

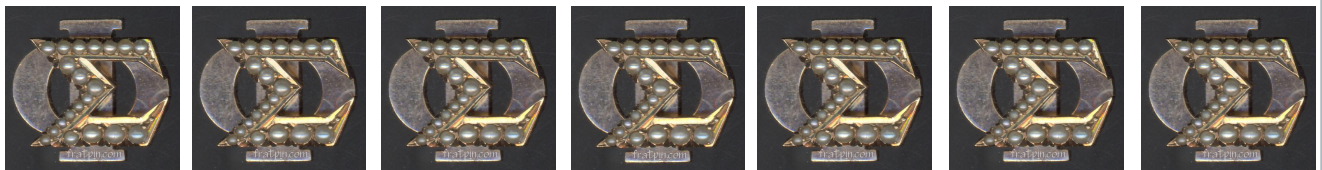
The T Times

The Challenges and Successes of a few Excellent Gentlemen



Above: Composite sketch of the rented duplex that will be occupied by 14 brothers of Sigma Phi next fall.

A newsletter meant to document and promote the growth and success of the Alpha Chapter of North Carolina of the Sigma Phi Society



An Update from the Head of House

Page 2

The Geneva Convention

Page 7

SoBro: An Appropriate Acronym

Page 9

An Update from the Head of House

Josh Barrett T'11 discusses recent developments

It brings me great pleasure to say what a tremendous success this semester was for the gentlemen of the Alpha of North Carolina. This fall was the first full semester as brothers for the 17 T'11s initiated last spring, and I am extremely pleased with what we have been able to accomplish with our scarce resources.

Without a house, we successfully held a rush week coordinated by our rush chair Brandon Mayfield T'11. We gave out seven bids to fellow sophomores at the University of North Carolina, growing our numbers to 24. While that number is a little high for one class, we felt it necessary to have a larger presence to gain momentum and build into the future.

The brothers, and chiefly led by our pledge trainer Christopher David McCartney Lambden T'11 (no, it was not necessary to write out his full name, but when you have a name like that, it would be a shame not to) created a pledge process that both the brothers and the pledges were happy with. We focused on aspects key to the brotherhood and had the pledges complete a number of tasks that were meant to familiarize the pledges with the Society and help them grow into our community. The pledges were made into full brothers the weekend of November 19, and we are all happy to have them aboard. I hope that they won't be the best pledge class that we have, but they're going to be pretty damn hard to beat.

Our Social and Brotherhood chair, Aaron Lutkowitz T'11, has been busy putting events together. We held a cocktail that both the brothers and their dates thoroughly enjoyed while keeping it classy.

Sixteen of the brothers and all seven (at the time) pledges made a trip up to UVa to visit our Serp brothers a few weeks ago for their famous Rocket Party.

We went up Friday to have some inter-chapter bonding and helped them throw their annual space-themed party on Saturday. Some of the Serp brothers also came down to help for our initiation, and we hope to build and maintain a strong relationship between the two chapters.

Logistically, the Alpha of North Carolina is now officially recognized as a fraternal "interest group" by the University of North Carolina. I've been in contact with the IFC and we will be well on our way to becoming full members in the coming months. By being officially recognized, some of the brothers, such as Imran Froogh T'11, have ideas to petition student congress and bring speakers to campus.

Looking towards the future, we are very excited for the spring semester and the coming year. We're putting a list together of current freshmen we hope to recruit for the spring, and we're planning what we hope to be another successful rush and pledge period. We put a security deposit down on a duplex close to campus where fourteen of us can live together next year, something that I feel will fill in a lot of what we've been missing. While we had many successes this semester, I don't want us to settle. I want the brothers to keep up the same level of energy and enthusiasm, to hold more events, and to become involved in community service. We hope to throw a charity ball sometime in the future where I hope we can see some of you.

Please, if you have any questions or would like to offer any help or advice, don't hesitate to contact me at any time at joshb2010@gmail.com.

