

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

**Saturday, October 22**  
Homecoming vs. Arkansas

# Between the Columns

June 2005

[www.kauga.com](http://www.kauga.com)

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



## RUSH

### We Have What They Want

*"You can have anything you want — if you want it badly enough. You can be anything you want to be, have anything you desire, accomplish anything you set out to accomplish — if you will hold to that desire with singleness of purpose."*

— Robert E. Lee

They see brotherhood. They see teamwork. They see friendship. They see a network of men who can reunite after 20 or 30 years and reconnect as if only one day had passed. In those years of shared experiences, we have found great memories, career opportunities, weekend get-aways with our brothers, support groups in time of need and so much more.

That is what our potential brothers see. Help us bring those young men to KA where they can live our tradition and find what we have — one of the strongest chapters on the Georgia campus. If you know a young man who we should consider in upcoming rush activities, please contact our rush chairmen.

Rush Chairmen:

**Alex Coffee**  
acoffee@uga.edu  
912-657-0718

**Ben Joyce**  
benjoyce@uga.edu  
336-601-5050 ■

## Alumni

### Profile

with James "Cov" DeRamus '94

## He's Asking You to Remember — He Will Never Forget

*"I want to thank all of you who have e-mailed or called my parents. I am O.K., just really sad. I don't know how my friends and I are alive. I'm still trying to remember what happened, but all I can hear is the sound of waves and shattering glass."*

On December 26, 2004, where were you? Whether digging through the holiday leftovers, standing in a line to return a gift or flipping through the channels to find a game to watch, things were probably fairly calm — what we all expect in the midst of a holiday season. The quote above from a December 28 e-mail to friends and family from Brother **Cov DeRamus '94** indicates that he was far away from the comforts of home.

Following several years of working for the National Park Service and in organic farming in California, DeRamus set off early in 2004 on a yearlong journey to explore the far reaches of Asia — an endeavor that **Blake Thompson '93**, **Ben Bridges**, **Trey Phillips '94** and **Julian Mann '94** would expect of their friend and fellow Gamma brother.

Working to immerse himself in the variety of cultures found across Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand, Nepal and India, DeRamus visited farms, helped teach English to local villagers and built community resources including a library in Laos. He has many stories to tell. "There was a Mong boy I met who had had an infection in his leg for eight years," he recounted. "His parents did not have the money to pay for the antibiotics. We found a way to get him the treatment he needed at a hospital in Thailand."

As he soon found, the work necessary to help people worldwide meet their basic needs is an endless effort. And one message repeated itself over and over: "People live to persevere and find hope," he said. "I spent four days walking through Dharavi, India's largest slum. In America, we are so very insulated from how these people live. And despite it all, they are all very kind."

Little did he know, that kindness would be exhibited in ways he never could have imagined.



*In the aftermath of the December 2004 tsunami, survivors, including **Cov DeRamus '94**, searched for friends and family members amidst the destruction and debris.*

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# Profile

...continued from page 1

As December approached, DeRamus and two friends from Australia, Simon and Rachel, planned to meet in Sri Lanka before returning to their homes. Arriving a few days before the others, DeRamus found that there were no accommodations on the beach ... a scenario that proved to be quite advantageous in the coming days. He found a family with a guesthouse on the hill and was offered a room. He connected with Simon and Rachel, and the three of them spent their days talking, reading and enjoying their host family. Then came December 26.

"We had just walked from the beach into a restaurant. Right after we walked in, we looked back, and the water was lapping up on the porch. But it all looked pretty harmless. People started running out. I just didn't understand what was happening. There was no warning. As the waves came in, I jumped up on the wooden bar that was swept violently in to the corner of the room."

"There was this 85-year-old Sri Lankan man who owned the place, and he was quite a fixture, always asleep at a table after having eaten breakfast. His chair swept past, and I was able to wrestle him onto the bar. Buildings were collapsing all around. Simon climbed up a tree, and Rachel ran off. The window finally crashed on us, but I only got a few cuts. I was sucked out, and I managed to hang on to the old man. I held him afloat with my head below water, coming up for breaths. Another wave rolled through, and I lost him. He just sunk right there, and I didn't see him again until I identified his dead body."

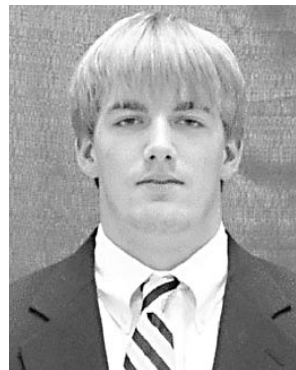
"We searched everywhere for Rachel over the next three hours. We found her finally and just laid on the grass on a hill sobbing. I just kept wondering why. Simon and I had planned on getting up early for a surf that morning but had overslept. And a few days before, we had almost moved to a little shack right on the beach which was obviously pulverized."

