



Sighs of Psi



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PSI CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA ♦ FALL 2012

ANOTHER SEMESTER, ANOTHER *SIGH*

- *Convention Draws Numerous Alumni to Psi*
- *New Members Bring Experience to House Corporation Board*

Fall is here, and with it comes a new football season and the latest edition of the *Sighs of Psi*. There are a couple of things of note going on around the house, most of which are covered elsewhere in this edition. We pledged 42 new members this fall and have more than 130 actives in the Chapter. The 2012 DKE National Convention, held here at the Psi Chapter this summer, was a huge success. The house staff (Mrs. Black, Julia, Carolyn, Diane and Lennar) was instrumental in taking care of all those DKEs who traveled to the great metropolis of Tuscaloosa to learn firsthand how our Psi Chapter goes about being DKEs. In the interim, we were also awarded our second 100 rating from the health department. Lastly, the historical committee headed by **Semmes Favrot '82** is revealing some remarkable new information about our chapter and fraternity's illustrious past.

I'll cut my discussion of those items short so I don't steal any thunder from the rest of the issue. However, I would like to discuss the changing makeup of the board of the House Corporation. First, please welcome **Frank Lott III '99** to the board. Frank is operating right now as the understudy to longtime board member **Ken Huffstutler '78** and will soon be taking over for Ken as he steps down. For a number of years, Ken has been in charge of "ground operations" at the house. Ken has worked to ensure that the house is kept in good repair, overseen the residency in the house and coordinated the in-house scholarship program. He's basically the board's version of house manager, and we all know how hard that job is. We thank Ken for doing such a good job keeping the house in shape these past years and wish Frank well in his new role.



Psi hosted DKEs from all over the country at Convention.

In addition, we'd like to thank **Jesse Vogtle '85** for his service to the house. Jesse has been an invaluable legal resource for the board, and **Chris Harmon '85** will now shoulder that entire burden. Last, but in no way do I imply least, **Lee Hurley '82** has volunteered to join the board and is going to help us with communications. He's already doing a great job; after hounding me repeatedly for this article, you can see I've finally committed to it and have completed it thanks to Lee's dogged job. Read on, and please send us your thoughts, comments, and concerns.

In the Bonds,
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House Corporation President
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HOUSEMOTHER REMINDS US: IT'S NEVER OVER

For Christmas last year my daughter gave me a book titled *Songs for Swinging Housemothers*. The original cost was \$1.95, and it was published in 1961. Boy, seeing the date 1961 brought back memories, for that was the time I was at the University of Alabama. That was when we had to wear a raincoat over our blue jeans if we wanted to go to the post office only a block away, when there was a 9 p.m. curfew for freshman girls, and when there was no air conditioning except in Harris Hall. This

was about the time I got to live in our "new" sorority house on "second circle." The exciting part was that Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant reigned, and the likes of Oliver, Jordan, and Namath walked to class along with the rest of us.

The culture has changed a little since then. There are no raincoats required. The girls wear gym shorts, t-shirts, and flip-flops, as well as the appendages on their backs and ears called backpacks and cell phones. They are prettier

with the long flowing hair that doesn't need an entire can of hairspray to hold in place. The guys look great in their khaki shorts, baseball caps, flip-flops, and those same appendages in different colors.

One thing that hasn't changed is that the DKEs are still on top! Today's DKEs are responsible for initiating the Greek Relief program immediately following the devastating

(Continued on page 9)

CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

A Communion of Lions By John Nielson '83

Middle-aged men sometimes seek ways to recapture their youth. Young men will feign experience that age brings. It's a shame there is no even trade to that end. Recently, I did see those two things, youth and experience, share a table in the Mansion on the Hill.

This past July, the DKE National Convention was held in Tuscaloosa, with Psi DKE hosting. I attended because I knew alumni from my generation of DKEs who had given a lot of their talent, time, and resources to support the Chapter toward its accomplishments. The actives led and produced remarkable results in the last years. Those committed alumni had their back.

I arrived at the DKE house about 3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. Some 90 actives and alumni from Chapters all over the country were arriving. Chapters sent one to three representatives. Michiganders would be thrown in with Lousianans, Arizonians, and New Yorkers. Almost all were strangers to each other, but immediately an observer could see a group dynamic, a bond develop.

Many would walk onto the front lawn of the Mansion on the Hill. They would trade awed stares

between the DKE house and the Walk of Fame leading to Bryant-Denny Stadium. There were comments like: "Man, you can bet game day at this house is incredible," "Everything's right here," and "How'd they get this spot?"

