

IN MEMORY

Riley "Coot" Mattox passed away on June 3, 2010. Coot was an integral part of fraternity life at 294 South Lumpkin for over 30 years. His initial employment was 1967, and we all have our "Coot stories."

Doc Eldridge spoke at the funeral. He did a great job expressing the special role that Coot played in our lives and how much a part of our memories of Athens and KA that Coot was. KA Brothers who attended included **Mark Cross, Mike Viers, Tommy Jackson, Hobby Outten, Scott Bard, and Roby Redwine.**

We have also recently learned of the passing of the following brothers:

**William W. Abbot III '42
John Coplin '43
Richard Kennedy Jr. '57
John Taylor Jr. '67**

ALUMNI UPDATE

William N. Liles '02
(604 Arkland Place, Nashville, TN 37215-6131; william.nathan.liles@gmail.com)
I earned my MBA with a specialization in Investment Management from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University in May. After working as a Summer Associate in the Atlanta office of Credit Suisse Securities' Private Banking Group last summer, I will be working full time as a Financial Advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in Nashville, TN, where I will be joining my father and fellow Gamma alum, Malcolm Liles, as a member of the Liles Group.

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Between the Columns

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



ALUMNI REPORT

A Period of Transition

***Current Senior Class is Last Group of KAs to Have Known
294 S. Lumpkin St.***

By Hunter Hopkins '97

One of the KA National Office's top priorities for all Kappa Alpha Order chapters is better officer transition. Every fall semester, the officers of Gamma Chapter are elected and take office. This means that every year we have a handful of new young men leading the chapter. The KA National Office is very concerned with this switch in leadership and wants to put more of a focus on it in order to keep all chapters moving forward from one set of officers to the next. We have been lucky at Gamma Chapter with a smooth officer transition over the years.

We all remember those memorable times that we experienced at the KA house. Although the location might have changed and the building is much different, it is still the KA house and our brotherhood still runs strong.

Transitioning to a new set of officers is easy for some positions, but much more difficult for others. For example, it is just as important to properly educate both a new Number I and Social Chairman taking office, but the Number I requires some additional training for that office. Both of these positions have entirely different responsibilities and repercussions if the duties of each office are not done correctly. Although the Number I and Social Chairman offices differ in responsibilities, it is still imperative that there be a smooth transition from the previous office holder to the next.

Not only does the undergraduate chapter face this officer transition every year, but all of us, both active brothers and alumni, are currently in the middle of an even bigger

transition for the entire membership of Gamma Chapter. Ever since we made the move to our new home on West Hancock Avenue, our chapter has been in transition.

After the senior class graduates this upcoming spring semester, every current undergraduate member of Gamma Chapter will only know Gamma as being at 755 West Hancock Avenue. The current members of the senior class, who pledged in the fall of 2007, are the last undergrad members of Gamma Chapter who spent any time in the old house located at 294 South Lumpkin Street.

Starting next fall semester, every undergrad member of Gamma Chapter will only know 755 West Hancock as KA's home. Our transition from our old location to our new location will be complete. Gamma Chapter's transition to our new house has been a fairly smooth process over the past couple of years. Through many generous alumni donations, we have been able to provide a state-of-the-art facility for Gamma Chapter that will house the undergraduate chapter for many years to come. If you have not had the opportunity to visit the new house, I certainly invite you to do so.

We all remember those memorable times that we experienced at the KA house. Although the location might have changed and the building is much different, it is still the KA house, and our brotherhood still runs strong. I feel confident in saying that Gamma Chapter has made a successful transition to our new home.

With 144 Men, KA is the Largest Fraternity on Campus

By Jefferson Knox, Number I

Gamma has had a great start to the 2010-2011 school year with everyone excited to be back home to KA and life in Athens. Throughout the summer, many brothers participated in study abroad programs ranging from Costa Rica to Europe to South Africa. Others opted to stay in Athens to take classes, take advantage of internships or help the rush chairmen field a new pledge class.

Over the course of the summer, our Rush Chairmen **Christopher Schatzman**, **Leland McCluskey**, **William Weston** and **Jim Freeman** did an excellent job building a pledge class of 36 young men representing much of the southeast, eight being legacies. They are without a doubt the finest pledge class at the University, and thank you to all the Alumni who sent us names and contact information of potential rushees. Entering the school year, our Number II **Wes Stroud** from St. Simons developed these young men through our pledge program, and all 36 have since been initiated to begin a new chapter in the Gamma Legacy. The chapter size is now up to 144 men, and we currently stand as the largest fraternity on campus. Many of our members continue to be involved in student organizations throughout campus, including Blue Key Society, UGA HERO, Student Government Association, IFC, Order of the Greek Horsemen, Sophomore Leadership Circle, and Autism UGA just to name a few. We are very proud to have KA represented in so many ways throughout UGA.

