



SPRING 2011

The Iota Iota Messenger

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

Annual A-Day Alumni Barbecue April 16

Starting at 11 a.m. all alumni, family, and friends are invited to the chapter house for a barbecue lunch prior to the A-Day Game kicking off at 2 p.m.
In Hoc and Roll Tide!

High Hopes for the Future of Iota Iota

Alumni Leadership and Executive Officers Position Chapter for Continued Success

As I enter my second year as the Iota Iota House Corporation president, it still amazes me how much work goes in to managing the business side of a college Fraternity. We have several alumni who have devoted a large amount of time to helping me on several fronts, and I thank them for their continued work.

The House Corporation is pleased to announce we have a new group of executive officers. Three of the five officers are Iota Iota legacies, and we are confident these young men will carry on our 135-year legacy at the Capstone. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing chapter officers of Iota Iota, especially Consul **David Beasley '11**. These gentlemen set the bar when it comes to solid leadership at Sigma Chi and we appreciate all they offered as chapter leaders.

The new tax-deductible donation program has yielded tremendous results in its few months of existence. We have raised \$9,161 so far from 63 generous alumni. Thank you for your support as the chapter and House Corporation work with the University to address our chapter's future housing needs. If you find yourself near Tuscaloosa, be sure to stop by the chapter house and visit with the undergraduates. Your devotion to Iota Iota will keep the brotherhood strong and growing.

In Hoc,
Ralph Procter '81
Iota Iota House Corporation President
(205) 832-4414
procter1@charter.net

Third Consecutive Peterson Award and International Sweetheart Top Priorities for Iota Iota Chapter Seeks Alumni Recommendations for Rush

135th Anniversary of Iota Iota

October 29, 2011, will mark the 135th anniversary of Iota Iota Chapter. Much has changed over the past 135 years, but our commitment to friendship, justice, and learning remains unwavering. The long history of our chapter as a top-tier Fraternity at Alabama is a testament to our lofty ideals and dedication to those principles which our founders professed in the Jordan Standard.

We have grown exponentially since the early days of Iota Iota and the future is looking brighter than ever. Without the continued support of our alumni, by far the strongest of any Fraternity on campus, we could not reach the point at which we are today.

(Continued on page 2)

Members of Iota Iota, in conjunction with UA sororities, raised \$30,000 to donate to Children's Hospital of Alabama and the Birmingham Chapter of Catholic Charities.



Iota Iota Chapter
www.bamasig.org

The University of Alabama
www.ua.edu

Alabama Athletics
www.rolltide.com

Join the Iota Iota Facebook Group
www.facebook.com
Search for Sigma Chi, Alabama

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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 daascik@gmail.com

Pro Consul
Phil Claiborne '12
Florence, Ala.

Annotator
Madison Neal '12
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Quaestor
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Magister
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Recruitment Chairman
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Social Chairman
Harrison Hyde '12
Birmingham, Ala.

House Manager
Anthony Osbourne '13
Louisville, Ky.

Philanthropy Chairman
Joe Bernauer '13
Florence, Ala.

Congratulations, New Initiates

Ryan Benk '14
Atlanta, Ga.

James Jordan '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Taylor Schwarz '14
Marietta, Ga.

Joe Campisi '14
Orlando, Fla.

Brett Livaudais '14
New Orleans, La.

Graham Smith '14
Monroeville, Ala.

Ted Connell '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Marcus Livesay '14
Memphis, Tenn.

Taylor Smith '14
Monroeville, Ala.

Will Cooper '14
Birmingham, Ala.

Will Mackin '14
Birmingham, Ala.

Tray Smith '13
Atmore, Ala.

Will Dietrichs '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Jacob Martin '13
Boston, Mass.

Connor Somerville '13
Rome, Ga.

Zach Eiland '14
Daphne, Ala.

Thomas Matheney '14
Austin, Texas

Stefan Spadaro '14
Jacksonville, Fla.

Nick Enns '13
Fort Pierce, Fla.