The guests gravitated toward the DKE dining room and the food. Unknowns took seats next to each other. The first minute or so were those "where you from?" and "how'd you get here?" exchanges. (Some actives drove almost 1,000 miles, non-stop, to get to Tuscaloosa.) Within three minutes, there were Chapter stories, laughter, and that healthy braggadocio that comes so easily from young men.

Psi DKEs wandered among the tables, introducing themselves. The visitors would point and ask questions about the house, the stadium, the strip, or the Chapter. There was a lot of interest in the portraits and photos of old black men in this Southern mansion. The Alabama DKEs told their Chapter lore and history. I listened to several renditions about Psi. The stories were consistent with what I knew, had been taught, or coerced into memorizing. I felt proud about the continuity of our shared experiences at Alabama. That same form of oral history binds generations of Psi DKEs, spanning three centuries.

DKE organizers needed to make announcements. It took several attempts to get the delegates to quiet down. When the announcements were complete, guests were given a tour of Bryant-Denny stadium. I stood on the porch of the Mansion watching the DKEs move down the Walk of Fame. They were just as noisy as they'd been in the DKE dining room.

There is a mystical bond DKEs share. Our history feeds it. That bond transcends geography, time, age, culture, race, and even a civil war. Older DKEs will take time from family and large responsibilities to help preserve it. As I left the DKE house for my hotel, I heard shouts, laughter, and cheering from bold young men who had traveled to a strange place, and found no strangers. There is a truth that their camaraderie, the laughter, and the verbal parrying is as critical to their formation as academics.

I did not leave the Tuscaloosa convention with any sense of youth, revisited. That was never a consideration. I did get to see the fruits of some older and younger DKEs doing something outside of their own individual designs.

The end result was a Communion of Lions.

FROM HEADQUARTERS By Doug Lanpher, Delta Kappa Epsilon International President

As we at Delta Kappa Epsilon headquarters look back on this year's Convention, we can't help but recognize how fortunate we are to have such a hospitable and well-run organization on our Chapter rolls. The Psi Chapter, with its accommodating undergraduate members, its dedicated alumni base, and its great-hearted staff, eased our lives at Delta Kappa Epsilon headquarters and allowed for the Convention—an extremely elaborate and demanding event—to go off without a hitch. Psi's contributions were apparent to not only us, but to all those in attendance; the follow-up survey completed by delegates and alumni raved of the Chapter's hospitality and helpfulness, and described Tuscaloosa as the quintessential model of a successful Convention.

The increase in the number of undergraduate delegates and Chapters represented over just two short years makes it apparent that our

International Fraternity is strengthening at an extraordinary pace. Further, it's evidence that our members were excited to have the opportunity to visit the Psi Chapter, and to see the inner-workings of an organization that they've heard of from their pledge education, from Delta Kappa Epsilon headquarters, and from the national media. There were 85 delegates in attendance, representing 36 Chapters and six colonies.

Based on results from our follow-up survey, the men in attendance not only had a memorable and enjoyable experience but also took back invaluable knowledge and enthusiasm that will undoubtedly continue Delta Kappa Epsilon International's positive momentum. The hard work of the Psi Chapter truly made the 2012 Convention one that will be remembered as an achievement for the Fraternity for years to come. And for that, we at headquarters are forever thankful.



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



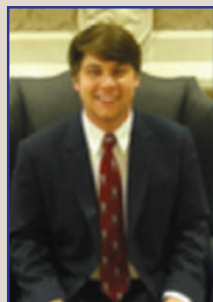
Brothers enjoy a meal in our dining room every night of the week.



DKEs help the Tide roll over Michigan 41-16 in the Dallas Bowl in August.

DAVIS VAUGHN '14 ELECTED TO DKE INTERNATIONAL BOARD

This past July, DKE International held their biennial convention for undergraduates and alumni. Psi had the pleasure of hosting this educational and entertaining week-long event. During the business session of the convention, Psi's own **Davis Vaughn '14** was nominated and elected by his fellow delegates to serve a two-year term on the DKE International Board of Directors. As the only undergraduate representative, Davis votes on the 15-man board to ensure the desires and interests of his brothers are heard. He also serves on the marketing and public relations committee and is working on ways to enhance DKE's social media portfolio.



Davis said, "This is truly an honor and a position I am taking with humility and thankfulness. My goal for the next two years is to actively increase involvement, communication, and camaraderie between all chapters of DKE." Davis welcomes any suggestions or comments on improving our fraternity at the Chapter and national levels. He can be contacted at dsvaughn1@crimson.ua.edu.

