

Mark Your Calendar!

Old South Weekend

April 16-18, 2004
(Parade on April 14)

Second Annual KA Golf Tournament

Tuesday, April 27, 2004
The Georgia Club, Athens
Start now to pull together your teams!

Watch our Web site, www.kauga.com, and future mailings for more details.

February 2004

Between the Columns

www.kauga.com

Kappa Alpha Order at the University of Georgia • Athens, Ga.



Alumni Profile

Malcolm Liles '72

The Circle of Life: The Sequel

Who says history doesn't repeat itself? Do you recall the last issue of *Between the Columns*? It was here that we shared the life of **Hoppy Hopkins '69** and his three legacies. Well, this may be *deja vu* all over again as we catch up with Hoppy's former roommate, **Malcolm Liles '72**, the father of twin legacies, Leighton and William, age 21. By the way, Hoppy, Malcolm would like to know if you remember having a crush on his mannequin ... we'll leave it at that!

A junior-year transfer to the University of Georgia, Liles soon discovered Kappa Alpha to be the best fraternity on the Athens campus. "Gamma Chapter's traditions were strong and valued by both actives and alums," said Liles. "It was really the spirit of brotherhood that was strong, with southern roots dating back to 1865 at W&L."

Aside from the mannequin he resurrected from the back of his father's drug store and kept as a third roommate (again, Hoppy, we won't ask!), Liles has many fond memories of life at 294 S. Lumpkin Street. "It's hard to have a favorite," he admitted. "I remember Old South Ball, Cowboy Ball, Convivium, football games, Christmas parties, socials with sororities ... we made the most of our time."

Liles, a brother who doesn't recall having a nickname (yeah, right!), is now an active member of the alumni association. He enjoys the interaction this allows him to have with his sons. "William is the risk management chair at the house, and Leighton is the social chairman," said Liles. Liles and wife of 28 years, Kookie (Kappa Alpha Theta, UGA), are both very pleased that their sons have continued in the Gamma tradition — together.

Even up until his sons began attending UGA, Liles' list of Gamma contacts was fairly extensive, including brothers such as **Doc Eldridge '72**, **Pete Dortch '69**, **Tom Arnold '72**, **Dan Slade '70**, **Joe Hodgson '71**, **Pete Hodgson '71**, Hoppy, **Gary Nix '69**, **Andy Knox '69**, **Larry Jenkins**

'71, **Ted Davis '69**, **Mike McRae '69**, **Clem Brannen '71**, **Bobby Stringer '70**, **Woody Cole '71**, **Tony Campbell '73**, **Dan Green '71** and **Bobby Stewart '72**. And with 14 active legacies with alumni dads who were in the house at some time with Liles, he has had the chance to add many more names to this list and to share in some customary chapter events such as Parents Weekend.

As a former Gamma Number 3, Liles sees the significance of Kappa Alpha at UGA growing strong and stronger with each passing year. "The older I get, the more I see Robert E. Lee as a role model and better understand the set of values we were to live by," explained Liles. "The goal was to be a gentleman, though," he laughed, "I don't achieve that often enough. My relationship with my brothers continues to have an influence and to grow. When my parents died recently, I received many expressions of condolences. Many connections have stayed strong, but at the very least, they are renewed at times like that."

After building a 23-year career with Smith Barney, Liles is currently a senior vice president of investments, managing \$300 million in client assets. He has achieved the prestigious Chairman's Council recognition for the past 19 years. In addition, he serves as chairman of the board of the Arthur Lee Educational Foundation, on the board of U.S. Lacrosse of Tennessee and on the UGA Parents and Families Association Council.

For this self-proclaimed workaholic, however, the future holds more than just

a few more closed deals. "I do want to continue to build my business," admitted Liles, "but more importantly, I want to get my sons educated. They really love Georgia, and they have had a wonderful experience at the KA house." What more could a father ask?

Brothers who would like to reach Malcolm Liles can do so at lilesfam@mindspring.com. ■



Malcolm and Kookie Liles with sons Leighton (middle) and William.

Always Something to Do at Gamma

On behalf of the new group of officers at Gamma, I would like to express our excitement about the coming year. We have been fortunate to receive the torch from an excellent group of former officers. They have guided our chapter in the right direction for the past year, and we look forward to continuing that tradition.

This new semester started off with a bang. On the first Friday of the spring semester, we hosted our first band party at the house in over three years. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and we look forward to hosting more bands in the future. The next weekend, we made our annual trek to Savannah to celebrate Convivium. It is at this time every year that we pay homage to the Order's association with Robert E. Lee of Ole Virginia. I would like to thank the **Waldo Bradley ('01)** family for hosting an oyster roast on Saturday, as well as **Malcolm Liles '72** for giving our Gentleman's Toast that evening. The formal was held at the Savannah Station, and we were fortunate enough to have former Knight Commander **David Warren, "Batman" Varnedoe '57** and Brother Liles in attendance.

