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THE ALPHA TAUKER

www.kappasigmagt.org

November 2011

Alpha Tau of
Kappa Sigma

ALUMNI REPORT

New Chapter House Plans Unveiled at 2011 Homecoming Celebration

Homecoming weekend kicked off with the 11th Annual Alpha Tau of Kappa Sigma reunion party at Gordon Biersch. Several generations were represented at this event, which has grown each year with the help of **Matt Cahill '86**.

The game-day tailgate was a huge success as the O'Keefe lot was overtaken by 300+ alumni, family and friends. **David Joiner '95** and **Jim Turner '03** assisted Chef Mark in preparing the BBQ pork and buffet.

Michael Pouncey '94 entertained the crowd with a presentation of Alpha Tau's new chapter house plans and a public kickoff of the capital fundraising campaign.

The crowd was then sent off to Bobby Dodd Stadium with a pre-game pep talk and "Who Dat!" from **Marshall Hunter '92**. It worked. The Yellow Jackets beat Clemson 31-17.



A look at the new Kappa Sig house, slated to open in 2014.

CHAPTER REPORT

Kappa Sig Brothers Heavily Involved On Campus

There is a lot going on at Alpha Tau this semester. We have 18 pledges, which is good considering rush numbers were generally down around campus this semester. There are currently 66 actives, many of whom are getting involved in leadership roles throughout campus.

We have a brother currently serving as IFC Rush Chair, and will be running for IFC President soon. We have another brother serving as the IFC Educational Programming Chair and two brothers who are on the SGA and are looking to take on executive positions in the upcoming years. Three brothers founded "Wreckless," a club that holds social events around campus to encourage stronger community at Tech.

Aside from leadership roles, we also take scholarship and athletics seriously. Our grades are right on pace with the all men's average.

We have brothers on the rugby and soccer teams, which has helped us in intramurals. So far, we have seen success in softball, soccer and racquetball, making it all the way to the championship for softball.

We have been heavily involved with philanthropy, as we put an emphasis on demonstrating good social responsibility. We recently hosted a benefit concert for the Susan G. Komen Foundation that consisted of live music and various fundraising activities. We will soon be co-hosting an event called "GT Carve out Cancer" with the Phi Mu sorority for the second consecutive year. One of our undergraduate brothers lost his father to brain cancer, so we started this event in his honor.

Stay tuned to www.kappasigmagt.org for active chapter updates throughout the year.

Building a New Home for Alpha Tau

Michael Pouncey '94 Gives a Sneak Peek Inside the Future Kappa Sig House at Georgia Tech, Promises to Preserve the Lobby and "The Pit"

Michael Pouncey '94 is a dedicated Alpha Tau alum with an important task. He is working as chairman of the fundraising committee for the capital campaign to raise funds for the building of a new chapter house at Georgia Tech.

But his love for Kappa Sigma goes way beyond bricks and mortar.

"When I was an undergrad, we used to brag that our fraternity was close - a real brotherhood - not just a group of people living under one roof, he said. "I'm happy to know now that it was absolutely true. We're still AEKDB today."

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Michael first came to Kappa Sig as a double legacy, as his father was also a Kappa Sig at Tech and his grandfather was a member of Carnegie Mellon's chapter.

"I rushed at most of the other fraternities at Tech as well, he said. "I pledged Kappa Sigma because I felt the most welcome there, the most at home."

During his time as an active brother, Michael formed his fair share of great and sometimes wild memories. But the moments he cherished the most are the simple times he shared with his brothers.

"The best times were just hanging out in the Lobby: reading the paper, talking about current events or classes, playing cards, chewing the fat," he said.

Michael has made a point to keep those connections strong since graduation. He often reunites with those same guys in his alumni years.

"My kids know many of my fraternity brothers, as they are my best friends still today," he said.

These lasting friendships are a major

reason why Michael is heavily involved with the current capital campaign. Knowing the need to replace the Alpha Tau house - especially since so many other campus fraternities had made major renovations since the 1996 Olympics - he answered the call to help with a complete rebuild of Kappa Sigma and ensure it remains a premier fraternity at Georgia Tech.

"It was a matter of when you show enough interest in something, ultimately they put you in charge," Michael joked. "I was asked to fill the role by some brothers I really respect, including Chairman of the Housing Corporation **Mike Dudgeon '89**. He and I had discussed the need to replace the house for many years. I'm glad to be able to help my chapter this way and to have some of our ideas finally come to life."

