

# The Alpha Alpha Field

Volume 73, Issue 2

Fall 2002

alphaalpha.thetaxi.org

## A Huge Rush for Alpha Alpha



Alpha Alpha has had the best rush since returning to campus this year. The chapter was able to get 4 guys informally this summer and another 12 through formal rush. With the number of guys going through rush down this year, the increase in our numbers was impressive. With the new initiation rule, we will be able to have them as actives in early November instead of January. The chapter is currently looking at bidding a handful of guys informally, thus raising our numbers even more. If you know of someone at LSU or coming to LSU next year who you think would make a good Theta Xi, please either contact Kevin Istre (AA1701) <[kistre1@lsu.edu](mailto:kistre1@lsu.edu)> or 225-709-5505 or return the attached form.

### Alpha Alpha of Theta Xi

President - Justin Hill

Vice President - Jay Buller

Treasurer - Casey Stelly

House Manager - Will Broome

Rush Chair - Kevin Istre

Secretary - Justin Fontenot

Scholarship - Justin Smith

Alpha Alpha would like to thank all the parents and alumni who worked incredibly hard on the house and during rush week to help make this year's rush so successful.

## Campaign Home Stretch

Bros. Jim Ragland, Tommy Bernard, and Brian Robert are coordinating Phase II of our Capital Campaign to finish all improvements to the chapter house. They are working with Bro. Stanton Cadow (a local Theta Xi) of Cadow & Associates to raise the necessary money. PLEASE be generous when you are contacted. We're in the "home stretch" and we can see the finish line from here. Be assured that your donation will be put to immediate use to benefit the active Chapter. Bro. Cadow is charging us

a very modest amount for his company's services, and as he has been one of our most involved alumni, he well understands the Chapter's needs.

If you would like to contribute to the campaign, please fill out the donation form located on page six of this newsletter.

Leslie Sammons

AA768

AA House Corp. President



Alpha Alpha of Theta Xi  
21 Dalrymple Dr.,  
P.O. Box 25062  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894  
Tel: 225-387-0837  
[thetaxi@lsu.edu](mailto:thetaxi@lsu.edu)

# A New Focus on Progress

The House Corporation's chief priority continues to be the ongoing renovation of the Chapter House. As we reported to you last spring, the entrance hall, living room, and trophy room have



been completed. Just before Rush, we completed the re-establishment of the Landrum Library, in memory of Bro. Thomas C. Landrum, AA149. The Landrum Library has been elegantly furnished, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Landrum and the efforts of Bro. Walter Brock who worked with Bill McMillan of Bill McMillan Interiors to select the furniture, paint, and drapes. Books now in the Library include LSU Gumbos going back to 1933 (still with some gaps), a complete set of the Encyclopedia Britannica Great Books, and numerous hardcover textbooks.

The kitchen will be ready for the spring semester, at which time regular meals will be served in the Chapter House for the first time since 1993. A new floor has been installed and the old electrical work is being totally replaced. The huge old double stove (conventional oven on one side, convection oven on the other) that every Alpha Alpha alumnus since the early '60s will well remember has been renovated through the generosity of Restaurant Supply, Inc., 107 Roderick, Morgan City, LA 70380 (patronize these guys if you get the chance—they

are super people!) and will look and work as good as new when it is reinstalled in a few weeks. Ronnie Ghirardi of Restaurant Supply, a friend of the father of Bro. Nic Tomlinson, donated his own labor to renovate the stove, with the House Corporation paying only for the replacement of parts as necessary. Still remaining to be done in the kitchen:

- drains in the new floor
- new ceiling and walls
- new sinks
- new open shelving to replace the old wood cabinets
- new kitchen windows (the old ones are beyond repair)

· renovate the kitchen bathroom

When the kitchen is finished, our next projects are expected to be:

- outside security lights
- party room: roof repair, replacement of the terrazzo floor and doors
- downstairs back hall: refinish floor, install suspended ceiling
- new living room furniture
- refinish upstairs floors and renovate bedrooms/study rooms
- install an upstairs fire escape at the back of the back hall
- stabilize outside masonry

These goals have changed slightly from those that reported to you in the spring newsletter. We are focusing on improvements that the undergraduates can see and enjoy and that will help them during Rush. The undergraduates have worked very hard on their own initiative, and much of the way the House looks today is due to their efforts. Our goal now is to take the House to the next level, from "acceptable" to "excellent." We can afford to take this approach because with the replacement of the roof last year the House is not in any structural danger. The stabilization of the outside brickwork must be done but does not have to be done immediately. By the time we tackle it, the House will again look as it did when we remember it.

Leslie Sammons  
AA768  
AA House Corp. President

# Raising the Bar

Brothers, my message is short and simple this on this occasion. From the largest recruitment class since refounding through the increased focus on Membership Education and on to higher standards for the house; it's great to report that our Alpha Alpha continues to Raise the Bar.

