

**UPCOMING EVENT**

**Blue/White Game**  
April 10

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The **Epsilon Owl**

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EPSILON OF PHI GAMMA DELTA • THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA • CHAPEL HILL, N.C.

**Governor Bev Perdue Keynotes at Epsilon's  
158<sup>th</sup> Norris Pig Dinner**

***Outstanding Brother and Senior Awards Presented***

More than 130 alumni and undergraduate brothers, traveling from as far as Washington, D.C., gathered at the Capital City Club in Raleigh on Friday, February 19th for the 158th Norris Pig Dinner. This year we were honored to have our very own Governor Perdue speak about the value of relationships formed in the Greek System during one's college years and discuss the ways in which the morning of the fire brought the strength and importance of these relationships to light.

**Ted Griffin '78** emceed the event as has become customary in recent years. Epsilon's 2009 treasurer, **Clay Stockett**, was awarded the "Luther J. Phipps Most Outstanding Brother Award," and our former corresponding secretary, **Thomas Rhodes**, received the "Most Outstanding Senior Award." House Corporation President **David Batten '79** made a few remarks regarding the current state of Vance Hall, most notably sharing with the Epsilon brothers that the massive \$1.3 million

mortgage has only \$80,000 left to be paid. **Dylan Castellino**, the current president of the chapter, spoke about numerous upcoming philanthropy events as well as remarked on the most recent pledge class and the encouraging state of the chapter at present.

***"House Corporation President David Batten '79 made a few remarks regarding the current state of Vance Hall, most notably sharing with the Epsilon brothers that the massive \$1.3 million mortgage has only \$80,000 left to be paid."***

Along with catching up with old friends, many of the brothers in attendance had the chance to meet a great amount of brothers from different generations, as attendance was much higher than in recent years.

**GRADUATE PHOTOS**

**Phi Gam Runs in the Family**

Thank you to **Billy Green '55** for submitting the following.

He writes "This picture represents 64 years of this family's associations with Phi Gamma Delta. It was taken at a family outing during the Christmas season. My brother Dixie pledged Phi Gamma Delta in the fall of 1954. I pledged during the fall of 1951. Ellis and Matthew are my grandsons and pledged in the fall of 2009: Ellis at the new chapter which is to be officially organized on March 19, 2010 in Wilmington at UNC-W, and Matthew pledged Epsilon at Chapel Hill at UNC-CH.



***We want to see your best Phi Gam photos too! Send your submissions to our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) (mention Fiji at UNC).***

## One Brother's Story from Phi Gam to the Whitehouse

Graduate brother **Jordan Whichard '07** has had some amazing experiences in his short time after college, taking him from the University of North Carolina to the White House. He believes the skills he learned with Phi Gamma Delta gave him the experiences that helped get him where he is today.

“When I first arrived to Chapel Hill as a freshman, I didn't know a lot about the fraternity scene. Both my father and grandfather had been Phi Gams, so I knew Epsilon was the place for me.”



*At the National Mall, January 20, 2009*

Jordan pledged Phi Gam as a freshman and quickly became very active within the chapter.

“I was a Phi Gam from the very beginning and a brother all four years. I lived in the house for three years, from my sophomore through my senior year. I was house manager and kitchen manager as a sophomore. As a senior, I served one year as chapter president.”

As president, Jordan was also very involved with fire safety working with the National Fire Safety Council in Chapel Hill.

“After the tragedy that occurred ten years before in Chapel Hill, the brothers and I all felt it was very important to keep aware of and involved with fire safety issues. Other Greek leaders at UNC and I served as part of a council to discuss fire safety best practices and bring those practices back to the houses where they could be put into practice.”

Jordan's leadership perfectly positioned him to be ready for the challenges that were to come – challenges that would take him all the way to the White House. He currently lives in D.C. and works for the Obama administrating serving as a

trip coordinator for the president himself.

“As soon as I finished at University, I joined the Obama campaign. I kept working with the campaign as it grew more successful, and when Barack Obama was elected president, I came to be employed full time within the administration.”

Jordan's successful approach working within the campaign may have in part had its roots in his experiences as a leader within Phi Gamma.

“One thing I learned from my experiences as a brother is the ability to get along with a wide range of people with different backgrounds. I think, if you can get along with and create bonds with 50 different guys from all over the country – live in tight quarters, interact, and work towards a common goal without killing each other – then it's a great baseline to help you do almost anything.”

As trip coordinator for the president, Jordan has a wide range of responsibilities, requiring tight deadlines and lots of travel.

***“Stick with the chapter – what you find now and what you like to do within Phi Gam will help you through the rest of your life. The longer you do it the more effort you put into it the more it will pay off later on.”***

“I'm part the advance office. We stay ahead of the president's schedule, helping to build sites for rallies, setting the stage for speeches and meetings. It's our job to make sure everything is set and all the key players are in the right place at the right time.”

“Before I came to work with the campaign, my only real management training was my experiences with the chapter. It formed the basis that gave me



*Jordan with then-Senator Obama in Iowa, summer 2007.*

insight into what needed to happen to arrange political events.”

Through it all, Jordan manages to keep close with many of his graduate brothers.

“I stay in touch with a lot of folks. The list is long, including most of my pledge class. We see each other two or three times every year. Of course, this is the time of life when many of us are getting married, so we get together for weddings and things like that. It's already clear that we will be in each other's lives long term.”

