



The Iota Iota Messenger

SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA | EST. 1876

SPRING 2009

MOMENTUM CONTINUES FOR IOTA IOTA Alumni Show Strong Support for Chapter

The past 14 months have been a crucial period in our chapter's 132-year history. Fortunately, tremendous alumni support combined with undergraduates who have aptly led our chapter made 2008 a very successful year. The chapter is growing, more alumni than ever are actively involved, and we are implementing plans to keep Iota Iota one of the top fraternities at the Capstone for years to come.



Dr. Robert Witt, University of Alabama president, visited the Sigma Chi house for dinner on December 3, 2008. From left: Brad Green '09, Jackson Neal '09, Chris Peterson '09, Dr. Witt, Stan Ingram '10, and Steven Oliver '10.

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Thank You for Letters of Support

Many of you are aware of our recent efforts to secure the Rotary International house lot located on University Boulevard. When University of Alabama President Dr. Witt visited the house in December for dinner with the undergraduates, he requested alumni send letters of support to his office. Needless to say, when the request was made for letters, it was genuinely exciting to see the outpouring of support that occurred. A huge round of clicks goes out to the *hundreds* of alumni who took the time to personally write Dr. Witt.

House Corporation Weighs Options for Future

As we learned in early February, Dr. Witt ultimately selected Alpha Tau Omega for the lot. However, we have not stopped planning for the future. We will soon be weighing options on either building in an alternative location or significantly renovating our current facilities.

Regardless of what is decided, the house corporation will make an informed decision that is financially responsible and addresses our current house's crumbling and inadequate infrastructure. We will soon seek alumni input about our available options to improve our footprint on campus.

A-Day Is April 18

Along the lines of alumni support, tremendous thanks must go to all of you who generously chose to donate to Iota Iota over the past year, both financially and by giving your time. A full list of contributors can be found on page five. The house corporation grew over the last year and now stands at 13 active members. We have added an associate chapter advisor, **Marty Hamner '85**, and the Alumni Advisory Committee of over

a dozen brothers is still active in serving as a resource to the chapter's leadership.

We are again making plans to hold an alumni barbecue for this year's A-Day football weekend, which is Saturday, April 18. If you plan to be in Tuscaloosa for the game, please stop by your fraternity house for a visit. Of course, if you are ever in Tuscaloosa, the brothers have an open door policy for all alumni.



In Hoc,
Charlie Smith '73
Iota Iota House
Corporation President
cambara50@hotmail.com

Charitable Works and Athletic Success Highlights Fall Semester

Derby Days and Recruitment Focus of Spring Semester

As the new consul for 2009, I am very excited to lead our chapter and build on the accomplishments of the past year.

Thanks to Alumni for University Boulevard Efforts

I think it is important to thank all the alumni who spearheaded the effort to return Iota Iota to University Boulevard. As many of you know, Dr. Witt decided to choose another fraternity for the Rotary house lot. That being said, I am confident another option will present itself in the near future. The growing number of alumni who are dedicated to this process is greatly appreciated by all the brothers.

Flag Football Team Places Fifth in National Division

At the start of the spring semester, Iota Iota was leading all fraternities for the Crimson Cup intramural sports championship. This was largely due to the success of the Iota Iota flag football team, who won the all-campus championship in the fall. Winning the championship had not been accomplished by a fraternity team in a very long time. Our team clinched a bid to the National Flag Football Championships in Orlando, where we finished fifth in our division.



The champion flag football team.

Brothers Giving Back

Last fall was a big semester for Iota Iota helping the local community. Many brothers have become involved in our philanthropy program, Brothers Giving Back. Iota Iota is now involved in the local Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring program, and we donated over 800 pounds of food for Beat Auburn-Beat Hunger. We also donated \$1,000 and held an event for the Absolute Hope Foundation (which helps support physical therapy for young people confined to wheelchairs), as well as logged 500 hours at the Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama.



