



A PUBLICATION OF PHI DELTA THETA FRATERNITY

NORTH CAROLINA BETA DATA

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

APRIL 2004

A Parent's Guide

Keeping Greek in the Family

Should I encourage my child to join a fraternity or sorority? A question and answer guide for parents and their college-aged children.

While many parents who were members of a fraternity or sorority say they would encourage their children to join, they do so with caveats. As many parents have noted, the benefits of belonging to a sorority or fraternity are many, but the downside, such as alcohol abuse and hazing, are also of concern.

One thing to note is that Greek life is in the process of great change. Campuses today are taking steps to curb underage drinking and alcohol abuse. Fraternities and sororities, in reaction to the "Animal house" stereotype, are returning to their roots of **scholarship, service, and leadership** by encouraging scholastic achievement, fostering community spirit, and teaching leadership skills.

If you're hesitant about encouraging your son or daughter to join a fraternal organization, it helps to be proactive. Below is a question and answer guide to help you and your son or daughter through this exciting time.

1. What are the benefits of joining this fraternity or sorority?

Academic support — You may worry joining a fraternity or sorority will lower your son's or daughter's grades. However, according to the Interfraternity Council (IFC), roughly 33 percent of the Greek population achieves the Dean's List. Many fraternities and sororities are achieving GPAs significantly higher than the 2.25 minimum many hold with many houses achieving 3.0 and above. Greek organizations are taking steps to help members improve grades.

Says Sherry Prescott, Alpha Gamma Delta alumna, her house had a "library and students started a test section so that students of all majors could have reference materials for all classes with specific majors. This really helped during finals week to know that someone else in your house had a similar test the year before, went through similar professors, etc."

(Continued on Page 3)

A Letter from the President

Spring Rush Highly Successful

Everything is going well here at the Phi Delt house in Chapel Hill. The house has continued to improve through much hard work by John and Jill Jenkins, as well as the continued support from many of our alumni. We cannot express the true gratitude we have for the alumni who take time out of their busy schedules to help out the chapter. We continue to work closely with the Beta Foundation and are thankful for all of their support and guidance.

Jill has been out due to a nerve problem with her neck, but John and a substitute cleaning agency have done a good job keeping the house clean. She has been missed, and we cannot wait for her return.

This spring, for the first time in years, the brothers participated in spring rush. It was very successful and we are happy to report the addition of two new pledges to the house, **Braxton Wall** from Greensboro and **John Choate** from Charlotte. For the upcoming fall rush period, we will be having a spring rush weekend on April 16 through 18. We encourage any alumni to contact us if they know of any potential rushees for the fall semester. As the number of fraternities has dwindled in Chapel Hill, the competition during fall rush has increased dramatically. This year it will be very important to identify all potential rushees early in the process. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated.

In addition to the spring weekend, the brothers will also host a summer rush weekend in Wilmington, N.C. We would appreciate any suggestions for men who would make good Phi Delt material. You can contact me directly for information on either of these rush events.

There are also some other changes going on within the house. The brothers have added a new chapter advisor and faculty advisor. Our chapter advisor, Ben Turner, is a graduate of North Carolina State as well as a Phi Delt. Ben is helping the chapter by instituting many philosophies adopted from the gold star chapter at North Carolina State. James May Jr., the executive director and senior associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, replaces Dr. Cooper as our new faculty advisor. Mr. May worked closely with Shoff Allison in the founding of the **Matthew Mason** professorship, and we anticipate he will be very helpful to the brothers of Phi Delt.

As always, we encourage all alumni to come by the house this spring or fall.

Yours in the Bond,
Graham Worth ■



Alumnus Seeking the Highest Office in North Carolina

Each newsletter allows us to focus the spotlight on one outstanding Phi Delt alumnus. This time we have decided to profile Richard Vinroot '63!

Richard Vinroot was a very busy man during his days as a Phi Delt. He was a Morehead Scholar, president of both the junior and senior classes, and still managed to put in his time on the hardwood as a varsity basketball player under coach Dean Smith. Despite all of those other demands on his time, he remembers fondly the times he spent at the Phi Delt house.

"I love Carolina and count my years in Chapel Hill as among the best of my life. I also love Phi Delta Theta, and the best friendships in Judy's and my family's lives were formed there as well. Our children's experiences at Carolina — and Rich's at PDT — were similar to ours," he says.

After graduation, he earned his law degree in Chapel Hill and married Judy Allen, his wife of 39 years. They have three grown children: Rich '93, Laura and Katy.

