

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come See Athletic Director Todd Stansbury Speak

On March 14, Georgia Tech Athletic Director Todd Stansbury will speak at the Highland Country Club in LaGrange. The meet-and-greet starts at 6, with dinner following at 7. Stansbury will speak after dinner.

The cost to attend is \$35. You can send a check to Richard Freeman, P.O. Box 2427, LaGrange, GA, 30241. The Highland Country Club is located at 1001 Country Club Drive in LaGrange. Email Judy Freeman at lagrange-freemans@gmail.com for more information.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Catch the Ramblin' Wreck in Action

The college basketball season may be winding down, but it's not too late to see the Yellow Jackets in action at McCamish Pavilion. If you're in the Atlanta area in February or early March, come check out a game.

Feb. 21: vs. North Carolina State, 8 p.m.

Feb. 28: vs. Pittsburgh, 9 p.m.

And don't forget that the ACC tournament starts March 7 in Brooklyn. Book your trip today and meet up with some brothers in the Big Apple!

FOOTBALL

Save The Date For Yellow Jackets Football

It's never too early to start thinking about football! Come join us on Friday, April 21, at Bobby Dodd Stadium for the annual spring game. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. and admittance is free.

REBEL 'RECK

Kappa Alpha Order
Georgia Tech



www.kapatech.com

February 2017

ALUMNI PROFILE

KA Prepared Brother Kelly for Life

Being a KA helped **Larry Kelly '62** get through college. He joined in the late '50s because, from the very beginning, he felt a connection with the brothers. "I found them to be very friendly. I didn't get the same warm and fuzzy feeling from any of the other fraternities I talked with," he said. And those same brothers he connected with from day one would play an instrumental role in ensuring that Larry focused on academics and graduated from college.

Larry wasn't always the best student, something that doesn't really bode well at a school like Georgia Tech. "I could get off task sometimes, but a couple brothers I roomed with, particularly **Dwight Alford**, really helped me with my academics. He got me focused in the right way," he said. "Georgia Tech can be a rigorous school. Had it not been for Dwight's help, I don't know if I would have made it through."

But being a member of the fraternity not only helped Larry academically, it also helped him financially. He served as the treasurer for the chapter, a job that came with free room and board. "I worked my way through college and had several jobs. Having a free place to stay really helped me pay for college," he said.



Alpha Sigma alum Larry Kelly is shown at his desk.



Larry Kelly and wife Karen on vacation.

And it's because of all the support Larry gained through the fraternity that he chooses to give back to the chapter in the form of financial contributions. "I feel like I learned a lot and got a lot out of the experience," he said.

He even continues to reflect on all the wonderful memories he made as an undergraduate. "I really enjoyed Old South Balls. They were a real special time to spend with brothers and just a wonderful event that I always looked forward to," he said. And the bonds he shared with fellow brothers, which benefited him so well as an undergraduate, continue to thrive today. "I have visited a few of my brothers recently. I also stay in touch with many via email as

well. **John Rowe** does a great job of keeping everyone in touch," he said.

Today, after selling his business several years ago, Larry is enjoying retirement. He and his wife stay busy traveling and keeping up with their grandchildren. Larry's favorite activities include racquetball, fishing, golf, and perhaps more importantly, coming back to visit the KA house. "I think back over some of the parties we had there, and it's always great to go back and see everyone at the house again. It's really the focal point when we come back to Georgia Tech," he said.

Author Bill Chastain Looks Back at His KA Roots

Bill Chastain's passion both for writing and sports led him to become first a sportswriter, then a sports novelist. We unearthed this 2003 interview with him and present it here. Chastain has been busy in the years since this interview was published. His web site, billchastain.com boasts of 11 books that he has published.

Why did you join Kappa Alpha?

BC: Well, my brother and father had both been members in the same chapter, so I already knew a lot about it. My brother, **Norman Chastain '74**, was two years ahead of me. I knew everybody up there, and I really liked the guys.

What is your favorite memory of the fraternity?