Former Consul Stan Ingram '10 and Co-Chapter Advisor Paul Albano Jr. '03 at the alumni Homecoming party.

57th Running of Derby Days at Capstone

The brothers still look forward to our biggest philanthropy event of the year, Derby Days. This spring marks Iota Iota's 57th running of Derby at the University. Our goal is to raise

\$30,000 for the Children's Hospital of Alabama, which would break our 2008 record by \$4,000. Derby will be held April 20-25.

I encourage all alumni to contact me if you have questions about Iota Iota. Please feel free to stop by the fraternity house to have lunch or dinner if you are in the area. Also, we would like to solicit help from alumni in finding quality young men to recruit for next fall's pledge class. This is a busy time for recruitment and we have already begun to assemble another well-rounded class. Please contact me, or our recruitment chairman, Jackson King '11 at jeking1@bama.ua.edu, to recommend a potential new member. Thank you for your time and commitment to Iota Iota.



In Hoc,
W. Neal Owens '10
Consul
wnowens@gmail.com



Fletcher Hawkins '12 and Hall Crawford '12 volunteered in October at the Boys and Girls Club of West Alabama.

Congratulations, 2008 Initiates

Boone Abbott
Mt. Brook, Ala.

Elliot Faircloth
Attmore, Ala.

David Ascik
Ormand Beach, Fla.

Barrett Ford
Jackson, Miss.

Will Barnes
Cullman, Ala.

Nick Grabowski
Mt. Brook, Ala.

Mitch Benton
Cullman, Ala.

Eli Hare
Monroeville, Ala.

Evan Bradford
Huntsville, Ala.

Fletcher Hawkins
Atlanta, Ga.

Jay Broughton
Fairhope, Ala.

Matt Highfield
Florence, Ala.

Phil Claiborne
Florence, Ala.

Harrison Hyde
Mt. Brook, Ala.

Hall Crawford
Memphis, Tenn.

Kelly Johnson
Charlotte, N.C.

John Fain
Mt. Brook, Ala.

Andrew Kroeger
Seneca, S.C.

Law Firm Run Using Fraternal Ideals

Spotlight on Dag Rowe '69

Dag Rowe '69 helps run the Huntsville, Alabama, law firm, Wilmer & Lee, much the same way as *lota lota*. "You don't 'pledge' jerks, even if they're capable and can bring big client bases. You foster respect, collegiality, teamwork, common goals, and fairness."

This fraternal method seems to have worked for senior partners Dag and fellow Sigma Chi Brother **John Wilmer '69**. Their firm had seven lawyers in 2000 and has since grown to 30. The two *lota lota* alumni credit this growth to lessons learned while in Sigma Chi. "John and I don't exploit our firm's young lawyers. We have found this is not just the smart and expedient thing to do, but it is also the right thing to do." Dag believes this sense of right and wrong is something all people can learn from.

"That combination is powerful in our law practice and has been historically powerful for our chapter. I hope our young actives never lose sight of this."

As Dag reflects on his undergraduate experience, he remembers Sigma Chi as a large and diverse chapter where he learned how to analyze power structures and figure out who's who and what's what. "I also began to learn how to handle my time and prioritize what I was trying to do. These lessons have helped me immensely in practicing law."

Even with a successful law career, Dag has found time for family. He and his wife, Melissa, have been married for 30 years and have two children, Dag Jr. and Anna. Father and son practice law together at the same firm, and Anna



graduated with honors from the University of Alabama. To contact Dag e-mail him at drowe@wilmerlee.com.

Recruitment Recommendation

Prospect's Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Does prospect have a ΣX relative? _____

High school attended _____

Reference submitted by _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Alumni, we value your referrals. Please submit prospect recommendations to **Jackson King '11** at jeking1@bama.ua.edu or mail to *lota lota* Chapter of Sigma Chi, P.O. Box 1880, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403.

Tyler Loper

Fairhope, Ala.