Michael explained that the new house, which is slated to open in 2014, includes an updated building with the modern conveniences that today's students expect. For example, the new building will have superior fire protection with integrated alarm and

sprinkler systems, and will be fully "wired" for high speed internet. The new house will also be handicap accessible and will have a vastly improved kitchen. It will feature hardwood floors and will be more energy efficient, lowering the costs of heating and cooling the house.

"The time we spent with Alpha Tau helped offset the rigors of Georgia Tech and that unifying spirit remains, which makes this fundraising a rewarding experience."

"It's not just going to be more attractive on the inside," Michael said. "The exterior will be designed to fit the English Gothic style that compliments the rest of the house. Our architect is an Alpha Tau brother, **Mike Hug '80**, who has been a huge help with the project."

But in addition to bringing in new elements, the Housing Corporation is



Kappa Sig brothers on the banks of the mighty Mississippi. Pictured (L to R): Bill Brower, Geoff Clippinger, Derik Davis, Jimmy Fortuna, Patrick Hunter, Marshall Hunter, Michael Dudgeon, Nathan Chilcutt, Dan Westbrook and Michael Pouncey.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

'40s

William Wren '46

(3111 Willow Green Ct., Duluth, GA 30096-3641; wjwren@bellsouth.net) True Alpha Tau story from the 1940s: The fraternity house was located at the corner of Williams and Third Streets. It was demolished later on to provide for I-85/75. The house was formerly a residential home for a Georgia Tech professor. It had bedrooms on the second floor and everything else on the first floor. The basement had steps from the first floor but only a small space with a concrete floor and that was the location of the furnace (coal fired). Some of the brothers thought it would be a big improvement to dig out some more space in the basement, thinking it would provide a quiet place for study during the week and an entertainment area on weekends. All went well and a few months later we had our room. After a spirited discussion we agreed to name it the "Ale & Tale Club." It served us well.

'50s

Richard Lord '57

(8175 Overview Ct., Roswell, GA 30076; dicklord@att.net) I'm enjoying the good life on the Chattahoochee in Roswell after retiring from Blount Construction Co. on my 65th in 2000. I never strayed far from the Tech campus. During my career I got to obliterate Grant field twice and participated in many projects on campus in preparation for the Atlanta Olympics. My current projects include getting my wife's uncle, "Froggy" Morrison, into the GA Tech Hall of Fame. He was quarterback on the 1916 team that whupped Cumberland 222-0 under John Heisman, and coached with Bill Alexander in the '20s. I have recently spent some time sharing his scrapbook with the Alumni and Athletic Associations. Oh, did I mention that he was a Kappa Sig? (Most of the Cumberland team came from the K Sig chapter there!)

I am also hoping to go through my 50-year-old slides to document pictures of the various Kappa Sig rocks that evolved during the '50s, culminating in the current one (and the one under it). I thought the chapter might be interested in their history. If anyone has any photos to add, please let me know. My most recent thrill was watching my grandson Ben celebrate his 10th birthday as a ballboy

for Tech when they beat Carolina State. A high point of MY season! I'd love to hear from any K Sigs in the Atlanta area who would like to get together for lunch. We've put it off long enough...we're not going to be around forever!

'60s

Hugh Anderson '68

(119 Olde Canal Loop, Pawleys Island, SC 29585; handerson17@sc.rr.com) Rita and I have been married 43 years, and moved to Pawleys Island, SC in 2006. Our daughter Paige, GT '92, lives in Raleigh. We have two grandkids, Allison(12) and Anderson (10). I still converse with many of the brothers from the Animal House era.

'80s

Michael Hickman '88

(6935 Lancaster Circle, Cumming, GA 30040-7340; MH@MichaelSHickman.com) Monday, Oct. 17th was my fourth year hosting the Daniel Hager Memorial Celebrity Golf Tournament (www.SilentStormGolf.com). I am a founding member of the East Metro Georgia Tech Club and also the Founder of the West Lanier Georgia Tech Club (www.westlanier.com). In the last three years, we have raised more than \$75,000 for scholarships and given out scholarships to 15 recipients from East Cherokee, North Fulton and Forsyth Counties. In 2012, we will award seven scholarships from the tournament proceeds and then another new scholarship on behalf of a local company,

Automation Direct. In addition to the tournament, we also host game-watching parties, have academic and athletic speakers, have networking events, student send-offs and information sessions for high school students.