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Staying Strong Scholastically

We continued to be a leader academically, as we ended the spring semester with a 3.17 GPA, which is higher than the 3.04 all men's average and an improvement over the 3.10 we made the previous fall. We had 15 members



The senior pledge class at Parents' Weekend 2010. Pictured (L to R): Kane Bryan, Will Edwards, Mason Laycock, Dee Simpson, Will Cowser, Jefferson Knox, Will Badcock, Johnny Colby, Wes Stroud, Chris Ramanauskas, Ross Rabun, Bevan Hopper, Anderson Holderness, Brooks Pennington, Harley Yancey and Daniel Salisbury.

make Dean's List (3.50 GPA on 15 credit hours) which was the third most among all 26 fraternities on campus, and three of our brothers were also recognized as Presidential Scholars, an award given to students who achieve a 4.0 GPA while taking at least 15 credit hours.

Despite the lackluster effort the Dawgs have put forth, Gamma has been very socially active, hosting band parties every Friday night before home games and tailgating at 755 West Hancock on Saturdays. The highlight of the fall was our Parents' Weekend, held November 5th and 6th, and the chapter is very thankful for the Mothers' Club which was inexpressibly generous in helping the weekend become a success. We look forward to closing out the semester's social calendar with our annual Christmas Party to be held on December 4th.

Gamma Elects Its Newest Leaders

Gamma recently held our chapter elections for the coming year, and I am very pleased

to announce that our new Number I is **Christopher Schatzman** from Mobile, Alabama. Christopher is a proven leader who has represented Kappa Alpha in the Interfraternity Council, Sophomore Leadership Circle, and he was a great asset to the chapter as a Rush Chairman this summer. The Number II office will be held by **Sloan Sanders** from Nashville, TN, and Number III is **Leland McCluskey** from Columbus, GA. Sloan has been serving as the chapter's Philanthropy Chairman, and Leland was a Rush Chair and has been working with Gamma Trustees over the course of the past year, proving to be invaluable as a manager of the house and the property we sit on. I am very confident in the abilities of these three men and look forward to seeing them lead Gamma Chapter to greater heights.

Anytime you are going to be in the Athens area feel free to stop by the house and come see how far we have come. I look forward to seeing you and Go Dawgs!

Gamma Establishes a Connection in Washington, D.C.

Group of Brothers All Complete Internships with Same D.C.-Based Firm

By Hunter Edwards '04

When **Barton Lowrey '05** finished his time with the LS Group this past August, he was the fifth Gamma brother to intern there since 2007. Gamma's connection with this top Republican fundraising group began three years ago when **Bryan Schivera '04** was selected as one of five KA undergrads nationally to participate in the Kappa Alpha Order Educational Foundation's E. Flemming Mason Internship Program. KAOEF placed Bryan with Lisa Spies, who at the time was Finance Director for South Dakota Senator John Thune's Heartland Values PAC and his reelect committee, while also raising money for Senators Norm Coleman and Conrad Burns. Bryan spent the summer of 2007 planning and coordinating Senator Thune's Heartland Values PAC Conference, staffing the Senator at fundraisers and assisting Mrs. Spies in the management of national fundraising correspondence. His favorite event was the President's Dinner, where Bryan was able to spend time with Senator Thune and listen to an address in person from President George W. Bush. Through his internship, Bryan was able to gain a unique insight into the campaign finance game in D.C. while spending an enjoyable summer with several other KAs from across the nation.

By 2009, Mrs. Spies had created the LS Group, which managed the reelection fundraising efforts for Senators John Thune and David Vitter as well as the Senators' leadership PACs, the Heartland Values PAC and the Louisiana Reform PAC. Mrs. Spies had also assumed the role of Executive Director of the Republican Jewish Coalition's National Women's Committee. That spring, **David Mize '04** interned with Mrs. Spies. Working with the LS Group gave David firsthand experience with raising money for a national campaign. During this time, he had the opportunity to coordinate and staff fundraising events

both in D.C. and in major cities across the country. The highlight of the spring occurred at the spring leadership meeting of the Republic Jewish Coalition. David was able to meet President Bush and sat in on a discussion he had with the RJC leadership about multiple topics, including his soon to be released book and stories of life in the White House.

Some of the other highlights for David included staffing the National Republican Senatorial Committee Spring Dinner at the Newseum, planning a fundraiser for Governor Mitt Romney, and participating in a fundraiser for the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation hosted by Forrest Gump star Gary Sinise. David traveled across the country to raise funds, from Los Angeles to New York to Fort Lauderdale. He had this to say about his time in our nation's capitol: "It was the experience of a lifetime. It would have never been possible without the friendship formed while at Gamma. I thank Bryan and Lisa for giving me the great opportunity to learn so much first hand. I'll never forget it."