Welcome, Fall 2012 Pledge Class

Garrett Benefiel <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Hunter Faulconer <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>	Jeffrey Kintz <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Jack Sewell <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>
Pete Blankenship IV* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Matt Fields <i>Montgomery, Ala.</i>	Bentley Lellyett <i>Atlanta, Ga.</i>	Reid Shearer* <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>
Sellers Boudreau* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Garrett Fitts* <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Jarrod Lesso <i>Biloxi, Mass.</i>	Zach Sims <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>
Paul Collins <i>Ashville, N.C.</i>	Jack Gilmore <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Garner Lyon <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>	Chas Steber <i>Pensacola, Fla.</i>
Manning Courtney III* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Travis Gottstine <i>Pensacola, Fla.</i>	Leland Manning <i>Atlanta, Ga.</i>	Crosby Taylor <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>
Jay Crowley <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Daniel Haas IV* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Gordon Miller* <i>Baton Rouge, La.</i>	Andrew Thurman <i>Atlanta, Ga.</i>
Shack Dodson <i>Atlanta, Ga.</i>	Patrick Hale* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Edward Morrisette* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Haas Turner* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>
Robert Eckert <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>	John Jackson <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Taylor Mullen <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Harris Waggoner <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>
Harry Eldred <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Wells Johnson <i>Houston, Texas</i>	Luke Nixon <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Christopher Wilkins* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>
Christopher English <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	Stevie Keller <i>Baton Rouge, La.</i>	Michael Romano <i>Birmingham, Ala.</i>	Rony Young <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>
Kaleb Farmer <i>Tuscaloosa, Ala.</i>		Frank Schottgen* <i>Mobile, Ala.</i>	* Legacy

Recruitment Recommendations

DKE has already begun its recruitment process for the 2013 pledge class. Please plan ahead for our next recruitment and e-mail your recommendations to **Sayre Kearley '16** wskearley@crimson.ua.edu. The sooner the recruitment chairmen can begin to contact potential new members, the easier the recruitment process will go. We appreciate your input!

ALUMNI NEWS

One-of-a-Kind Surprise Party Honors Angus Cooper II '64

On Thursday, September 13, at 5:45 p.m., a large contingent of actives, newboys, alumni, and guests lined the walk into the entrance of Bryant-Denny Stadium to surprise and show thanks to **Angus Cooper II '64** for his service to our Psi Chapter and to the University of Alabama. Angus is stepping off the Board of Trustees after 12 years of service,



Coach, Angus, and Paul Bryant Jr.

and various leaders, including Nick Saban, wanted to surprise him with a gathering in the North Zone. In order to pull off the surprise, Coach Saban asked Angus to join him on his radio show. After the trustees meeting, they loaded into the car and with a police escort drove to the stadium where, in addition to the Psi Chapter and friends, over 200 well-wishers, cheerleaders, and members of the Million Dollar Band were waiting. When they arrived Angus said, "Coach, do they always do this for your show?" "No, Angus," Saban said, "This is for you."

Coach walked him up the Walk of Champions into the stadium and to the locker room to present Angus with a number 14 jersey. They proceeded up to the Zone where several distinguished guests spoke about Angus and his impact on our University, including Paul Bryant Jr., Bill Battle, Leroy Jordan, Richard Todd, and fellow trustees member John McMahon. It was a fitting celebration for a man who has dedicated so much to our DKE Chapter and to the University. To understand his impact on DKE, one only has to look at our incredible house and understand the significance of its location.

It was fitting that the house had an after-party to conclude the evening. His leadership will be missed, but he will undoubtedly stay involved with both the University and the DKEs.

ANGUS COOPER CELEBRATION SNAPSHOTS



ALUMNI NEWS

DKE Relationships Pay Off 25 Years Later for Britt Sexton '85

Britt Sexton '85 graduated with a B.S. in finance. He is CEO of Sexton Inc., CEO of First Southern Financial/First United Companies, Inc., managing member of Sexton Investments, LLC, member of the University of Alabama Board of Trustees, and leads the Sexton Charitable Foundation. The company's interests include financial services, private equity, software, and real estate. Memberships and activities include: executive committee, Morgan County Economic Development; Decatur General Hospital Foundation; The University of Alabama President's Cabinet; the Crimson Tide Foundation; and the Decatur Rotary Club. Britt's married to the former Susan Baker, a Kappa at Alabama. They live in Decatur and have two children, Gray (20) and Aly (14).

**When and why did you decide to join DKE?**

Senior year of high school. **Jim Harmon '82** was the real leader in Decatur for guys going DKE. He was a couple of years older than me.

Who influenced you during college?

One person and one group. **Chris "Felix" Harmon '85** was my roommate—smart, organized, knew the right priorities as a freshman, etc. He was a tremendous influence and role model to emulate. (25 years later, Felix is my corporate lawyer for all of our companies). The group answer was my pledge class. We had a very smart, driven class, and you could tell

even back then who was going to be successful.

