



# ALPHA CHI REVIEW



*Brothers and little sisters from the Jackson area gather at Bulldog Burger, owned by Robin Fant '81, for an alumni event. Glenn Marchant '75 has been hosting this event for the past three years.*

## To Support Deserving Young Men

### Kick-off of New Scholarship Fund

Earlier this year, after announcing the successful end of Alpha Chi’s capital campaign, we encouraged you to stay connected and supportive of our chapter through other means. A new opportunity is donating to our new Alpha Chi Scholarship Fund through the Phi Kappa Tau Foundation.

Your generosity will ensure that Alpha Chi can support deserving brothers in their endeavors here at Mississippi State University and keep the brotherhood thriving and connected long after our collegiate years.

Making a gift online is easy. First, go to [tinyurl.com/DonatePhiKappaTau](https://tinyurl.com/DonatePhiKappaTau) (or use the QR code below). From there, you can select an amount and choose a one-time or monthly gift—then select “Scholarship Fund – Alpha Chi” from the menu directly below. (All gifts to our chapter are appreciated, but if you want to support this fund specifically, make sure you choose the right option!) Finally, fill out the rest of the form and you’re set!

If you prefer the tried-and-true physical method, you can send a check to:

Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity and Foundation  
Ewing T. Boles Executive Offices  
5221 Morning Sun Rd.  
Oxford, OH 45056

Donations are to be made payable to Phi Kappa Tau Foundation and please write Alpha Chi CEG Scholarship fund in the memo line of your check!

Speaking of scholarships, I’m pleased to congratulate **Ethan Rogers '21**, the 2022 recipient of the Ernest Volwiler Scholarship (via the Phi Kappa Tau National Foundation). In addition to submitting the required materials and meeting all the academic and extracurricular benchmarks the Foundation looks for in candidates, Ethan submitted a compelling set of short answers. “Brotherhood, to me, means that we care for each other and are intentional about our relationships,” he wrote. “These relationships should last forever.”

Thank you again for your loyalty to Alpha Chi, and we’d love to see you for some football—check out the schedule on page 4!

Fraternally,  
**Barry Toney '85**  
VP/Treasurer House Corporation  
Vice Chairman and Alumni Advisor Board of Governors  
(214) 926-3348



# The Missing Piece to His Puzzle

## Mike Waggener '72 Shares How Alpha Chi Fit Perfectly into His Life

### Finding Support...

Thinking back on his life, **Mike Waggener '72** credits each milestone as a point of development. A specific milestone for him was during the spring of 1973 when he chose to leave Mississippi State University.

"I packed my car and stopped by the fraternity house to say goodbye and that I was headed home for good," Mike shared. "I felt like I owed it to my big brother, **Tony Acosta '71**, to give him a heads up that I was leaving."

The men sat down together, and Tony calmly told Mike he had to make his own decisions but to consider the effects of what he was doing. Tony asked, "Do you have a game plan and a goal or are you just leaving?"

**Ray Johnson '72** walked in and immediately knew something was up. Mike shared that he could not handle the pressure of working and going to school at the same time.

Not in the same calm manner of Tony, Ray let Mike know that this was the worst decision he could ever make.

"You leave now, then you will have to explain for the rest of your life that college was too much pressure, and if you can't handle this pressure, how are you going to work and handle a family?" Ray said. "You can't quit under these circumstances; you are at a milestone in your life."

As a result of this heartfelt brotherly advice, Mike thought it over and finished the spring semester at MSU and then took a year off to work full time. With experience in the real world and money in his pocket, he returned to MSU and Phi Kappa Tau with the ability of working less and having a goal to work toward.

On the way to completing his degree he even had the honor of serving as the fraternity president. "It is only my hope that I was able to influence another brother the way my brothers were there for me," Mike said.

### ...and Supporting the Future

Mike felt that an investment back into his roots had the best growth potential, which is why he chose to give back through Alpha Chi's campaign. "I was given a chance to turn my life into something meaningful, as were many others, so get involved by getting connected," Mike advises.