Austin Mills '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Austin Teale '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Lawton Esdale '14
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

Gordon Nichols '13
Atmore, Ala.

Austin Thomas '13
Trussville, Ala.

Matt Ford '14
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Cole Nieman '13
Houston, Texas

Sam Wells '14
Jacksonville, Fla.

Clayton Furr '14
Memphis, Tenn.

Cooper Nyquist '14
Cullman, Ala.

Drew Wharton '14
Marietta, Ga.

Dallas Gregg '14
Birmingham, Ala.

Brett Pettigrew '14
Dallas, Texas

Houston White '13
Florence, Ala.

Michael Hawes '14
Dallas, Texas

Chandler Pope '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Daniel Woodall '14
Birmingham, Ala.

Alex Henderson '14
Birmingham, Ala.

Hudson Riedel '14
Florence, Ala.

William Howle '14
Charlotte, N.C.

Stephen Schoen '14
Atlanta, Ga.

Peterson Award and Sweetheart Top Priorities

(Continued from page 1)

Peterson Award and International Sweetheart within Reach for Iota Iota

This summer Iota Iota will be applying for its third consecutive Peterson Outstanding Chapter Award, an honor bestowed on a select group of Sigma Chi chapters who show strong performance in all areas of chapter operations. The award has been given to Iota Iota the past two years and we look forward to continuing the tradition.

Another Iota Iota tradition is the Sigma Chi International Sweetheart. This year's sweetheart is Candice Rosenkrantz, Phi Mu '11, and we could not ask for a more ideal candidate to follow in the footsteps of five University of Alabama sorority women who have previously served as International Sweetheart: Mary Jo Brazelton (1965), Patti Rawlinson-Holt (1975), Jenna Ward (1979), Lisa Wheeler (1985), and current International Sweetheart Alexa Stabler (2009). Candice is extremely qualified and the perfect Sigma Chi ambassador.

Quest for the Crimson Cup

With the help of our new initiates, Sigma Chi is seeking its second Crimson Cup in three years. The Crimson Cup is awarded to the Fraternity with the best overall performance in intramural sports over the course of the year. We had strong showings in flag football, dodge ball, soccer, and tennis; and with our two best sports to go—basketball and softball—this spring, we are on track to reclaim the trophy.

Brothers Raise \$1,500 in Memory of Howard Miles Leslie '83

Last year's Derby Days contributed \$30,000 to the Children's Hospital of Alabama. Since 2001, Sigma Chi has donated more than \$138,000 to charitable organizations. This fall, after hearing the news that **Howard Miles Leslie '83**, father of **Nick Leslie '11** and a former Iota Iota consul, had succumbed to his long battle with melanoma, the chapter raised \$1,500 in a matter of days to donate to skin cancer research and awareness.

We have many philanthropy events planned this spring and always enjoy putting our best efforts toward donating to charitable organizations. If you know of an opportunity for us to give back, please contact me or our philanthropy chairman, **Joe Bernauer '13**, at tjbernauer@crimson.ua.edu.

Alumni Recommendations Needed for Rush

I encourage alumni to contact me if you have questions about the chapter. If you are in the Tuscaloosa area, please feel free to stop by the house for a meal and to meet some of the brothers. We are working toward assembling the pledge class of fall 2011, and we need your help finding quality men that will contribute to the growth of our chapter. Please contact me or our recruitment chairman, **Matt McKee '13**, at mbmckee@crimson.ua.edu with recommendations for potential new members. Thank you for your time and commitment to the Iota Iota Chapter. I look forward to hearing from you.

In Hoc,
David Ascik '12
 Consul
 (386) 235-3515
 daascik@gmail.com

Walter R. Byars Jr. '48 Displays Never-Ending Dedication to Iota Iota

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, **Walter R. Byars Jr. '48** was honored to be considered for membership into Sigma Chi. Walter identifies his initiation into Iota Iota as his favorite undergraduate memory. "My undergraduate experience was outstanding. Sigma Chi molded me into what I've become. Other than my family and the Lord, I think Sigma Chi has meant more to me than anything here on this earth. If I have any strong character, it was developed at Sigma Chi."