Did you meet your wife Susan at the university?

Yes, we met on a blind date that actually didn't go very well. She told me I was her first date that had attended public school. We drove to Birmingham for a football game and had a Mt. Brook rush party after that. When she told me she was ready to go home, I said, "If you start walking now, I will pick you up around Bessemer." Needless to say, we didn't go out again that year. It turned out okay though, we have been married now for 25 years!

What was your favorite party in college?

Undertakers and Oakland Raiders. We had a brilliant guy named **Black Chaffe '83** who made up the Oakland Raider cheers.

What was your favorite food at the house?

Breakfast at night, because you knew something was up.

How often do you get by the DKE house?

I go by the house for all the football games. It's great to see old friends and to catch up. Now it's fun seeing everyone's kids there.

What advice would you give to the actives?

Establish a diverse network. It's amazing how often I reach out to someone I knew in college

in everything I do now. Relationships matter, so build them.

What advice would you give to the Newboys?

Make sure no one is nicknamed "Jammin' Dave" in an upper class. He still scares the hell out of me. Also, "It's never over."

Has being a DKE helped you in the business world?

Absolutely, as I've alluded to, our class was super successful. We have about seven lawyers, nine CEOs or running their own operation, three CFOs, and others very high in their organization. One has been successful in politics.

What are some of your hobbies?

Snow skiing, love going to concerts. Took my family to Red Rocks in Colorado and saw a great Avett Brothers concert. Recently I've seen Ryan Adams, Justin Townes Earl, JJ Grey, Wood Brothers, and Jason Isbell all in Birmingham.

Compare the University now to when you were in school?

The biggest thing is just the size. Dr. Witt implemented a plan seven or eight years ago, then went out and executed it. The campus is beautiful, and everyone understands the importance of student recruitment. It doesn't just happen. That mindset must start from the top. We spend a lot of time in Aspen, and I'm proud to say that four kids from Aspen High School now attend UA (one is a DKE!).

Alumni Update

John C. Langus '65 is a semi-retired real estate broker in Mobile, Ala. He and his wife, Rita, have two grown children, Trey and **Binion '92**. E-mail: j.langus@bellsouth.net

Dr. W. Jeff Terry '75 is a urologist in Mobile with Urology & Oncology Specialists PC. He is chairman of Alabama's AMA delegation and president of The Medical Association of the State of Alabama. E-mail: jeffterry@usa.net

John R. McNeil '79 works for McNeil, Ahrens, and Lambert Financial Group LLC. He and his wife, Martha, have three grown children: John Jr., Robert, and Virginia. John and Martha reside in Mobile, Ala. E-mail: john.mcneil@malfinancial.com

Black Chaffe IV '83 and his wife, Stephanie, have four children: Black V, Harper, Rawlins, and Abby. The family recently moved to Mobile, Ala., for Black to work with McNeil, Ahrens, and Lambert Financial Group. E-mail: black.chaffe@malfinancial.com

John B. Ashbee '88 and his wife, Ashley, have two sons, Sykes and Stephens. The family lives in Mobile, Ala. John is looking forward to this pledge class' 25-year reunion. He still has fond memories of their 20-year reunion at Dauphin Island, Ala. E-mail: ashbeej@bellsouth.net

Kenneth R. Brown '99 is the vice president for Iberiabank in Mobile, Ala. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have four children: Ken Jr., Cecile, Elizabeth, and Henry. E-mail: ken.brown@iberiabank.com

Mark D. Fillers '00 is the south Alabama market president for BBVA Compass. Mark and his wife, Erin, have three sons: David, William, and James. The family resides in Mobile, Ala. E-mail: mdfillers@aol.com

L. Frazier Payne '02 is a district representative for United States Congressman Jo Banner in Mobile, Ala. Frazier and his wife, Lesley, have two daughters, Lula and Corinne. E-mail: frazier.payne@gmail.com

FROM THE HISTORIAN

GEORGE DAVID SHORTRIDGE, JR. Psi DKE, Confederate Soldier

In this issue of *Sighs of Psi*, we introduce one of our Psi brothers who answered the call of duty in support of the cause of Southern independence, and present a letter he wrote home from the front lines in the waning days of the war. This fellow DKE witnessed the war from its early beginnings to its bitter end. He fought in the first major battle of the war, may have personally witnessed one of the war's most famous incidents, and also fought in one of the very last battles of the war (fighting on the very same day Robert E. Lee surrendered), where he was captured and held as a prisoner of war, only to then be present at the final surrender of his command in May 1865.