"We packed up our belongings and sat on the street looking for a ride to Colombo, the capital. A huge truck drove by with an eight-member family in the cab. They asked if we were going to Colombo. We all loaded into the flatbed. After a seven-hour trip, we made it to the airport and managed to get out on the first flight to Bangkok. We didn't sleep or eat much for two days. I was able to send a text message to my parents, which made me feel better. But we were in shock for a while afterwards. So many lives are ruined. All of the Sri Lankans were apologizing to us! They kept telling us not to forget about Sri Lanka."

Today, just a few months after the tsunami, DeRamus is continuing his studies in sustainable agriculture. "I am creating a livelihood that I think is important," he explained. "Things have to change if we care about surviving as a species." And he, Simon and Rachel are planning a return trip to Sri Lanka later this year to continue to help in the rebuilding efforts. "Americans are a generous people. We have a duty to help wherever we can."

# Report

By William Lyles, Number 1



The fall 2004 semester was, once again, a wonderful time for those of us who call 294 S. Lumpkin St. home. The men of Gamma Chapter had a very busy semester, and we had men

representing Kappa Alpha in various activities throughout campus including IFC, student government, clubs and intramural sports, and the Bethel Midtown Village Tutoring Program to name a few. The semester began with a bang, as we finished an outstanding rush effort led by Branford Thompson and Nick Maslanka. Thirty-two outstanding young men from states all over the South including Georgia, Tennessee, Texas and South Carolina were pledged, and for the second year in a row, we initiated 100 percent of our pledge class under the guidance of Grant Rutledge, who did an outstanding job coordinating their pledgship.

As usual, we all had a great time cheering on the Dawgs last season, and we were delighted with the great turnout by many of our alumni at several of the tailgates, which usually featured live music, food and drinks, football on TV and plenty of beautiful young ladies in their red and black. Special thanks go out to Leighton Liles, last semester's social chair, for organizing all of these tailgates. The fall also featured our first annual MDA Cookout, which helped us raise nearly \$1,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and gave Oliver Horne and Byran Pyles a chance to show off their barbecuing talents. We rang in the holiday season with a very fun Christmas Casino Date Night, and I think everyone would agree that it was a great party.

It wasn't all just fun and games at Gamma during the fall, however, as we turned in another solid academic performance. The chapter had an average fall GPA of 3.2, which ranks us sixth out of all fraternities at UGA. This is up from last spring's average 3.12 GPA,



# Building Membership and Memories at Gamma

which placed us 10th out of 27 fraternities. We also had 13 Presidential Scholars (4.0 GPA) and 24 members of the Dean's List (3.5 GPA or higher), up from 12 and 21 respectively last semester. We had 82 brothers with a 3.0 GPA or higher, and our pledge class had a 3.17 GPA, which was the sixth highest of all 26 fraternities. We're very proud of our fall semester performance, and we hope to keep up our strong academic focus in the future.

This spring, we traveled down to Savannah to pay homage to Robert E. Lee during our annual Convivium celebration, and we were very excited to have Knight Commander Ben Satcher as the guest leader of this year's Gentleman's Toast. Shortly after Convivium, in late February, the chapter hosted Province Commander **Gordon Varnedoe '57** as well as members of every other chapter in Hardeman Province for the annual Province Council. On top of this already busy calendar, several socials and band parties are planned as well as a spring philanthropy to benefit MDA.

Finally, I have just a couple of quick housekeeping notes. The chapter unanimously passed a long-overdue dues increase during our final chapter meeting, so don't be alarmed when your son's bill is

slightly higher. We simultaneously created a housing fund, which will receive \$50 a semester from each brother's dues. These funds will be contributed to either the future construction of a new house or to repair the existing house when needed. It is our hope