Have a great holiday season,

Josh Barrett

My Time in Exile

Michael Puchley T'08 discusses his experience with Sigma Phi

The fall semester of 2009 was a bad semester for me. Right before it began my friend Nathan died in a car accident. I had never buried anyone younger than myself before. During the semester I was in and out of therapy. I got pneumonia twice. I was also sued in civil court and \$122,000 was the settlement. I left UNC because it was too much at once and I didn't even sit for an exam.

While I was gone, I was in and out of therapists' doors, prescribed anti-depressants, and generally in a cloudy mood the entire time. I stopped talking to everyone and anyone I knew and didn't return their phone calls. At one point, I even considered changing my number. I didn't think I'd ever see anybody I knew from Chapel Hill again.

A breakthrough in my healing process began when I got a full-time job working for a label manufacturer. I had never had an office job nor worked full-time. But I began to feel productive again. I was actually doing something with my time and getting some money for it—unlike lying in bed all day with the lights off and shades down.

It took me until my cousin's wedding a few months back to finally figure out what I was doing. It was at the reception and I'd had a couple of beers. My aunt and uncle started asking me about what I was doing and where I wanted to go. I decided that I wanted to go back to UNC and study English. I thought about it in the next week or so and decided to make it happen. I applied back to UNC and am doing online classes this semester and pending good grades will come back full time in the spring.

But that isn't the point of this article. The point of this article is the reception I received



Above: Michael Puchley T'08 poses with Michael Hardison T'11

when I got back into town. I went to the alumni meeting and was greeted jovially by all there. The original T'08s and wandering birds treated me as if I had never left, smiles all around. I met a few new people at the meeting and they greeted me in true fashion. I felt at home again.

I was apprehensive about meeting the new actives though. I thought I was obscure and removed enough from everyone that not only would nobody have heard of me, I might be rejected or ignored by the group. Once again, I was proven incorrect. All the new actives approached me and welcomed me. Josh Barrett even went so far as to devote almost two hours of his time at eleven o'clock pm on a Wednesday to talk to me about all the new members and give me a state of the alpha overview.

In the following weeks, with our rush, we learned a lot about one another and became really close. I really don't know how I managed to stay away for so long with an excellent group of guys taking the helm of the Alpha of NC. I guess it really cements in my mind that all wandering birds do have a home to fly back to and not just a home—a brotherhood to look out for them.

Michael Puchley T'08

What makes us a Brotherhood?

Troy Homesley T'11 writes about the diverse people who make up Sigma Phi of UNC

The Alpha Chapter of North Carolina of the Sigma Phi Society has been successful at integrating a group of gentlemen with a wide array of interests, backgrounds and characteristics. I thought about listing out the involvement and backgrounds of all of our brothers, but I realized that just wouldn't do it justice. To really understand the diversity that ties our brothers together, it must be experienced.

We have brothers hailing from Turkey, Austria, England, Australia, and all over the United States. Within our ranks, over half of our brothers have earned full merit-based scholarships to the University of North Carolina. Our brothers major in everything from Philosophy to Political Science to Economics to Physics and

Biology. Our brothers have travelled to South Africa, Argentina, India, Swaziland, and numerous other corners of the world. Several members of our society are involved in student government, others are founders of diverse organizations on campus such as Students for the Exploration of Space. Our brothers serve as counsels to students charged with honor court violations, and others are a part of the UNC Cricket Team, the UNC Junior Varsity Basketball Team and the UNC Rugby Team.

In the future, some of our brothers hope to join the Marine Corps, others hope to become doctors or lawyers, and yet others hope to make their mark in the business world. Still yet, there are those who have kept their minds open and are looking for opportunities in a variety of fields.



Left: Christy Lambden T'11, Jacob Morse T'11 and Troy Homesley T'11 pose at a mock trial tournament. Christy even won an award!

(Continued)

In their free time, the brothers of our society enjoy a variety of pastimes. Some look for long runs in the woods, others find themselves splitting time between the library and the occasional Sigma Phi party. Burak Basogul, born and raised in Turkey, enjoys a game of chess with friends to pass the time and word has it that Aaron Lutkowitz is an excellent bird whistler. You can find any number of our brothers at a UNC game, front row, usually painted up (see picture below).