George David Shortridge, Jr. (1837-1868) was a member of the DKE class of 1857, having grown up in Montevallo, Alabama. He was the eldest son of George David Shortridge (1814-1870) and Elizabeth King Shortridge (1836-1870). George Sr. had been one of the first students at the University when it opened in 1831, and later was an Alabama jurist and circuit court judge, who was elected to the Alabama legislature in 1838. He was subsequently an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1855, and was a member of the Alabama State Convention that passed the Ordinance of Secession in 1861, where he voted in favor of secession.

George Jr. enrolled at the University in 1854. Among his Psi brethren were his first cousin and classmate, **Burwell Boykin Lewis**, another Psi Confederate soldier, who also later served as a U. S. Congressman after

Reconstruction, and then as President of the University from 1880 until his death in 1885. Lewis is buried in the cemetery located just south of Bryant-Denny Stadium, poignantly, at the opposite end of the stadium from the DKE house. Another fellow DKE was **Reuben Reid Gaines**, Class of '55, who married George Jr.'s sister, Louisa, in 1858. Reuben

Gaines also served the Confederate cause, and later served as Chief Justice of the Texas Supreme Court from 1886-1911.

While at the University, George wrote a paper titled, "The Morality of Slavery," which is particularly interesting in light of the events of subsequent years. After leaving the University, he turned to the practice of law in Selma, Alabama. When the war came, George and two of his brothers enlisted in the defense of their state and their new country. Younger brother Eli died in 1862 at age 19 at the Battle of Seven Pines in Virginia, and younger brother Frank was killed at age 18 by Sherman's army during the defense of Atlanta in 1864. George survived the war and returned to his family.

In April 1861, George enlisted for one year's service in what became Company C, 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment, and was elected 1st Lieutenant. The 4th Alabama was organized at Dalton, Georgia, May 2, 1861, and proceeded at once to the seat of war in

Virginia. Mustered into Confederate service, it soon became part of Gen. Barnard Bee's 3rd Brigade. On July 21, 1861, the regiment took a prominent part in the First Battle of Manassas, the first major battle of the war, losing 38 killed and 20 wounded out of a total of about 750 men engaged. Early in the battle, General Bee and his troops of the 4th Alabama were being pushed back by Union forces. Atop Henry Hill, General Bee spotted General Thomas Jackson and delivered the now famous words that gave "Stonewall" Jackson his enduring nickname: "There stands Jackson like a stone wall. Rally behind the Virginians." General Bee reached the crest of Henry Hill but was fatally wounded one hour later; he died the following day, but the nickname stuck. Lieutenant Shortridge was present with the 4th Alabama at this major Confederate victory, and may well have heard General Bee's famous utterance.

At the expiration of his one-year enlistment in April 1862, Shortridge resigned his position as 1st Lieutenant with the 4th Alabama, and presumably returned to his home in Selma, but by August 1862, he had joined a cavalry unit, Robbins' Independent Company of Partisan Rangers, which became Company C of the 3rd Alabama Cavalry Regiment. This regiment saw a great deal of action and fought in many battles in the western theatre for the rest of the war, but it is unclear how long George stayed with it. By April 1864, he was serving as Captain of Company I of the 1st Regiment Alabama Infantry Reserves, which in the late summer of 1864 was stationed at "The Village," Alabama, probably located at what is now known as Village Point in Daphne.



*Burwell Boykin Lewis - Psi DKE,
cousin of George Shortridge, Jr.,
Confederate soldier, Alabama
Congressman, President
of the University of Alabama*



*Tombstone of Burwell Boykin Lewis,
near Bryant-Denny Stadium, Tuscaloosa.*

FROM THE HISTORIAN

On August 31, 1864, subsequent to, and surely as a result of, the successful Yankee invasion of Mobile Bay on August 5, and the mortal threat thus faced by Mobile, one of the two last remaining open seaports in the Confederacy, the 1st Alabama Reserves was mustered into Confederate service as part of the newly organized 62nd Alabama Infantry Regiment. By late March 1865, George and the 62nd Alabama were deployed at Fort Blakely, Alabama, with a large Yankee army making its way up the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, the capture of Mobile being its ultimate goal. It is in this setting that the letter on page 8 from George Shortridge to his family was written on March 24, 1865.

This letter has many of the hallmarks of a “classic” Civil War soldier letter, if there is such a thing. George speaks of “long and fatiguing marches,” exudes confidence of success against the enemy, complains of the rigors of army life (in this case, a lack of adequate footwear), and expresses a longing for home and family. He describes Blakely, just north of the Eastern Shore of Mobile Bay, as a “wild romantic looking spot”, which was part of the system of fortifications defending Mobile from “the ruthless invader.”

