



THE BETA BEAT

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI OF ALPHA BETA AT USC



Honoring the Past, Securing the Future: Alpha Beta Announces a \$1.25 Million Campaign

This edition of The Beta Beat is focused on the announcement of our new fundraising effort, which we are calling “Honoring the Past, Securing the Future.” The Chi Psi Lodge in USC’s Greek Village is celebrating its 20th birthday this year. It is a building that all Betas can be proud of. It was built with a level of care and professionalism that was the result of many Brothers pouring their hearts and souls into it. Whether you experienced the Chi Psi Lodge in the McBryde Quad (1958-2003) or in the newer Greek Village (2003-today), there is no doubt that you have many memories of life at the Lodge. We hope you find your memories of those days as sweet as we do.

The only missing piece in the effort to build the new Lodge 20 years ago was that the fundraising efforts did not cover the costs of construction. At the time, there were only 600 living alumni to draw funds from, and despite the best efforts of many alumni, it just wasn’t enough. Since construction, the Alumni Corporation has had periods of feast and periods of famine, financially speaking. It has been the volunteers who have been involved in keeping the Alpha running that have felt the pressure of the Alumni Corporation carrying such a large debt load year in and year out. During the COVID-19 shut-down in 2020, we became painfully aware of the exposure that we have when the University was shut down and the students were sent home. At that time, several alumni got together and determined that it was time to take care of the debt.

Today, we have more than 1,200 living alumni. Many of you have reached the pinnacle of very successful careers. When we started this effort, our debt balance was just over \$1 million. In addition, we determined that it would be prudent to set aside a reserve fund of an additional \$250,000 for major upkeep and improvements that will be needed in the next few years. We have faith that our body of Brothers can deliver on this challenge.

In addition to putting the Alumni Corporation on sound financial footing, this effort will allow us to direct more time and energy towards serving our alumni community, through social events, better communication, and a stronger connection between the alumni and the Alpha.

As of today, we have raised over half of our goal – thanks to all of the Brothers who have generously given. We are now asking every Brother to search your hearts for what Chi Psi has meant to you. How has it impacted your life, your family, your career, and your body of friends? If you find that your Chi Psi experience has been an important part of your life, we ask you to give back to the Fraternity by helping us to remove the burden of this debt and ensure that generations ahead can also share the same life-enriching experience.

Yours in the Bonds,

David Seaton, B '83 Tige Howie, B '97 Marshall Reu, B '83
Co-Chairs of the “Honoring the Past, Securing the Future” fundraising project

[Pledge a gift online!](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Alumni Corporation needs a volunteer to serve as Editor for the Beta Beat newsletter. This job includes coordinating articles for 2-3 publications per year. No experience is required! If interested, please contact Marshall Reu at alphabeta@chipsi.org.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

Marshall Reu, B '83 - President	Chris Render, B '00 - Treasurer
Heyes Emerson, B '98 - Secretary	Julian Emerson, B '80
John Goodwin, B '71	Norman Stuckey, B '83
Vaughan Perry, B '17	

NOTE FROM THE #1



Brothers of Beta,

My name is Jack Healy, and I am currently serving as Alpha Beta's #1. It is an exciting time to be a part of Alpha Beta, and all the Brothers are looking forward to a Fall filled with great grades and fun times. A little about myself: I am a senior Finance major from Wilmington, Delaware. I have three younger siblings back home (one sister and two brothers). I am a second-generation Gamecock; my dad was a member of the football team and graduated in 1996, so I have been a Gamecocks fan my entire life. Joining Chi Psi has been the best decision I've made during my

time in college, and I am honored to serve as #1. The Fall semester has begun, which means rush is in full swing. We have many great prospective Brothers so far, with our goal being a 45-man New Member class. It's always a special time to meet all the guys rushing and to figure out if they are like-minded gentlemen! We have many great social events planned for this semester, including our "Chi Psychotic" music festival, which is coming up this week. This event started three years ago and has been the lifeblood of our Fall rush ever since. We set up a huge stage at the fraternity lot and spend the entire day listening to great music and making lifelong memories with our Brothers—and girls, of course. Each home game day, every fraternity on campus sets up a tailgate at the fraternity lot where all Gamecock students go to party before the game begins. We are very excited to be back in the "Pit," which is a combined tailgate with us, Pike, and Pi Kapp, making for the most fun pregame atmosphere in the entire SEC.