Following his service in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, where he was awarded a Bronze Star, Mr. Vinroot returned to his hometown of Charlotte and joined the law firm of Robinson, Bradshaw and Hinson. He has remained there for 34 years and is now a senior partner.

“I love Carolina and count my years in Chapel Hill as among the best of my life. I also love Phi Delta Theta, and the best friendships in Judy's and my family's lives were formed there as well.”

Along with a successful law career, Mr. Vinroot became a very involved local leader in Charlotte. His second career as a government official began when he was elected to the Charlotte City Council in 1983. After eight years of leadership on the council, he was elected mayor of Charlotte in 1991. He successfully

led Charlotte through one of its greatest periods of growth and was re-elected in 1993. In 1995, he was named America's "Municipal Leader of the Year" by American City and County magazine.

Today, Richard Vinroot is seeking the highest office in North Carolina. He was the Republican Party's nominee for governor in 2000 (when he lost a close election to the current governor), and most polls show him with a comfortable lead to regain that position in July 2004. He is running for governor on an innovative platform of spending limits and tax reduction to strengthen our economy.

"We've had tough times in this state in terms of record job losses (150,000 in three years), which I attribute to too high taxes and an unfriendly business climate. I want to change that, by reducing our taxes and streamlining our state government. I did that as Charlotte's mayor (creating 30,000 new jobs during my four years) and hope to do so as North Carolina's next governor," says Mr. Vinroot. ■

Joseph W. Grier 1937

(3738 Cypress Club Dr., #D107, Charlotte, NC 28210-2489) On October 23, 2003, Supreme Court, State of N.C. Chief Justice I. Beverly Lake Jr. awarded me with the annual Chief Justice's Professionalism Award.

Robert S. Dicks 1938

(3 Carolina Meadows, Chapel Hill, NC 27517) I visited the house a few summers ago and was disappointed to see that it looked as if gangsters lived there instead of fraternity gentlemen so I donated money toward upgrading the old place and am happy to see it looking better. I enjoyed double benefits from Phi Delta when the Univ. of Penn. let me eat and party with them when I was in grad school. As a local guy I also knew Matthew Mason before Phi Delta did. He served at my house back in the early thirties. The only brother I've talked to recently is Ramsey Potts '38.

Beverly W. Landstreet 1943

(4424 Sheppard Pl., Nashville, TN 37205; bevwl@aol.com) I am married to Nancy Anderson, and we have five children and 15

grandchildren. I have a daughter and son who both graduated from UNC (son was an ATO). One son a Phi at Auburn University. I see John White '42 at least once a week.

Charles L. Wilson 1948

(403 S. Main St., Robersonville, NC 27871-0206; charlie@earthlink.net) I recently visited with Andy Williamson '47. He has had a stroke and is paralyzed on the right side and cannot speak and is now a resident at Scotia Village Nursing Home in Laurinburg, N.C.

B. Wade Isaacs 1949

(105 Kinross Ct., Durham, NC 27712-1856) During September 2003 I returned to my home town of Durham after an absence of 49 years. There are a bunch of NC Beta brothers living here in Durham, and I hope to establish contact with as many of them as possible. Brothers Tom Kerns Jr. '46, Tom Kerns III '72, and Baxter Sapp '47, have been most helpful in helping me get re-established again in the "Old Bull City".

James Thrash 1949

(4230 Club Dr. N.E., Atlanta, GA 30319-

1118) Sighted recently at Kountry Kitchen for a down home lunch were Charles Crawley '48, James Waldron '48 and Robert Johnson '51. Also, I saw Mark Pope '47 at the funeral of brother Judson Hawk '48, a devoted lifetime pediatrician. Another popular brother's funeral, William Fulwiler '51 was well attended here in Atlanta by brothers and co-ed. Take care of yourself.

A. Robert Johnson 1951

(4485 Highgrove Pointe NE, Atlanta, GA 30319-1002) I celebrated my 75th birthday in Chapel Hill on January 11 and visited with Bob ('51) & Luke Page, and Bob ('57) & Barbara Collier before watching the Tarheels blow out Ga. Tech. I also saw Leroy Townsend '54 and Lawton Gresham '63, for the first time in over 50 years. It's amazing how much Chapel Hill has grown in every direction.

George E. Holt 1958

(107 Weaver Mine Trl., Chapel Hill, NC 27517-7500; holtnc@earthlink.net) Our daughter, Virginia Brownlee Holt, will marry Shawn David Cepeda, both of N.Y.