A detailed account of the campaign against Mobile and the Battle of Blakely, in which George and the 62nd Alabama were engaged, is beyond the scope of this article. However, suffice it to say that, despite the bravado expressed in his letter, the Confederate defenders were hopelessly outnumbered and outgunned. Blakely was finally overrun and fell to Union forces late on the afternoon of April 9, 1865, a mere two weeks after this letter was written, and two hours after General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to Grant in far-off Virginia. George Shortridge and 3000 other Confederate soldiers were captured. Earlier that day, Spanish Fort had been taken, having been evacuated by the Southerners the night before. Thus defenseless, Mobile surrendered the next day, and Union troops entered the city two days later.

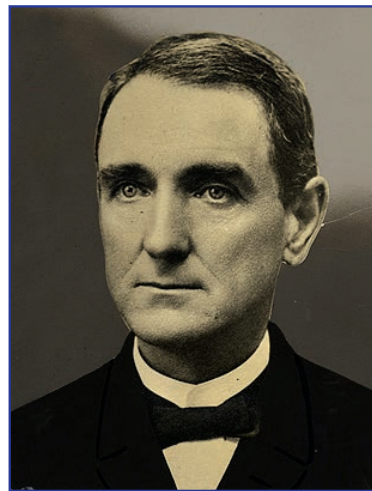
After surrendering on April 9, George and his fellow Rebel soldiers were sent first to Ship Island, off the Mississippi coast, on April 16, where, if George was lucky, he enjoyed the shelter of a tent as a captured Confederate officer. If he was unlucky, he slept in the sand, unsheltered from the elements, due to a shortage of Union tents on that normally pleasant but desolate barrier island. On April 28, George and his fellow prisoners were transferred from Ship Island to occupied New Orleans, and from there they were transferred to Vicksburg, Mississippi on May 1. Subjected to a prisoner exchange at Vicksburg, they were released on May 5, and technically returned to active duty in the Confederate army. Six days later, on May 11, 1865, they were surrendered and paroled once and for all at Meridian, Mississippi, as part of the surrender by General Richard Taylor of all of the troops of the Confederate Department of Alabama, Mississippi and East Louisiana.

It has been said that the history of the Psi Chapter is the history of the University of Alabama. It can be similarly said that the history of the early Psi Chapter is the history of the Confederate military experience. In addition to George Shortridge, Jr., who fought in the first great



Monument to General Bernard Bee, Manassas National Battlefield Park, Virginia. George Shortridge, Jr. and the 4th Alabama Infantry fought here under General Bee when he gave General “Stonewall” Jackson his famous nickname.

battle of the war, was present (or at least nearby) at one of its most famous events, and fought to the bitter end, at least 53 other Psi DKEs fought in practically every major battle in every major theatre of that momentous struggle. Their collective story is the story, in microcosm, of the Southern experience in the Civil War.



Reuben Reid Gaines - Psi DKE, brother-in-law of George Shortridge, Jr., Confederate soldier, Chief Justice of Texas Supreme Court

This letter, as well as other original correspondence involving George Shortridge, Jr., Burwell Boykin Lewis and Reuben Reid Gaines, is located at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin (Shortridge, George D. Family Papers, Box #3 N146). A debt of gratitude is owed to the staff of the Briscoe Center for their assistance. Thanks also to **John McNeil '79** and Baldwin County historian David Bagwell for their assistance in understanding and interpreting the local aspects of George's letter, and thanks to Tuscaloosa historian Chris McIlwain for information on George D. Shortridge Sr. Other than minor changes to punctuation, spelling and abbreviations in the interest of clarity, this letter appears exactly as written.

In the next *Sighs of Psi*, we'll present another letter from Brother Shortridge written shortly after the end of the war. He died in Montevallo, Alabama, where he was raised, on August 29, 1868, at the age of 31.

In the Bonds,
T. Semmes Favrot '82
 Alumni Historian / sfavrot@cox.net

FROM THE HISTORIAN

George David Shortridge Jr.'s Letter of March 24, 1865

Camp, 62nd Regiment Alabama Volunteers
Spanish Fort¹, March 24, 1865

My Dear Ma,

After many long & fatiguing marches to and from various points, we have finally halted at this wild romantic looking spot, this stronghold which is the key to middle Alabama, and which protects our homes from the ruthless invader. This fort² is composed of strong redoubts and manned by powerful guns. And has every appearance of being impregnable. It is situated on the Tensas³ River, in a southeasterly direction from Mobile. We have united our army over here & every preparation for a fight is being made. Most of the troops are below here, between Spanish Fort and Hollywood⁴. Quite a number of troops have passed here this morning marching in that direction. I do not know where the battleground will be, but from present indications I would say that the fight will be below here. General Maury⁵ is on the [illegible], the troops confident and in good spirits, and think you will have a good account of them, if they should ever have an engagement. We are in a better condition to receive the Yankees than ever before, and I cannot think the Yankees can ever capture Mobile by direct assault on the city- or these works here. If they capture it at all it must be done by the starving process; that is by marching into the interior of the states of Alabama and Mississippi, and destroying all communications with the city. I have much greater fear about Selma than I have about Mobile.