Taylor Scruggs

Jackson, La.

Matt McCleary

Florence, Ala.

Forrest Smith

Monroeville, Ala.

Colton Miller

Mt. Brook, Ala.

Clay Taylor

Trussville, Ala.

Stephen Miller

Baton Rouge, La.

Justin Wampol

Trussville, Ala.

Madison Neal

Birmingham, Ala.

Travis Ward

Columbia, S.C.

Trey Payne

Rome, Ga.

Will Watts

Meridian, Miss.

Tyler Peterson

Atlanta, Ga.

Blake Willford

Memphis, Tenn.

Andrew Ruberti

St. Simons, Ga.

John Wilson

Memphis, Tenn.

MJ Sampognaro

Monroeville, Ala.

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

Thomas L. Pinson '90 of Huntsville, Alabama, died November 7. He was a member of the Church of the Nativity Episcopal, was an avid Alabama football fan, and enjoyed spending time with his children. He is survived by his wife, Teresa, and his two children, Cameron and Will. Thomas was 40 years old.

ALUMNI NEWS

Don A. Newton '56 and his wife, Coleta, live in Birmingham, Ala. He retired from Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce in 2000 and was a publisher for *Birmingham Magazine* from 1974 until 2000. Don and Coleta have two children, Don Jr. and Coleta Midge Rast.

Michael Sparkman '70 is a lawyer and resides in Hartselle, Ala., with his wife, Sissy. E-mail: mesparkman@aol.com

Charles L. Perry '71 and his wife, Brenda, live in Knoxville, Tenn. He is principal of Computer Sciences Corp. Charles and Brenda have two sons, Jason and Austin. E-mail: charley911@msn.com

Zack Rogers '73 and his wife, Anne, reside in Birmingham, Ala., where Zack is president of First Choice Funding. During his time at the University of Alabama, he lettered in baseball and was a member of Jasons and the Alabama A Club. E-mail: phoenixfin@aol.com

Walter H. Smith Sr. '75 resides in Northport, Ala. He is a sales representative for American Osment in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Walter and his wife, Vicke, have a son, Walt Jr., a daughter, Laura, and three grandchildren. E-mail: wvsmith75@yahoo.com

W. Kenneth Windsor '76 lives in Sylacauga, Ala., with his wife, Kim, and their two children. Ken is a senior manager with New South Express in Lincoln, Ala. E-mail: kenneth_windsor@newsouthexp.com

Lee H. Loftin '80 is a partner at Tuscaloosa Ear, Nose & Throat. He and his wife, Rene, have four children: Andrew, Peterson, Anna,

and Katherine. Andrew works for Merrill Lynch in New York. Peterson was initiated into the Phi Phi Chapter of Sigma Chi at the University of Pennsylvania and was pledge class president. Lee was a medical honorary at Alpha Omega Alpha. The Loftin family lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala. E-mail: lee.loftin@gmail.com

Anthony M. Robbins '81 is president of A.M. Robbins Mortgage and lives in Birmingham, Ala., with his wife, Mona. They have two sons, Will and Andrew. E-mail: trobbins@amrobbins.com

Lawton Miller '84 is president of Miller Valve & Controls. He resides in Birmingham, Ala., with his wife, Nancy. They have three daughters. E-mail: lmillier@millervalves.com

David White '85 received an associate degree in horticulture. He lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala. E-mail: dwhite@dbtech.net

Brett Taylor '91 is president of T-Made Realty. He lives in Birmingham, Ala., with his wife, Charlotte, and they have three children: Ashton, Ford, and Coleman. E-mail: singinbt@yahoo.com

H. Nathan Clark III '03 married Brandi Carroll of Fayette, Ala., on March 15, 2008. They live in Centerville, Ga. Nate is a physical education teacher and football coach at Peach County High School. They were Georgia AAA state football champions in 2005-06. E-mail: nateclark@mail.com