(Continued on Page 4)

During Rush Week, have your son or daughter ask chapter members and leaders what types of academic support the chapter offers. Look for study partners, mandatory study hours, time management workshops – and even financial or other incentives for good grades.

Leadership opportunities

— From working with campus administration officials and community leaders to planning chapter events or fund-raisers, Greek life offers its members a wealth of leadership opportunities. Indeed, all but two U.S. presidents were Greeks! Reports Paul Hirsch, Delta Sigma Phi alumnus, “The biggest benefit to being my fraternity’s president was that during the job interview process I was given tremendous credit for being president and therefore managing a budget and a large number of people.”

Personal responsibility — As Mike O’Sullivan, alumnus of Acacia fraternity put it, “Who wants to wash up after 30 people? No one does, but you have to if you live in the house.” Dorm fees usually include maid service; not so in a Greek house. House members may be assigned weekly household chores, including grocery shopping and preparing meals. Your son or daughter should ask potential fraternities or sororities how work is divided and who is responsible for managing the upkeep and maintenance of the house.

Social network — In addition to having a close-knit group of friends, Greek men and women form life long friendships with their brothers and sisters. “I am still very close with several of my 22 line sisters,” says Delta Sigma Theta alumnus Katrina Hamm. “We still get together, go to church together, participate in each other’s life events, and counsel one another. Belonging to a sorority was a very positive experience.” Echoes Steve Fischer who joined Phi Kappa Psi in 1997 while attending Syracuse University, “I developed very close relationships with several guys with whom I’ve kept in touch over the years even though several live in New York and Boston while I’ve lived in Silicon Valley since 1980.”

Many of these relationships carry over into the business world where networking is key. To learn more, visit Web sites of potential fraternities – many of them list their famous alumni, networking events, and “e-communities.”

A home away from home

— Fraternal living will give your son or daughter a secure place to live, regular meals, and the comfort of sharing experiences with their peers. This is where your experience is invaluable. Talk to your child about what you liked and didn’t like about your Greek experience and what he or she should look for when joining a Greek organization. Says Hirsch, “It’s important your child choose a fraternity or sorority that feels comfortable to them and that they understand their obligation to the organization.”

2. How involved is the fraternity or sorority?

Greek involvement with the campus and community, and with its chapter national office and other fraternal organizations is key. Being involved means more leadership opportunities for house members and it reduces illegal or inappropriate behaviors. During the rush process, your son or daughter should look for houses that have the following:

- Community involvement. Many fraternities and sororities list their philanthropic activities on Web sites and in literature. Go the extra step by asking how much money was raised, when was the last fundraiser, etc.
- A healthy involvement with the national office, alumni, and campus officials.
- Ethical behavior. Potential members can visit the campus Greek Life to determine if an organization has had any complaints lodged against it or call the organization’s national office.

3. What is being done about alcohol abuse?

Unfortunately, fraternities have long been associated with binge drinking, driving campus officials to work with Greek organizations and redirect their focus. Colleges, universities, and many Greek organizations have taken a strong stand on alcohol and drug abuse, including limiting the amount of alcohol allowed at on-campus parties, having adult monitors at parties, and cracking down on underage drinkers. Some campuses are now “dry” altogether, and several fraternities have announced plans to go “dry” nationally.

The bottom line for you as a parent? Be involved. Ask campus officials and fraternal organizations what their policies are and talk to your son or daughter

about drinking. Generally, if your child has been responsible through high school, he or she will continue to be through college.

4. Will my son have to go through hazing?

Like alcohol, hazing is a serious issue. Any situation that causes physical or mental harm in any way is forbidden. And, if a fraternity is caught hazing, it can be closed down. To deal with this problem, fraternities and campuses have instituted toll-free numbers where people can anonymously report incidents of hazing. If your son feels uncomfortable at any time carrying out an “initiation” ritual, he should contact you and campus officials immediately. Advises one fraternity brother, “It’s not a perfect comparison, but think of a fraternity or sorority like you would a product or service you’re evaluating. The best way to find about it is to ask around and see what other people may have heard about it.”

As you know from your own experience, joining a fraternity or sorority is a life-long positive experience. Help your son or daughter get the most from it by asking questions, doing research, and looking for positive role models. You and your child will benefit from it! ■

We Want to Hear from You!

Do you sometimes find yourself wondering what your old brothers from the fraternity have been up to? To be sure, someone has been wondering about you too! So please return the enclosed update form with the latest and greatest about you. Topics you might want to highlight include career, family, reunions with fraternity brothers, travel or some funny memories. Be sure to include your full name, your graduation year and any updated address information.