Earning a bachelor of science in commerce and business administration in 1948, Walter remained active in Sigma Chi. He was honored to serve Iota Iota as quaestor during his undergraduate years and again as quaestor and consel during law school. "There is no question that the success of any individual rests upon his or her ability to lead. I enjoyed the opportunity to lead Iota Iota."

In 1959 Walter moved to Atlanta to work as a legal counsel for Southern Bell Telephone (predecessor to AT&T) and later as general attorney. Serving as president of the Birmingham alumni chapter and the Montgomery alumni chapter as well as chapter advisor and president of the House Corporation for Iota Iota, Walter consistently displayed his never-ending dedication to Sigma Chi. Walter encourages alumni to stay true to the tenets of Sigma Chi and remain active in their local alumni chapter. "The longer you stay active, the more you will appreciate all Sigma Chi has to offer."



"Other than my family and the Lord, I think Sigma Chi has meant more to me than anything here on this earth. If I have any strong character, it was developed at Sigma Chi."

Walter made the decision to return to private practice in Montgomery in 1968. He was elected president of the International Society of Barristers in 1983-84, president of the Montgomery County Bar in 1979, and president of Alabama State Bar in 1984-85. Today he is the managing partner of Steiner Crum and Byars, the oldest law firm in Montgomery, and is the chief legal counsel to the mayor of Montgomery.

Organizing his pledge class' 60th and 65th reunions, Walter was ecstatic to see eight of his 10 pledge brothers attend the 60th reunion. "The most important lesson I've learned is friendship and fellowship is of utmost importance to your happiness and success in life. My pledge brothers and I have stayed very close even though we've been a far distance from one another. Returning to Iota Iota after 65 years, that's how much Sigma Chi means to us. We've been living out the fellowship we learned at Iota Iota."

In his spare time, Walter enjoys fishing and hunting, and visiting his home in Panama City, Florida. Walter and his wife, Mildred (Chi Omega at Alabama), celebrated their 60th anniversary in December. They have four children: Debra (Chi Omega at Alabama), **Ryland '80**, Rebecca (Chi Omega at Alabama), and Baxter. To contact Walter, e-mail him at mehollie@bellsouth.net.



James "Will" Yeldell III '86

Finds Fulfillment in Role as Grand Praetor

James W. "Will" Yeldell III '86 felt a connection to Sigma Chi even before attending the University of Alabama. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Will is a second generation Iota Iota. Will's father, **James W. "Jim" Yeldell Jr. '59**, and uncle **Charles Yeldell '63** had wonderful experiences at Sigma Chi and hoped Will would have that same great experience. "I guess you could say it was in the cards for me. I didn't need to look anywhere else. I always knew I wanted to be a Sigma Chi."

Will's time at Iota Iota gave him the opportunity to interact with many people and he credits Sigma Chi for developing his social skills. "As a freshman I had a class of seniors and juniors I respected and looked up to. These upperclassmen have a powerful role as mentors. When you're a freshman and looking for direction, a Fraternity can provide a great setting for that."

Active in collegiate sports, Will was a member of the water ski team all four years at Alabama. Training from March until October each year, water skiing consumed a good amount of Will's time but ultimately taught him the importance of prioritizing and time management.

Graduating with a B.S. in geology and a minor in physics, Will went on to earn his MBA at Alabama and began a career in the information technology consulting business. Today Will works for SAP, the third largest software company in the world, based in Germany but with a massive presence in the U.S. As a solution architect, Will works

(Continued on page 5)

Iota Iota Leadership Lessons Launch Lobbyist's Career



Spotlight on William F. Stiers '85

As a native of Montgomery, Alabama, **William F. Stiers '85** had an easy choice picking the University of Alabama for his college home. Upon arriving in Tuscaloosa, he went through recruitment in search of the camaraderie he had heard came with Greek life. He found what he was looking for in Sigma Chi. "The gentlemen I met at Iota Iota were good people, sincere, and down to earth," he says.