The following summer, two more Gamma brothers, **Neilson Gamble '06** and **Blake Hankins '06** interned with the LS Group. Neilson and Blake continued with many of the same tasks David had worked on during the spring. Their workload was greatly increased, however, when the LS Group added Florida Senate Candidate, Governor Charlie Crist, to the client roster. They planned and staffed events throughout June and July while enjoying the intern atmosphere that can only be found during a summer in our nation's capitol.

Most recently, **Barton Lowrey '05** spent the spring of 2010 with the LS Group. While working in D.C., Barton assisted in the planning and organizing of political fundraising events for Senator

David Vitter, Senator John Thune, and the Republican Jewish Coalition. One of Barton's favorite memories was assisting in the planning of Senator John Thune's Heartland Values PAC Conference in Washington, D.C.. The conference featured many speakers, including Republican Senators Mitch McConnell, John McCain, Jim DeMint, and John Cornyn. During his time with the LS Group, Barton had the opportunity to travel around the country for numerous events. He traveled to Beverly Hills, California for the Republican Jewish Coalition's Summer Bash which featured speakers, Karl Rove and Congresswoman Michelle Bachmann. He also traveled to Detroit, Michigan to staff several events for gubernatorial candidate Pete Hoekstra, where former Governor Mitt Romney was featured as the special guest. Barton praised both Gamma and the LS Group, "The relationships I developed with fellow Gamma brothers who had worked for the LS Group enabled me to pursue my interest in fundraising. The experience of working with Mrs. Spies will benefit me for many years to come, and I would recommend it to any Gammas interested in moving to our nation's capitol."

Mrs. Spies continues to be impressed with the work Gamma brothers have done for the LS Group and their ability to successfully function in the political arena of D.C. She has expressed her desire to maintain the connection with the chapter. Gamma is proud to have developed such a relationship in our nation's capital and hopes to utilize it to the fullest as a way of introducing interested brothers to politics at the highest level.

If you would like further information regarding internship opportunities with the LS Group, please visit Mrs. Spies' website, thelsgroup.com.

Do you know of a Gamma alum who has an interesting story to tell? Email a description to our editors at content@affinityconnection.com (mention KA at UGA), and we'll consider him for a feature in an upcoming publication.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We're Calling on You to Help Us Finish the Job

By Larry Knox '65

We continue to raise funds to pay down debt on the new house and appreciate the support of the Gamma Nation. Another \$1,000,000.00 is our goal for the Capital Campaign, and the Annual Fund will assist us

"Let's pull together and finish the job in setting up the best fraternity at UGA with the finest house in the nation."

in operating the facility on a sound basis.

If you have not yet given, please consider doing so now. Our campaign has been successful to date, but we now need to finish the job. We will be unveiling a completion campaign soon to raise this additional \$1,000,000.00. For all of you with pledges outstanding, please continue to pay on a prompt basis, and early payment certainly helps save on interest expense.

This is a once in a lifetime undertaking,

and I know we are proud of this tremendous achievement. Let's pull together and finish the job in setting up the best fraternity at UGA with the finest house in the nation.

Please contact Leland McCluskey at Gamma Chapter for more information on how you can help in this worthwhile endeavor. Leland's phone number is 706-580-0037 and his email is lelandmclcluskey@gmail.com.

2010 Pledge Class

Mills Adams
Newnan, GA

Kinman Bailey
Atlanta, GA

Harrison Benefield*
St. Simons, GA

Will Braxton
Columbus, GA

Charlie Breen
Rome, GA

Michael Colpoys
Newnan, GA

Michael Conner
New Orleans, LA

Dylan Connolly
Atlanta, GA

Andrew Covington
St. Simons, GA

Cliff Cranford
Newnan, GA

Taylor Crawford
Charlotte, NC

Cody Davis*
Atlanta, GA

Braden Duke
La Grange, GA

Preston Griffith
Charlotte, NC

Hamilton Harbin
Augusta, GA

Taylor Harden
Macon, GA

Drew Hill
Augusta, GA

Sam Hinkle
Atlanta, GA

Martin Manning*
Augusta, GA

Luke Mansour*
Columbus, GA

Harrison Martin
Atlanta, GA

Cody Mathis
Houston, TX

Chilton McKnight*
Ft. Worth, TX

Chase Miller
Athens, GA

Bosie Morris
Columbia, SC

Robert Mull
Rome, GA

Ford Neel
Macon, GA

Jimmy Nussbaum
Greensboro, NC

John Osbourne
Charlotte, NC

Merrit Perry
Greenville, SC

Matt Shay
Savannah, GA

Reese Thompson*
Vidalia, GA

Mac Viers*
Savannah, GA

Chase Walker
Rayle, GA

Jack Yancey*
Rome, GA

Ben Yancey
Atlanta, GA

*Legacy

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