

The Epsilon Owl

www.epsilonpgd.com

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

UPCOMING EVENT

Pig Dinner
February 17
Pope Box

Stay tuned to
www.epsilonpgd.com and
your monthly eLetter for more
details.

ON THE WEB

Epsilon Chapter now has a presence on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/epsilonpgd and click the "Like" button at the top of the screen to join our community.



If you're not yet a Facebook user, go to www.facebook.com to create your profile.

IN THE WORDS OF OUR BROTHERS

Thank you to **Doug Chesson '82** for posting this on our Facebook page!

"I will get back to the House this year. It has been a long time. Last time I was there, reconstruction was just under way. The place and the brotherhood have never left my thoughts! I think about being a Phi Gam every day. Perge!"

AD ASTRA

We have recently learned of the deaths of the following graduate brothers...

Sanford W. Thompson '50
Robert Crawford '94

GRADUATE REPORT

What Does Phi Gam Mean to You?

By Oliver Wheeler '01

Happy holidays and happy new year! I hope that you and your family enjoyed a blessed holiday season.

Each year around the holidays, I think about the people and things in my life that mean the most to me. I'm happy to say that more than a decade after graduation, Epsilon of Phi Gam still has a strong influence on my life. The friends I made and skills I developed during my fraternity days will last a lifetime. I am so thankful for the experience I have had, and continue to have, thanks to my membership in Phi Gam.

This issue of *The Epsilon Owl* showcases great photos and stories from other graduate brothers who have been enjoying the lifelong benefits of Phi Gam. If you haven't connected

with us in a while, I'd like to ask you to think back to your fraternity days and the years since graduation and answer the question: **What does Epsilon of Phi Gam mean to you?**

I'd love to read your responses to this question. Please send your stories and photos to our editors at content@affinityconnection.com (mention Epsilon of Phi Gam). The best submissions will be featured in upcoming issues of *The Epsilon Owl* and/or our monthly eLetter. Also, be sure to send us updates on what is new in your life today, and of reunions you've recently had with other brothers.

Enjoy this edition of *The Epsilon Owl*. I look forward to reconnecting with you in 2012.

GRADUATE EVENTS

Fore! Brothers Make New Phi Gam Memories at Golf Reunion

Thank you to **Hayes Holderness '79** for sharing this photo on our Facebook page! It is of **Emmett McLean '77**, **Davy Davidson '77**, **Bill Creekmuir '77** and himself on the 18th green at Shoal Creek in Birmingham, Ala.

Hayes writes, "It was a great get together for two rounds of golf and catching up; a lot of good Phi Gam memories."



Have you recently reconnected with other Epsilon brothers? Share your stories and photos at www.epsilonpgd.com or at www.facebook.com/epsilonpgd.

RETRACTION

What It Should Have Said

There were a few typos in the last edition of *Epsilon Owl* regarding the caption for this photo. **Dixie Greene '48** submitted the photo, but our editors inadvertently got some facts wrong in the caption.

Dixie submitted this great picture of the pledge class of 1941, not of the class of 1950 as written in the *Owl*. He clarifies that he is proud that he got to know 25 of these 31 men when they returned from war in 1944. In fact, Dixie got to know a tremendous number of Epsilon brothers during the 1941-1955 era, as he continued his graduate studies at UNC after graduating in 1945.

Our graduate relations firm apologizes for the misinformation that was printed in the *Owl*.



2011-12 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Thank you to the following graduate brothers who have supported the annual fund so far this year...

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The Benefits of Being a Phi Gam Can't be Measured in Dollars and Cents

As a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill in the fall of 1977, **Ronnie Batchelor '81** already knew he wanted to pledge a fraternity. His father had been a member of Sigma Chi at NC State, and was always talking about the lifelong friendships formed by joining one.

So Ronnie decided to pledge Phi Gam in the spring of 1978. He already knew several of the brothers from Raleigh and was able to reunite with many people from Camp Sea Gull at the house.

"The Phi Gam house seemed like the best fit for me as a freshman," he said.

Memories were created immediately.

Ronnie said he was always reminded of the common bond he had with his brothers each semester during The Pilgrimage experience. The rituals at the end of formal chapter meetings also created special bonds amongst the brothers. And, of course, Fiji Island is something he will always remember.

"While the weekend of the actual events was always special, the preparation was even more fun," he said.

He and his brothers did "Boo Runs," where they rode around the North Carolina county roads in the back of rented U-hauls with a cooler of beer and chain saws.

Football games were spent first outside of Vance Hall, where Ronnie and his brothers would tailgate with his father, eating food from the red and white checkered tablecloth he set up every year.

As president of the house in 1980, Ronnie

was able to learn how to "build a consensus" among a group as large as 50 individuals. He said there were many situations in which brothers had differing opinions.