The unique stories of our brothers keep us huddled around discussing our latest adventures for hours. Alik Belokopytov has a great story to tell, born in Russia and raised in Australia, he can solve the Rubik's cube in under one minute. Others have trekked the Himalayas, some have partied with Donald Glover at Bonnaroo.

We've all heard the story of the time Burak Basogul swam from the Turkish coast to an abandoned Greek Island in the Mediterranean Sea.

Stories like these could occupy an entire newsletter. At this point, you may be asking yourself what holds us together. It seems we have such diverse interests and endeavors that nothing could truly bind us. We've seen for ourselves that indeed, we are all bound by something much more powerful than our experiences. We are bound by our common drive to build something great and leave a lasting and meaningful legacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Our diverse backgrounds and experiences have given us the chance to do just that. With a group of brothers as diverse as our own, we find that there is never a dull moment and always a story to be told.

Troy C. Homesley T'11



Left: Brandon Mayfield T'11 (painted blue) featured on ESPN after cheering at a UNC vs. Wisconsin Basketball Game

Bid Night of Fall 2011

Tal Havivi T'11 discusses bid night



Above: Brother Tal Havivi
T'11

Bid night was one of the most thrilling nights for the Alpha of North Carolina. All of the brothers truly realized how the Sigma Phi chapter was finally taking flight. Our recruitment chair, Brother Brandon Michael Mayfield, T'11, formed and conducted an excellent rush process on a limited budget, and we were fortunate to find seven amazing future Sigs. As bid night came around, I think there was a slight nervousness amongst the brothers because we very much wanted for all of the rushes to pledge. The rushes

were told to send a text to our pledge mum, Brother Christopher David McCartney Lambden, T'11, answering whether they accept or decline their bid. One by one, Christy notified the brothers of the rushes replies. And one by one, each rush accepted their bid. There was a flash of excitement and pride amongst the brothers as we saw the pattern of succession begin for the Alpha of North Carolina.

- Brother Tal Binyamin
Havivi, Vice President, T'11



Left: Brothers of UNC recover after the Rocket Party hosted at the Sigma Phi House of the University of Virginia



Above: (From Left) Jacob Morse T'11, Jimmy Decker T'11, Aaron Lutkowitz T'11, and Jesse Wetzel S'04 chill at the Geneva Convention.

The Geneva Convention

Jacob Morse, T'11, discusses his trip to the Geneva Convention

As a brother of just six months with a non-executive position, I never thought I'd be selected as one of three delegates to attend The Sigma Phi Society's National Convention as a representative The Alpha of North Carolina. Now as a brother of just eight months with the same non-executive position, I already know I want to go back every year that I can.

The convention experience was absolutely amazing to me. I had never been to another chapter prior to my visit to the Delta of New York, and I was immediately overwhelmed by the true brotherhood and camaraderie throughout the entire weekend. I had the pleasure of representing the "Youngest Sister

of our Band" to the conference meetings and get-togethers along with my two co-delegates Aaron Lutkowitz, T'11 and Jimmy Decker, T'11. I met a number of actives and alums from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and I'm proud to call all of them my brothers. I went home with new Facebook friends, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers from about 9 others schools where I previously knew nobody. This bonding experience affirmed why I was a Sigma Phi.

The entire weekend I was honored to be asked questions, given advice, and regarded as an honorary delegate while representing our new chapter.

(Continued)

Overall, Hobart and the brothers there put together a spectacular event. The lakes at Geneva were a beautiful sight to see, especially right across the street from the G's' house. I'm very thankful for my opportunity to have attended, and hope I'll be blessed with the same in the future. Here's to a convention at UNC before we know it!

Jacob M Morse, T'11

PR and Alumni Relations Chair, The Alpha of NC – The Sigma Phi Society

jmmdem@yahoo.com

Left and Below: Brothers from around the country pose at the Geneva Convention



Below: Sigma Phi Cocktail organized by SoBro members Imran Froogh T'11 and Tal Havivi T'11



Above: Sigma Phi Celebration organized by SoBro Chair Aaron Lutkowitz T'11

SoBro: An Appropriate Acronym

Aaron Lutkowitz, T'11 discusses his position as Social and Brotherhood Chair

“Dude, what’s sobro?”