When asked what advice he had for brothers still in school, his words were simple and heartfelt.

“Stick with the chapter – what you find now and what you like to do within Phi Gam will help you through the rest of your life,” he said. “The longer you do it the more effort you put into it the more it will pay off later on.”

Jordan also believes in supporting the chapter.

“There are lots of great reasons for wanting to support Epsilon, but I think it mostly comes from looking at how it influenced your life. And it just can't be done without donations.”

*Do you know of a graduate brother with an interesting story to tell? Nominate him for a future graduate profile. Send his name and background to our editors at [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com).*

## GRADUATE UPDATES

### Alston "Tank" Tankard '93

(adt0219@netscape.net) Congratulations to Richard and Avery Homes on the birth of a new son Smith Bishop Homes born 12-15-09, weighing 16lbs, 6oz., 12" in length!

### Garrett Perdue '98

(102 Torrey Pines Dr., Cary, NC 27513; GPerdue@wcsr.com) Our graduate web site has existed since 2007? Stallings was one of the first to post!!!! Wow.

### John "John Isaac" Southerland '00

(4724 Bankhead Ct., Birmingham, AL 35210; jis@hfsllp.com) Jenny and I welcomed the birth of our son, Isaac David Southerland, on August 8, 2009.

### What's New with You?

Share your news, stories and photos in an upcoming edition of *Epsilon Owl*.

#### Ideas include:

- Updates of the latest news in your life (weddings, babies, job changes, etc.)
- The best memories (and pictures!) from your Fiji days
- Recaps of recent reunions you've had with brothers

You can send your submissions to [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) or upload it at [www.epsilonpgd.com](http://www.epsilonpgd.com).

### An Update from BT's Daughter

*Written December 2009*

Just wanted to let you know that my dad is making great progress. He is back at the rehab center in Pittsboro but should be coming home in 2-3 weeks! We have found an apartment in Chapel Hill (Durham County) close to Hwy 40. I will provide the correct address at the end of the email.

I really can't stress enough how grateful I was to receive the check from the brothers. It allowed me to pay off all of the doctor's bills from 2007, to buy him a new TV for his room, and buy him some new clothes. I look forward to meeting all of you in the upcoming months.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Karen Ray  
[Karenray21@gmail.com](mailto:Karenray21@gmail.com)

[Editor's Note]: If you'd like to send BT a letter, please use the following address:

6205 Farrington Road  
APT A4  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
919-225-1071

## IN MEMORY

### Remembering Duck

**Donald Thomas "Duck" Bryan, 74**, passed away Tuesday, September 29, 2009. Donald was born in Farmville, North Carolina, on July 1, 1935 to the late Hadley Edward Bryan and Lucille Thomas Bryan. Donald was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Julia Taylor Bryan, and granddaughter, Anna Elizabeth Moss.



Duck had many great stories to tell about Phi Gam and life in general. We were lucky enough to capture some of those stories in the months prior to his death (read it in the Graduate Profiles section at [www.epsilonpgd.com](http://www.epsilonpgd.com)). Help us to remember Duck and the legacy he left at Phi Gam. Share your best stories of him on our message board on the site.

*Since publication of our next newsletter, we have also learned of the deaths of the following brothers:*

**Dr. William Mackie '47**

**J. McLean Jr. '49**

**Robert Herring '59**

**Harry Scherr III '67**

*Phi Gam mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.*



## EMAIL

### Send Us Your Email Address!

Having a high percentage of email addresses is a critical advantage to our graduate association. Why? It saves us money on paper and printing, it enables us to communicate with you more frequently, and it allows us to put you back in touch with long lost Fiji brothers.

We will never sell, trade or give away your email address – ever. Your email address will be stored in our secure database and used solely for Fiji communications.

So please update your email address today to stay informed on the latest news and activities from Epsilon Chapter undergraduates and graduate brothers. You'll also receive electronic reminders when we're getting ready to publish an issue of *The Epsilon Owl* so that you can submit your latest news and photos for publication.

**You can send your email address directly to our graduate relations firm at [feedback@affinityconnection.com](mailto:feedback@affinityconnection.com) (mention Fiji at UNC) or update it online at [www.epsilonpgd.com](http://www.epsilonpgd.com).**

## GRADUATE REUNION

### Phi Gam + Tar Heel B-Ball = A Great Combination

Thanks to **Van Martin '79** for submitting this photo of a few Phi Gamma Delta brothers who reunited on Tuesday, December 1, 2009 for the MSU vs. UNC Basketball game at Chapel Hill.



*Pictured, left to right, are **D. Jordan Whichard III '79**, **Van W. Martin '79**, **Stuart M. Frantz '79** and **Joseph L. Hodge Jr. '78**.*

**We want to see pictures of your recent reunions with Epsilon brothers! Send your submissions to [content@affinityconnection.com](mailto:content@affinityconnection.com) or upload them at [www.epsilonpgd.com](http://www.epsilonpgd.com).**

*Phi Gam runs in the family for these brothers. Read the story on page 1.*



*In this Issue...*  
- An Update from Pig Dinner  
- The Story of a Brother on the Campaign Trail with Obama  
- Remembering Duck  
- And Much More!

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