Mike enjoys spending time riding bikes on Rails to Trails with his wife, Carol. He also remains connected to his brothers.

"Many friends have come into my life, but I mainly connect with people from the fraternity," Mike said. "Even during the era of having no house on campus, a group stayed in contact because we were more than a house, we were a home."

You can connect with Mike at [oliverwaggener@gmail.com](mailto:oliverwaggener@gmail.com).



*Ray Johnson '72 sitting on the running board of his truck at the renamed Oktibbeha County Coop in 1973. Ray is the one wearing letters with no hat.*



*Mike and his brothers in Boone, North Carolina, in July 2017. Back row, from left: Mike, Blane Davis '74, David White '75, and Jimmy Moynihan '76. Front: Jimmy Joiner '77.*



*Alumni gather at Alpha Chi in April 2017. From left: Chip Hardy '76, Tony Acosta '71, Ross Hamilton '72, Durward Dunn '72, Mike, Glenn Marchant '75, and David White '75.*

**"A good life is built in stages as a person develops physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. You never stop building; you just stop growing."**

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

Vice President  
**Collier Rogers '20**

Treasurer  
**Mason Payne '21**

Vice President of Alumni Relations  
**Garrett Harpole '19**

Secretary  
**Jack Flower '20**

Recruitment Chairmen  
**John Baladi '20**  
**Ethan Rogers '21**

Director of Events  
**George Willis '20**

Membership Orientation Officer  
**Tanner Marlar '20**

# CONTINUING OUR LEGACY AT MSU

## Alpha Chi Has Many Plans for the Fall

The Alpha Chi Chapter has had an eventful summer and a great start to the fall semester. Over the summer, many members participated in professional development and community programs, including internships, co-ops, and community engagement organizations.

### BROTHERS ABROAD

Our secretary, **Jack Flower '20**, spent the summer in London, where he had an internship with Bishopsgate Insurance Brokers. Brother **Parker Lowery '20** worked with Walbridge Aldinger on many construction projects while shadowing project managers and superintendents. Finally, **Sumner Bass '22** volunteered as a counselor at Camp Ozark in Arkansas.

### RECRUITMENT SUCCESS

After a successful summer and fall recruitment, we welcomed 16 associate members for the fall 2022 pledge class. These associates have proven themselves to be respectable, upstanding young men and we look forward to their continued professional development.

### ALUMNI TAILGATE

This semester, we have many events planned, including an alumni tailgate for the Mississippi State vs. Auburn home game on November 5. We are excited to welcome all alumni back to Starkville to visit with current members and get to know our new associates.

### PHILANTHROPY AND SERVICE

We have been continuously striving to uplift the Alpha Chi name and hope to better what Phi Kappa Tau represents here on Mississippi State University's campus. To do so, our chapter plans to continue to host philanthropy events and stay involved on campus this fall. Our philanthropy chairmen organized a fried Oreos night to kick off the first of many events to raise funds for the SeriousFun Children's Network. On campus, many of our active members and associates are running for various elected seats in the student government on campus.

### THANK YOU AND KEEP IN TOUCH!

This newsletter is a small way for us to reach out to our alumni who have supported us in time, money, energy, and other forms for which we are forever grateful. We hope to reconnect and revisit with all alumni and would like to extend our sincerest thank-you for all that you have done in creating the legacy we hope to honor today. We hope to see you all soon.

Fraternally,

**Collier Rogers '20**

Chapter Vice President



The first Mississippi State tailgate of the season!  
From left: Gunner James '20, Luke Waits '22, Jack Flower '20, Emery Edwards '21, and Charles Holliman '21.



Jack Flower '20 at Lloyd's of London, the world's insurance marketplace.