I’ve been asked this question dozens of times since the Social-and-Brotherhood Committee was shortened to a much blunter and, in my humble opinion, more punch-packing name: SoBro. Despite the abbreviated name, in the last semester SoBro has been expanding. When we started planning this committee six months ago, we had a vague vision of the occasional dinner or social gathering. Since then, this diligent ten-person committee has become very concrete in its goals.

SO: Our social events have taken off this semester. Despite limitations in our budget

and in our venue options without a house, we have managed to host a number of incredibly fun events. All 28 of our active brothers and then-pledges and their dates attended our cocktail in late October. The night was one to remember as the chapter bonded over dinner, drinks, and dancing. A rush party that we hosted in August showed promise when seven rushees accepted their bids just days later. We will be hosting a final holiday party in early December to finish out our social events for the semester.

BRO: Brotherhood events have been equally effective at engaging and uniting the brothers. Between tailgates before football and basketball games, pick-up sports around campus, monthly dinners on Franklin Street,⁹

(Continued)

poker nights, and a variety of other fun activities, it's a safe bet that at least one brotherhood event will occur in any given week. While there are plenty of planned events for everyone to experience, some of the most important brotherhood events are the informal ones that occur on the fly.

To further emphasize the appropriateness of SoBro title, one of our most amazing experiences of the semester incorporated aspects of both social and brotherhood. In November, about 25 from the Alpha of North Carolina went to the Alpha of Virginia to experience their legendary rocket party. While that Saturday night itself was fantastic, perhaps just as memorable was the shared experiences between the two chapters on Friday and Saturday before the festivities.

With a new incoming rush class this semester, I'm sure I'll get plenty more "Dude, what's sobro?" I know we'll have many more events next semester to properly answer that question.

Aaron Lutkowitz, T'11

SoBro Chair, Alpha of North Carolina



Above: The brothers catch up after an adventurous summer at a local burger joint called "Spanky's".

The Story of a New Brother

Kishore Kalagnaman T'11 writes about his journey towards brotherhood

This year, the pledge process was a uniquely challenging and enriching experience for all seven of the pledges. Each week, the brothers presented us with a theme that was meant to guide our pledge tasks. Two of the most memorable themes from our process included creation and service.

For the week entitled creation, we were charged with the task of creating a new tradition within the Alpha of North Carolina. With this in mind, the pledges declared that each year, our chapter will hold a “blind cocktail” which means that each brother be matched up with a date whom he will meet at the venue of the event. The goal of such a tradition is to ensure that we brothers maintain close relationships that allow us to match our fellows with compatible dates.

The week entitled service was the first time the pledges got hands-on in the pledge process. Our tasks were to raise \$500 and to actively participate in a community service effort. To fulfill our tasks and to benefit the community, we formed a Relay for Life team with other brothers from the Alpha of North Carolina. By doing this, we were able to channel our fundraising efforts to collect over \$500 within the week. This experience showed us how large of an impact we could make as a group.

By presenting the pledges with themes each week, the brothers guided our development into brothers at the Alpha of North Carolina of the Sigma Phi Society.

Kishore Kalagnaman T'11



Above: Kishore Kalagnaman T'11 poses at a recent Sigma Phi Cocktail.

What we need from you

You've seen our newsletter, you've heard our stories, and you may have a small idea of what our chapter is like. We hope to continue growing and building this chapter with the utmost care and foresight possible. To do this, we are asking you to bombard us with anything you may have to offer. This means questions, comments, advice, contacts, donations, time - anything. We are open to all suggestions, and we know that excellence will require something much bigger than ourselves. Please send all questions, comments, or advice to head of house, Josh Barrett at joshb2010@gmail.com. If you are interested in helping to support this fledgling chapter monetarily, please send funds to the local alumni board treasurer, Mr. Dennis Wendel Pike III S'94 at 101 Woods Walk Court, Carrboro, NC 27510. Please make these checks payable to the Alpha of North Carolina, Sigma Phi Incorporated. If you would like to support our recruitment and brotherhood funds directly, make checks payable to treasurer Jimmy Decker T'11 and mail them to the above address.



Sincerely, Editor-in-chief Troy Clifton Homesley

The T Times