BC: I remember when **Jim Elliott '76** was the rush chairman; he really liked preppie stuff. So, he planned a party that was going to be '50s night. This was during more of the hippie era. The preppie guys kind of had their way of dressing, and the hippie guys their own way of dressing. I fell somewhere in between; most of us were just kind of college grunge. Anyway, I think Jim had visions that this was going to be a really great party where everyone dressed up in preppie clothes. They had a guest DJ from



Bill Chastain worked for the St. Petersburg Times and the Tampa Tribune before starting his career as an author.

the SAE house — the preppiest fraternity on

campus. But Jim's plan backfired. By the time the night was over, most of the brothers ended up dressing more like the cast of "Grease." It was like the Jets and the Sharks from "West Side Story" and "There's Gonna Be a Rumble." It was the rougher side of the '50s. I think Jim was kind of disappointed.

What influence has the fraternity had on your life since graduation?

BC: Most of my really close friends are from the fraternity. I feel like I could call the ones I don't stay in close touch with and hook up again tomorrow.

With whom do you stay in contact?

BC: I've stayed in touch with **Vick Rice '78**, **Jimmy Guyer '76**, **Bob Hume '76**, **Rammy Cone '74**, all the **Bryant boys — Grady '76**, **Clay '78**, **Carlton '81** and **Vernon '79** — and
 — continued on page 3

REMEMBERING ALPHA SIGMA'S MOST FAMOUS ALUM

Randolph Scott's Star Shone During Hollywood's Golden Era

Perhaps no actor has ever been more associated with a genre of film than Randolph Scott was with the western. For decades, Scott played quintessentially American characters in that most quintessentially American style of movies.

He was good at playing the strong, silent type who was adept at protecting his friends and the women-folk — just what you'd expect from a brother in the Kappa Alpha Order.

A Southern gentleman through and through, Scott was born in Virginia in 1898 but raised in North Carolina. He attended Georgia Tech for a time and joined Alpha Sigma Chapter. But his dreams of becoming a football star for the Ramblin' Wreck weren't to be, so he went back home to North Carolina and finished his studies at UNC before heading west.

Although his degree was in textile engineering and manufacturing, Scott dreamed of Hollywood. Through his father, Scott met the famed director Howard Hughes and got his first role in the movie business, albeit as an extra in a silent film.

Soon after that debut, Scott was — according to Hollywood legend — hired to teach Gary Cooper how to speak like a Virginia native in "The Virginian," in 1929. But soon after, Scott moved up to speaking roles on the big screen. His first starring role was in 1931's "Women Men Marry." From there, Scott was well on his way to Hollywood success. From the mid 1930s to the mid '50s, he was one of the biggest film stars in the world.



Randolph Scott in one of his numerous roles as a cowboy.

As his career was taking off, Scott became known almost exclusively for his work in westerns. He made a series of films based on the work of Zane Grey.

But his work wasn't exclusively centered on westerns. He starred in horror films like "Murders in the Zoo" and "Supernatural," both in 1933. He also appeared in "Hot Saturday" in 1932, where he started a lifelong friendship with Cary Grant.

A veteran of World War I, when he had served in France, Scott tried to enlist in the Marines during World War II. But a back injury prevented his return to the military. Scott did star in a few military films during World War II, however, including "Gung Ho" and "To the Shores of Tripoli."

In the postwar years, Scott cemented his status as a Western archetype. He starred in "Abilene Town" (1946) and "Rage at Dawn" (1955). His popularity soared during these years, with Scott appearing among the top 10 box-office draws every year from 1950 to 1953.

Scott continued to make films into his 60s, but he retired suddenly after making a film with a young up-and-coming director named Sam Peckinpah in 1962's "Ride the High Country." Scott said in a subsequent interview that he was no longer interested in making movies.

A shrewd businessman, Scott was set financially in his retirement years, largely thanks to real estate investments. Some estimates claimed that he was worth close to \$100 million at the time of his retirement. He died in 1987, at the age of 89, in Beverly Hills.