## Welcome, New Associates!

**Tanner Aldrich**  
Newnan, Ga.

**Garrett Alston**  
Jackson, Miss.

**John Emmons**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Grant Hohler**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Thomas Holliman**  
Houston, Texas

**Jason Horton**  
Riverside, Calif.

**Gregory Kendrick**  
Charleston, S.C.

**James Looney**  
Jackson, Tenn.

**Clayton Moore**  
Madison, Miss.

**Hunter Neilson**  
Spring Hill, Tenn.

**Max Pennebaker**  
Madison, Miss.

**Braley Ray**  
Birmingham, Ala.

**Jacob Taylor**  
Madison, Miss.

**Carson Waits**  
Atoka, Tenn.

**Ethan Weadock**  
Natchez, Miss.

**Nick Wilson**  
Omaha, Neb.



# ALPHA CHI REVIEW



## Happy Football Season! CHEER ON THE BULLDOGS WITH US

### Saturday, November 5

Alumni Tailgate  
Auburn Tigers  
Starkville  
Time: TBA

### Saturday, November 12

Georgia Bulldogs  
Starkville  
Time: TBA

### Saturday, November 19

East Tennessee State Buccaneers  
Starkville  
Time: TBA

### Thursday, November 24

Ole Miss Rebels  
Oxford, Miss.  
Time: 6 p.m.



**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

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## ALUMNI UPDATES

### Alumni News

**William Irby '61** retired to the town of Townsend, in the mountains of east Tennessee, and enjoys traveling the world.  
Email: patriciairby08@comcast.net

**John Gaston '64** is updating his book, *Twenty-Five Strategies for Organizational Success*, for publication. He is retired and resides in Sierra Vista, Ariz. Email: jgaston65@cox.net

**Lee T. Wyatt III '67** teaches line dancing in retirement and enjoys deejaying at his development in Melbourne, Fla. He speaks to civic groups and tries to see his grandkids as often as possible. Email: lwyattiii@cfl.rr.com

**Jimmy A. Armstrong '68** enjoys attending his grandchildren's activities in retirement. He lives in Jackson, Miss.  
Email: armstrongjim064@gmail.com

**Paul G. Bernheim Jr. '68** is transitioning control of his company, MidState Construction, to the next generation and is spending more time at his cottage in Gulfport. He lives in Madison, Miss. Email: pgb@msconst.com

**Walter T. Costilow '68** is a retired airline captain and is now an award-winning artist. He lives in Vestavia Hills, Ala.  
Email: wtcostilow3@gmail.com

**Norman G. Stone '68** retired after 44 years of bank-data processing and is enjoying spending time with his wife of 53 years, Bonnie, in West Point, Miss. Their daughter, Claire, is married to Emerson. Email: stoneg7409@gmail.com

**Sam "Sarge" W. Leddy '71** and his wife, Patricia, have a son, Jeff, who is an IRS agent, and two daughters, Morgan and Macie. Jeff's wife, Jess, is a teacher, and they have two daughters of their own, aged 12 and 8. Sam is retired in Salltillo, Miss.  
Email: sam\_leddy@yahoo.com

**David M. Hataway '86** is raising teenagers. He is active in Scouts and enjoys backpacking, cycling, whitewater rafting, and paddling creeks. He resides in Montgomery, Ala.  
Email: davidmhataway@gmail.com

### Chapter Eternal

**Samuel T. Oswald '68** passed away on Thursday, September 8, 2022 in Rogers, Ark., at the age of 74. In his earlier years, Samuel worked in agriculture as a farmer. He then obtained his master's degree and became an educator, where he taught for his remaining work career.

He did so with the love and support of his loving wife, Peggy. Together, they were able to spend 54 wonderful years together. Samuel was an avid outdoorsman from golf to fishing. He could always be found cheering for his grandchildren at their sporting events.

Samuel is survived by his wife, Peggy Oswald of the home; his two sons, Michael Kent Oswald (Vicki) of Springeld, Ore., and John Wesley Oswald (Lorie) of Rogers, Ark.