The remainder of the spring semester calendar is just as busy as the first two weeks. The next major event KA will be hosting is Cowboy Ball, which is slated for Saturday, March 20. Prospective members will be invited to join us in

a day filled with festivities. Please contact our rush chairs, Nick Maslanka and Branford Thompson, with recommendations for rush. Three weeks after Cowboy Ball, we will embark on our annual Old South weekend. The Old South parade is tentatively planned for Wednesday, April 14, and we hope that all parents and alumni will be in attendance.

In our final week of classes, we will be hosting our second annual golf tournament to benefit MDA. It is planned for Tuesday, April 27, and we look forward to an even bigger turnout than last year. The golf tournament is our biggest annual fund-raiser for MDA. More information about the tournament will be sent out in the near future.

I am thrilled about the opportunities for our chapter this year and feel extremely privileged to be serving as their Number I. Please feel free to contact me at anytime with suggestions or concerns. As always, thank you for your continued support of the men at Gamma. ■



And at Convivium, undergraduates such as Skip Hopkins took time for special pictures with their dates ...



Recently alumni met for a social gathering in Atlanta. Brothers included (L-R) Mike Ivey '84 and Charles Hoke '90 ...



... Hunter Hopkins '97, Bud Fry '80, Roby Redwine '82 ...



... Chuck Waters '84 and Brad Thomas '86.



... while alumni and friends shared in the spirit of the evening.

Alumni UpDates

Robert M. Bohem

(P.O. Box 1069, Exton, PA 19341) Chris Withers '68 has recently purchased Patricia's Spiritwear in Atlanta, which is the nation's largest supplier of embroidered and screen printed apparel serving the educational markets. In addition to apparel, the company offers a full line of executive gifts and promotional products.

Charles A. Lanford

(10716 Thomaston Rd, Forsyth, GA 31029; lsandk@juno.com) **Wendell Horne '73, Bobby Brown '73** and I hunt quail and shoot skeet quite a bit together (we also shoot a lot of bull together too)! In addition, Wendell and I practice law in Macon; Wendell's firm specializes in tort cases, and I specialize in probate matters.

James P. Champion '38

(902 Third Ave., Albany, GA 31701-1706) See some KAs at Romeo Club (Retired Old Men Eating Out) monthly. I am semi-retired and go to work but don't do much. I have been married for 62 years and have a great-grandson.

Charles S. Thorp '38

(4 Deerfield Rd., Covington, GA 30014-1630) From the family of Charles Thorp: Charles has had a stroke and is in a retirement center.

Harold M. Morris '50

(910 Battlefield Trail, Chattanooga, TN 37409-1100; halindamor@aol.com) We in the Chattanooga area had our annual KA convivium in January with 50 to 70 KAs and their spouses.

G. Norman Bishop '52

(3514 Vernon Dr., Columbus, GA 31909) I am the current enterprises owner of Bishop Productions, Inc., in Panama City, Fla. We produce documentary films. I am also a consultant for Republican Media, the public relations director for Emerald Coast Economic Development and the owner of Bishop & Associates political consulting firm.

Bowden Dobbins '52

(Box 20001, Station N, Atlanta, GA 30325; wbd01@bellsouth.net) Phyllis and I, still married after 47 years, continue with our venture of restoring and building the business of The Old Clayton Inn and Restaurant (oldclaytoninn.com) located in the North Georgia Mountains of Clayton, Ga. While we do not manage this on a daily basis, we are there most weekends. We would really like to visit with any "old" KAs who

may be in the area. We have a daughter living in Augusta with her husband and two teenage sons. Our son is married and works with my brother, Hugh, and me in our family business as industrial liquidators in Atlanta. We are also real estate owner/developers and continue in the timber business. We sold our farm where we actively farmed for almost 40 years and really miss the rural life. The mountains of northeast Georgia partly make up for this.

Frederic G. Jones '52

(1600 US 64W #221, Sapphire, NC 28774; twitty@starband.net) I have retired from active practice but continue to work in free clinics and consult to hospital medical staffs. Lynn and I celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary.

Gordon S. Varnedoe '57



Gordon "Batman" Varnedoe '57 pictured here with Doug (left) and John Clark of Doug Clark and The Hot Nuts. The Hot Nuts played for the Gamma Chapter when Varnedoe was social chairman in 1959 and again in 2003.

(112 W. Taylor St., P.O. Box 3531, Savannah, GA 31414; gvarnedoe@aol.com) I am the alumni adviser to Delta Theta at Georgia Southern and received the Knight Commanders Accolade at National Convention in Tampa.

Philip C. Jones '61

(P.O. Box 8074, South Brunswick, NC 28470; philipjones@oceanridge.com) I heard the Alabama game was great. **Tom Gray '56, Sonny Mobley '60** and others were there. Some are coming from Savannah to the Kentucky game. Wish I was there.