As I continue to challenge the chapter with the high expectations that our history deserve, they continue to shine on every occasion. I now challenge you with the

"Purpose of Theta Xi". Our Purpose is a bar that was set high and an challenge that we all accepted. Our chapter is to grow under the alumni umbrella. Which of you is willing to rise to the occasion and help build the men of Theta Xi.

Brian Robert AA1665

Chapter Advisor

[Brobert@cox.net](mailto:Brobert@cox.net)

225-675-6462

225-715-9959

## New Resident Advisor

Hagi Bradley has been engaged as the Chapter's new Resident Advisor. Hagi comes to us from the LSU Office of Greek Affairs, and we were delighted to obtain his services. He is a graduate of Millsaps College, where he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha, and will move into the downstairs apartment early in the fall semester. We expect to have Hagi with us for about two years, possibly three, while he works on his

doctorate. We wanted someone who understood and supported the Greek system and its ideals, and Hagi's Greek background as both a student and an administrator makes him a perfect fit for the position.

Leslie Sammons

AA768

AA House Corp. President



## Alpha Alpha, Beta Pi, & Gamma Eta of Theta Xi

would like to invite  
all Alumni to

the **Theta Xi Semi-Formal**

November 1st, 9:00 p.m.

at Desiree's, 450 Main St.,  
Baton Rouge, LA

Please call 225-387-0837 for more details.

**Did you know Alpha Alpha has the highest Roll  
Number in all of Theta Xi with AA1719?**

# Landrum Library Completed

The following inscription is included with the photo of brother Landrum which now sits in the newly restored library at the Alpha Alpha house.

**Thomas C. Landrum, LSU '38, AA 149**

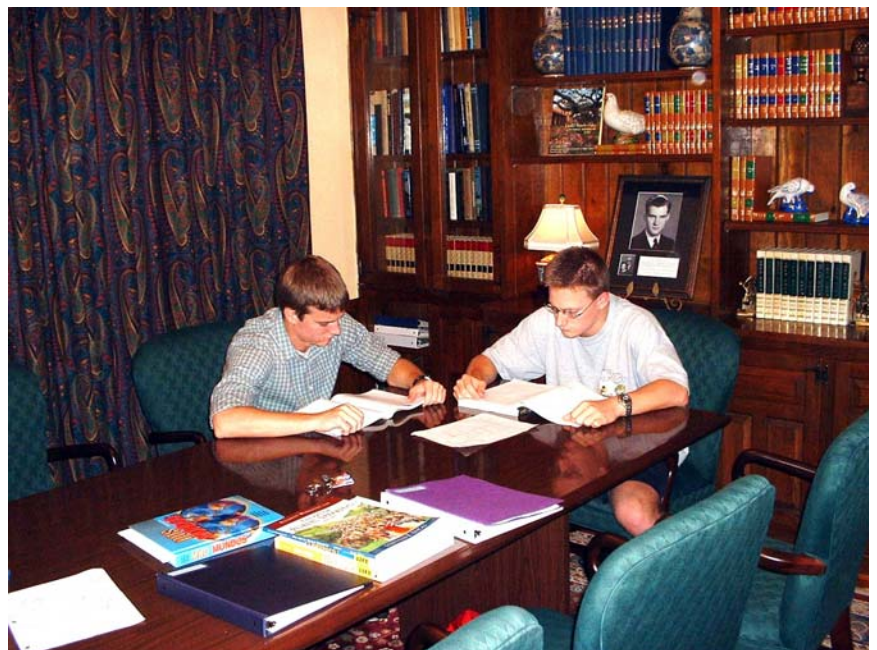
**This library is dedicated to the memory of brother Tommy Landrum. His leadership as chapter advisor, regional director and alumni association officer focused on academic excellence as the key to individual and chapter success. The many distinguished Theta Xi graduates who excelled academically and went on to successful careers owe their accomplishment, in no small part, to brother Landrum and the standard he set for all to**

**follow. Tommy was awarded the Order of the Unicorn, Theta Xi's highest honor.**

*Special thanks to the T.C. Landrum family for making this memorial possible.*

The library is a beautiful addition to the many restorations taking shape at 21 Dalrymple. Locally renowned interior designer, Bill McMillin, worked with brother Walter Brock to complete the restoration just in time for rush. An official dedication and reception will be hosted at the fraternity house on **Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.** Please try to attend.

Walter Brock  
Beta Pi 103



# Alumni Advisor Letter

Last year, I was honored to be named the alumni co-chapter advisor of the Alpha Alpha chapter, along with Brother Brian Robert. My desire to assist this chapter is founded in my belief in Theta Xi, what it gives to young men, as well as my lifelong affection for Louisiana State University.

