, Ala. E-mail: jkjkingjr76@gmail.com

Charles S. Reynolds III '68 sold his business, Reynolds Vending Company, and enjoys retirement and spending time with his two grandchildren. He and his wife, Billie, live in Demopolis, Ala. E-mail: chuckbillie@bellsouth.net

Judge Alan King '71 has been elected as president of the Alabama Probate Judges Association, comprised of 68 probate judges throughout Alabama. Judge King previously served as vice president, secretary, and treasurer. He lives in Vestavia Hills, Ala., with his wife, Karen. E-mail: aking1986@live.com

Douglas S. Reynolds, M.D. '75 and his wife, Gwen, welcomed their first grandchild, Jack, February 14, 2013. Doug's youngest daughter, Rachel, graduated from the University of Montevallo with a master's degree in speech pathology in May 2013. He lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala. E-mail: reydo@comcast.net

R. Kane Burnette '99 and his wife, Lyda, welcomed their third child, Walt, on September 15, 2012. They live in Mountain Brook, Ala. Kane is an associate of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Birmingham. E-mail: rkburnette@charter.net