Beta is also excited to be working with multiple philanthropic groups this semester, including No Kid Hungry and the Hayden Hurst Foundation. The Inter-Fraternity Council is holding a "Greek Day of Service" and "Greek Jam," which are two huge days of service that we are excited to be helping with. Greek Jam is a charity basketball tournament held in the heart of Five Points, with food trucks and multiple Gamecock coaches attending. The current goal is to raise \$100,000, and we believe that number is very achievable.

We are extremely proud of the current state of the Lodge and the Brothers who are living in it. It is completely full this year, and all the guys couldn't be more excited for the upcoming year, living with 40 of their best friends. We recently completed a revamp of our Brothers' room, where we now have brand new couches, TVs, mini-fridges, and video game systems. The room was barely used before, and now it's a great spot for our Brothers to relax after long days of school, watch sports, and just enjoy each other's company. Beta has improved relations with both the University and the national Fraternity, and I am extremely proud of the current position we are in. We have a great Executive Board that has been working hard to ensure that our Fraternity of gentlemen has a prominent future. We are all excited for this upcoming school year and are blessed to be members of Chi Psi.

YITB,

Jack Healy, B '25

"Honestly, when the fundraising campaign to pay off the Lodge was mentioned, I didn't think too much about it. But after giving it some thought, I realized how much Chi Psi has meant to me, the path it directed me towards, and how instrumental it continues to be in my life. That is why I felt like giving back to our Fraternity."

- Carl "Buster" Yandle, '81

"The Lodge is where I met my best friends and made my best memories. I'm incredibly grateful for the Beta alumni who made that possible for me, and I'm proud to support that experience for the future Brothers of Alpha Beta."

- Steve Habat, '12

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HONORING THE PAST, SECURING THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

CHI PSI ALPHA BETA (join our group, too!)

@AlphaBetaChiPsi

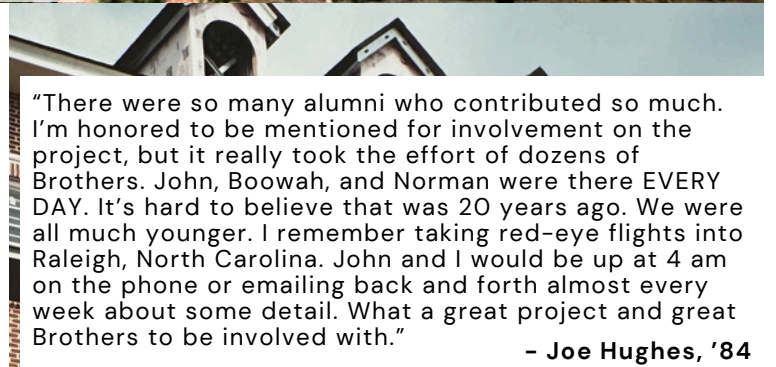
@ChiPsiUofSC



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: John Goodwin, B '71

John Goodwin, '71, like all USC Chi Psis from 1958-2003, knew McBride "G" in the old fraternity quad as his "Halls of Chi Psi." Back then, the Alpha rented the space with very little adult supervision from the University or national Fraternity. Yet, even then Brother Goodwin, acting as Alpha Beta's representative to IFC, was witness to multiple discussions of plans to move all Greek organizations off campus into proper houses.

After several false starts in the 1980s and 1990s, the University finally acquired land for a Greek Village across from the Carolina Coliseum. Kudos to President John Palms and Board Chairman Eddie Floyd for finally making this happen. Very quickly, a group of alumni realized that the Alpha's presence on the USC campus since 1858 would cease if it did not acquire one of the available lots and get a Lodge built. A third-party consultant was hired to analyze the organization's financial strength and their findings were disappointing. They felt Alpha Beta did not have a deep enough alumni base to support a campaign. Ignoring their findings, the group bulled ahead. Under the leadership of Tim Monahan, '72, and Mike Cavanaugh, '73, of the Alpha Beta Alumni Corporation, a successful bid for a lot was made and they were off and running. Too late to make the first Fall 2003 openings, the team was determined to have the Lodge ready for the second year of the Greek Village.



"There were so many alumni who contributed so much. I'm honored to be mentioned for involvement on the project, but it really took the effort of dozens of Brothers. John, Boowah, and Norman were there EVERY DAY. It's hard to believe that was 20 years ago. We were all much younger. I remember taking red-eye flights into Raleigh, North Carolina. John and I would be up at 4 am on the phone or emailing back and forth almost every week about some detail. What a great project and great Brothers to be involved with."