BILL CHASTAIN

— continued from page 2

Bryan Hutton '73, Jim Elliott '76, Rick Walsh '76, R. Michael "Doc" Halliday '74, Chris Butler '73, Bobby Maxwell '76, Roger Bedell '77, Jim Stroupe '74, Bob Graham '74 and Rick Toole '76. Then there are others that I've lost touch with. I haven't been able to contact **Gregg Griffin '76** and **Steve Davison '78**, and we were really close. People move, get married, have kids and it gets hard to stay in touch.

Did you have a nickname? How did you get it?

BC: They called me "Willie." The bank had sent my checks to me as Willie Chastain.

Did you live in the house? If so, who were your roommates?

BC: Yes, I lived in the house. My roommates were Jimmy Guyer, Jim Stroupe, **Richard Martin '76** and **Wayne Thigpen '75**. Most memories can't be printed! I do remember a kind of funny thing. Each year we moved to new rooms according to house points, and some rooms were better than others. During my senior year, I accidentally went back to my old room after having a bit to drink and threw the guy out of his bed. I think it was Jim Elliott.

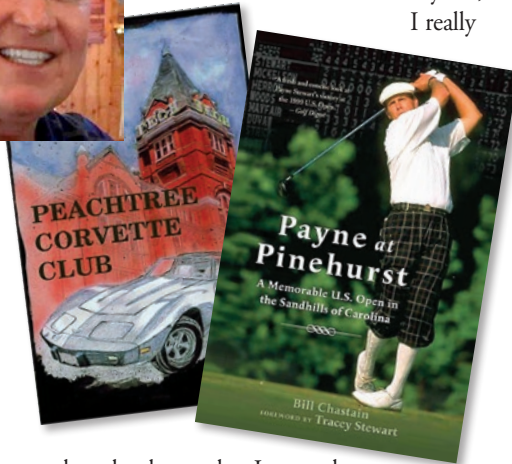
Tell us about your family.

BC: My wife, Patty, and I have been married 20 years. We have a daughter, Carly, who is 16 and wants to go to Georgia Tech. My son, Kel, is 15, and he hasn't thought about college yet.

Tell us about your career.

BC: I've been all over the place. When I got out of college, I was one of those guys who hadn't really thought a lot about what I wanted

to do. I had my head down — Georgia Tech is a hard school. Most of my focus was on just getting out of there. In fact, when you talk to most Georgia Tech graduates, they don't ask when you graduated, they ask "When did you get out?" The nice thing is that everyone is in the same boat. My major was industrial management, and I worked in construction when I first got out of school. But as I realized that I needed to work for the rest of my life, I really



thought about what I wanted to do. I was lucky because I found that I had a passion for writing. So I started to do freelance writing, probably in about 1980. I tried to get into better publications, which I did, and by the mid '80s I had a pretty good resume showing work for a lot of national magazines.

I also started looking at working for newspapers and landed at the St. Petersburg Times as a correspondent. At the time, they had an afternoon paper called *The Evening Independent*, so I moved over there for a while. Then I left and worked in construction again. Then in 1990, I went to work for *The Tampa Tribune*. I covered baseball, traveling all over the place. Always in the back of my mind, though, I wanted to be a book writer. I was

with the Tribune for about 12 years, but for the last four, I really knew I wanted to write books.

It's funny: Covering sports is like working for McDonald's — you don't like the food after working there a while. I was getting sick of sports. It's like any job — it's a job. Most people think, "Isn't that great? You go to the ballpark and watch games!" They didn't see that I would get to the ballpark at 2:30 p.m. and leave at 12:30 a.m. One thing I miss, though, is writing under a deadline. It is kind of a rush to see what you can do when you are under the gun.

I had a great run with sportswriting. I got to see places I never would have seen, everywhere from Tampa to Seattle to New York to San Francisco. But eventually it started to feel like work, it didn't pay well enough and the hours were quite demanding. There were always 10,000 people who wanted my job, who would do it for less and would work all the hours happily. Also, I started to realize that all I did was write about what other people did.