However, Bill's Sigma Chi brothers provided him with much more than friendship. Being surrounded by such driven, intelligent men encouraged Bill to strive to achieve his utmost potential. "I can say

that my brothers of Iota Iota were the biggest reason I am not the guy playing his trumpet at the metro exit," he says, "although that doesn't look like such a bad life now."

Iota Iota provided Bill with an outlet to develop his leadership skills and consequently shaped him into the man he is today. "It was the leadership skills I learned and honed at the Sigma Chi house that have been essential in my career."

Bill urges undergraduates to take advantage of the opportunities for growth that are available to them through Iota Iota. "Leadership can be a double-edged sword. If you're going to make something happen, learn how and when to wield it. You may cut yourself at first, but once it becomes natural, people will know to follow or get out of the way, and you won't have to cut their heads off." Encouraging undergraduates to savor their time at Iota Iota, Bill states, "There is plenty of time to be serious later in life."

Earning a bachelor's degree in economics, Bill graduated in 1985 and went on to become a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. Bill has over two decades of experience in every facet of the political process: as a legislative director on Capitol Hill, fundraiser, political operative, and advertising/public relations professional. He is the managing director of the Washington office of law firm Balch & Bingham, leads the firm's federal lobbying efforts, and chairs the firm's federal political action committee.

When Bill isn't busy being serious, he enjoys any activity in or around saltwater. Residing in Alexandria, Virginia, Bill and his wife, Cattie, have two children, Will (11) and Adeline (9). To contact Bill, e-mail him at wstiers@balch.com.

ALUMNI UPDATE

CHAPTER ETERNAL

T. Massey Bedsole '39 entered Chapter Eternal on January 1 at the age of 93. He served on the board of trustees at the University of Alabama and was the University's oldest trustee emeritus. He was involved in his community for more than 60 years. Brother Bedsole was also recognized by the International Fraternity as a Significant Sig. He enjoyed his friends and family and valued each one. Massey lived in Mobile at the time of his death. His Sigma Chi brethren will miss him.

Louie "Bruce" Cary '45 entered Chapter Eternal on August 11, 2010. Sigma Chi was one of the things he most cared about. Bruce lived in Birmingham at the time of his passing.

William Ricker '58 entered Chapter Eternal January 2. He worked for the city of Birmingham for decades and in 2008 was honored by the Alabama Senate and Legislature for his public service. He was well respected in his field. Bill lived in Birmingham at the time of his passing.

John H. Nelson '73 entered Chapter Eternal on January 17, 2010. Sigma Chi brothers, **C. Stokes Ritchie '70**, **Jack Neal '71**, and many more, attended his memorial

ceremony in Montgomery, Ala., on February 13. He will be dearly missed.

Howard Miles Leslie '83 entered Chapter Eternal on August 7, 2010. For 19 years, he was a partner with Blue Ridge Emergency Physicians at Oconee Medical Center and was a board certified emergency physician. Howard is survived by his wife, Lynn; children: James, **Nick '11**, Kendall, Douglas, Andrew Johns, Lindsay Johns, and Alexander Johns; and two brothers, Jim Leslie IV and Murray Leslie. His Sigma Chi brothers will miss him.

ALUMNI NEWS

George R. Utley '40 lives in a retirement home in Lancaster, Ohio. He and his wife, Frances, have two children, Frances and Candace (deceased).

Robert P. Gilbert '49 is enjoying his 26th year of retirement from the United States Steel Corp. Bob and his wife, Betty, live in a nice retirement community near Birmingham. He says, "The white cross still glows in my heart and memory. Roll Tide!" E-mail: rpgilbert001@aol.com

W. Gene Hunter '51 enjoys building flying radio controlled airplanes. Gene has been

retired for 27 years and feels good at the age of 83. He still follows Alabama football and tries to keep in touch with brothers **Alex Newton '52**, **Walter Byars '48**, and **Dewey Vann '46**. Gene resides in Hampton Cove, Ala.