Say to Pa, if the Yankees should ever get possession of Selma, that I should have to look to him to save what little I have in Dallas⁶; there will be no chance for one to get away from the army in such an event. If it were only myself that would be effected by such a catastrophe I could submit to [illegible] in any course like ours without a measure of complaint, but the thought that my wife and little ones should be reduced to living in a time like this where I could be of no assistance to them makes me feel very sad whenever I reflect about it. I left everything of my valise at Mobile. I only brought only a change of under clothing, no more than Randle⁷ and I can carry on our backs. Vic⁸ has sent me a box of [illegible] and I have sent Randle over after it. I am anticipating sumptuous times when it does arrive. I saw George several times in Mobile. He was looking rather badly and is quite homesick. I gave him a hat and advanced a little money. I went to see the man that has charge of him and he promised he would allow him to go home in a few days.⁹

I read a very [illegible] letter from Vic this morning. They were all well at home, she writes very flattering words about my babies. My little boy has two teeth. I want her to pay you a visit before [illegible] she need not stay at home on my account, for there is no telling when I will get to go home. I am almost barefooted marching through so much rain and washing so many cramps that I have completely worn out my boots. I wish you and Pa would be so kind as to have me a pair of strong substantial pair [sic] of boots made. Have the bottoms sewed No. 8 with high insteps. I wish you would attend to this at once. If I have to take another march my feet will be on the ground. I believe you promised last summer to supply me with boots during the war but I do not make this request in that plea. I am willing to pay whatever they cost. I have done some as hard service within the last march down here as I ever did in Virginia. Our Regiment is now the 62nd Regiment. I am glad that we have gotten out of the Reserves; it was a shame that we were ever called reserves in the first place.¹⁰

Captain Ward¹¹ has just come, and requests to be remembered to you. Write to me soon. Direct your letters to me 62nd Alabama Regiment, Mobile. My love to Pa, Webb, & Lelia¹², and be assured my dear mother that I am as ever,

Your affectionate son
Geo D. Shortridge Jr.

Endnotes

- ¹ Although said to be written from Spanish Fort, this appears to have clearly been written from nearby Blakely, Alabama.
- ² Fort Blakely.
- ³ Now usually spelled "Tensaw."
- ⁴ "Hollywood" was an early name for Daphne, Alabama.
- ⁵ Major General Dabney Herndon Maury (1822-1900) commanded the Confederate Department of the Gulf, and thus was in command of the defense of Mobile and lower Alabama.
- ⁶ Dallas County, Alabama, where Selma is located.
- ⁷ "Randle" appears to have been a servant, likely a slave who accompanied George while he served in the army.
- ⁸ "Vic" is George's wife, Victoria Echols Shortridge.
- ⁹ It is uncertain who this "George" is, but the reference to "the man that has charge of him" and to allowing him "to go home in a few days," suggests that he may have been a slave.
- ¹⁰ The author's unit was originally designated the 1st Alabama Reserves, until later becoming part of the 62nd Alabama Infantry Regiment.
- ¹¹ William C. Ward was Captain of Company A, 62nd Alabama Infantry.
- ¹² Webb and Lelia were the younger brother and sister of George.

SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED TO DESERVING MEMBERS

DKE members had another outstanding semester academically. Scholarships of \$250 were granted to the men living in the house who achieved GPAs over 3.5 for the spring 2012 semester. Congratulations to these young men for their efforts and leadership.