"The challenge was not having winners and losers, but trying to make sure everyone walked away with a feeling that their voices were heard and opinions valued," he said.

"Others have done it before me and now, it's my turn. We all have an obligation to support our undergraduate chapter."

Apart from learning time management, budgeting, and leadership skills, Ronnie learned how to form and keep lasting friendships and relationships. Every Friday morning, he eats breakfast with brothers **Reid Jones '82** and **Bobby Woronoff '82**, and regularly keeps in contact with many other brothers through phone and email. He also attends the annual Pig Dinners and as many football games as he can.

Ronnie says it is important to give back to the undergraduate chapter. One of the ways in which he does so is by supporting them financially.

"Others have done it before me and now, it's my turn," he said. "We all have an obligation to support our undergraduate chapter."

While Ronnie was supported financially as an undergraduate, he says it is impossible to

measure in dollars and cents the benefits he's received from being a Phi Gam.

"It is important for the undergraduate brothers to see that while the four years of undergraduate life are probably the most intense years as a Phi Gam, the relationships created during that period last a lifetime and grow exponentially overtime," he said.

Today, Ronnie works at Raleigh CPA firm, Batchelor, Tillery, & Roberts, LLP, where he is a co-founding partner. He says his brothers have been supportive of his career.

"I feel very fortunate to have developed professional relationships with many of the brothers that I met during my undergraduate years."

He and his college girlfriend, Marlene, have been married for 28 years. They currently reside in Raleigh, NC with their three sons.

Ronnie says having his son, Andrew, become a Phi Gam at UNC rekindled his love for the fraternity, especially the Epsilon Chapter.

"I know that it is difficult for the undergraduate brotherhood to recognize its importance, but the multi-generational bond created by fathers and sons, brothers or any other family relationship within the fraternity is what will sustain us for years to come," he said. "It cannot be over emphasized."

Reconnect with Ronnie at rbatchelor@btrcpa.com.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

We love coming across great old photos from our chapter's history! This picture is of the Epsilon Chapter, from the 1976 edition of *Yackety Yack*.

Do you have great pictures from your era to share? Upload them to our web site at www.epsilonpgd.com or to our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/epsilonpgd.



GRADUATE UPDATES

'50s

Bill McLean '57 and his wife were interrupted by Hurricane Irene on a trip to the Outer Banks but were able to swing by Washington, N.C. to see **John Gray Blount '57** and **Josh Tayloe '57** before the hurricane struck. Tayloe lost part of his pier on the river but both John Gray and Josh are doing well. *Reconnect with Bill at 205 W. 30th St., Lumberton, NC 28358 or gailbillmclean@gmail.com.*

Don Furtado '59 writes, "With sadness, I report the death of my brother and fellow Phi Gam, **Bob Furtado '59**, on May 6, 2011 after a brave battle with cancer. He was 73. Bob graduated from Garner High School in 1955 and UNC at Chapel Hill in 1959, and also earned a Master's Degree in Education from Pepperdine University. Bob was in the Marine Corps for 25 years, serving with distinction in Vietnam, where he earned a Navy Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service and a Purple Heart. He retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1984, after which he

was employed for over a decade in computer-related companies in the Raleigh-Durham area. A memorial service in Chapel Hill was attended by lots of family and friends, including five 1959 fraternity brothers: **Curt Sewell, Jeff Hare, Case Herring, Frank Farrell** and me." *Reconnect with Don at dfurtado@mcnair.net.*

'70s

John "Russ" Andrews '76 reports "I received my Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary May of 2003. In August of that same year I, along with 12 men, started a ministry to men in Raleigh, NC called Finding Purpose. FP exists to help men find their purpose in life (Acts 17:28) which can only be found through a personal relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ. I currently teach a Bible study that draws about 300 men. We meet on Tuesday nights from 7-9 PM. If you are ever in Raleigh be sure to drop in on me. My wife, Creecy, and I are getting ready to celebrate our 33rd anniversary. I have two

sons, Rushman (28) and Smith (26) who are both married and work in the Raleigh area. I am a very blessed man!" *Reconnect with Russ at 815 Marlowe Rd., Apt. 4, Raleigh, NC 27609 or russ.andrews@findingpurpose.net.*

Donald Hardee '76 reports that he has a grandson, William David Yelle, born June 3, 2011. His brother **Charles '78** also has a grandson and granddaughter, twins, born June in 2011, named Tucker and Charlie Blodgett. *Reconnect with Don at 1912 Forest Hills Dr., Greenville, NC 27858 or hardee.don@gmail.com.*

What's New with You?

Share your news, updates, stories and photos at www.epsilonpgd.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/epsilonpgd. You can also send submissions directly to our editors at content@affinityconnection.com or mail it to the return address on this newsletter (mention Epsilon of Phi Gam).

What Does Epsilon of Phi Gam Mean to You?

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