Jack D. Cummings '53 is enjoying good health and playing golf. He and his wife, Rosemary, have four children and reside in Fairhope, Ala.

Sam H. Wright '61 is excited for the A-Day Game reunion and reconnecting with his Iota Iota brothers. Sam is the mayor of Sylacauga, Ala. E-mail: swright5469@charter.net

Henry Crawford Jr. '65 retired after 30 years in the wholesale beer business. He and his wife, Jo Anne, have two children, Gretchen and Jennifer, and reside in Montrose, Ala. E-mail: crawford@bellsouth.net

Roger C. Williams '66 says "life is good!" He works as a lawyer, arbitrator, mediator, and also teaches at the law school. He and his wife, JoAnn, have seven grandchildren and they reside in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Roger enjoys playing tennis on Saturday mornings, going to Alabama football games and watching basketball games. Roger says, "I

(Continued on back page)

THANK YOU, LOYAL ALUMNI

Thank you to our loyal alumni who have contributed \$35,157 with 301 gifts, averaging \$117 per gift, since our annual campaign began in the fall of 2008. The amount we received this past fall is very encouraging: \$9,161 from 63 gifts. Iota Iota alumni are very loyal and the support you give makes a difference to our chapter and its future. Our undergraduate brothers greatly appreciate your generosity.

Contributors are listed below in graduation order. If an error has been made in recording the amount of your gift, please e-mail bamasig@gmail.com. Thank you for your support!

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

- * Lt. Col. Bill W. Hoffman '51
- Quentin Brown '69
- Ramon Arias '72
- Robert A. Hieserman '73
- * H. Wright Waters III '73
- Mark A. Ascik '79
- * M. Neil White III, M.D. '85
- * Foster T. Hyde '08

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

- Alex W. Newton '52
- * A. Paul Owen Jr. '52
- John F. Proctor '53
- * Charles J. Kittrell '62
- * Larry L. Jarvis '68
- * James M. Seaver '69
- * Donald L. Johnson '73
- * R. Keith Ferrari '76
- David D. Reed Jr. '78
- * J. Randall Guyton '85
- Christopher A. Jones '01

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

- * Walter R. Byars Jr. '48
- Hon. Alex T. Howard Jr. '48
- Robert McKenzie '48
- Jack P. Strong, M.D. '48
- Hollis J. Wiseman, M.D. '48
- John A. Hines '49
- Gregg Harris Jr. '50
- * William B. Philips Jr. '50
- W. Gene Hunter '51
- * Robert H. Maxwell '51
- * Ray Pradat '51
- Victor E. Woodman '51
- * Robert M. Montgomery Jr. '52
- * Lt. Col. Phillip L. Newton '52
- Henry G. Whigham Jr. '52
- Jack D. Cummings '53
- * James W. Greiner '53
- Edward T. Peter '53