Steven Carter '84

(3222 Symphony Woods Dr., Charlotte, NC 28269; cartergang@carolina.rr.com) I recently left Wachovia/Wells Fargo after 15 years, and am now working for Aon Hewitt in the HR Business Process Outsourcing segment as a PMO lead/program manager. Still living in Charlotte, NC with my wife Pauline and our daughter Dory Ann (9th grade), and our son Will is a freshman at Vassar College.

'00s

Jonathan Peak '05

(jon.peak@gmail.com) The year has been very eventful. In December 2010, I finally completed my PhD in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Tennessee (I know... good way to ruin an engineering degree from Tech). I am currently on a one-year postdoc fellowship at UT and actively looking for my next position. On January 29th I got married to Nadya Vera. We had been dating since 2006 after meeting while in graduate school at the University of Florida. The wedding was in her hometown of Miami, Fla. and we had our honeymoon in Key West.

Conversation Trending On Facebook

Brad Smith: What was the last name of our cook "Mike" back in the late '70s and early '80s? I think someone had a photo of him jumping off the Luau tower?

Mark Ramberger: Thank God Bertha never tried that.

Michael Pouncey: Ohhhh Bertha. Gives me indigestion just thinking about her...

Mark Bowden: Good question. Jumping off the Luau tower was above and beyond duty. I have to admit that the only reason I jumped off it was so I wouldn't look like a whimp. I've always hated jumping from heights.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

Kappa Sig Bonds, Nearly 50 Years Strong!

A group of old alums went to St. George Island, FL in mid-October for their annual get-together. This mini-reunion has been a tradition for the past ten years.

Even though this group still knows how to party, they were able to get up to view a beautiful sunrise over the Gulf of Mexico. Several of the guys played golf a couple of days, but the group mostly sat on the beach enjoying perfect weather.

In this picture, front row: Nancy Kirksey,

Lucille Blessey, Dru Edwards, Penderey McCoy and Bobbie Mitchell; back row: Dick Blessey, Bill Kirksey, Steve Millspaugh, Cathy "Sweet Potato Queen" Millspaugh, Ron Mitchell, Charles Edwards and Scotty McCoy.

*Thank you to **Bill Kirksey '63** for sharing this photo! Share your reunion stories and photos at www.kappasigmagt.org, or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kappasigmagt.*



FROM THE ARCHIVES



Nice short shorts, guys! Thanks to **Matt Cahill '86** for uploading this great picture to our Facebook page.

The caption reads: Georgia Tech Class of 1986 - Kappa Sigma graduation party. A great day on the Lake to celebrate 4 years of HARD work!

Share the best pictures from your era in your personal album at www.kappasigmagt.org, or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/kappasigmagt.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Building a New Home for Alpha Tau... *Continued from page 2*

mindful of maintaining some long-standing traditions.

"Brothers of course will be aware of The Pit, a bar that was dug in the basement of the house in the 1950s," Michael said. "I remember hanging out there when I was in school playing pool and telling stories. We're going to replicate The Pit in the new house."

Another element of the old house that will be preserved is the previously-mentioned famous lobby.

"We used to say that there was no way to walk by the lobby without stopping, because day or night there was someone there and something going on," Michael said. "Those were some of the best times

I spent in the fraternity house, not going to the parties or any of that epic fraternity stuff, just standing in the lobby talking and sharing a laugh. I wish I could snap my fingers and be back there now."

"This opportunity to talk to alumni of all generations, going as far back as the late 1940s, has been great for me. Everyone has had a story to tell, but they are all the kind of guy who works hard but knows how to have a good time. The time we spent with Alpha Tau helped offset the rigors of Georgia Tech and that unifying spirit remains, which makes this fundraising a rewarding experience."

Michael currently lives in Hughes, Ark. plying his trade on the family farm. He met

his wife, Kelly Jennings, now Kelly Pouncey, at Georgia Tech and they have been married for over 15 years. They have two children, Lee and Claudia, ages 10 and 7.

He leaves us with this final thought that we all should ponder as we look at our own lives and consider joining Michael in the campaign. "Words cannot say [how different my life would be if I had never joined Kappa Sig!]" he said. "I would have never met my wife, nor most of my friends... heck, I might not have made it out of Tech. I cherish my time at Alpha Tau. I can't imagine my life without it."

Reconnect with Michael at mpouncey@hughes.net.