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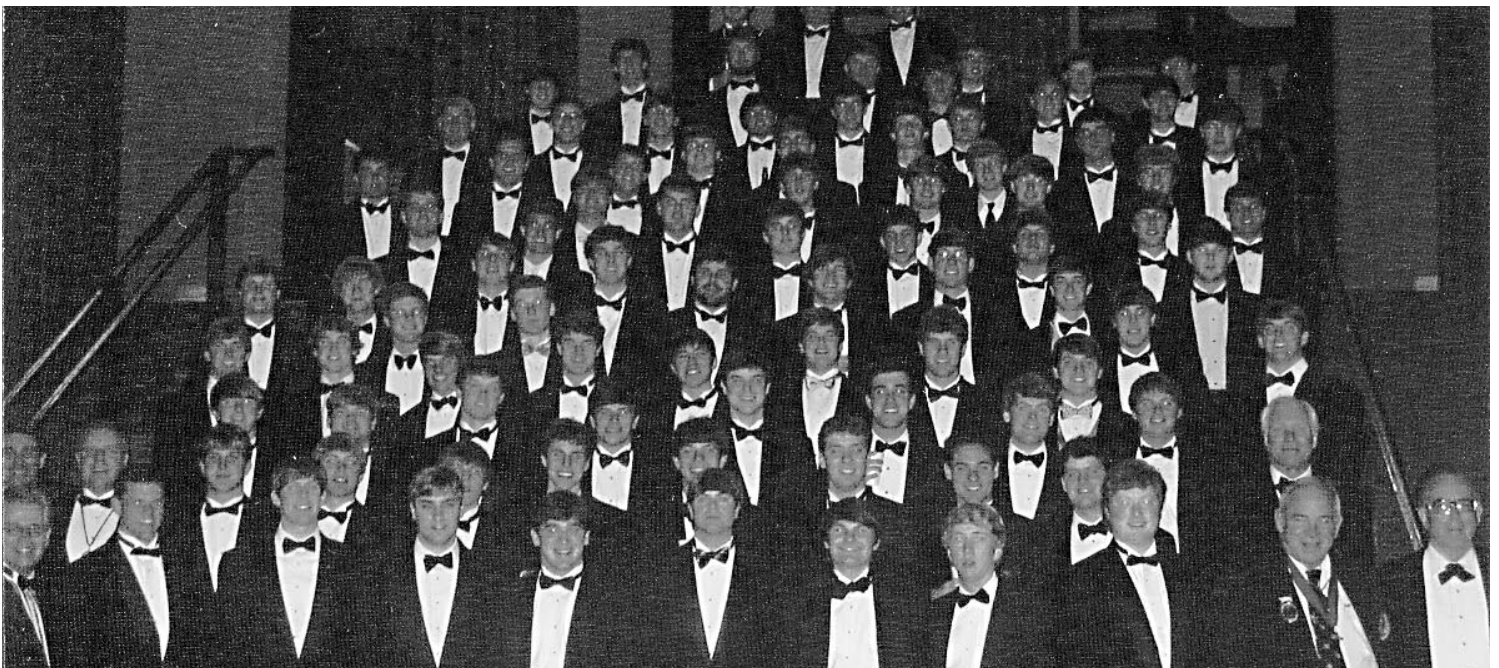
*We are in the process of creating a detailed chapter history; so if you know any important or interesting tidbits about Gamma or its legacy, please e-mail them to [ugakappaalphaorder@yahoo.com](mailto:ugakappaalphaorder@yahoo.com).*

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that this account will generate over \$30,000 during the next five years and will enable the chapter to contribute funds needed to improve our housing situation. Also, we are in the process of creating a detailed

chapter history; so if you know any important or interesting tidbits about Gamma or its legacy, please e-mail them to [ugakappaalphaorder@yahoo.com](mailto:ugakappaalphaorder@yahoo.com).

In closing, the chapter has started off the school year on an excellent path, thanks to the leadership of Lee Carter as our previous Number I, and I hope we can keep up the same path for the rest of the year. We would also like to encourage our parents and alumni not to be strangers. Our doors are always open to you, and we hope to see you soon. ■



**Convivium 2005** — special guests included Province Commander **Gordon Batman Varnedoe '57**, Knight Commander **Ben Satcher**, President of the Savannah Alumni Chapter **Allen Vance** and Councilor **Tom Faircloth**.

## A Strategic Plan for the Future of Gamma

In many ways, serving as the chapter advisor for Gamma is like running a business, and a key part of any management process is long-term strategic planning. Over the last five years, I have communicated to you — our alumni — of our growing need for a new chapter house. Gamma Trustees Inc. has continued to work in that direction and recently met with university officials to obtain a clear picture of the future of Gamma Chapter at 294 S. Lumpkin.

Representing Gamma at the meeting were **Jay Dowlen '86, Doc Eldridge '72**, and myself along with Dr. Adams, Matt Winston and Dr. Rodney Bennett, and it was a very GOOD meeting. We found the university representatives to be candid and very sincere. While desiring the Greek community to be a strong and viable part of the university, they feel the best use for 294 S. Lumpkin is not Greek housing. I know in our hearts we don't want to leave the place we have called home for 52 years. But change is a fact of life. We are at that point. It was clear that the winds of change are upon us. It is time to look forward. There will NOT be a long-term lease extended to KA. It would be my opinion at this point in time that Lumpkin Street will look very different five years from now.