Benjamin T. Nations '03 is a corporate sales director with B&D Industrial. He lives in Atlanta, Ga., with his wife, Erin. E-mail: benjaminations@hotmail.com

Jason Goggins '03 lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife, Lisa, a Tri Delta alumna from Auburn. He serves as a Republican counsel for the House Financial Services Committee, where he works on regulatory reform, insurance, and capital markets issues. Jason graduated from the Cumberland School of Law in 2008 and is a member of the Alabama Bar. From 2003 to 2005, Jason was press secretary to Congressman Spencer Bachus (R-AL). During his undergraduate days, Jason served as magister and was a member of Jasons. E-mail: jmgoggins@gmail.com.

Willis P. "Trey" Melancon III '05 lives in Birmingham, Ala., where he is a financial analyst with Medical Properties Trust. While attending the University of Alabama he was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and National Honor Society. Trey also served as a junior board member, zap chairman, and pledge class treasurer for Sigma Chi. E-mail: trey.melancon@yahoo.com

Charles W. Smith III '05 graduated from the Jones School of Law in 2008. He works as an attorney and lives in Tuscaloosa, Ala. E-mail: chaswsmith@gmail.com

IOTA IOTA CHAPTER OFFICERS

Consul
Neal Owens '10
Birmingham, Ala.
wnowens@gmail.com

Pro Consul
David Beasley '11
Florence, Ala.

Annotator
David Ross '10
Gadsen, Ala.

Quaestor
Scott Peters '10
Hendersonville, Tenn.

Magister
Mason Gosse '10
Elkmont, Ala.

Recruitment Chairman
Jackson King '11
Anniston, Ala.
jeking1@bama.ua.edu

Social Chairman
Jordan Brooks '10
Birmingham, Ala.

House Manager
Taylor Ashy '11
Baton Rouge, La.

Philanthropy Chairman
Ryan Manning '11
Scottsboro, Ala.

Scholarship Chairman
Manley Cummings '11
Spanish Fort, Ala.

Sigma Chi Prepared Alumnus for Workforce

Spotlight on Will Akin '03



When asked what undergraduate experience played the biggest role in preparing **Will Akin '03** for a career, his answer is leadership. "Leadership gives you the opportunity to develop skills that will allow you to excel in a future career. It also allows you to play an active role in growing and improving the fraternity. I feel I gained more from leadership roles than college courses."

While an undergraduate, Will held the position of consul, treasurer, and recruitment chairman. He knows opportunities at Sigma Chi prepared him for the workforce. "College was definitely the most fun time of my life. Looking back, I wish I would have stayed longer! The fraternity allowed me to develop leadership and negotiation skills that I use every day in the workplace."

Will is a self-employed commercial real estate broker and an investor for The Shopping Center Group in Birmingham, Alabama. He exclusively represents retailers such as Aldi Foods, Logan's Roadhouse, Ross Dress for Less, Costco, and Michael's, providing them with site selection services throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and the Florida panhandle.

Although Will has been out of school for only five years, his advice to other Iota Iotas is that you cannot please everyone, so just do what you know is right. "When you make a decision, don't waiver. Be willing to admit when you are wrong and communicate your expectations to the people you are mentoring as a leader."

Will and his wife, Ammie, live in Mountain Brook, Alabama, where Ammie is the assistant principal at Paine Intermediate in Trussville. In his spare time, Will enjoys cheering on Alabama football and basketball, going to the lake, traveling, and he plans to take flying lessons in the near future. To contact Will, e-mail him at willa@theshoppingcentergroup.com.

Thank You, Loyal Alumni

Thank you to our loyal alumni who have contributed \$3,635 with 52 total gifts. The support you give makes a difference to our chapter and its future. Our undergraduate brothers greatly appreciate your generosity.

Iota Iota at the University of Alabama is becoming even stronger with your loyalty. We hope more alumni will join their brothers and contribute to our ongoing annual campaign. Your interest and involvement make a difference in the future of our fraternity at the Capstone.

