

House construction/renovation projects. These funds are accessible only by the HCB.

A new UA policy now requires that all student campus organizations formally submit any major construction or renovation plans for official review and approval by the University prior to any work being started. There are a whole series of steps involved in this process that the HCB will have to deal with from now on when major work is planned for our Chapter House. In fact, Jim Merrell, HCB President (also Kitchen Renovation Project Manager), has been up to his eyeballs with these new requirements as he works diligently toward the late summer completion of our kitchen's renovation.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a blank donation card for this fund. Read it over and decide if you want to make a donation at this time. Even though we intend to fund the engineering/architecture and

construction portion of the kitchen renovation by taking out a commercial bank loan (to be paid off by the Student Chapter), it is also our intent to fund the purchase of all new kitchen equipment with a loan from the University (also to be paid off by the SC). Should unforeseeable difficulties arise that prevent the SC from meeting loan payment obligations to the University, alumni donations in this newly created UA fund will be available to prevent foreclosure. Otherwise, the donated funds will be used by the HCB for the next phase of Chapter House renovation, whenever it occurs. Elsewhere in this newsletter, Jim Merrell's article about the kitchen project explains in detail the "whys" and "wherefores" of this arrangement.

*In the Bond,
Chuck Carlin, '57, Secretary
House Corporation Board*

A BROTHER'S SERVICE IN IRAQ

During the last two years our Chapter has had several alumni who have proudly served our country in Iraq. One is Allen McClendon, '96, a former "BB." While at The University, Allen joined the National Guard, enlisting as a combat engineer and later transferring to the Medical Unit as a pharmacy technician. After serving eight years, Allen turned down a commission and was honorably discharged in 1997. Subsequent to the events of 9/11, Allen decided to re-enlist in the Guard, where he cross-trained as a combat medic.

In 2002 Allen was reassigned to the 877th Combat Heavy Engineer Battalion, and in 2003 was deployed to Iraq. He spent 28 days in the Kuwaiti desert - where the temperatures would sometimes reach 140 degrees during the day - before traveling 600 miles across Iraq. Along the way, he camped in Baghdad and Tikrit (Saddam's hometown), before settling in Mosul in July 2003. There his battalion performed many humanitarian missions, such as rebuilding schools, orphanages, schools, hospitals and bridges. While in Mosul, his battalion was attached to the 101st Airborne Division (1st Brigade) and worked all over Northern Iraq.

Allen's assignment in Mosul was with a QRF (Quick Reaction Force) Team of eight men. Their mission was to provide convoy security, and perform route reconnaissance and sight

reconnaissance missions. When in camp, he lived on the sand with seven other soldiers in a GP (general-purpose), medium, canvas tent, each with a 6' x 6' area for his sleeping rack and personal gear. After a couple of months, the group was able to obtain enough plywood to build a floor. Allen noted that, "War is a very humbling experience."

He manned a 249 Squad Assault Weapon named "Nadine" located on the back of a Humvee, and served as the combat lifesaver for the team. At night they would conduct roving patrols and perimeter security. During the day they would drive the highways to secure areas for their company's use. In addition, Allen's group pulled security missions for convoys coming north, frequently traveling to Tikrit, Irbil (near the Iranian border) and Tallafar (near Syria).

For his meritorious service, Brother McClendon was awarded an Army Commendation Medal. After his tour of duty, he returned to Tuscaloosa in early 2004. Shortly thereafter, he married Annie Onnefray, and they are already the proud parents of a three-month-old son, Grayson. He is currently working as a supervisor in Quality Assurance for American Seafoods Group, and recently formed a company, Elk River Craftsmen (www.elkriverchairs.com), to market furniture as a sideline for a family business operated by his sister and father. His family's company is Ashlen (www.ashlen.com). So, if your wife is looking for new chairs for your home, check out these websites. Allen will be glad to take care of you.

Everyone is mighty glad that Allen is now safely back in Alabama and wishes to recognize his patriotic service to our country.

John Freeman, '87

Picture on last page is of Chapter's late-50s mascot, Baron von Smirnoff, owned by Bill Cate, '60

A BROTHER'S US NAVY SUCCESS STORY

Congratulations are in order for Brother Michael Elliott, '83, being named Commanding Officer of the USS DOYLE, FFG-39 (Fast Frigate - Guided Missile). Mike, whose rank is commander, is currently stationed in San Diego, California, and will take charge of the DOYLE in August 2006. More than 220 officers, chief petty officers and sailors will then be under his command. The DOYLE is

one of 289 ships currently in the US navy, and only one of 125 ships that are capable of either guided missile and/or gunfire capability.

Before assuming command of the DOYLE, Mike will attend numerous schools, including for ten weeks, the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. Then its on to Newport, Rhode Island, for eight weeks in the Surface Warfare Commanding Officer Afloat School. Newport will not be unfamiliar territory to Mike, since he attended the Naval War College there from November 1999 to November 2000, obtaining a Masters Degree in Strategic Studies and Foreign Policy.

Currently, Brother Elliott is chief staff officer assigned to the Commander, Destroyer Squadron ONE, home based in Naval

Forces Pacific Fleet, 32nd St Naval Station, located in San Diego. He has served as Destroyer Squadron One's chief staff officer since January 2003, after completing an extremely successful tour as Executive Officer on the Arleigh Burke Destroyer, USS WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG-81), home ported in Norfolk, Virginia. Currently he is on his third consecutive four-month deployment in three years to Southeast Asia. It just began in mid-May. During this deployment, he will visit the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia, Thailand and possibly Hong Kong.