- Joe Hughes, '84



Bill Fleming of Design Collaborative was hired as the architect. Bill probably had numerous sleepless nights, thanks to the oversight of Joe Hughes, '84. Joe was the in-house expert (thanks to his involvement at Alpha Psi Delta at the University of Colorado), since none of the team had experience designing, building, or operating a Lodge. But everyone who visits the Lodge today can agree the finished product is the finest in the Village. Brother Goodwin's firm, Fitts & Goodwin, Inc. (FGI), was hired to build the Lodge. They secured a permit and started necessary site prep late in 2003. The real excitement came when the structural steel started going up in January of 2004. A lot of hard work by the FGI team and the Chi Psi Building Committee brought the project to completion on time. The Lodge was approved for occupancy on Aug. 4, 2004.

One special feature of the facility is that it is the only three-story building in the Village. While the original proposal showed a two-story building, Brother Hughes encouraged the architect to submit a revised three-story plan. One was developed, submitted, and quickly approved.

During the early years of operation, there were many lean times when various unnamed alumni had to step up and float short-term loans to keep the doors open. The original loan has been refinanced several times. As of today, the Alumni Corporation still carries a debt on the Lodge of \$720,000. In a way, the experts were right: it's been a real struggle to make the finances work with the small alumni base. But the Campaign Committee was also absolutely right. Without a presence in the Village, Beta would have withered and died. We would not be one of the leading fraternities on campus. Nor would it be the largest Chi Psi Alpha in the nation.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the completion of the Lodge. In those years, more than 500 Brothers have lived there and 800 Brothers have known this "New Lodge" as the base of their Chi Psi experience. The original committee that pulled the project together included: Goodwin, Monahan, Cavanaugh, Hughes, Fred Ortman, '67, Norman Stuckey, '82, Tige Howie, '97, David Herndon, '75, John Austell, '61, Jim Paschal, '72, Tommy Outlaw, '78, Billy Way, '77, Dennis Way, '79, Julian Emerson, '80, Ross Andrews, '03, and Ricky Tiller, '84. This group, along with many volunteers and donors, are owed a debt of gratitude for their foresight and their dedication to making the Alpha Beta Lodge a reality.



Brother Goodwin, right, at the construction site.

"In an increasingly uncertain world, I believe finances both at the local individual level and the organizational level should be supported in order to see the organization thrive. Chi Psi has been (and still is) an important part of my life and I have supported Chi Psi from the date I was chosen to become a member 'till now. Later in life, you need less "things," your priorities change (you'll all get there if you live long enough). That being said, I have pledged a gift to see Chi Psi and Beta thrive."

- John Austell, '61

UPDATE YOUR INFO WITH THE CENTRAL OFFICE

VISIT CHIPSI.ORG TO MAKE SURE THE CENTRAL OFFICE HAS YOUR UPDATED EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER, AND MAILING ADDRESS. THIS WILL ENSURE YOU RECEIVE NATIONAL UPDATES, REGIONAL EVENT INFORMATION, AND YOUR PRINT COPIES OF THE P&G.

HAVE PHOTOS OR STORY IDEAS FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS?

EMAIL US AT ALPHABETA@CHIPSI.ORG

CAMPAIGN SNAPSHOT

GOAL: \$1.25 M

\$630,387.00

We thank the many Brothers and friends who generously contributed to the effort to build the Lodge in 2004. The Lodge is the enduring center of our Alpha, and our current home would not have been possible without the support received during the initial campaign. These Brothers recognized the importance of ensuring the future of Alpha Beta and have demonstrated deep gratitude for their personal experience.

THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the exceptional alumni below who have kickstarted our mission to transform the Lodge. Their generosity has propelled us closer to our \$1.25 million goal. Today, we ask you to join them. Every contribution, regardless of size, will make a significant impact.

If you are an early donor and feel an error has been made in recording your gift, please contact our campaign coordinator at shabat@chipsi.org.

CURRENT DONORS:

Mike Addy, '74
John Austell, '61
John Boswell, '82
Julian Emerson, '80
John Goodwin, '71
Steve Habat, '12
David Herndon, '75
Tige Howie, '97
Dan Laney III, '77
David Medley, '06
Tom Mullikin, '82
Marshall Reu, '83
David Seaton, '83
Daniel Stone, '95
Scott Taylor, '83
Richard Tiller, '83
Dennis Way, '79
Carl "Buster" Yandle, III, '81
The Chi Psi Educational Trust, Inc.