Contributors are listed below in alphabetical order. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, please contact **Jason Goggins '03** at jmgoggins@gmail.com or at Iota Iota House Corporation, P.O. Box 1880, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403. Thank you for your support!

The Circle of Constantine (\$1,000 and Up)

Benefactors of Iota Iota (\$500 to \$999)

The 1876 Society (\$100 to \$499)

Lyle K. Alexander '54
Mark A. Ascik '79
Matthew T. Banker '89
Marvin D. Beasley Jr. '74
Quentin Brown '69
Louis N. Deangelo '68
W. David Grindle '75
J. Warren Hawkins '79
Major Stan D. Hester '91
Hon. Alex T. Howard Jr. '48
Stephen D. Kane '65
Hurley Knott '62
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Roger Myers '82
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Gregory N. Bare, R.N. '82
James G. Carroll '89
Chuck Conour Jr. '86
Jack D. Cummings '53
Howard L. Einstein '86
Roy V. Elliott Jr. '68
Robert Howland '89
John D. Kearley '86
Charles J. Kittrell '62
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Walter Lowe '57
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Ellis G. Mitchell '59
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William Philips '50
Ray Pradat '51
Ralph T. Procter '81
John F. Proctor '53
Charles Schimmel Jr. '62
Dr. Bryant N. Sheehy '55
John L. Thorntorn '76
Patrick E. Variali '79
Judd P. Webster '52
Trent D. Williams '06
W. Kenneth Windsor '76

Bill W. Hoffman '51 Scores a Coup for the Tide in Alien Territory

Bill attended the annual Arkansas Sigma Chi alumni reunion and summer party held in the main ballroom of Pleasant Valley Country Club in Little Rock. The get-together drew a record crowd of over 270 Sigs for the cocktail party, formal dinner, and program.



A large sign was generated by Bill that read "RTR." It was surreptitiously but very prominently placed on the mantle close behind the speaker's lectern before most of the crowd had arrived.

The RTR sign remained unnoticed throughout the evening, even though it was in the center of the room. The Sig alumni association president even placed his drink by it several times during the program without noticing it.

Near the end of the program, the president opened the floor to anyone who might have a word to say to the gathering. Hoffman took the podium, pointed out the sign meaning Roll Tide Roll, which represents the feelings of a rival SEC school, and said, "If an old, decrepit Bama Sig can sneak a sign with great big red letters past this crowd of fervent Razorback rooters, what will Coach Saban do to the Hogs with a football?"

Needless to say, the roof flew off as the crowd realized they had been had.

A-Day

Saturday, April 18

Please join us for an A-Day alumni and friends barbecue. We would love to see you there!

Contact **Stephen Cross '07** at scross@grsconnect.com for more information.

Web Sites

Iota Iota Chapter
www.bamasig.org

The University of Alabama
www.ua.edu

Alabama Athletics
www.rolltide.com

The Iota Iota Messenger

Iota Iota Chapter of Sigma Chi

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ATTENTION: *This newsletter is intended for alumni and parents. If your son is still attending The University of Alabama, he will receive a copy at the chapter house. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address. Thank you.*

House Corporation Board

President
Charlie Smith '73
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
cambama50@hotmail.com

Vice President
Robert L. Wilson '77
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Treasurer
Glen Randall '70
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Secretary
Jason Goggins '03
Washington, D.C.

Chapter Advisor
Stephen Cross '07
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Chapter Advisor
Paul Albano '03
Birmingham, Ala.

Associate Chapter Advisor
Marty Hamner '85
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Historian
Brad Sloan '04
Birmingham, Ala.



General Members
Mark Bates '81
Florence, Ala.

Foster Hyde '07
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Stewart McLaurin '81
Alexandria, Va.

Walter Smith '75
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

List Underwood '99
Birmingham, Ala.