Private ownership is the only way to secure the long-term future for Gamma. Based on our conversations as a board and the feasibility study we conducted, we will be moving forward with securing up to two acres quickly. The board has already extended contracts on three sites, two of which have been accepted. Additionally, we have hired an architectural firm, Peter Hand & Assoc. They recently

shared with us five different variations of floor plans. We were able to give feedback, resulting in what the board feels will prove to be strong floor plan. The renderings of the new house look very similar to our current 294 S. Lumpkin Southern Mansion.

The undergraduate chapter is doing well academically and has had a series of exceptional pledge classes. Needless to say, they are excited about the prospects of a new chapter house that truly represents the long history of Gamma.

Over next few months, high school seniors will be receiving notification of acceptance to UGA. Summer orientation is a key time for those men to get acquainted with the Greek community. Most of the fraternities have made a practice of giving bids to prospective members way before structured rush begins in August. So, we would like to ask you for help in alerting us to quality young men who will be attending UGA in the fall. Please forward information to me or our rush chairs (contact information on front page). This will allow the current members to get to know these men during the summer — allowing them to continue to recruit the very best men in the fall.

And, as always, we appreciate your contributions to the alumni relations efforts including the newsletter and Web site. You can utilize the enclosed solicitation form, or go online to [www.kauga.com](http://www.kauga.com) to make your gift. While you are there, take time to update your contact information and catch up on news from your brothers.

In closing, we will keep you posted on the future developments on the housing front. ■

### Football Tailgating 2005

#### Send in Your Bid Today and Secure a Spot

Are you looking for somewhere to tailgate this football season? Well, look no farther than 294 S. Lumpkin St.

Gamma Chapter will be holding a sealed bid auction for **eight** game-day tailgating spots at the house. The house is a quick five-minute walk to Sanford Stadium, and we usually have a band, food and beverages available. The Dawgs have five home games this year against four potential Top-25 teams, and they play in Athens the following dates:

**9/3** Boise State (*Preseason ranked ahead of the Dawgs by the College Football News!*)

**9/10** South Carolina (*Spurrier returns to Athens for the first time with his new team!*)

**9/17** Louisiana Monroe (*Come watch the slaughter!*)

**10/22** Arkansas (*Homecoming against a solid SEC West foe!*)

**11/19** Kentucky (*Senior Day!*)

You may bid on the five-game package only. Individual games will not be available. The minimum bid is \$250 for all five games. To bid, just send your bid in a sealed envelope to the house at Gamma Chapter, c/o Fall Football Parking, 294 S Lumpkin St., Athens, GA 30605. The highest eight bids will be the winners of the parking spaces. We look forward to seeing you next fall.



# What College Students Want

## What are today's Gamma brothers looking for?

Chances are, not what you think.

According to Millennials Go to College, published last year, the current generation of college students wants to be protected so they can focus on academics and community service. So colleges, universities and, increasingly, fraternities are scrambling to provide it.

"Millennials" is the term the book's authors, Neil Howe and William Strauss, give to the generation who hit adulthood at the start of the third millennium. Research cited in the book indicates that today's students are:

- Confident, team-oriented and focused on grades and performance.
- Emotionally close to their parents and in agreement with their values.
- Respectful of social conventions and institutions.
- Committed to community service.
- Demanding of a secure environment.

Change on campus is coming in the form of tighter security, stricter rules and higher expectations for student behavior and academic performance. Campus security has become an issue, even a marketing point for some colleges.

For a generation raised with metal detectors in public schools, personal rights are less of an issue; security cameras and stricter rules of behavior are simply standard procedures.

Some of the likely new rules — particularly those concerning alcohol — may have been funny to earlier generations. Millennials, however, are likely to accept new restrictions as reasonable and in their best interests.

Today's students trust the adults and institutions in their lives to protect them. Colleges and fraternal organizations are now acting on this attitude of acceptance by implementing higher standards and more rules regarding dangerous behaviors such as underage and binge drinking, and hazing. ■

## Alumni UpDates

### N. Pratt Secret '42

(Southern Pines Suite B6, 423 Covington, Thomasville, GA 31792; pratt@rose.net) I pledged and was inducted in 1942! Now I have reached healthy geezerhood and live in Southern Pines, Suite B6, with my Rotary Rose, Sarah Frances Hasty Secret! All the best!

### P. Alston Steiner '56

(4 Beech Haven Dr., Athens, GA 30606) Will get married in 2005.