Maurice M. Sponcler '61

(225 W. King St., P.O. Box 398, Dalton, GA 30722-0398; sponcler@sponclerandtharpe.com) I am still practicing law in Dalton, Ga., after 25 years. I am married to Betty Bowen Sponcler,

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Gamma 2004 Chapter Officers

Number I

Lee Carter
706-346-9247
leeuga25@aol.com

Number II

Grant Rutledge
615-364-7738

Number III

Will Thompson
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Number IV

Marshall Guest
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Number V

Billy Crosby
706-424-1938
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Number VI

Skip Hopkins
706-589-0781

Number VII

Robert Miller
912-337-3746

Number VIII

William Liles

Number IX

Bradley Moore
706-202-3186

Chairmen

Philanthropy Chair
Larry Neal
706-254-9145

Scholarship Chair
Brad Odom
706-252-0941

Social Chair
Leighton Liles
615-491-2822

Risk Management
William Liles

House Manager
Warren Konigsmark
770-757-6274

Council of Honor
Robert Miller
912-337-3746

Rush Chairs
Nick Maslanka
706-340-4183

Branford Thompson
912-286-2020

Alumni UpDates

(Continued from Page 3)

and we have two daughters, Dr. Lisa S. Norman, M.D., and Dori S. Jones (Theta-U.Ga.). I see **Martin Blanchard '65** and **Bates Bailey '65** on a weekly basis. I also see **Neely Young '63** when he can work me in. Yes, Valdosta KAs, Bates is still driving me around.

James H. Hobgood '75

(12 Saddlebrook Dr., Rome, GA 30161-7241; jimhobgood@aol.com) I have returned to Rome Mortgage Company after serving as publisher of the newspaper in my hometown of Calhoun the last five years. As a vice president at Rome Mortgage and CRT Properties, I am brokering home and commercial loans, primarily refinances and purchases in northwest Georgia, but also the rest of the state and most anywhere else as needed. My wife, Lou Ella, owns the Bella Luna gift store in Rome, where we have lived for 25 years, and our daughters are 18 and 14. My number at Rome Mortgage is 800-414-4124, ext. 218, or Atlanta line, 770-336-9000.

Pierce O. English '78

(1101 Kelden Ridge, Marietta, GA 30068; penglish@snapsinc.com) At the UGA vs. Auburn game on Nov. 15, 2003, in Athens, we tailgated in the parking lot of what used to be Stegman Hall. Alumni sightings included Libby and **Michael Carson '78**, Anne and **Julian Brown '78**, Nancy and **Bob Kenerly '77**, **Mark Cross '82**,

George Summers '80 and family, Reesa and **Tim Markham '78**, **Mike Dolan '77**, **Kevin "KC" Dolan '78**, **Pete English '78**, **Robert Crider '80**, **John Spellman '77**, Roberta and **Bob McLeod '80** and **Ed McElveen '78**.

David E. Harris '88

(1829 Overlook St., Columbus, GA 31906; dhdhbear@aol.com) I just got married to Mallory Perkins of Columbus, Ga.

John D. Mosely '90

(11207 Sligh Avenue, Seffner, FL 33584; jmosely@tampabay.rr.com) I was married to Marie Weller of Tampa, Fla., on March 22, 2003, and we are expecting a baby girl in February 2004. Marie is a Tampa native and a graduate of Auburn. We had several brothers attend our wedding: **Charles Hoke '90**, **Wilson Brim '90**, **Jason Shaw '91**, **Ben Holcomb '90**, **Jason Palmer '93**, **Frank Beverly '91** and **Kevin Williams '91**. I am currently in sales with Herff Jones Company in the Tampa/Orlando area. Fellow brother **David Eischeid '91** and I are currently depleting the snook and redfish population in Tampa Bay. If you are ever down this way, please call.

John N. Crook '91

(5444 Riverside Dr, 2nd Floor, Macon, GA 31210; john.n.crook@smithbarney.com) I am married with two step kids and one of

my own (2 years old; future **David Pollock**). I'm in my eighth year as a financial consultant with Smith Barney. I know some of you boys out there need some investment advice.

Richard W. Conner '92

(1942 Graham St., Montgomery, AL 36106; rconner1@cstel.net) Our daughter, Margaret Amelia, was born on Feb. 28, 2003.

Andrew M. Johnson '93

(565 Franklin Rd., Atlanta, GA 30342) I married Elizabeth Cely (UGS '98) in May 2002.

Paul H. Threlkeld '95

(205 E. 50th St., Savannah, GA 31405; pthrelkeld@yahoo.com) Ansley and I would like to announce the birth of our son, Paul Hughes Threlkeld Jr., born July 10, 2003. ■

In Memory

We regret to inform you of the death of

Thomas C. James Jr. '40 (2/14/03)
John A. Ferguson '43 (7/22/03)
John A. Pait '46 (9/9/03)
James A. Schaefer '67 (6/12/03)

Kappa Alpha mourns their passing and extends condolences to their families and friends.

Time to dust off that driver ...
 KA Open details inside.



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 Kappa Alpha Order
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