I decided to leave the paper in September 2001 and start my own public relations business. So, I now do that and write books. I had actually written my novel ("The Streak") several years ago, and I refined it over the years. But this year, I finally got a publisher for it. I was hired to do the Steve Spurrier book by the publisher, and it turned out pretty well. He was pretty interesting. I enjoyed that more than I thought I would. As I said, I was a bit burned out on writing about sports people, but I enjoyed doing that book. The novel, though, is more where my heart is. I have two other novels I am trying to sell. One of the first sports novels I ever read was "The Natural," and I just loved that. I really wanted to write the great American baseball novel. So, it's been quite a thrill to have that published."

HISTORY

Take a Peek at This Photo From Alpha Sigma's Past



Look what we've found! It's a photo from Alpha Sigma's past. Do you know the brothers in the photo? Perhaps you're one of them. Go to kagatech.com and give us the background story on this photo. When we get the scoop on this picture, we'll share it in a future eLetter or newsletter.

We have numerous photos like this in our archives, but we need more! If you have old pictures from your Kappa Alpha Order days, send them along to us. We're sure that your brothers would like to see them.

FOOTBALL

Brothers Travel to See Yellow Jackets' Bowl Win



Georgia Tech downed Kentucky 33-18 in the TaxSlayer Bowl on New Year's Eve.

Yellow Jackets running back Dedrick Mills rushed for 169 yards and a touchdown en route to winning the MVP award. The victory gave the Ramblin Wreck a 9-4 record for the season.

Kappa Alpha Order brothers **Jim Elliot '79** and **Barry Cox '82** traveled to Jacksonville for the game. While they were there, they met up with Brother **Joe Putnal '80**. They also saw the daughter of Brother **Chuck Haley '86** while they were in town (see photo).



ALUMNI PROFILE

Richard Truly, Former Astronaut, Celebrates 79th Birthday

Just last month, Kappa Alpha Order Alpha Sigma Chapter Brother **Richard Truly '59** celebrated his 79th birthday. Truly, a test pilot and Vice Admiral in the Navy, is probably best known as an astronaut and former NASA administrator.

Originally from Mississippi, Truly studied aeronautical engineering at Georgia Tech before embarking on a career in the Navy. He'd been in the Navy ROTC as well as Kappa Alpha Order while in college.

In 1969, Truly joined the NASA Astronaut



Corps. He was the capsule communicator for the 1973 Skylab missions.

Truly became the first grandfather to fly in space during a 1981 mission; he was 44 at the time. In an interview with the *New York*

Times that year, Truly said that the food on the space shuttle Columbia was good, but that he nevertheless wouldn't have cared if it wasn't because he loved his mission.

"We could put up with any food as long as it would keep us going," Truly told the *Times*. "But we are fortunate to have good meals planned every day."

Following another trip to space in 1983 – he was the commander on the STS-8 Challenger mission – Truly left NASA for the Naval Space Command, where he was named its first commander.

Truly returned to NASA shortly after the Challenger disaster in 1986. He helped get the space shuttle program running again.

Thanks to his work and experience at NASA, Truly was named the NASA Administrator by President George H.W. Bush in 1989; he was the eighth administrator in the agency's history, and he held that position until 1992.

Now retired, Truly is married to the former Colleen Hanner. They have three children.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Brother Toole still believes in chivalry

William Toole '78 says that the core value of chivalry, which he learned through KA, still remains a character trait he aspires to 38 years after leaving Georgia Tech. «Always being honest, straightforward, and a gentleman in all circumstances are things KA taught me,» he says.

William added that, just like so many others, his fraternity experience gave

him lifelong friendships and lessons for understanding others. "Through KA, I gained a band of eternal brothers, the ability to understand others, and learned how to treat people with respect," he said.

If he hadn't joined KA, William certainly wouldn't be the man he is today. "I hope that means I am caring, truthful, and always able to see the positive in others," he said.