### E. Howard Young '79

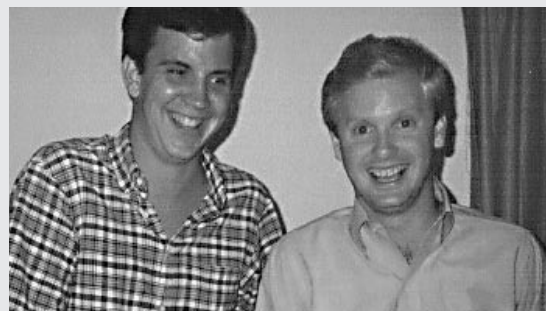
(4521 Harris Trail, Atlanta, GA 30327; hyoung@gwc-atl.com) Becky and I have 3 daughters — Coley (19), Laura (16) and Jana (12). Coley is a freshman at Georgia. It was real weird moving her into Brumby. I kept thinking that Hart was going to run around a corner with some RAs chasing him. I had a bout with cancer, but thanks to the grace of God, I am still alive. Go dogs!

### Scott F. Nolen '81

(1407 Chastain Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30342-3302; sfnolen@msn.com) I've recently moved back to Atlanta after living in Tampa, Fla., for five years. My two boys, Farris (15) and Wright (13), were really missing dad. I have also embarked on a mid-life career change. I left the consumer products industry and have gotten in to the mortgage business. I work with quite a few UGA grads and talk to several KAs on a regular basis.

### Louis A. Freedman '93

(412 E. Seven Oaks Dr., Greenville, SC 29605; lafreemd@hotmail.com) My wife, Kathryn, and I recently moved from Charlottesville, Va., to Greenville, S.C. I have completed my residency, and I am now working as an anesthesiologist at St. Francis Hospital. Our daughter, Murray, just celebrated her first birthday.



**George Summers and Michael Carson** in the '80s! Who said people are capable of changing? (submitted by **David C. Varn '78**, 3007 Burlington Pass, Franklin, TN 37069-1899; dvarnsr@bellsouth.net)



*New busgirls at a Columbus, Ga., barbecue joint ... Rachel and Elizabeth Fry.*

### George W. Fry '80

(754 River Oaks Ct., Columbus, GA 31904; budfry1@mchsi.com) Rachel on the left and Elizabeth on the right report that they like being employed at 3 1/2 years of age, but the pay is on the low side. They also report that they want to beat Auburn as badly as daddy does. (Continued on back)

# UpDates *...continued from Page 5*

## Jeff K. Burnette '93

(23 Velma Drive, Newnan, GA 30263; jburnette@numail.org) I am married to Betsy Teller Burnette and we live in Newnan, Ga., with our daughter Ruthie. Betsy owns her own store — Paper Appointments — in downtown Newnan. I was a full-time pharmacist at Lee-Goodrum Pharmacy in Newnan but decided to pursue my life-long passion — full-time weight training and

muscle building and helping people improve their personal health. I still work as a pharmacist part time. I opened my own Gold's Gym a little over a year ago have found it most rewarding. I am in the best shape of my life. My biceps are 32 inches, my quads are 38 inches, calves are 24 inches, etc. If you want to improve your muscle tone and your overall health, it is never to late to start. It is good to be in touch.



*Moving home ... David and Brittany Marler*

## David E. Marler '96

(311 Peachtree Hills Ave. #16D, Atlanta, GA 30305; davidmarler@penningtonseed) My wife, Brittany, moved back to Atlanta. I have been given an opportunity to work in the national accounts side of Pennington Seed calling on Home Depot.

## In Memory

*Since publication of our last issue, we have learned of the death of*

**John H.T. McPherson Jr. '38**  
(4/13/01)

**William E. Strickland Jr. '42**  
(10/13/04)

**Joseph D. Buchanan Jr. '50**  
(11/4/04) Brother Buchanan died on November 4, 2004, and was buried in a family plot in Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah on November 7. For more information, contact John H. Mobley II '48, Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP, 999 Peachtree Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309-3996; 404.853.8128; jhmobley@sablaw.com.

**Emmett L. Coleman '50**  
(9/15/04)

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

Thanks to your contributions, **Between the Columns** is printed for the members and friends of the Kappa Alpha Order at the University of Georgia. Address changes, news items, photographs and contributions are always welcome and may be mailed in the enclosed envelope or sent to Kappa Alpha Order, Alumni Relations Office, P.O. Box 16118, Atlanta, GA 30321 or log on to our Web site, [www.kauga.com](http://www.kauga.com) ■

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*Address Service Requested*

Alumni Relations Office  
P.O. Box 161188  
Atlanta, GA 30321-1188

**Kappa Alpha Order**  
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**



*Where were you Dec. 26?  
A Gamma brother survives the tsunami!*

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