Robert Alexander '14
Stewart Alvis '13
Adam Block '16
Jonathan Brayman '12
Jennings Byrd '16
Stephen Clark '14
Thomas Coleman '16

Levi Cook '13
Walker Cox '16
William Cox '14
Evans Delchamps '14
Mark Dowdall '16
Patrick Garstecki '14
Forrest Hieronymus '14
Sayre Kearley '16

Richard Kirkpatrick '16
William Massey '14
Gaines Murfee '14
Douglas Owen '14
Maxwell Owen '16
Lee Pittman '14
Alex Porter '16

William Roe '16
Christian Smith '13
Robert Smith '16
Burne Terry '16
Patrick Terry '14
Paul Wallace '14
Zach Wessinger '16

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: PATRICK FINKBOHNER '13



Patrick "Fink" Finkbohner '13 is a senior from Mobile, Alabama, who attended McGill-Toolen High School. With a G.P.A. above the all-male average, Fink has been pursuing a major in marketing and management in his four years at Alabama. A noble role model for the pledges, Fink is looked to for help and guidance. In fact, he regards helping the Newboys as his calling in the Chapter. He has also been a positive influence at Chapter meetings with his clever advice and leadership skills. His classmates will miss hearing Fink's bellowing laughter throughout the halls of Psi after he graduates in May.

Fink is an avid outdoorsman who indulges himself in all sorts of entertainments that south Alabama has to offer. He has been a lifelong hunter and fisherman in the areas of Mobile, Baldwin County, and the Gulf of Mexico. He recently picked up the hobby of bow hunting but is still looking for the elusive first kill.

After graduating, Fink plans to look for a job in Mobile or further his education in graduate school. Either way, his constant humor and entertainment will be greatly missed next year. We will look to his well-worn indent in the house couches to always remind us of Patrick Finkbohner.

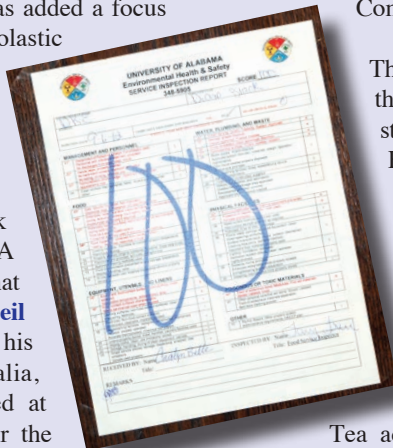
HOUSEMOTHER REMINDS US: IT'S NEVER OVER

(Continued from page 1)

tornado, as well as a drug testing and prevention program that has inspired other organizations to adopt. Our Judicial Board has added a focus requiring philanthropy and scholastic achievement for members that serves as a model for many of the University's fraternities and other organizations.

A very impressive event took place over the summer. A University of Alabama flag that Marine Corps Sgt. **Robert McNeil '05** carried with him during his deployments to Iraq, Somalia, and Afghanistan was presented at the LSU game to Dr. Witt for the school's unwavering support of all the troops who have served our country. This past July during an emotional presentation at the DKE National Convention held here at Psi

Chapter, the University returned Robert's flag to him to take to the fraternity for safekeeping. Come see it!



The fraternity's growth over the last several years is a strong indication of its health. Forty-two new pledges now grace our rolls. It is great to see the boys developing a special appreciation for our traditions as they go through pledge training.

I hope everyone will join us for our annual Psi Day Tea activities on Friday, October 26, during Homecoming. It will be a fabulous weekend for all, where many lasting friendships begin or are rekindled.

One motto of Psi Chapter that I find increasingly appropriate when thinking about my own Greek experience is also my favorite. It simply says, "It's Never Over!"

Even though my housemother song book is yellowing and the pages are curling, I have thoroughly checked it out. I have discovered the songs it contains are still sung today.



Sincerely,
Diane Cooley Black
Mother of the Brothers

P.S. The DKE house has recently been certified as a storm shelter by the University Health and Safety Department.

P.P.S. Note our 100 rating from the Health Department!

Psi Day Tea and Banquet Homecoming October 26-27

All alumni, family, and friends
are encouraged to join us
for Homecoming this year.

Annual Psi Day Tea begins Friday
afternoon at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome.
Following the tea, the Psi Banquet will be
held for alumni and actives at 3 p.m. Don't
miss this opportunity to engage in the
brotherhood of our sacred halls of Psi.

Then we hope you and your families
will join us for game day and all
University Homecoming festivities as
the Tide takes on Mississippi State.



Sighs of Psi

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Mobile, Ala.

Blake Ashbee '01

Tuscaloosa, Ala.

ATTENTION: This newsletter is intended for alumni, undergraduates, and parents. If your son is still attending The University of Alabama, he will receive a copy at the Chapter House. If he has graduated, please send us his permanent address to update our records. Thank you.

Let Us Hear from You!

We always enjoy knowing what our alumni are doing in their lives. So how about letting us hear from you so your brothers can catch up on your news? Take a moment to write us and bring us up to date. You don't need a special form; just jot down a few words about yourself and send it to: Delta Kappa Epsilon, House Corporation, P.O. Box 1789, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Or submit your news at www.uadke.org!



DKE WEBSITES

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PSI CHAPTER

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