We really strive to make our alumni program meaningful, and to do so we need more than your much appreciated financial support. This is a great opportunity to let your brothers know what is happening in your life and how they can reach you. So please take a minute to fill out the form and pop it in the mail. Your news will be published in the next issue of the newsletter and, who knows, maybe you will reconnect with a long-lost friend! ■

Alumni UpDates

(Continued from Page 2)

Virginia is a graduate of UNC-CH with a BA in journalism and mass communication. She is employed by BBDO New York, an advertising agency, as an account supervisor. Shawn received a BA in economics and political science from Bucknell and is employed as a director at Merrill Lynch in N.Y. Their wedding will be on October 11, 2003, at Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Durham followed by a reception at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center in Chapel Hill. After a honeymoon to Hawaii, they will reside in New York.

John F. Parkman 1971

(PO Box 1314, Camden, ME 4843; jparkman@midcoast.com) I went through a liver transplant at the New England Medical Center in Boston in May of 2002. I am in complete recovery and feeling wonderful. My wife, Stera, and I are enjoying our three granddaughters. I have just been elected chair-elect for the North Atlantic Region of the American Counseling Association.

James L. McCormick 1972

(1702 Habersham Way, Dalton, GA 30720) I had a great trip to Scotland this summer with **Ken O'Herron '72** and six other friends of mine from Dalton. I was in Ken's foursome when he had a hole-in-one on the fourth hole of the Ailsa course at Turnberry.

Michael A. Kelly 1974

(928 Huron Rd., Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-2278; m.kelly@ch8net.org) I recently got together with Brothers **Andy Chacos '75** and **Pat Hartley '76** in NYC. and cared for

Andy's son, Brian, who plays football for UNC (suffered knee injury). I am team physician for the N.J. Nets in the NBA. We lost in the NBA finals the last two years.

Stephen W. Holmes 1979

(371 Frogtown Rd., New Canaan, CT 06840-4409; hadlstep@aol.com) My wife, Mary and I, along with our three kids Hadley (11), Stephen, Jr. (9) and Austin (7) are living in New Canaan, Conn., and would welcome any Phi's who are visiting in the area to stop by. Two years ago I left JPMorgan Chase and joined Morgan Stanley in their fixed income group and could not be happier. At some point I hope to get back to Chapel Hill and hopefully meet up with similar vintage Phis.

Louis W. Cone 1982

(1609 Softwind Way, Wilmington, NC 28403-0133) My third book, Living Statues: Photographies, was just published and can be seen and purchased at www.living-statuary.com.

E. Ayscue 1984

(PO Box 215, Ross, CA 94957-0215; ozzie@ozziepop.com) I have enjoyed re-connecting with **Morgan Darden**, one of my well trained pledges, who lives in the same town of Ross, Calif. Morgan and his wife, Elizabeth, and their three kids have lit up the school and social scene. I have recently founded a publishing company to publish a series of parenting/education titles. The first publishes in May 2004 called "Picky Parent Guide: Choose Your Child's

School With Confidence, the Elementary Years (K-6)", 464 pages, \$19.95, available at your favorite bookseller or directly from PickyParent.com.

Donaldson G. Williams 1984

(900 Harvard Pl., Charlotte, NC 28207-1840; dwilliams@capadvisors.com) In May be sure to come to the Wednesday Pro-Am at the Wachovia Championship in Charlotte and follow **Bailey Patrick '83** as he defends the title he won in 2003!

Christopher J. Elliott 1989

(1102 Princeton Ave., Charlotte, NC 28209) January 3-7, I went duck/quail/dove hunting in Mexico with **John Staton '89**. After shooting 81 boxes of shells, we're both deaf.

William W. Hope 1996

(317 Meyers Dr., Greenville, SC 29605; hopeww@hotmail.com) I am married and living in Greenville, S.C. and doing surgical residency (currently in third year of five total). ■

In Memory

Since publication of our last newsletter, we have learned of the death of

Floyd G. Whitney 1911 (10/19/02)

Frank P. Howell 1929

Cutler Watkins 1940 (4/00)

J. Sheldon Lewis 1945 (4/23/03)

Taylor R. Durham 1956 (10/22/03)

Phi Delta Theta mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

Address Service Requested

Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3367

P.O. Box 3367

Alumni Relations Office

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

North Carolina Beta Foundation, Inc. 776



*One of our alumni is reaching
for the governor's office!*

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, Pa.
Permit No. 2