- * Col. Lyle K. Alexander '54
- * Don A. Newton '56
- Hon. Warren L. Hammond Jr. '57
- * Walter E. Lowe '57
- * Jack B. Gillum '58
- W. Ralph Cook '59
- Robert A. Rollings '59
- Sam H. Wright '61
- * Hurley W. Knott '62
- * Col. Charles Schimmel Jr. '62
- Larry U. Sims '63
- Teddy O. Wilson Jr. '62
- Lewis C. Cook '64
- Stephen D. Kane '65
- William W. Tate Jr. '65
- * A. Philip Cook Jr. '66
- * C. Richard Parr Jr. '67
- R. Thomas Beason '68
- * Dennis E. Clowers '68
- Louis N. Deangelo '68
- Roy V. Elliott Jr. '68
- * David G. Hatch '68
- * Robert A. Lacey '68
- Charles M. Simpson '68
- * Michael F. Cortright '69
- Edward W. Graham III '69
- * William H. Pacey '69
- S. D. Rowe '69
- R. Kurry Wyatt, D.M.D. '69
- David A. London '70
- James E. Edwards III '71
- * George P. Miller, M.D. '71
- * George M. Neal Jr. '71
- Bruce W. Pylant '71
- Bert P. Taylor '71
- * James D. Whitmire '71
- John Y. Christopher Jr. '72
- C. Stokes Ritchie '73
- * Marvin D. Beasley Jr. '74
- Frank T. Mastin III '74
- * Richard K. Maxwell '74
- Harvey D. Medearis IV '74
- * William D. Grindle '75
- * Thomas E. Lazenby '75
- D. David McBride '76
- * Robert L. Hembree Jr. '77
- E. C. Faircloth II '78
- Joseph W. Hawkins '79
- Chipper Hoyt '79
- Robert L. Loftin III '79
- Phillip C. Nicholas '79
- * Robert W. Faircloth Jr. '80
- Lee H. Loftin '80
- * Joseph S. Redmon '80
- David G. Thompson '80
- William T. Davis '81
- John C. Dobbs '81
- J. M. Fain '81
- Mark S. McColl '81
- * Douglas M. Nix '81
- * Ralph T. Procter '81
- Gregory N. Bare '82
- Jay T. Berryhill '82
- Michael E. Callahan '82
- David B. Harris '82
- * Roger P. Myers '82
- * J. Eric Price '82
- Gregory P. Driskill '83
- Hugh S. Morrow Jr. '83
- Cavett W. Fallis '85
- * William F. Stiers Sr. '85
- George Drake '86
- * Howard L. Einstein '86
- John D. Kearley '86
- * J. Willis Yeldell III '86
- Douglas M. Giffin '88
- * Eric V. Knouse '88
- Alfred E. Kullman Jr. '88
- Matthew T. Banker '89
- David M. Jenkins '90
- Stan D. Hester '91
- David M. Adams Jr. '93
- Herman N. Clark III '05
- Jackson M. Neal '09

The White Cross Club (Up to \$99)

- Coralyn P. Gaston
- * George R. Utley '40
- * Edward F. Thomas '43

- G. Dewey Vann '46
- * Paul G. Haigh '50
- * Charles F. Ratcliffe Jr. '52
- * Judd P. Webster '52
- * Joseph M. Semple, M.D. '53
- Dan B. Keith Jr. '53
- E. Russell March Jr., M.D. '55
- * Bryant N. Sheehy, M.D. '55
- Ellis G. Mitchell '59
- Dan B. Keith Jr. '61
- Donald L. Avant '62
- Albert L. Branscomb Jr. '62
- * Richard Shoemaker '61
- * David E. Keith '64
- Raymond D. Walker '64
- Antonio D. Melachrinio '65
- Jerry M. Taylor '66
- David A. McDaniel '70
- David S. Mitchell '73
- Zack Rogers III '73
- Henry C. Gewin '75
- John L. Thornton '76
- William K. Windsor '76
- Patrick E. Variali '79
- * Scott Williams '80
- * William E. Norton '81
- Robert S. Yoe '82
- Charles M. Modica Jr. '85
- * Matthew J. Pappas '85
- Charles C. Conour '86
- George F. Vieth '86
- * James G. Carroll '89
- Robert Howland '89
- Daniel Despot '90
- Tripp Butler '91
- Preston Peete '91
- Philip R. Weber '94
- Anthony P. Burger Jr. '03
- Reese J. Kincaid II '03
- Timothy D. Tucker '03
- * Clay S. Agee '06
- Trent D. Williams '06

* Donor to the fall 2010 appeal

James "Will" Yeldell III '86 (Continued from page 3)

with IT consulting firms to help them sell and implement SAP business software solutions to small to mid-size businesses.

Offering advice to undergraduates and younger alumni, Will says, "Don't pigeonhole yourself into a specific discipline. Take courses outside of your major and use the opportunity to learn. Don't be afraid to try new things and venture outside of your comfort zone. College teaches you how to be taught and it proves to other people you can be taught."