From the time we began recolonization in 1996, I realized we had a unique opportunity to bring Alpha Alpha back in a way we could all be proud. We presented a program to make academic excellence a top priority and we were not disappointed. The caliber of undergraduates we recruited and initiated proved we could re-establish AA very successfully. However, since its re-chartering, the chapter has faced many challenges.

First, it was rushing without a house. We began by setting up a tent on the front lawn. And over the years, we have gradually been able to move into the house one room at a time. The first phase of the *A New Chapter in Our History* capital campaign produced approximately \$236,000 in pledges from approximately 57 donors. We made enough improvements for the Fire Department to allow partial use of the house. The actives have worked so hard to develop a first class program. The effort they have put in to get the house back in living condition has been phenomenal. Furthermore, the chapter has garnered too many awards and accolades to mention. AA alumni should be very proud of the brothers who have brought the chapter so far.

Still associate members classes have been small. Competition is fierce. While in the past, more than 2,000 men would go through formal Rush, less than 500 men were interested in fraternity life this fall. Yet, we just completed our most successful rush since recolonization, formally pledging 16 associates, bringing the chapter to just less than 50 men.

If you ask what is holding AA back from pledging more men and increasing chapter size, the answers are simple. The rush program needs additional financing. Less than 50 men cannot produce a sufficient rush budget to

compete successfully in a “summer rush” atmosphere — the secret to getting a large pledge class at LSU. Many urgent needs also must be addressed to bring the house to full capacity. The kitchen, bathrooms, plumbing, windows and bedrooms need major renovations or total replacement.

Simply put, the chapter needs alumni support. We need your time, talent and financial resources. Phase II of *A New Chapter in Our History* capital campaign, is to have “classes” and individual alumni become more involved in chapter activities and give to the restoration of 21 Dalrymple Drive.

Members have planned a number of important activities to gain your support this semester. This summer, with the help of a gift from Brother Tommy Landrum’s family, we have completely restored and furnished the library. It is dedicated to Tommy’s memory and his belief in academic excellence. The dedication of the Landrum Library will take place Sunday, October 13.

The Homecoming football game against the University of Louisiana, Lafayette on October 5 and the game against Alabama on November 11 are two opportunities to participate and learn more about Phase II of the fund-raising program. We invite and encourage all alumni to come to the house and attend these events.

I now ask you to think back on your college career and how Theta Xi made it so memorable. When the time comes, when we seek your support, please help. I cannot express how excited the undergraduates are to meet you and for you to see all they have accomplished. If they could restore the house alone, they would do it. However, they must look to those who came before them, and those who have the capacity to make 21 Dalrymple once again the jewel of Greek row.

Stan Cadow  
Co-Alumni Chapter Advisor

A Capital Campaign Donation  
Form can be found on page six.

# Fat, Drunk & Stupid II LSU vs. Bama, Nov 16th



Armond Schwing, AA 1433, Chairman  
**Jambalaya & Beer**

Undergraduates and Alumni invited  
at the Chapter House

Please RSVP to:

[armond@schwinginsurance.com](mailto:armond@schwinginsurance.com), phone 337-365-2357



## Please join the Brothers of Alpha Alpha of Theta Xi

for the

## Dedication of the Landrum Memorial Library

### Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

### at 3 pm

at the Alpha Alpha House

Reception to follow.



### A New Chapter in Our History

The Campaign For  
**Alpha Alpha of Theta Xi**

I/we would like to join you and others in your effort to support Alpha Alpha Chapter of Theta Xi Fraternity. I/we are therefore making a gift to *A New Chapter in Our History* to further our efforts.

Please note our pledge of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (*provided at the time gift is made*)  
Balance Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we wish to make our pledge:  Monthly  Quarterly  Semi-Annually  Annually

We would prefer to pay this pledge over a period of:  1 Year  2  3  4 or  5 Years

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please make checks payable to: "Alpha Alpha Capital Campaign" Mail to:  
A New Chapter In Our History - Post Office Box 83786 - Baton Rouge, LA 70884  
Campaign Office: 225-763-6615 - Fax: 248-692-5382

# Alumni Contact Information

Please help us keep our records up to date.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_

# Potential Recruit Form

Help Alpha Alpha continue to grow.

Prospect's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
High School/College: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Date of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expected Major: \_\_\_\_\_  
Theta Xi Relatives/Acquaintances: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Accomplishments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Your Name & Roll Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(Please also fill out and attach our Alumni Information form)

Please cut out and return these forms to:

Alpha Alpha of Theta Xi  
P.O. Box 25062  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894

*Alpha Alpha of Theta Xi  
P.O. Box 25062  
Baton Rouge, LA 70894*