From the time he was seven years old, Mike knew he wanted to serve his country in the Navy. His father had served in the Navy and his grandfather was a 40-year career Army man. But while at the University of Alabama, Mike was diagnosed with cancer, which made him medically ineligible for Navy service. Nevertheless, he would not give up his dream. After three years, his doctors gave him a clean bill of health, and Mike, with his family and Fraternity Brothers' support, kept after the Navy until it gave him a medical waiver and allowed him to attend Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island, where he earned his commission in November 1987. When his current deployment is completed, he will have accumulated over 18 years of total service. Not bad for a Yankee (but, in his mind, a converted southerner) from Madison, Wisconsin.

During his distinguished career, Mike has served numerous deployments, including Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Strike, and others that can't be mentioned for security reasons. He has been

in the "right place at the right time," as he alludes to. "I've had the opportunity to see young men do great things everyday, including putting ordinance on target, on time." He has also sailed around the world and visited almost 60 countries. One of his favorite spots is Cape Town, South Africa. In 1994, his ship, The USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64), became the first US Navy ship to visit South Africa in the 27 years since apartheid. Mike said that people lined up to take tours of the ship, and it proved to be a great public relations tour de force for our country.

Brother Elliott has had numerous memorable experiences while serving our country at sea. One of the most memorable found him in the middle of a hurricane off the coast of Spain on his first ship, the USS PEORIA (LST-1183). His ship was continually rolling to 45-degrees, with maximum rolls to 48-degrees. At one point, the entire starboard side of the forecabin (forward part of the ship) collapsed under the strains and forces put on it by the harsh seas and elements. The ship was forced to pull into Spain for repairs before returning to the United States.

Another unforgettable experience saw his ship - the USS GETTYSBURG (CG-84) - off the east coast of Africa, en-route to enter the Persian Gulf to conduct operations in support of United Nations tasking, when a distress message was received from the Achilles Laurel saying it had a fire on board (you may recall, this is the ship from which, during the '80s, an Islamic terrorist pushed the wheelchair-bound Jewish-American overboard). Mike's ship and the USS HALYBURTON were the closest ships - 600 miles away. Fortunately, they could both produce speeds in excess of 30 knots which allowed them to reach the ship in duress within 24 hours, just in time to help rescue almost 1000 people who were literally in the water after abandoning their totally engulfed-in-flames ship. The flames could be seen for 20 miles over the horizon. Soon after the two Navy ships successfully recovered all the people who were helpless in the water, the Achilles Laurel sank. Throughout the challenging rescue, sharks were swimming everywhere. The reason this memory is a positive one for Mike and his shipmates is the potential loss of life they helped to avoid. Fortunately, no one was attacked and there was no loss of life once the ships arrived on the scene. Three people did lose their lives in this tragedy, but those had occurred prior to the ships' arrival.

Mike wants everyone to know he will be in Tuscaloosa, at the Chapter House, for the Florida game on October 1. He hopes there will be a big turnout so he can renew old friendships while, hopefully, making many new ones. Until the first week of July, during his current assignment, Mike's e-mail address is NO1@fort-mchenry.navy.mil. After that, he will transfer to another warship in the Task Force he is deployed with (after July 7, contact John Freeman at jfreeman@vistapharm.com to get Mike's newest address). He'd like very much to hear from any of his era's Brothers - or for that matter, anyone who would like to contact him.

John Freeman, '87

NORTH ALABAMA ALUMNI CHAPTER FORMED

On February 26, 2005, a group of alumni brothers met in Huntsville to officially form a new alumni group, the North Alabama Alumni Chapter of The Delta Chi Fraternity (NAAC). Nine of these men are alumni of the Alabama Chapter. The 14 founders are:

Brad Atwood (Alabama, '04)
 Jay Atwood (Alabama, '95)
 John Boylan (Alabama, '72)
 Chuck Carlin (Alabama, '57)
 Greg Cox (UAH)
 Mike Garber (Alabama, '78), "E" & "F"/Webmaster
 Bo Harrison (Alabama, '70)
 Chris Kilroy (UAH), "B"
 Benny Little (Alabama, '63)
 Robbie Marshall (UAH), "C" & "D"
 Leroy Mendenhall (Kansas)
 Jim Merrell (Alabama, '58), Social Chairman
 Joe Pickett (Troy), "A"
 Dick Windsor (Alabama, '81)

To paraphrase it, the announced principal purpose of the chapter is to give alumni brothers in the North Alabama area an opportunity to again share the brotherhood and fellowship they experienced as student members of their respective chapters. The plan is to accomplish this by holding periodic social events that will minimally intrude in the normal day-to-day routines of the members. By maintaining the activities of the chapter on this level, it is estimated that there are several hundred Delta Chi alumni living within a reasonable driving distance of Huntsville who will seriously consider joining. Annual dues are only \$10, payable at the first meeting of each calendar year.

The new alumni chapter has already held its first social event, a well-attended, informal dinner, May 3, at the old Greenbrier BBQ between Huntsville and Decatur. The next social is scheduled for the early afternoon of Saturday, July 23, 1 - 5 p.m., at Jim Merrell's home in Huntsville (1016 Appalachee Drive). It is intended to be a family affair, with wives (or girlfriends), children, grandchildren, etc., invited. Jim's place is very large and has a nice pool, so bring your swimsuits. All coming are asked to bring their own favorite picnic food and beverages. That way Jim doesn't have to worry about RSVPs, no-shows or how many show up.

After football season starts, plans are in the works for a Saturday afternoon football TV gathering somewhere in Huntsville. At both of