After moving to Charlotte in 1995, Will became involved with Sigma Chi on a national level and served as Grand Praetor of the North Carolina province from 2001 to 2005. He now holds the role of

Assistant Grand Praetor with **Mark Burroughs, North Carolina State '79** as the two prepare for an eventual split of the North Carolina province. "I love that feeling after initiation when the experience and emotion of the ritual is still fresh. As Grand Praetor I attend initiations within the North Carolina province and teaching these lessons to new initiates shows me I'm a part of something bigger—not just a social club. I still get that feeling after each initiation."

Will resides in Charlotte, North Carolina, with his wife, Michelle. Will has three children: Stephanie (20), James (16), and Caroline (13), and two stepsons, Jackson (15) and Jordan (17). To contact Will, e-mail him at wyledell@earthlink.net.

ALUMNI NEWS

(Continued from page 4)

count my blessings every day! Roll Tide Roll!"
E-mail: rogercwilliams@aol.com

Douglas P. Lyle '68 is the Macavity Award-winning and Edgar Award-nominated author of the nonfiction books *Murder and Mayhem*, *Forensics for Dummies*, *Forensics and Fiction*, and *Howdunit Forensics*, as well as the thrillers *Devil's Playground*, *Double Blind*, and the first in his new Dub Walker series, *Stress Fracture*. His essay on Jules Verne's *The Mysterious Island* appears in *Thrillers: One Hundred Must-Reads*. His next Dub Walker novel, "Hot Lights, Cold Steel", and the first of his Royal Pains tie-in novels, "Royal Pains: First, Do No Harm," will be released in June 2011. Douglas resides in Lake Forest, Calif.

Hugh S. Morrow Jr. '83 has truly enjoyed staying closer to home as he has been president of Ruby Falls, an 80-year-old tourist attraction in Chattanooga, for the past four years. Hugh spends his free time at the University of Kentucky watching his daughter, Carly, play basketball and daughter, Meredith, play tennis. Hugh says, "My daughter Hannah has promised to consider Alabama so there is still hope!" Hugh and his wife, Caroline, reside in Lookout Mountain, Ga. E-mail: hugh@rubyfalls.com

John E. "Chip" Barger Jr. '96 was named in Top Forty Under 40 in the Memphis Business Journal. Chip is vice president of real estate services at Fogelman Management Group. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three children: Mary Grace, Libby, and Jeb, and reside in Germantown, Tenn. E-mail: barger_john@hotmail.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.*

Sigma Chi Celebrates the Life of Life Loyal Sig John H. Nelson '73



John Nelson '73 entered Chapter Eternal on January 17, 2010, from complications of lung cancer. John pledged Sigma Chi in the fall of 1969 and soon became a proud member of Iota Iota. He received his degree from the University in 1973 and went on to become an extremely successful retail salesman of clothing and accessories.

John loved Alabama football. Nobody was more excited than John when Alabama won the National Championship in 2009. He watched the game from his hospital bed wearing his Alabama baseball cap, but cheered as if he was in the stands. John loved his family and many, many friends. This was evident at the Celebration of Life held in his memory on February 13, 2010, in Montgomery. Younger alumni loved John and many attended his celebration in Montgomery, where they all had funny stories to tell of "Uncle John." The event was a true celebration of life and laughter. John was godfather to **Charles "Chas" Smith '05** and **Matt Smith '07**, sons of his college

roommate and close Sigma Chi brother, **Charlie Smith '73**. John enjoyed celebrating Alabama football games with Charlie, Chas, and Matt.

The memories John leaves behind are lessons for us all. "Love life, enjoy each day, don't worry too much about tomorrow, and laugh a lot!" Most importantly John would encourage us to stay loyal and close to the brothers from our days at Iota Iota. These bonds of friendship cannot be matched nor broken. John loved his Sigma Chi brothers, both young and "old." If you knew John, you were fortunate. If not, learn from his life and treasure each day, laugh a lot, and cherish those you love.

John is survived by his mother, Jeanne; sister, Jana; and his cherished niece and nephew, MacKenzie and Madison. Contributions to honor John's memory at the University of Alabama can be sent to The Crimson Tide Foundation, Ronny Robertson, P.O. Box 870343, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487-0343.