"I want to support this campaign because Chi Psi is one of the most impactful organizations I know of and my time as an undergraduate was infinitely more meaningful, enjoyable, and fruitful as a result of being a Brother. Some of my closest lifelong friends I met at Beta. Beta set me up for future success and it only seems right to pay that forward in some small way. If ridding ourselves of this mortgage gives the Brothers more time and space and resources to invest in one another and focus on being the best Alpha they can be, it is money well spent."

- John Boswell, '80

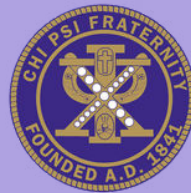
IN MEMORIAM: Andrew T. Fiffick IV, B '99

The memory of Andrew Theodore Fiffick IV of Columbia, South Carolina, who passed away on July 1, 2024 at the age of 47, will forever remain in the hearts of those touched by this precious presence in their lives. Though Andrew may no longer walk beside us, his memory will forever be enshrined in the fabric of the lives of those he touched, a beacon of light guiding us through the darkness. In his absence, his spirit lives on — a gentle whisper in the breeze, a ray of sunlight on a cloudy day, a reminder that love knows no boundaries. Andrew was Chief of Staff for the South Carolina Senate Judiciary Committee.

Jess Rapp, '00, wrote us about Brother Fiffick: "Andy's true value was his spirit to all who knew him. He was a kind individual who would make time for anyone and always had a warm smile when you would greet him. His off-campus house was almost another extension of our Fraternity Hall. Many gatherings were held there and everyone was always welcome at any day or time. He really did have the first "open door policy" that I had ever heard of. The door to his house was usually unlocked and one could always come in and make themselves at home, with the only rule being don't let his dog out. One of Andy's passions, and he had several, was cooking. He was really amazing at it, too! He would hold events at this house where he would make an unbelievable "Chicken Bog." To a Northerner, I had never even heard of such a thing, but the way he made it even made someone as picky as myself a fan. He would smoke whole pigs, grill out, and just make some incredible things while always having a smile on his face and beer in his hand ready to welcome anyone who showed up. What I think Alpha Beta meant to him was family. A place he could go to hang out with people who were just like him, and quite a few that also were not, and that really didn't even matter to him. He would show up and hang out in anyone's room on our hall and not feel out of place as he was universally loved, admired, and respected. Some of my fondest memories of him are when he would show up to my room, throw beer in my fridge (which I happily would drink), and just wander around laughing and cutting up with anyone and everyone. He was a friend to all who knew him and would give you the shirt off his back if you needed it. He will be sorely missed."

**Thomas E. Hair, '71**

Mar. 9, 1949 - Sept. 7, 2024
Greenville, South Carolina

**Donald E. Rowell, '85**

June 1, 1963 - Oct. 18, 2023
Denver, Colorado

**Maj. Christopher F. Hottinger, Jr., USAF (Ret.), '58**

June 13, 1935 - May 6, 2023
Livermore, California

ALUMNI GATHERING: AUG. 30, 2024

On Friday, August 30, the Alpha Beta Alumni Corporation hosted a reunion of all Beta alumni at the USC Pastides Alumni Center in Columbia. Approximately 90 Brothers and guests attended, including several of the undergraduate Fraternity leaders and representatives from the Chi Psi Central Office. In addition to sharing lots of old stories over good food and libations, the group heard about the Alumni Corporation's plans for increasing activities among the Brothers of all generations. The fundraising campaign was also unveiled, with a total pledges already received of over \$600,000 toward the \$1.25 million goal. Julian Emerson reported a gift from the Chi Psi Educational Trust of \$100,000.

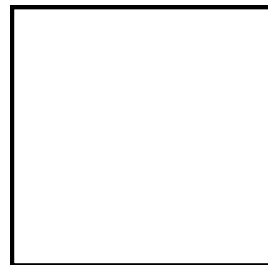


JOIN THE ALPHA BETA OF CHI PSI LINKED IN GROUP.

Alpha Beta Alumni Corporation

45 Rutledge St.
Nashville, TN 37210

Change Service Requested



“My Chi Psi experience enriched my life in so many ways. My best friends in life are Chi Psis. Someone laid the foundation for me to become a Chi Psi and my gift hopefully allows young men of the future to have a similar or better opportunity.”
- Julian Emerson, '80

VISIT OUR NEW WEBPAGE ON THE CHI PSI WEBSITE:
WWW.CHIPSI.ORG/BETA

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PAST, SECURING THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN**